Satan vs. Your Family Chance or Purpose? P 26

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A glorious world is ahead for those who escape destruction!

Coming Soon: God's Good Government!

o the degree that human beings follow biblical laws and principles, life can be abundant, prosperous and inspiring. But, with two world wars and many regional wars even in just the last hundred years—and with ongoing military, political and social conflicts on the rise, it should be clear to any objective observer that we are headed for total global disaster. Mankind has shown itself almost completely unable to govern itself.

One apparently systemic problem with human governments is **corruption**. The watchdog organization Transparency International recently analyzed 175 of the world's governments and territories in preparing its Corruption Perceptions Index 2015. The organization defined corruption in this way: "Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs."

Interestingly, the 20 countries perceived as most corrupt were (from more to less corrupt): Somalia, North Korea, Sudan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Venezuela, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Syria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Myanmar and Cambodia. Notice that this is a measure of perception, not necessarily of actual corruption. These nations have, for whatever reason, in whatever way, gained a reputation as places where corruption is flourishing. At the other end of the spectrum, the 20 countries perceived as *least corrupt* were: Denmark, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Canada, Australia, Germany, Iceland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Japan, Barbados, Hong Kong, Ireland and the United States. Yet we know human nature is a very real problem even in the most upstanding nations today. Can human beings entirely solve the problem of corruption in government, business and interpersonal relations? Scripture gives a resounding answer: "No!" God reveals a fundamental characteristic of humanity: "There is a way that

seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).

A New World Government

Six thousand years of recorded history have demonstrated, time and again, that human governments have not learned the way to lasting peace. The League of Nations was established in 1920 after World War I with a mission to establish world peace. The League failed miserably



when World War II caused the deaths of millions around the world. The Allied victory in Europe and two atomic bombs dropped on the nation of Japan in August 1945 ended that war. The United Nations was established in October 1945 to replace the League of Nations and to carry on missions of peacekeeping and disarmament. Yet the United Nations has not brought about world peace, nor did it prevent the genocide of two million Cambodians (1974–1979), 800,000 Rwandans (1994) and of 200,000 in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992–1995)—nor of countless other horrors caused by nations and their evil dictators.

More than 60 years have passed since U.S. General Douglas MacArthur warned of the need for "some greater and more equitable system" to achieve lasting world peace! Mankind has utterly failed in that regard! Yet Bible prophecy reveals that God Almighty will impose such a system when Jesus Christ comes to establish world peace. Read the announcement of *a new world government* in Revelation 11:15, "Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud

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Tomorrow's World has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members, and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged, and may be tax-deductible. voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'"

The *only solution* to the problem of human nature and corrupt human governments is the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth! If you would like to know more about the world to come, download or order our inspiring free booklet, *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*

A Challenge To You!

So, I issue a challenge to all of our Tomorrow's World readers, no matter where your country ranks on this "corruption" survey or any other survey; make it your **priority** to uphold true values—the values taught and practiced by Jesus Christ and His Apostles from the very beginning of the New Testament Church-in every aspect of your own life. What is the guiding principle *in your life*? Jesus gave this very powerful and fundamental true value for all human beings around the world: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). If you have not studied your Bible on a regular basis, I encourage you to take advantage of our free Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course. You can study on-line or you can receive the first four lessons by mail upon request. You need to study God's word, the Holy Bible, to understand life, the future and the environment in which we live, if you are to overcome Satan's influence on our world today.

Do not underestimate Satan's influence. In this issue, please read the page 5 article by our Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith, titled "Satan's War on Family Values." Many of you older readers can remember a time when you would have been considered insane for suggesting that women could marry women and men could marry men. Today, not only are people ridiculed for opposing samesex "marriage" but they are even considered oldfashioned and worse if they do not go along with the idea that a person can choose his or her own gender, without regard for chromosomes and facts of birth. Where does this confusion come from? When you understand that God is reproducing Himself—that His plan for human beings is to create new full members of the very God Family—you can begin to understand why Satan so hates the idea of the "normal" human family with its ability to reproduce new generations of potential sons and daughters of God.

Satan even wants you to believe that your life came about by chance, and that it is ultimately without purpose or meaning. Read the page 10 article by Gerald Weston, "A Purposeful Existence." Contrary to the ideas of materialistic evolutionists, the truth is that the wonderful complexity of the human body and mind did not come about by random chance, but in fact is part of God's great plan for humanity.

Today, most people are "educated" to believe in evolution rather than divine creation. But a time is

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soon coming when the whole world, under the loving rule of the returning Savior, Jesus Christ, will be able to

receive true education. They will learn true values and true knowledge of their purpose and the meaning of their lives. Read my article, "Are You Ready for Christ's Return?" on page 16 of this issue.

Prepare for the Kingdom!

God **will** soon replace the corrupt governments of our world. He is preparing a new world-ruling government with Christ as King over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9). He is also training us as kings and priests to assist the King of kings (Revelation 5:10). Will we have hearts of integrity? As we near the end of this age, we all must strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18)! We must do our best, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to exemplify God's way in our own lives.

May God bless all you readers as you follow Christ's command to watch and pray always, and as you prepare with your whole heart for your place in the coming Kingdom of God, confident in God's promise: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Jichard F. amer

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Circulation: 514,000

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SATAN'S WAR ON FAMILY VALUES

By Roderick C. Meredith

ight now, headline articles are coming out in the mainstream magazines and newspapers regarding enormous wildfires breaking out across the western United States, about millions of immigrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to somehow get into Europe and Britain, about Presidential candidate Donald Trump's plan to deport about eleven million undocumented immigrants from the U.S., about the huge financial crisis sweeping across Asia, Europe and America. The mainstream media also tells us about the tremendous distortion of family values now going on across America and Western Europe, about the idea of "men marrying men," about the thoughts of many liberals now who even consider "sex" with robots! They also discuss the increasing mental illness and *depression* among our youth, about rising rates of suicide among homosexuals and others who have strayed from the traditional values of the past.

They can tell you about *what is happening*, but they *do not* understand the **meaning** of these events. They cannot—or are not willing—to actually **connect the dots**.

Can *you* genuinely "connect the dots"? Will you try—or are you *willing* to try—to genuinely understand **why** we are here on this earth, what is the genuine **way** of life intended by our Creator, and *how* to achieve genuine happiness and fulfillment? Are *you*, personally, willing to admit to yourself that there is a genuine "spirit world"? That many of these incidents of violent and senseless crime—in which mentally disturbed or angry individuals murder or torture others—may in fact be inspired by *demonic spirits* guided by Satan the Devil? Are you willing to admit that there is a *real devil*—as Jesus Christ Himself described many times? Are you willing to acknowledge that the book we call the Bible is, in fact, the very *inspired Word of God* and that it will give you genuine **understanding** of all these events that are going on around you?

For the Bible itself makes clear the *reality* of Satan the Devil and his demons. It tells us about Satan deceiving people *all over the world* whom, "the god of this age has *blinded*, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan the Devil has indeed "blinded" *millions* of confused human beings! God's Word makes this very plain, as the Apostle John was inspired to write: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, *who deceives the* **whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

Within the next several years, a genuine "spirit war" will break out, after which Satan will finally be cast down into a bottomless pit. God's Word describes how one of His mighty angels "laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:2–3).

My friends, *only then* will the massive deception that has overtaken the world be lifted. Only then will people begin to grasp the fact that this world's society has actually been "cut off" from the Creator and His righteous and blessed *way of life*.

What Is Satan "Up To?"

When you *understand* God's supreme purpose, and the fact that Satan the Devil is the ultimate *adversary*—the ultimate enemy both of God and mankind—you can begin to grasp what Satan **is up to!** For Almighty God has created humans "in His image" ultimately to become members of His Spirit Family—having His *very* character. Therefore we human beings are a definite *threat* to Satan the Devil. For true Christians—those who truly *obey* God—are destined to become "*kings and priests* to our God; and we shall *reign on the earth*" (Revelation 5:10). Obviously, we would then *replace Satan* who is now the present "prince" over this world (John 14:30; 16:11). So, we become the ultimate **threat** to Satan's continued rule over this entire earth!

It is obvious that in order to *destroy mankind's future destiny*, Satan must *destroy mankind*. He must

marriage and the ability to bear children who would become *future kings* replacing Satan! Therefore, Satan has *every reason* to try to promote this whole "men marrying men" relationship and all that it involves! He has influenced many of our political and religious leaders—and confused judges as well—to begin to *destroy the family* by many of their rulings, their teachings and their whole emphasis of "sex for the sake of sex" rather than using sex as a normal

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part of marriage to build a family based on godly principles! So Satan—as the "prince of the power of the

air" (Ephesians 2:2), is *in charge* of this earth's atmosphere, its media, its entertainment and the many foul and perverted *attitudes* that are imparted by all of the above! He is constantly drumming it into the minds of young humans that the normal marriage relationship as part of a family is *no longer necessary* or even "good." He has put it into the minds of humans that sex is a big "play thing" to be tinkered with and enjoyed in *whatever way* humans—under Satan's influence—desire to use it.

So, more and more millions of little children will soon be growing up without benefit of a normal family, without a normal father and mother creating a real family in the home. As Satan guides people to use "do-

> nor" sperm to create children *apart from marriage*, increasing millions of little children will grow up *without even knowing* who their real father is! This will cause them—less and less to look upon their heavenly Father and understand the relationship God wants to have with them—of which

the human family is a pattern.

Millions of young men will not be able to have the example and teaching to become *real men*. They will grow up without developing the masculine leadership that God intended. Women will grow up without learning the lessons of the family and of submitting to one another in marriage and becoming mothers of children and helpers to their husbands. The whole human family will *deteriorate increasingly*, and therefore whole civilizations will be *destroyed* and turned into utter confusion. The very word "Babylon" means:

SATAN IS HELL-BENT TO DESTROY OUR Ability to bear children who would Replace him in ruling the world

therefore destroy our families, our childbearing and our childrearing, all of which become a threat to Satan's continued existence and control over this earth. So Satan has a powerful motivation to *destroy the human family*! He has a powerful reason to *destroy* the loving relationship between a man and his wife and their normal desire and ability to *bear children*—future adult human beings who may end up *replacing* Satan and his demons!

Our ultimate adversary, Satan the Devil, is "hellbent"—so to speak—to *destroy* the true concept of



Satan tries to deceive us into calling the murder of society's most innocent a "choice."

"confusion"! That is the word that God used to describe this entire system called the "Beast" throughout the book of Revelation.

At the end of this age, the final system called "Babylon" is mightily thrown down: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury" (Revelation 18:2–3). Describing this coming powerful and exciting-looking military, political and economic system, God tells His true people, "*Come out* of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues" (v. 4).

This soon-coming foul and demonic system is called the "Beast." Its leader—who is also called the "Beast"—is assisted by a *false prophet* who works "signs" whereby they are able to *deceive the whole world*. In the end, God reveals their awful fate: "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

In this and so many other scriptures, God reveals that He will finally have "had enough" of this foul system and its two leaders—the "Beast" and the False Prophet. They will be **burned to eternal death** in a Lake of Fire! Meanwhile, Satan is influencing the *destruction* of the human family through an entirely wrong approach to sex and marriage and through the *direct murder* of increasing millions of babies in a practice called "abortion"! Satan is very clever in influencing human beings to play "word games" in the way they try to describe their foul deeds. So they often *describe abortion* as a "woman's health decision" or similar terms.

What they *do not tell you* is that this "health decision" involves the **death** of a developing human being made in the image of God—a helpless little child who is blotted out by sucking out its brain while yet in the womb of its mother! Future generations will look back on this practice as absolute *barbarism*! Society today likes to think of itself as "modern"—not like the ancient Romans who exposed newborns to the elements to die—but we will deliberately **murder** our own little children and do many other awful things (under the influence of Satan) that will ultimately *destroy human life*. Therefore, Satan's ultimate *goal* of destroying humanity is assisted as we do our own part in helping him divert us from our destiny.

Satan's Cunning Deceits

One of the cleverest maneuvers Satan employs is to try to convince people that homosexuals do not "choose" to become that way. Rather, the idea is that they are "born" as homosexuals and therefore *cannot help themselves*. This idea appeals, naturally, to fair-minded people and makes them willing to go along with perverted practices they might otherwise *reject*!

Nevertheless, the top scientists and doctors involved have virtually **all** admitted that there is no "homosexual gene"! Yes, some articles and television and Internet reports *imply* or directly say the opposite! But they are **lying**! Undoubtedly the vast majority of people putting out that stuff *know better*. Yet, as Joseph Goebbels—Hitler's propaganda man—famous-SATAN'S WAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

Marijuana at a Legal Crossroad?





Canada, by many international measures, is frequently lauded as one of the best places in the world to live. Reports cite good prospects in employment, education, medical care and lifestyle, all within borders that are spacious and attractive. Despite these many advantages,

a high percentage of the population seeks escape in the use of mind-altering drugs. The most widely used illegal substance here is cannabis, or *marijuana*.

A Growing Concern?

The scale of marijuana use is alarming. A 2014 report stated: "The number of youth (22 percent) and young adults (26 percent) who used marijuana in 2013 was more than two and a half times that of adults 25 and older (8 percent)" ("Marijuana and Youth," Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse).

Though many mistakenly consider marijuana harmless, the Partnership for a Drug Free Canada has for years presented reputable scientific studies showing the dangers and the social and economic costs of this drug. Yet, despite health experts' endorsement of these studies, social pressure is driving the political agenda toward legalizing this dangerous drug. Political forces on the left have coalesced around this goal, claiming that legalization and regulation would afford better controls than enforcing prohibition.

But who is right? Are concerns about cannabis unfounded? Surely, many will assume, if cannabis use is so widespread, it must not be very harmful to society. After all, Canadian youth have the highest rate of marijuana use of any country in the developed world, according to the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (*ibid.*). Some enthusiasts advocate the use of marijuana for "medical" purposes, though most medical experts are sceptical. Notice this 2014 statement from the Canadian Medical Association:

"The CMA still believes there is insufficient scientific evidence available to support the use of marijuana for clinical purposes. It also believes there is insufficient evidence on clinical risks and benefits, including the proper dosage of marijuana to be used and on the potential interactions between this drug and other medications" ("New 'Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulations': What Do Doctors Need to Know?").

In a letter explaining the group's position to Canada's Minister of Health, the CMA similarly stated that there "remains scant evidence regarding the effectiveness of the herbal form of marijuana" ("Letter to Minister Aglukkaq," February 28, 2013).

Earlier this year, the *Edmonton Journal* reported on research from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse: "Teens who start smoking marijuana early and do so frequently risk lowering their IQ scores...." The article goes on to state that: "The growing body of evidence about the effects of cannabis use during adolescence is reason for concern,' said Amy Porath-Waller, the CCSA's lead researcher on the issue. 'I think we should be very concerned.... There is a need to take a pause and consider that this is the future of our country. We certainly want to prepare our youth so they can be productive members of society in terms of employment so there certainly is reason that Canada needs to be concerned about cannabis use among young people.' Equally concerning, she said, is the perception among many Canadian youth that cannabis is benign and has no effect on their ability to drive or their performance in school" ("Teen pot use can lower IQ: study," April 15, 2015).

"Where there's smoke..."

According to a Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse policy brief, clinical evidence links marijuana usage with cognitive impairment and increased risk of psychosis—a risk that increases with earlier age and higher levels of use. The brief also warns: "Experience in the United States indicates that decreased regulation, including flexible arrangements for personal or designated growers and retail sales, is likely to result in increased rates of diversion [misuse]) ("Marijuana for Medical Purposes," July 15, p. 8).

The Partnership for a Drug Free Canada (PDFC) raises other medical issues. For instance, marijuana smokers exhibit many of the same symptoms as tobacco smokers. These can include abnormal incidence of chest colds, increased coughing and phlegm production. A 2015 PDFC report states: "Regardless of



the THC content, the amount of tar inhaled by marijuana smokers and the level of carbon monoxide absorbed are

three to five times greater than among tobacco smokers" ("Marijuana").

Some doctors will point out that the hotter-burning temperature also can result in increased loss of the cilia in the lungs, which can lead to diseases such as emphysema. It is interesting to note that, for years, the Canadian Cancer Society has lobbied against tobacco smoking, and has won widespread public support—yet the same people who wisely oppose tobacco smoking often seem not to care that in marijuana they have a substance found to be many times more deadly to the human lung.

We have seen that medical associations resist the use of so-called "medical marijuana," as there is no solid clinical evidence that the drug is effective. Required dosages for specific ailments are not researched, concentration of the active ingredient THC varies with plant samples (making dosages impossible to determine), and there are the negative side effects, which include addiction. For those who insist on the medical benefit of THC,

physicians point out that dosage-controlled, carefully measured medications already exist: dronabinol (Marinol[®]) and nabilone (Cesamet[®]). Physicians can already prescribe either of these medications. So, why is there such a cry for medical marijuana? Could it be that the

approved, clinically monitored medications allow the THC to act on the body but do not give the user a "high"?

A Deeper Purpose

Political leaders ought to be driven by a sense of what is good for their citizens, yet those who pander to groups who only want hedonistic pleasure—or who possibly have entrepreneurial interests eventually involving convenience store shelves and glamorous packaging-may be more interested in their own welfare than that of the nation.

Marijuana use is illegal in Canada for a good reason: it is harmful to its users, and to the nation. It, and other drugs like it (and others even more deadly) rob the individual of potential, and leave behind broken dreams and shattered lives.

It is a tragedy when people, young or old, view "getting high" as their primary pleasure in life. Such people are living without knowing any purpose for their human existence. Yet there is such a purpose that can be known and achieved. Our sober human mind is a treasure, brilliantly designed by a great Creator—one who plans to offer mankind an awesome future with potential undreamed of in the human sphere. To learn more, request our free booklet, The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like? No chemical known to humanity can begin to deliver the wonderful sense of fulfillment God makes available to those who learn to take pleasure in living His way.

—Stuart Wachowicz

A Purposeful Existence

When Charles Darwin wrote his thesis On the Origin of Species, it opened the door for belief in a purposeless existence. Because of Darwin's theory, it should not surprise us that so many today live with no greater expectation and hope than to be happy before ceasing to exist forever!

By Gerald Weston

hen Charles Darwin wrote his thesis On the Origin of Species, it opened the door for belief in a purposeless existence. Because of Darwin's theory, it should not surprise us that so many today live with no greater expectation and hope than to be happy before ceasing to exist forever!

If life is a random and temporary burst between aeons of nothingness, why should anything matter? Drug use, violence, perversion, all forms of selfishness—if nothing lasts, if nothing is permanent, if nothing has real meaning, why should it matter what anyone does?

The Apostle Paul understood the consequences of such a futile and short-sighted worldview when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:32: "If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, '*Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!*"

One fact is certain: if Darwin and his followers are correct, life can have no permanent, lasting meaning! On the other hand, if Darwin was wrong and there is a real Creator God, we need to discover that Creator's transcendent purpose for us.

In this article, we will briefly discuss one way in which Darwin's theory is flawed, show how that theory is based in a secular religion that has changed man's worldview, and briefly show that the Bible addresses the subject of purpose. Yes, we are the result of a purposeful creation—and knowledge of that purpose can change your life in ways Darwin's theory never could.

It is important at the beginning to clarify what is meant by "Darwinism." Charles Darwin's theory opened the door for belief in a purposeless universe, existing and evolving by chance. Yet, over time, scientists have realized that some of the nuts and bolts of Darwin's ideas come up short. So, terms such as "Neo-Darwinism" and "modern evolutionary synthesis" are now used to explain how scientists have altered their views on Darwin's original thesis. But the bottom line is the same: all life, according to these theories, is the result of naturalism, i.e. natural processes apart from any outside source. Or, to put it another way, God or intelligence cannot be even considered as the cause of life.

One problem with the evolutionary concept is the lack of evidence for it. Strangely, most have never considered this possibility and blindly believe science has plenty of incontrovertible evidence at hand! After all, we have all seen those evolutionary trees in science books, showing the development of one kind of life form from another. Then there are the pictures of mythical transitional figures between reptiles and birds. And that is exactly the problem: these are mythical figures and *mythical life trees!* The facts tell a very different story.

Show Me the Links!

The very term *evolution* means that something changes incrementally. For one creature kind to evolve into

another creature kind, many incremental changes must take place. This means that there ought to be countless intermediate fossils that could be easily found, but this is not the case. Michael Denton explains the lack of fossil evidence: "But as by this theory innumerable transitional forms must have existed why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the earth?" (*Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Denton, p. 157). As an example, whales are considered to have evolved from some unknown land mammal, but exactly how could this occur? Denton gives an abbreviated list of modifications that must have occurred for this to happen:

"Forelimb modifications, the evolution of tail flukes, the streamlining, reduction of hindlimbs, modifications of skull to bring nostrils to the top of head, modification of trachea, modifications of behaviour patterns, specialized nipples so that the young could feed underwater (a complete list would be enormous)—one is inclined to think in terms of possibly hundreds, even thousands, of transitional species on the most direct path between a hypothetical land ancestor and the common ancestor of modern whales" (Denton, p. 174).

Strikingly, even the mythical land animal from which whales supposedly evolved is unknown and not found in the fossil record, much less the hundreds of transitional forms. The same scenario would have to play out between reptiles and birds, fish and land creatures, or for that matter, any change from one kind to another; but the fact is, **there are no transitional forms**! The very rare supposed examples given in textbooks are exactly that—supposed examples. Paleontologists have sought for decades to find the "missing link" between modern mankind and the plenty of primate fossils, but no trail of transitional forms—intermediates—between us and our presumed ancestors. Yet for evolution to be true, there would need to be so many intermediate steps that it defies logic to believe in evolution from ape to man when those transitional forms simply are not there!

"The absence of intermediates, although damaging, was not fatal in 1860, for it was reasonable to hope that many would eventually be found as geological activities increased.... Only a small fraction of the hundred thousand or so fossil species known today were known to Darwin. But virtually all new fossil species discovered since Darwin's time have either been closely related to known forms or, like the Paganaphoras, strange unique types of unknown affinity" (Denton, pp. 160–161).

Denton also writes:

"The overall picture of life on Earth today is so discontinuous, the gaps between the different types so obvious, that, as Steven Stanley reminds us in his recent book *Macroevolution*, if our knowledge of biology was restricted to those species presently existing on Earth, 'we might wonder whether the doctrine of evolution would qualify as anything more than an outrageous hypothesis.' Without intermediates or transitional forms to bridge the enormous gaps which separate existing species and groups of organisms, the concept of evolution could never be taken seriously as a scientific hypothesis" (Denton, pp. 157–158).

For the record, Steven Stanley is a paleontologist and evolutionary biologist, but he is not alone in ad-

mitting there is a problem

with the evidence. Michael Ruse is a well-known phi-

losopher, evolutionist, and self-identified agnostic.

ONE PROBLEM WITH THE EVOLUTIONARY Concept is the lack of evidence for it!

more primitive primates. Scientists concede that this presumed link no longer exists as a living species, yet neither can it be found in the fossil record! There are "In 1981, Ruse testified in a case in which an Arkansas judge ruled that creation science—which the state had tried to introduce in schools—was not valid science but an unconstitutional attempt to teach religion in the classroom. The Supreme Court upheld the decision in 1987" (*The Boston Globe*, "Evolutionary War," May 1, 2005).

Is it Science or Religion?

However, Ruse altered his opinion regarding the source of evolution's strength some years later. In late March 1992, University of California law professor Philip Johnson invited Ruse to take part in what became known as the Darwinism Symposium at Southern Methodist University. Johnson was a convert to the idea that evolution is a flawed theory after reading Michael Denton's book, and has become a significant figure in the debate. Ruse, who seems to be a rather reasonable fellow, welcomed the opportunity to discuss the question on an academic level in a gentlemanly fashion.

Johnson's contribution to the debate has been to shine light on the fact that evolutionary science is **not** an entirely objective science, but is based on naturalism: "a philosophy that 'assumes the entire realm of nature to be a closed system of material causes and effects which cannot be influenced by anything from "outside"" (Woodward, *Doubts About Darwin*, p. 95).

The gentlemen's discussion between Johnson, Ruse, and the other participants had an impact. A year later, Ruse spoke at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Boston to make a presentation at "The New Antievolutionism," seminar, which was organized to challenge the fledgling Intelligent Design movement. His talk was to address the growing "Philip Johnson problem." He began with a critique of Johnson's book, but what followed was not what some wanted to hear.

"Ruse then abruptly startled his audience by saying he had been rethinking the issue of philosophical bases in recent years, and after his participation in the symposium, he had changed his mind on a key point: 'I must confess, in the ten years since I performed, or I appeared, in the creationism trial in Arkansas, I must say that I've been coming to this kind of position myself.' What position? Ruse explained that those in academia especially 'should recognize, both historically and perhaps philosophically, certainly that the science side has certain metaphysical assumptions built into doing science, which—it may not be a good thing to admit in a court of law—but I think that in honesty ... we should recognize [this]" *(ibid.*, p. 147).

Ruse then went on to say:

"...for many evolutionists, evolution has functioned as something with elements which are, let us say, akin to being a secular religion." But he wasn't finished as he continued, "evolution, akin to religion, involves making certain *a priori* or metaphysical assumptions, which at some level cannot be proven empirically.... And I think that the way to deal with creationism, but the way to deal with evolution also, is not to deny these facts, but to recognize them, and to see where we can go as we move on from there" (*ibid.*).

Microbiologist Michael Behe was another convert of Denton's. As captured in the popular video, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Life*, Behe explained that he had for many years assumed evolution to be true, but when he read Denton's book he realized there were "very difficult problems for Darwinian evolution which I had never thought about and which no one in all my studies leading to my Ph.D. had bothered to mention.... I immediately recognized that they *were* difficult problems and I became angry that nobody had brought these up. I felt like I was being led down the garden path to a conclusion that didn't really have the evidential support that I thought it had."

The fossil record has taken a back seat to the even greater challenges facing the theory of evolution from the field of microbiology, but the fossil record still

remains a huge problem for evolutionary theories. Darwin might have been excused 150 years ago for posing his hypotheses despite lack of fossil evidence, but it is evident today that none of the tens of thousands, or even millions, of intermediaries (missing links) have been or will be found. They simply are not there!

A PURPOSEFUL EXISTENCE



A Purpose for Life

So what is Darwin's contribution to the world? Darwin's legacy and that of his followers who continue to tweak his theory, is a purposeless existence.

"It was because Darwinian theory broke man's link with God and set him adrift in a cosmos without purpose or end that its impact was so fundamental. No other intellectual revolution in modern times ... so profoundly affected the way men viewed themselves and their place in the universe.... The idea has come to touch every aspect of modern thought; and no other theory in recent times has done more to mould the way we view ourselves and our relationship to the world around us.... The triumph of evolution meant the end of the traditional belief in the world as a purposeful created order-the so-called teleological outlook which had been predominant in the western world for two millennia" (Denton, pp. 15, 67).

Chance cannot explain or give purpose. It is God, not evolution, that gives purpose to life. There can be no lasting purpose without God, because only God can give life beyond the grave. Job asked the most important question that can ever be asked, and then gave the answer: "If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands" (Job 14:14–15).

Man is God's workmanship. The very first chapter of the Bible declares God's purpose for us: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own

MAY WE

SUGGEST?

image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26–27). Other scriptures elaborate on this original theme. "As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. … I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty'" (2 Corinthians 6:16, 18).

Instead of digging in the ground in a futile search for the millions of missing links that simply are not there, man ought to be looking up and discovering the God who made us and offers us a great, glorious, and everlasting purpose. A young shepherd boy, who later became a king, once mused when looking into the night sky, "What is man that You [God] are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:4). The Apostle Paul, in referring to this Psalm, gives the answer to the question and how it relates to Jesus Christ. "For it was fitting for Him [Christ], for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10).

The theory of evolution can look attractive on the surface. It is popular. It is politically correct. It is always presented as authoritative, as though it is a fact, when it is far more akin to a secular religion than true science. Yet the fossil record does not lie—and neither does the God who created you for a wonderful purpose!

To learn more about the purpose for your very existence, be sure to request a copy of our free booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*. It explains exactly what the Bible says about God's purpose for mankind—an eternal destiny far more exciting than going to a kind of "candy store in the sky" or playing a harp on a cloud forever and ever. Knowledge of your purpose will bring about a change—and not just an incremental one—in your life!

Your Ultimate Destiny You were not an accident! God created you for a purpose! Request a free printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



層London CALLING

A New "Battle of Britain"?



t is hard to believe that ISIS (sometimes also called "Islamic State"), now such a prominent force in world events, exploded onto the world's consciousness less than two years ago when in June 2014 it declared itself an Islamic Caliphate after conquering the northern Iraq city of Mosul.

Yet, in that short time, some 20,000 foreign fighters from around the world are estimated to have flocked to the Middle East in support of ISIS's crusade to establish a Caliphate in Syria and Iraq. This fighting force includes 700 from the United Kingdom, 600 from Germany, 1,200 from France, 250 from Australia, and 100 each from the United States and Canada.

Here in Britain, news reports have described the shocking number of teenagers and young adults who without any apparent warnings or signs of disaffection—disappeared from Britain and travelled secretly to Syria or Iraq to join ISIS. Hundreds of shocked and grieving families have been left behind, wondering how this could have happened to them and why.

Particularly disturbing is ISIS's religious pretext; the organization preaches a powerful apocalyptic narrative concerning the imminent end of the world and the rise of a new order—and does so in a manner shocking to many Christian believers. So, why does ISIS attract even some young Britons to its cause, and what does this mean for our world?

What is the Attraction?

Simply put—indeed, *very* simply put—ISIS presents itself as the legitimate heir of the original teachings of Muhammad. As such, its strong proclamations may at first *sound* to many like an authentic and credible manifestation of what Islam must really be all about.

ISIS strives to follow Muhammad's teachings and example in punctilious detail, and consequently sees itself as the first truly Islamic regime in a thousand years. Though currently ruling an area the size of the U.K. within Syria and Iraq, with a population of around 10 million, ISIS asserts religious, political and military authority over all Muslims worldwide, and aspires to bring the rest of the world under its absolute control and authority.

To further the organization's goals, ISIS supporters have become expert in the use of propaganda via broadcast media—radio, television and the Internet—to attractively and professionally present their message and entice new followers. They have been phenomenally successful in the use of Internet social media and adept at circumventing numerous attempts to close them down.

Small wonder, then, that vulnerable and innocent young people (predominantly Muslims) fall prey to ISIS propaganda. Thousands have been radicalized to a narrow, extreme and violent worldview and, having been seduced, have migrated to Syria or Iraq to live in the caliphate and join in the cause.

The ISIS ideology proposes a continuous "offensive jihad"—the forcible expansion into countries ruled by non-Muslims. Its methods are extreme violence, intimidation and humiliation, indoctrination, terrorism, horrific and bloody public executions glorified on the Internet and enslavement of women and children. Women under ISIS rule may legally be used as concubines and sex slaves, and rape of non-believers is specifically allowed—even encouraged in some cases. ISIS has garnered a well-deserved reputation for barbaric, uncivilized behavior and bloodthirsty violence to anyone in jihad's way. Its human rights record is lamentable; observers have called on ISIS to account for mass atrocities and war crimes, forcible conversions and ethnic and religious cleansing on an almost industrial scale.

Britain's New Battle

In late July, Prime Minister Cameron, describing the fight against ISIS as "the struggle of our generation," began to unveil a comprehensive Counter-Extremism Strategy ("Extremism: PM Speech," www.uk.gov, July 20, 2015) to be debated and implemented over the coming weeks and months. A new Defense Review is expected to reverse defense cuts imposed over many years, and provide for increases in the numbers of Special Forces, spy planes, drones and other equipment in what Defense Minister Michael Fallon described as a "new Battle of Britain" against an implacable and determined fascist enemy.

Cameron is set to mount an ambitious and determined defense of British values at home and abroad, undergirding what he described as an extraordinarily successful, open and free, multi-racial and multi-faith democracy. The aim is to counter ISIS and all it stands



British imam Anjem Choudary has been charged with supporting ISIS and encouraging Britons to embrace Sharia and *jihad*.

for at every level. Efforts will be made to bring communities together, and to defuse the identity crisis sometimes felt by the young, which can leave them vulnerable to extremist thinking.

ISIS's Unbiblical Prophetic Narrative

One of ISIS's core, underpinning doctrines is the belief that *the end of the world is imminent*. ISIS considers itself to be the key player in these end-times; indeed, the harbinger of events that will bring about the apocalypse.

ISIS doctrine anticipates the imminent arrival of the Mahdi—a messianic figure destined to lead the Muslims to victory before the end arrives. They believe the armies

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of "Rome" will mass to meet the armies of Islam in northern Syria at Dabiq, near Aleppo, where Rome's forces

will be defeated. It is not clear whom Rome represents, but Turkey or America have been advanced as suitable candidates. Islam's final showdown with an anti-Messiah figure will occur in Jerusalem. All but 5,000 of the caliphate's forces will perish, but Jesus, the second-most-revered prophet in Islam, will return and lead the remaining Muslims to victory (*"What ISIS Really Wants,"* Graeme Wood, *The Atlantic*, March 2015, pp. 17–18).

From the perspective of the Bible, most of the above beliefs are simply without foundation, as are many of ISIS's other beliefs, even if there seems to be a kind of distorted echo of the biblical reality.

That reality is described in Zechariah 14, written centuries before the appearance of Islam. All nations will be gathered to fight against Jerusalem (v. 2), but the returning Christ defends the city, delivers it and makes it His world capital (Jeremiah 3:17), ushering in an unprecedented period of peace, reconstruction and salvation, as for the first time the whole world will have the opportunity to learn from and obey Him.

Bloodthirsty *jihad*, crucifixions, beheadings and rampant terrorism in the name of a Muslim caliphate potent manifestations of misguided and deceived thinking that afflicts people of all religions, and of none—will become a thing of the past; gone forever; superseded by the perfect government of the true Messiah, Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords (Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 11:15-18: 19:11-16). God speed that day! —John Meakin

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRIST'S RETURN?

When the hoofbeats of the four horsemen are still a fresh memory in the minds of war-ravaged humanity, Christ will return on His white horse to save dying mankind from the consequences of its own folly. Will you be there? Will you be with Him? Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. –Revelation 19:11

By Richard F. Ames

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

Over the centuries, many have made predictions and set dates, anticipating Jesus Christ's return. So far, all have failed. But does this mean Jesus will not return? No, it does not! Ever since Adam and Eve, human beings have believed false prophecies proclaimed by deceivers and pretenders. But the prophecies in your Bible have proven to be valid, time and time again!

More than 100 prophecies in the Old Testament foretold Jesus Christ's first coming. Among them is Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David, the son of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (7:14), that He would live in Galilee (9:1–2), that His mission would include the Gentiles (42:1–4) and that He would die with the wicked (53:9). Other prophecies foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), that He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13), that He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (9:9) and that He would be like a smitten shepherd (13:7).

Those prophecies were fulfilled. And the same Bible that foretold Jesus' **first** coming also foretells His **second** coming. Dozens of passages in both the Old and New Testaments prophesy Jesus Christ's second coming. Look at what Jesus Himself said: "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:1–3).

Jesus' Own Words

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

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

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

The book of Acts also confirms Christ's return. In Acts 1, the disciples witnessed Jesus' ascension. "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey" (Acts 1:10–12).

Here we have seen three plain scriptural references to the second coming of Christ—and there are many more. Remember the announcement of the seventh trumpet: "Then the seventh angel sounded: wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (Matthew 24:24). There will be powerful religious deceptions. Not just the few, but the many will be deceived by false religions—even false Christianity.

Are You Deceived?

How can you know what is true and what is false? You need to check up on us—and all preachers—by reading



your Bible! In praying to the Father, Jesus said: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John

17:17). God's word, the Bible, is truth! Many carelessly assume that their minister or priest is preaching from the Bible. But many doctrines commonly "taken for granted" are not in your Bible! You need to prove for yourself what the Bible says. Remember: "Test [the *KJV* says "prove"] all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

YOU NEED NOT BE DECEIVED. JESUS HIMSELF GAVE THE PROPHETIC TRENDS AND SIGNS THAT WOULD PRECEDE HIS SECOND COMING

You need not be deceived. Jesus Himself gave the prophetic trends and signs that would precede His second coming. You need to know what they are. One of the signs preceding Christ's return will be the ascendancy of a pow-

and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'" (Revelation 11:15).

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

Jesus said that, preceding His return, there would be false religions, and false signs and wonders that will deceive many. He stated: "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and erful false religion with immense influence. You can read about that system, which Revelation 17 labels as "the great harlot." The False Prophet, about whom the Apostle Paul wrote, will lead that system. You can read about the "man of sin" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. For more detail on this prophetically significant matter, contact our Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) to request your free copy of our booklet, *Who or What Is the Antichrist?*

Another specific sign Jesus told us to watch for is a future profaning of the holy place in Jerusalem. Jesus said: "Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains'" (Matthew 24:15–16). Notice that the great false prophet, the man of sin, will profane the temple of God. This "abomination of desola-

ARE YOU READY CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

What kind of Christmas are you dreaming of? Should you be dreaming of it?

Question: Does the Bible give any guidelines as to the specific worship or activities Christians should employ to observe the Christmas holiday?

Answer: Many are surprised to learn that there is neither biblical command nor example for Christians to commemorate the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth.

Not once does Scripture record a birthday celebration for or by Jesus Christ. Some wrongly assume that Matthew 2:1–2 is the first occasion of Christmas gift-giving, but in fact the "wise men" were paying homage to the "King of the Jews" already a young child—not giving birthday gifts to a newborn infant (v. 11).

It is instructive to note that the only "birthday parties" we find in Scripture are associated with unpleasant events. In Matthew 14, for example, King Herod's "birthday gift" was the decapitated head of John the Baptist. Even as late as 245AD, the noted scholar Origen "repudiated as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed.).

Scripture does, however, give us some hints about the date of Christ's birth, telling us that He was born when there were "shepherds living out in the fields,



keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). During the cold Judean winters, shepherds slept

indoors. We also read that while Zacharias was serving at the Temple in the division of Abijah, an angel appeared to him and announced that he would have a son—John the Baptist (Luke 1:5–25, 57–58). The division of Abijah was the eighth to serve each year, and by calculating the dates forward we find that John the Baptist was born near Passover, in the spring, and Jesus was born six months later (Luke 1:24–26), which would place His birth in September or October—not on December 25!

Since Scripture does not establish a celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday, and makes it clear that He could not have been born on December 25, how did the custom of a December 25 "Christmas" originate? In Rome, December 25 was the date of the Saturnalia; it was also a "holy day" for worshipers of Mithra and Sol Invictus. As pagan "converts" changed the original teachings of Christianity to suit their old habits, they continued to observe a December 25 holiday, merely changing their object of worship.

But is there anything wrong with "Christianizing" the world's custom of birthday celebrations and applying it to our Savior? Scripture explains

Is there anything wrong with "Christianizing" the world's custom of birthday celebrations and applying it to our Savior?

that we cannot worship the true God by abandoning His ways in favor of customs used in the worship of false gods (Deuteronomy 12:30–32). Notice: "Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:2–4, *KJV*). God's people should not adopt heathen customs, such as the custom—described in these verses—of decorating a tree as part of a celebration. Does that custom remind you of one particular holiday, much beloved by the world?

Jesus Christ asked His followers: "But why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). In a world that becomes obsessed with "Christmas" festivities, it may be tempting to take part in what may seem like an "innocent" celebration, and it may be socially awkward to refuse. But, as Christians, we must refuse. Instead, we should follow Jesus' example and observe the actual Holy Days that God gave His people, which portray His plan of salvation for humanity. To learn more about these Holy Days, please write for a free copy of our booklet, *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*.

COMESALIVE

Looming Financial Woes

he United States of America and other Israelite nations (the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and nations of northwest European descent) have enjoyed unprecedented financial prosperity for the last two centuries. The pound and the dollar have been the world's reserve currencies and the recognized medium of exchange for world trade for several hundred years. However, this privileged and preeminent position is changing, and *dramatic reversals* are going to impact the Israelite nations as ancient Bible prophecies **come alive** in the years just ahead.

Warning Signs—Emerging Dangers

Today, the international monetary system revolves around the American dollar. Yet, America is 16 trillion dollars in debt-to sovereign wealth funds in Middle Eastern countries and to potential adversary nations such as China and Russia. This spiraling debt has undermined confidence in the U.S. dollar, and borrowing money from potential adversaries will impose limits on America's political and military options if a crisis arises. Efforts by the U.S. Treasury to weaken the dollar (reduce its value) in order to reduce the amount of money owed to lending nations is not appreciated by those nations because it threatens the amount of wealth they hold in American dollars. This has generated a real desire on the part of other nations to create an alternative currency to the U.S. dollar. In fact, as economist James Rickards has pointed out, America's biggest economic competitors—China, Russia and oil-producing nations of the Middle East—are doing everything possible to end the U.S. monetary monopoly. Rickards is an advisor on international economics to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Nations negatively affected by American financial policies are unable to challenge U.S. military dominance. However, in our modern electronic age, there are other methods for challenging American policies—including cyber-attacks and currency wars! The purpose of a financial war is to disrupt trading, destroy wealth and degrade an adversary's capability and gain geopolitical advantage. Cyber-attacks on financial markets, simulating a sell-off of stocks and bonds, can lead to a financial panic that can wipe out huge amounts of wealth overnight or in a matter of days. Observers acknowledge, "a well-orchestrated cyberfinancial attack could be as disruptive as any traditional military assault" (Currency Wars, Rickards, p. 47). Accidental or malicious activities that undermine confidence in the dollar-the key currency in world trade—could lead to the collapse of the international system and spawn widespread social and political unrest. Rickards states elsewhere, "Perhaps the most likely outcome of currency wars and the debasement of the dollar is a chaotic, catastrophic loss of investor confidence" and the implementation of emergency measures by governments to maintain some sort of monetary system (ibid., p. 247). This same author notes, "The path of the US dollar is unsustainable... this leaves chaos as a strong possibility" (ibid., p. 255). He also writes that we are watching "the dollar's final days and the resultant collapse of the international monetary system... the next financial collapse will be unprecedented in scope... [and] resemble nothing in history" (The Death of Money, pp. 6, 12-13).

Ancient Prophecies

What many fail to grasp today is that long ago, God promised Abraham and his Israelite descendants that if they *obeyed* His laws, they would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3; Deuteronomy 28:1-13). However, God warned the Israelites that if they *disobeyed* His laws, He would "break the pride of their power"—including their mone-



tary power—and their enemies would gain dominance over them (Leviticus 26:14-20). God further warned the

Israelites that if they rejected Him and turned from His ways, aliens would rise up in their midst and the Israelite nations would lose power and influence and become debtors to other nations (Deuteronomy 28:43-45). The prophet Isaiah warned the Israelites that because they refused to obey His laws, He would remove the protective "hedge" that He placed around them due to the obedience of their forefather Abraham (Isaiah 5:5). Isaiah also prophesied that the Israelite nations would become like Sodom and Gomorrah (promoting homosexuality, same-sex marriage and other sensual pleasures—see Genesis 19:5-7; Ezekiel 16:49-50) and that God would remove the supports of their society (including their economic foundation—Isaiah 1:1-10; 3:1-5). The prophet Micah predicted the time would come when sinful Israelites would attempt to save their money, but those attempts would come to nothing and their wealth would be given to those who conquer them (Micah 6:14).

Ezekiel was commissioned to warn the Israelite nations (Ezekiel 2:3; 3:4, 16-17) that because of their disobedience to God's laws, they would experience "disaster upon disaster" and that their money would become worthless and they would toss it into the streets like trash (Ezekiel

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7:19, 26). Jeremiah prophesied that plunderers will come "suddenly" on sinful Israelite nations because they have forsaken God's laws, which would result in unprecedented catastrophe (Jeremiah 6:26; 9:13-19; 19:3-4). In modern 21st century terms, the "sword" and "plunderer" that Jeremiah warned that God will send against sinful Israelite nations could include cyber-attacks and currency wars—that could lead to disruption, oppression and even armed conflicts.

All these prophecies are coming alive in the news today! The pride of America's economic power is evaporating as confidence in the dollar declines and trust in America's ability to lead and be a model for the world is lost. Due to undisciplined borrowing, America has become a debtor to other nations—including competitors and potential enemies. American monetary policies to weaken the dollar are threatening the wealth of other nations **holding dollars**, and fomenting resentment against American financial dominance in the international sphere. This is feeding a growing movement to undermine and replace the dollar with an alternative currency. Financial analysts are predicting that the demise of the dollar could bring down the international monetary system and plunge the world into financial and social chaos.

From a prophetic standpoint, it has also been noted that "the euro waits in the wings, one more threat to the hegemony of the dollar," and Mario Draghi, the president of the European Central Bank (located in Frankfurt, Germany) has stated, "the ECB is ready to do whatever is necessary to preserve the euro" (*The Death of Money*, p. 112). The prophet Hosea indicated long ago that financially troubled Israelite nations would look to the Assyrian (Germany) for help as we approach the end of the age (Hosea 5:13). It is sobering to see these ancient prophecies *coming alive* at the same time America and other so-called Christian nations are turning away from God and their unique biblical heritage. They are viewed by their antagonists as modern examples of Sodom and Gomorrah—

> heading for destruction. To learn what will happen to these nations and the world around as the end of this age approaches, read our informative booklet, Armageddon and Beyond. —Douglas S. Winnail

ly said: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it!"

"A leading pro-family group has put together a fact page about alternate lifestyles as a tool to educate people that they are not 'born gay.'

"Randy Thomasson explains that *SaveCalifornia.com's* 'Not Born This Way' webpage aims to educate individuals on the truth about alternate sexual orientations. The page provides facts about LGBT lifestyles, as well as scientific research disproving the popular claim that people are born homosexual.

"Without any reputable evidence, the entertainment culture, the uneducated media and homosexual activists have seduced today's teenagers, in particular, to believe that people are born homosexual,' Thomasson recognizes. 'However, science has found no biological basis for homosexuality, bisexuality or transsexuality.'

"On average, says the pro-family group, the homosexual lifestyle has higher rates of cancer, sexually transmitted diseases and early deaths than those found among heterosexuals. He also notes that the American Psychological Association has reversed its statement that people are born gay, admitting that there is no 'gay gene'"(*onenewsnow.com*, June 26, 2012).

A *very* important aspect of Satan's deceptions and **lies** is that he has influenced the mainstream media to greatly play down or directly *misstate* the information about the **terrible harm** homosexuality produces! For the truth of the matter is—as most homosexual "experts" acknowledge themselves—that homosexuals on average **die very young**. A very eye-opening report from the Family Research Institute (February 2009) states this:

"In a pioneering study, 6,737 obituaries from 18 U.S. homosexual journals during and after the height of the AIDS epidemic (13 years total) were compared to a large sample of obituaries from regular newspapers. The obituaries from the regular newspapers were similar to U.S. averages for longevity: the median age of death of married, never-divorced men was 75



Mainstream media have played an important role in public acceptance of homosexuality.

and 80% of them died old (age 65 or older). For unmarried or divorced men, the median age of death was 57 and 32% of them died old. Married, never-divorced women averaged 79 at death; 85% died old. Unmarried and divorced women averaged age 71 and 60% of them died old.

The median age of death for homosexuals, however, was virtually the same nationwide and, overall, about 2% survived to old age. If AIDS was the listed cause of death, the median age was 39. For the 829 gays who were listed as dying of something other than AIDS, the median age of death was 42 and 9% died old. The 163 lesbians had a median age of death of 44 and 20% died old.

Even when AIDS was apparently not involved, homosexuals frequently met an early demise. Three percent of gays died violently. They were 116 times more apt to be murdered (compared to national murder rates), much more apt to commit suicide, and had high traffic-accident death-rates. Heart attacks, cancer, and liver failure were exceptionally common. 18% of lesbians died of murder, suicide, or accidents — a rate 456 times higher than that of white females aged 25-44" (*familyresearchinst.org*).

The Results of Godless Behavior

We *absolutely must* consider the **results** of the perverted behavior of homosexuals and lesbians. For Jesus Christ Himself said: "By their **fruits** you will know them" (Matthew 7:20). So the "fruits" or the *results* of mankind's perverted behavior certainly indicate that homosexual behavior leads to terrible *diseases, human suffering* and premature **death**.

Since Satan is the ultimate liar and "father of lies" (John 8:44), he has no qualms about influencing his confused servants into repeating a **lie** over and over in order to mislead human beings in such a basic point—involving the *very existence* of humanity in the future! He does want to *destroy humanity*. So he will confuse humanity about *everything* involving sex, male-female relations, marriage, childrearing and other facets of living a happy and successful life.

Of course, many people have a "tendency" to become alcoholic, to become obese, or to have some defect or abnormality because of the genetic structure

AS MANKIND TURNS MORE AND MORE AWAY FROM ALMIGHTY GOD WE WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY VIOLENT

they inherited from their parents. They may learn unhealthy behaviors at a very young age. But they are not "made" to do anything against God—**ever**. God's inspired Word makes this very plain: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

My friends, *if* Almighty God allowed Satan to continue *bombarding our peoples* with all the propaganda and intellectual "rubbish" involving sex and marriage, Satan would achieve his ultimate **goal**—the **destruction** *of the entire human race*! It is *vital* that you all understand this. For, as mankind turns more and more away from Almighty God and His revealed *way of life*, we will become increasingly **violent.** More and more local wars, and finally **world war** will erupt. Under Satan's influence, mankind would simply *eliminate itself* in the horrible wars that would ensue. Almighty God describes this coming time of horror and how *He will intervene* before it is too late. For His inspired Word tells us: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

Thankfully, by sending Jesus Christ back to this earth as King of kings (Revelation 11:15), the great God of creation will *conquer* Satan and completely stop his intent to erase human life from this planet!

A wonderful and truly righteous *world government* will soon be set up after Christ returns in the "latter days." God's Word tells us, "He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. *For out of Zion the* **law** *shall go forth*, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and

rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4:2–3). Ezekiel also reveals details about what God says about this coming time: "I will put My Spirit within you and

cause you to *walk in My* **statutes**, and you will *keep My* **judgments** and do them" (Ezekiel 36:27).

Among the "statutes" which the whole world will then learn to obey is the direct command: "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you" (Leviticus 18:22–24). This is the teaching of our Creator—the great God who *created us* male and female. So Jesus said: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Matthew 19:5). Yet, in our formerly professing "Christian" nation, we now have confused judges and other appointed heads of various bureaus and departments across this country treating the teachings of their Creator as a **crime**! Almost daily, we read or hear on the news about sincere ministers, magistrates or business people being *forced* to acquiesce in some way to *support* absolutely **vile** practices *directly condemned in the Bible*! In several formerly "Christian" nations, preaching God's Truth is sometimes regarded as a **crime**.

Wow!

In just the last 15 to 20 years, the "god" of this age—Satan the Devil—has so *twisted men's minds* that they believe the *exact opposite* of what they did believe just a few years ago! To more fully grasp the extent of what is actually happening, call us or write us immediately and request your **free** copy of our very enlightening and shocking booklet entitled *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*. It will *open your eyes*!

My friends, we all must learn to "connect the dots!" For, as these increasing incidences of wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, drought, disease epidemics and various other plagues come upon us, we had *better be willing* to acknowledge that the Creator of heaven and earth will intervene just as He said He would do! For long before Al Gore or even President Obama ever talked about "global warming" or "climate change," our Creator predicted, over and over, throughout scores of prophecies in His inspired Word, that various plagues would come upon His people if they turned away from obeying His commandments and statutes. Almighty God stated to our ancestors: "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.... And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your



"I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze..."

strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit" (Leviticus 26:14–16, 18–20).

Before too many more years, God will begin to powerfully "get the attention" of rebellious human beings. They will come to realize that "something is going on." Finally, God will shake the nations in the whole world in a way He has never done before! His inspired Word tells: "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then **shook** the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain" (Hebrews 12:25-27).

The amused "smirks" will soon be wiped off the faces of rebellious humanity as they see their very Creator intervening to **shake** the carnal nations of this world to their senses! But you do not need to be one of the rebels. Act now, and do not let Satan destroy your family and its God-inspired values. Pray daily for Christ's return. *May God speed that day!*

MAY WE SUGGEST?

Satan's Counterfeit Christianity Will Satan win the battle for the hearts and minds of today's deceived human beings? Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



Have you examined your priorities lately?

popular syndicated television and radio personality recently related a conversation that he had with a well-known billionaire philanthropist. As they walked over the expansive estate of the wealthy man, the interviewer asked a profound question: "How much is enough?" This person of great wealth made the point that if people do not know "how much" they want to earn or accomplish, then they should know... that they will never have "enough."

The quest for wealth can be a cruel and demanding master. Certainly, as human beings with physical needs, we have our part to play. Yet the emphasis that we place on earning money and accumulating wealth has a lot to do with our sense of contentment and fulfillment. Our Heavenly Father recognizes this, and the Bible contains His instruction on the subject. For example, Solomon, who was blessed with incredible wealth, recorded these words. "Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease!" (Proverbs 23:4). He further added, "A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished" (Proverbs 28:20).

Enough Treasures

Obviously, acquiring wealth is not wrong, but our attitude toward wealth can be a problem. Often, we tend to evaluate people based on their physical trappings, such as their house, car, clothing, etc. Jesus clearly warned against a judgmental attitude. "And He said to them, 'Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

In explaining to His followers that our Heavenly Father knows what we need and provides it for us, Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). He continued: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (v. 24). Finally, He said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). So, it is a matter of priorities. We must put loving God and our fellow man before our pursuit of wealth if we are to please God.

The classic instruction on the subject was from the Apostle Paul to Timothy. "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:8–10).

Enough Wisdom

Finding balance is the key if we are to have happy, fulfilled lives. The Apostle John understood this when he wrote, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3

Our attitude toward wealth can be a problem, especially if we evaluate people based on their physical trappings and possessions.

John 1:2). An important part of finding the balance in such matters is to remember the source of our blessings. One way to do that is explained: "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase (Proverbs 3:9).

Wise King Solomon concluded the book of Ecclesiastes with this profound statement: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, *KJV*).

How much is enough? You will have to determine that for yourself, and it will be different for each person. However, if you are seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, it will come into sharp focus and help you find the balance in your life that can be notoriously elusive.

-J. Davy Crockett, III

From Belief to Faith

TODAY

was recently challenged with a good question from a teen: What is the difference between believing and faith? On the face of it, it appears that the two concepts could be the same, and for many people they are. It was a helpful question for me personally because it caused me to analyze the two ideas more closely. While in many applications the two words can be used interchangeably, there is one important distinction that is revealed in God's word.

What Is the Difference?

For the majority of the references to belief and faith in the Bible, the words are indistinguishable from each other. Indeed, the Hebrew word most commonly used for "belief" in the Old Testament "centers on the concepts of 'belief,' 'faith,' and 'trust'—terms that are by and large synonymous" (*Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, edited by Stephen D. Renn, Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2005). Likewise, "in most cases, the meanings 'belief' and 'faith' are interchangeable" for the most common Greek word for "faith" in the New Testament (*ibid.*).

This "sameness" might lead one to believe that there really is no difference between the two concepts. In fact, the idea that belief and faith are basically the same is a major tenet of Protestantism where one has to simply "believe" in the name of Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

Acts 16 is one New Testament example some cite to suggest that belief alone is sufficient for salvation. The Apostle Paul and his companion Silas found themselves in prison in the Roman city of Philippi, which is located in modern-day Greece. While the two men prayed and sang hymns to God at midnight, an earthquake struck suddenly and caused the doors of the prison to open and all of the prisoner's chains to loosen. The confused jailer, roused out of sleep by the commotion, assumed all the prisoners had escaped. Knowing a jailbreak under his watch would mean execution, the guard prepared to commit suicide. Paul stopped the man by assuring him that all prisoners were still present. Overwhelmed by the unusual events, and believing that Paul possessed the truth about salvation, the keeper of the prison "ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" (Acts 16:29-30).

The answer was "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (v. 31).

Based on scriptures such as this, millions of professing Christians are convinced that simply believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is enough for salvation. In fact, they ridicule as "salvation by works" the idea that their belief is expected to produce any tangible evidence of how that belief is making any difference in their lives.

This highlights one key difference between belief and faith. In many ways, belief is an internal act of mental or intellectual acknowledgement, while *faith is belief in action*. Each is necessary, but one lays a foundation for the other—stirring our faithful response to the God in whom we believe.

The Next Step

Paul wrote: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). This scripture describes a faith that has two requirements. Not only must one believe in God's existence; one must understand that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Examining these two aspects can help us understand the difference between belief and faith.

Belief in God is a necessary first step. Obviously, we would not obey a God in whose existence we do

Demons have absolutely no doubt about God's existence. Yet their belief does not cause them to obey the God in whom they believe! not believe. But is belief enough? James wrote: "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" (James 2:19). As former angels creatures who once

had access to God's throne in heaven—the demons have *absolutely no doubt* about God's existence. Yet their belief *does not* cause them to obey the God in whom they believe. This is where the second requirement of faith becomes important.

One who believes God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" believes that what we *do*—how we live our lives—matters to God. This understanding connects our belief to our action. It is what caused the righteous men and women cited in Hebrews 11 to perform acts that demonstrated their faith.



Abraham did not just believe; he is remembered as a hero of faith.

The Example of Abraham

Genesis 15:6 says that Abraham "believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." Taking this scripture alone seems to indicate that belief in the LORD is all that is necessary to be considered righteous. But James, the brother of Jesus, forcefully argues that without backing it up with action, belief is simply not enough.

"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" (James 2:20-22).

Abraham believed that God could even resurrect Isaac back to physical life if He so willed. This faith in God's power and goodness gave him the strength to obey God's command to sacrifice his son. "By faith



Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only

begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense" (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Anyone can claim to "believe God"—but backing up the claim with action is why God accounted Abraham's belief as righteousness.

A Personal Test

God is looking for the same kind of faith from all who claim to believe in Him. This is one of the reasons why our obedience to His instruction is necessary.

As a young person, perhaps you are being tested for the first time to obey God's instructions on important issues such as Sabbath-keeping, tithing or abstaining from sexual sin. Yet simply professing to "believe" in these behaviors is not enough to prove that one believes God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Like Abraham, we back up our assertions of belief with our demonstrations of living faith. As Romans 1:17 says, "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

—Phil Sena



tion" is one of the signs Jesus said would precede His return.

What other signs will precede Christ's second coming? Jesus warned us in Matthew 24:7 that there would be "earthquakes in various places." How powerful can earthquakes be? The historic Mississippi Valley earthquake on December 16, 1811, near New Madrid, Missouri, actually reversed the course of the Mississippi River! The Tangshan quake in China, in July 1976, killed as many as 779,000 people. The December 2004 Sumatra quake and resulting tsunami killed more than 230,000. In January 2010, a 7.0 quake killed more than 220,000, injured more than 300,000 and left as many as a million Haitians homeless. Hard as this may be to imagine, Scripture reveals

troduce the Day of the Lord. Notice what happens: "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood" (Revelation 6:12).

This earthquake, along with the astronomical phenomena, introduces the Day of the Lord-the year that precedes Christ's second coming. "And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in

KINGS WILL SAY TO THE ROCKS OF THE **MOUNTAINS: "FALL ON US AND HIDE US...** FROM THE WRATH OF THE LAMB!"

that there will be even more severe earthquakes in the future-even affecting regions that have not previously experienced them.

The book of Revelation mentions several powerful earthquakes. After two-and-a-half years of the Great Tribulation spoken of by Jesus in the Olivet prophecy, the heavenly signs-the sixth seal of Revelation-inthe rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:13-17). Yes, the earth will be in turmoil

during the Day of the Lord, described here as "the great day of His wrath." This will be a time of God's judgment on the nations.

God's Warning

Notice what God says will happen to the earth and the heavens. The writer of Hebrews instructs us:

"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.' Now this, 'Yet once more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:25–29).

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

Another trend the Bible warns us about is drought. World temperatures are shifting in dramatic ways. Australia recently came out of its worst drought in more than 100 years, and some experts forecast a continuing recurrence of droughts over the next 20 to 30 years. "Droughts could hit the country twice as often as now, cover an area twice as big and be more severe in key agricultural production areas" according to a report issued by Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization).

Right now, the western coast of the United States is experiencing unprecedented drought, with severe water rationing causing lush California greens to turn brown. Parts of Texas, long suffering from severe drought, have faced a problem common to regions where rains fall during a drought—the severe flooding that occurs when parched land cannot absorb the water that falls on it.

Unless we wholeheartedly turn to God, our world will experience even more severe weather extremes. The Creator God gave this warning through the prophet Amos: "I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,' says the LORD" (Amos 4:7–8).

Incredible as it may seem, some denominations now teach that the "last days" mentioned in scripture might continue on for "two years or two thousand years or two million years." Often the implication is: "Don't study Bible prophecy, it's just a distraction." Such statements ignore the very instructions of our Savior. Just after Jesus speaks of His second coming, He states: "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!" (Matthew 24:32–33). Jesus expects His true followers to be knowledgeable about these signs.

War and Cosmocide

Jesus foretold that before His return, there would be "wars, and rumors of wars" (v. 6). Skeptics and scoffers may point out, "There have always been wars!" Indeed, mankind has rarely known peace; historians Will and Ariel Durant famously determined in their 1968 book,





The Lessons of History: "In the last 3,421 years of recorded history only 268 have seen no war" (p. 81). But in our modern day, there is a difference—only in the last 70 years or so have human beings had the technology, through nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, to destroy all life on planet Earth. When you read the descriptions of end-time war in the book of Revelation, you see that in the end-times, wars are not just regional concerns; they envelop the whole globe.

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

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

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

MAY WE SUGGEST?

Armageddon and Beyond Tough times are ahead, but the Kingdom of God will come and prevail! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



LETTERS TO T TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The article "The Truth About Hell", in the July-August issue was right on the point. It comes from Scripture and proves that the "rapture" false teachings are just that; false teaching. Many people have been fooled by this and will not be ready for the Lord's second coming. I always said the scriptures were pointing to the second coming, not a rapture to take us away from tribulation. As we are living in the "last days" we should be watching and be ready for the return of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

K. W., Crawfordville, FL

I would like to thank you for telling people the truth in God's holy word! I find it truly to be sad how millions of people are being misled by ministries that never speak of repentance. They only speak of God's blessings and how you will reap great benefits if you sow a seed. They are missing a great opportunity to tell people to repent and be saved. You are like a breath of fresh air in a smog filled world!

J. B., Gastonia, NC

I just want to tell you how much I enjoy your programs. I am home-bound in a wheelchair due to knee problems. But I feel so blessed to be able to listen to your program on both the Internet and on Roku. My husband also watches with me, and we really enjoy listening to the wonderful programing selection you offer. With the general heartbreaking news each day that is covered by the Internet and television news people, what peace of mind we can find by viewing your programs!

J. H., Walters, OK

We thank you as always for all that you do. Your program is always so inspirational and uplifting. It is wonderful to hear the thought spoken as it is in the Bible, and we appreciate that.

G. F., Corner Brook, NL, Canada

Do you people think that only you are right? Pray that God will show you the true (a word you love to use) person of Grace. Your "dos and don'ts" won't fit. God desires a personal relationship with us, and we're all different. God's Word is the only Truth I ever want to know.

S. S., Grottoes, VA

Editor's Note: God makes it clear in His Word that He is not a "respecter of persons" (Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34, *KJV*) or that He does not show partiality (*NKJV*). This means He does not have one law for the rich and another for the poor; one law for the weak and another for the strong. If you believe God will excuse your disrespect to parents—or your fornication, or your lying, etc.-because "we're all different," then you have not had your mind opened to the Truth of God's Word. There is one standard for us all, and with the help of the indwelling Holy Spiritreceived by laying on of hands after repentance and baptism-Christians can grow each day toward more fully living the Way that God intends for His people. So, why are there so many in our present day who seem to be blinded to this knowledge? Read our powerful booklet, Is This the Only Day of Salvation?, to learn why this is so.

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at our U.S. address, or send e-mail to: *Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org*. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.



Can We Transcend Our Humanity?

hough the Creator God created mankind in His own image, an increasing number of people have decided that it is time for humanity to take charge of its own destiny and to transcend the limitations that have long been considered part and parcel of being a "human being."

The philosophy of "transhumanism" has inspired both professional researchers and garage-based "biohackers" to push past mankind's apparent biological limits to recreate mankind as something *beyond* human.

Through medicine and nutrition, through advances in technology and engineering, or even through direct genetic or biological alteration of the human physiology and anatomy, the race is on to create a new kind of human—stronger, smarter, and faster, and with lifespans that far outlast those of today's puny mortals.

So, can we *really* reshape our species and transcend our humanity? If so, *should* we?

Eternal (Physical) Life?

Could human beings, through medicine and science, regain the sort of lifespans that were once enjoyed by the likes of Adam and Methuselah? One major front of the transhuman movement involves *longevity*.

Recently, scientists have noted instances where diabetics using the drug metformin have actually lived 15 percent longer than those *without* diabetes, and they are pursuing tests to use the drug as an *anti-aging* pill for otherwise healthy people.

But only adding another ten or twelve years is "small change" compared to other research in the works. Scientists at the University of Southern California were able to extend the life of baker's yeast cells to *ten times* their normal length—the equivalent of a human being living 700 to 800 years! Due to similarities in genetics, many hope the results will transfer to humans. As the study leader said, "We're setting the foundation of reprogramming healthy life" (USC News, January 14, 2008).

Many hope that with the causes of aging and illness identified, cataloged and addressed, advances in medicine and science will allow humans to live *forever*, all while enjoying bodies the equivalent of a young person, 20 to 25 years old.

Enter the Cyborgs

In the realm of technology, mankind has long used his capacity for invention to make up for deficiencies caused by injury or disability. From simple crutches and eyeglasses, to robotic leg braces for the paralyzed and artificial eyes for the totally blind, we have long sought to intervene in human capacities to regain or replace what has been lost to time and chance.

Yet the transhumanist seeks to go further than merely replacing lost function by using technology to actually expand human capacities *beyond* normal limitations—even adding new "senses" or abilities that no human being naturally has. Many see adding high-tech machinery permanently to our body as a way to help humanity accelerate its "progress" and choose its own next step in what is seen as its "evolution." The science fiction term for such technologically enhanced individuals is "cyborg"—yet cyborgs are no longer confined to the realm of science fiction.

The London Daily Telegraph reported on several "real life" individuals who have modified themselves with

technology. Examples included a man who added a compass under his skin to give him a built-in sense of direction, another whose prosthetic eye was replaced with a high-tech device that wirelessly records everything he sees, and one with chips embedded in the flesh of his hand to give him wireless access to his computer, car, and house. British engineer Kevin Warwick even had electrodes attached to the nerves of his arm, directly connecting him to a computer that lets him control a robotic arm and wheelchair using his thoughts alone. He told *The Telegraph*, "I was born human, but I believe it's something we have the power to change" ("The Real Cyborgs," October 20, 2014).

Perhaps no agencies have embraced the "transhumanist" agenda quite as completely as military ones such as the United States' Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, commonly known as DARPA. In its November 2011 article "'Super soldiers': The quest for the ultimate human killing machine," The Independent describes several such "super soldiers" projects. They included pills that help soldiers work at full capacity for a full 48 sleepless hours, drugs that alter memories so as to remove trauma and guilt, and head gear that applies magnetic fields to the brain to dramatically enhance learning ability and reasoning skills. Companies like Lockheed and Raytheon have developed futuristic "exoskeletons"-machines soldiers strap to their arms and legs to give them super strength and endurance, allowing them to effortlessly accomplish feats such as lifting and carrying 200 pounds and running 10 miles per hour without any noticeable exertion.



What To Think of "Transhumanism"?

How should a Christian react to such efforts?

While work to alleviate suffering and provide avenues for the disabled is often commendable, the efforts to exceed humanity's limitations should be seen with a mindful and cautious eye.

It is no surprise that such feats, and even more, are within our reach. God, Himself, remarked at the Tower of Babel that when humanity works together "nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them"



(Genesis 11:6). We reflect our great Designer and Creator, and our ability to design and create is vast!

Yet therein is a truth that transhumanists sometimes treat too carelessly: We *do* reflect our Creator and are made *in His image* (Genesis 1:26)! To disdain the human form and design is to risk disdaining a gift of God humanity uniquely possesses.

Our mortality is a product of our *sin* (Romans 6:23), and efforts to bypass our limits without acknowledging their source—spiritual weakness and sin against our Creator—miss the mark and are doomed to failure! The concept of extreme "reengineering" of ourselves according to our own fancy and desires, to the neglect of God's purpose for us and His desires for our lives, can be reminiscent of the original choice of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden: choosing our own way over His.

And all of this ignores the life and purpose of the only One in the entire history of mankind who has actually *achieved* true "transhuman" status: Jesus Christ! Though once flesh and blood like the rest of us (John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14), He now exists in the fullness of the divine glory of God, Himself (John 17:5; Hebrews 1:3)!

And He offers that same fullness to those who will follow Him. Those who *truly* wish to transcend humanity *can* do so! In fact, that is the very purpose of mankind—to eventually infinitely exceed the limits of the flesh and to enter glory in the Family of God, Himself. But it will never happen through gadgets or pills or million-dollar machines from DARPA. It will be given only to those who are willing to live God-fearing lives, *within* their very human limits *now*, while keeping an eye on the reward Christ is bringing with Him *then* (1 John 3:1-2).

-Wallace G. Smith

TOMORPANS TELEVISION LOG

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AUSTRALIA					KENYA					UK & NV	V		1. 1. 3	
Nationwide	7Two		SU 7	:00 a.m.	Nationwide	Family	Mec	dia TV MO/W	/E 7:30 p.m.	CBS Action		Freeview		SU 8:30 a.m.
BARBADOS					NEW ZE/					CBS Action CBS Drama		Sky TV 14 Freeview		SU 8:30 a.m. SA 7:30 a.m.
St. Michael	CBC 8		SU 9):30 a.m.	Nationwide	Prime 1	V	S	SU 8:30 a.m.	CBS Drama		Sky TV 14		SA 7:30 a.m.
JAMAICA				200.2	SOUTH A	FRICA				CBS Reality		Freeview		SU 7:30 a.m.
Kingston	TVJ		SU 7	:00 a.m.	Nationwide	CTV/SA		S	U 11:00 a.m.	CBS Reality		Sky TV 14		SU 7:30 a.m.
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Nationwide Netwo	orks (All tir	mes Eastern)		Anchorage	KYUR	SU 6:00 a.m.		Chicago	WGN	SA 1:00 a.m.		Duluth	Public Access	SA 11:00 a.m.
Vision		SU 5:30 p.m.		Fairbanks	KATN	SU 6:00 a.m.		Moline	Mediacom	M0 5:00 p.m.		Duluth	Public Access	SU 7:00 p.m.
	MO	-FR 3:00 a.m.		Juneau	KJUD	SU 6:00 a.m.		Peoria	WHOI	SU 7:00 a.m.		Minneapolis	MCN	SA 8:30 a.m.
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	-			Montgomery	WBMM	SU 7:00 a.m.		Springfield	Insight	TU 5:00 a.m.		Minneapolis	MTN	TH 12:00 a.m.
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CW Plus		SU 8:00 a.m.		Chico		SU 8:00 a.m.		Salina	SCAT	SA 9:00 a.m.		St. Paul	Nbhd. Networ	rk SU 8:30 p.m.
		MO 2:00 a.m.		Eureka	KUVU-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.		Salina	SCAT	SU 7:00 p.m.	мо	Columbia	коми	SU 7:00 a.m.
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				Orange County		M0 5:00 p.m.		Latonia	PEG	WE 5:30 p.m.		Kansas City	KCWE	SU 7:30 a.m.
WGN America		SU 6:00 a.m.		Palm Springs		SU 8:00 a.m.		Latonia	PEG	TH 12:00 a.m.		Kalisas City		
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		WE 1:00 a.m.		Sacramento	RCCTV	M0 5:30 p.m.		200.30				Columbus	WCBI	SU 7:00 a.m.
		FR 7:00 p.m.	1	Salinas	KION	SU 8:00 a.m.	L	A Alexandria	KBCA	SU 7:00 a.m.		Greenwood	WBWO	SU 7:00 a.m.
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		SU 8:00 p.m.	0	Grand Junc.	KJCT	SU 7:00 a.m.		Monroe	KNOE	SU 7:00 a.m.		Meridian	WTOK	SU 7:00 a.m.
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		TH 9:00 a.m.			WZME	SU 11:00 p.m.		North Adams	NBCTC	WE 8:00 p.m.		Butte	KBZK	SU 7:00 a.m.
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		SU 6:00 a.m.		Des Moines	KCWI	SU 7:00 a.m.		Westminster	Adelphia	TH 10:00 a.m.		Glendive	KWZB	SU 7:00 a.m.
in on the		50 0.00 u.m.		Gainesville	WCJB	SU 8:00 a.m.		Westminster	Adelphia	FR 10:00 a.m.		Great Falls	KRTV	SU 7:00 a.m.
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WGN America	Ch. 307	SU 6:00 a.m.		Panama City	WJHG	SU 7:00 a.m.	М	E Bangor	WABI	SU 8:00 a.m.		Missoula	KPAX	SU 7:00 a.m.
WORD	Ch. 373	SU 7:30 p.m.		Augusta				Brunswick	TV3	SA 8:30 a.m.				
		WE 1:00 a.m.		Augusta	WAGT	SU 8:00 a.m.		Brunswick	TV3	SU 6:30 a.m.	NC	Charlotte	WAXN	SU 9:00 a.m.
		FR 7:00 p.m.		Macon	Cox	SU 5:00 p.m.		Presque Isle	WBPQ	SU 8:00 a.m.		Greenville	WNCT	SU 8:00 a.m.
For the most up-	to-date l		•	Macon	Cox	TU 7:30 a.m.	м	Alpena	WBAE	SU 8:00 a.m.		Hickory	WHKY	M0 7:30 p.m.
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				Dubuque	Mediacom	TU 10:00 a.m.*		Lansing	WLAJ	SU 8:00 a.m.		Hanover	CATV8	FR 7:00 a.m.
			ID	Boise	KYUU	SU 7:00 a.m.		Marquette	WBKP	SU 8:00 a.m.		Hanover	CATV8	FR 1:00 a.m.
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NV	Reno	KREN	SU 8:00 a.m.	TN	Chattanooga	Family Channel	SU 7:00 a.m.
NY	Albany-Troy	Time Warner	M0 3:00 p.m.		Jackson	WBJK	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Batavia	Time Warner	SU 2:00 p.m.		Knoxville	WBXX	SU 7:30 a.m.
	Batavia	Time Warner	TU 5:30 p.m.		La Follette	Comcast-WLAF	WE 6:00 p.m.
	Batavia	Time Warner	FR 7:30 p.m.		Nashville	WZTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
	Binghamton	Time Warner	WE 10:00 p.m.	ΤХ	Abilene	KTXS	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Binghamton	Time Warner	FR 8:00 p.m.		Amarillo	KVIH	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Binghamton	WBNG	SU 8:00 a.m.		Austin	KNVA	SU 6:00 a.m.
	Brookhaven	Cablevision	MO 4:30 p.m.		Beaumont	KBTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
	Brooklyn	BCAT	MO 4:30 p.m.		Beaumont	KFDM	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Canandaigua	Finger Lakes	SU 11:30 a.m.		Corpus Christi	KRIS-DT2	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Elmira	WENY	SU 8:00 a.m.		Dallas	KTXD	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Hauppauge	Cablevision	MO 4:30 p.m.		Houston	КРХВ	WE 7:00 a.m.
	Manhattan	MNN	SA 7:00 p.m.		Laredo	KTXW	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Oneida	Access	TH 2:00 p.m.		Lubbock	KLCW	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Oneida	Access	TH 7:00 p.m.		Lufkin	KTRE	SU 6:30 a.m.
	Queens	Public Access	M0 11:00 p.m.		McAllen	KCWT	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Queens	Public Access	TU 4:30 p.m.		Midland	KWES	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Riverhead	Cablevision	SU 7:00 p.m.		Odessa	KWES	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Rochester	Finger Lakes	SU 7:00 a.m.		Tyler	KLTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
	Rochester	RCTV	SU 5:00 a.m.	٧Δ	Charlottesville	Comcast Cable	M0 8:00 a.m.
	Rochester	RCTV	TU 10:00 a.m.*	TA .	Charlottesville		SU 8:00 a.m.
	Syracuse	Time Warner	SU 7:30 p.m.		Chesterfield	Comcast	TH 6:30 p.m.
					Fairfax	Public Access	M0 12:00 p.m.
OH	Cincinnati	Time Warner	TH 8:30 a.m.		Norfolk	WSKY	SU 9:30 a.m.
	Cincinnati	Time Warner	SU 11:30 a.m.				
	Cincinnati	Time Warner	TU 1:00 p.m.	VT	Bennington	CAT	WE 9:30 a.m.
	Fairborn	CAC	TU 12:00 p.m.		Bennington	CAT	WE 12:00 a.m.
	Lima	WBOH	7:00 a.m.	2	Bennington	CAT	TH 9:30 p.m.
OR	Bend	KTVZ	SU 8:00 a.m.		Bennington	CAT	TH 12:00 a.m.
	Eugene	KMTR	SU 8:00 a.m.		Bennington	CAT	SA 8:00 a.m.*
	Medford	KTVL	SU 8:00 a.m.		Bennington	CAT	SA 4:30 a.m.
	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SU 8:00 a.m.		Burlington	Access	WE 2:30 a.m.
	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SA 8:00 a.m.		Burlington	Access	TH 11:00 a.m.
	Portland	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.	WA	Everett	Comcast	WE 4:30 p.m.
DA	Allentown	SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.		Kennewick	Charter	SU 8:00 p.m.
FA	Bethlehem	SETV2 SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.		Kennewick	Charter	TU 8:00 p.m.
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			d MO 10:00 p.m.	14.0	Divefield		
	Johnstown Scranton	FOX	TH 5:00 a.m.	VVV	Bluefield	WVVA	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Scranton	FOX	SA 5:00 a.m.		Clarksburg	WVFX	SU 8:00 a.m.
	SCIGITIOII	FUX	SA 2.00 d.III.	WY	Casper	KCWY	SU 8:00 a.m.
SC	Charleston	WCBD	SU 8:00 a.m.		Cheyenne	KGWN	SU 8:00 a.m.
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