

September–October 2002

Tomorrow's World

...For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.



A Clash of Eagles:

America and Germany in Prophecy

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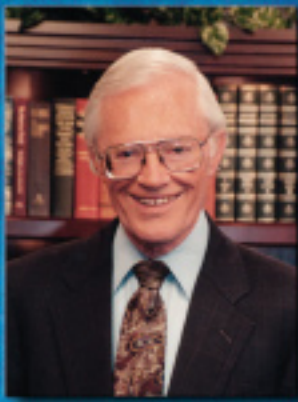
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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

Who Has The ANSWERS?

Churchgoers are growing restless. Thousands are dropping out. Many recent studies and polls of churchgoers show that “churchianity”—as a whole—is *not* providing answers to life’s most important questions. People are not being told the truth about *why* we are here on Earth, *what* actually happens after death and whether God is working out a *purpose* in and through the wars, catastrophic events and national upheavals taking place all over the world.

In his recent book, *How to Quit Church Without Quitting God*, popular speaker and religious author Martin Zender stated that churches do not offer what people need. As reported in the May 27, 2002 *Insight* magazine: “Something is wrong in ‘pew land,’ Zender says. ‘People are looking for comfort and answers. The reason people are leaving church now is they have serious questions as to where their dead daughter is or how the world is going to end. Churches offer musical productions and food, but they are not answering the questions.’”

We trust that all of our readers will notice that *Tomorrow’s World* is definitely “different” in this regard, for we give straightforward *answers*—backed up by appropriate facts and clear scriptures from the Bible. We *do* regard the Bible as the *inspired word of God*, and we encourage our readers to prove this to themselves. For the truly big questions of life are never answered by man’s reasoning, postulating and human imaginings. The genuine answers are *revealed* by the Creator God in His “Instruction Manual” for humanity, the Holy Bible.

We hope that you will enthusiastically take advantage of our vital booklets on the fundamental issues of life. As you will notice, these attractive and easy-to-read booklets are offered absolutely *free*. There is never *any* charge, follow-up or request for money. Booklets such as *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* can help you *prove*

to yourself the existence of an Almighty Creator who also *intervenes in world affairs* to work out His supreme purpose. Another of our most powerful and inspiring booklets—*What’s Ahead for America and Britain?*—gives a veritable “key” to understanding *end-time* events that, even now, are moving swiftly forward. Other vital booklets such as *Build a Joyous Marriage!* and *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer* can help you build a depth of commitment and meaning in your marriage, and deepen a genuine contact with your Creator.

In addition, we offer—absolutely free—a remarkable *Bible Study Course*. This outstanding course can help its students understand virtually all of life’s fundamental questions. *I strongly encourage* all of you who really want to **understand** what life is all about to enroll in this stimulating course. *It is like no other!* This course does *not* just consist primarily of sentiments about the person and sacrifice of Jesus Christ—foundational points to which many give lip service, though few truly understand. Rather, our *Bible Study Course* builds on that foundation, and can open up your understanding to the *whole message* of the Bible and to the supreme **purpose** that God is working out here below. It enables the student to get a genuine “feel” for the Bible and to grasp its relevance for *every issue of life*.

The great God we serve is *real*. He is *now* intervening powerfully in world affairs—as some of us in this Work have prophesied for decades. He is orchestrating world events to bring about the return of Jesus Christ to this earth as King of kings (Revelation 19:11–16). With the guidance of His inspired Word—*not* human imagination—we can begin to grasp the details of His plan and purpose in these prophesied events. The headlines in our newspapers will take on more mean-

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The Truth That Almost NOBODY Knows!

By Roderick C. Meredith

What happens to a child who dies “unsaved”? What will really happen to whiskey-loving “Uncle Ben”? Are billions of Muslims, Hindus and other non-Christians lost forever?

Most of us have dead friends or relatives who did not believe in or practice *any* form of Christianity. Where *are* they now? And *what* will be their ultimate fate?

Frankly, mainstream Christianity does **not** have the answers!

Most preachers give the impression that God is now “trying” to get *everyone* “saved.” He is pictured almost like a sad hound dog trying to track down and “save” the *billions* of people who do not believe in any form of Christianity. Most old-fashioned, professed Bible-believing churches have taught this concept for centuries. The modern

“liberal” churches, that do not take the Bible literally, bypass the problem by saying, in effect, that God will save all those whose “heart is right” or who practice their religion (*whatever* it is!) with “sincerity.”

But will He really do what they expect?

If you want the *real* answer about what *will* happen, you need to *believe* what the Bible—the inspired revelation from the Creator God—*actually* says. Of course, if you do not believe the Bible, then one person’s “idea” or “theory” is about as good as another’s. But are *you* willing to open your mind and believe what the *Bible truly* says?

Where Do the Dead Go?

The old-fashioned preachers tell people that they immediately go either to heaven or hell when they die. But the Bible says *no such thing!* Jesus Christ said: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the **earth**” (Matthew 5:5). Further, Jesus also stated: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven” (John 3:13).

As we have explained many times in this magazine, the actual “goal” of the true Christian is **not** to “roll around heaven” for eternity with **nothing** to do. Rather, genuine Christians are now “in training” to become kings and priests *here on this earth* and assist Jesus Christ in teaching this world God’s *true ways* and bring real *peace* and *joy* at last. As the inspired prayer of the saints puts it: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us *kings* and *priests* to our God; and we shall **reign on the earth**” (Revelation 5:9–10).

And the Bible makes it exceedingly clear that true Christians who have died are now awaiting the *resurrection* at Christ’s Second Coming. 1 Corinthians 15 is called the “resurrection chapter” because it describes this thoroughly! Notice 1 Corinthians 15:21–23: “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

And Jesus directly stated: “Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the *dead* will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the **resurrection** of life, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection** of condemnation” (John 5:25, 28–29).

The above scriptures should make it exceedingly clear that the “dead” are actually **dead**—not floating around in heaven or burning in hell! And that even the dead that “have done good” are awaiting the “resurrection of life” (v. 29). Any other explanation directly contradicts *literally dozens* of other plain, clear scriptures. And, as Jesus said, “the Scripture **cannot** be broken” (John 10:35).

But, what about the many **billions** of human beings, made in God’s image, who **never** really had a genuine opportunity to hear about the Christ of the Bible and accept Him as their Savior? Does God have a double standard? Does He have some “other way” to gain eternal life? Or for those billions of human beings, is it simply “tough luck” bestowed by a harsh God who “plays favorites” and gives some people a “chance” while giving others *no chance whatsoever*?

As the young people say: “*Let’s get real!*”

For the *truth* is definitely not what you have been taught by mainstream “Christianity.” Yet it is wonderful and meaningful to those who understand. And it is not found in an extra-biblical book or theory cooked up by some self-made prophet. It has been right there in *your own Bible*

all the time. It is the *Truth* that almost nobody knows!

God Is NOT Trying To Save the World Now!

Your Bible makes it very clear that this is **not** God’s world. This is **not** the system or society which the Creator God established. Rather, God has given man 6,000 years under the sway of Satan the devil to go his own way, to try out his own ideas, and to *begin* to learn hard lessons *through human suffering*. The Apostle Paul wrote: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds 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 4:3–4).

Later, 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*” (Revelation 12:9). Was John correct? Is the “whole world” really **deceived**? Obviously, a truly “deceived” person *does not know* that he is deceived. Otherwise, he would not be deceived!

Remember Jesus’ statement to His disciples: “I will no longer talk much with you, for the **ruler** of this world is coming, and he has **nothing** in Me” (John 14:30). And, as the Apostle John wrote the true Christians of his day: “We know that we are of God, and the **whole world** lies under the sway of the wicked one” (1 John 5:19).

So, if the *whole world* is “blinded” as Paul wrote, and the whole world is “deceived” as the Apostle John wrote, that certainly explains why untold **billions** of humans have **never** heard the true

Gospel! But is a just and fair God going to leave them in the grave or *burn them up* in an everlasting fire?

Of course not!

Please understand that it is just a matter of **when** God chooses to “call” each individual to genuine knowledge of the Truth and a real opportunity for salvation. *All* will eventually be called. Notice that when some of the Gentiles were first being called, the Apostle Peter stated: “In truth I perceive that God shows **no partiality**. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him (Acts 10:34–35). And Paul stated: “For there is **no partiality** with God” (Romans 2:11).

That is **why** Jesus spoke in parables to all but His inner group of disciples: “And He said to them, ‘To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that “Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them”” (Mark 4:11–12). This truth of the Bible is directly contrary to what most of us were taught in Sunday school or church—that Jesus spoke in parables “so everyone would understand.” In fact, the **exact opposite** is true! Jesus spoke in parables so the general public would **not** understand! Jesus was **not** trying to convert the world *at that time*.

So we see that God is **not** “trying” to convert the world now—*in this age*. Otherwise, He would **do it!** For one of God’s names is “El Shaddai,” **God Almighty**. So **nothing** could stop the true God from converting the world now if that were His real intention!

What God Is Accomplishing NOW

The Apostle Peter was inspired to tell us: “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8–9).

Do you see?

In working out His supreme purpose, God is in “no hurry”! In His time—**not** our time—God wants “all” to come to **repentance**. He indicates that His plan will be accomplished over *thousands* of years! Again, remember that God is **not** trying to save the whole world *now*. Yet He is *not condemning* those who have been **deceived** by Satan the devil, the “god of this world” whom the Creator God has allowed to influence and rule this world during this present age.

Remember how God “condemned” the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, turning them “into ashes” and “making them an **example** to those who afterward would live ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6). Yet, when you understand, you quickly realize that those sex perverts were **blinded** to the Truth and did *not know* the true God. So how will God eventually deal with those blinded human beings who **never** had a genuine chance for salvation?

In Matthew 11, Jesus describes how the cities of His day refused to hear the Truth: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you” (vv. 21–22). Then Jesus made a remarkable statement: “But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the **day of judgment** than for you” (v. 24). So there is a “day of judgment” coming in which it will be “more tolerable” for Sodom and Gomorrah than for the cities of Jesus’ time. Jesus here *clearly recognizes* those ancient cities did **not** have a genuine opportunity for salvation. They were **never** presented with the Truth. They had **no chance** at all!

God inspired the Apostle Paul to state the following about the Gentiles in Ephesus: “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having **no hope** and **without God** in the world” (Ephesians 2:11–12). The absolute *truth* is that God has “allowed” most people to go their own way for the last 6,000 years under Satan’s influence. The Almighty God has **not even tried** to “save” them. Otherwise, they *would be saved!* But He has planned a “day of judgment”—**not** a “day of condemnation”—so that those **billions** of human beings may have a *genuine* opportunity for salvation and then be “judged” according to what they do *at that time* when their eyes are really “opened” to the Truth!

How will they be saved? God’s inspired Word is *very clear* in stating that the **only** way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ! Jesus Himself stated: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter

the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some **other way**, the same is a thief and a robber'... Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them'" (John 10:1, 7–8). Here Jesus clearly **condemns** any "other way" to eternal life! For God alone can give us everlasting life. He sets the conditions—not misguided human beings who may have sentimental thoughts about false "Christianity," Hinduism,

person. The inspired gospel of Luke adds details to Matthew's account. In Luke 10:13–14, Jesus Christ said: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be **more tolerable** for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."

The plain indication is that since ancient Tyre, Sidon and Sodom were **not** given a genuine opportunity to learn the Truth, they will not be held

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. But after these things he must be released for a little while" (Revelation 20:2–3). Note that these verses also tell us that Satan has been **deceiving** the nations of this earth!

After Satan is bound, the glorious millennial rule of Christ on



True Christians who have been genuinely "called" by God understand His purpose. They know that they are now "in training" to become kings and priests in the coming reign of Christ on Earth—that they will rule even over angels (1 Corinthians 6:1–3)!

Buddhism, Islam, "New Age" theories or *any other* ideas or theories of men!

The Apostle Peter was inspired to state emphatically: "Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:10–12).

The White Throne Judgment

We read earlier that in the prophesied "day of judgment" it will be "more tolerable" for the Sodomites than for the men of Jesus' day who rejected Him in

responsible for being blinded. In fact, Jesus stated that He knew they "*would have repented*" (v. 13) if they had seen Jesus' mighty works.

Since God is **no respecter of persons**, you may wonder: *when and how* will these ancient Gentile cities, and the other **billions** of similarly blinded human beings, be given a *genuine* opportunity to understand God's purpose in life, and to attain salvation? Does the *Bible* ever speak of such a time?

Yes, it does! The book of Revelation gives the time sequence of prophetic events more clearly than any other book in the Bible. Revelation 19:11–21 describes Christ's return in full glory as King of kings (vv. 14–16). Then, after crushing the armies of the coming European dictator called "the Beast," Christ casts him and the coming false religious leader into the "Lake of Fire" (v. 20).

Then God describes a mighty angel coming down to Earth: "He

Earth begins. Speaking of that time, Revelation 20 shows that the true saints "lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (v. 4). Then we are told: "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign** with Him a thousand years" (v. 6).

True Christians who have been genuinely "called" by God *understand His purpose*. They know that they are now "in training" to become kings and priests in the coming reign of Christ on Earth—that *they will rule even over angels* (1 Corinthians 6:1–3)! The coming millennial rule of Christ and the saints (Daniel 7:26–27) will be a magnificent opportunity to help, to encourage and to teach the confused multitudes of people on Earth God's true ways.

But what happens to the untold **billions** of "blinded" people

who die before the Millennium—who have **never** known the true God and His Plan? And realize that this includes *many millions* of professing Christians now living who have **never** been genuinely converted! It includes *millions* of young people who never lived long enough to understand, truly repent and **grow** in grace and in knowledge of God's Truth. It includes *millions* of well-meaning but weak people, with all their problems, who may have called themselves "Christians" but who **never** truly understood and surrendered to God.

After describing a relatively brief time when Satan is loosed from his prison and, once again, quickly **deceives** a multitude of people (Revelation 20:7–10), God's Word begins to tell us about the Great White Throne Judgment period. But look back for a moment at verse 5. Here, inserted as a parenthetical comment after describing the thou-

sand-year rule of the saints, God's Word says: "But the **rest** of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished."

The "rest" of the dead? Yes! Those **billions** of people from ages past who were **never** "called" to salvation and, therefore, obviously had **no chance** to be in the first resurrection.

Notice Revelation 20:11–12: "Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were **judged** according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

A Time of Genuine UNDERSTANDING

Here we find described perhaps the most **awesome** event in human history, a time when all people—the unknown, the famous and the infamous—will truly come to understand why they were born! These formerly dead people are seen "standing before God"—obviously in a **resurrection**. Then the "books" are opened. The term "books" here is translated from the Greek word *biblion*, which is the same word translated "Bible"—meaning the *books of the Bible*!

So, finally, these formerly blinded people *from all ages past*—including our **own time**—will have the books of the Bible "opened" to their understanding. The veil that had been over them in the past will be **destroyed**. At last, these people will have their first *genuine* opportunity to *know* God and to decide whether to repent and accept the

true Christ as Lord and Savior, or to go their own way.

Revelation then describes the opening of another book—the Book of Life. Paul describes the saints as having their names written in the "Book of Life" (Philippians 4:3). Revelation 21:27 describes the New Jerusalem as inhabited by "only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

The opportunity for eternal life is at last presented to these multitudes of people "small and great." They are resurrected back to *physical life* for perhaps a period of 100 years—long enough for a thorough opportunity for them to learn, grow and be tried and tested as to their willingness to live eternal life **God's way** (Isaiah 65:20). They will be called and have a chance to *study* and to *understand* the Bible. Then—and **only** then—God says that these resurrected people will be "judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20:12). Finally, after being given a *genuine chance* to know and to act upon the Truth, these people are judged by how they respond to and obey the teachings of the books of the Bible. James was inspired to tell us: "Faith without works is **dead**" (James 2:17).

Make no mistake: if these untold billions of formerly **blinded** individuals are merely judged by the works they did in their former lifetimes—many of them as thieves, prostitutes, dictators and false prophets—then they will **all** surely **perish** in the Lake of Fire! For in their past lives they did **not** accept the only name given under heaven by which we must

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To Learn More...



Most churches that call themselves "Christian" have accepted doctrines coming

not from the Bible, but rather from the false religions of the ancient world. How can a true Christian escape this religious "Babylon"? Please request our **FREE** booklet *Restoring Apostolic Christianity* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Questions & Answers

Q The God of the Old Testament seems harsh, demanding “an eye for an eye” and “a tooth for a tooth.” Is it not true that Jesus came to do away with His Father’s law of cruel bondage?

A Many Bible students have been shocked by God’s “eye for an eye” command in Exodus 21:23–25. They imagine that during Old Testament times, anyone causing the loss of an eye, hand or foot would *automatically* suffer the identical loss. Many wonder: “How could such a cruel command come from a loving Father?”

We read: “But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, and hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe” (Exodus 21:23–25). God is describing the principle of *just recompense*. Yet “an eye for an eye” was not to be applied in *every* case. Notice the very next verse: “And if a man strikes the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maidservant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye” (v. 26). God prescribed a just recompense—freedom for the injured servant—rather than a retributive maiming.

A few verses earlier, God decreed that one who injures another must provide a just payment for “loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed” (vv. 18–19). This law was a type of *workman’s compensation* ensuring that the injured would receive just compensation for their injuries and lost productivity. Rather than showing God’s cruelty, His laws and judgments taught the Israelites how to love their neighbors by applying the principle of just recompense for a loss.

Did Jesus Christ do away with God’s laws? No! He stated emphatically that He came to *magnify* God’s laws (Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:17–19). When asked which of God’s laws was the greatest, Jesus replied: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your

mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37–40).

Was Jesus abolishing Old Testament law with these words? No! He was quoting Scripture (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18)! Rather than introducing something new, He was magnifying the existing law, and teaching how Christians ought properly to apply it.

The “eye for an eye” principle concerned love of neighbor. Jesus magnified it by emphasizing forgiveness. Notice His explanation: “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But, I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also” (Matthew 5:38–39).

Jesus showed here that a Christian should be willing to suffer wrong. But the law remained the measure of right and wrong. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that they should suffer wrong and be defrauded rather than take a fellow Christian before a public court (1 Corinthians 6:1–8). Paul also taught that we should submit to governmental authority, even when it is unfair or unjust (Romans 13:1–7)—as long as it does not violate the law of God. Suffering patiently for righteousness’ sake is the example Christ set for all Christians to follow (1 Peter 2:19–20).

The truth is that the yoke of bondage is upon *those who commit sin* (John 8:34)—*not* upon those who keep God’s commandments. God’s laws are holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). Christ came to magnify the full intent of the law, which is love toward one another (Romans 13:10). Peter stated it this way: “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous, not rendering evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8–9). God’s law is always the measure of justice, but Christians must always apply that law with compassion.



A Clash of Eagles:

America and Germany in Prophecy

By Douglas S. Winnail

Most people reporting and reading the news sense that the world is becoming an increasingly dangerous place. Neither the United Nations, nor American projection of power, have prevented strife or resolved major problems facing mankind. Few today realize that momentous and totally unexpected events lurk just over the horizon. Even foreign policy experts who see potential danger ahead admit they have no clear idea what the future holds. However, Bible prophecies reveal, in

striking detail, sobering events that are about to unfold on the world scene.

Earth-shaking changes are going to catapult Europe—and Germany—back to the center of the world stage. These sudden and surprising developments will have grave implications for America, Britain and peoples of northwest European descent. These events are developing according to a *plan*, and for *reasons*, that God outlined long ago in the Bible. This dramatic turn in world events is prophesied to precede Jesus Christ's return to Earth. You need to

understand not only *what* is going to happen, but *why*. You cannot afford to ignore the direction in which world events are moving.

Disturbing Parallels

Social and political conditions in Europe today are beginning, in an ominous yet distinct way, to resemble conditions that existed just before the outbreak of two previous world wars. Both pre-war periods saw increasing social strife, ineffective attempts at problem solving by intellectuals and liberal politicians, and growing public dissatisfaction with leaders out of touch with the populace. Both periods saw the emergence of demagogues who appeared as champions of disgruntled and disillusioned masses, with grandiose plans and ideas. The years preceding World War I have been labeled a time of “nervous splendor,” and the years before World War II a “troubled calm.” During those unsettled times, many sought to escape by turning to frivolous entertainments, while others followed leaders who made utopian promises.

These same forces are reemerging today—especially in Europe, which is becoming increasingly concerned about crime, unemploy-

ment, political corruption and foreign immigration. Many in Western Europe feel threatened as foreigners surge over their borders seeking political asylum, jobs, health care and other benefits. Liberal politicians are seen as corrupt and inept (cf. *Newsweek*, April 19, 2002, pp. 12–16). Democratic processes appear cumbersome and ineffective. Religion is irrelevant to increasing numbers of people, and moral values are crumbling. Tolerance, appeasement and appeals to reason have not solved all of mankind's problems. Historian Richard Overly writes that “there is once again in Europe a cynical rejection of parliamentary politics, and growing distrust of politicians... Europe should be deeply worried by the rapid rise of the extreme Right”—whose candidates are again making inroads to political power (*Evening Standard*, June 15, 2002). An air of frustration and desire for change is emerging, just as before World War II.

The global conflict of 1914–1917 toppled opulent, out-of-touch regimes in Russia, Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey. Ineffective efforts of liberal democratic leaders fostered the rise of dictators and militarists in Germany, Italy and Japan, who propelled the world into World War II in 1939. Today, many wonder: will liberal, democratic, self-serving, elitist politicians be replaced by *more authoritarian* leaders? Will powers that led the world for several centuries—America, Britain and France—be forcibly challenged by new rivals on the world stage? Could America, the world's sole superpower, fall? Will Germany, for a third time in a century, move to dominate Europe and the world? Nobody seems to know, yet history offers important insights—and the Bible reveals vital answers!

Sobering Lessons

But just what can we discover by looking at the past? Simply that we in our modern generation are so focused on *living in the present* that we *forget* that history tends to *repeat* itself. As a result, we see no reason to learn the lessons of history. Yet the German writer Peter Schneider cautions that “history does repeat itself, *but only after a change of costume*” (*The German Comedy*, p. 179). To avoid repeating mistakes of the past, we must be alert to old trends and tendencies that may *resurface* in somewhat different form.

Historians have observed that “the road to war [World War II]... was paved by *patterns of state action that were centuries old*” (*Civilization Past & Present*, Wallbank, et al., 6th ed., p. 854). Despite treaties negotiated to secure peace, and lip service paid to the League of Nations, “*each state sought its own best interests* in the

complicated postwar [World War I] landscape” (*ibid.*, p. 843). As a result, “to expect the twentieth-century states to be any different from their counterparts in earlier times is to *assume* a major change in political behavior that simply didn't take place” (*ibid.*, pp. 841–842). **The pattern of behavior that nations have exhibited over centuries is a guide to their future actions!** That is why it is so important to understand the lessons of history.

At the conclusion of World War II, Winston Churchill wrote a six-volume history of the war, including events that led up to the start of hostilities. His purpose was “to lay the lessons of the past before the future” (*The Gathering Storm*, p. iv). He wrote: “It is my earnest hope that *pondering upon the past may give guidance in days to come... [to] a new generation*” (*ibid.*, p. v). Churchill knew what he was talking about, because he had warned his own generation in 1934—five years before the outbreak of World War II—that “*none* of the lessons of the past has been learned, *not one* of them has been applied, and the situation is incomparably more dangerous” (*ibid.*, p. 93). To understand the future of Germany, we must understand its historic position in Europe, and its intentions.

Germany's Pivotal Position

Because of its size and location, and the nature of its people, Germany's goals, intentions and actions have widespread implications for Europe and the world. Nearly 20 years ago, the Italian journalist Luigi Barzini wrote that “the future of Europe appears to depend today... as it did for many centuries, on the future of Germany... [and on] Germany's decisions” (*The Europeans*, pp. 69, 267). Barzini's observations were based on the fact that Germany “has *become once again* the richest, strongest, most efficient, orderly, productive, scientifically and technologically advanced, as well as the most populous nation of western Europe” (*ibid.*, p. 69). The unification of Germany in 1989 concentrated 80 million Germans in the very heart of Europe. With the proposed enlargement of the European Union to the east (a traditional zone of German interest and influence), Germany will become the *geographical center* of an emerging European colossus that will challenge American supremacy.

Current events in Europe also reflect a trend described by Samuel Huntington, a Harvard University expert in international relations. Huntington writes that in the emerging world of global politics, “*core states* of the major civilizations are supplanting the two Cold War superpowers [the United States and Soviet Union] as poles of attraction and repulsion for other countries” (*The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World*

Order, p. 155). He defines a *core state* as “the most powerful and culturally central state” within a region, culture or civilization, and notes that France and Germany are core states in Europe (*ibid.*, p. 135). Over the centuries, France and Germany have fought a see-saw battle to dominate Europe. Today, France’s star is fading, while Germany’s star is rising. Foreign policy analyst John Newhouse sees Germany as “the most important member of the EU,” and beginning to call the shots in Europe (*Europe Adrift*, p. 301). While he concludes “as Germany goes, so goes Europe” (*ibid.*, p. 301), he also cautions that “the new Germany... is about to become the problem... beneath the surface... some new tendency, or direction is slowly being formed... at some point it [Germany] will strive mightily to close the gap with the world’s pace setters and may very well succeed” (*ibid.*, p. 152). But *what are Germany’s intentions and where is it headed?*

German Intentions

If we have eyes to see, it is not too difficult to discover the intentions of German leaders. In a sobering assessment of the past, military historian John Laffin

documents how, for nearly 20 years before the outbreak of World War II, Hitler’s “speeches and writings, his actions and gestures, *made his intentions clear*,” yet world leaders in the 1930s failed to take this public evidence seriously (*Hitler Warned Us*, jacket). Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, published in 1925, outlined his goals to restore Germany to its rightful place as the foremost nation on earth, to eliminate Jews and other inferior races, to create more *lebensraum*—living space—for Germany, and to bring all Germanic people into a Greater German Reich. As Laffin points out, “*these promises were warnings* to us which, until it was too late, *we chose to ignore*” (*ibid.*, p. 157). One lesson of history is that we need to listen carefully to what influential Germans are saying and doing, because their words and actions are right in front of us today!

In 1965, Franz Joseph Strauss, a former German defense and finance minister, outlined his ideas for the future of Germany and Europe. It is informative to consider his projections in light of what is happening today—and how they reflect German intentions. In recent years, Germany has been the “leading apostle” for a United Europe. Strauss explained: “Germany needs Europe more than any country... it has seen in

The Lesson of Norway

To understand the course of future events, it is instructive to examine how nations have acted in the past. On the morning of April 9, 1940, German troops suddenly invaded Norway, without provocation and without warning. Winston Churchill records that “surprise, ruthlessness, and precision were characteristics of the onslaught upon innocent and naked Norway” (*The Gathering Storm*, p. 591). He explains that “what stupefied the Norwegians more than the act of aggression itself was the national realization that a Great Power [Germany], for years professing its friendship, suddenly appeared a deadly enemy... the people of Norway were dazed to find that for years their German friends had been elaborating the most detailed plans for the invasion and subsequent enslaving of their country” (*ibid.*, p. 606).

This spectacularly successful military operation was the result of efforts by meticulous German military planners to restore Germany to its “rightful position... at the summit of the world” (*ibid.*, pp. 46, 55). Churchill comments that in contrast to America and Britain, “long before the war Germany was making plans for it... all the lessons of [World War I] were thoroughly and systematically studied. New principles of training and instructional courses of all kinds were introduced” (*ibid.*, pp. 584, 45). Pilots and soldiers were trained outside Germany. U-boats and tanks were built in other countries, and German factories were designed for swift conversion to wartime production. Churchill notes that “every form of deception” was employed to baffle the Allied Commission established by the Treaty of Versailles to monitor German armaments (*ibid.*, p. 49).

As a result of this secret German planning and military buildup, the Allied powers (who had been disarming) were confronted in the late 1930s “by a cataract of violent surprises” as they faced “the organized might and will-to-war of the most efficient race in Europe, longing to regain their national glory” (*ibid.*, pp. 585, 189).



Norwegian Resistance Museum located in the Akershus Castle. It was used by the Nazis as their headquarters during the German occupation of Norway in WW II.

the European idea not only a way of compensating for the immediate past [starting two World Wars] but an *honorable outlet for its formidable energies*. In contributing to the formation of a European Federation, Germany herself would find a *new identity*" (*The Grand Design*, p. 9). Strauss saw that by creating a United States of Europe, "Europe could again fulfill the historical role which it began to lose at the end of the First World War... when we look back at the European continent of 1914, we need to remember *it was the very fulcrum of the world... the summit of splendor on this earth*" (*ibid.*, pp. 40, 92). Strauss had a grand design for a peaceful Europe, but German leaders realize that the path to European unity is also a *path to power and glory*—a goal to which Germany has aspired for centuries!



Strauss made other sobering comments. He stated that "the age of power politics *is by no means ended... we must find a new starting point which changes the political face of the world... [and] grasp every opportunity as it arises*" (*ibid.*, pp. 12, 24).

This is how former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl approached the reunification of Germany: holding back, then moving when the time was right. The sudden union of the two Germanys surprised the world! Strauss also stated that since Germany is the third largest economic power in the world, "*the time must come when that economic power seeks political expression on the world scene*" (*ibid.*, p. 77). He openly

stated that it would be "much easier for Germany to make a *comeback* as a member of an international family, as a member of a European Federation, than as a German Reich" and that "our European attitude was the *only escape hatch* we had" (*ibid.*, p. 104).

Nowhere is the resurgence of Germany more apparent than in the vibrant, pulsating city of Berlin—the historic capital of Germany since the days of the Prussian emperors. This once-

bombed-out city, purposefully divided by the victorious allies after World War II, has risen from the ashes and is becoming the most modern capital in Europe. The Reichstag has been redesigned and

Churchill records that "the superiority of the Germans in design, management, and energy were plain. They put into ruthless execution a *carefully prepared plan of action*" that surprised and outwitted Britain and her allies (*ibid.*, pp. 648–649). Historians note that in the early days of World War II, "German strategy was a masterpiece" that involved striking quickly, in great force and exploiting every advantage (*Civilization Past & Present*, 6th ed., pp. 855–857). One lesson Hitler mentioned in *Mein Kampf*, but later forgot, was that "Germany must not repeat the mistake of fighting all her enemies at once. She must single out the most dangerous and attack him with all her forces" (*The Gathering Storm*, p. 57).

Germany once again aspires to a position on the world stage, and is making preparations for that role. Her military weaponry is among the best in the world. Her modernized army is considered the best in Europe. German pilots are being trained at several bases in America. Meanwhile, the armed forces of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have been cut to the bone and are dependent upon the over-extended forces of America. History records that dark forces in Germany have exploited this situation before. Bible prophecies reveal that our allies will suddenly turn on us (Jeremiah 4:30; Ezekiel 23:5–10, 22–23). Modern observers saw how quickly East Germans shed decades of communist indoctrination, and they wonder whether West Germans, confronted with a crisis, might shed more than 50 years of democratic indoctrination and revert to more authoritarian ways based on self-interest and self aggrandizement (*The German Question & Other German Questions*, Schoenbaum & Pond, p. 148). They conclude that "most likely, old diseases will reappear [in Germany] in new, surprising strains not covered in any textbook" (*ibid.*). Historian Richard Overy comments that "history has the unhappy habit of springing surprises" (*Evening Standard*, May 15, 2002). Bible prophecies indicate this will happen. The next time Germany will undoubtedly strike first at the nation it perceives could be its most powerful adversary. A clash of eagles is coming. We need to be alert to the lessons of history and the warnings of Scripture!

—Douglas S. Winnail

rebuilt. A gleaming new Chancellery sits on the banks of the Spee River, and impressive new parliament offices are nearing completion. Huge construction cranes dominate the skyline of Berlin, and its modern transportation system is the most extensive of any European city. This born-again capital, laid out on a grand scale, is a credit to German industriousness and vision. It also represents the challenge to create a capital that “reflects Germany’s ambitions and aspirations” (*Foreign Policy*, Summer 1998, p. 145). Many wonder: where will these aspirations ultimately lead?

Germany’s Projected Future

Bible prophecy and foreign policy experts both provide sobering assessments about Germany’s future direction. Since the close of World War II, Germany has been content to work with France to build a European Union. However, this arrangement of convenience and necessity is changing. Germans are beginning to chafe at their financial contribution to the European treasury to modernize other nations in Europe. Germany is also tiring of having to appear smaller in order to make France appear greater. Younger Germans want to pursue policies more in Germany’s interest, which is not surprising since Germany is the most populous and powerful nation in Europe.

Otto von Bismarck, the savvy Prussian statesman, years ago observed: “I have always found the word ‘Europe’ on the mouths of those politicians who wanted from other powers something they did not dare demand in their own name” (*Statecraft*, Thatcher, p. 325). Others have noted: “Germany has always pursued self-interested policies in the context of Europe” (*The German Predicament*, Markovits & Reich, p. 204). Former U.S. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski comments that “by redeeming itself through Europe, Germany is *restoring its own greatness* while gaining a mission that will not automatically mobilize European resentment and fears against Germany” (*The Grand Chessboard*, p. 63). However, he warns that if the drive to unite Europe falters, “Germany would probably become *more assertive* and explicit in the definition of its

national interests” and attempt to reassert its historical role of “*creating order* in Europe” (*ibid.*, pp. 73–74). Brzezinski foresees the possible reemergence of *Mitteleuropa* under the influence of Germany—as in the Middle Ages during the Holy Roman Empire. A policy paper released by Germany’s ruling political parties reached essentially the same conclusion: “If European integration were not to progress, Germany might be called upon, or be tempted by its own security restraints, to try to effect the stabilization of eastern Europe *on its own and in the traditional way*” (CDU/CSU paper, *Reflections on Europe*, Sept. 1, 1994). Germany’s traditional methods have had devastating effects on other nations. But what does this mean for the future?

Germany in Prophecy

Dozens of Bible prophecies focus on events that will occur just before Jesus Christ’s return to Earth. These long-foretold events resemble what is develop-

ing today on the world scene. The Apostle Paul wrote that “in the last days perilous times will come” as people become self-centered, self-serving, increasingly uncivil and fixated on pursuing personal pleasure (2 Timothy 3:1–5). Jesus prophesied that His return—and the end of the age—would be preceded by a time of religious deception, social anarchy, wars, violence and ethnic strife

(Matthew 24:3–14). The Apostle John foresaw the emergence of an end-time “Beast,” to whom ten “kings” (i.e. nations or kingdoms) would yield their sovereignty (Revelation 13:1–10; 17:12–14). The prophet Daniel reveals that this militaristic, beast-like power is the final resurrection of a political system rooted in the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation (Daniel 7:19–27). To learn more about these vital prophecies, please request our free booklet, *The Beast of Revelation*.

Daniel’s reference to the “king of the North,” and John’s comment that ten kings yield their sovereignty to this leader, indicate that this “king” represents either a *core state* or the leading nation in a union or federation of states (Daniel 11:40–43). The “king of the North” will sit at the helm of an Assyrian-dominated power, and may himself be an Assyrian (cf. Isaiah




Old Reichstag building at left, new German government buildings at the right.

7:18–20; 10:1–5; Hosea 11:5). This final revival of the Roman Empire is prophesied to attack and subjugate Israelite nations in the “latter days” because they have forgotten God and rejected His ways (see Jeremiah 30). God calls Assyria “the rod of My anger... I will send him against an ungodly nation” (Isaiah 10:5–6). God has used Assyria before to correct His chosen people, and Scripture indicates that this will happen again. God warns the backsliding nations of Israel: “I am *fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you... because My people have forgotten Me*” (Jeremiah 18:11, 15). Terrible calamities lie ahead for our grievously sinful nations, including a *second* captivity that will eclipse anything the world has ever seen (see Ezekiel 5–7; Isaiah 11:11–12). This drastic turn of events will come *suddenly and unexpectedly* (Isaiah 8:14; Jeremiah 6:26), as a direct punishment from God.

In Bible prophecies, God refers to modern nations by their ancient names. America, Britain and other nations of north-west European descent are referred to as Israelite nations, because they are descendents of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. **Modern Germany is referred to by its ancient name “Assyria.”** (For more detailed information about this topic, please request our free reprint article, *A Fourth Reich?*) Many prophecies about the “king of the North” have special relevance to modern Germany. The nation God brings against the sinful Israelite nations is known for its haughty, master-race philosophy (Isaiah 10:8). It speaks a foreign language (Jeremiah 5:15). It possesses powerful weaponry used with deadly precision (Jeremiah 6:22–23; Hosea 11:5–6). Assyria is also pictured as a “**great eagle**” that carries away the house of Israel (Ezekiel 17:1–16). The eagle has for centuries been the symbol of Germany.

Today Germany is an ally of America and Britain. Yet Bible prophecies indicate that Israelite allies—including Assyria—will suddenly turn into enemies (Ezekiel 23:5–24). God will use the Germans’ remarkable aptitudes—including their military proficiency—to accomplish His purpose. Germany will be God’s *tool of correction* because “when they are at war, they do the job, as they do it in peacetime, as thoroughly, efficiently, and expediently as possible, without looking left or right, like the obedient workmen they are” (Barzini, p. 94). Once this job is fin-


ished, God will have to punish the “arrogant heart of the king of Assyria” for boasting that he did this by his own strength and wisdom (Isaiah 10:12–13). Ultimately, the German-led European federation and the Israelite nations will have to learn the same lessons—that pride must give way to humility (Zechariah 10:10–11), and that obedience to the laws of God must replace disobedience. Once these lessons are learned, God will use the remarkable talents of the Germans to help rebuild shattered societies in the kingdom of God. God reveals that “in that day, Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land... Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria *the work of My hands*, and Israel My inheritance” (Isaiah 19:24–25).

Critics may scoff at this scenario, yet Bible prophecies about Israelite nations and their end-time antagonist—Assyria—are quite clear. Symbols of national identity help unlock Bible prophecies that make sense of trends developing in the world today, and reveal where world events are heading. This is why we are advised to *study* Scripture (2 Timothy 2:15), and *watch* world events (Mark 13:32–37), lest we be caught off guard when these events begin to occur just before the return of Jesus Christ. Only those who are alert and awake—who have repented and changed (Acts 2:38–40), and persevered in doing the work that Jesus commissioned—will escape this coming conflict of eagles (Revelation 3:8–13). Will this include you? 



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Dangers of The Occult

By Richard F. Ames

Millions are pursuing astrology, witchcraft and the occult. Are they sowing seeds of doom and destruction? Are these just harmless hobbies, or can you face real dangers if you dabble in the occult?

Less than three months after its release, the movie *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* became the second-highest-grossing film ever, selling nearly \$1 billion of tickets to theatergoers eager for a tale of witchcraft, wizardry and the occult. The first of seven installments in author J. K. Rowling's planned series, *Harry Potter* is at the helm of a multi-billion-dollar media empire that has made Rowling one of the three highest-paid women in Great Britain. Her books have sold more than 60 million copies in 200 countries around the world.

Yet, for many, the occult is more than fiction. A May 2000 Zogby America poll revealed that 57.7 percent of Americans aged 18–29 believe in ghosts. This phenomenon is not confined to the United States; *Time Magazine* reported recently that belief in ghosts is shared by 45 percent in Britain. Melbourne's *Saturday Herald Sun* reported that 46 percent of Australian women, and 34 percent of Australian men, believe in ghosts (January 16, 1999). Leger Marketing reported in October 2001 that 30.2 percent of Canadians believe in ghosts.

In Rowling's books, characters routinely interact with ghosts. Harry communicates with his dead parents through a special mirror. Characters seek guid-

ance from astrologers, cast occult spells and use their paranormal powers to fight their enemies. The Bible condemns this as sorcery, yet it is a part of the ordinary world of *Harry Potter*. The *Harry Potter* series teaches young minds a false and evil worldview in which occult powers, condemned in Scripture, can be used as tools for good.

Sadly, instead of condemning the dangerous and un-biblical world of witches and wizards, some churches and clergy have tried to exploit its appeal to youth. Last year, a vicar in one English church held a special "Harry Potter liturgy." A serpent was hung in the church, while a clergyman wearing a wizard's robe led the service. Other elements of the *Harry Potter* story were brought into the church service. Incredibly, many other pastors expressed interest in having that liturgy for their own churches.

What have the world's churches come to? As one American commentator observed: "Nobody respects a religious institution willing to compromise willy-nilly with the secular culture, on a fool's quest for popularity. A church that will try anything stands for nothing!" (Rod Dreher, *New York Post*, Sept. 5, 2000).

Today's media fascination with the occult extends far beyond *Harry Potter*. Thirty-five years ago, many considered the television series *Bewitched* controversial. Today, it seems tame compared to such popular television fare as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Angel*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* and *Charmed*, which glamorize the occult.

And the occult is not just for teenagers or couch potatoes. Even leaders of nations pursue the

occult. Former White House chief of staff Donald Regan reported, in his autobiography *For the Record*, that President Ronald Reagan's travels and activities were approved by an astrologer of his wife's choosing. The *London Daily Telegraph* reported that former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher consulted an astrologer "for signs of future dangers." Most members of India's Parliament have personal astrologers on retainer. Even in the former Soviet Union, once a bastion of materialism, the occult holds sway, as Russia is "swamped by astrologers, UFOlogists, soothsayers, parapsychologists, bogus doctors and other charlatans, whom genuine scientists make few efforts to contradict.... One of the main tasks of a senior official in the Presidential Security Service is to study astrology and prepare horoscopes" (*London Daily Telegraph*, July 29, 1996).

How Has Mankind Been Deceived?

Scripture reveals the source of occult deception. "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). Satan deceives the *whole* world, not just a part of this world. And he also has spirit helpers, called demons.

How does Satan deceive the whole world? He does it through the occult, false religion and false education—and through a social system that seeks licentious pleasure rather than God! The prophet Isaiah wrote: "And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who

King Saul's Séance

Movies like *The Sixth Sense*, and television programs such as *Crossing Over With John Edward*, play on mankind's wish that the dead could communicate with the living. This is an age-old wish; nearly 3,000 years ago, a desperate King Saul sought help from a medium—and suffered greatly for doing so.

Saul had disobeyed God's instructions regarding the Amalekites. He received God's judgment that "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king" (1 Samuel 15:23).

Because of Saul's disobedience, the Spirit of God was no longer guiding him (1 Samuel 16:14; 28:6). Desperate for guidance, Saul asked a medium to perform a séance, though he knew this violated God's law, which prescribed the death penalty for witchcraft or mediumship (Leviticus 20:27).

During the séance, a spirit identified as Samuel (1 Samuel 28:14–15) warned that the Philistines would defeat Israel's armies, and Saul would soon die. Saul became "dreadfully afraid" because of these words, and "fell full length on the ground" (v. 20).

Clearly, this spirit's message terrified Saul. But was the summoned spirit really Samuel? No, it was not. Scripture explains that Saul never actually *saw* Samuel; he only *perceived* that the spirit was Samuel because of the medium's descriptions (1 Samuel 28:14). The Bible faithfully records Saul's experience, from his terrified point of view, but does not teach that the spirit *was* Samuel. Interestingly, most of today's mediums follow a similar practice, claiming to communicate with deceased spirits even though—like Saul—their clients never actually see those spirits.

Crossing Over With John Edward is wildly popular in some circles, and has even spawned imitators like *The Pet Psychic*, whose host claims to communicate with families' dearly departed pets. Spirit communication is not only the stuff of horror movies and cable television; even "innocent family fare" like Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* stirs the hope that our loved ones can still call to us from beyond the grave. But this is a false hope. Our dead friends and relatives are unconscious, and will remain so until the resurrection (Ecclesiastes 9:5; Psalm 146:4). Their state in death is compared to a sleep from which only God can wake them (1 Corinthians 15:51). No medium can summon the dead.

The Apostle Paul warned that some in the "latter times" would give "heed to deceiving spirits" (1 Timothy 4:1). Some modern mediums may be charlatans, who infer details about the dead by "reading" their living, paying clients. But other "genuine" mediums may be genuinely deceived, communicating with demonic spirits who impersonate the deceased.

"Genuine" or not, mediumship is dangerous business. But few today realize the serious consequences of rebelling against God's law and seeking after spirits. What was the result for Saul? Scripture explains: "So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance" (1 Chronicles 10:13). Christians today should heed Saul's cautionary example.

—William Bowmer

whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?" (Isaiah 8:19). Who are people seeking today: mediums, wizards or the true God? Isaiah wrote: "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

We need to understand that there is a real spirit world! Notice this warning: "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead" (Deuteronomy 18:9–11).

God Almighty condemns sorcery and witchcraft. If you are "playing around" with such darkness, then you need to *reject* that underworld of evil! Seek the true God of your Bible! God's warning continues: "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your

God has not appointed such for you” (Deuteronomy 18:12–14).

Can anything be more clear concerning the evils of witchcraft and sorcery? And yet millions of adults are teaching their children that there is nothing wrong with a Harry Potter actively pursuing witchcraft and wizardry. But the prophet Samuel told King Saul that witchcraft is sin. “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23).

and practices of the occult. But parents who take this approach are risking their children’s spiritual lives by underestimating the devil’s influence (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

In Luke’s gospel, we find that our Savior cured many individuals who were plagued by evil spirits: “And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight” (Luke 7:21). Do we live contrary to our Savior’s example? Do we teach our children to attract and cultivate evil spir-

its does not want you to be defiled by evil influence. Notice His strong language: “The person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 20:6–7).

When a person consorts with mediums and familiar spirits, God says that he is prostituting himself. Christians are to be clean and wholesome. They should be “holy” as we just read.

Do we live contrary to our Savior’s example? Do we teach our children to attract and cultivate evil spirits at Halloween? Certainly, dressing up like a demon or a witch *invites* evil rather than *opposes* it!

God says that participation in the occult is spiritual harlotry (Psalm 106:38–39)! How did God punish His people for their wickedness? “Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against His people, so that He abhorred His own inheritance. And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, and those who hated them ruled over them. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand” (Psalm 106:40–42). The nation of Israel went into captivity because of these abominable practices. A great tribulation and captivity will also come upon our peoples, if we fail to repent of *our* evil practices!

Some might argue that dressing up in Halloween costumes is “innocent” fun, and rationalize that parents today are not encouraging their children to expose themselves to symbols

its at Halloween? Certainly, dressing up like a demon or a witch *invites* evil rather than *opposes* it!

The Apostle James advises us to resist evil, not entertain it! “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). That is your Creator’s instruction to you! He promises that the devil will flee from you. Yes, “Resist the devil!” Do not join the masses in celebrating the dark world of Satan and the occult! Do not participate in the dark traditions of Halloween or any other such practices.

Notice God’s warnings against mediums and familiar spirits: “Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 19:31). The Creator God plainly states that we should avoid mediums and spiritists. He

Remember what the Apostle Peter wrote: “But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15–16).

Astrology and False Prophecy

Satan also deceives mankind through astrology. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: “Astrology originated in Mesopotamia, perhaps in the 3rd millennium BC, but attained its full development in the Western world much later, within the orbit of Greek civilization of the Hellenistic period. It spread to India in its older Mesopotamian form. Islamic culture absorbed it as part of the Greek heritage; and in the Middle Ages, when Western Europe was strongly affected by Islamic science, European astrology also felt the

influence of the Orient... Although various Christian councils condemned astrology, the belief in the worldview it implies was not seriously shaken. In the late European Middle Ages, a number of universities, among them Paris, Padua, Bologna, and Florence, had chairs of astrology."

Even though all true Christians have condemned astrology over the years, it has persisted. In our modern time, astrologers admit that the newspaper variety of horoscope advice is mainly entertainment. But when world leaders consult astrologers for guidance, they are seeking the wrong god! Listen to God's warning through the prophet Jeremiah: "Thus says the LORD: 'Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them' (Jeremiah 10:2).

We have already seen that Jesus predicted that signs and wonders would deceive the *many*. The book of Revelation reveals dramatic events leading up to the Second Coming of Christ. There will be a great false prophet and religious system that will perform miracles, signs and wonders. The Apostle John writes this about the great false prophet. "He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men" (Revelation 13:13). Millions, if not billions, of people will be deceived by these impressive miracles. "And he [the false prophet] deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast" (Revelation 13:14).

How can you tell whether someone is truly a minister

of God, and not someone controlled by the occult world? Deuteronomy gives us a key. "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'; which you have not known; 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

A false minister or prophet may even prophesy accurately concerning some sign or wonder. But God says that if he leads you after other gods—if he leads you away from the God of the Bible and the true Jesus Christ of your Bible—then he is a false prophet. Notice also that God may be testing you, to see if you will be faithful to His Word and to His way of life!

Satan has deceived the whole world. He has many methods of deception, including witches, wizardry, channeling, sorcery, astrology, spiritism and false religion. You need to be on guard against the dangers of the occult.

The Apostle Peter gave us this instruction in 1 Peter 5:8-9: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing

that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

God promises us protection from evil. Jesus taught us to pray: "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13). Paul exhorted Christians: "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:11-12). You can overcome the wicked one by *knowing* the word of God—the Bible—and *living* by it. You can overcome the temptations and deceptions of the occult and false religion. As the Apostle Paul encourages us in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." May God empower you to go forward in faith. May you live not by the dark deceptions of this world, but by the light of truth, God's Word. TW

To Learn More...



If God is calling you, He will open your mind to the truth

about His plan and purpose for your life. You *can* know God! Please request our **FREE** booklet *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Letters to the Editor

IMPRESSED BY ARTICLES

I was really impressed by your articles in the January-February 2002 *Tomorrow's World*, especially the article warning Christians against falling victim to watered-down Christianity. Your article has made me sit up and take notice that someone out there is blowing the trumpet as in Isaiah 58:1, and I am excited about it.

O. D., Eastwood, NSW, Australia

I was just rereading the July-August 2001 *Tomorrow's World*, with the cover story "The Middle East in Prophecy." Boy, were you on the mark! I can't wait to hear your opinion on what is going on now. I now understand more why Jesus said to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and why He wept over it. Thank you so much for caring enough to tell people the Truth.

M. R., Denham Springs, LA

My family and I very much enjoy reading the *Tomorrow's World* magazines and booklets. In the past we have been very unclear about many issues, and your literature has helped us understand about end-time prophecies and about ourselves. There have been some very inspiring and enlightening guidelines and articles. "Prophecy Comes Alive!" is one of our favorites; it is a terrific update on world events around us. Thank you ever so much!

A. G., Surrey, BC, Canada

GRATEFUL FOR BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Thank you so much for the very informative literature I have received from you. I cannot express how much reading and studying your *Bible Study Course* has helped me. When I am talking to someone about certain things in the

Bible, I can almost always go to something in your literature and it will show me better how to speak with them and best of all, where to go in the Bible to show them what Jesus says.

I. R., Irvington, AL

I am a subscriber to your magazine and also a student of your *Bible Study Course*. Thank you for designing such a course! I have found the study of God's Word to be the most rewarding and fulfilling thing in my life. The lessons are stimulating and I look forward joyfully to receiving them. I now comprehend so much more. Keep up the good work!

K. B., Lauderhill, FL

HELPED BY WEB SITE

For the past two years I have viewed the *Tomorrow's World* program on the Internet, and have downloaded several booklets and the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. Your Web site is most comprehensive and clear.

L. S., Alameda, CA

Editor's Note: You can find booklets, back issues of the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and online video of the *Tomorrow's World* telecast at our Web site: www.tomorrowworld.org.

BLESSED BY BOOKLETS

I have read your booklet, *The Real God: Proofs and Promises*; it has been a tremendous blessing to me. I have had proof of what prayer can do in my life. The words in the booklet are so encouraging.

R. M., Princes Town, Trinidad

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



Warnings Ignored!

The Christian world is selective about what it believes from the Bible. Scripture states that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and that a loving God sent His Son to die for the sins of the world (John 3:16). Jesus taught that we should love God, our neighbors and even our enemies (Matthew 5:44; 22:36–40). For centuries these noble teachings have been embraced, but not always followed, by professing Christians.

However, this *same* God also sent prophets to warn His chosen people and the world that serious consequences would result if His instructions were ignored and His laws were violated (see Deuteronomy 28). This crucial aspect of biblical teaching has *never* been popular. Sadly, *most* of the warnings God sent through His prophets *went unheeded*—and millions suffered terrible consequences as a result. Our modern world would be wise to heed the biblical prophets, because their warnings ultimately focus on the end of the age—the times in which we are living. In fact, God’s prophetic warnings are still being delivered today!

Some critics assert that the God of the Old Testament was a bloodthirsty tyrant who delighted in destroying the world with a flood; they ignore the wickedness and corruption that humanity had embraced, and fail to see that God sought, *for mankind’s own good*, to put a stop to its evil behavior (Genesis 6:5–13). Before sending the flood, God sent Noah, a *preacher of righteousness* (2 Peter 2:5) to warn the world of what was coming. Noah’s warning message lasted approximately 100 years (Genesis 5:32; 7:6). This is consistent with the actions of a loving God. Scripture proclaims: “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Even though God provided a warning for nearly a century, only Noah and his family (eight people) heeded the message. Everyone else continued to “do their own thing,” until it was too late and they perished in the flood (Matthew 24:36–39).

God later chose to work with the nation of Israel. He blessed the Israelites and gave them His laws so they could be an example to the world (Deuteronomy 4:1–8). However, the rebellious, independent-minded Israelites forgot God, violated His laws and followed other religions (Jeremiah 7:22–26). Out of concern for His chosen people, God sent a series of prophets to warn them that unless they changed their ways they would reap severe penalties, including disastrous defeats and foreign captivity. God’s prophets were instructed to: “Cry aloud... tell My people their transgressions, and the house of Israel their sins” (Isaiah 58:1).

Instead of heeding God’s warnings, the Israelites ignored, mocked, persecuted and even murdered God’s prophets. Isaiah was told: “Do not prophesy to us right things [uncomfortable truths]; speak to us smooth things” (Isaiah 30:10)—and was later cut in half by his own countrymen. Jeremiah was threatened: “Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand” (Jeremiah 11:21). He was thrown into a dungeon several times by his own people (Jeremiah 37:14–16; 38:6). As a result of violating God’s laws and despising His prophets, the nations of Israel and Judah lost God’s protection, were conquered by their enemies and were carried into captivity to Assyria and Babylon. They paid a heavy price for *failing to heed* warnings from God.

But how does this relate to us today? Many people who “love the Lord” do not seem to realize that almost one-third of the Bible is prophecy, much of which is *dual*—meaning that it had an initial, partial fulfillment in the past, but its ultimate fulfillment would occur even *thousands* of years later! Many prophecies concern, as their major focus, the events surrounding Christ’s return at the end of this age. About 90 percent of Bible prophecy concerns the *days just ahead of us!* This is a sobering thought that should get our attention.



comes Alive

Jesus not only commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel to the world (Mark 16:15), He also gave them a message for the “lost sheep” of the house of Israel (Matthew 10:6)—the descendants of Israelites who were carried off to Assyria around 721BC. These people eventually migrated to northwest Europe, Britain, America and other choice parts of the earth, where they were blessed by God because of promises He made to their forefather Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3). Jesus’ disciples were to explain to Israelite nations *why* they were blessed, *why* they were chosen by God, and *what consequences* they will face for compromising or rejecting His laws and instructions. Jesus also told His disciples that this would not be a popular message (Matthew 10:16–20).

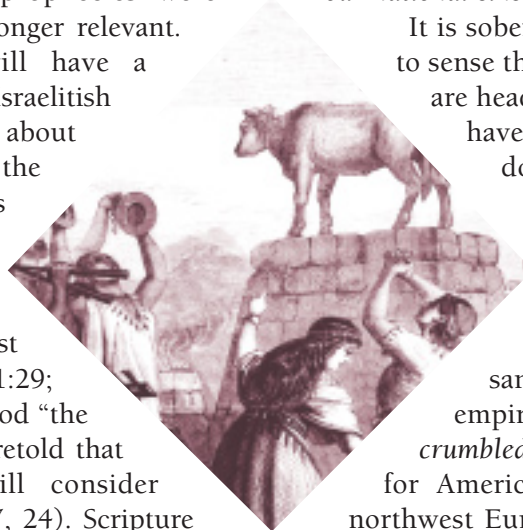
Many professing Christians today *wrongly* believe that Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled long ago and are no longer relevant. Those prophecies, which will have a devastating effect on modern Israelitish nations, provide *vital* details about end-time events developing on the world scene today. Moses warned the children of Israel that “evil will befall you *in the latter days*” and that “the LORD will bring a nation against you from afar” (Deuteronomy 31:29; 28:49). Jeremiah called this period “the time of Jacob’s trouble” and foretold that “*in the latter days* you will consider [understand] it” (Jeremiah 30:7, 24). Scripture provides a catalogue of sins (cf. Jeremiah 2; 5; 23; Ezekiel 20, Hosea 3; Amos 2; Micah 2; 3) for which God is going to correct our people with the most astonishing series of punishments the world has ever seen (Jeremiah 4; 18:15–17). Jesus told His disciples to watch world events, so that they could recognize when these prophesied events were beginning to happen (Matthew 24:42–43, Mark 13:32–37). Those disciples who monitor world events and warn of their prophetic significance will function as the

watchmen for Israel—a role God outlined long ago (cf. Ezekiel 3:4, 17; 33:7). God wants this warning message delivered to His people because, as He stated: “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked” (Ezekiel 33:11).

The Church of God has delivered this warning for decades, though God said that “the house of Israel will not listen to you... for all the house of Israel is impudent and hard-hearted” (Ezekiel 3:7). Because our peoples will not heed God’s warnings to repent, God will punish our proud nations to teach a powerful lesson: that disobedience does not pay. God is going to use a European power revived from the roots of the Roman Empire—led by a great religious figure and a deceptive political leader called the “Beast”—to administer this punishment *because of our national sins*.

It is sobering to see other voices beginning to sense the dangerous direction our nations are heading. Dozens of books and articles have been published in recent years documenting the staggering decline in Bible-based morality, and the increasing crime, violence, divorce, drug abuse and religious confusion that plagues Israelitish nations. These same problems afflicted the ancient empires of Greece and Rome *before they crumbled*. The handwriting is on the wall for America, Britain and other nations of northwest European descent. Will we heed the warnings in time, or will we repeat the mistakes of our ancestors? Bible prophecy indicates that our nations will not listen to warnings from God, but *you individually* can make a different choice. You can choose to come out of this world and follow the teachings of your Bible. Request our free booklet, *What is a True Christian?* You cannot afford to ignore the sobering prophecies that are coming alive today.

—Douglas S. Winnail





Can the United States Defeat Terrorism?

By Raymond F. McNair

In spite of America's great wealth and military might, can it realistically hope to succeed in destroying international terrorism from the earth?

In just a little more than 200 years—between 1776 and 1996—13 struggling English colonies in America grew into the world's richest, most powerful nation, eventually becoming the world's only superpower. Never before had any nation possessed such wealth and greatness. Yet in less than an hour on September 11, 2001, the United States received a shocking and sobering reminder of its vulnerability, and the fragility of its status as the world's economic and political leader.

The Mantle of World Leadership

Whether the U.S. has wanted it or not, the mantle of world leadership has again and again been

thrust upon its shoulders—and now it leads the peace-loving nations of the world in the fight against international terrorism. Last year's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were a clarion “wake-up call” to millions who had failed to take seriously the repeated threats against America's way of life—and its continued existence as a nation.

Though the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center failed to alert most Americans to the peril of terrorism, the attacks of last September 11 brought home the need for vigilance in defense of the nation's many “soft targets”—its relatively undefended cities, food and water supplies, highways, tunnels, bridges, dams and nuclear power plants—in addition to its military installations!

Does God's Word tell us whether or not America and its allies can succeed in this titanic struggle to rid the world of the specter of international terrorism? Can President Bush inspire the world's leaders to persevere in destroying malevolent terrorism before it destroys our nations? Many experts believe that if the world is to succeed in the monumental task of “defeating global terrorism,” nations cannot concentrate solely on protecting their own interests, but must assist one another in vigorously rooting out terrorist cells and camps in “rogue nations” that have funded and armed terrorists with ever-increasing lethal weapons of mass destruction.

Many Americans now believe that it is their destiny—as citizens of the world's only superpower—

to marshal sufficient resources and courage to crush this global malignancy. But will they become complacent and lax in their determination to rid the world of the scourge of international terrorism? If the world shrinks back in fear and timidity, then horrific disasters will surely strike when and where they are least expected! Even though America is building a coalition to confront this threat of international terrorism head-to-head, many believe that in the final analysis only American resolve, material resources and military might can be counted on as a bulwark against the complete destruction of Western civilization, and the sinister dawn of a new "Dark Age"!

President Bush's Bold Anti-Terrorist Plan

Almighty God has given the U.S. a strong President, with the character and the determination to attack international terrorism head-on. He has exhibited both the fortitude and the will to set about his task without flinching or shrinking back! President Bush has a very weighty responsibility on his shoulders, and needs our prayers. God's Word commands: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers... and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all who are in authority.... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Since September 2001, President Bush has clearly spotlighted the grave terrorist threat now facing the U.S. and the entire civilized world. He has repeatedly explained what America and the world must do to successfully confront this sinister terrorist

threat to civilization. In his State of the Union address on January 30, 2002, the President said: "Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears and showed us the true scope of the task ahead. We have seen the depth of our enemies' hatred in videos where they laugh about the loss of innocent life.... We have found diagrams of American nuclear plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities and landmarks in America and throughout the world."

The World's "Ticking Time Bombs"

According to the President, the "entire world" is our "battlefield." "What we have found in Afghanistan confirms that... our war against terror is only beginning.... Most of the 19 men who hijacked planes on September 11, 2001 were trained in Afghanistan's camps, and so were tens of thousands of others. Thousands of dangerous killers, schooled in the methods of murder, often supported by outlaw regimes, are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs set to go off without warning.... These enemies view the entire world as the battlefield, and we must pursue them wherever they are.... First, we will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt terrorist plans, and bring terrorists to justice. And second, we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the U.S. and the world."

Mr. Bush then added: "Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at

least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld—including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Jaish-I-Mohammed—operates in remote jungles and deserts and hides in the centers of large cities.... My hope is that all nations will heed our call and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own. Many nations are acting forcefully.... But some governments will be timid in the face of terror. And make no mistake about it: if they do not act, America will."

"An Axis of Evil!"

President Bush concluded his remarks with these words: "Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction.... North Korea... Iran... [and] Iraq constitute an axis of evil arming to threaten the peace of the world"—with "anthrax and nerve gas and nuclear weapons." He continued: "By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the U.S. In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic. We will work closely with our coalition to deny terrorists—and their state sponsors—the material, technology and expertise to make and deliver weapons of mass destruction. We will develop and deploy effective missile defenses to protect America and our allies from sudden attack. And all nations should know: America will do what is necessary to ensure our

nation's security.... America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.... History has called America and our allies to action."

International Terrorism Will Grow Much Worse

Even though the goal of eradicating international terrorism is a noble undertaking, Bible prophecy clearly reveals that international terrorism will continue, and will become much worse! Regrettably for the United States—the third largest and third most populous nation on Earth—there are two reasons why mankind will not succeed in eliminating international terrorism:

First, although the U.S. is wealthy and powerful, it is not rich enough, powerful enough or wise enough to serve as international policeman to six billion people! How can a nation of only 285 million people spare the manpower and the material resources necessary to police the earth's billions? Even if America secures the staunch support of such nations as Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Israel, it will not be able to muster enough manpower, money and military muscle to police all of the "rogue nations" and their terrorist allies around the world.

Second, Bible prophecy clearly reveals that global terrorism will increase, eventually culminating in World War III! Jesus Himself said that serious armed global conflicts will continue until the end of this present evil age (Matthew 24:3, 6–7)! But why? Because, this world is under the evil influence of Satan, the invisible "god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4; cf. Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9).

Christ acknowledged that the devil exercises great sway over the rulers of this world (Luke 4:5–6), and He also said "the devil... was a murderer from the beginning [and] a liar" (John 8:44). Paul also speaks of the devil's powerful influence over world leaders: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts [demon spirits] in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

The Nations Feverishly "Prepare for War"

Many prophecies predict greatly increased violence, terrorism and horrific wars scattered over the earth. The prophet Joel said: "Proclaim this among the nations: 'Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak [person or nation] say, 'I am strong.' Assemble and come, all you nations'" (Joel 3:9–11). The spread of international terrorism is in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Countless millions of militant Muslims, and other enemies, are being stirred up and prepared for this battle—to occur in "the Valley of Jehoshaphat" (v. 12), also called the "valley of decision" (v. 14).

Jesus predicted great violence at the close of this age: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [i.e. world wars].... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been... nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved" (Matthew 24:6–7, 21–22).

The Apostle John also prophesied that an enormous army of "200,000,000" will kill "a third of mankind"—that is, about two billion of the world's six billion people (Revelation 9:13–18). God says He will bring together the armies of the blood-thirsty nations—before destroying them in His "great winepress" (Revelation 14:17–19). "And the winepress was trampled outside the city [of Jerusalem], and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles..." (v. 20). That final battle at Jerusalem, by a coalition of hostile armies, is more popularly called "the battle of Armageddon." It is graphically described in Revelation 19:11–21 and Joel 3:13–16.

"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl [the sixth plague] on the great river Euphrates [in Iraq], and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean [demon] spirits... performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.... And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon [in northern Israel]" (Revelation 16:12–14, 16).

There are, worldwide, about 1.2 billion Muslims—many of whom are right now being stirred up by militant Muslim fundamentalists to hate and slaughter the Jews—and their ally, the U.S. What is their long-range plan? Their oft-stated goal is to seize control of Jerusalem and all of Palestine, and destroy the State of Israel! Their deadly venom of hate has already infected hundreds of millions of Muslim fanatics across North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Indonesia. This hatred,

eventually shared by “all the nations” surrounding Israel (Zechariah 14:2), will play a key role in setting the stage for the final battle at Jerusalem.

John describes this final battle: “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Christ] who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet.... [were destroyed in] the lake of fire.... And the rest were killed with the sword... of Him [Christ]...” (Revelation 19:11–21).

The prophet Zechariah describes a confederation of mighty armies gathering to fight against Jerusalem: “Behold the day of the LORD is coming... for I [the LORD] will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations.... And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall dissolve... and their tongues shall dissolve.... [Then] a great panic from the LORD will be among them. Everyone will... raise his hand against his neighbor’s hand; Judah also will fight at Jerusalem” (Zechariah 14:1–3, 12–14). At that climactic battle, the control of Jerusalem and of the whole earth will be decided, when the LORD himself destroys the hate-filled armies that surround Jerusalem as they attempt to make war against Christ.

At Last: Peace With Security


Will the nations see a dramatic increase in violence, interna-

tional terrorism and war? We now live in “perilous times”—when many lack “self-control” and exhibit “brutal” behavior toward others (2 Timothy 3:1–3). Christ said that, as in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37–39), so will it be when He returns to end international terrorism and global wars. Just before Noah’s Flood: “The earth also was corrupt [and] was filled with violence...” (Genesis 6:11–12). Jesus Himself predicted that if God did not intervene in this world’s affairs, all life would be erased from this planet (Matthew 24:21–22)! Paul says: “Though... Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved. For He will finish the work and cut it short...” (Romans 9:27–28).

Will there be a *decrease* in violence and international terrorism in the years ahead? No! God’s Word says that violence—which will include international terrorism—will *increase* until it culminates in a horrendous World War III, in which nuclear, chemical and biological doomsday weapons will be used! Hundreds of millions will be slaughtered by wars, famines and pestilences (Revelation 9:13–18, cf. 6:1–11)! Mankind will be unable to save itself (Matthew 24:21–22). Almighty God will finally step in and put a screeching halt to man’s hellish inhumanity against his fellow man. Only He will be able to rescue a doomed humanity from self-imposed annihilation!

But here is good news! Humanity will not be wiped off the face of the earth, as some claim! God’s Word assures us that, although billions will die, our Creator will not allow mankind to perish in self-genocide! “Behold, the LORD makes

the earth empty and makes it waste... and scatters abroad its inhabitants.... and few men are left” (Isaiah 24:1–6; cf. Revelation 16:8–9)! Then, at last, the “Prince of Peace” will bring real peace and security to the people of Israel, and to all nations (Isaiah 2:1–5; 9:6–7; 11:1–9). “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9). The Messiah will then teach all nations to obey God and live in peace, love and harmony (cf. Zechariah 8:3–15; 20–23)!

Thank God for His promised intervention to prevent man’s annihilation, and establish a beautiful, idyllic Kingdom of God (Micah 4:1–4; Isaiah 35), as Christ rules “all nations with a rod of iron” (Revelation 12:5), assisted by His immortalized saints (2:26–27; 5:10)! The Prince of Peace will end violence, terrorism and warfare among the nations of this earth. “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain.” (Isaiah 11:9)! 

To Learn More...



Increased terrorism is just one of several trends that will precede Jesus Christ’s return. Informed

Bible students can see the hand of God in end-time prophetic events. Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

“One Nation Under God”?

For many years, the United States has defined itself as “one nation under God”—a phrase in its Pledge of Allegiance that millions of schoolchildren have learned since the 1950s. A recent Gallup Poll revealed that more than 90 percent in the U.S. claim to believe in God; in fact, almost 70 percent say that religion is an important part of their lives.

Last May, *U.S. News & World Report* ran an article on “Faith in America,” observing that there are more churches, synagogues, temples and mosques per capita

Poll] says that the high degree of religious tolerance reflects, in part, ‘not only a lack of knowledge of other religions, but an ignorance of one’s own faith.’ In some polls, Mayer says, ‘you have professing Christians saying, “Yes, Jesus is the only way” and also “Yes, there are many paths to God.” It’s not that Americans don’t believe anything, they believe everything’” (*USN&WR*, May 6, 2002).

In his final New Testament epistle, the Apostle Paul wrote about this same attitude and

from day to day? Do they live by the Ten Commandments, or by the sad list of qualities Paul mentioned? Despite a *form* of godliness, rebellious nations deny the *power* of that godliness by ignoring God’s authority to teach mankind how to live.

In the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, the people of the U.S. experienced a great upsurge in patriotic display and rhetoric. The subject of God even found its way into public discourse, to a degree unprecedented in the recent past.

But what most people really want is a “teddy bear” God—a deity with whom they can “cuddle up” for comfort, rather than a God who loves them enough to tell them how to live. Do we want God to tell us how to worship Him? How to treat our families? How to treat our fellow man? No! Most of us want to worship God in whatever way makes us most comfortable! We desire a “form of godliness”—church buildings, religious symbols and easy talk about “spirituality.” But we deny God’s real authority over our lives!

The U.S. may call itself “one nation under God,” but, like so much of the Western world, its actions—its rampant disobedience against God—show the hollowness of those words. Thankfully, true Christians can buck this trend and obey God individually, even while praying for sorely needed national repentance.

—John H. Ogwyn

Do we want God to tell us how to worship Him? How to treat our families? How to treat our fellow man?

in the U.S. than in any other nation on Earth. Yet, for all of the talk about religion, it seems that the greatest religious value in America is the value of tolerance, rather than the pursuit of truth.

The article noted: “More than three in four Americans believe all religions have at least some elements of truth—even though few say that they know much about religions other than their own. And nearly 70 percent think spiritual experiences are the most important part of religion. ‘If one’s religion is more about individual identity than doctrine or creed, it’s a lot easier to be tolerant,’ says Egon Mayer, a sociologist at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. [A recent Gallup

outlook: “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *having a form of godliness but denying its power*. And from such people turn away” (2 Timothy. 3:1–5)!

Yes, throughout the Western world we find a “form of godliness.” Like many of the English-speaking nations, the United States conducts itself as a “religious” nation, though favoring no one religion. But how do its citizens actually live

THE TRUTH THAT ALMOST NOBODY KNOWS! (continued from page 8)

be saved. They did **not** truly “repent” (Acts 2:38) of their wrong ways and **surrender** their lives to Christ and allow Him—through the Holy Spirit—to fashion and mold them and help them to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

God does **not** have a double standard! These countless **billions** of individuals deserve to have a **real** chance—and to be judged on what they do **after** they have known the Truth of God! Yet countless theologians and ministers—**deceived themselves**—try to imagine that God will somehow save many of our unrepentant friends and relatives, and multitudes from ages past, **without** them ever coming to **real repentance** and true **surrender** to the living Christ. These theologians *could not be more wrong!*

May God help *you*, however, to understand the truth about the “unsaved” **billions** of Buddhists, Shintoists, Muslims and others of this age and of ages past, who **never** had a real opportunity to accept Jesus Christ, and about all the additional **billions** of people from both the present and past who may only have known about a *false Christ* (2 Corinthians 11:4), but who never **really surrendered** to let the Christ of the Bible **rule** their lives!

No other explanation for this *religious dilemma* truly makes sense! And the answer has been in *your own Bible* all along. This is **not** talking about a “second chance.” Remember, we are only talking about a **genuine** opportunity to learn about and obey the Truth, which a *fair* and *just* God is going to reveal to these multitudes of peoples in His time.

With very few exceptions, *only* those in the true Church of God understand this awesome truth! As God’s word tells us: “A **good understanding** have all those who do His commandments” (Psalm 111:10). May God help you to begin to grasp the supreme **purpose** that God is working out here on Earth. Then you can better understand **why** professing “Christians” regularly lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, butcher each other by the thousands in various wars between professing Christian nations in Europe and elsewhere. And why even most modern churchgoers have precious little knowledge of the Bible in spite of Jesus’ command: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*” (Luke 4:4).

The genuine *truth* is that God is not now “calling” most people to real understanding and salva-

tion. But—unless they *knowingly* and *deliberately* reject God (Hebrews 10:26–27)—they will be given a **genuine** chance to *understand*, to really **repent** of their sins and to become truly “converted” in the Great White Throne Judgment.

If you would like even more information and biblical *proof* on this vital topic, please contact us and request your *free* copy of our fully documented booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* And, if you are interested, request a companion booklet—*Restoring Apostolic Christianity*—that will help you understand *why* and *how* professing Christianity has gone off the track and what *true* Christianity is all about.

In His word, the Eternal God tells us: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8–9). Often, God does work out His plans in a way we humans would never do. As we have seen, the Bible makes it very clear that God is **not** trying desperately to “save” all human beings *at this time*. Rather—after Christ’s thousand-year reign on Earth during the Millennium—a **magnificent** event will occur, when all who have ever lived and died without understanding God’s *purpose* and the real *Truth* will be resurrected and given a **genuine** opportunity to surrender their lives to God and so be qualified to become *full* sons of God and members of His eternal Kingdom. *That* is truly *Good News* to all of us who have loved ones who lived and died without ever truly understanding God and *His supreme purpose*. ☐

To Learn More...



Although many believe that their “unsaved” loved ones have gone to an eternal hell upon their death, the truth of the Bible is that the vast majority of humanity has not yet received its first opportunity for salvation. Please request our **FREE** booklet *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

WHO HAS THE ANSWERS? (continued from page 3)

ing as we see, coming about before our very eyes, the events that God predicted!

Truly *knowing* God, and having daily contact with Him, can enrich our lives more than we might imagine. In spite of the increasing turmoil in this world, Almighty God tells us: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the *peace of God*, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7).

If you really *know God* and learn to *put your trust* in Him, the horrifying events that will take place in the next five to 15 years will **not** disorient or dishearten you, for you will know—and **know that you know**—that the great Creator who gives us life and breath is definitely *in charge*. You will *believe* the Apostle Paul’s inspired statement: “And we know that all things work together for **good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). And you will understand Paul’s statement: “If God is for us *who* can be against us?” (v. 31).

The real Jesus Christ of the Bible is *not* dead! He is alive now—at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Acts 7:55). At this time, He and the Father are—to the extent necessary—intervening, guiding and orchestrating world events to fulfill their great Plan.

Jesus Christ specifically described the coming years at this “time of the end” as the most tumultuous time in earth’s history: “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). Christ instructs His true followers to be willing to **obey** Him and the Father: “**Why** do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ **and do not do the things which I say?**” (Luke 6:46).

By contrast, for those who are truly *surrendered* to God, Jesus has this wonderful word of encouragement: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. **Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things are fulfilled**” (Luke 21:28–32).

Somewhere on this earth are true servants of the living God. Jesus commissioned His true ministers: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). That means preaching the *true answers* found in His Word. God tells us through the prophet Amos: “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” (Amos 3:7–8). In His mercy, God has brought you into contact with His servants who are now doing His Work. Through His mercy, we in this Work do have the genuine “answers” to the big questions in life. We sincerely want to share them with you in every way we can. May God help you to understand and to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Robert C. Meredith



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Sydney: CTS-31—Ch 31, SUN 9:00 am
Perth: CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

—GUYANA

Georgetown: CNS TV—Ch 6, SUN 2:30 pm

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Bansalan: Bansalan Cable—Ch 31, SAT 10:00 am
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Naval, Leyte: Naval Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am
Nabunturan: Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am
Maasin City: Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SUN 9:00 am
Naval Biliran: Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am; SAT 9:00 am
Ormoc City: Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 8:30 am
Sogod: Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SAT 8:00 am

—TRINIDAD

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

UNITED STATES:

AL, Birmingham: Cable—Ch 4, WED 1:30 pm
AL, Birmingham: WOTM—Ch 19, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 7:00 pm;
AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 7:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, SUN 5:00 pm
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73, SAT 4:30 pm; SUN 11:30 am
CA, Anaheim: Adelphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Buena Park: Adelphia—Ch 55, SUN 5:00 pm
CA, Eureka: Cox—Ch 10, FRI 4:30 pm
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 11:30 am & 8:30 pm
CA, Los Angeles: KDOC—Ch 56, SAT 7:00 am
CA, Modesto: AT&T—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, Oceanside: KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm
CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 75, MON 5:30 pm
CA, San Andreas: MediaOne—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Access TV—Ch 29, THUR 6:30 pm
CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm
CA, Sonora: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Enfield: Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
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GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Hilo: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Honolulu: Olelo—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
HI, Kailua-Kona: Na Leo—Ch 14, SUN 12:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Kauai: Ho'ike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm
HI, Lanai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Maui: Akaku—Ch 44, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am
HI, Molokai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 9:30 pm; THUR 5:30 am

IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am
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ID, Pocatello: Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
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IL, Peoria: Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IN, Anderson: Insight—Ch 13 & 16, MON 6:30 pm; TUE 8:30 pm
IN, Lafayette: Insight—Ch 13 & 16, MON 8:30 pm; WED 8:30 pm
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KS, Parsons: Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm
KY, Paducah: Public Cable—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm
LA, Alexandria: WNTZ—Ch 48, SUN 7:00 am
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LA, Lafayette: KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am
LA, Monroe: Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am
MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Baltimore: TCI—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm; WED 4:00 pm
MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
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MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
MO, St. Charles: Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: Charter—Ch 3, THU 6:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 11, WED 4:00 pm; SUN 10:00 am
MS, Jackson: WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am
MT, Billings: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
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MT, Great Falls: Public Access TV—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm
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MT, Missoula: BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am
NC, Greensboro: GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 8:30 am; MON 6:30 pm
NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm
ND, Bismarck: CATV—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm
NE, Omaha: KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am
NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 71, SUN 6:00 pm
NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 26, MON 10:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 10:00 pm
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NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm
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NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:00 pm; TUE 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

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NY, Schenectady: Community TV—Ch 16, MON 8:30 am
NY, Utica: Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm
OH, Cambridge: AVC—Ch 2, MON 5:30 pm
OK, Oklahoma City: KOCO—Ch 5, SUN 7:00 am
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PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm
RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 am
TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: TCI—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRE—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm
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Argentina, Bahia Blanca: 101.3 FM, THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm
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Costa Rica, San Jose: 93.5 FM & 670 AM, SUN 5:00 pm
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Martinique: Radio Campêche—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am
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