



WILL YOU "PROVE ALL THINGS"?

It is amazing to realize how careful most people are when buying a home, for instance, as opposed to deciding which church to join. The house may just fit their need for a number of years. But being involved with the true religion of God has to do with where they will spend all eternity.

So where did you get your religion? How did you come to believe the things that you believe? Did you find your religious concepts in the Bible? Or did you get your religious ideas from family and friends?

Frankly, most of you did **not** get your religion out of the Bible. It may hurt to have to admit that. But it can easily be **proved** in the vast majority of cases.

It is very difficult for most people to admit they have been wrong. Human pride just does not want to do that. Yet, according to the inspired Word of God, that is the beginning point of true Christianity. When Jesus Christ began His ministry, He told His listeners over and over, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). And the Gospel of Mark tells us: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15). Again, Jesus later said, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

The word "repent" means to **change**. Yet, again, most people are **not willing** to admit they have been wrong and they certainly do not want to change! Are we like the man Sir Winston Churchill described, who "occasionally... stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened"?

Yet, if your eternal life is at stake, you would be very wise to consider whether you—however sincerely—have grown up in the wrong religion!

Am I indicting "Christianity" as the "wrong religion"? Of course not! But I want to make you aware of the fact that there is both false Christianity and

true Christianity. Many do not realize that. But the Bible itself makes it abundantly clear that the false form of Christianity would predominate until Christ's Second Coming. The beloved Apostle John described this very time in which we are living: "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 the Devil has palmed off on this deceived world a false Christianity!

The highly regarded modern philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, in his *Attack Upon Christendom*, wrote: "The Christianity of the New Testament simply does not exist. Millions of people through the centuries have little by little cheated God out of Christianity, and have succeeded in making Christianity exactly the opposite of what it is in the New Testament."

So each of us needs to **prove** what we believe by really studying the Bible. We need to drink out of the Bible what it says rather than reading our own pre-conceived ideas into the Bible.

Think for a moment. Why is professing Christianity divided into hundreds of competing denominations and sects? Why do churches calling themselves Christian have so many differing beliefs and practices? Could it be that God is the author of confusion? Or might there be another explanation?

Consider the warning Christ Himself gave: "For many shall come in my name, saying [that] I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:5, *KJV*). Jesus did not say here that only some few would come in His name, but rather that "many shall come"! They come as "Christian" preachers, proclaiming Jesus as the Christ—yet deceiving many! In other words, there was to be a mass deception based on the false teachings of the many who would claim to come "in Jesus' name."

Frankly, it is easy for religious teachers to appropriate the Son of God's name as a cloak for their personal

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THE WAGES OF SIN! By Roderick C. Meredith

The United States is enduring enormous suffering because it is turning away from the God of the Bible. A nation that once received unprecedented blessings from God now faces economic catastrophe, crime, war, disease—and even the looming threat of domestic terrorism. Why? And what will be the result?

merica is enduring enormous suffering because of false religion!

When the American Civil Liberties Union in Iuly 2009 sued to have the Ten Commandments removed from the Jackson County Courthouse in London, Kentucky, this was just the latest of many similar attacks on the God of the Bible—now almost routine in our modern American society.

In 2005, the United States Supreme Court ruled that such display is unconstitutional unless it has a "secular purpose" in a courtroom. But it remains legal to carry out the "secular purpose" of murdering tens of millions of unborn babies—often literally vacuumed out of their mothers' wombs-in what has rightly been called a "silent holocaust." Drug use is rampant in almost all sectors of our society. The AIDS epidemic continues to rage.

Meanwhile, Americans are facing the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Trillions of dollars of wealth have disappeared overnight, leaving families unable to pay their bills and thrusting countless thousands into newfound poverty. Once the "arsenal of democracy," respected around the world, the U.S. is increasingly dismissed by Asian and European powers whose own nations are rising toward the prominence the U.S. once held.

Why is all this happening?

It is happening because—as a nation—we have absolutely rejected the God of the Bible. The real God of the Bible, with whom most people are not familiar, does indeed intervene in world affairs to fulfill His purpose. *He* is the One who has given us the awesome blessings and power that America and its Western allies have shared for well over a century. He is the One who helped the U.S. win World Wars I and IIand indeed all its major wars for nearly 200 years!

The God of the Bible told our forefathers: "If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage

and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you" (vv. 14-17). This is certainly a dual

Americans are facing the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Trillions of dollars of wealth have disappeared overnight, leaving families unable to pay their bills and thrusting countless thousands into newfound poverty.

shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you" (Leviticus 26:3-7). For several generations, God has certainly fulfilled His promise to bestow blessings upon the American and British-descended peoples. But, today, the "handwriting is on the wall." The tide of world events is beginning to change—and change dramatically!

A few verses later in the above prophecy, the Creator said: "'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments,

prophecy that had an original fulfillment with ancient Israel. But it will have a modern fulfillment on our people in this present generation. Many of you will live to see this happen! And nearly all of us will see, over the next several years, the beginnings of this unfolding tragedy.

We will witness the beginning of God's intervention to chasten the American and British-descended peoples for our own good. For God said: "I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze" (Leviticus 26:19). If you do not yet know about our national identity in biblical prophecy, be sure to contact the regional office nearest you, listed on page 30 of this magazine, and request a free copy of our eye-opening booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy.*

God Is Consistent

In His inspired word, the Eternal tells us: "For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob" (Malachi 3:6). In His overall approach, God is consistent in His dealings with men and with nations. We are told in the New Testament book of Hebrews: "And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrews 12:5-6).

If God loves us, why would He powerfully "chastise" the American and British-descended peoples?

Why?

The real answer is that we are a nation of *hypocrites!* While we in America put "In God We Trust" on our coins, we are a people in constant rebellion against the laws and ways of that same God. Do millions of Americans attend church every Sunday? Yes! But, shocking as it may seem, that is part of the problem!

"How so?" you may ask.

It is part of the problem because the vast majority of churchgoers are never taught about the very way of life that would spare us from the severe chastisement soon to befall our peoples. As we saw above, God said that He would punish His people: "if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these *command-ments...*" (Leviticus 26:14).

And "here's the rub"—the vast majority of professing Christians are told that they do not have to "literally" keep the Ten Commandments! Yes, as little children they may be taught in Sunday School to memorize the "short

form" of the Ten Commandments, but their ministers consistently refuse to teach the Ten Commandments as a way of life—the very same commandments Jesus Christ personally taught. Those of you who can work up the courage to ask your minister: "Do

Christians really *need* to keep the Ten Commandments as a way of life?"—may be surprised at the answer. For the vast majority of ministers will answer—as they were taught in their seminaries—that the Ten Commandments "may" be good guidelines, but you *do not* really need to keep them!

Rather, these professing Christian ministers mostly avoid talking about the Ten Commandments at all. Some will teach that the Ten Commandments are the "Law of Moses"—not for us today—

or that the Ten Commandments were somehow "nailed to the cross of Christ," or "done away" by the Apostle Paul. These ministers have all kinds of miserable excuses as to why the Ten Commandments need not be literally kept today—though Jesus Christ taught His followers to keep them (see Matthew 5:17-19; Matthew 19:16-19; Luke 16:16-18). Jesus' own brother, the inspired Apostle James, wrote: "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:10-12). Certainly, the "law" that describes adultery and murder as sin is the Ten Commandments. James said that you and I will be "judged" by that law! What could be more clear than that?

Jesus' beloved Apostle John wrote: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). Yet a diabolically clever Satan the Devil has managed to twist the meaning of certain passages in the Bible in a way to contradict the



Bernard Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison after pleading guilty to 11 counts of fraud. © AFP/PHOTO/Timothy A. Clary

dozens of plain, clear scriptures telling God's people to obey the Ten Commandments as a way of life!

In his final letter at the very end of his ministry, the Apostle Peter warned us about unstable men who "twist to their own destruction" the writings of the Apostle Paul (2 Peter 3:16). He instructed those who knew the Truth that had been taught by Christ: "Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position" (2 Peter 3:17, NIV). Obviously, these "lawless men" were not merely teaching against the traffic laws. Peter was inspired by God to warn us against those false teachers-often themselves deceived by Satan-who would "twist" Paul's writings so as to supposedly "do away" with the Ten Commandments!

In Jesus' name—as His servant—I admonish all of you ministers and priests who are reading this

to wake up! You, too, can certainly be forgiven for your past ignorance. You, too, were probably "blinded" by the massive deception of Satan the Devil "who deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

The Wages of Sin Is Death

God tells us that "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Iesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Sin automatically brings sorrow, suffering and, eventually, the second death in the Lake of Fire, unless it is bitterly repented of (Revelation 21:8). As we read in 1 John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (KIV). For God's law—the Ten Commandments—is like the law of gravity. God's spiritual law "works" whether you believe in it or not!

Those who sin under the guise of religion should be especially ashamed! The profound sorrow in the voices and faces of those abused in their youth by Roman Catholic priests should tell us something. Such perverted, sinful acts bring about years or even decades of agony and suffering. How can those bishops and cardinals who "covered up" the foul deeds of perverted childmolesting priests sleep at night? They should consider the inspired warning of the Apostle Paul: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth" (1 Timothy 4:1, 3).

And we must not forget the thousands of top business executives, lawyers and accountants who—as callous sinners—thought they could "get away" with stealing billions of dollars through various deceptions. They will be called to account before long! Men like Bernard Madoff will not only answer to the courts of this nation, they will eventually be brought before the judgment of Almighty God!

For many of them have deliberately stolen the money and even the livelihood of their employees and investors in their companies. The Eternal God strongly condemns those who enrich themselves by taking advantage of others: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation" (Matthew 23:14).

Sin automatically brings suffering. Some of those who sought their temporary financial benefit through

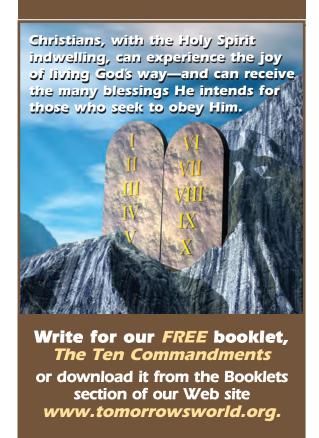
greed and deceit may even lose their homes and become unable to feed their families. Many will be unable to provide for their families' future. Even those who are "better off" may find their families having to "do without" for years to come. Their sons and daughters may not be able to go to the schools that they had planned to attend because "Daddy lost his job." Their little children may not be able to go to the summer camp that was planned, or get the new backyard swing set that had been promised. Families may have to do without their annual vacation trip because money is tight.

Even those who did not perpetrate the acts of greed will suffer because of those who did. Employees who lose their jobs because of the actions of corrupt executives may never trust their leaders again. For many families, their entire lives will be changed because of the corruption at the very top of American business. The hurt and disillusionment will last a lifetime. How can corrupt executives sleep at night, knowing the profound suffering their deceit and their actions have caused? God's word tells us: "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard" (Proverbs 13:15, KJV).

Disobedience Is the Cause of Human Suffering

In this article, we cannot even begin to recount the innumerable areas of sin and suffering in our pro-

The Ten Commandments



fessing "Christian" world. For we read almost daily of the unremitting sorrow caused by those who sell and those who use illegal drugs. And we read of those whose minds and bodies are weakened and debilitated because they drink too much alcohol, smoke cigarettes or allow their mind and spirit to be perverted by the rotten purveyors of pornography. Pornographers no doubt contribute greatly to heinous sexual crimes, and to causing a whole generation of young men to grow up with a cheap and demeaning view of womanhood!

Many executives of the major tobacco companies have been considered "pillars" in their local communities; they have sat on the boards of their local churches and surrounded themselves with the symbols of success and respectability. Yet many of these same men knew or have known for decades that their product often contributes directly to the excruciating suffering and the premature deaths of uncounted millions of human beings!

Do we still wonder why the great God of creation is beginning to "chasten" the American and British-descended peoples?

Although we have printed and produced more Bibles than any people in history, we continually break and smash the laws of God! Our religious, political and business leaders—along with our national sports and entertainment "idols"-have all contributed to a culture of deception and hypocrisy. We have claimed to be a "Christian" nation. But we have soundly rejected the clear teachings Jesus Christ gave in the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7).

Jesus said: "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Near the end of His famous "Sermon on the Mount," wherein He explains clearly that Christians

must obey the letter and the spirit of the Ten Commandments, Jesus stated: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:21-23).

There is a cause for every effect. The breaking of God's great

spiritual law is

the basic cause of all human suffering. Once we have that one fact straight, and live by it, the amount of human suffering will become minuscule!

For after the Great Tribulation, which Jesus Christ predicted—after mankind has been truly humbled and made "willing to listen"—the whole world will be taught to obey the Ten Commandments as a way of life. Notice Isaiah's inspired prophecy: "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach

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

The prophet Jeremiah was inspired by God to tell us: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts: and I will be their God, and they shall be My people"

(Jeremiah 31:33).

Through real conversion, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, God will actually put His spiritual law — the Ten Commandments into the hearts and minds of all His people. Then, in the coming millennial

rule of Jesus Christ, there will be a depth of peace and joy that this world has never experienced.

As Jeremiah wrote, God will "forgive their iniquity" (v. 34). The "wages of sin" will be removed. God tells His people what they will experience after they return from the Great Tribulation, when they learn to obey His law and to truly follow His way: "Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs" (Isaiah 61:7).

May the God of the Bible—the Creator who gives life and breath to us all-help you to seek and to find the true religion. And may He give you the faith and the courage to act on that Truth.

Questions & Answers

QUESTION: Jesus' death and resurrection lifted the veil between human beings and God the Father (Matthew 27:51; 2 Corinthians 3:14–16). Since we now have direct contact with the Father, unlike the ancients who only knew the God of the Old Testament—Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4)—why do we need to pray to Jesus? In fact, should we be praying to Christ at all, since He came to reveal the Father (John 14:7)?

ANSWER: It is surprising to see how many professing Christians almost totally ignore God the Father in their prayers. This is ironic, since Christ Himself in the "model prayer" taught His disciples to pray in the manner, "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9). Yes, Jesus Christ personally taught that a Christian's prayers should mainly be directed toward God the Father!

Even though Christ, as the Logos—the Word—had existed from eternity with God the Father (John 1:1–4), He deferred to His Father. To do His Father's will, He was willing to become flesh (John 1:14–15). Considering Himself the servant of His Father, He did not in any way seek to draw attention away from God the Father. Indeed, He considered Himself subordinate, telling the disciples, "My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28).

Jesus never resisted His Father's will. Knowing that He would soon be crucified, Christ prayed to His Father, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42). Indeed, Jesus was one in thought, attitude and purpose with His Father (John 10:22–39).

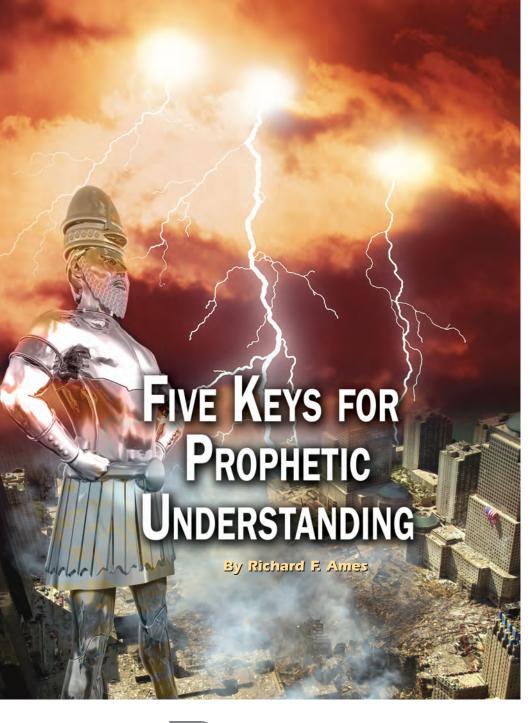
So, yes, we should follow Christ's words and example, and direct our prayers to God the Father. But when we pray to the Father, we must never forget that we can only do so by the authority of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

The Apostle Paul wrote of his hope that Christians' "hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2–3). Not only did our Savior teach us to pray to God the Father; He made those prayers possible. God the Father does not want us to avoid a loving, personal relationship with His beloved Son (Matthew 17:5).

Scripture gives us the example of the deacon Stephen—the first recorded martyr of the Apostolic Church. "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'" (Acts 7:59). Even at the very end of his life, while he was being murdered for his bold preaching, Stephen called out not to God the Father but to Jesus Christ, his Savior. Stephen knew that he had a profound relationship with both God the Father and with Jesus Christ.

Jesus accepted worship—the reverence of others—directed towards Him. When He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection, "they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him" (Matthew 28:9). Since His resurrection, the glorified Jesus Christ has sat at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 10:12; 1 Peter 3:21–22). As our High Priest and Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), He intercedes continually for Christians. As our High Priest and our Savior, He is worthy of worship, and of receiving our prayers. If we have a relationship with Christ, we will obey Him and pray to God the Father, but we will not forget that it is our relationship with Christ that allows us to know the Father (John 17:20–23).

No, it is not wrong to pray to Jesus Christ—but we should not dismiss Christ's instruction that we pray to His Father. We will please and honor Christ far more by obeying what He taught than by minimizing or ignoring His direct command that we pray first and foremost to His Father.



eople have always wanted to know the future, and they will often seek just about every possible source *except* the Bible. Large circulation newspapers often publish a horoscope. The idea is that your birth date somehow determines your characteristics and prophetic events at certain times of the year, and this is supposedly determined by the position of constellations in the heavens.

Others pay mediums to read a crystal ball, and sometimes try to communicate with the dead. Others read Tarot cards for prophetic interpretations. Millions of people look to séances, channeling, and astrology for power and insight. They dabble in the occult and seek answers from soothsayers and mystics. They even fellowship with witches, mediums, and sorcerers. Will all these reveal God's will for you? Of course not! God calls

these practices an abomination (Deuteronomy 18). There is a world of spirit deception. God tells us that Satan the devil has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He has deceived you and me. But God can help us see through the devices and deceptions of the devil.

Bible prophecy reveals the sequence of events in the endtime and the dangerous times ahead. Your Bible reveals that Armageddon and World War III lie on the horizon. The world faces terrorism, major famines, pestilence, and severe natural disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, and hurricanes. With war, sickness, suffering and pain all around us, many people are tempted to lose hope. But did you know that Bible prophecy reveals vital truths about the future of the world-and your own destiny? Beyond a soon-coming time of great tribulation lies a future time of world peace under the Kingdom of God. Your Bible reveals that the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, will return to teach all nations the way to peace. Under Christ's loving rule, in the prophesied time known as the Millennium, the world will prosper with clean air, clean water and sustainable agriculture.

We are living in the prophetic period of time that your Bible identifies as the end-time. When you come to understand the prophecies in your Bible, you will see that these are exciting times, leading up to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the establishment of His Kingdom on the earth!

Bible prophecy is exciting to many, but some Bible prophecies may seem hard to understand. The books of Daniel and Revelation feature various symbols and imagery. When ancient King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon dreamed of a mysterious statue made of different metals and clav. the prophet Daniel interpreted the dream's meaning (Daniel 2:1-45). The famous Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse symbolize devastation and deception (Revelation 6:1-8). The Beast of Revelation 13 rising up out of the sea has seven heads and ten horns. The Beast of Revelation 17, which rises out of a bottomless pit, also has seven heads and ten horns, but that Beast is ridden by a harlot. The Apostle John writes what he sees in vision: "And on her forehead a name was written: MYS-TERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Revelation 17:5).

How can we understand these mysterious symbols, and the many intricacies of Bible prophecy? In this article we will briefly consider five principles for understanding the prophecies in your Bible.

Key 1: Trust Scripture to Interpret Scripture

Where should you turn to learn the truth? Jesus, in His heartfelt prayer the night before He was crucified, prayed for His disciples: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). God's word, the Bible, is truth. It is the written word of God. If you want to understand the future God has planned for you and all humanity, you need to go to the Bible, not to soothsayers and mediums.

The book of Revelation contains symbolic language, giving a description of the glorified Messiah, the Son of Man, standing in the midst of seven lampstands. We read: "He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength" (Revelation 1:16). What do these stars and lampstands symbolize? We do not need to guess; the Bible itself tells us the meaning! "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches" (v. 20).

In Bible symbolism, stars are angels—and lampstands are firms Daniel's interpretation of the subsequent empires symbolized by the statue. That empire was replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire (558–330BC), represented by the chest and arms of silver. The belly and thighs of bronze represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great (333-31BC). The two legs of iron represent the Roman Empire (31BC to 476AD). Finally,

The world faces terrorism, major famines, pestilence, and severe natural disasters: earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, and hurricanes. With war, sickness, suffering and pain all around us, many people are tempted to lose hope.

churches. The writer of the book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse, continues in the next two chapters writing God's message and admonition to the seven churches in Asia Minor-modern-day Turkey. Of course, the Apostle John was writing this book near the end of the first century AD.

You are probably familiar with the account of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. prophet Daniel was called before King Nebuchadnezzar, and proceeded to describe the great image in the king's dream. "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces" (Daniel 2:31-34).

What did this statue symbolize? Daniel said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "You are this head of gold" (v. 38). History conthe ten toes on two feet of iron mixed with ceramic clay represent a future revival of the Roman

Daniel's prophecy revealed four historical world-ruling empires. History confirms that the predictions of these four empires did come to pass.

Key 2: Understand Prophetic Time Gaps

The Gospel of Luke records what happened when Jesus was visiting his home town of Nazareth and was invited to read from the scriptures on the Sabbath. "And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.' Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'" (Luke 4:17–21).

Jesus closed the book He was reading, right in the middle of a verse. He omitted the second part of the verse referring to the day of vengeance. Why? Because the remainder of Isaiah's prophecy applies to Jesus' second coming—when the Day of the Lord, the day of

God's vengeance and wrath takes place. Yes, there is a time gap of about 2,000 years between the fulfillment of the first part of the verse and the second part of the verse.

Another aspect of prophetic time gaps is the principle of "duality." Often in the Bible we find a former fulfillment of a prophecy, and a later, more climactic fulfillment of the prophecy. The principle of duality is

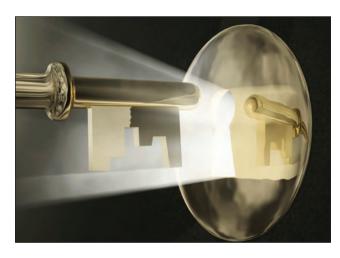
found throughout the Bible. For example, we read: "And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit" (1 Corinthians 15:45). Who was the last Adam? Scripture gives us the answer, "The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven" (v. 47). Yes, the second Adam was Jesus Christ.

Prophecy is often dual—and we ought to learn the lessons of history. The destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in 70AD was just a foreshadowing of the great tribulation that lies yet ahead.

Key 3: Find Modern Nations in Scripture

Where is the United States mentioned in the Bible? Or under what name can we locate it? Where can we find Great Britain in the Bible? Obviously the modern names do not appear, but the ancestors of these nations are prominently named in the Bible.

The Bible does mention such nations as Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia—and it may surprise you that Assyria will eventually be one of the prominent nations in the Millennium, along with Egypt and Israel (Isaiah 19:23–24). But which nation today is Assyria?



In our free reprint article, Resurgent Germany: A Fourth Reich?, Tomorrow's World writer Douglas S. Winnail explains: "Most modern historians hesitate or fail to make any connection between the disappearance of the Assyrians and the appearance of the Germanic tribes. But Germany's cultural history and character national resemble Assyria's like no other nation.... When the Bible speaks of Assyria in the end times, it is speaking of Germany. No other modern nation fits the description so completely." If you have not already done so, please write for your free copy of this important article.

You can begin to understand much more about end-time prophecy when you have the accurate knowledge of the modern descendants of ancient biblical nations. Our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, will

give you the historical and biblical information to identify the U.S. and other major nations in prophecy.

Key 4: Know God's Prophetic Framework

This is a major key for understanding Bible prophecy. This is a key that relatively few professing Christians know. There are many different ideas and scenarios regard-

ing Bible prophecy. You may have heard of postmillennialism and amillennialism. These teach wrongly that Jesus Christ will return after the prophesied Millennium, or that He will not return at all.

The truth is what is called pre-millennialism—the teaching that Christ will return to set up a literal kingdom here on earth for a literal period of a thousand years. The book of Revelation describes a peri-

od of 3½ years leading up to the return of Christ. The first five seals of Revelation, outlined in Revelation 6, cover a period of 2½ years—the Great Tribulation of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 24.

The sixth seal is the Heavenly Signs. The whole world will be put on notice when this event occurs. The Apostle John writes, "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place" (Revelation 6:12-14).

The whole world will be shocked and terrified. The world will then realize that the time of

God's judgment has come! The Heavenly Signs introduce the onevear prophetic time period known as the Day of the Lord. The famous Day of the Lord is mentioned in some 30 prophecies in your Bible. The Day of the Lord in end-time prophecy, the time preceding Christ's second coming, is a period of one year (Isaiah 34:8; 63:4), following the Great Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs.

This is the year of God's punishment on the nations. And it culminates with the announcement of Christ's return and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. That is the exciting good news of prophecy! "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall and ever!" reign forever (Revelation 11:15).

We should all look forward to the return of Christ. And we need to be spiritually preparing for that soon-coming event. As you can see, the Bible gives us an overall framework for prophecy. You need to understand that framework!

Key 5: Learn the **Purpose of Bible Prophecy**

There are many religious hobbyists who create wild ideas and misinterpretations of prophecy. What are the purposes of prophecy? Unger's Bible Dictionary gives this warning. "Prophecy is not intended to open the future to idle curiosity, but for the higher purpose of furnishing light to those whose faith needs confirming." Does your faith need confirming? "The revelation of future events may be needful in times of discouragement to awaken or sustain hope, to inspire confidence in the midst of general backsliding, and to warn of evil threatening the faithful. The predictions against Babylon, Tyre, Egypt, Nineveh, and other kingdoms, were delivered to the people of God to comfort them, by revealing to them the fate of their enemies" (Unger's Bible Dictionary, p. 892).

Understand that Bible prophecy also warns people and nations to repent, so they can avoid punishment. John the Baptist was baptizing massive crowds of people who were moved by his preaching. The Gospel writer Matthew describes what happened. "In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:1-2). Jesus Christ, of course, later preached that same message (Mark 1:14-15). What was the response to John's preaching? "Then Jerusalem, all

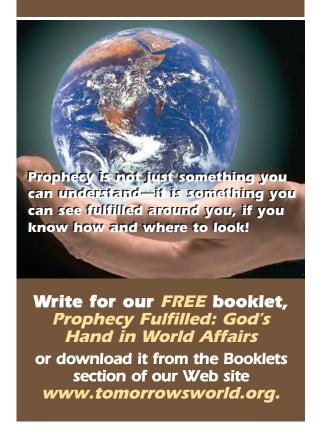
Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins" (Matthew 3:5-6).

Are you preparing for the Second Coming of Christ? Understanding the reality of Bible prophecy will help you prepare! On the day of Pentecost, in 31AD, the Apostle Peter exhorted the thousands in his audience to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Peter motivated the crowd to change their lives. He said, "'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three

thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:40-41). If God has brought you to the point of repentance and you understand the commitment of baptism, please do not hesitate to contact one of our representatives at the regional office nearest you, listed on page 30 of this magazine.

The Bible clearly outlines the judgment that will be upon the Western nations if we persist in our immoral, anti-God lifestyles. But if you understand Bible prophecy, you can be spared great suffering, and can experience God's blessings individually, even if your nation undergoes God's judgment. Prophecy reveals sobering end-time events just ahead, but it also reveals the good news of God's soon-coming kingdom. God speed that wonderful

Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs



LONDON CA

FRAGILE AS A ROCK?

Is Gibraltar an 18th century anachronism? Should the British simply hand over its six square kilometres of territory, which the Spanish claim is rightfully theirs?

Spain is once again challenging Great Britain's tenuous hold on the strategic Rock of Gibraltar—that tiny outcrop of limestone at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It has been a constant

source of irritation to the Spanish ever since the Treaty of Utrecht ceded it to the British in 1713 with the stipulation that the fortress and its town "were to be held and enjoyed forever without exception or impediment whatsoever."

Relations between Gibraltar and Spain have long been difficult. In 1969, Generalissimo Francisco Franco, ruler of Spain

from 1936 to 1975, had closed his nation's border to Gibraltarians. The socialist government that followed after Franco's death brought Spain into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and when in 1986 Spain joined the European Union, hopes again flared in Spain that a supranational authority might persuade Britain to hand back "the Rock."

In June 2009, the EU gave Spain additional rights to the waters around Gibraltar by declaring a new "environmental zone" to be maintained by Spain. But there is more. "Under EU law, a conservation site can only be declared by the sovereign state which owns the piece of land or sea in question. So by allowing Spain's request to include waters around Gibraltar, European bureaucrats have tacitly recognised its possession of British territory" ("Gibraltar Con Trick," The Daily Mail, June 1, 2009).

What few understand is that this squabble is not just a contest between Spanish covetousness and British intransigence. It is about a promise God made to Abraham and his descendants nearly 4,000 years ago.

Long-time *Tomorrow's World* readers know that Scripture reveals the people of the United States, along with the British-descended peoples, are modern-day descendants of of ancient Israel. The Bible shows that when Jacob (Israel) died, he passed on to Joseph—and Joseph's two sons Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:16, 20)—all

the blessings God had given him. These blessings were in addition to the blessings God had previously promised to Abraham and Isaac.

Scripture recounts a blessing God promised to these descendants, that "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of

the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gates of their enemies" (Genesis 22:17).

This promise was to be fulfilled in the "latter days"—near the end of the age just before Jesus Christ's return to earth. Though the promise was unconditional in its fulfilment, God placed conditions on Abraham's progeny if they were to retain the blessings. He warned that if they despised His statutes and abhorred His judgments, He would remove His benefits from them (Leviticus 26:14–17).

This is what we are now seeing, as Britain's global reach diminishes.

Sea Gates

At the height of its empire, Britain held the majority of the world's sea gates. Some historians have called these "choke points" where natural topographical and geological factors combine to create waterways, giving those who control them a strategic naval advantage.

Consider the Straits of Malacca, through which pass 80 percent of Japan's oil imports and 50,000 ships each year. Great Britain controlled

that waterway until it gave Singapore independence in 1965. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, decolonisation of its Empire meant that the oncepowerful British nation divested most of its sea gates. Here is a list of strategic territories that Britain gained, then lost.

1815-1948	Sri Lanka
1882-1956	Suez Canal (in Egypt)
1819-1965	Singapore
1839-1967	Aden
1795–1975	Simon's Town Naval Base
	(in South Africa)
1841-1997	Hong Kong

Great Britain still holds several sea gates. Along with Gibraltar, it controls the Falkland Islands (called the Malvinas by Argentina, which also claims them), and at a great cost in British lives and wealth defended that control in a 1982 war. Another less strategic possession is the island of Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, which Britain leases to the U.S. and which played a role during the two Gulf Wars.

The United States has also controlled several sea gates, including the Philippine naval base at Subic Bay (1899–1992) and the Panama Canal (1914–1999). With the loss of those gates comes a loss of international influence; not only has the Panama Canal been ceded to Panama, but this vital strategic resource is now being managed by a company from the People's Republic of China! What will this portend in the event of a military conflict?

What do world trends portend for the future British control of Gibraltar? In an age of nuclear weaponry, sea gates may seem redundant. But is this so? Most definitely not! Consider, for example, the recent conflict in South Ossetia. Within days of hostilities, U.S. Sixth Fleet ships had passed through the Bosporus to provide humanitarian relief to the Georgians, putting Russia on notice of America's interest in the matter. To do so, the ships had to pass through the straits of Gibraltar and the Bosporus. Today, Britain and Turkey respectively control those vital "choke points"—but things could change. As the European Union gains eco-

nomic and military clout, and the U.S. and Britain face cutbacks in military spending, it is only a matter of time before the combined European force calls on Britain to relinquish its Gibraltar naval base to a joint European command.

Ceuta

No, Spain will not gain exclusive control of Gibraltar, either, but it has interests to protect on the other side of the strait.

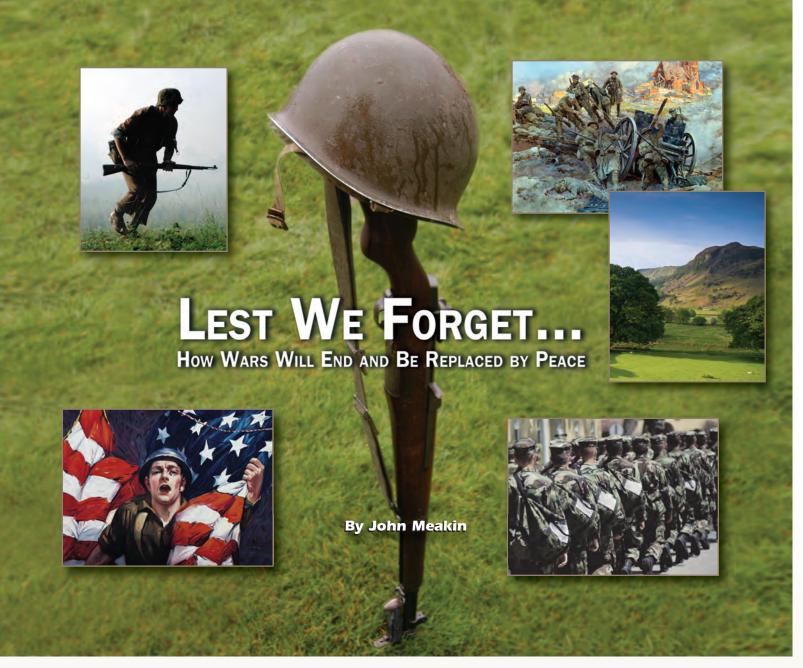
Spain's claim on Gibraltar takes on a different appearance when we examine the Spanish claim to the strategic North African port of Ceuta, which Spain has controlled since 1580, opposite Gibraltar to the south. The government of Morocco has argued that if Spain wins control of Gibraltar, Ceuta should be returned to Moroccan possession, so that Spain does not control both sides of the straits entering the Mediterranean Sea. Yet many inhabitants of Ceuta are of Spanish ancestry and speak the Spanish language. They do not want to become Moroccans, any more than English-speaking residents of Gibraltar want to become Spanish.

In a 1967 referendum, 12,138 residents of Gibraltar indicated their preference to remain a British territory; just 44 wanted to return to Spanish control. In 2002, 98.97 percent of Gibraltar's residents voted to reject joint sovereignty with Spain.

What will come of Gibraltar as British naval power wanes? Consider the old Gibraltarian legend that as long as there is a colony of Barbary Macaques on the Rock, it will remain British. In 1942, upon learning that the macaque population had dwindled to just a few, Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered that some Moroccan macaques be brought to replenish Gibraltar's stock. Today, there are just 230 of these monkeys on the Rock. Will they leave, or will they die out?

God knows the answer to this question. If you would like to know more about the future of the U.S. and British-descended nations, request your free copy of our vital booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

-Rod King



rivate Harry Patch was the oldest man in the U.K. when he died at age 111 on July 24, 2009. More than that, he was Britain's last surviving soldier who had endured the horrors of trench warfare during World War I.

You might not know who he was, but his death was significant, especially in the United Kingdom. The Queen and an entire nation mourned his death. Prince Charles, Prime Minister Gordon Brown and many others paid tribute to Harry as a preeminent example of the sacrifice, courage, fortitude and sense of duty that characterized his generation in pursuit of freedom and liberty. Many went on to highlight the importance of sacrifice, in defending the lasting values and freedoms epitomized by Private Patch and many like him during the war years.

Harry was a teenage "Tommy" in WWI and served in the British army in the trenches of northern France. With his death at age 111, The U.K.'s *last surviving connection* with the First World War has ended. That is really rather important. It means there is no one left who can describe *firsthand* through personal experience what really took place—what it was really like, what we might learn from it all.

For most of his life, Harry determined that he would never discuss what he had experienced during the war. Yet at age 100 he was persuaded to end that silence—and he became a vocal and iconic spokesman on the futility of war. He used his celebrity status to encourage gratitude and respect for those who served on all sides in the conduct of war. But he was most passionate in pleading for disputes to be settled by means other than violence and war.

A Century of War

Around the time of the First World War, the nature of war itself was dramatically changing. Technological

and scientific advancements were ensuring that the killing of fellow human beings could be prosecuted on a truly industrial scale. In his first speech as a Member of Parliament in 1901, a 26-year-old Winston Churchill, fresh from his experiences of war in South Africa, warned of this trend: "We must not regard war with a Modern Power as a kind of game in which we may take a hand, and with good luck and good management may play adroitly for an evening and come safe home with our winnings."

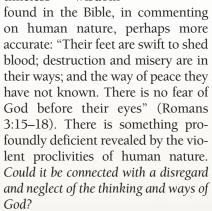
Churchill presciently described the wars he saw coming over the horizon. "A European war cannot be anything but a cruel heartrending struggle, which, if we are ever to enjoy the bitter fruits of victory, must demand perhaps for several years, the whole manhood of the nation, the entire suspension of peaceful industries, and the concentrating to one end of every vital energy in the community" (A History of the Twentieth Century, Vol. 1 by Martin Gilbert, p. 51). Churchill saw war, even miniature ones in the guise of minor conflicts, as hideous and appalling. Who could have foreseen that just 13 years hence the entire world would be plunged into a vicious and bloody conflagration that would cost millions of lives?

But this "war to end all wars" as it became known, failed to end war! In time we renamed it World War I—because another even more horrific world war would soon follow. The flower of an entire generation had been lost in the killing fields of northern Europe. Yet the revulsion felt by so many towards the sheer horror and tragic waste of human life did not end war. As a young diplomat observed to President Woodrow Wilson, recognizing the disastrous consequence of war reparations set in 1919 by the Paris Peace Conference at Versailles, "Our government has consented now to deliver the suffering peoples of the world to new

oppressions, subjections and dismemberments—a new century of war" (The Great Influenza, by John M. Barry, p. 388, emphasis ours).

Was it really that much of a surprise that the 20th century turned

out just as predicted? It began with war and it ended with war. "No year passed without soldiers and civilians being killed in war, or struggling to recover from its ravages" (Gilbert, p. 2). Why should the 21st century be any different? Has mankind perhaps finally learned the lessons of war, as Harry Patch wanted-to resolve our differences some other way than by violence? Or is the timeless wisdom

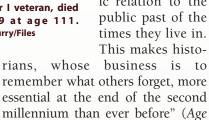


Why Remember the Past?

Why is the death of a man like Harry Patch of such importance? When the last living connection with events in the past is severed, something irrevocable is lost. Inevitably, memories fade and with them the reality of those past events. It is left to the historians to chronicle such events. As a result, theirs is an important and vital role.

The job of historians is to accurately assemble the facts and reflect upon the meaning of past events so future generations can remember. But the problem is that we live in a generation that lives almost entirely in the delights, pleasures and preoccupations of the present, and is largely unconcerned about the past.

> Consider this perspective from one such famous historian, Eric Hobsbawm: "The destruction of the past... is one of the most characteristic and eerie phenomena of the late twentieth century. Most young men and women at the century's end grow up in a sort of perpresent manent lacking any organic relation to the



of Extremes, p. 3).

Today, there is a kind of collective amnesia of the present generation that is truly discouraging and deeply concerning. After all, as the Spanish-born philosopher, George Santayana, observed, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (The Life Of Reason, vol. 1). If we do not confront and deal with the violent proclivities of human nature, then we are doomed. Especially in a world where the destructive potential of war seems to increase exponentially.

We must never forget the futility and destructiveness of war or the lessons we should learn from it. As an example, consider the Nazi holocaust of the Second World War. Some debate whether such a monumental horror could ever be repeated. Others, appallingly, now deny it ever took place. It was so terrible, so dreadful, and so utterly



Private Harry Patch, Britain's last surviving World War I veteran, died on July 24, 2009 at age 111. ©AFP/PHOTO/Shaun Curry/Files

unimaginable that it has scarred entire generations that came afterward. For some, it has become easier and more convenient to forget, and to convince themselves that it never happened.

Sometimes a nation finds itself so troubled by its own past that its leaders erase history even from school lessons, in favor of stories more palatable. Ask a typical Japanese schoolchild and a typical Chinese schoolchild about Japan's 1931 invasion of Manchuria, and you will hear two very different "historical" accounts of what transpired.

This is one reason why General Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander-

horror of it all. And so it has been. Eisenhower was determined to do his part never to let that happen.

One of the lessons of war enshrined in the passing of Harry Patch is that we should take the time to learn about the events of history so we never forget and never deny what took place—whether out of horror, revulsion—or any other reason!

More Than a History Book!

Which brings us to the history book par excellence—already referred to—the Holy Bible. Unlike other books of history, its authority, its scope, depth and range of experi-

"Repay no one evil for evil... live peaceably with all men... do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17–21).

in-chief of Allied forces during WWII, insisted that the horror of the Nazi death camps be filmed in great detail for future generations. Germany, and German-occupied Poland, had been the site of atrocities hard for many to believe. Seventy years after Germany invaded Poland, marking the start of World War II (see "Poland and the Legacy of World War II" on page 22 of this issue), the shattering effect of those years still lingers.

Well-aware of the human capacity for denial, Eisenhower insisted that residents of the surrounding towns and cities be brought to the death camps, to smell the stench and see for themselves the shocking reality of what the Nazi regime had perpetrated. Had he not done so, many would have remained unaware of the truth. Eisenhower appreciated that future generations might be tempted to blot out of their collective memories the sheer unfathomable

ence and advice is unprecedented. Why do so many people pay such little attention to it today? In an increasingly Godless age, it has become fashionable to ignore and even to forget what God's word has to say.

But the Bible presents us with much more than history. It claims to be inspired directly by God—Godbreathed (2 Timothy 3:16)—and profitable in every way. It is God's timeless message of wisdom to mankind across the entire panoply of human experience. Its message is invaluable. We should relearn its importance and pay more attention to its message.

For example, while we are on the subject of war, it provides us with a simple understanding of the *causes of war*: "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not

have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:1–3).

We cannot escape this observation that war and violence are integral to selfish human nature, which all-too-often resorts to some form of violence to get what it wants. At the same time we refuse to countenance the commandments and priorities of a loving God, who commands that we not resolve our differences through violence. "Repay no one evil for evil... live peaceably with all men... do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

Many of us apply this advice, as best as we can, in our close personal relationships. The greater challenge is to find ways to apply this advice to all our other relationships as well. How can these principles be applied to prevent nation rising up against nation—even to preventing conflict that could bring our entire civilization to its knees—or worse?

As Harry Patch felt so strongly, there has to be another way. And there is—if we are willing to live our lives in harmony with what God asks of us.

But there is yet more. Remarkably, the Bible also records what we might call history in advance. It is called prophecy-God's predictive eve view of the future. God sets out in the Bible an outline of the way world events will transpire. It is not a pretty picture. The Bible chronicles the end result of human nature—a war to truly end all wars: "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" (Matthew 24:21-22).

Christ's words ultimately refer to a time of trouble that will tran-

(Continued on page 29)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I want to thank very much Mr. Richard Ames for his article, "Prayer: Our Lifeline to God" (Tomorrow's World, May-June 2009). I have read it many times and have photocopied it for a friend of mine. Each time I read it, I feel closer to the Lord and I want to improve my prayer life so that I will experience the joy of the Lord as well as sense His presence in my life. I love to receive all your literature and have also enjoyed the booklet Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer. Thank you so much.

D. S., Toronto, ON, Canada

I discovered your magazine in my optometrist's mail, and it struck me with the article "The Truth That Almost No One Knows" (Tomorrow's World, July-August 2008). I have had so many questions about what happens after death and it really put my mind at ease. I was raised in churches where I was taught to fear God and to fear everything that is happening in the world. Fear death, fear God, fear hell, fear all. I felt like I became a Christian solely out of fear. Your articles I have read have made me feel so much more at ease with my life. Thank you for showing me that there is a loving side to God and that as much as He should be feared like a parent, there is the side of justice and love. God bless all of you in your works. You have made such a positive difference in my life and I am eternally grateful for the insight!

B. G., Gautier, MS

I want you to cancel my subscription to the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I picked it up this past weekend and read your article in the March-April 2009 issue "The Problem of Biblical Illiteracy." I feel sorry for you when Christ returns and you get the biggest surprise of your life. What makes you so sure you have interpreted the Bible correctly? God has not given any one man or group of men the exact answers to the way the end times will play out, so be very careful. You are judging other Christian ministers as misleading and confusing people. Shame on you!

J. J., Anoka, MN

Since reading the booklets I received both by mail and on the Web, I have changed my view on the rapture and second coming. Thank you for helping me understand Jesus Christ's second coming. Your telecast, ministry and outreach is a true blessing to our living Savior!

L. B., Murfreesboro, TN

Praise and glory be to the Lord God Almighty! Thanks go to the *Tomorrow's World* team who have dedicated their lives to preach and send God's word to the far ends of this planet. You are a blessing to we who receive your literature. Don't stop, because we are now up-to-date with world conditions and Bible prophecies that we are now seeing fulfilled. Thanks and God bless you all for the work you are doing!

J. J., Kasese, Uganda

I have just submitted my answers for the last lesson of the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. I have loved it! I have learned so much from this series and particularly the last four lessons. They brought everything together. I really have appreciated this service and would highly recommend it to anyone, no matter how long or how little you have been a Christian. I am 63, but I didn't get to know Jesus this deeply until I took this course. The magazine and books are also wonderful. Thank you and God bless you as you continue this important work.

P. K., Blanche, NS, Canada

I really appreciate all what you have been doing to enlighten us to know more about God and His Word and God in His abundance will multiply you. The article titled "Papal Primacy" (Tomorrow's World, March-April 2009) really confirmed my observation as far as the Roman church is concerned. Thanks for the eye-opener article; I hope God will open the eyes of many who have been blinded to know the real God. Thank you very much for a job well done.

I. O., Bergamo, Italy

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

WATCHANDW

The Stirrings of Kings...

Are peace and prosperity in our future, or should we expect continued violence and suffering? Will world leaders, or the great national or religious powers, broker lasting peace? Or, will ethnic and national hatred

continue to spawn war, rape, new power blocs, and all types of violence around the world?

Can we even now see *three major end-time powers* taking shape: the economically and militarily mighty *king of the North*, influenced by a great, false religious system (Revelation 13:11–14; 19:20); the *king of the South*; and the great eastern powers, or *kings from the east* (Daniel 11:40, Revelation 16:10–12)?

What does escalating violence **2009. ©AFP/PHOTO** have to do with the rise of these three mighty end-time powers? And what is prophesied for the United States and British-descended powers during this time?

President Obama Takes a Stand

World leaders—ranging from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to U.S. President Barack Obama—have spoken out against violence and crimes against humanity.

Marking the 15th anniversary of Rwanda's horrific genocide, where "more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were shot, clubbed and hacked to death in some 100 days by extremist Hutu militias," President Obama said the grisly statistics were so overwhelming that they risked losing their meaning. Furthermore, he stated that the world powers should "never let such atrocities happen again" (*Daily Telegraph*, April 8, 2009).

Two months later, President Obama visited the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. In a thinly veiled attack on Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he strongly chastened Holocaust deniers as "ignorant and hateful" (*Daily Telegraph*, June 5, 2009).

Bet even as we remember these past horrors, the prospect of greater violence and war grows. Iran and North Korea persistently develop their nuclear-weapons programs. Meanwhile, Iranian President Ahmadinejad repeat-

edly calls for Israel's annihilation, while claims of "medieval torture" of arrested political demonstrators further discredit Iran's government (BBC News, August 2, 2009).

In Iraq, the UN Refugee Agency reported on June 5, 2009 that more than 4.7 million Iraqis have fled their homes, many in dire need of humanitarian care. In Sudan's Darfur region, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, hundreds of thousands have been killed, and more than 500,000 have fled ethnic

violence. And in China, "ethnic violence—the worst to hit the country in decades" between Han and Uighur Chinese, is responsible for claims of thousands jailed, missing, beaten and killed (Associated Press, August 2, 2009).

Not even beautiful Sri Lanka has escaped ethnic war. This displaced nearly 300,000 people and drove many into refugee camps which UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon soberly noted were "the most appalling scenes I have seen" (*CNN*, May 26, 2009).

Even in the United States, the cities have become killing grounds. The FBI reports approximately 1,500,000 violent crimes per year, including nearly 17,000 murders, and more than 90,400 forcible rapes ("Crime in the United States," U.S. Department of Justice report). Additionally, *hate crimes* are on the rise.

For example, Chicago averaged more than one child murdered *per week* for the first half of 2009, with many of the fatalities the clear victims of *ethnic hatred*. These sad statistics are painfully illustrated by the case of a 15-year-old Chicago boy who was stabbed, beaten, burned, and shot to death earlier this year. And, what



U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel toured the former Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald on June 5, 2009. ©AFP/PHOTO



was his offense? The alleged motive was simply his *ethnicity* (*Chicago Tribune*, May 4, 2009).

Will future presidents and kings bring lasting peace? Or, are events moving rapidly toward escalating and worldwide violence? Jesus Christ warned of endtime ethnic and regional violence: "Nation [Greek ethnos, meaning "ethnic group"] will rise against nation [ethnos], and kingdom against kingdom" (Luke 21:10–28). This is to be followed by earthquakes, famines and pestilences. These are events typified by the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Then, the Great Tribulation will come upon modern Jacob, culminating in the dreadful Day of the Lord.

Despite world leaders' objections, *ethnic* and *national* violence continues to increase exactly as Jesus foretold. And contrary to hopes of peace, *warring* kings will temporarily devastate the earth at the end of this age.

End-Time Power Blocs

Continued economic calamity will combine with powerful ethnic, political and religious movements to create unprecedented civil stress. These increasing pressures will eventually shatter the once strong bond between two brother nations: Ephraim (the United Kingdom) and Manasseh (the United States). Additionally, they will be against Israel. The unprecedented U.S. pressure on Israel to accept a Palestinian state is one such example of Isaiah 9:21 and other prophecies beginning to unfold.

Daniel 11:25–27 shows the king of the North (a German-led Europe) and the king of the South entering into an uneasy alliance. With Ahmadinejad's recent blustering, some have wondered if Iran could be the king of the South, but that would be false. Iran is east; not "south," of Jerusalem. And, Iranians are *Persian*; not Arabic. God's Church has long understood that Daniel, Revelation, Psalm 83 and other scriptures foretell a Muslim-Arab confederation and king located *south* of Jerusalem that will be one of these three end-time power blocks.

This alliance will be quickly broken when the king of the South attacks the king of the North only to suffer a devastating loss when the northern power retaliates with overwhelming force (Daniel 11:40). Daniel 11:44 shows that the great eastern powers (kings) will also become embroiled in this end-time world war. Isaiah 10:5–6 and elsewhere show that, a German-led Europe will be the tool of God's wrath, used to brutally punish the United States, Britain and their allies. War and terror is coming as horrific as Buchenwald, Rwanda, Iraq or Darfur, but on a much larger scale (Ezekiel 33:6; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 3:10).

By the time these end-time kings are in full strength, the sad reality is that despite temporary economic gains or promises from the UN Secretary General, the U.S. President, or other political or religious leaders, a grim future will have consumed ancient Jacob's descendants (the United States and British-descended nations). Several passages record that, immediately before Christ's return, *because of rebellion against God's laws*, the modern descendants of ancient Jacob will have become completely economically and militarily broken (Deuteronomy 28:47–48; 30:1–3; Ezekiel 5:12; 34:28–30; Jeremiah 31:1–4).

The status of modern Jacob will be truly pitiful by the time of Christ's return. But, thankfully, Christ *will* return as the *real* King of kings (Matthew 24:5–22, Luke 21:9–27).

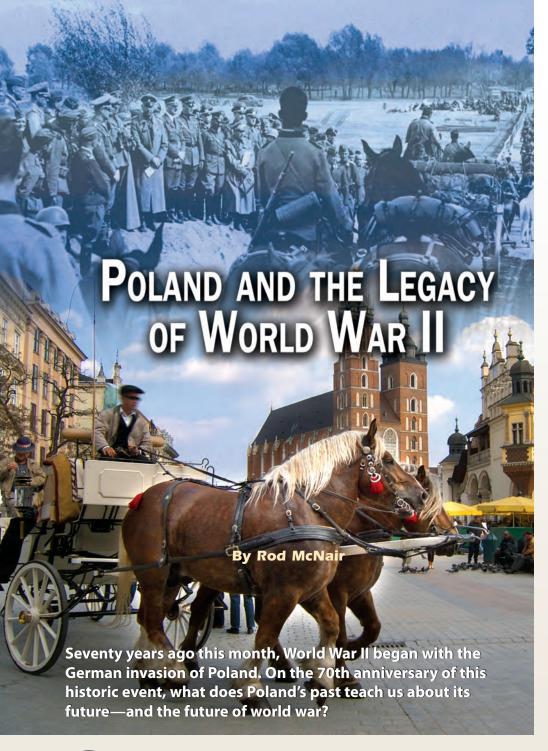
There Is Hope!

God's faithful Church is commissioned to *warn* the world about these coming times (Ezekiel 33:6–7), to preach *repentance*, and to proclaim the *good news* of the coming Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15, 13:10).

Sadly, most will reject these warnings (Micah 7:4). Some will believe but fail to dedicate themselves to *supporting* God's work of preaching the Gospel as *active*, *prayerful members* of God's organized Church (Ephesians 4:11–13). Instead of learning to work humbly *with* and *in* God's Church *now*, some will remain "on the sidelines," because their "love" has "grown cold" (Matthew 24:12–14; Revelation 3:16).

There is a *great work* still to be done. The laborers are few (Matthew 9:37–38), but Matthew 25:21 shows that the reward is great! With God's help, we can become those zealous servants—*doing* His work—in whom Christ will be well pleased at His return!

—Wyatt Ciesielka



eptember 1, 2009 marks a somber anniversary for the nation of Poland. It was on that day in 1939—70 years ago—that German troops crossed the Polish border, setting in motion a series of events that would soon plunge Europe and the whole world into the most horrific war in history. Why did it happen? And what does it portend for the future? Does the Bible give us clues as to the future of Poland, Europe, and Russia in the coming years? The surprising—and sobering—answer is: Yes!

Plot to Destroy a People

Before September 1939, Adolf Hitler had told the Polish government and the world that Nazi Germany only wanted *lebensraum* ("living space") and sought merely to "liberate" Germans in a Polish "corridor" adjacent to Germany. But the

real truth was that Hitler had planned to invade Poland all along. On August 22, ten days before the invasion, Hitler outlined his policy on Poland to the Wehrmacht leadership, instructing them to kill "without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of Polish descent or language" (Forgotten Holocaust: The Poles Under German Occupation, p. 3). Hitler said, "The destruction of Poland is our primary task. The aim is not the arrival at a certain line but the annihilation of living forces... Be merciless! Be brutal... It is necessary to proceed with maximum severity... The war is to be a war of annihilation" (ibid., p. 4).

So began a horrifying nightmare for Poles and Poland, as the German war machine swarmed in on several fronts. Civilian targets were attacked with the same ferocity as military objectives. Peasants working in the field were viciously strafed by the Luftwaffe, hospitals and sanitariums were incinerated, and highway traffic was shot at to create confusion and terror as Nazi Germany waged a war not just to conquer Poland but to destroy it as a nation.

During that devastating September, Poland was not only ravaged by Nazi Germany but also by its eastern neighbor, Russia. On August 23, just nine days before the invasion, German and Russian foreign ministers signed a treaty of non-aggression, and the two newly aligned nations also signed an infamous secret protocol agreeing to the partition of defeated Poland into German and Russian zones. When

Russia attacked Poland on September 17, the nation had to fight on two fronts to defend itself.

And the situation would only grow worse for Poland. Not only was the nation attacked from enemies on both borders-it would soon be betrayed by its avowed friends in the West.

Betrayed by "Allies"

Polish forces fought desperately, hoping to buy time until assured assistance came from France and Britain. Both France and Britain declared war on Germany on September 3, two days after the invasion. But although France had committed to launching a major offensive within 15 days of Germany's attack, it did not happen. Historian Andrew Hempel wrote: "While the Polish army fought alone, ninety-two French divisions stood idle behind the Maginot Line facing thirty-five third-grade German divisions" (Poland in World War II: An Illustrated Military History, p. 23). The murderous treachery of Germany and Russia had been compounded by the Allies' duplicitous betrayal of Poland.

Despite unfulfilled promises from the West, and while sustaining vicious attacks on two fronts, the Polish army still managed to inflict significant damage on the invaders.

But was 1939 the first time that Poland suffered from aggressive, belligerent neighbors? No. Poland is justifiably suspicious about its neighbors today, and not just because of what happened 70 years ago. The story begins centuries before that. In the 15th century, the kingdom of Poland was a prominent and powerful state, but by the 1700s it suffered under aggression by the same neighbors that attacked it in 1939: Russia, Prussia,

and Austria. "In three successive territory seizures in 1772, 1793 and 1795, the three neighbors erased Poland from the maps of Europe..." (Hempel, p. 2). The suffering continued into the 19th century, as uprisings against Russia in 1830 and 1863 ended in defeat and thousands of Poles were exiled to Siberia (*ibid.*, pp. 2–4).

When World War I ended, Poland emerged as a free and independent nation for the first time in 123 years (ibid., pp. 4-5). But its relative peace and prosperity ended catastrophically in 1939. Even when World War II ended after five

Germany in the 1930s was only the sixth in a succession of resurrections of the European Holy Roman Empire. It also shows there is yet one more to come.

Where do we find these prophecies? From the book of Daniel, we learn that God foretold the coming of four world-ruling empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (Daniel 7:3-7). The Apostle John then spoke of the end-time resurrections of the Roman empire—a beast that "was, and is not, and yet is". (For more information, please request our free booklet, The Beast of Revelation:

Poland's history gives us insight into what the Poles are facing today. Poland is a small but burgeoning country desperately seeking assurance that the horrors of its past will never be repeated. But will it and the rest of free **Europe succeed?**

years of horror for the Poles, their suffering continued under Soviet rule. In spite of its service to the Allied cause, Poland was given over to the Soviet sphere of influence, rewarded with the iron fist of Communism. The Soviet Union quickly clamped down on Poland (and the rest of Eastern Europe), not loosening its grip until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

Poland's history gives us insight into what the Poles are facing today. Poland is a small but burgeoning country desperately seeking assurance that the horrors of its past will never be repeated. But will it and the rest of free Europe succeed? Will Germany-and Russia—rise again as belligerent world military powers?

A Coming Empire

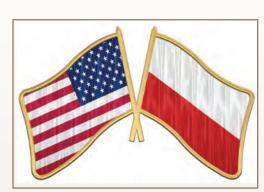
Poland is right to distrust its European neighbors. Bible prophecy shows that the rise of Nazi Myth, Metaphor, or Soon-Coming Reality?).

Though the Roman Empire fell in 476AD, it was restored and reborn under Justinian in 554, with the help of the church in Rome. This church is the harlot "woman sitting on the scarlet beast," which sits on seven mountains, as described in Revelation 17:3, 9. Further revivals of the Holy Roman Empire followed Justinian: Charlemagne in 800AD, Otto the Great in 962AD, and Charles V of the Hapsburg dynasty, in 1530AD The fifth revival was the empire Napoleon Bonaparte established in 1804-1814. The sixth was the menacing Axis power that devastated Poland and much of Europe.

But that leaves one more European dictator to come—the seventh. "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time" (Revelation 17:10). This final

revival of the Roman beast—a coming European mega-power—will be a group of ten major nations, all giving their allegiance and power to one "king" (vv. 12–13). Poland is right to be wary of a resurgent Germany, as it—and other countries in Europe—face being swallowed up by that system. Poland itself may become one of the ten

"kings" from the eastern leg of the e m p i r e (Daniel 2:33), coerced or even deceived by a powerful, charismatic Hitler-like European leader to sub-



mit to this Empire, or face the same deadly consequences as September 1, 1939.

But that is not all. Bible prophecy also indicates another powerful army will arise in the East-most likely including Russia—that will compete with Europe for dominance of the world. The prophet Daniel predicts a great war between these two giants. After the European "king" establishes control of Jerusalem, notice what will happen next: "...news from the east and the north shall trouble him [the king of the North]; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many" (Daniel 11:44). A 200-millionstrong monolith from the East will confront the German-led European power, most likely including an exchange of powerful nuclear weapons. This onslaught will cause great suffering around the globe to combatant and noncombatant nations alike. Billions of people will be killed-one-third of the globe's population according to the Bible in this battle described as the "second woe" of Revelation 9. Jesus said that except for His intervention, this horrific war would erase all life on earth (Matthew 24:22).

America: Poland's New Best Friend?

As Poland is wary of the war-like tendencies of both Germany and Russia, it has actively sought a

new, powerful ally since
t h e
end of the
Cold War.
On March of
1990, only
months after
the fall of
Communist
r u l e i n
Poland, the

newly freed nation began its drive for membership in NATO. In 1997, it was officially invited to begin the process towards NATO membership.

In August of 2008, Poland and the United States signed preliminary agreements to build a defense system of ten ballistic missile sites in Poland. America's stated reason for installing these interceptor missiles is to protect itself from attacks from Iran and North Korea. In return, Poland obtained the promise of short-range Patriot missiles for its own air defense, and the assurance that the U.S. would come to Poland's assistance in case of an attack. The plan has angered the Russians, who have threatened to install their own missiles near Poland's border ("Russia to station missiles near Poland," Reuters, November 5, 2008). But it has also annoyed Germany because Poland did not consult the EU.

Why does Poland today have such a strong desire to position itself with the U.S., even against angry opposition by its neighbors? The key is remembering Poland's past. Poland's memory of its treat-

ment by belligerent neighbors for centuries is only too vivid and raw. But can Poland really ensure its safety and protection by aligning itself with America? Political alliances can shift. The Obama administration has already placed missile defense systems in Poland on a lower priority than other pressing concerns in Iran and Afghanistan-and may make concessions to the Russians in response for Russian help in the Middle East. Poland has already warily sensed the shift, and has tried to hedge its political bets by improving relations with Russia.

But even if Poland and the U.S. develop further security ties, will that save Poland? Will that ensure there is never another attack like September 1, 1939? Can Poland depend on the commitments and military alliances it is making with the Western powers? *Can it trust in America?*

The long-term answer is: "No!" Bible prophecy explains that the power and prestige of the U.S.—and the other Western nations—will at first falter, and then collapse altogether, as a result of its national sins. Inevitably, the time will come when the U.S. and other Western nations will not be able to defend Poland and other Eastern European countries. Why? Because they will not be able to defend themselves.

Danger Ahead

The God of the Bible forewarns that modern Israel—made up of the modern English-speaking and Western European nations, including the U.S.—will be *overtaken* by this European Beast power (for more information on the identity of modern Israelite nations, please request our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*). The prophet Ezekiel was instructed to warn Israel of a coming captivity—long after the

Assyrian captivity had taken place. This could only signal that there is a coming dual application yet to occur-and Bible prophecy indeed shows that this time is yet ahead.

Why will this prophesied calamity come? Because of modern Israel's refusal to repent of rebellion and disobedience towards God. "Then He said to me: 'Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them... But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted" (Ezekiel 3:4, 7). Because of our nations' sins, our national prosperity and military dominance is going to come to an abrupt end. God will use Poland's long-time foe, the ancient nation of Assyria (modern Germany), to humble the modern descendants of Israel through warfare and captivity (Isaiah 10:5-6). Only after a time of trouble unlike any the world has ever seen will the Israelite nations return from captivity, weeping and sorrowing for their sins (Jeremiah 30). God warns the American and British-descended peoples to repent of their backsliding ways and return to God! As the prophet Jeremiah recorded, God says, "I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you... Because My people have forgotten Me" (Jeremiah 18:11, 15).

Western nations have enjoyed prosperity and military dominance in the 20th century because of God's promises to Abraham—not because of any supposed goodness or strength. But God is taking those blessings away. Moses warned ancient Israel, "How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had surrendered them?" (Deuteronomy 32:30). Modern Israelite nations increasingly do not realize how much they need God's

powerful helping hand, and how powerless they will be to help other nations in the coming calamity.

But is there good news of future peace after these prophesied events? The answer is: "Yes!" After the prophesied Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord, Jesus Christ will usher in a new age when nations will no longer terrorize other nations, nor betray them for political expedience. When Jesus Christ returns and puts His glorified saints over the nations, their governance will be a blessing, not a curse (Revelation 20:6).

God will bring His people back from their captivity, as Isaiah prophesies: "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria (modern Germany) and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea" (Isaiah 11:11).

Isaiah further prophesies: "There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt" (v. 16).

God will bring repentant, formerly aggressive nations into a peaceful community under the rule of Jesus Christ. "In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria... and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians" (Isaiah 19:23). Angry, despotic nations will no longer threaten smaller nations, for "the wolf" (large, devouring nations

symbolically) shall dwell with the "lamb" (small nations unable to protect themselves) in peace. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

September 1, 2009 marks the anniversary of an evil scheme, hatched in the minds of men influenced by mankind's supreme adversary, Satan the devil. We should be sobered that God's word tells us there will be one more dark time of global warfare and mass death before the coming millennial reign of Jesus Christ. But those who heed the warning, looking forward to Christ's intervention for the good of all humanity—those who direct their faith, trust and obedience toward God, rather than toward men, machines or military alliances—will be protected by a loving and powerful God (Revelation 12:14–16).

Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

As the end of this age approaches, do you know what to look for to know that your Savior's return is near?

Write for our FREE booklet, Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowsworld.org.

PROPHECY CON

PROMOTING EVIL, CONDEMNING GOOD!

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama proclaimed June 2009 as "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month" in the United States, and in

doing so expressed his hope that Americans would come to view these sexual proclivities as *normal* and *acceptable* behavior! In announcing his proclamation, President Obama noted that he was the first U.S. President to appoint an openly homosexual person for a Senate-confirmed post in the first 100 days of his presidency.

Although many leaders in the homosexual community believe that President Obama has not gone far enough, millions of Americans who under-

stand the value of God's law—and the importance of the biological family in rearing children as part of a healthy community—have found the President's actions shocking and almost unbelievable! What the President—and even many who oppose him—fail to realize is that through his actions, ancient Bible prophecies are coming alive, right before our eyes! The President's actions will bring consequences that neither he nor his supporters anticipate.

Moral and Social Decay

Sadly, the words and actions of President Obama are only the tip of an iceberg of social change that is permeating Western culture and threatening to sink the ship of biblical morality that has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of Western civilization. For the last decade, schoolchildren in America, Britain, Canada, Australia and Europe have been *indoctrinated* with the idea that homosexuality is a normal behavior and that anyone who questions this idea is backward, narrow-minded—and probably a religious bigot.

Unsuspecting children and non-homosexuals are encouraged to participate in "Gay Pride" events to show their support for the homosexual agenda. In

America, the National Education Association (representing the schoolteachers of America) has decided to throw its weight behind same-sex marriage, homosexual adoption and other aspects of the "gay" agenda. In Australia, where the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is now the nation's biggest annual social event, ministers have apologized to homosexuals for labeling their lifestyle as evil. In America and Britain, several

mainstream church denominations now ordain active homosexuals into the ministry. Openly homosexual couples are invited to church conventions to promote their agenda. Recently, in an attempt to gain the votes of more than 2.6 million British homosexuals, Conservative Party leader David Cameron issued an "extraordinary apology" for legislation his party passed to ban the promotion of homosexuality in schools. Cameron also pledged, if elected, to promote homosexual rights, and said that support for his party would produce the first homosexual Prime Minister of Britain. One homosexual leader described Cameron's comments as "historic." The current Labor Prime Minster, Gordon Brown, is also openly campaigning for the "gay" vote!



Governor David Paterson (D-NY) led marchers at this year's "Gay Pride Parade" in Manhattan on June 28. ©2009 NewsCom

God's Word Forgotten!

Sadly, what is *really* "historic" about our modern era is that a behavior that for thousands of years was understood as a social and moral evil—a perversion and an abomination in God's sight—is now being pro-

moted not only as a "normal" behavior but as something everyone should accept as good. Moreover, people are being told that those who cling to biblical beliefs regarding good and evil are actually bad people who are stubbornly holding on to what President Obama labeled "worn arguments and old attitudes." Amazingly, more and more professing Christian ministers not only condone homosexual behavior as accept-

able; they are even welcoming active homosexuals into the ministry and apologizing for their old (biblically based) ideas that the homosexual lifestyle is sinful and evil!

The Bible clearly reveals that God created a woman for a man, and a man for a woman-and that marriage is to be between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18, 23-25). Scripture plainly states that God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness and depravity-and homosexuality is specifically referred to as one of their evils (see Genesis 13:13; 19:5-7). God had specifically instructed Moses to warn the children of Israel

that homosexuality was an abomination in His sight (Leviticus 18:22); yet, when the ancient Israelites drifted away from God and adopted the ways of their pagan neighbors, homosexuality was one of the practices the backsliding Israelites adopted (Judges 19:22). In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul—an ardent promoter of biblical Christianity-plainly wrote that when people reject the teachings of God they will drift into and embrace and promote sinful ideas, including homosexuality-and that they will reap the consequences (Romans 1:22–32).

Prophecies and Consequences

What "progressive" social reformers do not seem to understand is that God predicted in the pages of the Bible what is actually happening today in the modern Israelite nations. Long ago, God inspired Moses to warn the Israelite peoples, "I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger" (Deuteronomy 31:29). God warned through the prophet Isaiah, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20)—which is what we are seeing today! God also prophesied through Isaiah, "the leaders of this people

> cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed" (Isaiah 9:16). Today, it is not the rank and file church members or voters who are championing the normalization of behaviors once considered abominable: it is the church leaders, politicians and judges who are pushing these ideas on the average person.

> However, God reveals in Scripture that these misguided actions will bring consequences in the years ahead! God warned, "if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes... I will break the pride of your power, and make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze... I will bring a sword against

you... I will scatter you among the nations" (Leviticus 26:14-33). The prophet Hosea cautioned, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of God's laws and ways. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6).

In light of these prophecies, it is no surprise that at the same time the leaders of modern Israelite nations are promoting the acceptance of behaviors God calls abominable, those nations are losing their influence and being subjected to increasing problems. We need to wake up to the fact that there is a God in heaven who will hold His people accountable for their actions (Jeremiah 2:17-19: Hosea 4:7-10). The God of the Bible does not tolerate leaders or bless nations that promote evil and condemn good!

—Douglas S. Winnail



Spirituality and Longevity

One of the best ways to improve your chances to live longer is to recognize the value of spirituality in your life. "Nurture your spirit, no matter what you call your source of inspiration," advised a Mayo Clinic health letter some time ago. The newsletter was reporting a study that followed 4,000 people for four years, and found that those who attended church weekly had a 28 percent lower mortality rate overall when compared to those who did not belong to a church community.

The researchers also considered income, education, chronic diseases, other illnesses, health habits, exercise, smoking, drinking, body fat, social participation and psychological status. None of

these factors explained the results. Church attendance was still an independent predictor—and the strongest predictor—of longevity.

Other research has shown statistically that people who are regularly involved in religious and spiritual activities live longer than those who are not. Various theories have been

put forth to explain this spiritual dimension to longevity. Physical explanations include the idea that people who are involved in religious groups benefit from the social networks they form. If they get sick, others look out for them.

Religious beliefs may also lead to less risky behavior. In addition, a well-developed sense of spirituality may help people better cope with life's tough psychological demands. In a landmark study of 1,700 older Americans, researchers at Duke University Medical Center found that those who attend religious services had stronger immune responses. About 60 percent of the men and women surveyed attended religious services at least once a week. Blood tests showed that regular attendees were less likely to have a high level of an immune system protein involved in age-related diseases. This study suggests a direct positive effect. Physical explanations do not account for these findings.

The Bible makes an interesting statement regarding physical longevity. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for

this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1–3).

Scripture also says: "My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you" (Proverbs 3:1–2). This commandment, when fully understood, is directed not only to youth, but also to all of us as children of God. God is our heavenly Father. He directs us to pray to Him as: "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9).

When human beings obey their heavenly Father, their lives are blessed. Christians also realize

that, while God blesses them with quality of life, they must nevertheless be willing to endure suffering "for righteousness' sake"—which may mean having their lives cut short because of persecution.

Jesus Himself lived on this earth for just 33½ years, but He said He came that mankind could have life more abundantly (John 10:10). What is that abundant life? Is it a lawless

existence? Some wrongly believe that Jesus abolished the Ten Commandments. In fact, He magnified them by demonstrating their spiritual aspects, as we see from His dealings with the Pharisees. Christ said: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23). Christ made the Ten Commandments more vital for Christians—not less—and explained that they would be valid "till heaven and earth pass away" (Matthew 5:18).

To learn more about God's commandments and their importance in your life, please write for your free copy of our booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. You can also read it online or order it at our Web site, *www.tomorrowsworld.org*. God wants you to choose wisely, and to choose His way. As He said: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

— Lambert Greer



Lest We Forget... (Continued from page 18)

scend in awfulness the destructive madness of the world wars that characterized and so disfigured the 20th century. And because He spoke those words for our edification, we should recognize themdespite the horror they portendas reliable and true-unless we as individuals and nations can learn the lesson of war. Scripture explains what we will face, unless we can change the human nature that is so hostile to God and His revealed way-and which is the underlying cause of war (Romans 8:7; Jeremiah 17:9).

If we have eyes to see, God makes absolutely clear for us the way that human nature can, and must—and, in time, will—change!

Part of God's commission to His Church is to warn our generation of what He calls the coming Great Tribulation, the war that will end this present age of man and lead to the better age of the Kingdom of God. The Tomorrow's World magazine is being published as part of the effort to carry out that commission to get out this message to every corner of the globe.

Peace Is Coming!

True peace is coming to this wartorn and war-weary world. The returning Jesus Christ is coming to put an end to wars. His prophesied reign over the entire earth will bring lasting and universal peace, such as our world has never before experienced. Under Jesus Christ's direction, humankind will learn to think differently. Human nature that does not know the way to peace will at last be brought face-to-face with God's way of thinking that will ensure peace. Bible prophecy shows that this wonderful time will come in the not-toodistant future (for more on Bible prophecy and how you can understand it, please read "Five Keys for Prophetic Understanding" on page 10 of this issue).

What will this wonderful time be like? Those Christians whom God is calling today will have a



special part to play in assisting Jesus Christ in ruling the earth. To learn more about this glorious future, please write for your free copy of our inspiring booklet, The

World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?

As we see from the life of Harry Patch, it is important to learn and remember the course of history past, by listening to those who are still alive-whose experience lives on with them. When they have gone, we can continue to learn from the history books that continue to faithfully chronicle the past. And we can especially learn from the richness and depth of the Bible the larger lessons that history teaches.

But you and I can go one better-we can know the course of future history from the Bible. It is God's gift to you. So you can learn. So you can change. So you can escape the devastation of coming wars. So you can learn to

play your full part in helping to end wars permanently.

So, we encourage you to dust off your Bible and begin to draw on the timeless wisdom it contains.

Keep digging into the plethora of biblical information provided in this magazine, on the Tomorrow's World telecast and at www.tomorrowsworld.org Web site, and apply the principles you learn in your daily life.

We should remember men like Harry Patch and what they represent. Remember the past and learn from it. Do not bury yourself in the selfish

pleasures of the present (2 Timothy 3:1–5). Even more, learn what the future holds for you and this world. And take action! Today! ■

The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?

A time is soon coming when the world will be at peace under the loving rule of Jesus Christ. What can you do to prepare for that time, and to have God's peace in your own life today?



Write for our FREE booklet, The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?

or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowsworld.org.

Will You "Prove All Things"? (Continued from page 2)

doctrine, whether or not what they say has any relationship at all to the real Jesus' life or teachings! That is why the Apostle Paul tells us: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, *KJV*). Each one of us is responsible to "check up" on the doctrines we are taught—whatever the source. Don't make careless assumptions! Be sure you know what the Bible really says!

Paul further admonishes: "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you may well put up with it!" (2 Corinthians 11:4). In other words, Paul feared that some of the Church members of his day would fall prey to "counterfeit" ministers and would come to accept a false gospel about a false Christ!

What about you? Is it possible that you have put up with "another Jesus"? Might you have been deceived into believing in a false portrayal of Christ—along with a false message merely purported to have come from the true Jesus? How can we **know** what is true and what is not?

Again, we need to truly **study** the Bible to attain genuine understanding. We need to be willing to open-mindedly consider if we have been following the "traditions of men" rather than the commandments of God (Matthew 15:3).

As we study the Bible, we need to learn to let the Bible interpret the Bible. In other words, if something seems unclear, then we should let the plain, clear verses help us understand those that are not clear. We need to learn also to study the Bible straight through like we would any other book. Many people simply skip around here and there and read sentimental verses of encouragement. While this may help at times, it does **not** give genuine understanding of the whole plan and purpose of God, which He reveals in His instruction manual for mankind—the Holy Bible.

Begin by studying the Gospel of Matthew—the first book of the New Testament. Read right through Matthew slowly, marking what you feel are the important verses. Then, next day, review these verses you have studied and read slowly—meditating and marking—a few more chapters. In this way, you will become familiar with what the Bible actually says—not what misguided men may tell you that it says!

In fervent personal prayer, ask God for **understanding**. Be willing to follow the Christianity of Christ no matter what. Always remember the Apostle Paul's vital statement: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ **liveth** in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, *KJV*).

Through the promised Holy Spirit, will Christ live the same kind of life in you that He did live more than 1,900 years ago in the human flesh? Hebrews 13:8 tells us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Did Christ keep the Ten Commandments while He was in the human flesh? John 15:10 tells us, "I have kept my Father's commandments."

If you need help in studying the Bible, write or call immediately to enroll in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. This thorough course will not just lead you through a lot of sentiment. Rather, it will help you genuinely understand the great **plan** of our Creator for all mankind. It will help you **prove** from your own Bible what you should do to fulfill your part in God's Plan. If you wish to enroll, return the insert card stitched into this magazine, contact the regional office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine), or go online to *www.twbiblecourse.org*.

As the end of this age approaches, may God help you genuinely study His inspired Word and prove what you believe from the Bible. Then, you will be on a solid foundation. And you will come to genuinely know God—and the resurrected Jesus Christ at God's right hand—in a way you have never experienced before.

Robert Meredith

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TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION LOG

IMT	EDM	\mathbf{O}	М.

AUSTRALIA:		
QLD Brisbane	QCTV 31	8
SA Adelaide	Access 31	S
SA Adelaide	Access 31	i
VIC Melbourne	Access 31 MCTC 31	2 2 2 2
VIC Melbourne	MCTC 31	8
BARBADOS:		
St. Michael	CBC 8	8
CANADA:		
	CHNU	5
	CHNU	8
NS Halifax	CIHF	8
JAMAICA:		
Kingston	TVJ	8
NEW ZEALAND:		
Nationwide	Prime TV	8
PHILIPPINES:		
Naga City	PBN 5 Bilinet II	S
Naval	Bilinet II	8
SOUTH AFRICA:		
Randburg	CSN	8
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:	cuc a	
Port of Spain	CNC 3	8
UK & NW EUROPE:	CL TV FOO	
Gospel	Sky TV 590	
WORD	Ský TV 77 I	ľ

SUN 8:30 a.m. SUN 9:30 a.m. TUE 11:00 p.m. SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 11:30 p.m. SUN 9:30 a.m. SUN 1:00 a.m. SUN 5:00 p.m. SUN 8:30 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 8:00 a.m. SUN 8:00 a.m. SUN 9:00 a.m. SUN 5:30 p.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Port of Spain	CNC 3	SUN 7:00 a.m.
UK & NW EUROPE: Gospel WORD		0 MON 7:00 p.m I FRI 6:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES:

AK	Anchorage	KIMO	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Fairbanks	KATN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Juneau	KJUD	SUN 8:00 a.m.
AL	Birmingham	WPXH	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Dothan	WTVY	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Montgomery	WBMM	SUN 7:00 a.m.
AR	Fort Smith	KHBS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	lonesboro	KIOS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
ΑZ	Phoenix	KPPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
CA	Bakersfield	KGET	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Eureka	KUYU	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Los Angeles	KPXN	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Monterey	KION	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Palm Springs	KCWO	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Redding	KHSL	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Sacramento	KSPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	San Francisco	KKPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
CO	Denver	KPXC	WED 11:30 p.m.
•••	Grand Junction	KJCT	SUN 7:00 a.m.
СТ	Hartford	WHPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
DC	Washington	WPXW	THU 12:30 a.m.
FL	Gainesville	WCJB	SUN 8:00 a.m.
٠-	acksonville	WPXC	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Miami	WPXM	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Orlando	WOPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Panama City	WIHG	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Tampa	WXPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	W. Palm Beach	WPXP	THU 12:30 a.m.
GA	Albany	WBSK	SUN 8:00 a.m.
OA.	Atlanta	WPXA	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Augusta	WAGT	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Columbus	WLGA	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Macon	WBMN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
н	Honolulu	KPXO	WED 11:30 p.m.
""	Kailua-Kona	KLEI	WED 11:30 p.m.
IA	Cedar Rapids	KPXR	WED 11:30 p.m.
IA	Des Moines	KFPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Ottumwa	KWOT	SUN 7:00 a.m.
ID	Boise	KNIN	SUN 7:00 a.m.
שו	Idaho Falls	KPIF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	idano Fans	KFIF	30N 7:00 a.m.

WHOI

Bloomington

	China	WCDV	WED 11.20
	Chicago Chicago	WCPX WGN	WED 11:30 p.m. SUN 5:00 a.m.
	Quincy	WGEM	SUN 7:00 a.m.
IN	Fort Wayne	WPTA	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Indianapolis	WIPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
KY	Bowling Green	WBKO	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lexington	WUPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Louisville	WBNA	THU 12:30 a.m.
LA	Alexandria	KBCA	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lafayette	KLWB	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lake Charles	WBLC	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Monroe	KNOE	SUN 7:00 a.m.
244	New Orleans	WPXL	WED 11:30 p.m.
MA	Boston	WBPX WDPX	THU 12:30 a.m. THU 12:30 a.m.
ME	Vineyard Haven Bangor	WABI	THU 12:30 a.m. SUN 8:00 a.m.
ME	Presque Isle	WBPQ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
MI	Alpena	WBAE	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Detroit	WPXD	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Grand Rapids	WZPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Lansing	WLAI	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Marquette	WBKP	SUN 8:00 a.m.
MN	Duluth	KDLH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Mankato	KWYE	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Minneapolis	KPXM	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Rochester	KTTC	SUN 7:00 a.m.
MO	Columbia	KOMU	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Joplin	KSXF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
MC	Kansas City	KPXE	WED 11:30 p.m.
MS	Biloxi	WBGP	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Columbus Greenwood	WCBI WBWD	SUN 7:00 a.m. SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Hattiesburg	WBH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Meridian	WTOK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
МТ	Billings	KTVQ	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Bozeman	KXLF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Butte	KBZK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Glendive	KWZB	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Great Falls	KRTV	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Helena	KMTF	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Missoula	KPAX	SUN 7:00 a.m.
NC	Charlotte	WAXN	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Fayetteville	WFPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Greensboro Greenville	WGPX WEPX	THU 12:30 a.m. THU 12:30 a.m.
	Greenville	WNCT	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Hickory	WHKY	MON 7:30 p.m.
	Jacksonville	WPXU	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Raleigh	WRPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
ND	Bismarck	KWMK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Fargo	WDAY	SUN 7:00 a.m.
NE	Lincoln	KCWL	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	North Platte	KWPL	SUN 7:00 a.m.
NH	Concord	WPXG	THU 12:30 a.m.
NV	Reno	KREN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
NY	Albany Albany	WCWN	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Binghamton	WYPX WBNG	THU 12:30 a.m. SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Buffalo	WPXI	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Elmira	WENY	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	New York	WPXN	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Syracuse	WSPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
ОН	Cleveland	WVPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Lima	WBOH	SUN 8:00 a.m.
OK	Oklahoma City	KOPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Tulsa	KTPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
OR	Bend	KTVZ	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Eugene	KMTR	SUN 8:00 a.m.

KMTR

KTVL

KPXG

WSEE

SUN 8:00 a.m.

SUN 8:00 a.m.

SUN 8:00 a.m.

THU 12:30 a.m.

	Philadelphia	WPPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Wilkes-Barre	WQPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
RI	Providence	WPXO	THU 12:30 a.m.
SC	Charleston	WCBD	SUN 8:00 a.m.
•	Myrtle Beach	WWMB	SUN 8:00 a.m.
SD	Rapid City	KWBH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
TN	lackson	WBIK	SUN 7:00 a.m.
•••	Knoxville	WPXK	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Memphis	WPXX	WED II:30 p.m.
	Nashville	WNPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
ТХ	Abilene	KTXS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
•^	Amarillo	KVIH	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Beaumont	KFDM	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Corpus Christi	KRIS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Dallas	KPXD	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Harlingen	KSFE	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Houston	KPXB	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Laredo	KGNS	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lubbock	KLCW	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Lufkin	KTRE	SUN 6:30 a.m.
	Midland	KWWT	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	San Antonio	KPXL	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Tyler	KLTV	SUN 6:30 a.m.
UT	Salt Lake City	KUPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
VA	Charlottesville	WVIR	SUN 8:00 a.m.
VA	Norfolk	WPXV	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Roanoke	WPXR	THU 12:30 a.m.
WA	Seattle	KWPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
WA	Spokane	KGPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
wı	Eau Claire	WXOW	SUN 7:00 a.m.
***	Milwaukee	WPXE	WED 11:30 p.m.
	Wausau	WTPX	WED 11:30 p.m.
wv	Bluefield	WVVA	SUN 8:00 a.m.
wv	Charleston	WLPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Clarksburg	WVFX	SUN 8:00 a.m.
	Martinsburg	WWPX	THU 12:30 a.m.
	Parkersburg	WCWP	SUN 8:00 a.m.
W		KGWC	SUN 8:00 a.m.
WY	Casper	KTWO	SUN 8:00 a.m. SUN 10:00 a.m.
	Casper	KGWN	SUN 7:00 a.m.
	Cheyenne	KLWY	SUN 10:00 a.m.
	Cheyenne	KLWI	30N 10:00 a.m.

Nationwide Cable

WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET WORD—SUN 7:30 pm ET ION—THU 12:30 am ET/PT CW-PLUS—SUN 8:00 am ET/PT

DirecTV

WGN-CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET WORD-CH 373, SUN 7:30 pm ET ION-Ch 305

Dish Network ION-Ch 216

Canada

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

Tomorrow's World is also aired on more than 120 public access stations across the United States. For airtimes, check with your local cable operator, or go online to tomorrowsworld.org/tv

SUN 7:00 a.m.

PA Erie

Eugene

Medford

Portland

TOMORROW'S TELEVISION LOG



WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET **WORD:** SUN 7:30 pm ET

VISION, Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am ET: MON-FRI 3:00 am ET

New U.S.A. Television Station: MO, Springfield: KSFX SUN 7:00 am

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Port of Spain: CNC3 SUN 6:30 am

Tomorrow's World Telecast



What Will Save America?

Airs October 1-7

Can a declining nation recapture its former glory?

Teach Me to Pray

Airs October 8-14

Learn how to pray and get answers!

Seven Steps to Destruction

Airs October 15-21

End-time prophecy is coming to pass. Are you ready?

You Can Survive Armageddon!

Airs October 22-29

Good news is ahead for those who obey Jesus Christ!

Schedule subject to chance