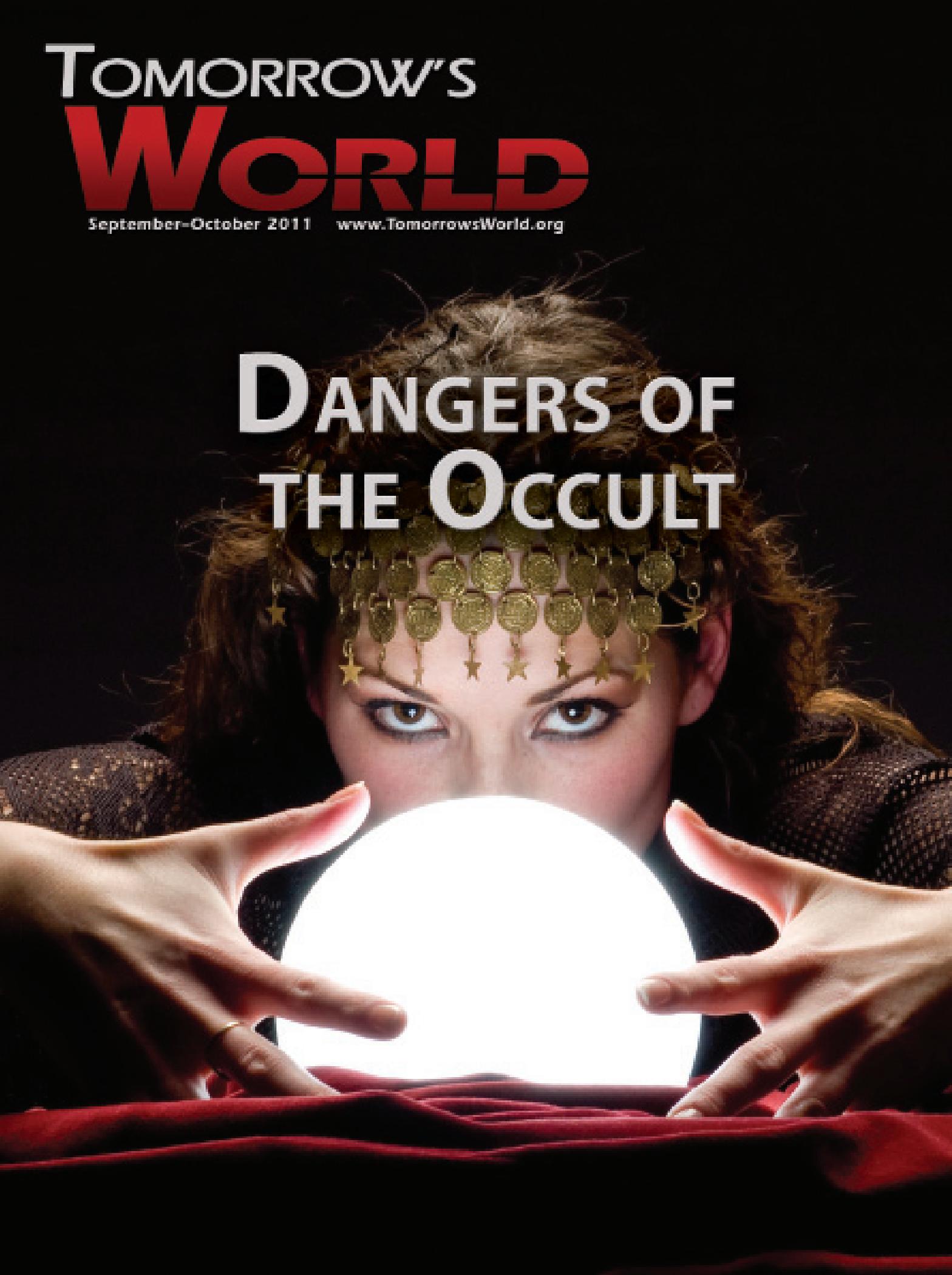
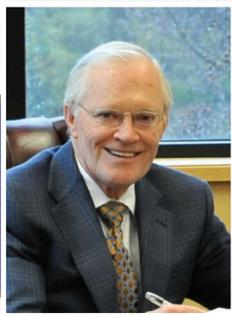


TOMORROW'S **WORLD**

September-October 2011 www.TomorrowsWorld.org

DANGERS OF THE OCCULT

A woman with dark, curly hair is looking intensely into a glowing white crystal ball. She is wearing a headband with gold coins and stars. Her hands are positioned around the crystal ball, with fingers spread. The background is dark, and the crystal ball is the central focus, emitting a bright light. The woman's face is partially visible, showing her eyes and nose. She is wearing a dark, patterned top. The overall mood is mysterious and occultic.



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

Why Does God Punish?

In this issue's lead article, I show from Scripture that God will **chasten** the American and British-descended peoples. "But," many will ask, "does the true God actually **punish** individuals and even punish *nations*?" That is something very few people truly understand. Yet your Bible is *filled* with the answers!

Many sentimental people say that since "God is love," it is wrong to think that He might **punish** people or nations.

But what is the *Truth*?

As on almost *all* religious topics, it comes down to this key point: "Do you *really* believe the Bible?" Many people claim that they believe the Bible, but their beliefs and words will disagree with Scripture again and again, even though the Bible describes **who** God is and **how** He acts.

So, what is the Truth? Jesus Christ said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

Notice what Scripture actually says: "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). So, Almighty God certainly does "chasten" or **punish** each individual that He is dealing with for that *person's own good*. But what about **nations**?

God told the ancient Israelites, "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (Leviticus 26:14–16).

Then, we read: "And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will **punish** you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit" (vv. 18–20).

Here, your Bible directly uses the word "punish" in describing how the **Creator** will deal with *nations* as well as individuals. If people who *ought to know better* turn completely away from the Creator—and "despise" His laws and His statutes by their words and actions—Almighty God *absolutely will* intervene and **chasten** them for their own good.

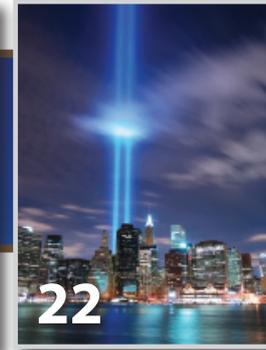
Elsewhere, we also read, "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 'Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me'" (Deuteronomy 28:15–20).

So **why** are so many things seeming to "go wrong" in our Western nations? **Why** are we having alternating **drought** and **floods** (Amos 4:7–8), the

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WHAT IS JUST AHEAD FOR YOU?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Your lifestyle will be absolutely shattered within the next several years. This article explains how and why!

Truly *staggering* events are just ahead for our world—especially for the American and British-descended peoples. May God help all of you who read this to **wake up!** After some 60 years in God's Work, I must give you this solemn warning *while I still can*.

Many will sneer and find excuses to ignore or belittle what I am about to tell you. But—as the old saying goes—“the proof is in the pudding.” For you will **not** have to wait very long to see these shocking events begin to take place. In fact, a number of them are *already underway!*

Even as I write, a huge “gay pride” parade is underway in New York City, celebrating that—by a slim four-vote margin on June 24—New York legislators declared same-sex “marriage” legal in their state. Men “marrying” men. Women “marrying” women. Homosexual activists and their supporters are deliriously happy at this overturning of a long-standing bulwark of traditional morality.

What these people, trapped in their perversions, are failing to recognize is that the Creator and Author of

genuine marriage is being **totally ignored** and His Word defamed by this rebellion against a venerable institution He Himself established! So, will Almighty God actually **do** anything about this? What is *His* response to same-sex “marriage” and to other vile acts that go against His will? What will happen to our peoples because of our continuing *murder* of **millions** of unborn babies? What will we face because of the rise in fornication, with millions of couples “living together” as if it were no big deal? What will become of our society as it sees the further breakdown of traditional families and the rise of hedonism in all its forms? What will be the result of the entire self-willed, hedonistic, **godless** approach of our peoples?

I will now give you a brief, succinct *list* of several of the key prophetic events just ahead. Many *more* events could be added to this list. But these prophetic happenings are among those that we at *Tomorrow's World* have warned you about for years—even for *decades*. Consider, as I will explain later, that the biblical *proof* regarding these

prophesied events has been made abundantly clear in many articles in *Tomorrow's World* magazine and in many of our prophetic booklets—all free for the asking. But *you need* a “Big Picture” overview about what is just ahead to help you know *what* to “watch” in soon-coming world events and to *inspire your prayers* to Almighty God.

So, what is just about to happen?

TWELVE KEY EVENTS JUST AHEAD

FIRST, America’s downward spiral will continue *until the nation is destroyed*. Of course, there will be minor ups and downs along the way. But, *unless Americans repent*, the God of heaven will “break” their nation’s pride and power—certainly including the *financial* power that has made possible the “American dream,” which so many around the world have admired.

SECOND, the *military* power of the English-speaking nations will increasingly be weakened and will finally be *destroyed*. Together, the U.S. and Britain won World War I, World War II and several other notable conflicts. But, *unless we repent*, the way is *down* and *out* from now on! Unless we repent, we will never again win a significant war. Before you start smirking, just “watch” for a few more years and *see it happen*.

THIRD, a combination of powerful “natural” disasters will continue, with increasing ferocity, to weaken and destroy the power of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-descended nations. For Almighty God *does* “control the weather.” Long ago, God warned our ancestors, “I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where

it did not rain the part withered. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD” (Amos 4:7–8).

FOURTH, because of the above crises, the American and British-descended nations will soon face increasing famine and drought. With more and more people out of work, unable to afford the rising price of scarce food and water, there will be a shocking rise in the number of families going hungry. Expect not just “job riots” ahead, but also “food riots” and massive civil unrest as a result!

FIFTH, disease epidemics *will increasingly occur!* Sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS, syphilis, gonorrhea and herpes will lead the way because of our nations’ vile lifestyles and godless ways. The Eternal God will **not** allow our rotten practices to continue without the **penalties** of such debauchery becoming more and more prevalent. *God is not mocked!*

SIXTH, the sovereignty of the English-speaking nations will be terribly weakened and even overcome by immigrants whose values are opposed to the heritage of their host countries. Even now, we see the stirrings of the “Reconquista” movement in the American Southwest, through which certain Hispanic advocacy groups are pushing to see major parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas “reconquered” by Mexico. Because of this political pressure, and also the social pressure caused by drug running and other crimes in northern Mexico, the U.S. can expect that the terrible violence along its southern border will continue and intensify—with increasing *thousands* of people beaten, mutilated, raped and murdered!

SEVENTH, in a phenomenon previously confined mostly to Europe, Islamic radicals will begin to assert themselves in the U.S. as never before, demanding that their Muslim laws be allowed to govern American citizens. Watch for an increase in intimidation—both through “political correctness” and even by outright violence—of local governments if these extremists do not get their way.

EIGHTH, China will not be the great power of the 21st century. Beset by increasing financial and social problems, Chinese influence will wane and a **German-led** “European Empire” will surge to the fore in world affairs. A breakup of the present European Union structure, and the demise or collapse of the euro currency, will be followed by the powerful joining together of ten nations in Europe—led by a very charismatic “strongman.” That strongman will be the prophesied “Beast” described in Revelation 17 and 18. This will be the final revival of the historical Holy Roman Empire, which dominated Europe for centuries. It will become the most **powerful** human entity on the entire earth (see Revelation 13).

NINTH, today, most observers see a modernized and confused Roman Catholic Church, wounded by scandals of pedophilia and other immoral practices. Contrary to many expectations, prophecy reveals that a re-energized, unified and powerful Roman Church will emerge as a world-leading influence over the next several years. Near the end of this age, the leader of that church will appear to work miracles. Scripture describes this man as one who literally “makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (Revelation 13:13). This leader and his church, working in tandem with the revived Holy Roman Empire, will persecute

the true people of God, much as it did in the Dark Ages (Revelation 17:6).

TENTH, fearful of the power of this religio-political revival of the old Roman Empire, a group of Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa will form an alliance, led by a ruler described in Scripture as the “king of the South” (Daniel 11:40–45). This king and his forces will provoke or attack the coming European Beast Power. Their action will precipitate a dangerous Middle East war that will eventually **crush** the spreading threat of Islam.

ELEVENTH, God will, more than ever before, literally “shake” the American and British-descended peoples with earthquakes. Describing the end-time events, Jesus Christ prophesied, “And there will be **great earthquakes** in various places” (Luke 21:11). Cynics sometimes say that they do not see any statistically significant increase in the number or severity of recent earthquakes—but with the growing world population, it is undeniable that millions more are being affected than ever before. And these quakes truly are increasing, despite what scoffers say. It is not only Bible students who have noted the big increase in strong earthquakes in recent years, from Haiti and Chile in the Western Hemisphere, to Japan, Sumatra and Christchurch and others in the Eastern Hemisphere. The great God—who controls not just the weather but *all* of His creation—states, “Yet once more I **shake** not only the earth, but also heaven” (Hebrews 12:26). What kind of “shaking” will it take to wake most people up? Increasing **millions** of the American and British-descended peoples are beginning to “despise” God’s law and His statutes—the entire *way of life* set forth in the Bible. So, exactly as prophesied, Almighty God is

even now beginning to increase His intervention to “shake” us to our senses!

TWELFTH, finally, the *real* Jesus Christ—the Christ of the Bible—will return to this earth as King of kings (Revelation 11:15). Shockingly, because the nations of this world are so *completely deceived*, hundreds of millions of angry people will literally **fight against Jesus Christ Himself**—as if He were some feared alien invader from space—as He returns to planet Earth to restore



peace and sanity to this confused world (Revelation 17:14)!

By the end of this age, most of humanity will have become terribly confused by Satan the Devil, and will embrace all sorts of perversions—including innovations such as “same-sex marriage” and beyond, along with evil religious practices involving blasphemies against the true God, even to the point of *demon worship*. Countless millions of deceived people will “**curse God**” when He pours out His plagues in an attempt to humble them and *wake them up*: “They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds” (Revelation 16:11).

PRAY FOR UNDERSTANDING!

My friends, the groundwork for quite a number of these awesome events is already being laid—**now!**

Over the next several years of *your life*, you will see these events coming together. Remember, **unless** we in the U.S. and Britain and other modern Israelite nations genuinely **repent** and begin to serve and obey the Creator God—the God of the Bible—our lives will **never** be the same.

Long-time readers of this magazine are aware that I do not usually get this plain and this vivid with you readers in describing the horrifying events just ahead. But, as we see our own peoples becoming so frantic and excited and vile in their rebellion against the true God—as was so repugnantly evident last June when the homosexual agenda got its way in New York with the approval of same-sex “marriage”—I feel that it is my God-given responsibility to help you realize, more than ever before, *where all of this is leading*.

Dear subscriber, please get *this straight!* Almighty God is **not** impressed by the blinded and confused men and women of the New York State Legislature. Nor is He intimidated by the vile human reasoning of the “liberal” judges in our nations’ confused judicial systems. Nor is He challenged by *any* puny human being or group of humans. The very real God of the Bible states, “I am God, and there is **none** like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9–10).

So, you need to understand **why** these awful events will soon occur. Again, our magazines and booklets over the last few years have done their best to make all of this clear. But for those of you who are new subscribers or have “tuned in” late, *please consider*: We in America and the other British-descended nations have had *every opportunity*

to study and to *understand* the inspired revelation from God—the Holy Bible. But we have obviously *rejected* the God of the Bible. We have, in effect, “thrown out” the Ten Commandments as a guide to Christian living. We are increasingly forbidding even the use of the words “God” or “Jesus Christ” in many of our public meetings.

This is absolutely **astonishing** when you consider that, over the past 200 and more years, such expressions of respect for the Almighty have nearly **always** been included! And most of our professing “Christian” leaders are in utter confusion—often joining in various “interfaith” conferences or even joining religious meetings where the *worship* of Buddha or Allah is included right along with the worship of *their* counterfeit version of Jesus Christ! Most professing Christians seem to have *no awareness* or deep respect for the powerful teachings of the **real** Jesus Christ of the Bible who said, among many other such statements, “**Why** do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and **not do the things which I say?**” (Luke 6:46).

True Christianity is **not** merely one “option” among many equally valid religions. It is **the** unique Truth—the Truth which *alone* explains the genuine origin of life, the true laws of life, the real purpose of life and **how** to attain that awesome purpose. But, again, Satan the Devil has done a masterful job in *totally deceiving* the entire world. The Apostle Paul was inspired to describe Satan as “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), and the “prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). The beloved Apostle John described him as “the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9).

If God is opening your mind—perhaps through this very Work—then you need to set out to “prove”

the things that I am now saying, one way or the other. For if I am correct, then **you** and your loved ones are about to experience the most horrific and traumatic events in all of human history! Describing the years soon to come, Jesus Christ stated, “For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be” (Mark 13:19).

Somewhere on this earth, Almighty God *does* have a true Church with true ministers who will teach you the genuine **Truth**. It is up to you to “seek” God and to carefully find out and **prove** where God is working.

PRAY FOR COURAGE

My friends, if you will carefully study the background of the book of Ezekiel in Bible dictionaries and other resources, you will find that it was written about 593–571BC. You will also find that the ancient “House of Israel” was taken into Assyrian captivity in about 721BC—well over 100 years **before** the book of Ezekiel was written! Yet, throughout the book of Ezekiel, God again and again describes the punishments He plans

to bring on the “House of Israel.” His warning, as He clearly explains, was not just for the “House of Judah” (today’s Jewish people), which was then a nation separate from Israel (Ezekiel 3:1, 17; 4:1–6; 5:4).

Studying Ezekiel carefully, it is *very apparent* that most of the prophetic events God is describing are future events, which will occur near the “time of the end” when the modern descendants of ancient Israel will once again be taken into captivity. *If* you will *study* our eye-opening booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, you can **prove to yourself** that the Anglo-Saxon Celtic peoples—across the U.S., the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as the peace-loving peoples of northwestern Europe—*really are* the descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel. With that knowledge, you will *see* that dozens of major end-time prophecies are speaking directly to *the modern descendants of ancient Israel*. For this is a major “key” to understanding end-time prophecies. And these prophecies are beginning to be fulfilled *right now*—before our very eyes!

In Ezekiel 33, God states that He has set a “watchman” to warn

YOUR ULTIMATE DESTINY



You were created for an amazing and awe-inspiring purpose. Understanding that purpose will bring joy and fulfillment to your life as never before.

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Israel what to do at the end time. Notice what God states: “But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand. So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me” (Ezekiel 33:6–7).

We at *Tomorrow’s World* are part of the Work of the living Christ, carrying out the responsibility of this end-time “watchman”! We understand that, for most people, the message we preach will only be a “witness” and will not be received warmly. However, the fact that you are reading this article means that you are very likely to be one whom God is calling now to understand and respond to this message! If you are sincerely interested in learning about and **understanding** the **true** prophetic happenings that are just ahead, please request—and genuinely **study**, along with your Bible—our free booklets entitled, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*, *The Beast of Revelation*, *The Middle*

East in Prophecy, *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled!* and *Who or What Is the Antichrist?* To request your free copies, contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine) or go to our Web site, www.TomorrowsWorld.org, to order the booklets or read them online.

We in this Work sincerely want to *be of service* to you. You can find out—if you sincerely want to—that we are committed to carrying out Jesus Christ’s “Great Commission” in a powerful way. We realize that this means we may need to give up our “comfortable” lives in the world. By preaching powerfully the Truth of God we know our own friends and family members may even come to hate us for preaching a message that is **not popular**. Yet, because we do have the “fear of God,” and because we genuinely know that He purposes for us to preach a message which most people in our “blinded” society **will not accept** at the end of this confused age, we are willing to do this—because we know God has **commanded** us to do it!

So—for *your sake*—please write for these **free** booklets and other materials listed above, and **prove** for yourself what we are saying is true! Then, ask God for the faith and courage to act on the Truth. Let me

assure you that, over the next three to six years of *your life*, the twelve milestones I mentioned above will intensify far more powerfully than most people today can even begin to commence to realize. These world-changing events will have a *massive effect* on the so-called “American way of life.” They will have a *massive effect* on our readers living in Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere across the English-speaking world. So, **you** need to ask God for the *understanding* and the **courage** to actually **prove** to yourself the Truth that is now freely available from your Creator. These soon-coming prophesied events will literally “shake” thousands of people to their senses—and I prayerfully hope that you are among those whom God calls before these end-time events bring destruction on our peoples.

May God grant **you** the understanding and the humility to act on what I have written here—and to **surrender** to the God of the Bible. We in this Work of the living Christ are indeed God’s “watchmen” to **warn you**—ahead of time—what is *just ahead*. These coming events I have described are *very real*, and they will **change** your life forever. May God help you to **act** on His Truth before it is too late! ■

What Comes Next?

The United States has for years been sowing the seeds of its own destruction. Thankfully, Scripture reveals that although some tough times are still ahead, there is wonderful hope for the future! America, like the other British-descended nations, is in decline. But there is deliverance ahead for these peoples—and for all the peoples of the earth—at Jesus Christ’s return.

Governments around the globe continue to rise and fall. Yet there is one form of government that is guaranteed to bring lasting peace and prosperity—though neither the U.S. nor any other nation today is willing to consider it. It will take the return of Jesus Christ, King of the coming Kingdom of God to bring that perfect government to the earth.

Until then, it is up to individuals to “buck the trend” and turn back to God, individually, so that they may receive His blessings and be spared the worst of the terrible times ahead. Will you respond to Him? Write for your free copy of our booklet, *What Is a True Christian?* to learn how your life can change for the better!

Questions & Answers

Question: In Acts 10:9–16, is God giving Christians permission to eat what were previously considered “unclean” meats (as defined in Deuteronomy 14:3–21 and Leviticus 11:1–47)?

Answer: What was the purpose of the vision God gave to the Apostle Peter? Was God showing that He was now making “clean” the meats He had previously said were “unclean”? Or was there a different purpose for this vision?

One important key to understanding Scripture is to examine passages in context, which may include the historical setting as well as the narrative itself. The historical setting of Acts 10 is the New Testament Church in the very early years of its existence. The Apostles had begun to carry out the great commission Jesus gave them, to make disciples of all nations and to preach the gospel to everyone (Matthew 28:18–20). At the time of Peter’s vision, this commission was about to extend to the Gentiles as never before.

Since the time of the Exodus, many centuries before, religiously observant Jews would have nothing to do with Gentiles. Unlike the Jews, Gentiles were not circumcised. Gentiles did not observe the commandments and statutes of the God of Israel, and they did not worship Israel’s God. Gentiles were considered “unclean” and Jews would not associate with them.

Now, consider the context of Peter’s vision. In Acts 8, God led the evangelist Phillip to baptize an Ethiopian eunuch—a Gentile. Then follows a description of Saul’s conversion. Saul, who had been persecuting the Church, would become Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Next, in Acts 10, a Gentile named Cornelius was given a vision inspiring him to contact Simon Peter. (Acts 10:1–8) Soon, Peter was also given a vision. Peter saw a large sheet filled with both clean and unclean animals lowered from heaven. He was told to kill and eat them. This happened three times. Peter protested, saying that he had never eaten anything unclean (vv. 11–14). He did not interpret the vision as meaning he could now eat unclean meats; rather, he wondered about the vision’s meaning (vv. 17–19).

The meaning of the vision was made clear by what happened next. Peter received as guests the

men Cornelius had sent, lodging them overnight (v. 23) The next day, Peter and some brethren from Joppa journeyed to Caesarea with these men to see Cornelius, along with his relatives and friends. After meeting with these Gentiles, Peter exclaimed, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (vv. 34–35).

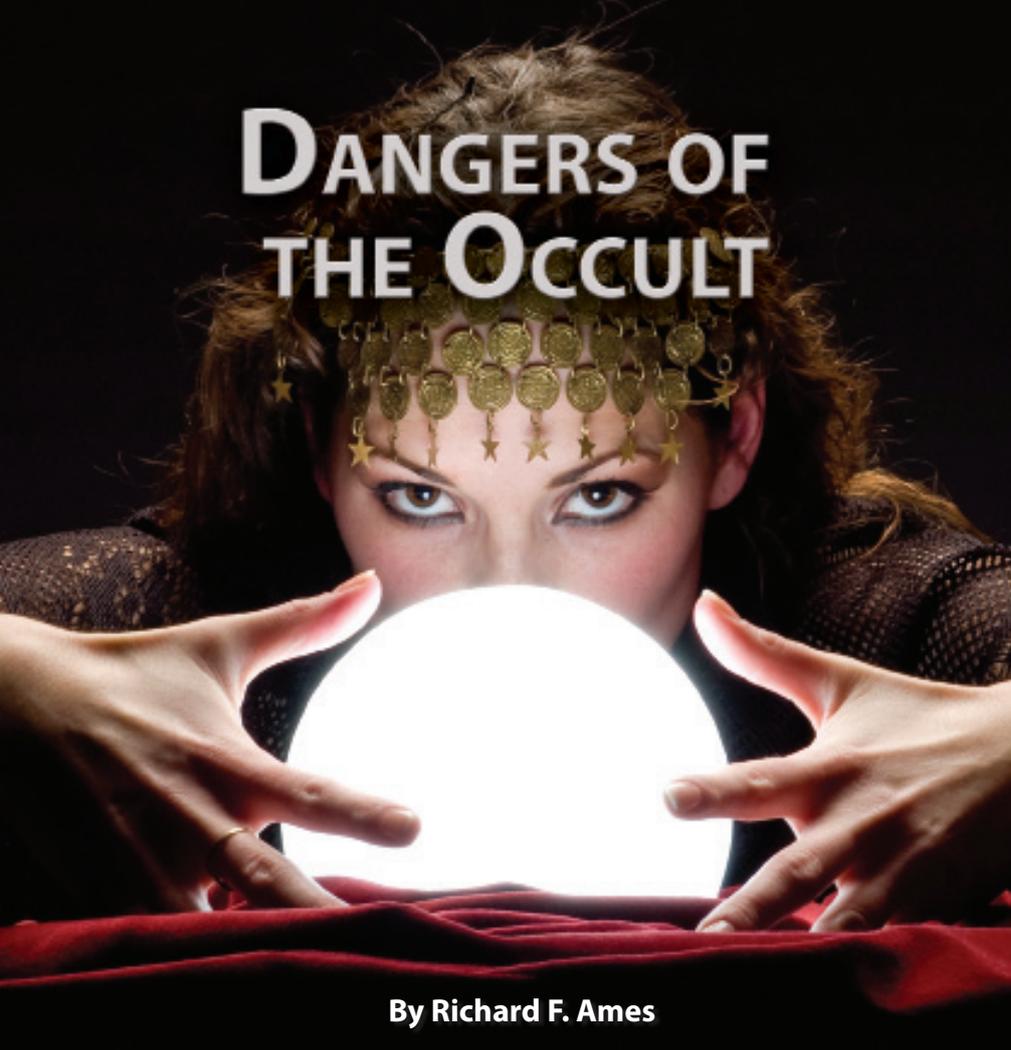
During this visit, Cornelius and those of his household received the Holy Spirit (v. 44). Peter, who previously had kept his distance from Gentiles, now had to acknowledge that God was indeed working with Gentiles, and Peter understood that he had a responsibility to baptize these Gentiles.

News of this milestone travelled fast to the other Apostles, and to the brethren in Judea. It was “big news” that Gentiles had also received the word of God (Acts 11:1). Yet, for a time, there was still some controversy. When Peter visited Jerusalem, some expressed their objection that he had not just associated with, but had actually eaten with, the uncircumcised Gentiles—who, under Jewish law were considered “unclean.” To these critics, Peter then explained the vision he had received, and the events that had followed, revealing the meaning of the sheet of unclean animals.

Peter concluded, “If therefore God gave them [the Gentiles] the same gift as He gave us [Israel] when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” And then they all concluded, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life” (vv. 17–18).

This was the reason for, and meaning of, the Apostle Peter’s vision. This was how he understood it. His understanding was then shared with the other Christians who heard his description of what had occurred. The vision did not reveal that unclean meats could now be eaten; it revealed that the Gentiles—previously considered “unclean” by the Jews—were now being granted salvation by the God of Israel.

DANGERS OF THE OCCULT



By Richard F. Ames

Are vampire tales just a source of entertainment and fun? Are witchcraft and astrology harmless hobbies, or can they do damage to people who practice them? Many do not realize that the occult now pervades modern culture, and that Christians must remain on guard against its evil influence.

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

Earlier this year, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* set a record on its first day in theaters, taking in \$92.1 million across the United States on Friday, July 15—smashing the previous record by nearly \$20 million. That old record was held by another occult-themed movie—*The Twilight Saga: New Moon*—which took in \$72.7 million on its November 20, 2009 release date.

The latest (and final) movie in the Harry Potter series went on to shatter previous U.S. records for opening-weekend box-office, bringing in \$168.6 million—well ahead of previous record-holder *The Dark Knight*. Worldwide, too, this latest Harry Potter blockbuster broke records, adding \$307 million in ticket sales outside the U.S., surpassing the previous record-holder, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

With the new Harry Potter movie bringing in more than \$475 million in its first weekend of release, there is no doubt that the occult remains big box-office—and big business. Seven of the top 25 money-making films of all time are from the eight-film Harry Potter series—a series that has already earned more than \$5 billion in ticket sales.

Occult themes are also popular in books. Of course, the Harry Potter films had their start in print, with an estimated 450 million copies of the seven Harry Potter books having been sold. Other authors have capitalized on the trend; the four novels in the *Twilight* series have together sold more than 100 million copies. *Twilight* books are especially popular with young girls, who have followed the saga of a teenage girl who falls in love with a century-old vampire. Not surprisingly, the *Twilight* books have already been adapted for film; three *Twilight* films have earned more than \$1.8 billion in ticket sales, with a fourth, *Breaking Dawn, Part 1*, currently set for release in November 2011.

Today's media fascination with the occult extends far beyond Harry Potter. Thirty-five years ago, many considered the television series *Bewitched*

controversial. Today, it seems tame compared to such popular television fare as *The Vampire Diaries* and *True Blood*, which glamorize the occult.

Yet, for many, the occult is more than fiction. A *CBS News* poll in February found that 48 percent of those surveyed believed in the existence of ghosts, with 22 percent reporting that they had personally seen or felt the presence of a ghost. That figure mirrors the results of a 2006 Ipsos Reid poll that found 47 percent of Canadians reporting a belief in ghosts, with 18 percent saying they had been in the presence of a ghost. Similarly, a British research firm found that more than 40 percent of Britons reported belief in ghosts. This is quite a change from the 1950s, when a Gallup poll found that just about one out of ten Britons believed in ghosts (“Four out of ten Britons believe in ghosts,” *The Sunday Times of London*, April 13, 2009).

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

HOW HAS MANKIND BEEN DECEIVED?

Scripture reveals the source of occult deception. “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9). Satan deceives the whole world, not just a part of this world. And he also has spirit helpers, called demons.

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



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

We need to understand that there is a real spirit world! Notice this warning: “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through

the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead” (Deuteronomy 18:9–11).

God Almighty condemns sorcery and witchcraft. If you are “playing around” with such darkness, then you need to reject that underworld of evil! Seek the true God of your Bible! God’s warning continues: “For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you” (Deuteronomy 18:12–14).

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

SPIRITUAL HARLOTRY?

Are there “innocent” ways to have “fun” with the occult? Some argue that dressing up in ghoulish Halloween costumes is only harmless play, and rationalize that parents who let their children celebrate Halloween are not encouraging them to expose themselves to symbols and practices of the occult. But parents who take this approach are risking their children’s spiritual lives by

underestimating the devil's influence (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

Even at the level of physical safety, more and more parents are coming to realize that the Halloween practice of "trick-or-treat" can put children at risk of grave harm. In the above-mentioned Ipsos Reid study, it was found that 84 percent of Canadians agreed with the statement: "In this day and age, it's unsafe for children to go trick-or-treating on Halloween without an adult to supervise."

If only these parents were as concerned about their children's spiritual safety! God says that participation in the occult is spiritual harlotry (Psalm 106:35-39)! How did God punish His people for their wickedness? "Therefore the wrath of the LORD was kindled against His people, so that He abhorred His own inheritance. And He gave them into the hand of the Gentiles, and those who hated them ruled over them. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand" (Psalm 106:40-42). The nation of Israel went into captivity because of these abominable practices. A great tribulation and captivity will also come upon our peoples, if we fail to repent of our evil practices!

In Luke's gospel, we find that our Savior cured many individuals who were plagued by evil spirits: "And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight" (Luke 7:21). Do we teach our children to attract and cultivate evil spirits at Halloween? Certainly, dressing up like a demon or a witch invites evil rather than opposing it!

The Apostle James advises us to resist evil, not entertain it! "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). That is your Creator's instruction to you! He promises that the devil

will flee from you. Yes, "Resist the devil"! Do not join the masses in celebrating the dark world of Satan and the occult! Do not participate in



the dark traditions of Halloween or any other such practices.

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

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

When a person consorts with mediums and familiar spirits, God says that he is prostituting himself. Christians are to be clean and wholesome. They should be "holy," as we just read. Remember what the Apostle Peter wrote: "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15-16).

ASTROLOGY AND FALSE PROPHECY

Satan also deceives mankind through astrology. According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: "Astrology originated in Mesopotamia, perhaps in the 3rd millennium BC, but attained its full development in the Western world much later, within the orbit of Greek civilization of the

Continued on page 29

THE HOLY DAYS: GOD'S MASTER PLAN



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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My husband and I are avidly gathering a collection of the booklets you have produced, and cannot wait for the next ones to arrive.

We are absolutely enjoying them and have learned so much ever since our path has crossed with yours. We truly feel that God has called us and has used your booklets, magazines and DVDs to do so. It is our deepest desire to be true followers of Christ sharing the journey to eternity with other true disciples. Thanks to your excellent work we are once again confident of God's love and ongoing work within us and our lives. Thank you for what you do.

D. D., Maitland, WCP, South Africa

Thank you for the excellent March-April 2011 issue, with its spot-on articles covering "Space Wars" and "A Man Without Vengeance?" I would also like to thank you for the "Tomorrow's Youth" column, with its many focused articles to help parents and children.

W. E., Tennessee Colony, TX

"The Handwriting on the Wall" (January-February 2011), describing America's moral decay, was certainly written from a Christian perspective. But three times the author wrote the oxymoron "Judeo-Christian"—twice himself and once by citing another author. That oxymoron—placing an adjective of a non-Christian ethnicity in front of the word Christian—is something that frequently comes from America's anti-Christ "Christian" establishment and not from a "little flock" that often preaches outside that establishment. Lastly, are people really writing the letters you print or do you always just use initials to identify the writers because you're writing the letters yourselves?

K. R., Bronx, NY

Editor's Note: First, regarding your last point, people really are writing the letters we print (as you the writer will now know). We do edit for space and clarity. For example, your letter raised several points, while this note will address only two. Next, regarding the use of the term "Judeo-Christian," you seem to be confusing two historical facts—first that most professing Jews and Christians have rejected the

true teachings of their faiths, and second that the modern descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh have often expressed their legal and social worldviews in terms of what they call a "Judeo-Christian" tradition, which they consider to be drawn from their limited understandings of the shared ethical traditions of those faiths, as found in the Ten Commandments. Just as we do not shy away from the term "Christianity" even though billions of people practice a false Christianity, neither should we shy away from the simple historical designation of "Judeo-Christian" when it is used not to describe God's true religion, but rather to indicate the simple historical fact of how modern Western nations have come to define themselves.

In your March-April 2011 issue, I found a very interesting article titled, "Girls Are Girls No More." I really enjoyed this article and I agree with its contents. Girls are being exposed to inappropriate behaviors and sexual outrages too early in their lives. I would like to request your *Successful Parenting: God's Way* booklet, as I feel it would help me to continue to be a focused, single Christian parent.

V. L., Franklin, VA

I am writing because I have been moved and deeply inspired by the article titled: "What Is the Meaning of Your Life?" in your January-February 2011 issue. And I want to now request that you send me the free booklet titled, *Your Ultimate Destiny*. I am truly thankful for true Christians and the encouraging work they do for the Lord Almighty.

M. G., Delano, CA

I would like to thank *Tomorrow's World* for all that I've learned from your articles and telecasts. Nowadays, Jesus is portrayed so differently compared to what the Bible actually says. *Tomorrow's World* has helped to clarify scripture for me. Since tuning into your programs I have never been more inspired. I mainly listen to your telecasts and read your articles when I am working out and exercising. You see, the word of God gives me drive! It is imperative that we know the accurate word of God. *Tomorrow's World* helps to make that possible for me.

M. M., Windsor, ON, Canada

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.

LONDON CA

Who Will Guard the Guardians?

Octogenarian Rupert Murdoch's fall from grace was as swift as it was humbling. Back in June, the media mogul's News International television and newspaper empire was riding high. His *Sun* and *News of the World* newspapers and Sky Television were generating fabulous profits, keeping alive less profitable papers such as *The Times* and *Sunday Times*. Murdoch enterprises held a commanding position in the United Kingdom media marketplace—which, in turn, guaranteed Murdoch unprecedented power and access to leaders across society.

But, at the beginning of July, Murdoch's UK organization began to unravel at astonishing speed when it was discovered that the illegal practice of "phone hacking" was endemic at the *News of the World*. Not only had the phones of media personalities, public figures and celebrities been hacked to gain "incriminating" evidence to inform their stories, but so also had those of murdered schoolgirls and relatives of servicemen killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In rapid order, simply unimaginable events began to engulf the Murdoch conglomerate. Advertisers deserted the *News of the World*; share prices of different parts of the global empire began to fall back sharply. And then came the unthinkable: after 168 years of existence, Murdoch closed the once mighty and proud, highly profitable, *News of the World*, deeming it no longer "fit for purpose."

Top Murdoch executives were forced to resign. Britain's top policeman and a senior assistant resigned amidst allegations that police had failed in their duty of care and that some policemen had accepted illegal payments from the *News of the World*. Even Prime Minister David Cameron was left stranded because of his close contacts with Murdoch operatives. It soon became apparent that literally thousands of people may have had their private information illegally accessed, leaving most of the nation appalled and *disgusted* by the sheer extent of illegal activities.

What are we to make of such *colossal failures of trust* within our society? The press is often described as the *guardian of society*—providing an essential check on all aspects of public life. In the public interest, journalists can reveal and unmask secrets that otherwise would remain hidden. Politicians, public figures and celebrities have learned to fear their enquiries and any resulting coverage. No wonder that, witnessing the demise of the

Murdoch empire, UK Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg commented that the very *pillars of the British establishment*—politicians, police and print media—seemed to be crumbling before his very eyes.

So, where is the dividing line between those matters that should be made public and those that should remain private? And what limits

should there be on the methods used to access hidden information? Some members of the press behave as if any and all information should be made public, and almost any method used to obtain it considered legitimate. What must change in order for the pillars of society generally, and the print media specifically, to regain public trust? Who will *guard the guardians* from failure and excess? As the UK struggles with these issues, a judicial enquiry will assemble a range of answers over the coming months.

Perhaps one important clue to the underlying answer can be found in the very final issue of the *News of the World*, published on July 9. That final edition was wrapped in the front page of the very *first* edition of the newspaper, published on October 1, 1843. An editorial in that first edition explained why Britain needed a new paper and what would be its "influencing motives." The editorial closed with these words: "Our motto is truth. Our practice is the fearless advocacy of truth."

In the July 9 edition, a column opined that "the most important job of this paper has always been to go after those foolish enough to think they were above the law,



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above justice and exempt from the moral code the rest of us live by.” How ironic that the *News of the World* will not be around to cover perhaps the most relevant story in its history—revealing those *on its own staff* who had shown such disregard of “the moral code the rest of us live by.”

SOURCE AND GUIDE OF TRUTH

What is needed to regain public trust and a return to decent standards is indeed *truth*—a true understanding of the moral code that we should live by. And we find this code in the Bible, God’s word of Truth. It is called the Ten Commandments. Much of the Bible serves to enlarge upon and provide examples of this moral code in action and the consequences that occur when it is ignored.

Quite often, we hear people suggest that it is “right” to do this, or that it is “wrong” to do that. Yet such moral preferences are often highly personal, conveniently disregarding or contravening the plain guidelines of Scripture. What, then, might be some of the characteristics of a newspaper guided by true biblical morality and values?

First of all, it would strive to be responsible and positive in its coverage. The inevitable bad news would be balanced by the good. Is society truly edified by the negative, base and sensationalized coverage so endemic in the tabloid press? “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—*meditate on these things*” (Philippians 4:8).

Such a newspaper would at all times abide by the law of the land. It may campaign to change the law but there should never be any mandate to break the law. “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that

exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will *bring judgment on themselves*” (Romans 13:1–2).

It would always strive to get the facts and tell the truth. Do we really want to become like the debauched society described in the Bible? “No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity” (Isaiah 59:4).

It would not be founded on prurient, lurid reporting of sexual misdemeanours, as so often found in the tabloid press. There are different and more responsible ways of reporting such stories. “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is *shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret*” (Ephesians 5:11–12).

It would project modesty in photographs and graphics. There would be no place for nude “Page 3 Girls”-type coverage, even if such does drive up sales. Consider Paul’s admonition “that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing” (1 Timothy 2:9).

A shocked UK remains transfixed by a rapidly developing scandal that is likely to roll on for many months to come, with outcomes that for now can only be conjectured. Yet it need not have been this way. The Bible provides us with an *explicit external written code* that lays down the enduring set of moral values that God wants all to *internalize* and uphold for the good of all. If the *News of the World*—in its quest for truth—had consistently been guided by this code from its inception in 1843, it might have remained “fit for purpose” today.

—John Meakin





WHY WORRY ABOUT WASTE?

WE RECYCLE

By Rod McNair

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Will we ever find a solution to the problem of trash?

It was not really a crash—more like a thud. I flicked on the lights and hurried down the stairs to investigate. I opened the front door, turned on the porch light, and scanned the front yard. Nothing. Finally, I returned inside and went back to bed.

The light of day revealed the story. Trash was strewn all over the grass in front of our house near the highway. Skid marks showed where the reckless, speeding driver had slid off the road, nicked my neighbor's mailbox and pulverized mine, then plowed into my full trash bin, scattering garbage all along the ditch. He left behind a busted headlight as a souvenir.

Our garbage bin—at least it had been one before it was reduced to puzzle pieces—had been brim full the night before, put out in anticipation of the city's weekly garbage pickup. But now, broken bits of the bin were everywhere. And smelly and slimy garbage—my garbage! I looked at the filthy mess for a long time in disbelief. Finally, I got to work collecting and bagging the garbage again. This time, it made it safely to the dump.

In our modern, post-industrial world, garbage rarely becomes an issue until it is on our doorstep, so to speak—or scattered over our front lawn, assaulting our senses. And yet, we produce a prodigious amount of it,

especially in the United States. Ecology writer Heather Rogers observes, “In 2003 Americans threw out almost 500 billion pounds of paper, glass, plastic, wood, food, metal, clothing, dead electronics and other refuse” (*Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage*, p. 2). While rich cities all over Western Europe and North America produce large amounts of garbage, America leads the pack. University of Michigan economics professor Richard Porter found that household per capita municipal solid waste production had grown from 2.7 pounds per person per day in 1960 to 4.3 pounds per person per day by 1996 (*The Economics of Waste*, p. 1). Statistics from the Environmental Protection Agency confirm that this is still roughly what we produce today.

Trash can quickly grow from a minor annoyance to a grievous health hazard. About 2,300 landfills dot the American landscape, including one—Fresh Kills Landfill, in New York City—so enormous it can even be seen from space (Rogers, p. 1)! Newer landfills have installed barrier liners to keep dangerous chemicals from reaching ground water, but even the best physical barriers will eventually break down through natural deterioration,

Even if trash is incinerated, it poses a serious health risk. “As of the year 2000, according to the United Nations Environment Programme, municipal waste incinerators were responsible for creating 69 percent of worldwide dioxin emissions” (Rogers, p. 5). Dioxins are extremely dangerous chemicals that go airborne or linger on ash when paper and plastic are burned together.

The effect of trash can be devastating. In Bangladesh, for example, “plastic bags have clogged and destroyed drainage systems, causing such major flooding that the government outlawed the manufacture of disposal synthetic totes in 2002” (Rogers, p. 8). Northern Arizona University professor Jacqueline Vaughn points out that, in some cases, an unofficial “scavenging industry” has developed around landfills. Trash-pickers face dangers from injuries while scavenging or from the “garbage mafia” that rules its territory with violence and intimidation (*Waste Management*, p. 111).

Surprisingly, the export of trash has grown into a big business. In 2002, more than \$1 billion of American trash was sent to other countries for “processing.” What happens to it? An estimated 80 percent of e-waste (high-tech castoffs like computers and cell phones) ends up in poor areas of Asia and Africa. Guiyu, China, is considered the “center of e-waste recycling; dumping and burning has rendered the local water not potable for drinking, and the river there has 200 times the acceptable levels of acid and 2,400 times the acceptable level of lead” (Vaughn, p. 109).

Most of us in Western nations may be largely shielded from the world’s trash problem. After all, for many, a garbage truck comes by once a week or so to pick up our trash and haul it away, out of our lives forever. But is it really gone? *Or is it just out of sight, at someone else’s front door?*

WASTE THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Waste management has been a concern for thousands of years. In the Indus Valley in Pakistan, archaeologists have found evidence of ancient methods, dating back to 2500BC, for removing household waste. “Drinking water flowed into houses in troughs; liquid wastes went out in separate troughs; and solid waste was dumped into a pile outside the house or into street-corner bins and was then taken out of the city by regular municipal employees” (Porter, p. 2). Around 500BC the first landfills appeared in Greece, and “edicts forbidding littering were promulgated two centuries later” (*ibid.*).

Modern recycling programs have had some success, and technologies exist to lessen the amount of waste deposited in landfills or incinerated. One Israeli company has developed a process using plasma gasification melting technology to change municipal waste into “inert by-

products such as glass and clean energy... the solid material that is produced by the process can be used by the construction industry for tiles and blocks” (Vaughn, p. 99).

As of April 2011, more than 500 of the approximately 2,300 landfills in the U.S. were collecting methane gas for later use as fuel. On a smaller scale, farms around the world are using anaerobic biogas digesters to extract methane gas from livestock manure and make it available as a cooking fuel.

What will the future bring? Will recycling, composting and even high-tech solutions provide a way out of our trash dilemma? Or will the growing population and globalized economy produce more and more garbage beyond what our world can handle?

STEWARDSHIP, FROM THE BEGINNING

The Bible has a lot to say about the environment and how to treat it. And it all starts in the beginning. When God gave the first human beings a healthy and thriving environment to live in, He gave them responsibility to care for it: “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). The human family was given dominion over the environment (Genesis 1:28), but also was charged with keeping, protecting, and guarding it for future generations. Mankind was given the job of stewardship of the earth.

So, ask yourself: how are we doing as the stewards of our home? Are we taking care of it as God intended? True Christians are not called to be “radical environmentalists” in the political sense we often think of today, but rather are to be faithful stewards that can be entrusted with the whole world at Christ’s return (Revelation 5:10).

How deeply does God care about the environment? Notice that

He gave the ancient Israelites a very basic instruction regarding hygiene: bury your waste! “You shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse. For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you” (Deuteronomy 23:13–14).

God intended to dwell with His people, and did not consider a filth-filled environment appropriate for them. As His people were to be clean spiritually and mentally, He also intended for them to keep their environment physically clean. Even in warfare, God told the Israelites to remember the environment: “When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man’s food” (Deuteronomy 20:19). God did not want the Israelites to pursue a “scorched earth” policy. Even in a time of warfare, He wanted them to think about the future and about the trees of the field that provide food and sustenance.

Why did God care about these small physical details? Because obedience to His laws and statutes brings the blessings of long life and freedom from disease. God outlines a way of life that promotes sustainable use of the land, so it can be used and enjoyed for successive generations.

By contrast, in our consumption-crazed culture today, we sometimes pursue our desires with reckless abandon, not considering how our choices will affect the lives of generations yet unborn. What kind of world will the next thousand years bring? More trash polluting

our land, poisoning our water, and floating in our oceans? Or is there a solution to our garbage mess?

A THOUSAND YEARS OF TRASH?

Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth, to set up His government and rule all nations (Revelation 2:27). What will the world be like under the just reign of Christ? Jesus Christ will certainly not take a “hands-off” approach to waste management in His Kingdom. God wants the whole world to be like the Garden of Eden again (Isaiah 51:3). As people turn from their old selfish ways, God promises that repentant sinners will have their sins forgiven and their land healed (2 Chronicles 7:14). He will heal the waters so fish will thrive again (Zechariah 14:8; Ezekiel 47:8–9).

How can we know that God will not want His Kingdom to be littered with decaying trash? One passage in the book of Ezekiel describes a prophesied event from which we can draw an important principle. During the Millennium, the nations of Gog and Magog will lead an attempted rebellion against God, but will soundly be defeated. Notice how Scripture describes the aftermath of that uprising: “For seven months the house of Israel

will be burying [the bodies of those killed in the war], **in order to cleanse the land**... They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, **in order to cleanse it**” (Ezekiel 39:12–14).

God wants the land to be clean! He does not want decaying refuse to mar



the landscape and pollute mankind’s food and water supplies. Indeed, in His Kingdom the whole world will be cleansed from the decay and corruption so prevalent in our present age. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the

sons of God” (Romans 8:19). How soon we need that day to come!

TRUE WASTE MANAGEMENT

What, then, will waste management in God’s Kingdom look like? Interestingly, Ezekiel 39 gives us perspective. Conservation will be a byword. Notice that, after the attempted rebellion described in Ezekiel 39, the Israelite nations will for seven years not need to chop down trees from the forest—they will be using materials left on the battlefield for fuel (Ezekiel 39:9–10). God does not waste anything, and He will teach human beings to do the same.

Many people are familiar with Isaiah’s prophetic description in which men will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks” (Isaiah 2:4). Certainly this is a depiction of peace—of the end of war. But have you ever thought about what else this prophecy is telling us? Under Christ’s direction, people will be using—and reusing—materials, instead of just discarding them when broken or not needed. Metal weapons will be recycled into farm implements!

It is interesting to note that, in the same prophecy, Isaiah condemns

TRASHING OUR HEALTH?

Major waste disposal sites may remove their trash from public view, but concentrating so much trash in one place greatly increases the risk of health problems. Scientific studies continue to highlight serious health risks for those who live near waste management sites. People who live near solid waste or “landfill” sites face increased risk of cancer, birth defects, respiratory or lung problems, skin ulcerations, memory loss and depression. Those living near waste incinerators face increased risk of cancer and birth defects, as well as mental health problems. Children are most at risk, along with those who consume meat, milk and vegetables produced near the sites.

Food produced near waste disposal sites will collect toxic chemicals from the environment and then concentrate them. Plants do this in their fruit, while animals do this in both their milk and their muscle (the meat we eat).

Although the waste disposal process releases only minimal amounts of chemicals into the air, there appears to be a dose-response effect on the human body, meaning that the longer one lives near a site, and the closer one lives to the site, the higher the risk becomes for developing health problems. Many chemicals build up in the body over time, with effects not felt until years after the first exposure.

—Scott Winnail

ancient Israel for falling into a wasteful consumer-driven mentality: “Their land is also full of silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is also full of horses, and there is no end to their chariots” (Isaiah 2:7). Are our nations today that much different? Our “chariots” are cars and our “treasures” are household goods, which we purchase and discard at an ever-faster pace, tempted by an advertising industry dedicated to fueling our ever-growing sense of “need” to spend and use and throw away, again and again.

Are you stuck on the consumer merry-go-round? Or are you learning to be a good steward of the blessings God has given you, as you prepare for the Kingdom of God? Jesus Christ warned, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). Wise King Solomon found that consuming does not satisfy: “All things are full of labor; man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing” (Ecclesiastes 1:8).

Despite this long-held knowledge, our modern capitalist society is largely built around “planned obsolescence”—a deliberate plan to keep consumers buying new things! Some years ago, a friend of mine described his experience working for a clock manufacturer. The company engineered each clock to wear out in a pre-planned period of time shortly after its warranty had expired! Additionally, when an old clock did wear out, it was cheaper to buy a new one than to repair the old one.

What is wrong with this system? It feeds on more and more consumption, and generates more and more waste! “Consumption lies at the heart of American life and economic health, and intrinsic to consumption is garbage... The world of trash did not always exist as it does today. In the nineteenth century refuse was sorted, municipal waste was composted, and

all kinds of materials that left the home as discards were extensively reused. But with industrialization and two massive world wars the production system was radically transformed, and so too was garbage” (Rogers, p. 9).

Imagine the difference it would make if most household goods were crafted to last for 20, 30 or even 50 years! Think of how this would change consumers’ attitudes toward spending. And what if it were consistently less expensive to repair broken items instead of casting them away? That change alone would dramatically reduce the volume of garbage in our municipal waste streams. Consider this November 2009 data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency: **In 2008, 31 percent of the municipal solid waste generated in the United States came in the form of packaging and containers**—that amounts to 76,760,000 tons of garbage, just from constantly buying new stuff! (*Municipal Solid Waste Generation, Recycling, and Disposal in the United States: Detailed Tables and Figures for 2008*).

The EPA report also reveals that Americans are tremendous wasters of food. **In 2008, 13 percent of the total garbage produced in the country was in the form of food scraps.** That comes to about 31,790,000 tons

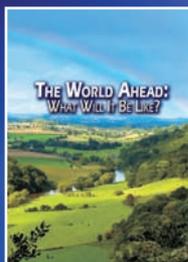
of food thrown away in one year. **Another 13 percent of total waste in 2008—about 32,900,000 tons—came from yard trimmings** (*ibid.*).

Truly, modern society has been seduced into adopting a culture of wastefulness. Thankfully, this will change under the rule of Jesus Christ in the Millennium.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

What role will today’s Christians play in the Millennium? Ruling under Jesus Christ, they will be given responsibility to teach all of mankind a way of life that emphasizes wise stewardship of natural resources. “And the Lord said, ‘Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has’” (Luke 12:42–44). Christians who practice wise stewardship today, taking good care of what God has given them, are preparing for their future in the Kingdom of God! May God bring that day soon, when “everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid” (Micah 4:4). ■

THE WORLD AHEAD: WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?



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PROPHECY CO

The New “Normal”?

For hundreds and even thousands of years, nearly all of the many Western value systems understood homosexual conduct to be against the natural order and the will of God. Yet, in recent decades, the move to tolerate, then accept, and then “normalize” the practice of homosexuality has become a major force in Western political and cultural life.

Why and how has this happened? Has human nature changed, and our values advanced to a more “mature” and “higher” level of understanding? Or might there be a more sinister and ominous aspect to this burgeoning issue that is dividing families, churches and nations? Few today realize that in this drive to legitimize homosexuality, we are seeing ancient Bible prophecies *coming alive!*

THE HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

The rise to prominence of homosexuality and same-sex marriage in Western nations did not just “happen” because “its time had come.” Rather, a careful analysis shows that it is a small minority of activists who have driven the issue. Reliable studies confirm that no more than 2 percent of the population identifies in any way as homosexual, yet their influence has been magnified by a relentless campaign to change the minds of “opinion leaders” in Western society.

About 20 years ago, Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen—two Harvard University-educated homosexual activists—developed a plan to use the power of social marketing and public persuasion tactics to challenge and change fundamental Western views and values. The strategy they mapped out—in an article titled “The Overhauling of Straight America” and in a book, *After the Ball; How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90s*—is now commonly known as “the homosexual agenda.” The essence of that agenda is to

portray homosexuals as sympathetic victims, to portray as villains those who oppose homosexuality, to redefine homosexual conduct as “normal” and even “desirable”—and to recruit political and financial support to overturn laws that constrain homosexual conduct.



Kirk and Madsen described their agenda as follows: “The campaign we outline in this book, though complex, depends centrally upon a program of *unabashed propaganda*, firmly grounded in long-established principles of psychology and advertising” (*After the Ball*, p. xxviii). At the same time as public health officials were growing concerned about the rampant spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Kirk and Madsen saw AIDS as an incredible public relations

opportunity, “How can we maximize the sympathy and minimize the fear? How, given the horrid hand that AIDS has dealt us, can we best play it?” (*ibid.*, p. xxvii).

What we are seeing in America and other Western nations is the *result* of a deliberate attempt to change the perspectives and values of nominally “Christian” peoples—through the power of advertising and persuasion techniques. As Kirk and Madsen wrote, “We mean conversion of the average American’s emotions, mind and will, through a *planned psychological attack*, in the form of propaganda fed to the nation through the media” (*ibid.*, p. 153). This strategy has allowed these radical ideas to gain acceptance in schools, universities, churches, courts and political parties in recent decades.

FACTS IGNORED

So, is homosexual behavior *really* just a normal and harmless alternative lifestyle? Are homosexuals just a persecuted minority that has been denied its deserved rights? Were they “born that way”—and does it matter? Tragically, amidst the public relations onslaught, facts are *deliberately ignored* in the struggle to legitimize



MES ALIVE

homosexuality. There is no decisive scientific evidence that homosexuality is an inborn trait—despite 20 years of research, no “gay gene” has been discovered. Widely recognized factors that contribute to homosexual identification include (but are not limited to) childhood experiences in broken homes, particularly with distant or abusive fathers and dominating mothers. Moreover, homosexuality is a high-risk lifestyle that is chosen—not inherited. Homosexuals exhibit extremely high rates of promiscuity (some having *hundreds* of sexual partners in a lifetime), higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases (especially AIDS and hepatitis) and face reduced life expectancy. They exhibit more signs of mental illness and substance abuse, and have been found to engage in nearly double the rate of domestic violence as found among married heterosexuals.

Studies have also found that men in same-sex relationships display higher rates of “unfaithfulness” and break up more frequently than heterosexual marriages. Children reared in homosexual “families” experience more gender confusion and are more sexually active and more likely to engage in homosexual behavior than children raised in stable, God-fearing families (“Homosexuality: Some Neglected Concerns,” *Journal of American Physicians & Surgeons*, Fall 2005, pp. 80–82). Today, however, because of the deceptive effort to legitimize homosexual behavior, these sobering facts are deliberately ignored by the proponents of “normalized” homosexuality. Attempts to present these sobering facts are typically met with ridicule, and those who present them are demonized as “homophobes” and religious fanatics.

ANCIENT PROPHECIES COME ALIVE

The Bible plainly teaches that homosexual conduct is *not* acceptable to God—it is labeled a detestable thing, “an abomination” and a sinful behavior (see Leviticus 18:22; 1 Timothy 1:9–10). The Apostle Paul warned the morally loose Corinthians, “*Do not be deceived*. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites...will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9–10). Scripture could not be clearer! So, why are leaders in so-called “Christian”

nations promoting as normal, behaviors once viewed as evil perversions?

The simple answer is that millions are being deceived! Our modern secular world has lost sight of the fact that there are satanic forces operating in the world. The Bible reveals that Satan is “a liar and the father of it,” and that he is a *deceiver* who “deceives the whole world” (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9). Satan used *lies* to deceive Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1–13) just as radical activists today use *lies* to promote homosexuality as a normal, healthy alternative lifestyle. The Apostle Peter warned Christians to *beware* of false teachers who use “*deceptive words*” to lead people away from true biblical values (2 Peter 2). Paul records that when people turn away from God and reject His divine instructions, they are *easily deceived* and turn to practices that lead to their demise (see Romans 1:18–32). This happened to the Greeks and Romans as their empires crumbled, and it is happening in the so-called “Christian” nations of the Western world today! One knowledgeable scholar has observed, “Whoever, therefore, wishes to *ruin a nation*, has only to get this vice [homosexuality] introduced; for it is extremely difficult to extirpate it where it has once taken root” (*The Homosexual Agenda*, Sears and Osten, p. 16)

Long ago, Moses foresaw this tragic state of affairs when he warned the ancient Israelites, “I know that after my death you will become *utterly corrupt*... *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 through the work of your hands” (Deuteronomy 31:29). The prophet Isaiah warned that a time would come when, “Those who lead you *cause you to err*” by calling “evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 3:12; 5:20)—just as we are seeing today! The prophet Hosea foresaw a time when the backsliding descendants of the Israelites would consider the laws of God a “strange thing” (Hosea 8:12) and Peter prophesied, “*scoffers will come in the last days*” who will ridicule God’s word (2 Peter 3:3–4). As we watch these ancient prophecies coming alive today, we must not be deceived, lest there be grave consequences—to families, to nations and to individual ruined lives!

—Douglas S. Winnail



NINE-ELEVEN PLUS TEN

By Dexter B. Wakefield

On September 11, 2001, a stunned world watched as tragedy struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the giant symbol of Anglo-American domination of world finance. Tens of millions of people were watching live on television when a hijacked commercial airliner struck the WTC. Minutes before, another plane had smashed into the first tower. Soon, in Washington, DC, a third hijacked jet would strike the Pentagon, the symbol of United States military strength. A fourth hijacked jet failed to reach its target, crashing in a Pennsylvania field. Together, the attacks killed nearly 3,000 people and horrified millions of shocked onlookers around the world.

But the horror was not universal. In some cities around the world, people rejoiced and even danced in the streets. U.S. President George W. Bush quickly declared war on al Qaeda, the shadowy organization of radical Islamists who took credit for the attack. The first U.S. troops were deployed to Afghanistan in October 2001, and to Iraq in March 2003, but it would be nearly a full decade before Bush's successor, President Barack H. Obama, would announce on May 2, 2011 that U.S. Navy Seals had killed al Qaeda head Osama bin Laden in a firefight near Karachi, Pakistan.

September 11, 2011 marks a full decade since the "9-11" attack. How has the U.S. changed since that watershed event? How has the Muslim world changed? And, looking at these events through the eyes of Scripture, *what can we expect in the future?*

THE FIRST ATTACK

The WTC had been a jihadist target long before the "9-11" attack. On February 26, 1993, a radical group with connections to al Qaeda detonated a well-constructed homemade bomb in the WTC parking garage. The bomb—about 1,500 pounds of urea nitrate explosive in a rented van—was parked next to a structural element in the garage. The plan was to make one tower collapse into the other, thus destroying both. How close did the terrorists come to success? The WTC's architect later testified that if the van had been parked closer to the building's poured concrete foundation, the tower would have fallen ("An Icon Destroyed," *Newsweek*, September 11, 2001).

Seven people, including an unborn child, died in the February 1993 attack, and another thousand were injured, mostly from the subsequent evacuation of the building. Victims sued the New York and New Jersey Port Authority, owner of the buildings. The court found the Port Authority 68 percent responsible, and the terrorists only 32 percent responsible. The country went back to business as usual. The jihadists went back to planning their next attack.

WAR ON TERROR

Nine days after the 9-11 attack, President Bush spoke to a joint session of the U.S. Congress and declared what he called a "War on Terror." In addition to troops sent abroad, this war led to a range of new security measures unprecedented in U.S. history. In October 2001, Congress passed stringent new legislation, dubbed the "Patriot Act," giving the government more power than ever to conduct surveillance on law-abiding U.S. citizens as well as suspected criminals. A federal Department of Homeland Security was established in November 2002.

Some of the most visible changes have been at airports, where passengers face strict regulations about the transport of liquids and sharp objects. Shoes, coats and computers are inspected closely, and people who do not consent to “full body scans” face “pat-downs” that many consider an assault on both privacy and dignity. Away from airports, security in other public places has also increased, along with a proliferation of metal-detecting devices at building entrances.

Domestic terrorism has become a major concern, as U.S. officials encounter “home-grown” Islamists influenced via the Internet by radical Muslim clerics. One such case was the November 5, 2009 shooting spree at Fort Hood, Texas, where Major Nidal Hasan—a U.S. army psychiatrist who had expressed upset about his imminent deployment to Afghanistan—was arrested and charged with killing 13 people and wounding 29 others. Witnesses report that Hasan entered a building on the Army base, shouting “Allahu Akbar” (“God Is Great”) while firing on dozens of people before police subdued him. Witnesses report that Hasan was a devout student of Anwar al-Awlaki, a radical Muslim cleric who is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Yemen.

Much debate has gone on between those who favor giving the U.S. government increased powers of surveillance and prosecution of terrorism and those who reject such increases as a betrayal of the nation’s ideals of freedom and liberty. Some have suggested that simply by prodding the U.S. to clamp down on its citizens’ liberties, the terrorists have “won” their battle against Western values even without firing another shot or exploding another bomb. Others point out that, while the U.S. has implemented “politically correct” security procedures that seem to give equal scrutiny to a

25-year-old single male from Egypt and a 95-year-old great-grandmother from Canada, other nations have implemented overt “profiling” of suspected terrorists based on ethnic, national and demographic characteristics. Critics say that while the U.S. security apparatus can only screen for bombs, the Israelis (for example) can also screen for terrorists.

Despite the ongoing debate about security “at home,” Americans can point to what seems to be relative success in anti-terrorism efforts. Since the 9-11 attacks, the bulk of successful terrorist activity has occurred outside North America, while thousands have died in jihadist attacks in Muslim countries. Even so, their presence has been felt in the West. Radical Muslims were blamed for March 11, 2004 train bombings in Madrid, Spain, which killed 191 people and wounded about 1,800. Suicide bombers in London killed 52 people and wounded about 700 on July 7, 2005 when they carried out coordinated attacks on four public transportation targets.

In the U.S., well-publicized failures such as the “Shoe Bomber” and the “Underwear Bomber” have left many wondering whether there are many other attacks being stopped before they occur, or whether the new generation of terrorists is simply inept. Aside from occasional scares by “Beltway Snipers” or other small-scale incidents, it would seem that anti-terrorist efforts have enjoyed significant success in curtailing major threats across the U.S. and Europe. Overall, jihadists have been far more successful attacking Western-allied Muslim nations than Western nations.

AN “ARAB SPRING”?

Autocratic governments have traditionally been the norm in

the Middle East. The tribal social structure of Arab society has lent itself well to such governance. Yet, this has not prevented simmering unrest from building as citizens react against the corruption, oppression, poverty and uneven wealth distribution they see in their nations.

Tunisians overthrew their government in December 2010, and the “Tunisian wind” has since blown through Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria and Libya. Western governments are taking notice as protesters call for democracy in their nations; some are calling the unrest an “Arab Spring” that they hope will lead to the formation of Western-style liberal democracies across the Middle East.

Characteristic of this hopeful view has been U.S. President Barack Obama. In a statement to the press on May 19, he said: “We face an historic opportunity... There must be no doubt that the United States of America welcomes change that advances self-determination and opportunity... After decades of accepting the world as it is in the region, we have a chance to pursue the world as it should be.... So in the months ahead, America must use all our influence to encourage reform in the region.... Let me be specific. First, it will be the policy of the United States to promote reform across the region, and to support transitions to democracy.”

But is the President realistic in his view? Many across the Middle East have a very different vision. In the past, when Muslims have had the opportunity to vote, they have often voted for Islamist, anti-Israel candidates. When Israel gave the Palestinians control of the Gaza Strip, everyone expected them to vote for the Palestinian Authority and to attempt to seek peace with Israel. In fact, they supported

Hamas—an Islamist political party that Western democracies label as a terrorist organization.

Opinion polls show that significant majorities in many Arab countries favor the establishment of Sharia law, derived from the Qur'an and centuries of Muslim jurisprudence. Several nations, such as Afghanistan, Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen already have Sharia law in some form. Others, such as Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, mix Sharia with other systems. To the great surprise of many Western analysts, University of Maryland researchers polled Arab nations and found that substantial majorities in Pakistan, Egypt and Morocco favored *the establishment of the Caliphate*—which would mean autocratic Islamist rule!

Far from voting to establish liberal, Western-style democracies, Middle Eastern countries—if they are given the chance to vote—could very well choose Islamist governments like those of Gaza or Iran. Rather than establish a liberal democracy, the current democratic movements in Middle Eastern Islam could very well bring on a charismatic leader to establish a Caliphate and rule autocratically.

What Western politicians hope will be the “Arab Spring” may turn out to be the “Islamic Winter.”

WHAT NEXT?

As the Western nations tire of protracted wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and prepare to withdraw their troops, a “power vacuum” is being created. Contending Muslim forces are jockeying for position to fill the

void. Iran, with its majority of non-Arab Shiite Muslims, is sensing the opportunity to assert much more influence in the region, which is alarming many Arab Sunni Muslims.

Recent rebellions against autocratic Muslim leaders in North Africa have led some hopeful Western analysts to foresee an “Arab spring” that will bring greater democracy to the region. Yet a closer analysis reveals that Islamist winds are blowing across the Middle East with strength far greater than the “winds of democracy.” Secular Western thinkers often fail to recognize that the winds of democracy and Islam may blow together for a time, as opportunistic Islamists use democracy as a tool to topple the secular opposition and institute Sharia law.

What does Scripture tell us about the times ahead? The prophet Daniel long ago described the end-time events we are beginning to witness today: “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south contend with him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass through. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many [countries] shall be overthrown; but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him;

and he shall go forth with great fury to destroy and utterly to sweep away many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the sea and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Daniel 11:40–45, ASV).

This “king of the South” will be a great leader, likely the head of a Muslim coalition, who will attack or challenge a great northern power in Europe. Europeans are well aware of the threat of Islam. For more than a thousand years, Muslim armies occupied large swaths of European territory. In western Europe, Spain, southern France, southern Italy and Sicily were occupied, and large parts of eastern Europe were also under the Caliphate's control.

Today's Islamists still consider these once-conquered territories as rightfully theirs. Hassan al-Banna, the founder of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, wrote, “Andalusia [the Muslim name for Spain], Sicily, the Balkans, south Italy, and the Roman sea islands were all Islamic lands that have to be restored to the homeland of Islam...it is our right to restore the Islamic Empire its glory” (“Understanding the Muslim Brotherhood,” *Wall Street Journal*, February 15, 2011, p. A13).

CHANGES ARE COMING IN EUROPE

Secularism is the *status quo* in Europe. *Laicism*—the practice of barring religious expression from public life—is public policy in France. Yet, many leaders in the EU are calling for an official return to Europe's “Christian” roots as a foundation for European unity. The EU needs greater European unity—in the form of federal control of member nations' fiscal policies—for economic union to prosper and the euro to survive and be strong.

One powerful spur toward unity in Europe is the threat of resurgent Islam. Already, several EU nations are



facing ongoing conflicts between their Muslim populations (largely fueled by immigration) and historic cultural norms. Bible prophecy indicates that at the end of this age, a “king of the South” will form a powerful force to threaten Europe. The prospect of conflict with a Muslim-dominated “king of the South” would not only drive Europe’s nations closer together; it would intensify ethnic and cultural tensions between Europe’s growing Muslim minority and its “Christian” majority. It may be the union of Muslims outside Europe that succeeds in producing the continental unity that Europeans have not been able to accomplish by themselves.

A VULNERABLE UNITED STATES

Ten years after the “9-11” attacks, America remains vulnerable. However, its greatest vulnerability is not its heavily policed airports, but rather its *financial strength*. Thanks to decades of deficit spending on wars and social programs, U.S. sovereign debt is *exploding*, and is now almost equal to the nation’s Gross Domestic Product. All credible analysts agree that the present course is *unsustainable*. Even the security of U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds is coming into doubt, and the economic strength that has long been the engine of U.S. power is coming into question.

The U.S. has always taken great pride in its financial strength, and in the power that strength projects. Now, however, the nation’s economic dominance depends more and more on its ability to borrow massive sums from creditors abroad, a practice it cannot sustain economically or politically. At the same time, the U.S. continues to move further and further away from the Bible-based ethic that once provided a powerful foundation of the nation’s moral sense of right and wrong. As a result, we are seeing a widespread moral

decline at the same time we are seeing the start of a broad decline in the wealth and power of the nation.

Few observers recognize that there is a connection between the nation’s power and its obedience to God. God says that it is *He* who gives people the *power to get wealth*. “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments... when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, *for it is He who gives you power to get wealth*, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:11–18).

God also said of a disobedient nation, “... *I will break the pride of your power*” (Leviticus 26:19).

What happens when God withdraws His blessing from a country? Collapse can occur suddenly, whether it is a company or a country. Consider Lehman Brothers, the big Wall Street firm that held a AAA credit rating until just before its

bankruptcy. And consider the sudden jolt to the U.S. economy in September 2008 when the “sub-prime mortgage crisis” came to a head. Now it is the towering U.S. debt load that is about to collapse. And with the loss of its unblemished AAA status, how much lower will the U.S. credit rating fall?

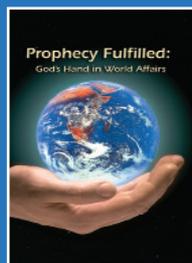
When a stick is bent, it flexes at first. Then, if increasing pressure is applied, it will break *suddenly*. The economies of the U.S. and Britain are still standing—like the WTC towers shortly after the airplanes hit—

but they are weakening as they bend. Serious trouble is ahead. If the U.S. and Britain continue to weaken their credit standing, their economies could collapse like the WTC towers, leaving untold damage in their wake.

The events of “9-11” set off a chain of events that are speeding the fulfillment of end-time prophetic events, setting the stage for a final time of great tribulation before the return of Jesus Christ. Many will be taken by surprise, but you as a *Tomorrow’s World* reader have had advance warning. Will you be prepared when that time comes? ■



PROPHECY FULFILLED: GOD’S HAND IN WORLD AFFAIRS



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WATCH AND W

Islam: At War with Christianity?

From its inception, Islam has been a *conquering religion*, and *Sharia law* has become established as the code under which all aspects of conquered societies must submit. As the winds of the “Arab Spring” grow stronger, as political and financial pressures force the United States to “draw down” its Mideast military presence and as Islam becomes a more prominent force throughout the world, many Westerners worry about the growing influence of Islam and of Sharia law. So, what does Islam say about Christianity? And what does your Bible reveal about a coming war with Islam?

Many individual Muslims are good neighbors and good citizens, hoping only to “convert” unbelievers by their personal example. However, according to strict Islamic teaching, Muslims must make an effort to convert or subjugate unbelievers. What about those who will not convert to Islam? Regulations derived from the *hadith*—the purported sayings of Muhammad—require that unbelievers must be subjected to a special tax, forbidden from holding public office and restricted in their religious observances.

Sharia law, as practiced in several Muslim nations today, establishes *dhimmi* status for professing Christians and Jews living under Muslim rule. A *dhimmi* (literally “one whose responsibility has been taken away”) gains certain rights not granted to Muslims—for example, the ability to eat pork and drink alcoholic beverages—but is restricted in the public display of his or her religion. Different Muslim scholars offer varying interpretations of the scope of *dhimmitude*, but in general the principle is to encourage conversions to Islam through the inconvenience of *dhimmi* status.

Islam has as its goal the total subjugation and conversion of conquered cultures. Modern Iran (ancient Persia) is a powerful testament to this fact. For more

than a thousand years, Zoroastrianism was the dominant religion of ancient Persia, where it formed the basis not just of worship but of culture and public life. Yet, upon the arrival of Islam in about 635AD, Zoroastrians converted or fled en masse. Today, scarcely 20,000 Zoroastrians remain among Iran’s population of more than 75 million.

Under the Ottoman Empire, which lasted into the early 20th century, millions of professing Christians and Jews lived as subjects under Muslim rule. With the British mandate taking over after World War I, the practice of non-Muslim religion across much of the Arab world became far freer than it had been for centuries, and a general trend of “Westernization” took hold in many areas formerly governed by strict Islamic jurisprudence. Now, however, that trend is being reversed. As the U.S. military, “draws down” in the Middle East, it is not surprising that groups such as the Taliban are rapidly replacing the U.S. military presence in those towns and

villages with Sharia law (*CNN.com*, “Taliban back in town,” June 22, 2011).



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ISLAM VS. CHRISTIANITY?

The Qur’an asserts that Muhammad came as an “apostle” to the “People of the Book” (primarily Jews and Christians). Most professing Jews and Christians, however, rejected Muhammad’s new religion (Surah 5:19–32). Considering some of the key differences between Muslim teaching and the biblical account, this is not surprising. For example, the Qur’an asserts that it was through the angel Gabriel, not through the Holy Spirit, that Jesus Christ was conceived in Mary’s womb (Surah 19:19–21). Islam teaches that Christians blaspheme when they proclaim, “Christ is the Son of God” (Surah 5:72). As is written in Surah 112, and as

was inscribed on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem around 691–692^{AD}, Islam says, “Praise be to God, who begets no son and has no partner... He does not beget, He is not begotten, and He has no peer.” The Qur’an also teaches that Jesus did not endure crucifixion; instead, someone else supposedly took His place (Surah 4:157).

More than 90 verses in the Qur’an counsel war against the “unbelievers”—(e.g. Surahs 4:101; 5:51; 9:29), and prescribe execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile for those who wage war against Muhammad and Allah (Surah 5:33). Interestingly, although the Qur’an asserts that Allah has the power to bring every person to salvation, he apparently chooses not to. Rather, his desire is, “I will fill hell with demons and men altogether” (Surah 32:13). Hell in Islam is an ever-burning fire in which the damned will spend eternity (Surah 5:36–37).

How does the Allah of Islam compare to the God of the Bible? The God of the Bible is constant and does not change (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), unlike Allah who, according to the Qur’an, changes his revealed truths as he likes (Surah 2:106). The God of the Bible loved the world so much that He offered His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). His intent was not to condemn the world, but that through His Son, the world might be saved (v. 17).

CHRIST WILL REIGN SUPREME!

Ultimately, the “Arab Spring” will *not* produce widespread “Western-friendly” democracy throughout the Mideast! Consider that, after 57 years in exile, the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood is now Egypt’s “best organized political movement” (*The New York Times*, June 19, 2011). Months after Egypt’s supposed move toward democracy, Egyptian “mobs” are attacking pro-democracy “liberal activists,” while “hundreds of thousands of Islamists” are working toward “transforming Egypt into an Islamic state” (*Wall Street Journal*, August 2, 2011)! Although many do desire peace, a terrible conflict is brewing, and Muslim fundamentalism is spreading.

Jesus Christ warned that, at the end of the age, “nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:7). Of course, this does not mean that *all* religious people will be at war. Not only are there nonviolent Muslims; true Christians are “peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9) who “pursue peace with all people” (Hebrews 12:14) and eschew hate and violence (Mark 10:19; James 2:11). Nevertheless, Scripture reveals that before Jesus Christ’s return, there will be a final war between a “king of the South” (a leader of the Middle Eastern regions now primarily under the sway of Islam) and a false form of “Christianity” dominated by the “king of the North” and a blasphemous “Holy Roman Empire.” Sadly and ironically, neither of these final religio-political powers will have the Truth on their side! Both will be wrong! Revelation 18:2 even condemns the final false-Christian system as “Babylon” and “a dwelling place of demons!” Even so, *many* misguided people will submit to this end-time Babylon, and will briefly prosper. Soon afterward, however, *all who resist Christ* will suffer wrath at His return (Revelation 16:2; 17:14). During that time, the Lord will preserve from harm a faithful “Philadelphian” remnant of His Church (Revelation 3:10), and Jesus’ faithful disciples will *rejoice*, being reminded of Christ’s promise that, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).

The ancient prophet Malachi warned that, just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ, many will vainly practice false religion (Malachi 3:14). For those living in the Western “Christian” nations today, the biggest threat is not militant Islam—it is the acceptance and practice of a false Christianity! However, a small remnant of zealous true Christians will *faithfully serve God*, walking according to His laws, His statutes, His Sabbaths and all His commands. The Lord will “remember” these faithful Christians and will grant them eternal life in His everlasting Kingdom (vv. 16–17). At that wonderful future time, all “shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him” (v. 18).

—Wyatt Ciesielka

How Would Jesus Drive?

Have you been cut off in traffic lately? Have you ever been stopped at a red light, and then the instant it turns green a car quickly turns in front of you, violating *your* right-of-way? Do you frequently find automobiles dangerously riding your rear bumper? Or perhaps you are thinking, “Well, I’m usually the one doing the tailgating, but the people in front of me are driving *far too slowly!*”

We in the Western nations live in a fast-paced, automobile-dependent society. So many of us need to commute long distances to work or school—or, perhaps if we live in major cities—short distances that take *a long time*. According to United States Bureau of Transportation statistics, there are more than 250,000,000 cars registered in the U.S.—which is about one-fourth of all vehicles on the road worldwide.

Navigating several thousand pounds of iron and steel down the road, at speeds that can approach 70 miles per hour or above, is a big responsibility. People who take this responsibility lightly can cause terrible damage, and can even cost others their lives. One small mistake at the wheel could even cost you your life!

Over the 17 years I drove the congested streets of Los Angeles, I was involved in four automobile accidents—one of them major. I have learned that with experience comes a more defensive mindset. But many people today, even seasoned drivers, cannot help but show their NASCAR skills and drive way over the speed limit, breaking the “rules of the road” to be on time for the next meeting, or to get an adrenaline rush from their “need for speed.”

If Jesus Christ walked the earth today and found Himself behind the wheel of a car, truck or SUV, what kind of driver would He be? How should today’s Christians conduct themselves on the road?



God inspired the Apostle Peter to encourage us to follow Christ’s example of perfect character: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’” (1 Peter 2:21).

Jesus Christ *never* broke God’s law. In fact, He even made it a point to obey the legitimate laws of the secular government that ruled over the places where He lived and taught. And He taught us to do the same. The Bible makes it clear that Christians should submit to the governing authorities who reign over us, and warns that if we do not, we will bring judgment on ourselves (Romans 13:1–3).

I have felt that judgment personally, when a careless moment behind the wheel led to the destruction of my vehicle (but, thankfully only to minor injuries). If I had been more

careful to utilize fruits of the Spirit—such as longsuffering (patience), kindness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22)—while driving, I may have avoided that particular wreck.

Christians should strive to *walk* with God daily—and, if we are behind the wheel of a vehicle, we should strive to *drive* with God, having the fear of God. We can make a huge difference on the road by obeying traffic laws that were created for our own safety, and by being courteous to other drivers. As we start our engines, let us remember the eternal words of Jesus Christ, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).

Please request a free copy of our eye-opening booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. In it, *Tomorrow’s World* Editor in Chief Roderick C. Meredith explains plainly from the Bible how God’s laws living in us through the Holy Spirit can give us the spiritual guidance to truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

—Dylan King

Dangers of the Occult

Continued from page 12

Hellenistic period. It spread to India in its older Mesopotamian form. Islamic culture absorbed it as part of the Greek heritage; and in the Middle Ages, when Western Europe was strongly affected by Islamic science, European astrology also felt the influence of the Orient.... Although various Christian councils condemned astrology, the belief in the worldview it implies was not seriously shaken. In the late European Middle Ages, a number of universities, among them Paris, Padua, Bologna, and Florence, had chairs of astrology.”

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

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

dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast” (Revelation 13:14).

How can you tell whether someone is truly a minister of God, and not someone controlled by the occult world? Deuteronomy gives us a key. “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes



to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’; which you have not known; ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him” (Deuteronomy 13:1–4).

A false minister or prophet may even prophesy accurately concerning some sign or wonder. But God says that if he leads you after other gods—if he leads you

away from the God of the Bible and the true Jesus Christ of your Bible—then he is a false prophet. Notice also that God may be testing you, to see if you will be faithful to His word and to His way of life!

BE ON GUARD!

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

The Apostle Peter gave us this instruction: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (1 Peter 5:8–9).

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

Why Does God Punish?

Continued from page 2

terrible debt crisis facing the U.S. and other Western nations, and other such crises? It all goes back to the fact that we are “despising” the God of heaven—the One who actually gave us the blessings we have begun to take for granted! We in America and the British-descended nations have sent out more Bibles, more missionaries and more food and medical supplies to countries in need than *all other nations on earth combined*. Now, we are turning away from the God who gave us these blessings in the first place! Speaking to the modern descendants of the ancient “House of Israel,” God describes the coming “Day of the Lord”—the “time of Jacob’s trouble” which will occur just before Christ returns and King David is resurrected to once again become king over all twelve tribes of Israel (Jeremiah 30:4–9).

In that prophecy, God describes why He will have to punish His people just before Christ returns: “All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased. Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you” (vv. 14–15).

God will chasten us because, as He says, “Your sins have increased.” Does anyone deny that our sins have increased as we have increasingly turned away from the God of the Bible?

Why have we turned away from the true God? Why have we gone off into confusion and all kinds of strange philosophies and concepts *in direct contradiction* to the Bible and its teachings? Again, the Bible is *very clear* about the reason behind our pursuit of false religion and confused ideas! Notice this prophecy, “For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, and have not sought the LORD; therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.” Nearly all scholars recognize that, throughout the Bible, the word “shepherds” often means *ministers*. These particular verses certainly are describing *false ministers* who have “not sought” the true God of the Bible (Jeremiah 10:21).

God describes the modern, Bible-rejecting ministers of our people, “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and

scatter the sheep of My pasture!’ says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: ‘You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,’ says the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:1–2).

Again, God refers to these false “prophets” or **ministers** who prophesy out of their own imagination, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace’; and to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, ‘No evil shall come upon you’” (vv. 16–17). This attitude is spreading throughout Britain, Canada and America. *It will continue.*

The time will soon come when *hundreds of millions* of deceived people—most of them professing “Christianity”—will literally **fight Christ** as He returns to this earth as King of kings! Describing how “ten kings” from the revived Roman Empire “give their power and authority to the Beast,” God’s inspired word reveals, “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. *These will make war with the Lamb*, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:12–14).

I pray that all of you dear subscribers may be inspired by God to “**wake up**” and escape the prophesied punishment, *before it is too late!* After describing this whole foul religious-political system called “Babylon,” God commands: “**Come out** of her my people lest you share in her **sins**, and lest you receive of her **plagues**” (Revelation 18:4)! The time of these prophecies is drawing *very close indeed*. Jesus Christ commanded all of us who understand His word and the prophetic events now underway: “**Watch** therefore, and **pray** always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36).



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