


# TOMORROW'S WORLD

September-October 2012 [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org)



How Would  
Jesus Vote  
for President?



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

## Beware of False Prophets!

**I**t is coming. It is coming soon. Your Bible clearly indicates that a wave of *false prophets* will rise up at the end of this age!

These self-willed, vain men may even affect the lives of thousands of you *Tomorrow's World* subscribers, if you allow this to happen. We in this Work have repeatedly taught you the very "way" of life that Jesus Christ taught His own disciples. We have sent out—*absolutely free*—millions of magazines and booklets explaining the Ten Commandments and *how* to keep them with God's help. We have repeatedly encouraged you to build in your life the "Original Christianity" of Jesus Christ and the apostles—all based upon obedience to the law of love and the way of God.

But, as time goes on, many false teachers will rise up and try to turn sincere people away from the true Work of God. It has *always* been so. The Apostle Paul had to warn the Corinthian elders: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:29–30). Jesus Himself warned us: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?... Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:15–16, 20).

*Think!*

What is the "fruit"—the **result**—of sincere people being taught to follow the example of Christ and the original apostles? It is a people who genuinely try to love and to serve one another and their fellow men. It is a people who **love** the Creator God and joyously observe His weekly Sabbaths

and His annual Holy Days and—through Christ living within them—walk in the way of the Ten Commandments.

By contrast, when a spirit of doubt and discouragement is sown among God's people, often over minor and disputed "technical points" of prophecy or chronology—the "fruit," the *result*—is **not** good. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy to emphasize "sound doctrine." He told Timothy to "remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:3–5).

All true doctrines come back to God's commandments being based on love (v. 5) and service. All true ministers of Jesus Christ emphasize *that* approach—*that* way of life. True ministers of Christ will humble themselves and try in every way they can to encourage and to serve God's people. In his final letter—as recorded in the Bible—the Apostle Peter told the ministers he was overseeing **not** to be, "lords over those entrusted to you" but rather to be "*examples* to the flock" (1 Peter 5:3). Then, Peter continued, "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and *be clothed with humility*, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (vv. 5–6).

Back in apostolic times, when one of the original *false* apostles began to deceive people, your

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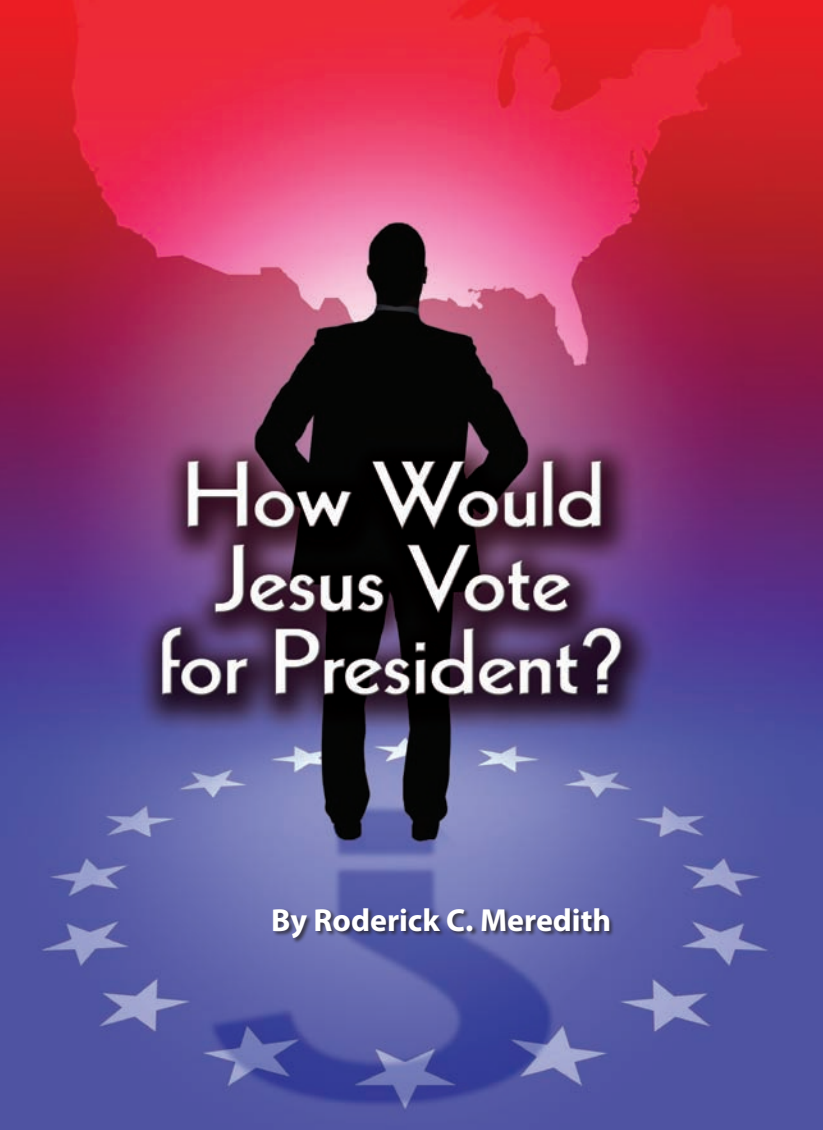
**Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomorrow's World, P.O. Box 3810, Charlotte, NC 28227-8010.**

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# How Would Jesus Vote for President?

By Roderick C. Meredith

**Who can lead us out of the morass of our plummeting morality, our insecure economy and the increasing tensions in our society? As the United States prepares to select a President, how would our Savior respond? How should we as Christians respond? And how should we view the election process itself?**

All around us, the U.S. presidential election process is highlighting deep divisions between Americans. Widely different perspectives exist about what the nation should be. “As Americans head to the polls this November, their values and basic beliefs are more polarized along partisan lines than at any point in the past 25 years.” So says the respected Pew Research Center, in a recent analysis of the United States’ 2012 presidential election campaign (“Partisan Polarization Surges in Bush, Obama Years,” June 4, 2012).

“Values” and issues of religion remain a key concern for Americans seeking to choose their President. The Gallup Organization polled Americans earlier this summer, finding that 11 percent believe President Obama to be a Muslim, though the President has repeatedly said he became a Christian as a young adult (“Many Americans Can’t Name Obama’s Religion,”

June 22, 2012). By contrast, 57 percent correctly identified Mitt Romney as a Mormon. Many Romney supporters have gone to great lengths to defend their candidate’s faith as “just as Christian” as any other form of professing Christianity. Meanwhile, although President Obama describes himself as Christian, he has consistently emphasized his vision of a pluralistic America in which no particular religion is favored over any other.

God certainly commands Christians to be alert to world trends, to “watch” for the signs of the times (Luke 21:34–36). He instructs us to respect—and even to pray for—the elected and appointed government officials who are in authority in our nations (1 Timothy 2:1–4; 1 Peter 2:17–18). But should either major party candidate command the allegiance of Christians in America? If so, which one? And why—or *why not*?

## DOES IT MATTER? WHAT TO DO?

First, let us ask: “Does any of this *really* matter?” A recent Pew Research Center survey found that although 63 percent of American voters say it “really matters” which candidate wins the election in November, only 56 percent are “very satisfied” or “fairly satisfied” with this election’s presidential candidates. That is the lowest satisfaction rating since the 1996 presidential election. Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed said they would like to see a third major party emerge as an alternative (“Obama Better Liked, Romney Ahead on Economy,” June 21, 2012).

So, amidst all the “mud-slinging” and the contentious trading of accusations back and forth, what should true Christians do? How should we respond? Most importantly, *how would Jesus Christ respond* in this politically charged atmosphere? We all need to recognize that true Christians are those who have Christ living in them through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul wrote: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

A true Christian must learn to live as Jesus Christ actually lived—not as many people incorrectly *imagine* He *might* have lived. Jesus Himself told us: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). The genuine answer as to how we ought to live and function in a democratic nation can be found in

the Bible—the inspired word of God. For we are to have the “mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:5). And the Bible is the revelation of God’s mind—telling us how the Father and Jesus Christ really think about the fundamental issues of life.

All through this past summer, Americans have been deluged with messages urging voters to support one candidate or another. Looking at the men who would be President, we ask ourselves: “Does he really believe he is fit to lead the world’s only superpower? Does he think that any *human being* is fit for the task?”

Where is *God* in all of this?

From the beginning, human beings have tried to rule themselves without God’s direct leadership. Most professing Christians do not even realize what Jesus Christ has to do with government. For they have been told far more about the “little Lord Jesus, away in a manger,” than they have about the biblical Jesus Christ who is now standing at the right hand of God in heaven (Acts 7:55–56). The real Christ will soon return in majestic glory as the literal King of kings over the entire earth! To most people, this Jesus is unknown.

Remember, very few professing Christians realize that *Jesus’ gospel was about a coming world government*. One of the most clever, Satanic deceptions ever spread is that Jesus Christ’s message was principally about Himself. The starting point of true Christianity is accepting the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8–11) after truly—and this is too infrequently mentioned—*repenting* of sin (Acts 2:38–39). However, Jesus’ main message—the gospel He preached—centered on world government and the willingness of each human to genuinely surrender to God and eventually become part of His divine Family. This divine government will soon *rule* over this entire earth (Revelation 12:5)!

## WHO RULES THIS PRESENT WORLD?

Though many have been led to believe that this is now God’s world, the Bible tells us something entirely different. The Apostle John was inspired to write: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).

During the temptation of Jesus Christ, He was taken to a mountain and

the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). So the invisible spirit ruler—the prince—over this world’s society is actually Satan the Devil!

Nevertheless, the true Creator God intervenes when necessary, to accomplish His purpose. In Galatians 1:4, Paul taught that Christ “gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age.” But egotistical human beings, who think they know it all, are actually

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shown the glory of all the kingdoms of this world: “And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority [to govern] I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish’” (Luke 4:6).

Did Jesus contradict Satan, and tell him that he was *not* in charge of the kingdoms of this world? No, He did not. Rather, near the end of His ministry, Jesus spoke of Satan in this way: “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (John 12:31). As He also said: “I will no longer talk much with you, for *the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me*” (John 14:30).

Later, Paul wrote: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). Satan the Devil is the invisible ruler—the “god” of this age, which has covered about 6,000 years of human history since the creation of Adam. But this age will end at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as King of kings! God inspired Paul to reveal to us that Satan is “the prince of the power of the air,

unaware that they are under the powerful sway of the invisible Satan. They think that their ideas about society and about government—often diametrically contrary to those of God—make sense. But God says: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Satan *deceives* this world in a thousand different ways! In the book of Revelation, John foresaw a spirit war just ahead when “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).

Later, God reveals to us that at the beginning of Christ’s reign on earth, Satan is cast into a bottomless pit “so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished” (Revelation 20:3). The Bible makes it exceedingly clear that this present society is Satan’s. Rather than truly seeking God’s will, today’s civilization is based on vanity, competition, deception and outright fraud.

Jesus told Pontius Pilate: “My kingdom is not of this world. If My

kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here” (John 18:36). Clearly, Jesus had no intention of trying to get into this world’s politics and wars. He represented another world, another government—the Kingdom of God. Therefore, Jesus would definitely not try to reorganize this world and thrust Himself into the midst of a lying, scheming political system under the sway of Satan the Devil!



### TRAINING TO BE KINGS

Probably within *this very generation*, the biblical Jesus Christ will return to sit on a real throne in the city of Jerusalem. His government will be established throughout the entire earth—a *literal government* empowered by Almighty God, ruled by the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:15–16). And what will Jesus’ followers—the true saints of God—be doing? “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3). In the next few verses, Paul went on to expound how the Christians in Corinth were supposed to learn to practice God’s government in the Church by correctly “judging” problems among themselves. From Genesis to Revelation, a position in God’s government has always been filled by appointment—not by politicking or otherwise making deceptive promises to people, hoping to buy their votes. It was in this context that Paul could ask: “[Why] do you appoint those

who are least esteemed by the church to judge?” (v. 4).

Christians are in training, now, to be kings and priests in the soon-coming Kingdom of God. Jesus stated:

“He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). So we need to overcome our

human ways and human selfishness—and learn to practice God’s government now. Notice this “prayer of the saints” in Revelation 5:9–10: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth.*” Clearly, the true saints of God will soon have rulership—not up in heaven, but *on this earth!*

Carefully study the parable of the pounds in Luke 19:11–27 in the *King James Version*. Here Jesus is pictured as going off to heaven to receive His Kingdom and to return. When Christ returns, He rewards His servants according to how well each has done in using God-given time, talents and wisdom in serving God. What reward did Christ give His faithful servants? “And he said to him, ‘Well [done], thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities’” (v. 17). And to the servant who had only gained five pounds? “Be thou also over five cities” (v. 19).

Do you see any indication of politicking or voting here? Not at all.

Rather, it is just one more scriptural example to make clear to Christians that the best form of government—God’s government—is not in any way based on human politicking, compromising, wheeling and dealing, and coming up with half-baked solutions to our problems.

Jesus said: “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). He certainly would not lower Himself to be part of this world’s incorrect approach to governing. In fact—*setting us an example*—Jesus Christ in His human ministry *never* made any overtures to the human leaders of His time, *never* involved Himself in any political campaign and *never* taught His followers to try to change the political landscape or straighten out the human governments of His time!

Rather, Christ will deal *decisively* with the kings of this world *when He returns*: “And in the days of these kings [those ruling immediately prior to Christ’s return] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

Later in Daniel, God clearly describes how the true saints will be given authority, under Christ, over *all* the governments of this earth at the Messiah’s return. “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (7:27).

### CHRISTIANS AND TODAY’S GOVERNMENTS

Although Jesus Christ did not actively participate in the governments of this deceived world,

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# Questions & Answers

**Question:** What did Jesus mean when He spoke of a “good eye” and an “evil eye” in Matthew 6:22–23 and Luke 11:34–36? Surely belief in the “evil eye,” or a look that brings bad luck, is just a superstition that contradicts Christian avoidance of magic and pagan influences, right?

**Answer:** These terms were used in the Bible as figurative descriptions of positive and negative attitudes, and had no connection to superstitious belief.

The Hebrew Old Testament refers to one having a “good eye” or an “evil eye.” Five times it speaks of having an “evil eye”—in Proverbs 23:6, Proverbs 28:22, Deuteronomy 15:9 and Deuteronomy 28:54, 56. Once—in Proverbs 22:9—it speaks of having a “good eye.” Those with an “evil eye” are shown to be stingy or greedy—focused on material gain for themselves rather than on serving their guests, helping the poor or even helping their family in times of dire need. Those with a “good eye,” by contrast, are shown to be generous toward the poor.

These concepts carry over into the Greek New Testament, which was written mostly by Jews whose native language was Aramaic and who were familiar with biblical Hebrew idioms. One of the things that Jesus said come from *within* the man, and that *defile* the man (Mark 7:20–23), is “an evil eye” (v. 22). The *Revised Standard Version* renders this phrase as “envy.” Other versions render it as “jealousy,” “stinginess,” and even “mean looks.” Incidentally, the Greek text of Mark 7:22 follows the Greek Septuagint’s *literal* translation of Deuteronomy 15:9, rather than its *figurative* translations of Proverbs 23:6 and 28:22.

In one of Jesus’ parables (Matthew 20:1–16), the owner of the vineyard chided those who complained about how he paid his employees, saying, “Or is your eye evil because I am good?” (v. 15). The *Revised Standard Version* puts this last sentence as, “Or do you begrudge my generosity?”

But in Matthew 6:22–23 and Luke 11:34–36, Jesus took the concepts of a “good eye” and “an evil eye” a step further than Moses and Solomon did. The whole context of Matthew 6:22–23 has to do with one’s approach to money and material things (vv. 19–34). Now consider Jesus’ admonition to “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (v. 20) in that light.

We frequently cite this verse in the context of giving tithes and offerings to God—which Jesus certainly upheld (Matthew 23:23). Yet everywhere that Jesus spoke of “laying up treasures in heaven,” He always did so in the context of giving alms to the poor (Matthew 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33–34). The point is, if we are generous with God *and* our fellow human beings, then our spiritual eyes will be “good” (that is, “sound” in the Greek). If we are devoted to our own selfish, material pursuits, then our spiritual eyes will be “evil” (or “bad”).

Remember, Jesus’ disciples *already* were supporting God’s Work under the Old Covenant through their tithes and offerings (Deuteronomy 12:6, 17; 14:28). That kind of support carried over to the Church’s Work under the New Covenant. Yet as Paul wrote later, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” (1 Timothy 6:17–19). The *Revised Standard Version* has “the life which is life indeed,” which may convey the thought of the Greek (“the life,” using the emphatic article) somewhat better.

Nothing is mentioned in this passage about tithes and offerings; their validity is simply *assumed*. Under both the Old and the New Covenants, one is commanded to *tithe and give generous offerings to God*. Financially, this comes first! But one is *also* commanded to be generous with one’s fellow human beings. Such generosity is what gives one a “good eye” or a “sound eye.” Of course, such generosity applies in principle to what one gives to God (Malachi 1:6–14; Proverbs 3:9–10) and to one’s family (1 Timothy 5:8). After one meets these priorities, then one helps the rest of mankind, and especially “those of the household of faith” or fellow Christians (cf. Galatians 6:7–10).

# Oh Canada!

## Freedom under Attack!

Canadians are known for being polite. Sometimes politeness here goes to the extreme. Go for a walk in my neighborhood and come to a corner the same time a car does, and there will be a friendly standoff—with each gesturing for the other to go first.

Certainly there are plenty of impolite people here in Canada, but citizens of the United States often recognize Canada's culture of niceness and friendliness when they describe their neighbors to the north. Yet, this very politeness conceals a war against the God who taught His followers to love their neighbors as themselves (Matthew 22:39).

Many who applaud the spread of "liberal" and "progressive" values are pleased that Canadian courts now consider same-sex marriage a fundamental right for all Canadians. But how many have considered that, in enforcing this right, the Canadian courts are trampling on the rights of sincere individuals who are charged with performing marriages. For example:

"Saskatchewan's top court has decided that proposed legislation allowing provincial marriage commissioners to refuse to perform same-sex weddings on religious grounds violates the constitution.

Marriage commissioner Larry Bjerland, of Rose Valley, Sask., said he was disappointed by the decision from the appeal court.

'We're not asking for a whole lot,' he said. 'All we're asking for are the same rights that anyone else has—and that's to refuse to do work. If the work is contrary to what your religious beliefs are, then you shouldn't be forced into doing it'" (CTV.ca News Staff, January 10, 2011).

Already several judges and justices of the peace have been fired or forced to resign their positions because of this ruling. For now, members of the clergy are exempt

from the rule, but no one can say whether or for how long this exemption will last. Many Canadian pastors are deeply concerned, as they perceive that the trend has been for long-established religious freedoms to be "trumped" by the desires of activists seeking to exercise their new-found and non-traditional freedoms.

Carters and Associates, a law firm specializing in issues that affect churches and charities, recently published a note with the following headline: "Discrimination Based on Gender Identity or Expression to be Prohibited in Ontario."

Discussing Bill 33, a piece of proposed legislation in Ontario that would modify the province's Human Rights Code, they comment as follows: "The Code will provide that every person has the right to equal treatment without discrimination because of 'gender identity' or 'gender expression' with respect to employment, services, accommodations, contracts and memberships in vocational associations..."

And who are those covered by the provisions of this legislation in the eyes of the Ontario Human Rights Commission? "Individuals whose birth-assigned sex does not conform to their gender identity include transsexuals, transgenderists, intersexed persons and cross-dressers" (Carter's Charity Law Bulletin, No. 285, June 27, 2012).

Once this new law is in force, charities and not-for-profit organizations operating in Ontario will be subject to the new amendments. Currently, the law provides exemptions for churches, but this legislation is so new that observers cannot be sure exactly how churches will be affected.

### THE SUPREMACY OF GOD

These recent developments pose a problem for those who sincerely believe in the opening statement of the



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Canadian Charter of Rights: “Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law....” Where in these recent developments are the rights of Canadians who recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of His law? By the terms of the Charter of Rights, they should not be required to compromise their consciences. Part 2 of the Charter contains the following provision: “Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms: (a) freedom of conscience and religion; (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication; (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and (d) freedom of association.

Did the architects of the Charter, and do those who today love to turn to it to justify their abandonment of long-held societal values, expect sincere believers to ignore God’s plain instructions, such as His command, “A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman’s garment” (Deuteronomy 22:5)? Clearly, much has changed since the Charter was given royal assent on March 29, 1982.

For several years, Section 13:1 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which established extrajudicial “Human Rights Commissions,” has been of great concern to Canadian citizens. Many—especially those with strong religious beliefs—have seen it as a tool used by special interest groups as a bludgeoning club against free speech, especially point (b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights. An editorial in the respected *National Post* made the blunt assessment that these commissions “are out of control, far more interested in imposing political correctness than defending free speech” (“A Bit Late for Introspection,” *National Post*, June 19, 2008).

The editorial goes on: “It is increasingly obvious these commissions were set up deliberately to lower the standard of proof and get around rules of natural justice, thereby ensuring people who would never be convicted in court are punished to the satisfaction of the activists and special interest groups that hover around the tribunals.... Truth is not a defence. Defendants are not always permitted to face their accusers. Normal standards for assuring the validity of evidence do not apply. Hearsay is admitted.... No wonder

the CHRC has a 100 percent conviction rate on hate speech complaints” (*ibid.*)

There is some recent good news, however, on the free speech front, as the Human Rights Commissions are no longer being allowed to act on the problematic Section 13.1 regulations of the Human Rights Act. As reported by *MacLean’s Magazine*, “Section 13 of the Canadian Human Rights Act slipped quietly beneath the waves last week [June 6, 2012] during a nighttime sitting of the House of Commons—victim of a private member’s bill and a trailer load of toxic publicity” (June 25, 2012, p. 15).

### THE MYTH OF NEUTRALITY

A particular set of speech-restricting regulations may be gone, but secularist challenges to religious freedom continue. It is a mistake for any country to think of secularism as neutral. It is not! Secularism only masquerades as neutral, and with its political correctness tool it wages war against traditional and biblical values. The number of cases that demonstrate a secular bias in Canada are too numerous to recite, but one typical example involves the legal case of *S.L. v. Commission scolaire des Chênes*. Canada’s Supreme Court ruled that Roman Catholic parents of schoolchildren in Quebec could not have their children exempted from an “Ethics and Religious Culture” course that treated biblical accounts as myths and legends (“Supreme Court Affirms Right of Province To Implement Religious Course,” *Canadian Council of Christian Charities*, February 17, 2012).

As in so many other countries, biblical and family values in Canada are being overturned by militant and vocal minorities. This is not surprising when one understands Ephesians 2:2, which speaks of “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.” This spirit power is none other than Satan the Devil, “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), who is actively deceiving the whole world (Revelation 12:9). When it comes to the prince of the power of the air working in the sons of disobedience, Canada is not exempt!

—Gerald E. Weston

# BEYOND WORLD WAR III

By Richard F. Ames

**WE LIVE IN DANGEROUS TIMES. TROUBLE IS AHEAD. BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS BEYOND THE TROUBLE!**

Our planet suffered two devastating world wars in the last century, in which tens of millions died, both soldiers and civilians. In World War II alone, estimates indicate that more than 40 million civilians perished, along with more than 20 million soldiers.

Since the end of World War II, regional wars have claimed further millions of lives. From the “killing fields” of Kampuchea to the bloodied deserts of the Sudan, lives have been lost as men have sought to gain control of nations.

Will there be a World War III? And, if so, what will it do to our planet? Physicist and Nobel Prize winner Albert Einstein famously stated, “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

How serious is the threat of world war and global destruction? Many secular experts believe the threat is real, and is increasing. On January 10, 2012, *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* released an announcement

concerning its symbolic Doomsday Clock: “It is five minutes to midnight. Two years ago, it appeared that world leaders might address the truly global threats that we face. In many cases, that trend has not continued or been reversed. For that reason, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* is moving the clock hand one minute closer to midnight, back to its time in 2007.”

Your Bible reveals that another world war is ahead. But it also guarantees that—after this war of unprecedented proportions—there will be a new civilization that will bring peace and harmony to all the world’s nations. Yes, troubling times are ahead, but there is hope for the future of planet Earth.

Most people will say that they desire world peace. Yet history has demonstrated that mankind does not **know** the way to peace. Nations continue to use modern technology to invent more weapons of mass destruction. At the end of World War II, the United States was the planet’s undisputed superpower. The Atomic Age began

in 1945, on August 6, when the United States dropped the first-ever atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. The prophesied end-time era of mass destruction had begun. Eventually, the Soviet Union exploded its own nuclear bomb, and now at least nine nations are known to possess nuclear weapons.

Can mankind solve the world's conflicts, wars, and problems? Your Bible gives the answer. The Apostle Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah: "And the way of peace they have not known" (Romans 3:17). Why not? "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (v. 18).

No nation has **consistently** demonstrated a reverence and love for the Creator of all nations. And so, apart from God, they have not learned the way to peace! The Creator of all peoples reveals in His word, the Bible, the **true** way to peace: "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain" (Psalm 127:1).

Today, nations around the world continue to neglect and **reject** God. As the world struggles with the global financial crisis, and as we see prophetic events leading up to World War III and beyond, we need to know the way to individual peace, and the promise of world peace—as promised in your Bible! Remember that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, preached the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15).

The word "gospel" comes from an old English expression signifying "good news." Christ's good news is that mankind's way of selfishness, sin and destruction will be replaced by God's way of peace and prosperity. Jesus taught us all to pray "Your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10).

God's Kingdom is coming to this earth soon, in which Jesus Christ Himself—the Prince of Peace—will rule planet Earth and teach all of humanity the way to peace and prosperity. Your Bible describes the glory of the coming Millennium, a thousand years of peace on earth. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, will return to Jerusalem, which will become the capital of planet Earth. "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain.' Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets'" (Zechariah 8:3–5). Yes, the elderly will no longer be victims of abuse, and the young will live in safety.

Farms will prosper, yielding abundant crops with sustainable agriculture. Read this inspiring prophecy: "'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,' says the LORD your God" (Amos 9:13–15).

Yes, our polluted planet will be renewed—but not through even the best of mankind's efforts. What lessons have human beings learned during the last 6,000 years of war, conflict, suffering and death? Have we learned the way to peace? At the end of World War I, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proposed a League

of Nations that would work together for peace. After World War II, in 1945, the United Nations was formed for the same purpose. Yet the League of Nations failed, and neither have the 192 member-states of the U.N. found the way to lasting world peace. Indeed, when historians Will and Ariel Durant examined our record of war and peace, they concluded, "In the last 3,421 years of recorded history only 268 have seen no war" (*The Lessons of History*, p. 81).

When *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* issued its warning last January, the statement included a sobering reminder. "The world still has approximately 19,500 nuclear weapons, enough power to destroy the Earth's inhabitants several times over." Will humanity have the restraint to choose not to use those weapons? Jesus Christ foretold that His return would be necessary in order to save mankind from itself. He warned, regarding the end-times, "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

How will we know we are in "those days"? Jesus gave an important sign. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). You have been reading that gospel in this magazine. It is the good news of the coming Kingdom of God on this earth.

Consider another vital sign Jesus gave to signal His imminent return to planet Earth. "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains" (Matthew 24:15–16). We need to be alert to the signs of the times. The end-time abomination of desolation will be carried out under the authority of the Antichrist. "Let

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

The “Olivet Prophecy” of Matthew 24—so named because Jesus spoke it on the Mount of Olives—reveals three additional key signs, occurring over a three-and-a-half year period before Christ’s return. These signs can be understood in the context of the book of Revelation, which also describes them. In sequence, these are the Great Tribulation, the Heavenly Signs and the Day of the Lord. While these signs are unfolding, Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles for 42 months (Revelation 11:2). The two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days (Revelation 11:3). The “Philadelphia” remnant of God’s Church will be taken to a safe place in the wilderness (Revelation 12:14). All through these 42 months, the Beast power will continue to wield its authority over the nations of the earth (Revelation 13:4–5).

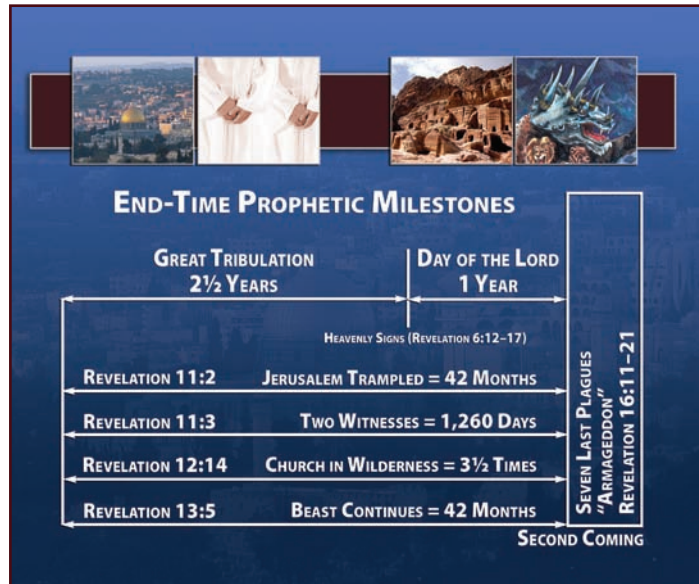
Near the end of this prophesied time, the last of seven trumpets in heaven will sound. Remember that the year-long Day of the Lord will consist of seven “trumpet” events during which God will bring His judgment down on the nations. The last three of the trumpets will herald major phases of “World War III” as the world’s armies rise up under the direction of the Beast, in direct opposition to the true God. The sixth trumpet will introduce a massive military attack as Eastern

powers will march toward the Middle East: “Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow;

True Christians’ prayers for God’s coming Kingdom will be answered! The returning King, Jesus Christ, will execute the final judgment on planet Earth’s warring nations. The seventh trumpet of Revelation consists of the seven last plagues. The Apostle John introduces these plagues: “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete” (Revelation 15:1). Remember that the Day of the Lord is the period of the Lamb’s judgment and wrath upon the nations. It is called “the great day of His wrath” in Revelation 6:17.

Amazingly, the world’s military forces will combine to fight against the returning Christ. Armies will gather at *Har Megiddo* (Hebrew for “Mount Megiddo”), also known as “Armageddon” (Revelation 16:16). “The kings of the earth and the whole world” (v. 14) will then march on Jerusalem. But they will be no match for the King of kings and His army. “And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:14–16).

This violent battle between good and evil will end with Christ’s awesome victory. He will cast the false prophet and the Beast into a



and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths” (Revelation 9:16–18).

This is a description of “weapons of mass destruction” that will destroy one-third of mankind. As horrible and tragic as the millions of deaths were during World War I and World War II, these events will come to seem almost insignificant in comparison to the coming devastation of World War III. But there will be hope just ahead. Notice the announcement of the seventh trumpet. “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

lake of fire burning with brimstone (Revelation 19:20). God will send an angel to bind Satan the devil and cast him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3). When this has come to pass, the returned Jesus Christ will have victoriously brought an end to World War III.

Beyond World War III, planet Earth will enter into a time known as the “Millennium”—a thousand-year period during which today’s true Christians will rule with Jesus Christ. Here is how Scripture describes that wonderful time: “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4-6).

Yes, despite the great turmoil that is ahead of us, there is good news beyond. God declares: “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9). The Kingdom of God will replace the failed governments of the past 6,000 years. And you can have a part in that glorious future! Notice how Scripture describes the destiny of faithful Christians: “And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). Faithful Christians, who will be resurrected at Christ’s return, will be Spirit

beings—glorified and immortalized kings and priests—assisting the King of kings in teaching the nations the way to peace.

This is an amazing future that God has promised today’s faithful Christians! The future beyond World War III will be glorious and exciting! God reveals that wonderful time in many prophecies portraying the Millennium. Consider: “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing” (Isaiah 35:1-2). And: “For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes” (vv. 6-7).

Not only will God renew and restore the land, but He will also heal fragile human beings of all their infirmities. “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the

recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (Isaiah 35:3-6).

There is hope for the future—and specifically for your future! Isaiah describes life during the coming Millennium: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Today’s Christians are called to be a part of that wonderful time beyond World War III. Are you staying close to your Savior, making yourself ready as you watch and pray for His coming? ■

## ARMAGEDDON AND BEYOND



God promises to protect His most faithful people from the troubles that are coming, and to give them an awe-inspiring reward. Are you preparing for the times ahead?

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# LONDON CA

## Will the United Kingdom Break Apart?

### THE UNION DRIFTS APART

In this year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games, the flag of the United Kingdom has been in evidence everywhere. There is nothing more potent and iconic as a symbol of the Union than the Union Jack, as it is called.

But is it possible that the United Kingdom and the Union Jack will one day be torn asunder? Will Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England go their separate ways? What do God and the Bible tell us about the future of the United Kingdom?

### UNION LEADS TO EMPIRE

England is the powerhouse and dominant force within the United Kingdom. It was England that, through colonization and the pragmatic exercise of political, military and religious power, formed the Union over some two-and-a-half centuries. As England begat the Union, so in turn the Union begat the Empire over the following two centuries.

From the complex fusion of Briton, Celtic, Jute, Anglo-Saxon, Viking, and Norman blood, "the British" summoned the energy, drive and ambition to exert themselves on the world scene. At its height in 1922, the British Empire encompassed around a quarter of the world's land surface and peoples, and was the largest empire in history. British historian Niall Ferguson summed up Britain's impact on our modern world: "For better, for worse—fair and foul—the world we know today is in large measure the product of Britain's age of Empire" (*Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World*, page xxv).

But that age of empire is now long gone, and the United Kingdom is but a shadow of its former self. Impoverished by the exhaustion of two world wars, Britain lost its empire. Today, it is mired in massive debt, with much of its sovereignty surrendered to the European Union it joined in a quest for economic survival.

In *Empire: What Ruling the World Did to the British*, author Jeremy Paxman commented: "Finding a role' has (along with not going bankrupt) been the main task of every British government for the last sixty years. In a strange way, the one place which has yet properly to decolonize itself is Britain" (p. 3). Paxman, a respected

British Broadcasting Corporation journalist, is questioning the survival of the United Kingdom itself!

So, if it was England that created the United Kingdom through the exercise of political, military and religious power; and if by these same qualities the United Kingdom created the Empire, will the dissolution of the Empire eventually unwind the United Kingdom itself? Is

Britain at risk of breaking up into its constituent parts?

Union has progressively been weakened though internal factors such as high levels of immigration and the dissipation of the Protestant state church, and external influences such as the U.K.'s membership of the European Union. Nationalist sentiment has always been present in each of the four constituent countries, but these voices have lately become stronger, putting greater pressure on the Union to unravel. Around the turn of the millennium, the U.K. government devolved power to national assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The possibility of devolving more power to the English regions was also discussed, but no further action was taken at that time.

In 2011, many were taken by surprise when the Scottish National Party swept to majority power in Scotland, on a platform of Scottish independence from the United Kingdom. A referendum on this issue is promised for 2014—a promise that has sent shockwaves through the U.K. establishment. Queen Elizabeth II



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is reportedly concerned for the future of her realm. Politicians and public are divided on the issue. It signals both political and business uncertainty. No one quite knows where such a move could lead.

Within Scotland, might the island counties, Orkney and Shetland—having rather different agendas—decide to separate from Scotland? Might a growing Republican presence in the Northern Ireland Assembly be emboldened to try to reunite all of Ireland outside the United Kingdom? And should Wales demand even more say over its own destiny? Finally, if the other regions of the United Kingdom have their own national assemblies, should not England have its own as well, in order to take more direct control over its destiny?

Even some British Crown Dependencies are growing more restless. Both the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are seeing their precious tax haven advantages attacked and progressively eroded by European Union dictates. As the EU continues to take more national powers to itself, will the United Kingdom be able to resist the pressure to submit to European Union policy decisions?

Finally, if the United Kingdom is progressively torn apart into its constituent parts, will those parts remain peaceful? Or will old antagonisms and divisions resurface?

## THE CONTEXT OF UNION AND EMPIRE

One vital key to understanding what is happening is that the British people are the modern-day descendants of Ephraim—part of the ten “lost” tribes of ancient Israel. Britain’s royal House of Windsor can trace its roots back to ancient Israel’s Throne of David. How Britain and its throne came to global prominence is a remarkable and compelling story.

When the descendants of Jacob failed to uphold the terms of the covenant God made with them at Sinai, He sent into captivity first the northern nation of Israel and later the southern nation of Judah. Over time, even after their release, the tribes of Israel lost sight of their biblical ancestry, as God “sifted them through the nations” (Amos 9:9).

History tells us that the ancient Israelites migrated northwards to the area of the Caspian Sea. Then, via successive migrations, they journeyed northwest to Western Europe and to the British Isles. From there they went on to colonize the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other areas. The story of the British Empire is thus the remarkable saga of ancient Israel’s diaspora. It is testimony to God’s faithfulness and His covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel) and Joseph (see Genesis 48:11–22). Ancient Ephraim (modern-day Britain) He made a great company of nations, and Manasseh (the United States) He made a great nation. God also promised to bless and vastly multiply these nations (Genesis 12:1–3; 24:60; 26:3–5), and to give them victory over their enemies (see Genesis 22:16–18; Luke 1:70–75).

But God’s promises were contingent upon obedience to Him. If these peoples would not obey God, He would progressively remove their blessings and their greatness. Is that not what we see happening before our very eyes? Very soon, we may well be witnessing the dissolution of the United Kingdom, marking the end of some 450 years of Empire.

The Empire convinced many that the British were somehow special. But this is the wrong view, a backwards view, to take. Rather, it is because of Britain’s biblical heritage that God has given the nation special favour. It is God—not the best efforts of the British—who gave Britain its Empire, power and strength. And, ultimately, it is God who has been taking all of this away. Britain’s very survival depends on its ability to discover—and live up to—the role God intended the nation to fulfill, a role clearly laid out in the pages of Scripture.

To learn more about this fascinating history, and what it means for the future of Britain, the U.S. and the other modern descendants of ancient Israel, please request our booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It is a formidable story of such extraordinary potency that it has the power to change not only the nation of Britain, but your own life as well!

—John Meakin



# THE WORLD AFTER AMERICA

By Rod McNair

*An ancient story reveals the future of our modern nations.*

The sound of footsteps echoed throughout the prison chamber, as unexpected visitors approached its door. The prisoners could hear muffled voices outside. Suddenly, the door swung open, and the guards looked hastily about. They grabbed hold of one of the prisoners—a man about 30 years of age—and hurried him out of the cell.

Once outside, the prisoner had a new set of clothes shoved at him, and he was told to bathe and shave. While he complied, his mind was racing. Where were these men taking him? And why? The guards hurried him out of the prison, and set him in front of the king of Egypt—the most powerful man in the world. The king opened his mouth to speak. Little did the young man know that, before the conversation ended, his life would be changed forever.

The man was Joseph, and the king was Pharaoh. Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave, 13 years earlier, when he was just 17 years old (Genesis 37:25–36). After being wrongfully accused of assaulting his master's wife,

Joseph was thrown into prison (Genesis 39:20), only to be released years later in such astonishing circumstances.

Thousands of years later, the cruelty Joseph endured is still shocking to think about. Yet we can also find inspiration when we consider the hardship God helped Joseph to overcome, and the wisdom and power of God's plan to save Joseph's people and the entire nation of Egypt. But that plan hinged on Joseph's willingness to *submit faithfully, in patience and trust, to God's will.*

In the story recorded in Genesis, we find that after 13 years of bondage and then imprisonment, Joseph was suddenly released by Pharaoh. He was unexpectedly elevated to the second highest office of the most powerful government of that time. How did this happen?

Pharaoh had been disturbed by troubling dreams. One involved seven sick cows eating seven healthy cows. The second dream involved seven blighted heads of grain devouring seven healthy heads of grain (Genesis 41:1–7). The king's butler knew Joseph as an interpreter of dreams, and brought him before Pharaoh. Here was Joseph's interpretation: "The dreams of the Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do... seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt; but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land" (Genesis 41:25, 29–30).

Joseph suggested that a wise and diligent manager be appointed to collect grain in preparation for the drought years. Pharaoh chose Joseph for this important task, laying the groundwork to save Egypt and the surrounding nations from ruin (Genesis 41:56–57). Under Joseph's hand, Egypt prospered, becoming the "lender of last resort" during a very difficult time. And God also used Egypt's prosperity to reunite Joseph with his brothers who came to Egypt from Canaan in search of grain (Genesis 42:1–3).



This ascent from prison to power is still astonishing more than 3,600 years later! It testifies to God's power to preserve not only families and tribes, but whole nations as well. So, what can we learn from Joseph's rise to power? And what eventually happened to Joseph's family? Can we identify his descendants today? And, though Joseph rose, are his descendants headed for a fall?

### JOSEPH'S FUTURE FORETOLD

After Joseph was reunited with his brothers, he sent for his father Jacob, whose name had been changed to Israel (Genesis 32:28). What a joyful reunion it must have been, with the father he had not seen for decades! Jacob then gathered his sons together to tell them what would happen to their end-time descendants: "And Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days'" (Genesis 49:1). The elderly patriarch then gave a prophecy about what would happen more than three millennia later. Speaking under the inspiration of God, he described Joseph's future: "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall" (Genesis 49:22). In other words, Joseph's latter-day descendants would be "well-watered" and virtually overflowing with food.

The descendants of Joseph would also have a powerful military that, through God's power, would win decisive victories (Genesis 49:23–24), and would also gain rich blessings exceeding those of other peoples (Genesis 49:25–26). Jacob also bestowed a special blessing on two of Joseph's sons—Manasseh and Ephraim—saying, "He [Manasseh] also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations" (Genesis 48:12–19).

Most people assume that Ephraim and Manasseh—and the other tribes that split off from Judah in the days of Rehoboam—were "lost" after they were taken captive by ancient Assyria in 721BC (2 Kings 17:5, 23). Yet Jesus Christ sent His disciples to preach to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 10:6). Though they were scattered, Christ and His disciples knew where they were and how to find them! The Apostle James knew where the "lost" tribes were, opening his epistle with the introduction, "To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad..." (James 1:1). Lost? Not at all!

After being released from Assyrian captivity, the ten "lost" tribes of Israel—including the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh—migrated into Western Europe. The tribe of Ephraim eventually comprised Great Britain and most of the British Commonwealth countries. Manasseh is today identified as the United States of America (To learn more about how Scripture and history establish the modern identity of these two tribes, request our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*).

### JOSEPH'S GENEROSITY

Joseph's faith and wisdom—guided by God—played a crucial part in preserving Egypt and the surrounding nations during the catastrophic drought. He was considered a savior by his people because he did not "withhold grain" from those who needed it (Genesis 47:25; Proverbs 11:26). Joseph's policy—while admittedly consolidating Pharaoh's power—was a blessing for a people suffering severe hardship. As the historian Josephus notes: "[Pharaoh] called upon Joseph, who sold the corn to them, being become confessedly a savior to the whole multitude of the Egyptians. Nor did he open this market of corn for the people of that

country only, but strangers had liberty to buy also; Joseph being willing that all men, who are naturally akin to one another, should have assistance from those that lived in happiness" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, VI. 3).

Joseph was a proponent of an open market, with access for everyone needing food. His works and policies were a blessing! And Scripture reveals that Joseph's end-time descendants—despite their sins and weaknesses—were prophesied to have a similar beneficial impact on the world. God promised Abram: "And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (Genesis 12:2–3). Consider that, as beneficiaries of the global economic system fueled by the Western nations, many countries have had astonishing growth in recent years: "In 2006 and 2007, 124 countries grew at a rate of 4 percent or more. That includes more than 30 countries in Africa, two-thirds of the continent" (*The Post-American World*, Zakaria, p. 2).

The combined effect that the U.S. and Great Britain—modern descendants of Joseph—have had on the world economy has been nothing short of astounding: "For almost three centuries, the world has been undergirded by the presence of a large liberal hegemon—first Britain, then the United States. These two superpowers helped create and maintain an open world economy, protecting trade routes and sea lanes, acting as lenders of last resort, holding the reserve currency, investing abroad, and keeping their own markets open. They also tipped the military balance against the great aggressors of their ages, from Napoleon's France, to Germany, to the Soviet Union" (*ibid.*, p. 45). God has used these two sons of Joseph to create the affluence we are blessed with today.

Regarding the U.S. today, Zakaria writes: "For all its abuses of power, the United States has been the creator and sustainer of the current

order of open trade and democratic government—an order that has been benign and beneficial for the vast majority of humankind” (*ibid.*, p. 45). God *has* blessed America! In spite of its many—and growing—sins, God has been long-suffering and merciful. And the whole world has benefited because of God’s blessings on Israel.

*But are those blessings coming to an end? Will God’s patience with America’s mounting disobedience run out? And what does the future hold for a post-American world?*

### LIFE AFTER JOSEPH

Joseph lived to be 110 years old (Genesis 50:26). After his death, a new Pharaoh ended Joseph’s policy of benevolence, putting the Israelites to hard labor out of fear of their increasing strength and numbers. Taskmasters were set over the Israelites, and a prosperous and vibrant society gave way to slavery and forced labor.

Could this foreshadow the destiny of Joseph’s descendants as well? Authors, commentators and even politicians today often discuss the “decline of America.” Many around the world welcome the prospect of the U.S. being “humbled”—becoming no longer a leader but instead more of an equal partner on the international scene.

Some naively assume that, even with America in decline, most of the blessings to which the Western world has become accustomed will continue. Yet nothing could be further from the truth! As author and historian Robert Kagan points out, “Americans certainly like to believe that our preferred order survives because it is right and just—not only for us but for everyone. We assume that the triumph of democracy is the triumph of a better idea, and the victory of market capitalism is the victory of a better system, and that both are irreversible... If and when American power declines, the

institutions and norms that American power has supported will decline, too... **We may discover then that the U.S. was essential to keeping the present world order together and that the alternative to American power was not peace and harmony but chaos and catastrophe**” (“Why the World Needs America,” *The Wall Street Journal*, February 11, 2012).



So, will America’s future be peace and order, or chaos and catastrophe? The answer can be found in your own Bible! Consider the biblical principle that God rewarded Israel with wealth and prominence as a reward for obedience, but that in times of rebellion Israel has been visited with escalating curses, rampant diseases, environmental disasters and military setbacks (Deuteronomy 28:1–25). God warned through Moses that when sin began to mount in Israel, its former position of world economic leadership would give way to suffocating debt and economic subservience (Deuteronomy 28:44). When Israel went into captivity in 721BC, God’s promises of blessing were deferred for seven prophetic “times”—2,520 years (Leviticus 26:18)—yet even after the blessings were restored, Ephraim and Manasseh squandered them, continuing to disobey their Creator.

Is American culture moving toward greater godliness, or deeper debauchery? Consider that the U.S.

today has a political system full of hypocrisy and greed. Its streets and cities are increasingly dangerous. Many of its children grow up with no moral direction or guidance. God’s laws are mocked and expelled from the public square. Its entertainment industry openly ridicules Christianity, while its media endorses and promotes immorality. Millions have come to accept unbridled greed and selfishness as “the American way.”

But where will it all lead? Moses warned that if end-time Israel would refuse to repent, it would experience *a complete and total collapse, leading to national enslavement!* Notice his warning for Israel: “Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you” (Deuteronomy 28:47–48).

Unless it undergoes a dramatic course change, America will fall. Jesus Christ warned of a coming time known as the “Great Tribulation” (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). It is a time also known as the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” when Israel will again go into captivity (Jeremiah 30:7). The prophesied “Beast” power will overtake and conquer modern Israel, just as its ancient predecessor, Assyria, did in 721BC. This “Beast” power will ally with a great false church, and for a short time this religio-political force will bring prosperity to nations the world over (Revelation 18:11–15).

Yet this prosperity will come at a terrible price. This short-lived, blasphemous world power will rule

**Continued on page 23**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I received my *Tomorrow's World* magazine today and have read the whole thing in one sitting. I couldn't put it down. Not only did you list so many of our national and personal problems, you also gave good solutions to walk up rightly with God's promises and be safe holding on to "His" word and walk through all the unsettled world we live in today. I am now 85 years old and God keeps all His promises. I see His steps in my life every day as He fills all of my needs. He will never leave me or forsake me. Please keep my magazine and books coming. They are such an uplift in this troubled times we are facing. Love you for sending them to me free. I could not squeeze the cost out of my Social Security check. Thank you.

F. C., Plano, TX

I found one of your magazines on the floor. I picked it up and started reading it. I love it. This magazine was named, "Why Study Bible Prophecy?" And one of the articles in it named, "The Danger of False Conversion," really opened my eyes to whether I have really been saved or not. I read a few Christian magazines before, but the way you explain things really hit me, and gave me a new understanding! I would like very much to continue to study what you have to say about the word of God. Could I please be part of your subscription list? I thank God for letting me pick up your magazine off the floor!

D. G., Beaumont, TX

A few days ago I received yet another envelope containing a batch of wonderful CDs and DVDs, presented by the finest speakers I know of. I have been paying closer attention to the DVDs you have sent through the years containing the *Tomorrow's World* telecasts. These half-hour programmes are second to none, and the presenters are most excellent.

H. L., Bronshoj, Denmark

I am so gratefully recharged each time I receive the studies, booklets and free magazines from *Tomorrow's World*. I enjoy reading the letters to the editor; I often read them with tears rolling down my face. I feel their joy. Keep on revealing the truths in Holy Scripture and stay standing strong on the promises, and prophetic word. Thank you for the whole truth, not some watered down doctrine.

M. P., Junee, WSW, Australia

Your magazine looks just like it is "what the doctor ordered." I was beginning to feel like I was the only one who seems to see how close we are to the Lord's return. Your magazine was lying on a table in the third floor of a subsidized apartment building into which I recently moved. Someone had already sent the card to renew his/her subscription, so I thank God for your address. Please add me to your recipient address list and send me your wonderful magazine.

L. B., Maple Plain, MN

I have just finished reading your *Tomorrow's World* "Personal" titled "We Are at War;" and I just have to tell you I needed this so badly. In fact, the entire magazine is a blessing! Never did I understand the Bible at length as I did when I reached the twelfth lesson of your *Bible Study Course*. How I have loved your teachings! I just had to tell you.

C. E., Glendale, CA

I enjoyed reading "The Universe and You" in the March-April, 2012 issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine. It was a very interesting and inspiring presentation of the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the Gospel which Christ commissioned His Church to preach to all the world as a witness to all nations prior to His return to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth.

J. W., St. Michael, Barbados

**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](mailto:Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.**

# PROPHECY Co

## When Nations Despise God!

**W**e are witnessing a growing and increasingly belligerent anti-God movement in nations that previously claimed to be “Christian”—and that once acknowledged God as the source of their blessings. Many “progressive” thinkers view this secular movement as enlightened, modern and liberating—as an idea whose time has finally come. Only a few, who study their Bibles, realize that Scripture long ago foretold the emergence of this movement. Bible prophecies that are *coming alive today* reveal the *serious consequences* that will strike those peoples who despise God and ignore the lessons of history.

### ANCIENT WARNINGS

When God, through a series of dramatic miracles, delivered the ancient Israelites from their captivity in Egypt, Moses warned them to “take heed to yourself... lest you forget the things your eyes have seen... and act corruptly... and do evil in the sight of the LORD... to provoke Him to anger... Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments... if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods... you shall surely perish” (Deuteronomy 4:9, 25; 8:11–19).

God gave the Israelites His laws so they could be an example to the world (Deuteronomy 4:6–8). He entered into a covenant with Israel—a covenant with very simple terms. Obedience to God’s laws would bring blessings; disobedience to His instructions would bring serious consequences (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28).

Yet the Israelites turned away from God and ignored His laws; they “despised the word of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 5:24). As a result, they were conquered by their enemies and carried away into captivity in Assyria and Babylon. The sad lesson of history is that God’s chosen people, intended to be a light to the world, despised their

special calling, and they paid a heavy price—defeat and humiliation at the hands of foreign enemies.

### NATIONS REJECTING GOD

During the 1800s, Western European intellectuals began to doubt, ignore and even deride Scripture.

These scholars—ironically the descendants of the ancient Israelites whose Scripture they mocked—were in particular nurtured by two ideas. One was biologist Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution, which postulated that human beings were not created in the image of God, but rather evolved from “lower” organisms by natural means. The other was philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche’s confident assertions

that God was dead, the Bible a myth, and Christianity no longer a viable belief system.

The seeds planted by these secular atheists have sprouted anew in our present generation. In Britain and the United States, militant atheists are publishing books entitled *The God Delusion*, *God Is Not Great*, *The End of Faith* and DVDs such as *The God Who Wasn’t There*—publications that vigorously trash the Christian faith and the God of the Bible.

In America, a nation founded on the principle of freedom of religion, we now find organizations like “Freedom from Religion” that actively attempt to outlaw any expression of the Christian religion in public. Although the Bible clearly condemns homosexuality, labeling it a sin (Leviticus 18:22; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10), many leaders in Western nations are strongly promoting homosexual conduct as a healthy “alternative lifestyle”—ignoring many medical and psychological studies warning of its potentially dangerous consequences.



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# MES ALIVE

The Bible states plainly that God designed marriage to be between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24). Yet “progressive” politicians—and even liberal theologians—are advocating the legalization of same-sex marriage, openly ignoring God’s scriptural instructions. An Australian Member of Parliament promoting same-sex marriage recently asserted that the law defining marriage as between a man and a woman “was written by politicians and lawyers *in ink not stone*”—a mocking reference to the Ten Commandments (*Sky News*, “MPs to Delay Gay Marriage Vote,” June 18, 2012). In the U.S., the Obama administration has refused to enforce an act of Congress that defines traditional marriage between a man and a woman, rejecting it because they say it “discriminates” against same-sex couples.

Marriage is also under attack on other fronts. The Bible clearly states that God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), yet lawyers have created “no fault” divorces to facilitate the dissolution of marriages. Long-accepted standards of moral behavior are crumbling in Western so-called “Christian” nations. Scripture labels lying, stealing, adultery, fornication and drunkenness as sinful actions, yet these behaviors are widespread among millions who no longer regard the word of God as authoritative.

Nations where the descendants of God’s chosen people reside are again turning away from God and despising His word, as Bible prophecies have long foretold would happen! The Apostle Paul warned that “the last days” would be characterized by arrogant “blasphemers” who would despise the word of God, and the Apostle Peter predicted that “scoffers” would arise who would mock the promises recorded in Scripture (2 Timothy 3:1–5; 2 Peter 3:1–7). The prophet Isaiah warned that the time would come when the leaders of the Israelite peoples would “call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). These prophecies accurately describe what is happening today!

## DAYS OF RECKONING AHEAD!

More than 3,000 years ago, Moses issued a prophetic warning to the Israelites: “For I know that after my death

you will become *utterly corrupt*, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. *And evil will befall you in the latter days*” (Deuteronomy 31:29). God warned the children of Israel, “if you do not obey Me... and if you *despise My statutes... I will break the pride of your power*” (Leviticus 26:14–19). The punishments God will bring on His disobedient people will include: terror, wasting disease, livestock plagues, drought, famine, natural disasters, exploitation by other nations and conquest by foreign powers. These catastrophes are beginning to occur with increasing frequency in modern Israelite nations today!

The prophet Jeremiah issued a similar warning about conditions that will arise in Israelite nations at the end of the age—just before the return of Jesus Christ. He described it as “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). Jacob had twelve sons who became the ancestors of the modern Israelite nations of today (to learn more, request your free copy of our informative booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*). Jeremiah described end-time Israelite peoples as sick nations filled with evil practices, and he stated: “In the latter days you will consider it”—meaning that they would understand this prophecy before the end of the age (Jeremiah 30:24).

Before Moses died, he warned the Israelites that when their punishment came, they would “perish quickly” (Deuteronomy 28:20). This same theme—the *sudden demise* of Israelite nations that turn from God and despise His word—is echoed repeatedly by the prophets (Isaiah 9:14; 29:5; 30:13; Jeremiah 6:26; 15:8; 18:22; Hosea 10:15). Even secular scholars are now making similar statements, as they recognize the precarious position of the U.S.—for now the world’s leading superpower. Harvard professor Niall Ferguson has warned of the increasing prospect of the “sudden collapse” of America’s empire, and that this could happen “in the next five years” (“Historian Warns of Sudden Collapse of American ‘Empire’,” *Aspen Daily News*, July 6, 2010). Unless the modern descendants of ancient Israel are willing to repent and learn from history, those who have chosen to despise God will experience increasingly severe consequences.

—Douglas S. Winnail

# HEAT, HAMMER, ANVIL

When I was a youngster, my family and I lived close to a blacksmith's shop. The smith was a man trained to take a piece of metal, heat it, beat it and cool it—thereby producing needed and useful articles. His tools were simple, his strength was great and his eye was keen. The blacksmith's implements were few: a hammer, anvil and forge. His forge was used to produce heat; his anvil was a large piece of solid metal to pound on with the hammer. He performed a vital service for the local community, and what he taught us remains relevant today.

The process of making good metal products is much the same as the process of making good character. One is a physical process and one is a spiritual process. The "materials" being fashioned are different, but the process is very similar. Blacksmithing makes a perfect biblical analogy.

The Apostle Paul told Christians in Corinth: "Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is" (1 Corinthians 3:12–13).

The foundation being described here is character, and the materials Paul mentions portray qualities ranging from the best to the poorest. Good character, like gold, can be tried, but it will remain pure and untarnished. Poor character, however, like straw, will not stand the heat.

Hardships like illness, death, job losses, family problems and persecutions can be "fiery trials" that test our character (1 Peter 4:12–13). How we behave under the heat and pressure of our trials determines our character. To build character acceptable to God, we must be tested and tried. Consider the biblical account of Job, a wealthy man who was a good father and acknowledged God, but who in his self-righteousness took pride in his accomplishments. God gave Satan permission to strip Job of his earthly possessions (Job 1:12), and later to afflict him with physical disease and other suffering.

Job needed to learn a lesson, and by the end of the book that bears his name, he had undergone a change in attitude: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You" (Job 42:5). Job learned to take a more realistic and humble view of himself, and grew to trust God as he had not done before.

In our own ways, we all go through versions of Job's experience. As we do, God wants us to understand that our trials are opportunities to build holy and righteous character through the ways we respond. No one is exempt; God even uses "fiery trials" to test the character and faith of His servants in dramatic ways. In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John presents the analogy of refined gold to admonish His servants who were "lukewarm" and who were not "on fire" for His Work: "I counsel you to buy from Me **gold refined** in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments,

that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see" (Revelation 3:18).

The blacksmith of bygone days forged tools that would endure. God uses a similar process to build character in His servants. The Bible describes the soon-coming Kingdom of God, in which today's Christians—having had their character refined through trials and tests throughout their lives—will rule under Jesus Christ as Spirit beings. This refinement will have brought about not just endurance, but also beauty: "For You, O God, have tested us; You have **refined us as silver is refined**.... You laid affliction on our backs.... we went through fire and through water; but You brought us out to rich fulfillment" (Psalm 66:10–12).

God is refining servants by teaching them His way of life. Learn more by reading our booklets, *Restoring Original Christianity* and *What Is a True Christian?* You can read them online, download them, or order your own printed copies, absolutely free of charge.

—Charles Knowlton



## The World After America

Continued from page 18

harshly, demanding total submission to its will (Revelation 13:1–8). Religious and personal freedoms, taken for granted today in many countries, will disappear (v. 15). Shortly before Jesus Christ's return, this power will carry out a devastating five-month military action, as described in Revelation 9:5–12. This will provoke a withering counterattack by a 200-million-man army from the east (vv. 15–18).

This end-time conflagration will lead to all-out nuclear war, killing one third of the planet's population. The world will be brought to the brink of cosmocide. Were it not for Christ's return to the earth, *no flesh would be saved* (Matthew 24:22). But God in His mercy will not allow mankind to destroy itself. Jesus Christ will return to the earth, establish His Kingdom and reign with equity and justice for a thousand years (Revelation 20:6). *But this will not happen until the world has gone through a time of unprecedented calamity* (Matthew 24:21).

### HUMBLED FOR GREATNESS

So, can you and I be spared from the coming horrors of the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord? The encouraging answer is an emphatic "Yes!"

Consider again the example of Joseph. As a young man, he showed unusual ability and drive to succeed. That can be seen in his service to Potiphar, and his work for the prison keeper (Genesis 39:2–3, 5, 21–23). Even before Joseph's sojourn in Egypt, God gave him special dreams foretelling his eventual leadership role over his brothers (Genesis 37:5–11). Yet Joseph had much to learn before he was ready to take the reins of power. God had to test and teach him. He allowed Joseph

to be humbled, his pride and vanity crushed! And with each day that went by, as Joseph faithfully obeyed God, he learned to *trust patiently in God and His will*—and he became a man God could use in the highest levels of government in the greatest nation of his day.

The urgent call for us today is clear. If we love our Savior, Jesus Christ, we must strive to obey Him and His laws (John 14:15). We must look to Him—rather than our own ingenuity and strength—for our blessings, (Deuteronomy 8:18). We must really put God's will first, without condition, as Jesus Himself did (Matthew 26:39).

Are we really willing to be humbled, as Joseph was? That is the supreme test! The prophet Malachi wrote, "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble..." (Malachi 4:1). Jesus Christ told His followers, "Whoever falls on this stone [in heartfelt and complete repentance] will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder" (Matthew 21:44). God has given great promises to today's Christians—even that they will rule in His Kingdom with

Him (Revelation 20:6). But first, like Joseph, we must be *absolutely committed to the will of God in our lives!*

The Apostle John wrote, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8–9). Now is the time for those with "ears to hear" to repent (Matthew 13:9). For, even in these last days, God promises help and deliverance to those who wholeheartedly seek Him.

The American era will soon end, as the Bible foretells. Do not let the downfall of the U.S. take you by surprise! Jesus Christ gave encouraging instruction about how we can face the coming tumultuous times with courage and faith: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life... 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 21:34–36). Make sure that you and your loved ones are ready for the world after America! ■

## THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



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# TOMORROW'S

## “He gives His beloved sleep”

Teenagers' lives can be filled to the brim with activities—school, athletics, relationships, part-time jobs, church attendance, family obligations and personal hobbies. With increased independence and opportunities for extracurricular pursuits, the teen years can be exciting but very busy. However, it is during these years that we set the foundation for many patterns of health that will affect us as adults.

Amidst the pressure and temptation to take part in so many activities, with so little time available, one of the first sacrifices many teens make is their sleep. Yet, sleep—along with nutritious diet and consistent exercise—is one of the most important yet overlooked factors for maintaining good overall health. When teens sacrifice sleep in order to make time for their many other commitments, they risk paying a high price in poor health. The Bible is filled with exhortations to avoid slumbering **spiritually**, but this does not mean that Christians should deprive themselves of the regular **physical** rest their bodies need.

So, as another school year begins for millions of teens around the globe, it is good to consider the vital role sleep plays in the health of young men and women as they grow, and to be aware of the dangers of neglecting this important aspect of health.

### A TIME OF CHANGE

The teen years are a time of change—in almost every way. Not only is adolescence a time of physical growth and hormonal changes due to puberty; it is a time when the body's need for sleep actually **increases**. It is no wonder that so many teens find it hard to wake up in the morning!

According to a Mayo Clinic report, “Everyone has an internal clock that influences body temperature, sleep cycles, appetite and hormonal changes. The biological and psychological processes that follow the cycle of this 24-hour internal clock are called circadian rhythms. Before adolescence, these circadian rhythms direct most children to naturally fall asleep around 8 or 9 p.m. But puberty changes a teen's internal clock, delaying the time he or she starts feeling sleepy—often until 11 p.m. or later” (*Teen sleep: Why is your teen so tired?*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research).



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This drift toward going to sleep later often collides with a teenager's early morning schedule to create a sleep-deficit condition. Sleep experts believe teens require from 8.5 to 9 or more hours of sleep each night, yet one study found that just 15 percent of teens reported sleeping 8.5 hours on school nights (*Teens and Sleep*, National Sleep Foundation). Many teens will try to “catch up” for the loss of needed weekday sleep by “sleeping in” much later on weekends, but this erratic pattern actually harms the quality of teen sleep, because it works against the natural human biological clock, which works best when sleep is consistent (“How Much Sleep Do I Need?,” *TeensHealth.org*).

We all know what it is like to lose sleep. Drowsiness, irritability and lack of concentration are just a few of the most obvious symptoms. Many would be surprised to learn that sleep problems can also lead to acne and weight gain, and can contribute to illness and depression. Consider: “73 percent of those adolescents who report feeling unhappy, sad, or depressed also report not getting enough sleep at night and being excessively sleepy during the day” (*Teens and Sleep*, National Sleep





Foundation). For those driving a car or operating power tools, loss of sleep can be especially dangerous—even life-threatening.

In some cases, sleep problems can be traced to recognized disorders such as narcolepsy or sleep apnea, for which effective treatments are available. For others, however, lack of sleep is a lifestyle issue. Either way, rather than falling into a bad sleep habit that will bring decades of consequences, the teen years are the right time to establish patterns and priorities that will lay a foundation for a lifetime of sufficient sleep.

### GOOD SLEEP HABITS

Sleep is a necessary part of everyone's day. But rather than just waiting to "let it happen," we can establish habits that lead to sound and effective sleep. Here are a few tips for more restful sleep (adapted from "Common Sleep Disorders in Teens," *WebMD.com*).

- Establish a regular bedtime routine and stick with it, even on weekends.
- Eat less sugar. Eating sugar before bedtime can cause you to wake up in the middle of the night when your blood sugar drops.
- Avoid exercise right before bedtime. A well-exercised body will sleep more soundly, but exertion right before bedtime can delay the body's readiness for sleep.
- Reduce bedroom noise. Some people are helped by earplugs. Others find that "white noise" (e.g. from a fan, radio static, or a white noise machine) can help.
- Eat calming foods. High-carbohydrate foods (e.g. breads, cereal, pasta) have been found to raise the brain's serotonin level, which produces a calming effect that leads to better sleep.
- Take a warm bath before bedtime, and keep your bedroom temperature cool afterward. Sleep usually follows a cooling phase in your body's temperature cycle.

- Be aware that some medications can cause insomnia. If you are taking any medication, consult a trained medical professional for advice about how it may affect your sleep-wakefulness cycle.
- Tone down loud music or bright light (e.g. computer screens) as you prepare for bed.
- When you wake up in the morning, put yourself into bright light as soon as possible. Light signals "awake time" to the brain.
- Maintain peace of mind. Anxieties and worries can interfere with healthful sleep. Meditation, prayer and relaxation techniques before bedtime may be helpful.

Making sleep a priority is the key to developing good sleep habits. Resisting the pressure to over-commit to other activities is vital in order to protect this needed resource for health in youth and beyond. Habits set during the busy teen years will be easier to maintain in later life for many decades to come.

### DO NOT OVERLOOK GOD!

So, we need to resolve to remain spiritually awake and alert. We must put God first—ahead of the many activities that may tempt us to cut back on our sleep. In fact, good physical sleep is a vital tool for remaining spiritually awake! When we are well rested, we can more effectively focus on our Bible study and meditate profitably on God's statutes. In fact, making God's word the very last thing on our mind before we hit the pillow can be one of the best sleep habits of all. What better way could there be to end the day, and to begin preparation for the next day, than absorbing the mind in God's word?

Teens who look to God for guidance know that He wants the best for all of us. He wants us to be in good health, and He created sleep for our benefit! "He gives His beloved sleep" (Psalm 127:2). We should learn to appreciate sleep as a positive part of each day, not as a burden that prevents us from doing more.

—Phil Sena

## How Would Jesus Vote for President?

Continued from page 6

He did set us an example of obedience to civil law, showing respect to those in office. When the Pharisees came to ask Jesus about paying taxes, He answered: “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21).

God inspired Paul to write: “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). And Paul further explains: “For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor” (vv. 6–7).

Paul tells us to pray for those in positions of authority. “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a

quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:1–2).

True Christians—who make up the church (Greek *ekklesia*, literally, the “called-out ones”)—are like foreign ambassadors. “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

A number of years ago, I had the opportunity to act as deputy chancellor of a small college near London, England. Because of this and other responsibilities, I attended a number of distinguished gatherings in London and at the home of the U.S. ambassador to Her Majesty’s government. On two of these occasions, I met the American ambassador.

The U.S. Ambassador to Britain—or to any other government, for that matter—is expected to obey the laws of the land in which he or she is residing, to respect the authorities and to give honor to whom honor is due. On the two occasions when I visited Winfield House—the ambassador’s residence—a toast was proposed to the Queen. All rose and lifted their glasses in honor of the gracious lady who is still monarch of the British people. On each occasion, the U.S. ambassador—Elliot Richardson in one instance and Walter Annenberg in the other—joined in the toast. Showing

## One Nation, Under Stress, Divisible?

Pollsters at the Pew Research Center found that the largest differences of opinion between supporters of President Barack Obama, and of his main challenger, Willard “Mitt” Romney, involve the government’s role in economic matters. “Republicans and Democrats are furthest apart in their opinions about the social safety net. There are partisan differences of 35 points or more in opinions about the government’s responsibility to care for the poor, whether the government should help more needy people if it means adding to the debt and whether the government should guarantee all citizens enough to eat and a place to sleep” (“Partisan Polarization Surges in Bush, Obama Years,” June 4, 2012).

Supporters praise the “likability” of their candidates—81 percent of Obama supporters and 64 percent of Romney supporters call their candidate “likeable” (“Likability Top Characteristic for Both Romney and Obama,” Gallup Poll, June 26, 2012). Yet, reflecting strongly polarized opinion, the numbers of Americans with strong negative views of each candidate exceed the numbers with strong positive views. With 22 percent “strongly favorable” and 25 percent “strongly unfavorable” ratings, President Obama has a -3 percent rating, compared to the -7 percent Romney receives for his 11 percent “strongly favorable” and 18 percent “strongly unfavorable” ratings.

Perhaps more than in any election since 1960, religion is playing a quiet but significant factor in shaping voter opinion. Of course, for many, religion is not a concern; indeed, the Gallup Organization found that 33 percent of those surveyed said they did not even know Romney’s religion, and 44 percent did not know Obama’s. Yet, for some, religion is of vital importance. The Gallup Organization found 11 percent of Americans believing that President Obama professes Islam, not Christianity, and 43 percent saying they would not vote for a Muslim. By comparison, just 18 percent of those surveyed said they would not vote for a Mormon (“Atheists, Muslims See Most Bias as Presidential Candidates,” June 21, 2012).

As millions of Americans prepare to go to the polls this November, their nation is perhaps as strongly divided as it has been in the last century or more. God expects true Christians to pray for the elected and appointed government officials who are in authority over their nations (1 Timothy 2:1–4; 1 Peter 2:18). Yet they know, in a way that the partisan politicians of this world cannot begin to understand, that the only real answer to the world’s many problems is the return of Jesus Christ to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth.

—William Bowmer

this kind of respect to those in authority is clearly reflective of the attitude that God wants us all to have. And certainly we are required to pay our taxes and obey all the laws of the land, so long as they do not make us go against God's law. Of course, if some totalitarian government ever tried to make us directly disobey the higher laws of Almighty God, then we should follow the inspired example of the apostles who said, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Even then, if we decide to stay in that nation, we should expect to suffer any penalty or punishment such authorities might impose—looking in *faith* to God to take care of us (cf. Daniel 3).

But, as Paul wrote, we are "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20). We should conduct ourselves with love and respect for all human beings—including those in political offices. But we must always remember that our ultimate citizenship is *not* in or from the governments of this Satan-inspired society! Although we should serve others and do good on an individual basis, we cannot and must not become involved with military or political efforts to reorganize or to clean up Satan's deceived world. *For the system itself is not God's system!* He is only allowing deceived human beings to go their own way and experiment with various types of government during this present 6,000 years of human experience.

Paul wrote: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" (2 Corinthians 6:14–15). Referring to the religio-political system that will dominate most of the developed world when Jesus Christ returns, God commands His people: "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues'" (Revelation 18:4).

What would Jesus do in this U.S. election year? He would be so busy proclaiming the *good news* of the soon-coming Kingdom of God that He would have no time for the politicking, voting or taking part in any groups pressuring to clean up Satan's world. For He would know that—although often well-meaning—human attempts to save this world are doomed to

failure because they are under Satan's sway and are part of his system, which God Himself calls "Babylon" (Revelation 14:8). He would know that it is God the Father who, according to His own will, sets up kings and removes them, to bring about His purpose on the earth (Daniel 2:21). It is not up to Christians to challenge—or even work against—God's will in these matters.



The mission and calling of all true Christians is to help prepare the way—as advance emissaries—for the Kingdom of God, the *literal government* that the living Jesus Christ will soon set up. It will replace all the misguided human governments of this earth. "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'" (Revelation 11:15).

As the specific end-time events prophesied in Scripture—God's inspired word—begin to occur all around us, we need to understand deeply that Christ's soon-coming government is *real!* As the American dollar plummets in value, as American and British prestige around the world continues to decline and Almighty God continues to break the "pride of [our] power" (Leviticus 26:19), we had better realize that Christ *really* is coming soon! And we had better understand *deeply* that *everything around us* is soon going to **change**. When our real focus is on *that paramount fact*, we can finally go "all out" in preparing to be overcomers (Revelation 2:26), and in doing *our* part to prepare to actually assist the returning Jesus Christ in **ruling** this world—*God's way!* ■

## DO YOU BELIEVE THE TRUE GOSPEL?



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# WATCH AND W

## Is Democracy the Answer?

Is humanity moving toward democracy or toward dictatorship—toward freedom or toward tyranny? Those who today prosper under democratic government can be thankful, but is democracy the real answer? Or, is there a better way?

John Adams, second President of the United States, reminded Virginia legislator John Taylor: “Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide” (letter dated April 15, 1814).

Is our world moving toward a future of greater democracy? Or, are we witnessing the beginning of democracy’s demise? Current developments in Europe hint at the emergence of a ten-nation bloc of leading members from within the present European Union (“10 Countries for a United States of Europe,” *PressEurop*, June 20, 2012). Does this mean Europe is moving rapidly toward a core of “ten kings” (kingdoms or nations) as described in Daniel 2:33, 41–43)?

struggles throughout the Middle East, are we witnessing the rise of democracy, or the ushering in of new dictatorships? Consider Egypt. Is the conflict between the Muslim Brotherhood and the entrenched military leadership

(*BBCNews*, July 10, 2012) an example of the Arab world moving toward “Western-style” open democracy, or toward an Islamic caliphate? Those who welcomed the “Arab Spring” and the supposed “rise of democracy” in the Arab world are now seeing the rise of democratically elected governments proclaiming—as does the Muslim Brotherhood—that they seek *Sharia* (Muslim theocratic) law for their nations (*Reuters*, April 5, 2012)!

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato famously warned, “tyranny naturally arises out of democracy, and the most aggravated form of tyranny and slavery out of the most extreme form of liberty” (*The Republic*, Book VIII). Is his warning correct? And—whether in the U.S., Europe, the Arab nations or elsewhere—is this coming to pass in our modern world?



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### DEMOCRACY IN TURMOIL

Massive geopolitical change is underway. The U.S. presidential campaign season has moved into “high gear.” Across the Arab world, nations from Libya to Egypt are struggling to reconcile democratic and Islamic impulses. Newly elected Egyptian President Mohammed Mursi appears locked in a power struggle with the entrenched Egyptian ruling military (*BBCNews*, July 10, 2012). Libyan politicians are wooing the female vote (*The Guardian*, July 7, 2012). Blood continues to flow in Syria (*BBCNews*, July 12, 2012). In Europe, Germany is driving Europe toward greater union at the expense of individual nations’ sovereignty (*Reuters*, July 10, 2012).

What about the Arab world? As groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood rise to dominance and continue their

### FUTURE GOVERNMENT

Through Scripture, God reveals that there is a better form of government coming, better than the dictatorships, the socialist republics, the communist collectives—and even better than democracy, which Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously told Britain’s House of Commons in November 1947, “is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried.”

Scripture reveals that neither sharia nor democracy, neither dictatorship nor anarchy, are the future God has planned for all humanity. The good news is that the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God includes a vital message about a coming fair and righteous government! But, what exactly is God’s approach to government? *Government* is integral to the very gospel message! But what type of

government is the “gospel of the Kingdom of God” all about? Jesus came “preaching the gospel of the *kingdom* of God” (Mark 1:14–15). The word “kingdom” (from the Greek word *basileia*) means *government*. The gospel message Jesus brought was about the coming *government* of God—which will be established on this earth at His Second Coming (Revelation 17:14). The returning Jesus Christ will not be democratically elected. Rather, at that time, the “kingdoms” of this world will become His, and He will reign as their King *forever* (Revelation 11:15). One wonderful but often-overlooked facet of God’s plan is that not only will today’s faithful Christians who do the will of the Father enter into that glorious coming kingdom; God will also appoint them to reign under Christ in that coming kingdom (Revelation 5:10; 20:6; 22:5)—a kingdom founded on God’s governmental model of righteousness and love, which will extend through the thousand years of the Millennium (Revelation 20:4–6) and onward “forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5).

## GOD’S WORD ON GOVERNMENT

Jesus Christ revealed that the *entire law of God* is founded on two principles: *love toward God* and *love toward neighbor* (cf. Matthew 22:36–40). Indeed, God’s very nature is expressed as *love* (1 John 4:8, 16). Not only is God’s law based on love, He and His government are also *good* (Mark 10:18), *perfect* (Psalm 18:30) and *just* (Isaiah 9:7). God’s “perfect law” (James 1:25) is *without defect in any way*. So, we know that God’s government will be good, fair, kind and righteous. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, to Jesus Christ’s prophesied return and beyond, God’s approach is *consistent*.

God Himself established the Old Testament priesthood. It is beyond honest dispute that this priesthood was hereditary, and that it passed from those God directly appointed to those His appointees selected (Numbers 3:10; 1 Samuel 3:10–21; Jeremiah 29:26). Note also that God told Moses to appoint the Levites to their duties of service (Numbers 1:50; 3:10). From the time of Moses through the time of Samuel, Israel existed under the leadership of appointed High Priests.

When the Israelites rejected Samuel, God said they had actually rejected Him (1 Samuel 8:7). God then appointed Saul to a new office of physical king over Israel (9:17). David followed Saul as king (16:12). Of the many kings who followed, some were generally righteous and others were generally evil.

In the New Testament, after the Holy Spirit was made available to Christians, God continued this pattern of appointment to office (John 20:21–22; Acts 2:2–4). Notice the selection of seven deacons (Acts 6:3), and Titus’ appointing elders upon Paul’s instruction (Titus 1:5). God expects His ministry today to discern His will, using the Holy Spirit and the tools of prayer and fasting, to determine who should be appointed to positions of leadership. God nowhere condones oppression or abuse of power. He expects those who lead to be *servants* (Mark 10:44)—as He did in ancient Israel, as He does in today’s Church and as He will in the coming Kingdom of God. And nowhere in Scripture does He select those servants through politics, voting or democracy!

## GODLY GOVERNMENT FOREVER

Christians in today’s world are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1). But they also look forward to the soon-coming Kingdom of God—an actual world-ruling government that will reign on planet Earth—and pray fervently for that kingdom to come (Matthew 6:10). That government will not practice what we today call democracy or dictatorship. Neither will it practice “crony capitalism” or “state socialism.” Instead, the coming Kingdom of God will be a theocratic monarchy, with the returned Jesus Christ ruling as King of kings and Lord of lords (Luke 19:11–19; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 2:26–27; 11:15; 19:16). And, as noted above, today’s faithful Christians—those who in this age have faithfully obeyed their Savior, who have lived by His law written in their hearts (Hebrews 10:16)—will rule under Him (Revelation 1:6; 5:10). They will teach godly government and righteous worship to all (Isaiah 30:21; Micah 4:2)! It will be a time when Isaiah 9:7 will come to pass: “Of the increase of His government and peace, there shall be no end.” God speed that day!

—Wyatt Ciesielka

## Beware of False Prophets!

Continued from page 2

Bible records that this man went around “claiming that he was someone **great**” (Acts 8:9). Ultimately, the **final great rebellion** against God will be led by a vain, self-willed man, “who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

So, when *any* man or woman tries to “appoint” *himself* as an “apostle” or proclaim himself as a “prophet,” **watch out!** For God warns us, over and over: “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12; see also Luke 14:11; 18:14).

*None* of us in this Work, which brings you the *Tomorrow’s World* television program and this magazine, has ever tried to proclaim himself a “prophet,” or an “apostle.” For the word of God describes the “signs” of an apostle as, “signs and wonders and mighty deeds” (2 Corinthians 12:12). *No one* living today has produced those types of “signs” to indicate true apostleship—or prophethood!

Finally, I do want to *strongly warn* all of you in the name of Jesus Christ that at the end of this age there *will be* a “man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3) who will perform mighty “signs”—and will use them to deceive **millions** of confused human beings within the lifetimes of most of you! God inspired the Apostle John to describe this man as “another Beast” (Revelation 13:11). This man will use the power of the revived Roman Empire. But he will **not** be its political or military leader. *He* will be a powerful **religious** figure who will deceive **millions!** As John wrote of him: “He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived” (vv. 13–14).

“Fire from heaven” in our modern age?

Yes! It will probably not happen for several more years, but it **will** come within the lifetimes of many of you!

Notice that God says this coming religious leader—by performing spectacular **miracles**—will be one who “*deceives* those who dwell on the earth” (v. 14). Remember that God’s word warns us: “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? *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 8:19–20). The “key” is to reject **any** professing apostle or prophet who seeks to turn you away from the law of God, or distract you from His Work, which Christ and the apostles proclaimed over and over.

So, be sure to obey God’s command: “**Study** to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV). As you “feed on Christ” and as you drink in of God’s word—which reveals the *mind of God*—it will be very difficult to deceive *you!* As Jesus said, always consider the “fruits.” Is a professing prophet or apostle genuinely **humble** in trying to *serve* his fellow human beings and teach them the *way of life* based upon the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount? Or is he simply trying to “get a following” and lead people into ideas and concepts that are *not biblical* or simply irrelevant? Does he teach and practice the way of service and humility exemplified by Jesus Christ? Or are his teachings being used to exalt himself?

For the sake of *your eternal life*, always remember the Apostle Paul’s magnificent one-verse description of *true Christianity*: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, KJV). Before you accept the teachings of some “prophet” or “apostle,” ask yourself: “Am I being influenced by him to have the true Christ of the Bible *live His life* within me through the Holy Spirit? Or, is something *missing*?”

What is “missing” may be the difference between eternal life and eternal death! As Jesus Christ commanded, “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11).



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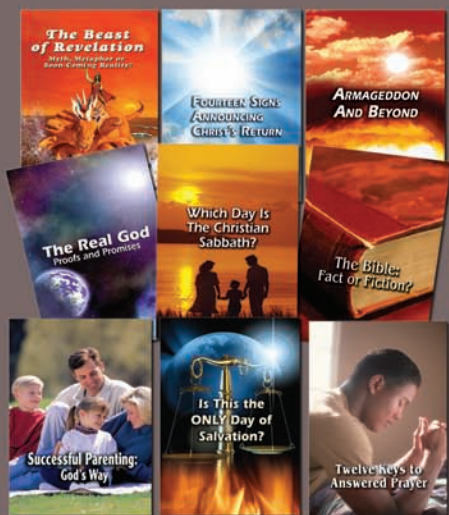
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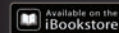
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