

A dramatic sky with a rainbow and lightning over cracked earth. The sky is filled with dark, stormy clouds, with a bright rainbow arching across the middle. Several bright white lightning bolts are striking down from the clouds. The ground in the foreground is parched and cracked, forming a mosaic of irregular, polygonal shapes. The overall scene suggests a powerful natural force or a warning of environmental consequences.

WHO CONTROLS THE WEATHER?

Who Controls the Weather?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Are “natural disasters” the impersonal workings of “Mother Nature”—or might they be a **vital** message from God?

Weather calamities are sometimes called “acts of God”—but what is His **actual** role in the droughts, famines, floods and earthquakes that affect our world?

What does the Bible say about weather disasters at the end of the age?
What can **you** do to prepare?

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When savage storms, devastating earthquakes, violent tsunamis or other weather-related catastrophes occur, people usually blame them on “Mother Nature.” Weather forecasters are quick to cite statistics of similar events that occurred 30, 60 or even 100 years ago. But what they often do *not* mention is that such events *are* becoming more frequent and more forceful.

And the “experts” are seemingly in total ignorance of the fact that there is a Great *God* who ultimately *controls* natural events—who blesses nations that obey Him with “rain in its season” (Leviticus 26:4), and who can (and often will) *punish* a rebellious people with drought and famine (v. 19). Jesus Christ predicted that natural disasters would be one of the signs preceding His return to this earth as King of kings: “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences [disease epidemics], and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:7–8).

This booklet is a *warning* from servants of the Almighty God. Unless America and the British-descended peoples of the world repent of their heinous sins, the very God of creation will soon intervene to bring about the most horrifying storms and natural disasters in modern history! Then “normal” weather cycles will start changing. In fact, nearly *everything* around us will start changing—unless we nationally or individually repent and truly turn to the God of creation. This booklet will show you *why* these disasters are occurring—and what we *must* do, individually and collectively, to protect ourselves.

American Weather Disasters

The United States has the highest rate of church attendance of any major nation in the world. We *talk* a lot about religion. But we also have

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appalling rates of broken families, juvenile crime and drug abuse. We are increasingly engrossed in sexual immorality, violence, dishonesty and the headlong pursuit of a totally hedonistic lifestyle. And we regularly murder millions of unborn babies each and every year—disposing of them like so much household garbage. We call ourselves the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” But literally millions of Americans live in fortress-like, gated communities—*afraid* to go out at night into the streets of their own cities.



And, as we will see, God is punishing us through various natural disasters. Even as our personal and national sins are increasing, so are floods, tornados, severe snowstorms and earthquakes. Thus, many of today's so-called “acts of God” are, in fact, just that—the active intervention of Almighty God. And it is just beginning. Natural calamities are going to get *much* worse unless we as a nation *repent* and turn to the true God in heartfelt obedience.

The past decade has offered many reminders of humanity's utter *weakness* when faced with natural disaster. Alternating droughts and floods seem to be increasing in power and frequency, disrupting the lives of millions. Notice this report the winter of 2006:

“Travis Briscoe's family has ranched in Oklahoma since the Land Run in 1889. He is the fifth generation to earn a living working the land and, like his grandfather, who survived the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, he is finding out what it's like to eke out a living during a drought. ‘It's the worst I have ever seen. We are well below a foot of rain. And we don't have any rain in the forecast,’ Briscoe said. He scans the horizon every day looking for rain, rain that never comes. This is the driest it's been in the 111 years that records have been kept. Richard Heims of the National Climatic Data Center is constantly running the numbers on rainfall in what he calls the epicenter of the drought. Northeast Texas rainfall is down 22 inches; southeast Oklahoma, down 25 inches; and southwest Arkansas, down 23 inches. That combination adds up to the *driest year on record* in that part of the country since 1895” (*ABC News*, January 17, 2006).

Other regions of the U.S. have also been in trouble. Wyoming, Montana and Idaho have experienced *severe* drought, as have parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico and west Texas. Drought conditions in west Texas have been so severe that even substantial rainfall in the first half of 2008 merely brought that region down to “moderate drought” conditions.

Australia has also experienced unprecedented drought in recent years. The Murray-Darling Basin in southeastern Australia has for several years been contending with such severe conditions that some experts now say the drought there could soon become “permanent.” Conditions are so dire there that in 2008 the region surpassed previous climate change predictions that were not expected to occur until 2055.

Policymakers have in recent years expressed concern about these *violent* extremes in weather. As a *CBS News* report indicated: “‘Normal’ is not a word weathermen are using too often these days. ‘The world continues to get warmer. There is no question we are receiving global warming,’ said Dr. James Baker of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The 1990s, the hottest decade in the *past thousand years*, seem to be setting a worrisome warming trend” (*CBS Evening News*, Jan. 10, 2000).

“It’s not only getting warmer, it’s getting drier in parts of the country, including farming zones that feed much of the nation. A case in point is the crop and cattle country in California. California has only 3 percent of the nation’s farmland, but it grows more than half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables. There is fear of a dust bowl in the nation’s salad bowl. There is no food for California’s cattle. A bone-dry fall killed the grass that they normally graze on, so ranchers are trucking in carrots to keep them alive” (*ibid.*)

Something “Unusual” in the Weather?

On the topic of violent changes in the weather, Dr. James Hansen, the “godfather” of global warming alarms and head of the Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York, stated: “It’s becoming clearer each year that there is something unusual going on” (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, Jan. 14, 2000).

Something unusual?

Indeed. Most scientists are beginning to realize that the normal weather patterns are not holding and that something they have *never*

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experienced seems to be building up in the weather cycles. Scientists and policymakers are engaged in vigorous disputes as to whether we are experiencing “*human-induced* global warming”—but nearly all objective observers agree that we are seeing climate change on a scale unprecedented in recorded human history.

Alongside the above-mentioned droughts, major floods in the last couple of decades have caused unprecedented damage across the American Midwest region. The “Great Flood of 1993”—the costliest in U.S. history—killed dozens of people and resulted in \$18 billion in damage,



as 30,000 square miles were covered by floodwaters. In the summer of 2008, another round of floods disrupted lives in that region, displacing so many people that some even called it “Iowa’s Katrina”—a reference to the devastating 2005 hurricane that

had ravaged the city of New Orleans. In parts of Iowa, the 2008 flooding even exceeded what had been experienced in 1993.

How do such disasters affect people’s lives? Consider this account of similar flooding in 1997, as reported by *The New York Times* on March 3, 1997:

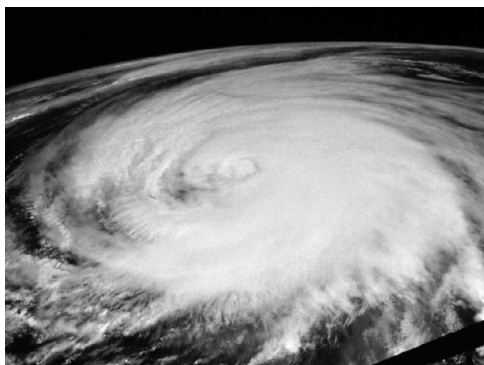
“From Arkansas, where tornadoes devastated a small town, to Ohio and Kentucky, where floods swept cars off the roads and sucked two people down into culverts, a front of deadly storms splintered homes and killed at least 35 people over the weekend.

People who survived Saturday’s pounding winds called it the most violent day of weather in memory. The storm front sent floods, tornadoes and spring-like thunderstorms through eight states, as far south as Mississippi and Tennessee and as far north as Ohio, but no state suffered worse than Arkansas. There, the twisting winds of several tornadoes flattened buildings and houses, killed 24 people and injured 200 in a few short hours Saturday night....

Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas warned that the death toll could rise as rescue workers continue to sift through the rubble of homes and businesses. ‘This was an absolutely extraordinary event of weather,’ Huckabee said as National Guard units helped police officers and firefighters search through the damage. ‘We had more tornadoes and more damage than in all of last year.... I’m calling it apocalyptic.’”

“Apocalyptic,” the governor said. That expression, of course, makes direct reference to the book of Revelation and the wrath of God. And even while the Midwest was flooded, other major parts of the U.S. were parched by extreme drought. The “extremes” are becoming more and more commonplace. In April 2008, according to the National Climatic Data Center, about 22 percent of the nation was experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, and 12 percent was categorized as “severely to extremely wet.”

We can expect to see more and more weather disasters, even equaling and surpassing Hurricane Katrina—which devastated New Orleans and surrounding areas in the summer of 2005—and the four hurricanes that struck Florida in 2004, causing a record \$22.9 billion in damage to more than 2.5 million Florida homes and businesses, surpassing even the \$20.8 billion that 1992’s Hurricane Andrew cost Floridians. We will see floods rivaling and surpassing the great Midwest flood of 1993. We will see more and more human tragedies even surpassing the great Galveston hurricane of 1900, which killed an estimated 8,000 people. As our national sins increase, God’s word tells us that His wrath will also increase.



Can we be angry at God or call Him cruel when He intervenes in this way to get our attention? Does God cause or allow these disasters because He hates us? Quite the opposite! God wants to *wake* us up for our own good. He is acting out of *love*. The book of Revelation makes

it plain, when God tells us: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent” (Revelation 3:19). God wants us to remember Him!

An Intervening Creator

Most politicians, farmers, merchants and weather forecasters leave out of the picture the One who *controls* the weather. They forget the Creator God who intervenes in His creation from time to time to accomplish His purposes. Remember Noah’s flood?

Of course, not every thunderstorm is from God’s direct intervention. For natural laws guide such weather patterns. And sometimes God allows *Satan* to control the weather (cf. Job 1:12, 19). But the Bible reveals that there are definite times when *God Himself* intervenes in the weather either to bless or curse certain nations.

When ancient Israel turned aside from God, how did He respond? “I blasted you with blight and mildew [from too much rain]. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD” (Amos 4:9). The same God who “spanked” nations and empires in centuries past is still very much in charge. He says, “**For I am the LORD, I do not change**” (Malachi 3:6).

The word of God makes it clear that if the British Commonwealth and American peoples do not repent of our personal and national sins and return to God, he will punish us with floods, drought, famine, earthquakes and disease epidemics such as we have *never known nor even imagined!* Each of us, individually, needs to *seek God* in a way we have never done before.

Many in the U.S. are unaware that Europe has experienced severe drought in recent years. The heat that led to as many as 35,000 deaths across Europe during the summer of 2003 lowered aquifers to levels not seen in a generation or more. The summer of 2005 saw Portugal experiencing its worst water crisis in 300 years, while Spain underwent its driest year since World War II. Across France, water restrictions have been imposed on more than half the country. “One unexpected consequence of the drought has been the appearance in southern France of swarms of locusts, which are more common in Africa and have attacked broad swaths of farmland,” reported writer John Tagliabue (*New York Times*, July 18, 2005).

The truth is that present and prophesied monster floods and droughts are going to vastly increase the potential for polluted water, malaria-carrying mosquitoes and other sources of disease. Our licentious lifestyles will continue to increase the incidence of modern plagues such as AIDS, syphilis and other sexually transmissible diseases. And even if medical science can tame or conquer some of these diseases, other more virulent plagues will undoubtedly take their place in the years ahead.

Eventually, our hospitals—already under great financial strain and space constraints—will simply be unable to cope with the disease epidemics that the Bible says will occur! For as we saw earlier in a parallel scripture, “there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven” (Luke 21:11, *NRSV*). Because of our mounting *sins*, these calamities are destined to strike the American and British peoples, probably within *this generation!*

As explained in our very informative booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, the United States and the British-descended peoples are among those identified as “Israel” in Bible prophecy. All true Christians have inherited the promises due to “spiritual Israel.” But most professing Christians do *not* realize that God also promised physical blessings to Abraham, which were passed to his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh, the ancestors of today’s British-descended peoples.

As remnants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel (which also include the modern peoples of many northwestern European nations), these peoples have been greatly blessed. But as they squander the blessings and adopt increasingly immoral lifestyles, they are going to be severely punished, for their own good, by a loving God who wants to wake them up before this national debauchery proceeds too far (cf. Hebrews 12:6).

This amazing truth is a key to prophecy, and can be proved from the pages of your Bible. If you would like to learn more about this fascinating topic, please phone or write to our regional office closest to you (listed in the back of this booklet) and ask for your *free* copy of this vitally important booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It will be sent to you absolutely free, with no cost or obligation, and will be a big help in your study of Bible prophecy. Write for it today, or order it online at www.tomorrowworld.org.

Divine Punishment Coming

Slowly, but surely, the mind of the average American has been seared in regard to the meaning and consequences of *sin*. Millions have no clue of what is right and what is wrong. Their parents have not taught them, nor have schools and colleges. And even the churches have utterly failed in making clear the reality of God, the meaning of His laws and the consequences of transgressing them.

Notice this excerpt from a powerful address delivered by William P. Barr, former attorney general of the United States:

“America... now has among the highest divorce rates in the world—divorce is as common as marriage. As a consequence of this, we now have the highest percentage of children living in single-parent households.

This breakdown of the family is particularly distressing because it is the family that is the principal institution by which we conduct moral education—by which we transmit moral values from generation to generation. As the family is weakened, so is our ability to transmit values to the next generation....

Today we face the immense power of mass communications and popular culture—the mass media, the entertainment industry, academia. Today, I fear that the power and pervasiveness of our high-tech popular culture not only fuels the collapse of morality, but also drowns out the scattered voices raised against secularization....

In addition to mass popular culture, I am concerned there is another modern phenomenon that makes it harder for society to restore itself.... In the past, societies have been driven back to their senses by the sheer cost of misconduct.

But today, something is new. The state—which no longer sees itself as a moral institution, but as a secular one—takes on the role as the alleviator of bad consequences. The state is called upon to remove the inconvenience and costs of misconduct. So the reaction to diseases and illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility but handing out condoms” (*Vital Speeches of the Day*, Nov. 1, 1992, pp. 39–40).

This is American morality?

Many adults do not realize how much outright immorality is taught in schools today! Nearly half of public schools teach students how to

obtain birth control—even without parental consent—and almost as many teach the children how to use it.

Can we fully grasp what is happening to the United States? Instead of following President Abraham Lincoln's example of calling for a national day of prayer and fasting to seek forgiveness of our mounting *sins* before the Great God who gives us life and breath, American leaders simply want to alleviate the *consequences* of those sins. Can divine punishment be far behind?

God's Servants Understood

If you believe in the true God—the God of the Bible—you should understand that He is in control of the weather, as He clearly shows time and again in His inspired word. And God tells us of the *lessons* recorded in the Old Testament. “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

King David of Israel was one of the greatest servants of God in all human history—a *man after God's own heart* (Acts 13:22). Notice carefully David's *understanding* of what to do in time of famine: “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David *inquired of the LORD*. And the LORD answered, ‘It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites’” (2 Samuel 21:1). David knew that God controlled the weather. So when an unusual, continuing famine struck his land, *he knew exactly what to do*.

Do you remember Elijah the prophet? Many do, but they usually forget that he demonstrated God's *absolute control* over the weather. In fact, Elijah is first introduced through this very matter: “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word’” (1 Kings 17:1).

But *why* had God inspired Elijah to prophesy *total drought* for a period of three years? The answer was found when Elijah finally presented himself before wicked King Ahab: “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals’” (1 Kings 18:17–18).

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And the New Testament directly validates this Old Testament story. For in the book of James—written by the brother of Jesus Christ—we find these inspired words: “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit” (James 5:17–18).

Have we, in the United States, Canada and Britain, “forsaken the commandments of the LORD” as Elijah condemned King Ahab for doing? The answer is rather obvious. And will we receive the *same kind of punishment* that the land of Israel did back then? We have already seen the answer from the word of God: “For I am the LORD, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6). As the New Testament puts it, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Notice Solomon’s inspired prayer acknowledging God’s direct control over the weather. “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and *send rain* on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance” (2 Chronicles 6:26–27).

Will You Believe the Bible?

Far more than most people realize, the lands of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Britain are indeed given to us by God as an “inheritance.” When we turn away from our Creator—when we virtually *spit in the face* of the very God we claim to serve, and *disobey His commandments continually*—God does *chastise* us individually and nationally for our own good. He can and often does use the *weather* and other natural phenomena to humble us and make us realize how weak we are.

Remember that the Holy Bible is the revelation of the very *mind of God*. In its pages, our Creator reveals Himself—how *He* thinks and how *He* acts and what *He expects from us*. As God revealed through the Apostle Paul, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Also, the Apostle Peter was inspired to tell us: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed,

as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19, KJV). Peter exhorted us to “take *heed*” to the inspired prophecies of the Bible. Will *you* really *do* that?

Or will you, like most professing Christians, sit around and think to yourself: “Well, *maybe* these things will happen. But I’m not really sure. And I don’t want to get excited about this religion stuff. That would be unbalanced. It might upset my business or social life!”?

My friends, that is *one* of the many reasons the Creator *will* intervene in human affairs through the weather, disease epidemics, earthquakes and other natural phenomena. We need to realize that our peoples—through so-called “higher education,” through the news media and through other sources—have steadily been fed the idea that God is “way off”—*if* He exists at all. We have been taught that we are the products of lovesick amoebas and have descended from monkeys without the intervention of a genuine Creator. So this Great God will *intervene* and get the *full attention* of billions of weak, confused, sinful human beings. He is going to “show” them—through many types of interventions—that *He* is God. And the *enormous* upsets in the weather in coming months and years are just part of that process!



You see, if you personally come to really *believe* in God through His inspired prophecies, perhaps you will be willing to *do what God says*. You may be willing to *obey* the Ten Commandments genuinely as a way of life. For Jesus told the young man who asked how to receive eternal life; “If you want to enter into life, *keep the commandments*” (Matthew 19:17).

Nowadays, the vast majority of professing Christian ministers will argue with that statement. They have been taught, and teach others, a myriad of reasons and excuses as to why you “cannot” keep the Ten Commandments! They say it is “too hard” to keep the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8). They say it is “impractical” to genuinely *love* your enemy and *never* take human life (Matthew 5:43–44). They say it is “too much” to expect you to continually cleave to your husband or wife in spite of their human weaknesses (Matthew 5:31–32).

God knows all about human reasoning and these pitiful excuses, so He is soon going to intervene and *shake* the nations so that people will be much more willing to “listen” to Him and to obey His inspired word. As King David of Israel wrote in the Psalms: “Arise, O LORD, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in *fear*, O LORD, that the nations may know themselves to be but men” (Psalm 9:19–20).

Earthquakes All Over the World

When Jesus was asked to describe a sign that would reveal His Second Coming to be imminent, He said: “But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be *earthquakes* in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows” (Mark 13:7–8).

Later, describing the seventh and last plague—the final great *punishment* of a just God on an immoral, evil and rebellious world—Jesus said the *final* plague will be primarily a great *earthquake*. “Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a *great earthquake*, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath” (Revelation 16:17–19).



Looking at United States Geological Survey figures, a startling and sobering fact emerges: six of the ten most destructive earthquakes in recorded history have occurred in the last 100 years!

The year 2004 was the deadliest year for earthquakes in nearly 500 years, according to the USGS. Not since 1556, when Chinese accounts reported 830,000 deaths from a quake in Shansi, China had there been

more documented earthquake deaths than in 2004. Approximately 300,000 deaths were caused by the magnitude 9.3 earthquake that struck Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on December 26, 2004—considered the second-largest-magnitude earthquake ever recorded—and by the devastating tsunami spawned by the quake.

The Banda Aceh earthquake was huge and devastating—but soon God will *shake* this earth as it has *never been shaken before!* The so-called “experts” do not understand this, of course. But even they are concerned about the potential. Notice this analysis from the New York Times News Service, as reported in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 28, 1999:

“The doom mongers are wrong, scientists say. The killer earthquakes that have shaken the globe in the last month and taken thousands of lives in Turkey, Greece and now Taiwan are no sign that the end is near.

By all estimates, the number of large jolts around the globe is below average this year, and it is simply bad luck that the recent upheavals have ripped through populated areas, leveling thousands of buildings and leaving tens of thousand of people dead, missing or homeless.

But more bad luck is coming, experts agree. Even though the rate of earthquakes over time seems to be more or less unchanging, the world’s population explosion means that more people are moving into quake zones, which are often near coasts. The result, experts say, is the prospect of continuing trauma as urban areas erupt with what seems like nearly endless bursts of destruction.

A million people have died in earthquakes this century, experts say. The next century might see 10 times as many deaths, with a million lost in a single blow, they add, unless major steps are taken to fortify dozens of sprawling cities that are expected to teem with billions more residents.

‘It is inevitable,’ said Klaus Jacob, an earthquake expert at Lamont-Doherty, the earth-sciences research center of Columbia University. ‘More and more people, and more and more buildings, are at stake. As the world gets more populous and richer, allowing a more built-up environment, higher buildings and all the infrastructure that supports our civilization, communications and the like, the risk goes up.’”

The point we are making in this booklet is *not* that the “risk” goes up. The point is what the Creator *says* He will do—*regardless of the “experts!”*

Some researchers believe the tremendous release of energy after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake quieted things down in California for nearly 70 years, but no more. “Since about 1980, we’ve seen increased seismic activity in both northern and southern California,” said geologist Walter Mooney of the Uppsala Seismological Institute. “So I think people will sense that things are picking up.”

Earthquakes and Volcanic Eruptions

Many Americans think of earthquakes as mostly a California concern, and assume they are relatively safe as long as they live in one of the other 49 states. But living outside California provides *no* guarantee of safety for Americans. The four most widely felt quakes recorded in North America hit near New Madrid, Missouri, from Dec. 16, 1811 through Feb. 7, 1812, and ranged from magnitude 7.6 to 8.2. The largest was felt from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and is reported to have caused “church bells” to ring in Boston, Massachusetts, nearly 1,000 miles away. Experts have long said that a *large* quake will one day strike the East Coast, where damage would be great because building codes are not designed to allow for large earthquakes. Especially troubling are the many buildings in low-lying areas near rivers and bays, which would be damaged by “liquefaction” of the earth below them.

Have earthquakes shaken people into changing their behavior? Yes! As writer Chuck McShane recounts: “The Western Conference of the Methodist Church increased its membership by 50 percent between 1811 and 1812” (*Charlotte Observer*, March 27, 2005).

How will people react when the next major volcano erupts? Chains of volcanoes and earthquake-prone areas form a rim around the Pacific Ocean for *thousands* of miles. This perimeter around the Pacific Ocean is known as the Ring of Fire. Most of the 20th century’s largest earthquakes, with magnitudes of 8.5 or higher, occurred in this region. More than *half* of the world’s volcanoes above sea level are found there, including Mount St. Helens in the United States, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines and Krakatoa in Indonesia, which all caused great devasta-

tion when they erupted. The Philippines alone has more than 200 volcanoes, and has seen great seismic devastation in recent years, such as the July 1990 earthquake of magnitude 7.7 in which nearly 2,000 people were killed, and the March 2002 quake of magnitude 7.5 which damaged structures across a wide swath of central and southern Mindanao.

In January 2002, nearly a *half-million* people were displaced from their homes when the Mount Nyiragongo volcano, near the Congolese city of Goma, erupted, sending hot lava through the city's streets. Hundreds died or were injured directly because of the blast, and millions more were put in danger because of disease and contaminated water supplies.

Alaska is home to more than 50 volcanoes in the Aleutian chain, and was the site of the 20th century's largest volcanic eruption, at Mount Kaimai, in 1912. "In the Aleutian chain, the odds are that this year or next something is bound to kick off," said Bob Tilling of the United States Geological Service.

In Isaiah 29:6, God says of Jerusalem, "You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and *earthquake* and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire."

God says, "I change *not*" (Malachi 3:6, KJV). He did punish ancient Jerusalem with *earthquakes* and *storms*. Now, He is beginning to punish the modern descendants of ancient Israel in the *same way*.

After a recent earthquake in Southern California, some local newswriters asked, "Why pick on Los Angeles?" The better question would be, "Why *not*?"

Los Angeles is widely regarded as the entertainment capital of the world. More rotten, vile movies and television shows featuring murder, mayhem, illicit and perverted sex are produced in Los Angeles than any other place in the world. California has long been regarded as the "leading edge" of almost any form of perversion known to man. The Great God who rules over human beings and their nations has every right to *punish* degenerate and rebellious people and nations who have forsaken His laws and have not appreciated His great blessings. The people in California—and in most parts of the English-speaking world—have in the past had *many* chances to learn the Truth if they had any genuine interest. God's basic ethical standards, summed up by the Ten Commandments, are well known—not hidden, esoteric knowledge. *Maybe* a good "shaking up" will get people's attention!

What God Will Do

Speaking to our ancestors, the Great God says: “And you have polluted the land with your harlotries and your wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot’s forehead; you refuse to be ashamed” (Jeremiah 3:2–3). *Be honest.* As a professing Christian nation, we have “polluted” the land with our modern adulteries, perversions, crimes and murders—including the butchery of some **45 million** unborn children since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973—along with countless other acts that are *abominable* in the sight of the God of heaven.

Is He then justified if He withholds the “latter rain” from those who disobey Him?

We—the British-descended peoples of the earth—are *definitely* the descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel. God has blessed us immeasurably with the greatest concentration of wealth and material resources of any people in human history. But we have “forgotten” *God*. We are a *disgrace* to the One who has blessed us so much. Therefore, in prophecy after prophecy in your Bible, God describes in detail how He will *punish* the modern “house of Israel”—*and* the Jewish people as well. Again, as a loving father “disciplines” his son, so God will discipline us *for our own good* in the hope that it will *wake us up!*

Nearly all scholars acknowledge that the book of Ezekiel was written about 593BC—well over 100 years after the fall of ancient Israel in 721BC. Yet this powerful prophecy describes exactly what will happen to the “house of Israel” in the last days. In Ezekiel 4:1–3, God instructed Ezekiel to carry out a make-believe “siege” against Jerusalem. God stated: “This will be a *sign* to the house of Israel.” God told Ezekiel to lie on his left side to bear the iniquities of the “house of Israel” (vv. 4–5). He then told Ezekiel to lie on his right side for the “house of Judah”—the *Jews* (v. 6).

You see, these were *two separate peoples!* To this day, they are *not* the same! And this “sign” to which God referred in verse 3 is that “Jerusalem” symbolized the *entire* house of Israel and what was to happen to them—*all twelve tribes*. That is the prophetic key you *must* come to understand in order to understand the full meaning of biblical prophecies.

In Ezekiel 5, God then instructs Ezekiel to cut his own hair and beard and symbolically “punish” each third in a different way. God

states, “From there a fire will go out into *all* the ‘house of Israel’” (v. 4). This no doubt included *all twelve* nations of Israel—the “Lost Ten Tribes” *plus* the Jewish people! God says, “One-third of you shall die of the *pestilence*, and be consumed with *famine* in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them” (v. 12). So, just before an armed attack on our nations and the ensuing national slavery, an *enormous* number will be “consumed with *famine*” and perish from the coming disease epidemics!

Right now, in our present state of prosperity and unprecedented affluence, this prophecy may seem *ridiculous*. But *God’s word stands!* One-third of our present U.S. population would equal approximately *100 million human beings*. Can you imagine that many people *perishing* from famine and disease epidemics within the next 10 to 25 years or so?

We at *Tomorrow’s World* challenge all of you to *prove these things to yourself*. Truly, you need to understand and to *act* before it is too late!

Famous Famines in History

Many of you older readers can remember the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Drought swept through the Great Plains and plunged thousands across the United States into poverty as farmers abandoned their desolate land to seek better lives elsewhere.

But this was only a tiny foretaste of what is yet to come upon the United States and British-descended peoples. We have not yet faced famine as great as have many nations around the world, and have not really begun to experience the horrors that a real drought can bring.

We have never experienced a drought like the one that ravaged China in 1907, killing an estimated 24 million. Millions more died in subsequent famines caused by droughts in 1928–30, 1936 and 1941–42. Similar famine caused an estimated 5 million deaths in the Ukraine and Volga regions of the former Soviet Union in 1921–22. As recently as 1965–67, drought in India caused 1.5 million deaths. To this day, North Korea and Ethiopia are experiencing drought-related food shortages bringing hunger and despair to millions upon millions.

In the July 1917 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, there was an article titled, “Fearful Famines of the Past.” This article vividly portrayed what people can do when they go hungry. They eat anything

they can get their hands on, including cats, dogs, rats—and *even human flesh!*

For example, in a famine in Russia in 1600 in which 500,000 people died: “Cats, dogs, and rats were eaten; the strong overcame the weak, and in the shambles of the public markets human flesh was sold. Multitudes of the dead were found with their mouths stuffed with straw” (p. 89).

In a famine in Egypt during 1201 and 1202, “men waylaid women in the streets and snatched babies from their mothers’ arms.” One historian “recites at length the various dishes into which the murderous kidnappers converted their infant forage. The very graves of Egypt were ransacked for food” (p. 79).

Do you think people today would never resort to such practices? Consider what happened in England during the famine of 1314: “Everything imaginable was eaten—dogs, horses, cats, even babies. The jails were crowded with felons, and when a new criminal was thrown into a cell he was seized upon by the starving inmates and literally torn to pieces for food” (p. 82)!

Such horrible practices are not confined to distant history. In the siege of Leningrad during World War II: “Husbands ate their wives, wives ate their husbands, and parents ate their children” (“The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad,” *Reader’s Digest*, April 1969).

Carnal People Can Do Terrible Things

We had on our staff a World War II veteran who ended up in the hold of a prison ship and later in a Japanese concentration camp. He has related to me—a *number of times*—that, yes, even American and British soldiers would eventually “eat human flesh” when under extreme duress! All historians know that this is simply a fact of life and of history. Unless one is filled with and *led by* the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 8:14), the human mind “snaps” in these traumatic situations and very, very shameful acts are committed.

In the foundational prophecy for God’s people Israel, found in Leviticus 26, to which we referred earlier, God describes an entire series of punishments upon the peoples of Israel *if* they will not deeply repent (vv. 14–35). After predicting drought, famine, disease epidemics and invading armies, God states: “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your

sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you. I will lay your cities waste” (vv. 27–31).

I sincerely hope that this prophecy from your very Creator does not offend you. And I hope that the historical material about famine quoted earlier from *National Geographic Magazine* and from *Reader's Digest* does not offend you. But I would rather “offend” a few timid and perhaps self-righteous individuals than see *thousands of you* go through the most



horrifying national tribulation in human history. For truly, the traumatic times described in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 are part of the Great Tribulation, which Jesus Christ Himself prophesied. Jesus stated: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, *no flesh would be saved*; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

Yes, even our Savior predicted that “no flesh” would remain alive after this coming Great Tribulation *unless God intervenes!* Do you *believe* Jesus Christ?

Or are you too complacent? Too wrapped up in the “cares of this world?” Too afraid and concerned about “what will people think?”

Even in Jesus’ human ministry, that was often a problem. As the Apostle John wrote, describing the religious leaders of Jesus’ day: “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43).

God’s End-Time Intervention

If you believe in the God of the Bible, you should, frankly, *expect* more severe weather and natural catastrophes to dramatically affect the United States, Canada and Britain in the years to come. Yes, there may be some normal years here and there. But the pattern will be increas-

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ingly powerful storms, floods and *earthquakes* that will shake our cities to their very foundations. And there will also be severe *drought*, *forest fires* and eventually *famine* striking our lands. In the wake of all this, horrifying *disease epidemics* will grow rampant—**more so than at any time in our history.**

Writing *more than a century after* the Israelites' ancient captivity, Ezekiel describes the end-time punishment of their modern descendants (Ezekiel 36:16–23). After this punishment, our peoples finally *will* change their ways: “Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and **you will loathe yourselves in your own sight**, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!’” (vv. 31–32).



Yes, finally, human beings will truly be repentant over their long-standing pattern of escalating crime and violence, adultery and perversion, lying, cheating and stealing—and every foul thing imaginable that is an *abomination* in the sight of a just God.

At that time, the American and British peoples will *loathe* themselves in their own sight! They will *feel like vomiting* when they realize the rottenness and degeneration of their “modern lifestyle,” which is based on lust, instant gratification and a massive series of lies and self-deceptions. How deep we have sunk into the pit of immorality!

After describing the heartfelt *repentance* of our peoples *after* their national punishment and slavery, Ezekiel’s prophecy continues: “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (vv. 24–27).

This is absolutely an *end-time* prophecy! Such a profound repentance and regathering has *never* occurred to either Israel or Judah. For the “new heart” and Spirit of God placed within Israel comes *only* after the Second Coming of Christ! This is also described in the inspiring prophecy of Jeremiah: “Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ says the LORD: ‘I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 31:31–33).

Yes, God’s *laws* must be “written” in our hearts and minds so that our peoples will finally be willing to *obey* and keep *His* Sabbaths and *His* Holy Days, and follow *His* ways in every phase and facet of their lives.

A Future “Garden of Eden”

Returning to Ezekiel’s prophecy, God states that after His people are regathered from slavery and placed in their own lands, they will say: “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it” (Ezekiel 36:35–36).

Again, this has *never* happened before to Israel or Judah, for the ten nations of ancient Israel supposedly “disappeared” and became the “Lost Ten Tribes.” And after their punishment under King Nebuchadnezzar and succeeding Babylonian kings, most of ancient Judah returned to their native land. But as you clearly read in Ezra and Nehemiah, they were *not* given God’s Spirit. They were *not* blessed so that their land became like the “Garden of Eden” (v. 35). And the nations “all around” (v. 36) definitely did *not* know that *God* had brought them back. Rather, Judah underwent constant persecutions, harassments and trials.

And we *cannot* say that this prophecy applies to the regathering of a comparatively few Jewish people (actually a minority of the world’s Jewish population) to the nation calling itself “Israel” in the Middle East

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today. This nation has *not* been blessed and restored as a veritable “Garden of Eden.” It has not been accepted by the surrounding nations as being blessed by God in *any* way whatsoever! And this nation, also, is subject to constant wars, harassments and trials. So this modern nation in the land of Israel is *not* the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy (chapter 36) by any means!

As Ezekiel’s prophecy for the *end* times continues, he describes how God will bring together *both* the “house of Israel” *and* the “house of Judah” (Ezekiel 37:15–26). For God says: “I will make them *one nation*...” (v. 22).

Continuing in verse 24, God says: “David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.” So it is the time of the *resurrection* from the dead when King David will be brought to life and once again reign over reunited Israel under the King of kings, Jesus Christ! The prophet Hosea was inspired to state the same: “Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:5).

So after the trials, tests and severe national *punishments* to “wake us up,” God will bless our descendants marvelously in tomorrow’s world! He will intervene and send Jesus Christ back as King of kings over the *entire earth* (Zechariah 14:9). And, as we have seen, King David will serve *under* Jesus Christ in ruling over all twelve tribes of Israel who will be reunited again as *one people* in the coming millennial reign of Christ.

But to be spared from the absolutely certain punishments of Almighty God we have described, each one of us must do his or her part. Each one of us must be willing to *forsake* the false concepts and religions devised by human beings, and begin to truly *obey our Creator* and *do what He clearly says* in His inspired word. Then we may be protected from this coming holocaust and, as “overcomers,” rule under Jesus Christ and help straighten out the planet in tomorrow’s world (Revelation 2:26–27).

What Should You Do?

The above prophecies are certain. In these last days, they *will* occur and they—including *massive disruptions in the weather*—will drastically

change everything around you and alter your entire life. So what should *you* do?

If you sincerely want to serve God—and the true Jesus Christ of the Bible—you should wholeheartedly turn to God in a way you have probably never done before. You should begin to truly *study* His inspired word, the Holy Bible, and begin to *obey* what you read there. You should start *praying fervently* to God every day—getting down on your knees to *seek* Him and asking Him for true understanding, knowledge and guidance (cf. Deuteronomy 4:27–31).

Keep reading and even *studying* the articles in our *Tomorrow's World* magazine, and compare them with your Bible. The *Tomorrow's World* magazine will give you advance news of what lies ahead, and will show you the genuine way of life you should be living to receive God's guidance, blessing and protection in years to come. **It will show you that you can prove these things out of your own Bible.**

If you really want to learn more about what the Bible truly teaches, you will want to enroll in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. This inspiring course will take you step by step through the “key” doctrines and prophecies of the Bible. It will help you gain *real understanding*. If you would like to receive the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*, please call or write to the regional office nearest you (listed at the back of this booklet) and you will be sent these lessons absolutely *free* and without obligation, simply upon your request.

God has commissioned us at *Tomorrow's World* to warn our peoples of the coming Great Tribulation that Jesus prophesied. He has called us to preach the *true* Gospel to all the world—the Gospel of the Kingdom (or Government) of God—a government soon to be set up *on this earth* with Jesus Christ as King of kings (Revelation 11:15; 19:16). With God's help, we are *restoring original Christianity*, the very *way of life* taught and practiced by Jesus Christ, His Apostles and the original first-century Christian Church.

God's message is a message of great *hope*—a message of His great love for us. The increasing disasters around the world are a sign that God wants us to repent, *for our own good!* Out of His great love, He wants to show us the consequences of our sins. As the Apostle Paul wrote: “For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives” (Hebrews 12:6). Yes, God wants to receive you as His son or daughter! That is why He created you, and that is why He is willing to *shake* the very earth to get your attention and bring you to repentance!

Jesus' message was of repentance, and of His coming Kingdom which will be established when He returns to rule on this earth for a thousand years—after the disruptions at the end of this age are past. “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).

Yes, you do need to repent, believe in and *accept Jesus Christ* as your Lord and Savior. These are the first steps. Then, if you truly *believe* His message, you must *act* upon it. Part of that action is to turn to God wholeheartedly, as ancient Judah was told to do after their 70-year captivity in Babylon. God, who “does not change,” told them then and tells us today: “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, *when you search for Me with all your heart*. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive” (Jeremiah 29:12–14).

When you truly believe in Jesus Christ, and accept His Message, you will be willing to *change* and seek after God's righteousness. The Apostle Peter instructed Christians: “But as He who has called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Peter 1:15–16). The Apostle John exhorted God's faithful: “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).

True Christians are to overcome their own human vanities and passions, overcome the world and its temptations—and finally resist Satan himself. Peter concludes his last letter with this searching admonition: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18).

Today, in our human flesh, we are subject to all sorts of weaknesses and sin. But by regular, diligent study of the Holy Bible; by constant, fervent prayer on our knees, and by continually yielding and actively surrendering ourselves to God, we are to overcome our sinful ways and let God allow His Holy Spirit to build within us His holy and righteous character.

We know that we will not achieve perfection in this life, but we must be making real progress. For we are to grow in the very nature

and character of God Himself. Whether God protects us from a particular catastrophe, or allows us to go through it in order to help us build Christian character within us, we can be assured that God is with us, using even the most terrible circumstances—not just in the weather, but in all aspects of our lives—to bring about His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Even if our nations as a whole will not repent, *you can certainly change* and be forgiven and protected during these coming calamities. Jesus Himself gave this assurance: “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36).

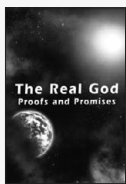
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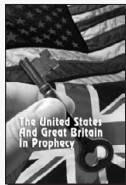
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