

Miracles in America

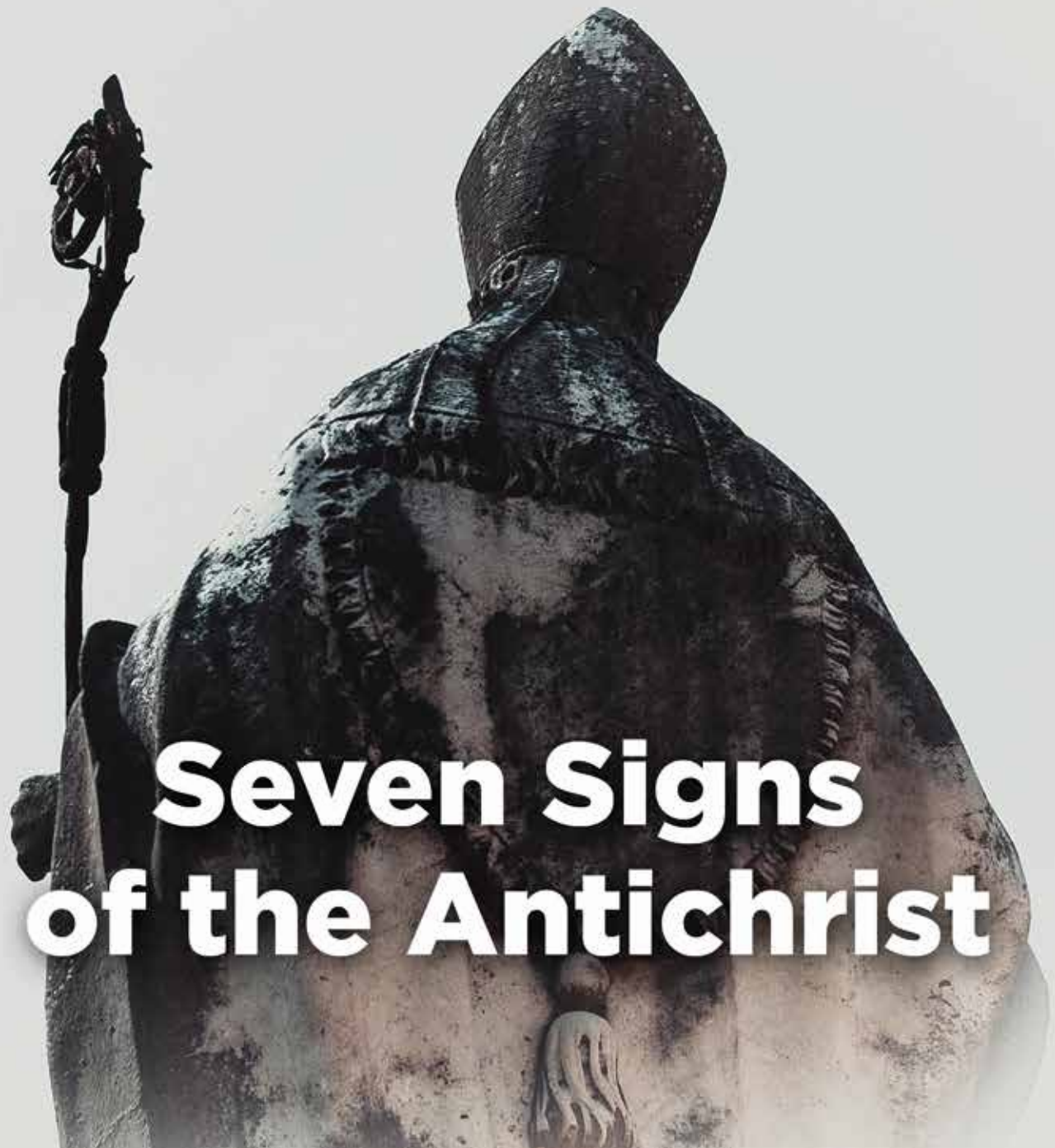
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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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Seven Signs of the Antichrist

Where Can We Find True Meaning?

What is the meaning of life? Do you know? Do you even care? Philosophers have contemplated and debated this question for millennia. Yet the debate is still far from over and remains surrounded by a vast and ever-growing body of ideas and beliefs. Are we left to define life's meaning for ourselves, or do we share a greater purpose for our existence? The answer remains in dispute.

As more people subscribe to an evolutionary view of life's origin—thus becoming atheists, rejecting even the idea of God—the question boils down to this: How can there be meaning to a merely physical and temporary existence?

Can We Define Our Own Meaning?

It is not my purpose to explore the multitude of theories on the subject in one short message. However, let me briefly mention three spurious views of how life *with* God would *take away* from life's meaning. As outlandish as this may seem, some believe that the idea of God is an impediment to life's purpose.

Philosophy Professor Thaddeus Metz points out that some think “the existence of God... would necessarily reduce meaning” (“The Meaning of Life,” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2022). According to his explanation, those who make this argument say that God's existence would place us in a master/servant or parent/child relationship where “our independence or dignity as adult persons would be violated.” In other words, having an omnipotent God around would mean we could no longer be our own bosses.

Metz points out that some other philosophers argue that if God exists, “God's omniscience [His being all-knowing] would unavoidably make it impossible for us to control another person's access to the most intimate details about ourselves, which, for some, amounts to a less meaningful life than one with such control.” To put it another way, if God knows everything about us—every little secret thought, feeling, or motivation we ever had—He certainly could share that knowledge with someone else. And we certainly wouldn't want that.

Some even object to eternal life itself. According to Professor Metz, “there has been the argument that an immortal life could not avoid becoming boring... rendering life pointless according to many subjective and objective theories.”

These are only a few of the naturalistic views seeking to explain life's meaning apart from God. The discussion is broad, technical at times—and, well, meaningless! Apart from God, there can be no meaning beyond the grave—leaving mankind to find purpose, or lack thereof, in a temporary and far-too-short existence.

Meaning Through Temporary Pleasure?

I discussed the meaning of life in my February *Tomorrow's World* column. In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon explores life's purpose from a temporary perspective. Suffice it to say that



Solomon had every physical pleasure he desired. Not one of us could ever match him when it comes to wine, women, and song—or fame, fortune, and accomplishment. Most who take that approach find that what they thought would make them happy does not. Consider

the lives of so many celebrities who outwardly “have it all” but still crash and burn. Some get strung out on drugs, others endure one failed marriage after another. Ponder the widely reported case of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard—both have fame and fortune, but it seems that neither fame nor fortune has provided real happiness.

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This is not to say that every rich person has a failed marriage or that being a celebrity makes someone unhappy by default—only that happiness does not come from temporary pleasures. The question is, “Can there be lasting meaning to life if life is only temporary?”

It may surprise you that one major faction of religious Jews in Jesus’ day believed that there was no future beyond the grave. Note the famous encounter between the Sadducees and Jesus when they challenged Him about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23–32).

And notice that when the Apostle Paul was brought before the Council, he created a near riot over this same subject. “But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!’... For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both” (Acts 23:6, 8).

Some of the Christians at Corinth were influenced by such philosophies. Paul’s first letter to those brethren addresses in great detail the resurrection from the dead. He reasons with perfect logic that “if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep [died] in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (1 Corinthians 15:16–19).

Then, explaining the futility of self-restraint if all we have is the here and now, Paul takes it to its natural conclusion: “If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!’” (1 Corinthians 15:32).

But before we set off to eat and drink ourselves to death, let us ask ourselves the central question Paul addresses here: *Is there a resurrection from the dead?* It is quite simple—either there is or there isn’t. Either way, there are profound consequences. If there is no life after death, there cannot be lasting meaning to life. Whatever meaning there is to life will come to an end and we will never know what happens thereafter. If evolution created us and God does not exist, there is nothing more than the blackness of darkness forever in our future.

Finding Meaning in Eternal Life

But how can we be certain that there is life after death? We read that Jesus Christ conquered death when He was resurrected from the grave—but after 2,000 years, how can we know that is true?

Paul addresses that question in this same “resurrection chapter.” He lists several who saw Jesus after His crucifixion, then asserts, “After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep” (15:6). Paul wrote this 20–25 years after Jesus’ crucifixion, stating that most of those 500 people were still alive. What credibility would Paul have had if this were not true?

And there is more evidence. Jesus’ own half-brothers did not believe in Him prior to the crucifixion (John 7:5), but afterward they came to be loyal disciples. James went on to lead the Jerusalem congregation, the early headquarters of the Church, and he wrote the biblical letter of James. Christ’s half-brother Jude also became a believer and wrote the letter bearing his name.

History shows that of the Twelve Apostles (Matthias replaced Judas Iscariot), only John did not die a martyr’s death. Many men and women have died as martyrs for a cause they believed, but how many would die if they knew the cause to be a lie? Jesus’ disciples did not seek death, but their willingness to die as martyrs gives compelling evidence that they had seen the resurrected Jesus and knew His resurrection was true.

If there is no life after death, we must each choose whatever we decide is meaningful. For many, that means “eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!” But, if eternal life is possible, doesn’t it make sense to live in such a way as to please the One who *grants* eternal life?

But what does that mean? What is the way to eternal life?

For the answer, I suggest that you try to understand the most remarkable book ever written: the Bible. If you haven’t already done so, please consider enrolling in the free *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. You can take it in print by contacting the office nearest you, or you can take it online by following the link at TomorrowsWorld.org.



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SEVEN SIGNS OF THE END-TIME ANTICHRIST

By **Wallace G. Smith**

Consider these famous—or infamous—men: Ronald Reagan, Bill Gates, Henry Kissinger, King Juan Carlos, Saddam Hussein, King Charles III, and Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum.

What do they have in common? Each, at one time or another, has been accused of being the Antichrist, that dark and mysterious figure foretold by Bible prophecy. Some of these men are dead, and some are still alive. None of them fit the Bible's description. But your Bible is clear that the Antichrist *is* coming, and that destruction, persecution, and death will arrive with him—such as the world has never seen before nor will ever see again. And there is cause to believe that he is alive *now*—certainly, his tools of deception are already in place and already affect the lives of most who consider themselves Christian today.

In our world of high-tech wonders and modern comforts, talk of an “antichrist” might seem archaic—like “doom and gloom” preaching in an age that has moved beyond scriptures and prophecies. But the opposite is true. Time hasn't left prophecy behind—

rather, time has finally *caught up* to prophecy. Only *now* do the times in which we live fit your Bible's description of the end-time stage onto which the Antichrist will walk.

For instance, Matthew 24:22 reveals that in those prophesied days, “no flesh would be saved” from mankind's destructive capacity were it not for Christ's return. That was not possible until we entered the era of weapons of mass destruction—weapons that are, indeed, capable of eradicating humanity. And Daniel 12:4 describes the end times as an era in which many “run to and fro” and “knowledge shall increase”—ancient words that well describe our modern world, in which global travel is commonplace and we increasingly suffer from a daily deluge of more information than any of us can possibly process.

Truly, the prophecies regarding the Antichrist are not dusty old writings, irrelevant for our modern age. They were written specifically *for* our modern age—inspired by the God who declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). And His warnings about the final Antichrist are vital, because the rise of this figure will bring more death, destruction, and human suffering than our world has ever before experienced—a period your Bible calls the Great Tribulation.

During the lives of most who are reading this article, the Antichrist will rise to power and deceive the vast majority of human beings, subtly and seductively swaying men and women around the world to willingly accept a false and demonic counterfeit of Christianity. In fact, that version of Christianity is *already* present on the earth, possessing great influence. Frankly, there is a very good chance that you are already under its sway, leaving you all the more vulnerable to this future tyrant.

Imagine the full complement of modern warfare, the almost limitless destructive capacity of mankind, deployed at the beck and call of a man under the direct influence of Satan the devil. This man will be devoted to erasing true Christianity from the face of the earth and replacing it with a religion that *sounds* like true Christianity and uses the *name* of Jesus Christ—but that represents the very opposite of the Christianity that Jesus Christ taught and exemplified.

Perhaps no figure looms larger in our prophesied future than the Antichrist. Whether you will be able to recognize him will be a matter of life and death. And prophecy is plain: Most will *not* recognize him.

But *you* can. This article will reveal seven signs of the end-time Antichrist as detailed by Bible prophecy. Anyone who understands them will be able to recognize the final Antichrist when he comes. And that final Antichrist *is* coming—to change our world forever.

1. He Will Be a Religious Leader

This first sign is one that most fail to see. According to God's word, the Antichrist will not be a military or political leader. Rather, he will lead a religion—a great false church.

This mistake arises because many confuse the Antichrist with the beast of Revelation, which is a military, political, and economic powerhouse that *will* dominate the world. However, while they are connected, the Antichrist and this beast are two distinct beings. In Revelation 17, the Apostle John records a vision shown to Him by Jesus Christ and the angels under His command:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judg-

ment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (vv. 1–5).

There is *much* to note in this passage, but we will focus on one point. The beast with seven heads and ten horns, ridden by a prostitute, is the end-time military-economic juggernaut called the beast of Revelation. But what of the woman? A rider mounts a beast to control it, to influence its movements—and this beast is ridden, or influenced, by a wealthy prostitute.

If you've followed *Tomorrow's World* for long, you know that we let the Bible interpret its own symbols, and the Bible frequently uses women to picture different faiths and religious organizations. But unlike the chaste virgin that God uses to symbolize His Church in passages such as 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 19:7–8, a wealthy prostitute pictures the church riding this powerful beast. God often uses the terms *fornication*, *adultery*, and *harlotry* to refer to the corrupting influence of religious compromise with *pagan* practices and *pagan* worship, as in Jeremiah 3 and Ezekiel 16.

The religious system of the Antichrist is the harlot riding this beast! But it is not the *same* as the beast. In fact, in Revelation 17:16, we see that the beast will eventually turn on the woman to destroy her: "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire." But until then, the harlot *rides* the beast—manipulating it, influencing it, guiding it for her purposes.

This is why the Apostle John, in 1 John 4:1–3, wrote of the Antichrist in the context of false prophets—because the Antichrist will be the *ultimate* false prophet. He will not be a military or political ruler, but a *religious* figure who will control the most powerful church on earth. In turn, he and his church will direct the military-economic powerhouse known as the end-time beast power of Revelation.

What more can we understand about the religious system led by this Antichrist? That question brings us to our second sign.

2. He Will Come in the Name of Jesus Christ

In his powerful prophecy given on the Mount of Olives and recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and

has existed since the time of the Twelve Apostles. And in John's own day, many representing that system—"many antichrists"—were already preaching.

The final, end-time Antichrist will be the culmination of this deception—a great false prophet who will *appear* very Christian on the outside. Prophetic symbolism portrays this Antichrist as a different beast rising from the earth—not the seven-headed beast of Revelation found earlier in the chapter and in chapter 17. We read, "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon" (Revelation 13:11).

Scripture consistently uses a lamb as a symbol for Christ—and uses a *dragon*, or *serpent*, as a symbol for

the devil. This false prophet to come, this final Antichrist, will *look* like the Lamb, Jesus Christ. He may seem kind and compassionate, and he may seem to teach from the Bible. Yet prophecy says he will be speaking the words of the dragon—the *devil*. The "Christianity" he teaches will be a subtly twisted version of Christianity—*not* the true

Christianity of Jesus Christ, even though it will claim His name.

Our next sign is one of the tools the end-time Antichrist will use to deceive even the skeptical and bring them into his corrupted version of Christianity.

3. He Will Eventually Perform "Miracles"

Continuing in Revelation 13, we read, "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" (vv. 13–14).

This individual will be able to call fire from the sky, much like the prophet Elijah in the Old Testament. Such a powerful "sign" will amaze vast multitudes of people. The Apostle Paul said of this coming false prophet that "the coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Even

MANY FAIL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORD "ANTICHRIST" REPRESENTS MORE THAN A PERSON. IT REPRESENTS A SYSTEM OF BELIEF THAT APPEARS CHRISTIAN BUT IS ACTUALLY A COUNTERFEIT OF TRUE CHRISTIANITY.

Luke 21, Jesus Christ warned His disciples that many would come practicing religious deception, and that they would come *in His name*—that is, *the name of Jesus Christ* (Matthew 24:4–5).

And they have! John saw the spread of that deceptive, counterfeit Christianity even in the first century, writing, "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18). Yes, *many* antichrists had come by the time John wrote those words, and the deceptive, counterfeit Christianity they wove—falsely using Jesus' name—persists and dominates world religions today.

Many fail to recognize that the word "antichrist" represents more than a person. It represents a system of belief that appears Christian but is actually a counterfeit of true Christianity. Paul wrote of those who preached "another Jesus" and brought a "different gospel" (2 Corinthians 11:4). This different gospel

skeptics will admit that they are seeing supernatural events brought by this person—yet these “miracles” will be lies. They *will* be supernatural, but they will be demonic, *satanic*, in origin.

The key to resisting the appeal of supernatural lies is to compare the teachings of the “miracle worker” to biblical truth. Remember that the end-time Antichrist will appear to be Christlike, but *speak* like the subtle dragon, Satan the devil. That brings us to the fourth sign.

4. He Will Deny That Christ Comes in the Flesh

This is a vital point—but a subtle one, easy to miss. Scripture describes the fundamental doctrine of the Antichrist: “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (2 John 7).

Many think John was merely condemning the idea that Jesus didn’t really come in the flesh 2,000 years ago—and it is true that he condemns such falsehoods. But read carefully: John says that the deceivers do not teach Christ “as coming in the

ful passage: “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, *King James Version*).

This is why Paul wrote that we are reconciled by Christ’s death, but “*saved by His life*” (Romans 5:10). As opposed to Christ “doing it all” at His crucifixion, as many false preachers teach, Christ lives in converted Christians daily, helping them grow and conquer sin now, in *this* life. The Antichrist will deny this fundamental—but often ignored—teaching, and this denial connects directly to our fifth sign.

5. He Will Reject God’s Law

As we’ve read in 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul calls the final Antichrist “lawless.” But this statement doesn’t concern human laws. The Antichrist will oppose the laws of *God*—in fact, he will replace God’s laws, as revealed in the Bible, with religious laws rooted in human tradition and pagan superstition.

Daniel describes this, saying, “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to *change times and law*. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time” (Daniel 7:25). Daniel reveals that the Antichrist will reject God-ordained times of worship in favor of a counterfeit set of worship days, and that he will replace the laws of God with a different set of laws—laws that will *seem* Christian, but will *not* be rooted in the laws of God found in the Bible.

The Antichrist will promote man-made religious laws, creeds, confessions, and traditions, and will claim the authority to *override* the clear commands and laws of God given in Scripture. Church calendars with man-made holidays will be touted as *superseding* the Holy Days and Festivals of God that are found in every Bible. This coming “lawless one” will, as the Antichrist, claim authority over what Almighty God Himself has established, attempting to change the very laws of God.

As you may have noticed, many of you reading this article are already affected by this system of the Antichrist, which is already in place. The vast ma-

JESUS CHRIST WARNED HIS DISCIPLES THAT A TIME WILL COME WHEN THOSE WHO KILL TRUE CHRISTIANS WILL THINK THEY ARE DOING GOD A SERVICE.

flesh.” That is a present tense verb, indicating that Christ is *continually* coming in the flesh. Dr. Charles B. Williams, whose translation of the New Testament is praised for its attention to the detail of the Greek verbs in the original New Testament text, translates this passage as saying that the antichrist does not confess that Christ “continues to come” in the flesh.

But what does that mean?

It means that the Antichrist does not teach that Jesus Christ is continually *living in Christians today*—living the same kind of life He lived 2,000 years ago as He helps them to grow in obedience and godly character. The Apostle Paul explained this in a beauti-

jority of those who call themselves “Christian” have *already* placed their faith in such a system.

However, the Antichrist will not be content with simply converting the world to his false teachings. He will also want to eliminate the few who dare to believe the *true* teachings of the Bible—the teachings that contradict His false doctrine. That leads us to our sixth, tragic sign.

6. He Will Persecute True Christians

Jesus Christ warned His disciples that a time will come when those who kill true Christians will think they are doing God a service (John 16:2). This is the time mentioned above in Daniel 7:25—a time when the Antichrist will violently persecute those who obey God’s true laws and commands.

Think back to the images of concentration camps and the horrors of World War II, in which millions of people were herded to their deaths. Now imagine such machinery turned against a different minority—those Christians Jesus calls His “little flock,” who actually strive to obey the Ten Commandments of God (Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:1–21).

Revelation 12 describes the anger their obedience engenders in Satan the devil—and how he will respond. “[T]he dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v. 17). How does the Antichrist accomplish this persecution? That power is connected to our final sign.

7. He Will Point to a Revived “Roman Empire”

Remember that *the woman rides the beast*. Revelation 13 warns that the false prophet will influence the masses to support the coming beast of Revelation, and that the Antichrist will marshal the might of this beast power—leading a revived end-time “Roman Empire” that will eclipse even the power and might of today’s United States. This political and military powerhouse will wield strength and might such as the world has never seen before—and it will lead to the most widespread suffering in human history.


The Antichrist will direct the might of the beast against those who refuse to reject the laws of God—those who worship Jesus Christ in spirit and truth and refuse to accept the Antichrist’s counterfeit Christianity. The result will be a modern-day Inquisition on a horrific scale never before seen in human history. This unholy alliance of false church and tyrannical state will dominate the world in the times just ahead of us.

The True Christ Will Prevail

Yet, even with their powers combined, this most powerful alliance of religious, political, economic, and military might will be no match for the returning Jesus Christ, who will arrive on the earth with His glorified faithful followers from this present age, resurrected to rule under His benevolent authority, establishing the Kingdom of God forever. “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20).

So, what should we *do* about these sobering prophecies? We must remember that the Antichrist’s religious system, which he will eventually sell to the whole world, exists *today*—and most who call themselves “Christian” are already deceived by it. We do not need to wait until this religious tyrant appears on the scene—we can act *now* to reject his system and his counterfeit Christianity.

Yet, just as Revelation 12 reveals persecution ahead, it also reveals that many zealous Christians will be protected during the coming Great Tribulation (v. 14). Indeed, Jesus admonishes us, “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).

Now is the time for seeking the truth of God over the lies of counterfeit “Christianity.” We pray that *you* will seek that truth and reject the deceptions of the coming end-time Antichrist, even as they are at work in our world today. 

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h Canada!

Legalize Shoplifting?



Frustration over inflation is a real and increasing problem. No one is happy to arrive at the checkout aisle only to discover that the same basket of groceries they purchased last month now costs more. It gets even more frustrating when the next trip to the grocery

store brings us yet another price increase and an even higher bill. With wages mostly stagnant, what is a person to do?

An increasing number of people believe they have found the ultimate solution—if it's too expensive, just put it in your bag and walk out!

An Insignificant Crime?

In 2014, the California legislature passed Proposition 47, reclassifying non-violent thefts as misdemeanors if the stolen goods cost less than \$950 total. Since that time, news agencies across the United States and Canada have shown surveillance footage of individuals walking into stores, helping themselves to their products of choice, and walking out the front door. This is often presented to Canadians as an “over there” problem, something happening in the state of California but not having any broader ramifications. Many fail to realize that this problem is increasingly becoming an issue throughout Canada as well.

While not alone in facing this increase in theft, grocery stores appear to be bearing the brunt of the cost. *The Canadian Press* reported that “a growing number of supermarkets report an increase in thefts of food and pharmacy products” (“Supermarket theft rising, shoplifters more aggressive, warns grocery industry,” February 8, 2022). The article goes on to state that the data

is difficult to track as retailers often respond by asking the suspect to leave, rather than involving police.

Why wouldn't a grocer want to involve the police? It is not the same situation as California, where the passing of a proposition essentially made shopkeepers powerless. Yet the results are much the same. So, what is happening here in Canada to foster similar increases in shoplifting? Writing for *CBC News*, David Burke summarized it with this impactful statement: “Our justice system is crumbling both on a federal level and provincial level” (“Shoplifting and other petty-crime cases are being dropped by courts,” May 30, 2019). Burke explains, “Across Canada, people accused of petty crimes like shoplifting, minor assault and fraud are walking free—because the justice system doesn't have time to deal with their cases, as it struggles to move more serious crimes through the courts.”

Crime has increased to the point where the system does not have enough time to prosecute “less serious” crimes like shoplifting. Note that Burke's article was written prior to the pandemic, which, along with the ensuing downturn, has created an environment where the normalization of shoplifting has accelerated.

The New Economics of Theft

Two recent trends have worked to push this crisis forward. First, as the labour market shrank and consumers expressed a desire to limit interactions, many stores became increasingly reliant on self-checkout stands. These stands allow customers to scan their own merchandise before bagging and paying. How we act when we believe no one is watching is a vital aspect of one's character, yet the opportunity to avoid payment is too much for some to ignore.

Second, inflation has resulted in soaring prices, leading some to take desperate measures to pay their bills. A recent *Toronto Star* article titled “Confessions of a Shoplifter” showed the moral gymnastics of one shoplifter: “I don’t have any kind of moral quandary with stealing food. If the prices were fair... I’d pay.” The article goes on to show that this individual was not alone in his line of reasoning: “The *Star* spoke to several Toronto residents for this story who say they’re shoplifting more as food prices increase and feel justified in doing so” (January 30, 2023).

These two trends can be summarized as *opportunity* and *motive*: increased opportunity to shoplift and increased motive to do so. Combine these two elements with a decrease in the moral fortitude to simply say, *I will not take what is not mine—I will not steal*, and you are left with the perfect environment for a shoplifting epidemic.

What about the future? If the shoplifting crisis is not being addressed due to backlogs in the criminal justice system and that trend continues, what comes next? What will be the next law to become unenforceable and essentially abolished? If a few percentage points of inflation are all it takes to justify and normalize something that was previously seen as unequivocally wrong—stealing—then what becomes justifiable next?

The Real Value of “You Shall Not Steal”

As the struggles of society worsen, those who value individual morality and character stand out more and more. If you are struggling financially and find yourself

questioning whether shoplifting is a legitimate way to save on shopping, consider this proverb: “Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel” (Proverbs 20:17). This doesn’t mean that the loaf of bread will turn into gravel while you are consuming it, but it speaks to the unsatisfactory nature of sin. The time will come when you will regret your choice. When you allow difficult times to wear down your character, you rob yourself of the opportunity for growth as a person—among the many problems you will reap.

If someone can’t be trusted not to steal, what can they be trusted with? Giving His “Olivet Prophecy,” Jesus Christ revealed the result of a society void of law. “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). It is easy to see the growing mistrust, division, and hatred in our society today. Truly, the love of many is growing cold.

In writing to Christian brethren at Rome, the Apostle Paul drew attention to the link between love and law.

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:8-10).

As society allows for the normalization of lawlessness, the love of many will continue to grow cold, and divisions will increase. Hatred and suspicion will only escalate. But you don’t have to allow that to be the story of your life. God recorded Ten Commandments—laws that, when followed, result in the exact opposite of what Christ warned about. While lawlessness leads to a lack of love, the Ten Commandments teach us how to treat one another in such a way as to promote lasting trust, peace, and harmony.

Be sure to download or order our free booklet *The Ten Commandments*, which illustrates how these principles lead to a happy and abundant life.

—Michael Heykoop



The Miraculous American Revolution

By **Douglas S. Winnail**

Though secular historians scoff at the idea, students of the Bible recognize that God guides the course of history. Long ago, Job wrote that “He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them” (Job 12:23–24). The prophet Daniel records the same important message—that God “removes kings and raises up kings” and “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will” (Daniel 2:21; 4:17, 25, 32; 5:21).

So, did God intervene to guide the outcome of the American Revolution? A quick survey of the facts will reveal that indeed, He did. In this brief article we will consider just a few of His miraculous interventions—and you may want to study more of them on your own.

George Washington Survives

American General George Washington played a leading role in the American Revolution and the nation’s founding. His solid character and firm convictions were key factors in molding the nature and outlook of America. But his very survival to lead the nation was not at all assured.

In 1755, a 23-year-old Colonel Washington was one of 1,400 British troops fighting under the command of General Braddock in the French and Indian War, battling to capture Fort Duquesne, near Pittsburgh. During the battle they were attacked by

a French and Indian force. “Braddock was killed and every officer on horseback was shot, except Washington.” The young colonel later wrote to his brother, “But by the All-Powerful Dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me.” A Native American who fought in the battle later stated, “Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet! I had seventeen fair fires at him with my rifle and after all could not bring him to the ground” (Susie and William Federer, *Miracles in American History*, pp. 17–19).

The Weather Factor

In the summer of 1776, General Howe had a British force of more than 400 ships and 32,000 troops stationed around Staten Island in New York Harbor. General Washington gathered about 8,000 American troops at Brooklyn Heights on the western edge of Long Island. The British were able to land about 15,000 troops behind Washington’s lines and inflict heavy losses on the Americans, who were encircled with their backs to the East River.

However, the weather proved to be a deciding factor. Strong winds, an ebbing tide, and incessant rain kept the British from further attacks on the American position, and from moving their warships into the East River to cut off an escape route. Washington, realizing the danger of his position, ordered a nighttime

evacuation of Long Island. That evening, at about 11:00 p.m., the wind died down and a thick fog developed, shrouding the American evacuation—and when the fog lifted later the next morning, the British were surprised to find that the American soldiers were nowhere to be found (Chris and Ted Stewart, *Seven Miracles That Saved America*, pp. 9–11). One American soldier wrote, “Providentially for us, a great fog arose, which prevented the enemy from seeing our retreat” (David Ludlum, *The Weather Factor*, pp. 36–37).

The outcome of this battle has been described as “so astonishing that many (including General Washington) attributed the safe retreat of the American army to the hand of God” (Mark Beliles and Stephen McDowell, *America’s Providential History*, pp. 158–161). If the wind, rain, and the fog—termed the “heavenly messenger”—had not intervened for the Americans, they would have been captured, Washington would have been hanged, and the revolution would have come to an early end.

In December of 1776, with morale low and Washington’s army dwindled to about 2,000 at Valley Forge, Washington decided to cross the ice-filled Delaware River and launch a surprise attack on the British in Trenton, New Jersey. The Americans attacked at sunrise on December 26 during a driving snowstorm, with the wind at their backs and blowing into the faces of the mercenary Hessian troops. In less than an hour, the Americans captured nearly a thousand Hessians and lost only a few men. Artillery officer Henry Knox wrote of the victory at Trenton: “Providence seemed to have smiled on every part of this enterprise” (Beliles and McDowell, pp. 161–162).

A Spy Found and a Key Victory Won

Another crucial turning point occurred in the summer of 1777. British General John Burgoyne was marching down the Hudson River Valley from Canada with a force of 7,000 men to join General Howe, who was supposed to be marching north to Albany, New York. However, Burgoyne was stopped at Saratoga by a force of more than 15,000 Americans angered by the brutality inflicted by Burgoyne’s Native American allies. Failing to defeat the Americans, Burgoyne and his troops began a retreat, only to be caught in a rainstorm that turned the roads into a muddy bog. When the Americans crossed the Hudson River ahead of

him and blocked his escape, Burgoyne and 6,000 of his troops surrendered.

General Howe never made the trip up the Hudson, as his reinforcements and supplies coming from England were delayed by contrary winds. The defeat of one of Britain’s best generals was a shock to London, but it was viewed as a “miracle” in Paris—a turning point in the Revolutionary War that brought France into the conflict on the side of the Americans (William Weir, *50 Battles that Changed the World*, pp. 55–59). Washington wrote of this event, “I most devoutly congratulate my country, and every well-wisher to the cause, on this signal stroke of Providence,” and Roger Sherman, a signer of the Declaration of Independence wrote, “This is the Lord’s doing, and marvelous in our eyes” (Federer, pp. 55–57).

In the fall of 1780, the traitorous action of General Benedict Arnold, the hero of the Battle of Saratoga, was discovered by a surprising turn of events. Arnold was plotting to turn the American garrison at West Point, a key position for the control of the Hudson River, over to the British in return for a payment of 20,000 pounds—about a million dollars in today’s money. American sentries happened to stop Major John Andre, dressed as a civilian, as he attempted to return to British lines. In a hollow space in his boot, they found a map of West Point and details of an impending attack. The unexpected apprehension of Major Andre and the discovery of Benedict Arnold’s treachery was widely viewed as an act of “Divine Protection” (Beliles & McDowell, pp. 163–165). Yale President Ezra Stiles wrote in 1873, “A providential miracle detected the conspiracy of Arnold.... [T]he body of the American army, then at West Point, with his excellency General Washington himself, were to have been rendered into the hands of the enemy” (Federer, pp. 63–66).

Rising Rivers, Strong Storms, and a Sudden Squall

In January 1781, American General Daniel Morgan defeated an advancing British force under General Cornwallis at the Battle of Cowpens in South Carolina in what has been called a “tactical masterpiece and turning point of the war” (Federer, p. 67). Morgan retreated north, chased by the British. Cornwallis reached the Catawba River only hours after the Americans had crossed, “but a sudden storm made

the river impassable.... [T]he British nearly overtook the Americans at the Yadkin River, but again rains flooded the river slowing the British” and “another flash flood blocked the British” at the Dan River—allowing the Americans to cross into friendly territory in Virginia. British General Henry Clinton described these events as follows: “Here the royal Army was again stopped by a sudden rise of the waters, which had only just fallen (almost miraculously) to let the enemy over” (Federer, pp. 67–68). George Washington wrote in March of 1781, “We have abundant

wallis surrendered the next day, while a British military band played “The World Turned Upside Down.” The American victory at Yorktown has been called one of the most influential battles in history, as it ended an eight-year struggle for independence and launched America on a path to becoming a world power (Michael Lanning, *The Battle 100*, pp. 1–4)—and it was aided by a sudden and dramatic change in the weather.

After the pivotal Battle of Yorktown, Yale President Ezra Stiles wrote, “Who but God could have ordained the critical arrival of the Gallic [French] fleet,

THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS “SO ASTONISHING THAT MANY ATTRIBUTED THE SAFE RETREAT OF THE AMERICAN ARMY TO THE HAND OF GOD.”

reasons to thank Providence for its many favorable interpositions in our behalf. It has at times been my only dependence, for all other resources seemed to have failed us” (Federer, p. 69).


The culminating battles of the Revolutionary War were also decisively influenced by the weather. In October of 1781, an inconclusive engagement between the French and British fleets in the Atlantic, prolonged by shifting winds, allowed another squadron of French ships with troops and supplies to slip into the Chesapeake Bay—preventing British supply ships from reaching Cornwallis, who was surrounded by 17,000 French and American troops in Yorktown. Facing overwhelming odds, Cornwallis attempted a nighttime breakout by starting to ferry his regular troops across the York River. The first group made it safely across. However, a sudden and severe rain squall blew the second contingent of soldiers downriver, leaving Cornwallis with a much-reduced force.

This sudden “adverse turn of the weather completely disrupted the attempted breakout” and as a British colonel commented, “Thus expired the last hope of the British army” (Ludlum, pp. 59–64). Corn-

so as to... assist... in the siege of Yorktown?” Several years later, George Washington wrote that “it will not be believed that such a force as Great Britain has employed for eight years in this country could be baffled in their plan of subjugating it.... The singular interpositions of Providence in our feeble condi-

tion were such, as could scarcely escape the attention of the most unobserving, while the perseverance of the Armies of the United States, through almost every possible suffering and discouragement for the space of eight long years was little short of a standing miracle” (Federer, pp. 71–72).

Again and again, the hand of God intervened to guide events at this crucial time—but few remember this today. Why does this matter? The Bible reveals that failure to transmit the true facts of history and the willingness of leaders to ignore important lessons of history will have serious consequences for America and other Israelite nations in the Western world.

The words of the prophets ring out through time. Jeremiah records a warning from God: “Because My people have forgotten Me... I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy” (Jeremiah 18:15–17). A time is soon coming when a neglectful United States of America will reap the consequence of its forgetfulness. Hundreds of millions on July 4 celebrate America’s independence from the British Empire. Let us not forget their—and our—dependence on the God whose hand guides our history. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy Discover the prophesied fate of Western civilization! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at ***TomorrowsWorld.org***. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A well-known circle of light hides a darkness that Christians should reject.

Question: The halo has been a popular symbol used in Christian art for centuries—but I’ve noticed that you never use it when depicting any of Jesus Christ’s followers. Do you have something against the halo?

Answer: Indeed, the halo has for centuries adorned popular depictions of Jesus, Mary, angels, and saints. However, long before Jesus was born, pagan religions were already using the halo in depictions of their gods and leaders. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* explains that the halo is a “radiant circle or disk surrounding the head of a holy person, a representation of spiritual character through the symbolism of light. In Hellenistic and Roman art the sun-god Helios and Roman emperors often appear with a crown of rays. Because of its pagan origin, the form was avoided in Early Christian art, but a simple circular nimbus was adopted by Christian emperors for their official portraits.... In the 5th century it was sometimes given to angels, but it was not until the 6th century that the halo became customary for the Virgin Mary and other saints” (“Halo,” *Britannica.com*, April 28, 2023).

With this brief background in mind, we can turn to the Bible to see God’s view of the halo. Ancient Israel continually offended the true God by dabbling in the worship of other gods and incorporating pagan practices in attempting to worship the true God (cf. Deuteronomy 12:29–32; 1 Kings 3:2–3; 2 Chronicles 33:17). God’s command to the Israelites shows His hatred of pagan worship: “You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things” (Deuteronomy 12:2–4).

God told the Israelites, once they entered the Promised Land, to break up or burn down *everything* related to the false gods of its former inhabitants. This instruction was often repeated (e.g. Numbers 33:52; Deuteronomy 7:5), and carefully followed by faithful kings like Hezekiah and Josiah (2 Chronicles 31:1–3; 34:1–7).

This matters to God because He knows that the use of pagan practices and symbols leads people toward false gods. He strongly commanded that “you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with

the inhabitants of the land... and make your sons play the harlot with their gods” (Exodus 34:13–16). God is “jealous” for His people and forbids their dabbling in pagan practices because they lead to “harlotry” with false gods. God often uses the imagery of filth, adultery, and harlotry when describing this form of sin (Judges 2:17; Ezekiel 6:9; Hosea 4:11–13).

Use of the pagan halo fundamentally violates the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). This fundamental commandment reaches far; it forbids not just the direct worship of other gods or becoming an adherent of another religion, but also forbids integrating the beliefs, practices,

customs, and symbols of false worship into worship of the *true* God (cf. Deuteronomy 12:4, 31; Matthew 6:7; Mark 7:6–8).

From the perspective of human reasoning, a circle around a person’s head on a painting seems relatively insignificant. But a Christian’s view of the halo should be the same as God’s, and Scripture consistently shows that God hates all practices, customs, and symbols related to other gods—including the use of halos.

For more information on how practices related to false gods crept into mainstream “Christian” worship, please request a free copy of *Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity*, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. TW

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The Foolish Generation!

Hindsight will not look kindly upon us.

By **Gerald E. Weston**

The late newscaster Tom Brokaw described the men and women who endured the Great Depression and survived World War II as “The Greatest Generation.” Some of its members were displaced by the American “Dust Bowl,” immortalized in John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*. After the hardships and carnage of the 1930s and ’40s, they helped rebuild and put the world back together again. That was my parents’ generation. Life was often hard, and they faced many challenges.

Those who have never studied the history of that generation likely do not appreciate its accomplishments. But was that truly the greatest generation? Those living through the first half of the twentieth century are certainly contenders for the title, but they are not alone. Every generation has its challenges—some more than others.

We who are older may be tempted to think that there will never again be the likes of Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, or Thomas Edison. Other great names from the past come to mind, such as Alexander Graham Bell, Johannes Gutenberg, Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur, George Washington Carver, Sir Isaac Newton, and Aristotle. And there are countless others whose names we may not know, but who contributed greatly to the world we now see.

As in the past, this generation has its greats: Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Jack Welch, and Oprah Winfrey, and others come to mind. Consider Elon Musk, the architect of the most successful electric car company in the world. He is also busy sending rockets and satellites into space and plans to send men and women to Mars—all while finding the spare time to buy Twitter.

When it comes to technological advancements, our age must surely be second to none. Never before has the world seen such technological advances come so rapidly as they do now. Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is now talked about everywhere. The term and some of its uses are not new, but—especially in recent

months—it has taken on new implications. The speed of its sudden breakthrough is breathtaking. Its potential for science, medicine, and industry carries the promise of transforming our world for the good, but its potential for mischief and destruction is ominous. Some think it could end civilization.

So, what about us today? If we could immediately go forward 75 years and view from there a snapshot of our current world, how would the future judge us? What moniker will we be given in the future? Will it contain the word “great”? Or will today’s world garner far less esteem?

How Will We Be Judged?

Will this generation be the new kid on the block who dethrones the previous king of the hill? Could ours be the greatest generation? How will we who live today be viewed by future generations?

Rockets to the moon, GPS, electric vehicles, A.I., smartphones—all are the result of the accumulation of knowledge over mankind’s time on earth, and all owe their existence to previous generations of advancement. Each, for instance, relied on Gutenberg’s invention of a movable-type printing press nearly six centuries ago. Without his breakthrough, there would have been no proliferation of books paving the way for breakthroughs in our modern world.

This is truly an amazing world we were born into, but smartphones, laptops, air transport, electric vehicles, and air conditioning do not tell the whole story. While mankind has shown genius for invention and innovation, *every* generation has failed miserably in human relations. Aircraft carry not only passengers and cargo, but also powerful weapons of war. Virtually every invention provides new ways to kill, subdue, or scam one’s fellow man.

The technology that sent men to the Moon and brought them back safely has not enabled us to get along with one another. There are too many failed marriages; too many murders, rapes, and assaults; too many wars cutting short the hopes and dreams of

millions. The Internet may bring families together and proliferate knowledge, but it also destroys families and lives as it proliferates pornography and facilitates endless new scams and deceptions. The “Greatest Generation” failed to put an end to war or any of these other human problems, and so has every generation since. Human nature is clearly inadequate—incomplete!

Have you ever wondered why mankind has so much greater capacity than animals? Even the animals with larger brains fail to come near to man’s capacity to reason, to think, to innovate. None can go to the moon and return. None can build a radio, a television, or a computer. You may love your pets and even find their intelligence amazing, but there is something fundamentally different between you and them.

What makes the difference? How is it that man can build machines to go higher, faster, and farther than any animal? Evolutionists tell us that man is merely a higher animal form, but they cannot explain the huge difference in mental capacity between man and beast. So why is it that with all their intelligence, human beings cannot get along with each other? Why divorce? Why wars between nations? Why people scamming, robbing, bludgeoning one another?

The answers can be found in the most famous book Gutenberg printed with his new invention. It is the Bible—and only the Bible—that reveals the answers to these fundamental questions. Its opening verses introduce us to something else evolutionists cannot explain—God’s purpose for mankind. “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26–27).

How many of us have read over these verses without considering what they mean? Read them carefully: In plain language, if it is not already evident enough, God did not make man after any animal kind, but, rather, after *His* kind—God’s *own* kind. We are different because we are created in God’s image and likeness.

But, then, why don’t we conduct ourselves in a godly manner? Something is missing.

When God put mankind on earth, He created us with amazing ability to think, to reason, and to accomplish marvelous things. But He also gave us free will. Human beings were given the ability to choose between right and wrong, to choose “life and good” on one hand or “death and evil” on the other (Deuteronomy 30:15). This choice was symbolized by two literal trees. Choosing the one tree would lead to blessings and life, but choosing “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” would lead to curses and death (v. 19; Genesis 2:9, 16–17). As we know, Adam chose poorly, and we have all followed his lead. That choice represented rejection of God’s knowledge—mankind taking for itself the prerogative to determine right and wrong.

Adam was kicked out of the Garden of Eden as a result of his rebellion. We have followed Adam’s lead, and God has let us choose our own ways ever since. Only when we come to the place of imminent total destruction will He step in and stop our madness (Matthew 24:21–22).

The Missing Dimension

The idea that God is creating man in His own image is truly profound—and this theme is found throughout Scripture. King David, looking up at the night sky and wondering why God would be interested in puny little man, asked, “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:4). The book of Hebrews picks up on this question and explains:

“You [that is, God] have put all things in subjection under his [man’s] feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, *in bringing many sons to glory*, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Hebrew 2:8–10).

A careful study of the Scriptures reveals a plan and purpose being worked out, and it is far greater



than what so many theologians have imagined—the so-called “beatific vision” in which mankind goes off to heaven for a kind of “retirement,” just staring into the face of God for eternity. Why do people not accept what the Bible plainly tells us? The Apostle Paul is not vague about our future. He explains that we will become sons of God and joint heirs with Christ. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Romans 8:14–15).

Now, notice what Paul writes next; “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (v. 16). Did you catch that? God is begetting children for His Family. We are, as brought out in Genesis 1, made in the image and likeness of God Himself, and not of any animal kind! Can you believe what the Bible clearly says? Notice further: “... and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (v. 17).

In previous generations we understood that *mankind* represented both men and women when used in such contexts. But if anyone is offended by that “microaggression,” note that God does not leave women out: “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be *My sons and daughters*, says the LORD Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).

But How Can This Be?

Notice that verse 16 describes two spirits—God’s Spirit and our human spirit. In this we find the difference between God’s thinking and man’s thinking. Hu-

manly speaking, we do not think as God thinks (Isaiah 55:1–8). Without His indwelling Spirit, we lack genuine love and self-control, however intelligent we may be in material matters. This verse outlines how we all think without His help: “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like” (Galatians 5:19–21).

But does that mean we can *never* think as He thinks? Let Paul give us the answer: “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9–10).

Paul next reveals the difference between animal brain and the mind of man. “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” And similarly, he explains the difference between the mind of man and the mind of God. “Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (2:11). Here we again find the two spirits: the spirit in man and the Spirit of God. The spirit in man empowers the human brain to a degree that animals can never attain, but without the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we can no more understand the things of God than my dog Marcus could understand calculus!

To think as God thinks—to be fully made in the image and likeness of God—these two spirits must unite in us. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit* that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:14–17). *Wow*—read that again. We are to be “children of God... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

A Third Spirit

This explains why man can build complex machines but cannot find the way to peace. Collectively and

individually, human beings are unable to set aside selfish desires. The result? Paul makes it plain: “Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known” (Romans 3:16–17). The next verse explains what is behind it all: “There is *no fear of God* before their eyes.”

But *why* does mankind reject God? The answer involves a third spirit, one that also works with the spirit in man. “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, *the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience*, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (Ephesians 2:1–3).

So, we see the work of three spirits: God’s Holy Spirit, the spirit in man, and the spirit of the devil. These spirits are real! And the spirit in man is not an ever-living soul, as many mistakenly assume. As the prophet Ezekiel tell us, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). We do not *now* have immortality—we must obtain it at the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:53–54).

The human spirit enables the brain to think beyond the animal kingdom. It is an essence that empowers the physical brain to think far beyond eating, procreating, and surviving. This spirit lets us appreciate art and beauty, read about previous generations, and plan for the future. We construct complex machines, build hospitals, create artificial intelligence.

Yet we are incomplete without a second spirit—the Spirit of God. Only after baptism (picturing putting to death our old ways and submitting to God’s will) and the laying on of hands by the ministry do we receive the spark of God’s mind and begin the process of being transformed into a person defined by God’s own qualities: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23).


How Will God Judge Our Generation?

Technologically, we have built on the greats of the past—and we have greats of our own. No generation

in man’s history has seen the knowledge explosion we now have (Daniel 12:4). But that is not the whole picture. How will we be seen by future generations? What will they think about a generation in which a United States Supreme Court justice—along with leaders in government, university professors, and so many supposedly educated students—refuses to admit what a woman is? What will they think about a people whose mothers take their toddlers to be entertained by drag queens? What will they think about a society in which criminals are protected and the lawful are routinely ignored? How will they view a nation so foolish as to allow a *de facto* open border, allowing drugs and bad actors in?

Will ours be viewed as the “Greatest Generation”? Or will we be viewed as the *Foolish Generation*—maybe even the *Dumbest Generation*? I suggest another name based on Bible prophecy: *The Generation that Nearly Destroyed All Life* (Matthew 24:21–22). But we can be glad in knowing that the story does not end there. In fact, after the generations of our present age, we will see the beginning of a new world of *Generations in Whom God’s Spirit Dwells* (Ezekiel 11:19–20). Only then will the prophecy of Isaiah 2:3–4 come to pass:

Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

This is the message Jesus proclaimed of a time when the Kingdom of God rules on earth (Mark 1:14–15). This is the same message we preach—the message of *tomorrow’s world*, when God will raise up the *genuine greatest generations!* 

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ENTERTAINING SATAN

“Dancing with the devil” is more popular than most realize.

About 12 million viewers watched the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, which was reportedly a three-year high, up 31 percent from last year. Some of the highly celebrated musicians to win or perform were Beyoncé, Harry Styles, Lizzo, Kim Petras, and Sam Smith.

Controversially, amid the fanfare and celebration, the biggest winner was undoubtedly Satan the devil, and many conservative and religious commentators criticized the event for including a graphically satanic performance by Sam Smith and Kim Petras, a self-proclaimed “nonbinary man” and “transgender woman,” respectively. Their performance of a song titled “Unholy” included Sam Smith in a red “devil” costume surrounded by many other performers—some in cages—wearing red costumes and dancing seductively. A sheet of flames featured through much of the performance. It was all meant to be satanic, and it was. Amazingly, before Smith’s and Petras’ performance, CBS posted a now-deleted tweet that said, “We are ready to worship.”

The use of intense satanic imagery seems to be increasing in pop culture. In 2021, popular rapper Lil Nas X released a video supposedly depicting hell and Satan. In the same year, he released a limited-edition—666 in number—line of “Satan Shoes,” claiming that each pair contained a drop of human blood. If it wasn’t obvious before, the last few years have confirmed the fact that Satan is the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

One of Satan’s primary desires is to be worshipped (Revelation 13:4). He even audaciously attempted to persuade Jesus Christ to worship him: “And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me’” (Matthew 4:9).

Indeed, Satan sometimes influences people to literally worship him, as caricatured in the performance at the Grammys. But, more often, his methods of persuading people to worship him are far more insidious. This is a point you won’t find mentioned by many outside of *Tomorrow’s World*.

The satanic performance at the Grammys was horrific for many reasons, but Satan isn’t just behind the obviously evil occurrences in society. He’s also more

deceptively—and, in some ways, more dangerously—behind much of what has widely been considered “Christian” throughout history and the modern world.

Many New Testament verses make this point by warning about the dangers of false Christianity (Matthew 24:4–5; Luke 6:46), false ministers (2 Peter 2:1), false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13–15), false gospels (2 Corinthians 11:4), false gods (Romans 1:24–25), and false churches (Revelation 17:4–5). This is a small sample of many scriptures that warn about the serious danger of false forms of religion that masquerade as true Christianity.

Consider a Few Examples

We don’t have to look very hard to expose traditional “Christianity” as a counterfeit. For example, two of the most special days for most “Christian” churches are Christmas and Easter—neither of which are found in the Bible, and both of which indisputably contain many practices that came from pagan religions. And it is the seventh-day Sabbath that God’s commandments tell us to keep holy—not Sunday. The Sabbath is the day Jesus and His apostles kept, and it will still be kept after Jesus’ return (Isaiah 66:23). And an objective study will reveal that many other “Christian” doctrines originated in ancient pagan religions, not the word of God.

Scripture shows that even most who call themselves “Christian” have been deceived by Satan into believing they worship the true God and the true Christ—when they are, in fact, unknowingly worshipping Satan by mixing a counterfeit religion with true Christianity, a practice God has always abhorred (Deuteronomy 12:29–31).

The 2023 Grammys horrendously paid open homage to the devil. Jesus Christ’s disciples should recognize and recoil from such abominations, while also recognizing that Satan works in many other ways that are far more subtle and deceptive. If you’re interested in learning more about one of Satan’s greatest deceptions, please consider downloading or ordering a free copy of *Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity*, which systematically explores this subject in great detail.

—Josh Lyons

Jehoiachin: “The LORD Will Uphold”

By **Wyatt Ciesielka**

The world is in turmoil. In the face of continuing dire global news, and perhaps even hard personal trials, do you worry that you lack the strength to confidently—even joyfully—face the days ahead? Depression and anxiety are very real problems. May 2023 data from the Centers for Disease Control shows that roughly 15 percent of adults in the United States suffer regularly from feelings of worry, nervousness, anxiety, or depression. The World Health Organization in June 2021 reported that 1.3 percent of all deaths worldwide were suicides, and that among those aged 15–29 suicide is the fourth most common cause of death. While worldwide suicide rates have declined during the last 20 years, the suicide rate *increased* by 17 percent in the Americas.

However, Christians, despite these sad figures, are to be full of joy (Galatians 5:22), peace (Psalm 119:165) and confidence, “which has great reward” (Hebrews 10:35). Yet there are many reasons why people despair. Some suffer from physiological conditions. Others have been victims of trauma. Some are paralyzed by the regret of sin. Still others are simply overwhelmed by life’s trials. What about you? How can you have joy and confidence in the years ahead?

Christians, having the Holy Spirit dwelling within, should not have a spirit of “fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). Additionally, Jesus Christ tells us to not worry about

our lives, but instead to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:25–33). Many are familiar with these admonitions, yet still doubt that they have the strength to endure and to prevail. Often, this doubt is the result of not feeling “good enough” for God to uphold us.

Certainly, where there is sin in our lives, we need to repent of it (Matthew 3:8; Revelation 2:22). Yet even the most righteous person still falls far short of perfection (Romans 3:23). Christians need to have confidence that, although we will all remain imperfect in this lifetime, it is God’s pleasure to complete the work that He has begun in us (Luke 12:32). Regardless of our imperfections—and regardless of the calamities that are devouring the world around us—we *can* have the strength to prevail. If God has called us (John 6:44), and if we have answered His call (Acts 2:36–39), we will be diligently and repentantly seeking Him (2 Peter 3:18), and we can know that “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We can choose to forsake Him, and can even reject Christ’s sacrifice for us (Hebrews 6:4–6). But His desire is *never* to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Do you ever doubt that you are “good enough” for God to uphold you through really perilous times? If so, consider the ancient and often-forgotten example of a man who lived through the destruction of his nation. This man was far from perfect—yet God upheld him for His purpose.

Not Perfect, But Upheld

Jehoiachin lived thousands of years ago in ancient Judah. As a young king, he "did evil" during his reign (2 Kings 24:8–9). Yet God upheld him to serve His purpose. In fact, Jehoiachin's name means, "The LORD will uphold." God would indeed be faithful to "uphold" Jehoiachin, making him a powerful example for us today.

Jehoiachin lived during calamitous times. His nation was turning further and further away from God. Sadly, the Western world today is continuing to move away from a deep respect and awe of the Creator and His true ways. As the Bible repeatedly warns, God will bless people and nations who love and obey Him, and will curse those who continually reject Him (cf. Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28).

The young king lived during a time when his nation was on the edge of economic collapse, which should remind us of recent U.S. political wrangling over the "debt ceiling" and risk of national default. His nation also faced overwhelming military challenges, and today, the Western world faces growing threats on many fronts. The U.S. Chief of Space Operations, General Bradley Saltzman, told reporters in February 2023 that China is now the "most challenging threat" and that the U.S. is "seeing a whole mix of weapons being produced by our strategic competitors." With the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the U.S. is losing its once-unchallenged position of political and military dominance, as China steps in to fill the void. More than a decade ago, Britain chose to store a large part of its tank force in Germany, a continuing fulfillment of Hosea 7:11, in which modern Ephraim (Britain) is portrayed as a "silly dove" putting her trust in foreign powers—including "Assyria," identified in prophecy as modern-day Germany.

Jehoiachin inherited a kingdom in revolt. He ruled Judah only briefly—from 598–597 BC—and he was soon to be overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar's mighty Babylonian army (2 Kings 24:8; 2 Chronicles 36:9–10). Jehoiachin lost his throne and his nation. His nation's economy collapsed. His kingdom was destroyed and his people were slaughtered. He and his family were taken captive to Babylon, where torture or even execution could await them. For Jehoiachin, all may have seemed hopeless. Yet his name meant, "The LORD will uphold"—and the Lord did uphold Jehoiachin for His purpose.


According to the Babylonian Chronicle, Nebuchadnezzar's armies entered Palestine in December of 598 BC, and they captured Jerusalem on March 16, 597 BC. The Babylonians plundered the city and took Jehoiachin and his family captive. Nebuchadnezzar placed Jehoiachin's uncle, Mattaniah, on the throne of Jerusalem—renaming him Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:12–17).

Despite this turmoil, and even during a time of national collapse and captivity, God upheld imperfect Jehoiachin. The Babylonian Chronicle refers to Jehoiachin as "Yaukin" and records special rations of expensive food provided to him and to his family. And of far greater importance is that God ensured that Jehoiachin would continue in royal status as the legitimate heir to the throne of Judah. This is reflected by the fact that Ezekiel dates his writings from the year of Jehoiachin's exile and not of Mattaniah's ascension (cf. Ezekiel 1:1–3).

Why did God uphold Jehoiachin in all these ways? He was fulfilling His purpose, as the Messiah was legally to be considered part of the line of Jehoiachin, descendant of King Solomon. Notice that Jehoiachin, or "Jeconiah," is listed in Matthew's legal genealogy of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:11–12). Herein lies the lesson: God will "uphold" those whom He chooses.

Have Courage to Overcome

One lesson from Jehoiachin's life is that God has the power to uphold us for His purpose, regardless of the dangers or trials we may face. Jehoiachin was an imperfect man, yet God upheld him for His purpose. Today, God calls imperfect people to receive His Holy Spirit, after repentance and baptism, to overcome human nature and to put on the "new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). Christians show God their love for Him through their obedience to Him (1 John 5:3).

Prophecy reveals that the modern Western nations will endure societal trials of increasing severity. Increased personal trials will also come. Yet, no matter the challenge Christians may face, we can endure, because we have access to unimaginable strength—the strength of the Lord God Almighty, who upholds those whom He has called for His purpose. If God upheld Jehoiachin for His purpose, then He surely will uphold those in whom He works to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). 

Can you handle the truth?

An “ism” is a philosophy, social or political ideology, movement, or religion. The list of philosophies and religions is extensive, leaving the distinct impression that mankind is utterly dazed and confused about what life’s purpose is, which choices and actions are right and which are wrong, and whether there is a God. What is your “ism”? Which “ism” is the correct one?

All philosophies, ideologies, and religions seek to comprehensively identify and understand “the truth.” Otherwise, what would be the point? But considering how many “isms” are at odds with other ones should tell us that mankind has not been successful in finding truth. Our entire history readily demonstrates that we are incapable of finding real answers and solutions to the overwhelming problems the world faces.

So, why hasn’t mankind been successful in finding what is good and true? Why haven’t we been able to identify, investigate, and understand the one, true “ism”?

The Rejected Truth

It’s often observed that all too many people reject truth if it interferes with their own desires and beliefs. One famous quote by Winston Churchill illustrates this point: “Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.”

This demonstrates one of mankind’s biggest problems: We don’t like being told what to do. Very early in childhood, we start wanting to decide for ourselves. We want our own way. We often hear people say, “You can’t tell me what to do!” From the very beginning of its existence, mankind chose to reject what God said and decide for itself. God instructed Adam what not to do, and He described the awful outcome of disobedience, but sadly, Adam and Eve willfully listened to the serpent rather than their Creator’s instructions and fell off the road that leads to life.

Ever since, mankind has decided for itself what to do or not do and what to think of as right or wrong, as we trust in our own reasoning and decisions—and reap the consequences.

We humans are just like small children—with very limited knowledge and experience, we insist on deciding “truth” for ourselves based on what seems right to us. We confidently say, *I know I am right. I have reasoned this through. I am intelligent and logical, and I have examined the facts. I know I am right!*

Unfortunately, one of the greatest flaws in human reasoning is our inability to reason and use logic to find what is really true; after all, if we had such an ability, wouldn’t we all come to the same conclusions and arrive at the one, true “ism”? The fact is that we have limited knowledge, flawed logic, and error-prone reasoning ability. We have proven again and again that we can be easily deceived by others as well as ourselves. What seems right to us all too often ends in death (Proverbs 14:12).

Our natural, fleshly mind rebels against our very Creator, and we will not submit to the laws and commands that God revealed for our good (Romans 8:7). Mankind has rejected God countless times, and such rejection darkens our hearts and makes our thoughts futile (Romans 1:21). Even those seeking to be very religious, if they do not submit to God’s clear instructions, are merely establishing their own “righteousness,” which isn’t righteous at all (Romans 10:2–3).

So many “isms,” all missing the truth—because people willfully insist on doing what they want, refusing to let anyone, including the Creator God, tell them what they can and cannot do. If people can’t find an agreeable “ism,” they invent their own! Rather than trusting the all-knowing, benevolent God, many choose atheism, essentially allowing themselves to do what they want. Jesus Christ, however, taught it true when He said that “wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Matthew 7:13).

Tired of all the false “isms”? Truth—that precious road that leads to eternal life—is available when a person is willing to submit to the Creator. To learn more, you can request free copies of *The Ten Commandments* and *Restoring Original Christianity* from the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine), or you can read them online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Roger Meyer

God's Plan for Happy Marriage



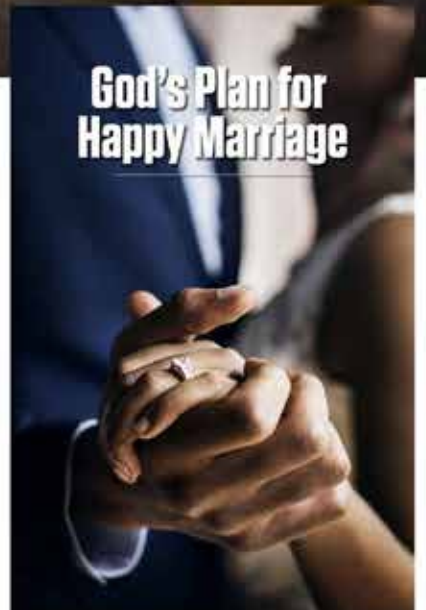
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God's Plan for Happy Marriage





The Challenge of Correcting a Child

Children change so very quickly. A newborn baby begins to crawl, then walk, and then, finally, run—and, looking back, it all seems to happen overnight. As they go through each stage, our little children bring us joy and laughter. Their look of amazement as they realize that they are standing all by themselves on their chubby legs is priceless, and their excitement in a simple game of hide and seek with Mom or Dad can seem like the very definition of pure fun.

But the job of parenting is not always pure fun—at least, not if we take it seriously. How we teach and train our children will set the course of their future, and this is a sobering realization for any parent. Though we might prefer to share only laughter with our children, a wise parent will not shrink from the challenging parts of the job. And one of the most challenging is developing the skill of correcting a child, a responsibility God’s word instructs us not to shirk. We’re told, “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul” (Proverbs 29:17).

Every parent knows the feeling that sometimes all we are doing is saying, “no, no, no”—yet we can’t avoid our duty simply because it is unpleasant at times for both child and parent. But why should we correct our children? And if correction is needed, how should we go about it?

Why Correct?

God speaks through the book of Proverbs when He says to us, “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for whom the

LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights” (Proverbs 3:11–12).

When we correct our children, we must be motivated by love, not by selfish reasons. If we’re not careful, we might speak harshly to them if they’ve inconvenienced us. Perhaps they want to play catch or show us a game they’ve learned, but our minds are on “more important” tasks and we find their innocent insistence annoying. When we say, “Don’t you see I’m busy? Don’t bother me now!” we are correcting selfishly.

And sometimes we correct children for embarrassing us. Maybe, as we’re in the grocery store checkout line, they reach for candy bars on the shelf and we exclaim, “Don’t touch those!” That’s fine, but what if they are so distracted that they don’t hear us and keep on exploring the shelves—and other customers notice? If we unleash a verbal barrage at a child who has ignored us, are we really correcting in love, or are we mostly communicating anger over being embarrassed in front of the cashier and other customers?

By contrast, a wise parent will teach children *when* it is appropriate to try to get a parent’s attention and when it is not. Instead of lashing out with “I’m busy; don’t bother me!” a wise parent will teach that there are times not to interrupt a parent’s activity. And caring parents will teach their child that “don’t touch” means “don’t touch” long before it becomes a matter of public embarrassment. Learning lessons of obedience may someday even save a child’s life—and those lessons are learned best when a child sees that they are motivated by a parent’s love.

How to Correct

How do we go about correcting children so they can have safe, healthy, and godly lives? Consider these three points.

First, **teach**. Moses was commanded to teach God's laws to the Israelites, but parents played a vital role: "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:7). Here, God taught the Israelites *when* to teach their children: take advantage of teaching moments throughout the day. When do we talk with our children? Do they spend more time with us or with the Internet? Are we letting devices—and, therefore, other people—be the primary influences on our children? Children learn by example, and if parents don't teach their children how to act, talk, and think, someone else will. The lessons to be taught change from the time our children are infants to the time they are teenagers, but the fundamental point is the same: The right way of acting, talking, and thinking has to be taught, explained, and reiterated. Children will certainly learn by example, but for them to make sense out of the world around them requires thoughtful, proactive teaching. Children are constantly soaking up information from their surroundings—what are they learning from the environment we give them?

Next, successful parents **train**. We read, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Practice makes perfect. Whether the child is two years old or ten years old will obviously affect the way a lesson is taught, but while teaching is vital, it is not enough—the next step needs to be, "now let's practice." A parent can even make a game of "practicing sharing," among other social and moral skills, with a child.

But it can't be just a game. For practice to be most successful, it must be *regular and consistent*. For the musician, 30 minutes of practice per day is better than trying to practice for three hours on one day each week. The same applies when working with children. In addition, *minimize distractions*. Trying to practice anything with lots of distractions is a recipe for failure. And *don't demand perfection every time*. Don't allow training to become a war of wills with your child—sometimes it's better to stop an activity and find another time for a fresh start.

Finally, **test**. Remember that trip to the grocery store? It certainly wasn't a good time for teaching or training—there are far too many distractions in the checkout line for any lesson to sink in. And we only go there once a week or so, while teaching and training require daily time. But it was a test—and we encounter "tests" all the time as our children experience life outside the familiarity of home. Perhaps one of our children wants to get our attention while we're in a conversation at church. Have we taught and trained

the child to wait respectfully until we turn our attention from the conversation? Or will the child impatiently shout demands and try to distract us? How they act will show us how effective our teaching and training have been.

If children don't do so well on their "tests," what should we do? Re-teach! They've simply made a mistake, and now we know that we need to have more practice. Or, perhaps they didn't understand how to apply the lesson in a particular context. No problem—re-teach and practice some more.

The right way of acting, talking, and thinking has to be taught, explained, and reiterated. Children will certainly learn by example, but for them to make sense out of the world around them requires thoughtful, proactive teaching.

There is no greater joy for a parent than to see his or her child grow up to become a successful and happy adult. As parents, we want our children to embrace the values and way of life that we hold dear.

If we love them, we'll devote ourselves to teaching and training them, doing our best to apply wise and skillful correction when they are young.

If this is our consistent approach, we will reflect God's vision for tomorrow's families, today: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.' And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1–4).

—Jonathan McNair

Deaths from Hunger in Africa

While many people around the globe go to bed content, 40 million in East Africa are experiencing severe hunger (*The Telegraph*, May 17, 2023). This is 60 percent more people than last year. By July, experts believe one person in East Africa will die from hunger every 28 seconds.

The weather has been unrelenting. Five consecutive failed rainy seasons have devastated regions in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia, while, conversely, South Sudan has seen a fifth season of severe flooding. As violence increases in Sudan, another 2.5 million people are expected to become acutely food insecure. Meanwhile, 6,000 people are fleeing the country daily—putting additional strain on surrounding nations. In addition, the World Food Programme has cut its food rations to several desperate nations. Critics blame the West for failing to support needy countries, and some nations are cutting financial support as conditions worsen. Changing climate and war-induced famine are also blamed for the East African hunger crisis.

Today many world leaders “feed themselves” but fail to look out for the people they are supposed to serve (Ezekiel 34:2). In this world of take, many people look out only for themselves and neglect their neighbors. Thankfully, Jesus Christ is going to return to stop the self-centered

ways of this Satan-inspired world and will bring seasons of plenty for all. This will be a time when everyone will have his own vine and fig tree (Micah 4:4), and harvests will last into the planting season (Amos 9:13). As tragedies occur around the globe, we can pray earnestly that God will hasten the return of the Savior of mankind.

Border Crises Worldwide

As war in Ukraine persists, the European border crisis continues. In fact, the number of immigrants crossing from Africa to Italy has increased by 300 percent over last year (*Financial Times*, May 8, 2023). So far this year, more than 40,000 refugees have entered Italy, and many more are expected during the summer months when the seas are calm. In the United Kingdom, last year saw the arrival of 45,000 refugees, and many other European nations are experiencing refugee waves of their own.

Along the southern border of the United States, another humanitarian crisis continues. Every day, more than 10,000 people cross the border into the U.S. from Mexico and farther south (*Reuters*, May 10, 2023). In the last several years, the number of undocumented immigrants entering the country has surpassed nine million. These migrants are being bussed and flown—often at night and at American taxpayer expense—to different cities across the United States.

Many of these migrants and those in other nations hope to leave behind tyrannical governments, dangerous living conditions, and severe poverty as they seek jobs and a better life.

Israelite-descended nations in Western Europe, the UK, the U.S., and other English-speaking nations have been incredibly blessed—thanks to God’s promises to Abraham several thousand years ago. Because of this, they are often among the most popular destinations for migrants seeking a better life. However, Bible prophecies have long warned that at the end of the age, modern Israelite countries will turn from God and His laws and foreigners will rise to higher and higher positions within these nations, while the native-born lose their leadership positions and their countries (Deuteronomy 28:43). As we see border crises intensify around the world, we should recognize that ancient prophecies are coming to pass.

Inflation Gives Lebanese a Taste of the Future

The people of Lebanon are suffering under severe inflation, turning the U.S. dollar into the preferred local currency over the Lebanese pound (*Deutsche Welle*, May 8, 2023). Prices for goods are doubling, including the price of olive oil—the crucial, locally produced cooking staple. For many, this once-ubiquitous household product is now beyond their financial reach. This is in a country where the national minimum wage for private employees is about \$94 USD or €84 per month.

Those with olive groves are keeping for themselves the olive oil they produce, yet, with the increased cost of transportation to olive oil facilities and frequent electricity cuts, even this is difficult. These barriers are affecting the entire olive oil industry, causing live oil prices to soar.

On the surface, the situation with olive oil in Lebanon



appears to be a localized issue. But, for students of Bible prophecy it can be instructive. The Bible predicts that—at the end of the age, as Christ’s return approaches—plagues will strike the Israelite-descended nations and impact the entire world. Some of these plagues are symbolized in Revelation 6 by four riders astride four different-colored horses. The third horse is the “black horse,” representing scarcity and famine (vv. 5–6). It foretells a future when the cost of a quart of wheat will be equivalent to a day’s wages. It further identifies scarcity of wine and oil, which the context suggests is cooking oil. This serious food scarcity has not yet stricken the wealthy, Israelite-descended nations, but it *is* prophesied to come to them in the future. The situation in Lebanon provides insight into what this future scarcity could be like, especially in regard to “oil.”

Borrower Is Servant to Lender

Many poor nations are deeply indebted to other, far richer nations. A recent *Associated Press* study of the twelve nations most indebted to China noted that “paying back that debt is consuming an ever-greater amount of the tax revenue needed to keep schools open, provide electricity and pay for food and fuel. And it’s draining foreign currency reserves these countries use to pay interest on those

loans, leaving some with just months before that money is gone” (*Fortune*, May 18, 2023). Of the nations studied, most were devoting more than a third of their revenues to paying off foreign debt. Zambia and Sri Lanka have already defaulted and cannot even pay interest on major construction projects.

“In Pakistan, millions of textile workers have been laid off because the country has too much foreign debt and can’t afford to keep the electricity on and machines running.” In Kenya, the government skipped paying civil servants in order to pay foreign loans. A chief finance advisor tweeted, “Salaries or default? Take your pick.” These financial strains are impacting lives and families.

The sobering reality is that no one knows what will happen in the aftermath of national defaults. What does a lender do when the borrower cannot pay back debt? Will foreign lenders be lenient and forgiving or will they demand something tangible in exchange for money owed? The Bible has long warned, “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). As more nations—including major Western nations—default on loans, international relations and national resources will become frighteningly unstable, causing the world to suddenly look very different. Yet Bible prophecies reveal that there is a better

future beyond the trials of the present, when peace and prosperity will be available for all. In fact, God has a financial system already devised that will completely forgive debts on a regular cycle!

Europe Feeling Effects of Drought

Over a quarter of the European continent was in drought before summer even arrived (*Politico*, April 28, 2023). “A key reservoir serving millions of Catalans is dwindling away. A conflict over water triggered clashes

the winter’s low snowfall in Europe does not bode well for the coming summer months. A senior researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research noted that “if there’s not a lot of precipitation now... then a drought is essentially locked in.” Catalonian reservoirs are currently at only 27 percent as the region prepares to enter an early heat wave.

As if the political climate in Europe is not tense enough with the refugee crisis and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, many experts are predicting



in France, where several villages can no longer provide their residents with tap water. And Italy’s largest river is already [in April] running as low as last June.” Rains expected in the coming weeks should help surface moisture and crops but will have little effect on groundwater. As the Spanish prime minister noted, drought “is going to be one of the central political and territorial debates of our country over the coming years.”

France just experienced its driest winter in 60 years. And

water wars in Europe, too. Jesus Christ warned that humanity would experience global conflict and a dramatic lack of essential needs at the end of the age (Revelation 6:4–6). We should not underestimate the impact a lack of accessible water can have on international relations.

Thankfully, there is a future coming in which water scarcity will be a thing of the past! This will be a time when rain falls in due season and even the deserts will “blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1). TW

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



The past few months of the *Tomorrow's World* magazine have been great, but the April–May 2023 edition is *awesome*! Mr. Wallace Smith does an outstanding job explaining scientific things in a way that can be understood by many people. The article on A.I. and the picture of the cat (I am a cat lover) are great. And not only Mr. Wallace's story, but all the magazine is wonderful! May God continue to inspire many more articles and continue to bless this wonderful work.

—Subscriber in Alabama

Thanks to all you folks who do all this research on God's truth to help me understand more and more. I love getting mail from all of you. Truth versus lies. All the years we learned so many lies—but now I know the real story. Thank you blessed four guys I watch every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. I tell folks and ask if they've ever seen it on TV.

—Subscriber in Georgia

I have followed your ministry for several years now and appreciate all the many blessings you have shared with me. I am 83 years old and a retired Baptist pastor. I have learned more biblical truths from your ministry than I ever did from seminary or denomination. Thank you for your faithfulness.

—Subscriber in Florida

Thank for the word of God you share on TV. I have been enlightened and educated on many things I did not know or understand. Your literature and DVDs have been such an asset. I have grown in my understanding

and knowledge of God's word and shared it with others since I started watching your program. Thank you so much for helping me understand and serve God in the way He asked. I am grateful for this.

—Subscriber in Michigan

Thank you very much for the Bible Study Course lessons 1–4 and the telecast "Coming Soon, Jerusalem, Capital of the World." Your hard work and extracting deep meanings of God's words is really an eye opener. I have started reading between the lines and understanding each word. May God bless you and all your team members with tremendous wisdom and guidance so that you spread God's words to each one along with hidden meanings in the Bible.

—Subscriber in India

Dear Mr. Gerald Weston, Thank for your words of insight and wisdom. The world is indeed moving the wrong direction without a compass pointing to the Lord. Your leadership and steadfast commitment to the Lord's work is greatly appreciated by us. God bless you, Mr. Weston.

—Subscriber in California

Good day to you all. I am from Zimbabwe and I enjoy your monthly magazine. It is very informative and insightful into end-time prophecy. I would like to continue receiving the magazine and other free literature. Thank you.

—Subscriber in Zimbabwe

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine, or send email to Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 9GEM SU 6:00 a.m.
Nationwide 7TWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Nationwide SCIO SU 7:30 a.m.

BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 2:00 p.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 SU 5:00 a.m.
Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 SU 6:00 a.m.

PHILIPPINES

Nationwide TV5 MO 11:30 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide CTV/SA SU 11:00 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 8:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 SU 11:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 a.m.
Sky TV 590 FR 12:00 a.m.



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SA 3:30 a.m.

FAITH TV SU 5:30 p.m.
MO-FR 10:30 p.m.
TU 5:00 p.m.

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.
CTV (Maritimes) SU 7:30 a.m.
CTV (Alberta) SU 1:30 p.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

Circle TV SU 8:00 a.m.

COMET SU 7:30 a.m.

The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 11:00 p.m.
MO 10:30 p.m.
SA 11:00 p.m.

NewsNation (formerly WGN) SU 6:00 a.m.

Rewind SU 9:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 268 SU 11:00 p.m.
MO 10:30 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

Word Ch. 373 SU 6:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

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AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 7:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WTVY (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Huntsville WHDF SU 7:30 a.m.
Huntsville WZDX SU 9:30 a.m.
Montgomery WBMM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Opelika WLTZ SU 7:30 a.m.

AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KFTA SU 10:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.
Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.
Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.
Yuma KECY (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
El Centro KECY (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Eureka KECA-LD/KVIO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Salinas KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
San Francisco BAVC (Public Access) WE 8:00 a.m.
San Luis Obispo KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Santa Barbara KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Santa Maria KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

CO Colorado Springs KXTU SU 9:00 a.m.
Colorado Springs KXTU SU 10:30 a.m.
Grand Junction KJCT (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Hartford WWLP (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

DC Washington DC WDCA SU 7:30 a.m.

DE Harrington WMDT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

FL Ft. Lauderdale WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
Gainesville WCJB SU 6:00 a.m.
Gainesville WCJB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.
Miami WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WJHG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Tallahassee WTLF SU 8:00 a.m.
Tampa Bay WTOG SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WALB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Albany WALB SU 11:00 a.m.
Atlanta WATL SU 10:00 a.m.
Augusta WAGT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Columbus WLTZ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon WMAZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Savannah WSAV SU 8:00 a.m.
Thomasville WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Ottumwa KWOT SU 8:00 a.m.

ID Boise KBOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.
Twin Falls KMTV SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS SU 8:30 a.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.
Lafayette WFLI SU 7:00 a.m.

KS Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
Topeka KTKA SU 7:00 a.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Louisville WBNA SU 9:30 a.m.
Paducah WDKA SU 11:00 a.m.

LA Alexandria KALB SU 7:00 a.m.
Alexandria KLAB SU 9:30 a.m.
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
Lake Charles KPLC SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
New Orleans WNOL SU 7:00 a.m.
Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.
West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 8:00 a.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 11:00 a.m.
Calumet WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet KDHL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 8:30 a.m.
Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KJFX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Joseph KNPB SU 7:00 a.m.
St. Louis KPLR SU 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBT SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Hattiesburg WHLT/WXXX SU 7:00 a.m.
Meridian WTOK SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KTVH SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Asheville WGGG SU 9:30 a.m.
Asheville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
Greenville WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.
Raleigh WRAX SU 7:30 a.m.
Wilmington WWAY SU 8:00 a.m.

ND Bismarck KXMA (CW2) SU 7:00 a.m.
Fargo KJXB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Williston KXMD SU 7:00 a.m.

NM Albuquerque KBWQ SU 8:00 a.m.

NV Reno KOLO SU 7:00 a.m.

NY Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brooklyn BRIC SU 7:00 p.m.
Brooklyn BRIC MO 12:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Watertown WWTI SU 7:00 a.m.
Utica KYWKTV SU 8:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
Columbus WOXB/WXC/WGCT/WOIZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Toledo BBCT SU 7:30 a.m.
Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Ada KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.
Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Tulsa KQCW SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KEVU SU 10:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.
Pittsburgh WPCW SU 7:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBT SU 8:00 a.m.
Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.
Florence WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.

Greenville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
Rock Hill WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Rock Hill WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.

SD Rapid City KCLO (ION/CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Sioux Falls KFSY SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 12:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH/KVII SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.
Laredo KXLX SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.
McAllen KCWT/KNOV SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.
San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.
Sherman KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KLTU SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KYTX SU 7:00 a.m.
Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Victoria KVCT SU 7:00 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVMR SU 8:00 a.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.
Harrisonburg WSVW SU 8:00 a.m.
Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.
Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Burlington WFFF SU 6:00 a.m.
Burlington WNE SU 2:00 a.m.
Burlington WNE SU 8:00 a.m.

WA Everett KSTW SU 6:00 a.m.
Kennewick KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Pasco KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Richland KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.
Yakima KIMA SU 8:00 a.m.

WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
La Crosse WXOW/WEAU SU 7:00 a.m.
Wausau WSAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Wittenberg WZAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Charleston WQCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.
Parkersburg WOVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Wheeling WBWO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Laramie KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Revelation and the Day of the Lord

The last book of your Bible foretells key end-time events leading to Jesus Christ's return!

June 29–July 5

What Happens When You Forget God?

Troubles are guaranteed for people and nations that reject God and embrace a secular path.

July 6–12

Welcome to the Millennium!

Our troubled planet will very soon experience untold peace and prosperity as never before!

July 13–19

Coming Soon: Jerusalem, Capital of the World

This troubled Middle East city has a glorious future—and you can play an important part!

July 20–26

Have You Taken the Mark of the Beast?

Your Bible warns of a mysterious and dangerous mark that true Christians must not accept!

July 27–August 2

The Coming Four Horsemen

Will you recognize these mysterious prophesied figures when they burst onto the world scene?

August 3–9

Schedule subject to change

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