

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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PUTIN WARNS UKRAINE
HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE

Large Explosions in Ukrainian Cities
— Moscow Says Not to Interfere

BY ANTON FERRELL/REUTERS, MOSCOW
MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that he was not interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs, but he would not accept the country's sovereignty being violated.

Moscow said the U.S. was interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs, but it would not accept the country's sovereignty being violated. Putin said the U.S. was interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs, but it would not accept the country's sovereignty being violated.

could trigger a blaze that
destroy everything.
Ukrainian President Zelensky

denial Ukraine.
Russian President Putin

bringing a catastrophic loss of life.
President Biden

RUSSIA STRIKES UKRAINE



Air attacks, missiles
hit Kyiv, other cities;
Biden pledges further
steps to punish Putin

Russian missiles and air strikes hit Ukraine's capital Kyiv and more than a dozen other cities across the country Thursday, minutes after President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation that he said would "demilitarize and denazify Ukraine" and bring its leaders to trial.

By Associated Press
Alex Gellman
and Brett Forrest
in Kyiv and Ann M.
Stromberg in Moscow

"From all of you, we need calm," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in an early-morning television address. "We are working, our army is working. Don't panic, we are strong, we are ready for anything, we will overcome."

Ukraine's largest city, Kyiv, and a large fire was visible in the morning darkness, after what appeared to be a hit at a weapons depot. Heavy shelling targeted the city of Mariupol on the Azov Sea. Air raid sirens sounded in Kyiv after 7 a.m.

While the Ukrainian military didn't release casualty figures, a senior Ukrainian official said he believed that hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers died in Russian airstrikes and missile attacks.

Russia denied conducting missile, air or artillery strikes on Ukrainian cities or threatening civilian populations, the country's Ministry of Defense told the Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

President Biden called Mr. Putin's move an "unprovoked, unjustified attack on Ukraine, demanding further action against Russia."

"President Putin has chosen a path of escalation," Biden said.

NEW YORK POST
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022
Putin declares war on Ukraine at 5:50 a.m.
Explosions rock Kyiv
Warns NATO
War in Ukraine
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HAS WORLD WAR III ALREADY BEGUN?

Are You Any Different?

Most of us have wondered what it would be like if we had been born at a different time in history. Some have wished that they had lived during the pioneer days of North America. More than a few wish they had lived during the time of Jesus Christ, when He performed all those miracles.

However, there is one troubling concern for anyone wishing to have lived during Jesus' day and age. Despite His multiple indisputable miracles, the people of Jesus' day crucified Him. Thus the question: What would you have done if you were there? Would you have followed the crowd? Would you have been with the mob shouting, "Crucify Him, crucify Him"? Surely not! At least that is how most of us think. But are we really all that different from the people of the first century AD?

Scripture indicates Jesus had only 120 true followers at the end of His ministry (Acts 1:15), after all the miracles He performed: turning water into wine, feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread and a few small fish, walking on water, and healing many. Some miracles were seen by just a few, as when He walked on water. Others were known by scores or hundreds—even thousands. Jesus' revival of the four-days-dead Lazarus was so widely known that the Jewish leaders, out of jealousy, were not satisfied with plotting the death of Jesus; they also wanted to kill Lazarus, to remove the evidence of Jesus' deed (John 12:9–11).

Not Who We Think We Are

What would we have done if we lived during the time of Christ? We can hope. We can speculate. But we can never know—because we would not be then who we are today. We would have had different parents and different DNA, and would have lived with very different influences.

But let us assume for the moment that we would be the exact same people in the first century that we are today. Of course, such a thing could never be, but let us make that assumption for the sake of discussion.

It is rightfully stated that the best prediction of future behavior is current behavior. Does that prin-

ciple apply in the other direction? Assuming you were in all aspects the same person you are today, does your current behavior reveal how you would have behaved had you been born during Jesus' human lifetime?

Whether we like to admit it or not, we aren't always the person we want to be, even in our everyday lives now. This should help us understand whether or not we would have been part of the crucifixion party. It is probably accurate to say that most of us think

we would be an exception to the mob. That is the person we *want* to be, and who we *think* we are. Surely, we would not shout, "Crucify Him!" But self-deception is a universal human trait. Shockingly, most of today's professing Christians show by their choices that they *would* be part of the mob! But how



can that be? How can I be so certain?

Who Was This Man?

Jesus came in the flesh as the Son of God, but few fully comprehend who He was before that time, which even the Jews of His day failed to understand. Many assume that the God of the Old Testament—the One who wrote the Ten Commandments in stone, the One who spoke to Moses—was the One whom Jesus called God the Father. But, in fact, the divine being who spoke to Moses was not God the Father; He was none other than the *Logos*, who became Jesus Christ! This easily proven fact has consequences for modern Christianity.

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The Apostle Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and *that Rock was Christ*” (1 Corinthians 10:1–4).

Furthermore, we are told, “No one has seen God at any time” (1 John 4:12). How can that be when we read that 74 men saw the God of Israel? “Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and *they saw the God of Israel*.... But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So *they saw God*, and they ate and drank” (Exodus 24:9–11).

How do we reconcile “No one has seen God at any time” with “they saw the God of Israel”? Jesus’ disciple John gives us the answer: “No one has seen God [the Father] at any time. The only begotten Son [Christ], who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him [the Father]” (John 1:18). One reason Jesus came was to reveal the Father. “All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, *and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him*” (Luke 10:22).

Modern “Christianity” has created a false narrative that the Father was harsh and demanding, giving mankind impossible commands, but as shown in these and in many other scriptures, the God of the Old Testament is the One who later gave His life for mankind. He is also the One who chided the people of the first century, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Is it really any different today? People call Jesus “Lord”—meaning “Master”—but expect Him to conform to their ideas of right and wrong, their ideas of how to worship Him, and their humanly devised customs. They claim to follow Him, but do they walk as He walked? Or do they follow the crowd, the way of family and friends—and traditions handed down from one generation to another?

Again, what would you have done if you were a first-century resident of Judea? Would you have followed Him? John answers, “Now by this we know that

we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:3–6).

How did Jesus walk? Not the way of popular “Christianity!” Christianity as it is commonly known is not the Christianity of Christ! As the late highly regarded historian Paul Johnson wrote regarding the paganization of Christianity even in its earliest years:

Many Christians did not make a clear distinction between this sun-cult and their own. They referred to Christ ‘driving his chariot across the sky’; they held their services on Sunday, knelt towards the East and had their nativity-feast on 25 December, the birthday of the sun at the winter solstice. During the later pagan revival under the Emperor Julian many Christians found it easy to apostatize because of this confusion; the Bishop of Troy told Julian he had always prayed secretly to the sun. Constantine never abandoned sun-worship and kept the sun on his coins. He made Sunday into a day of rest (*A History of Christianity*, pp. 67–68).

The record of Scripture is unambiguous: Jesus, His Apostles, and the early Church of God observed the biblical seventh-day Sabbath and annual Holy Days instead of recycled pagan celebrations (see our booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*). This April begins the annual cycle of Holy Days as found in the Bible, the very same ones Jesus, His apostles, and the early Church of God kept—the same ones to which Jesus introduced Israel prior to Mount Sinai (Exodus 12–13). This present generation would be little different from that of the first century AD. They crucified the Messiah, and so would this generation. The question remains: Based on your current choices, *would you?*



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Sleepwalking into World War III

By **Gerald E. Weston**

For most of us living in what are called First World or “developed” nations, life is good. This is no doubt how many in Hawaii felt as they woke up on one sunny Sunday morning. But December 7, 1941 would live on in infamy—for them and for the rest of America.

Europe was already at war. It had been scarcely more than two decades since the so-called “war to end all wars” that had directly or indirectly cost the lives of more than 20 million soldiers and civilians. So, most Americans now had no interest in engaging in a conflict on the other side of the Atlantic, much less one on the other side of the Pacific. So isolationist was the United States in 1941 that the military draft had nearly been scrapped four months earlier. “The margin of victory [in the House of Representatives] was a single vote [to retain the draft], and the battle could have been lost as easily as won except for [House Speaker Sam] Rayburn’s personality, leadership, mastery of parliamentary procedure and—when push came to shove—lightning-fast gavel. If Rayburn had failed, the Army stood to lose about two-thirds of its strength and three-fourths of the

officer corps” (“How Mr. Sam Saved the Draft,” *The Washington Post*, August 18, 1991).

Anyone watching the world could see the warning signs of what was to come, but many wanted to believe that the catastrophic would not happen. Japan was flexing its muscles in China and relations between Japan and the U.S. had been deteriorating for the better part of a decade. “[By] the late 1930s, American foreign policy in the Pacific hinged on support for China, and aggression against China by Japan therefore necessarily would bring Japan into conflict with the United States” (“Pearl Harbor attack,” *Britannica.com*, November 30, 2022).

Japan had already taken over parts of China, and Japanese and Chinese soldiers continued to fight. “On the night of July 7, 1937, a small Japanese force on maneuvers near the Marco Polo Bridge demanded entry to the tiny walled town of Wanping in order to search for one of their soldiers” (“Marco Polo Bridge Incident,” *Britannica.com*, June 30, 2022). The Chinese garrison refused entry. Negotiations went back and forth for several hours. Eventually, a shot was fired, and what started as a localized skirmish between two small contingents of soldiers blew up into the Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945).

In retrospect, whether looking at Hitler and Mussolini in Europe or Japan's moves in East Asia, the world was sleepwalking into the greatest conflict mankind had ever known, in which an estimated 40 to 70 million lives would be lost. Yet is it any different today? Are we also on the cusp of the unthinkable?

Japan miscalculated after the Marco Polo Bridge incident. What they thought would be a short war brought China's feuding Communist and Nationalist forces together to fight a common foe—a fight that continued for eight brutal years. Japan lacked natural resources such as oil, iron, rubber, and other raw materials, and so turned its forces against French Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and a small part of China) to fuel the war machine. This brought alarm in Washington. "In July 1941, by which time the Japanese had occupied all of Indochina and had entered into an alliance with the Axis powers (Germany and Italy), the U.S. government severed all commercial and financial relations with Japan. Japanese assets were frozen, and an embargo was declared on shipments to Japan of petroleum and other vital war materials" ("Pearl Harbor attack," *Britannica.com*).

The sudden attack on Pearl Harbor was the consequence of forces moving inexorably toward a showdown. Japanese planes did not come "out of the blue" for any willing to accept the facts. It was the sure result of a gradual drift into war that had begun a decade earlier.

Our World: Preparing for War

The question today is, *Where is our world headed now?* One notable student of history, known as a realist, gave us the answer. This headline appeared on *NBC News*: "Ex-Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev: 'World Is Preparing for War'" (January 27, 2017). That was five years before Russia invaded Ukraine. Just as the world of the 1930s sleepwalked into the greatest conflict in mankind's history, so our nations are sleepwalking, one decision at a time, into catastrophe.

The war against Ukraine was supposed to be quick and easy for Russia, just as Japan expected of its war against China. President Putin and his advisors were wrong. Less than two months after Putin's "special military operation" began, Ukraine sent Russia's naval flagship to the bottom of the Black Sea, prompting this dire headline: "'World War III has begun,'

says Kremlin state media after sinking of Russian warship Moskva." The article went on to report:

Olga Skabeyeva, one of Putin's top media figures... bizarrely claimed that the war in Ukraine had escalated into a war against Nato. "What it's escalated into can safely be called World War Three. That's entirely for sure. Now we are definitely fighting against NATO infrastructure, if not NATO itself. We need to recognise that" ("World War III has begun', says Kremlin state media after sinking of Russian warship Moskva," *Free Press Journal*, April 15, 2022).

Was her assessment as "bizarre" as MSN reported? Not according to Pope Francis, who a month later gave a similar assessment of the situation.

"World War III has been declared," Pope Francis said in a wide-ranging conversation with the editors of European Jesuit publications on May 19, [2022,] referring to Russia's attack against Ukraine.... "The world is at war," he said. "For me, today, World War III has been declared. This is something that should give us pause for thought. What is happening to humanity that we have had three world wars in a century?" ("Pope Francis: 'World War III has been declared,'" *America: The Jesuit Review*, June 14, 2022).

Was this an exaggeration? These two quotes are hardly the only ones voicing this view. Writing from *Unherd.com*, Rob Lownie reported on January 16, 2023:

The third world war has already started, according to one of France's leading intellectuals, Emmanuel Todd. Speaking to *Le Figaro* last week, the anthropologist and historian claimed that... the West, too, has entered into an "existential" conflict.

"It's obvious that the conflict, which started as a limited territorial war and escalated to a global economic confrontation between the whole of the West on the one hand and Russia and China on the other hand, has

become a world war,” Todd told the French newspaper (“Emmanuel Todd: World War III has already begun,” *The Post*, January 16, 2023).

Time and again the West has reversed its position as to the scope of lethal aid given to Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s regime, allowing itself to be sucked further into the conflict. The U.S. said it would not send Patriot missiles but later relented under pressure from Zelenskyy. One NATO country after another resolved not to send tanks, but later reluctantly relented. Each reversal put more “skin in the game” for NATO nations—and each time more is invested, the more difficult it becomes to leave the fight and save face. NATO’s decision to send modern tanks to Ukraine brought this angry response from Moscow:

Russia today warned that Germany’s decision to send dozens of modern tanks to Ukraine is “extremely dangerous” and will “take the conflict to a new level”.... Putin propagandist Yevgeny Satanovsky... told the Waldman-LINE channel that nuclear-tipped missiles should be used on the centre of German democracy. He said: “German tanks with crosses on their armour will again march across Ukraine attacking Russian soldiers”.... Meanwhile Putin’s favourite propagandist Vladimir Solovyov also ranted about the move, which he plainly sees as... being proof in Russian eyes that Germany has directly joined the war (“‘This extremely dangerous decision takes the conflict to a new level’: Furious Russia vows Western vehicles will ‘burn’ as Germany confirms it will give tanks to Ukraine... prompting Putin’s TV puppets to call for a NUKE strike on Berlin,” *The Daily Mail*, January 25, 2023).

No sooner had the tank decision been made before Zelenskyy began pressuring NATO to send fighter jets. Standing before the House of Commons in London, “British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace was asked about reports on the possibility of the ‘creation of a fighter jet coalition with Ukraine.’” His answer to the question is all too accurate. “‘Since we took on the battle over getting tanks to Ukraine, peo-

ple are understandably asking what will be the next capability,’ Wallace replied. ‘What we know about all these demands is that the initial response is no, but the eventual response is yes’” (“Biden Rules Out Providing F-16 Fighters to Ukraine, As Debate Picks Up in Europe,” *CNS News*, January 31, 2023).

It became apparent early on that Putin was *all in*—so invested that he could not afford to lose if he hoped to stay in power. It is now apparent that NATO is sailing the same rudderless boat. NATO and the West cannot afford to lose. What started as a limited territorial war has incrementally grown into a global conflict. When mankind’s great powers lock into a conflict that none can afford to lose, it will not likely end well for the planet. What we see today is the 1930s all over again!

In Ernest Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*, Bill Gorton asks Mike Campbell how he had gone bankrupt. Mike’s answer? “Two ways. Gradually and then suddenly.”

World wars do not come out of nowhere. The fictitious Mike Campbell’s answer applies to many things in life, including great conflicts. Small incremental decisions by nations build until something breaks. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914 was the culmination of tensions running below the surface, and it quickly became the spark that lit the First World War. The Marco Polo Bridge incident in China was the spark to a decade-long buildup to war in Asia that spread far from that continent.

What Your Bible Foretells

Many would be surprised to learn that what we see happening in Europe today was predicted in the book known as the Bible. No, Russia attacking Ukraine is not specifically mentioned, but the effects of the invasion are. We here at *Tomorrow’s World* have published for decades that Germany would once again become a great military power, and that it is destined to lead ten nations or leaders to once again make war on the world. This prediction is found in the pages of the Bible. (See our resources *Germany in Prophecy* and *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor, or Soon-Coming Reality?*)

As I explained in our July 2022 *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, “More than one United States president called for Germany and other European states to live up to their obligations of spending 2 percent of GDP on defense. Recent President Donald Trump went so

far as to threaten pulling out of the [NATO] alliance if they did not do so.... Vladimir Putin changed that virtually overnight.”

Germany and other European nations are feverishly trying to catch up to the threat facing them. German Chancellor Olaf Scholtz announced his nation would exceed the 2 percent annual threshold on military spending and set aside an additional 100 billion euros to rebuild the sagging Bundeswehr. This will take time and will not happen overnight, but the true emergence of this Beast power may not be far off.

Consider this shocking headline from the *Jerusalem Post*: “Russia’s Medvedev: ‘Fourth Reich’ to be made up of Germany, Poland.” The article then goes on to say: “‘The Fourth Reich will be created, encompassing the territory of Germany and its satellites, i.e., Poland, the Baltic states, Czechia, Slovakia, the Kyiv Republic, and other outcasts,’ said Dmitry Medvedev, former president of Russia and a staunch supporter of the war in Ukraine, on Monday night” (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 28, 2022).

None of us know for certain the exact timing of this “Fourth Reich” rising, but the fact that someone of Medvedev’s stature made this prediction must not be readily dismissed. One wonders what he knows is going on behind the scenes. The answer may be discovered in an article from the *Asia Times*:

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken probably thought that in his self-appointed role as the world’s policeman, it was his prerogative to check out what is going on among Germany, China and Russia that he wasn’t privy to. However, Blinken’s call to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday (December 23) turned out to be a fiasco.

Most certainly, his intention was to gather details on two high-level exchanges that Chinese President Xi Jinping had on successive days last week—with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and the chairman of the United Russia Party and former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev respectively.

Blinken likely made an intelligent guess that Steinmeier’s phone call to Xi on Tuesday and Medvedev’s surprise visit to Beijing



Residential building damaged by Russian aircraft in Kyiv, Ukraine

and his meeting with Xi on Wednesday might not have been coincidental (“A Germany-China-Russia triangle on Ukraine,” December 25, 2022).

One does have to wonder what was said in these meetings. What inside information does Medvedev have? Is his prediction of a fourth Reich rising this year a wild speculation? Or might he know more than the rest of us? Time will tell whether his timing is correct, but according to the Bible, the prediction is otherwise accurate, and the state of the world order lets us know that we are certainly in the time range for this Beast power to rise in Europe.

The downfall of the U.S. could speed this geopolitical shift, and Medvedev had some predictions in that regard. “He further stated, ‘The Bretton Woods system of monetary management will collapse, leading to the IMF and World Bank crash. Euro and Dollar will stop circulating as the global reserve currencies. Digital fiat currencies will be actively used instead’” (*The Jerusalem Post*). This is something that has been speculated by many over the last few years. Whether or not one understands Bretton Woods and how it set up the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency of the world, suffice it to say that life in the U.S. and other Western nations would change dramatically—for the worse—overnight.

Predicting future events is tricky, and timing them is even more so. God, however, reveals history in advance in the pages of His word, the Holy Bible. More than 2,500 years ago, God gave the prophet Daniel an outline of world history and identified the major imperial powers that would shape the world from then until now. Further details building upon

this framework were given to the Apostle John, who recorded them in the book of Revelation.

Dmitry Medvedev's prediction of a fourth German Reich involving other European nations matches Bible prophecy. The only question is, *When will this happen?* A lot is going on behind the scenes. The U.S. is morally bankrupt, distracted by an anti-God agenda, badly divided, and financially in debt to the tune of more than 31 *trillion* dollars. And much the same can be said of the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Some predict a second American civil war that will shatter what unity is left in the nation. If that happens, where will all the nations stand who have depended on the "American umbrella"?

Bible prophecy *will* be fulfilled. The U.S. and the British-descended nations, which have rejected their Creator and given themselves over to immorality, *will* be brought down. The war in Ukraine is a serious threat to both the Western and the Eastern powers. A great geopolitical realignment of Europe is in our near future, according to Bible prophecy. Current allies will become enemies.

Not the First


We are hardly the first generation to experience difficult times, but the Bible gives encouragement to those who faithfully trust and obey God. "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear" (Hebrews 11:7). Wise King Solomon also understood that things will work out well in the end for those who fear God—those who truly put Him first in their lives. "Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12–13).

When Judah went into captivity, four Jewish boys were carted off with thousands of others to a foreign land and an uncertain future. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego trusted God under the most trying of circumstances, and God saw them through (Daniel 3:6, 26–28).

The prophet Jeremiah was living in Jerusalem during this time, but God protected him when the city fell (Jeremiah 39:11–14). God also protected Jeremiah's scribe Baruch (45:1–5), and likewise spared the life of Ebed-Melech, an Ethiopian eunuch who trusted in God and helped save Jeremiah's life (38:7–13; 39:15–18). Earlier, King David was no stranger to danger, yet he feared God more than man—and God watched over him all the days of his life. "In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:11).

An unusual vision recorded in Ezekiel 9 portrays the city of Jerusalem in a metaphor and message for the northern ten tribes of Israel (Ezekiel 4:3–5). In this vision, six men are told to go through the city and slay its inhabitants, but there is a seventh man with a writer's inkhorn who is to go through the city and put a mark on the foreheads of all those who "sigh and cry" (lament) over the abominations done among their fellow citizens. The executioners are commanded, "Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary" (Ezekiel 9:6). That they are to begin at God's sanctuary may suggest that this punishment will come first upon religious hypocrites—those who claim to be religious but do not live as God commands.

As Hemingway's fictitious Mike Campbell described, our world truly is sleepwalking toward Armageddon—arriving there gradually, then suddenly. But the end of mankind's misrule on the earth is not here quite yet. Many prophecies must yet be fulfilled—but, as we have seen in the last three years, our world can change dramatically overnight. We are moving from *gradually* to *suddenly*. Is this not what the prophet Isaiah recorded for our rebellious world? "Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant" (Isaiah 30:12–13).

Expect major surprises that will shock the world in the days, weeks, and months ahead! 

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h Canada!

The Attack on Parental Rights



Canada has long been viewed by many as a land of peace, opportunity, and freedom. That freedom has included the opportunity to raise a family and pass our values and beliefs to our children. Many assume that this is still the case—but that assumption may be overly optimistic.

In 1948, the world was just beginning to recover from the two most horrific conflicts in modern history. The memory of the terror—not only imposed by the enemy, but also by secret police who enforced thought control on their populations—was still fresh. Whether by Hitler's SS (the *Schutzstaffel* or "protection squadron") or Stalin's dreaded NKVD (*Naródnyy komissariat vnútrénnikh del* or "People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs"), no one under those regimes felt safe. Schools became places where the ruling party imposed its values and philosophies on students, often turning children into their own parents' betrayers.

With this horror in mind, the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948 passed Resolution 217A, also known as *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Its authors had experienced or were profoundly aware of how totalitarian regimes had used schools to brainwash children into accepting philosophies and beliefs that were diametrically opposed to the cultural and religious beliefs of their parents and grandparents. The resolution sought to ensure that schools could never again be used to brainwash children against those who had raised them.

The governments of Canada and the United States signed the resolution, fundamentally agreeing to the content therein. When considering the family and

the education of children, two clauses are especially notable:

The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State (Article 16.3)....

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children (Article 26.3).

Although our nations agreed to these statements, today we find many school systems openly violating those principles. Not only are schools abandoning a strong knowledge-based curriculum—over the past decade, especially throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, schools have often become tools for social activism, attempting to shape the minds of children into accepting and promoting ideas and philosophies that are often contrary to what they have been taught at home.

Teaching Gender Confusion

One may ask, *Where has this been leading?* A recent article published in Canada's *National Post* newspaper referred to a "seismic change" that has taken place in Canadian schools over the last few years.

"Kids were being taught to lie to parents," said a Calgary mother whose child's Grade 6 class was told by a teacher that the gender identity of a classmate must be kept from that student's parents. In another instance, a Toronto mother complained that her child's school changed her kid's name and pronouns without

ever consulting her (“NP View: Schools trampling parental rights in the name of affirming gender identity,” January 14, 2023).

The article goes on to implicate the Public Health Agency of Canada in this campaign of violating parental rights:

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) also advises schools to implement a “simple, one-stop procedure” for students to change their names and gender on official transcripts and not to “talk to anyone about (a student’s) identity, including parents/caregivers, to whom they have not already disclosed their gender identity.” Instead, staff are told to, “Discuss with them the possibility of rejection, harassment, verbal abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.”

Health authorities or school systems that make default policies to conceal from parents some of the most sensitive and vital information about their own children

It is startling to see how neo-Marxism and other ideologically driven forms of social activism can be permitted to destroy centuries of parental rights.

are betraying a trust placed in them by those parents—and violating the UN Declaration to which the nation is a signatory. may nevertheless include that student in events like “Gender Splendour” weeks—where guest speakers challenge biblical ideas of human sexual identity and conduct—without parental knowledge.

The same article tells the story of a father who was horrified to find out his daughter, who was identifying as a boy at school, was assigned to a room with three boys in a hotel while on a field trip. In that case, the father found out and the problem was resolved. Also referenced is the disturbing fact that if parents exercise their right to have a child excused from sexual education classes, schools

are betraying a trust placed in them by those parents—and violating the UN Declaration to which the nation is a signatory.

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When somebody introduces us to her vegan cat, we all know who is making the choices.... When an adult who is not the parent encourages alternative sexuality in a minor while encouraging them not to tell their parents, alarm bells go off. This is happening in Alberta right now. Calgary’s Metta gender identity clinic is accepting referrals of children as young as five years old, from teachers. Parents don’t need to be in the loop. In fact, Canada’s Public Health Agency enjoins teachers not to “out” such kids to their parents (“Alberta’s gender clinic is out of hand,” *ParentChoice.ca*, January 19, 2023).

Correct and Courageous Choices

It is startling to see how neo-Marxism and other ideologically driven forms of social activism can be permitted to destroy centuries of parental rights that are, in fact, ensconced in law.

In addition to the UN Declaration on Human Rights, most nations in the Western world have also signed *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*. The Canadian government signed this in 1976, and the government of the U.S. did so in 1992, making it part of the law of the land under the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution. It guarantees protection of the family as well as the right of parents to teach their religious and moral convictions:

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions (Article 18.4).

How is it, then, that groups of activists are allowed to usurp the rights of parents to raise and influence their children, and to choose the kind of education that they will receive?

What are your children being taught? You have a right to know and a right to make correct and courageous choices for your children—choices that include raising them in a way of life that aligns with biblical values, which will long outlive the present societal madness.

—Stuart Wachowicz



The Coronation of King Charles III

By **John Meakin**

When Queen Elizabeth II died at age 96 on September 8, 2022, her son and heir, Prince Charles, ascended to the throne. Two days later, after a lifetime's apprenticeship for the role, Charles, already of pensionable age, was proclaimed King Charles III. Immediately, long-considered plans for the coronation, code-named Operation Golden Orb, swung into action. It will have taken some eight months—allowing adequate time for mourning and the completion of the planning process—to get everything ready for the big event.

On May 6, the coronation will take place in Westminster Abbey—kicking off a three-day holiday weekend of joyous celebrations, including concerts, special meals, and community events. The coronation affords a rare opportunity to take a closer look at this venerable and elaborate rite with all its majesty, pomp, and ancient ceremony. There is much to discover of its biblical connections, and how the coronation relates to our understanding of Britain's antiquity and its role in the world today.

Anatomy of a Coronation

Let's begin at the beginning. Just what is a coronation? And why is it important? At its heart it is a rite of passage—a pageant that portrays the ceremonial inauguration of a new monarch's reign. But the British coronation stands alone in that it is a unique

fusion of church and state in which the new king must take an oath before God and be anointed with oil.

Roy Strong, author of the epic and authoritative *Coronation—From the 8th to the 21st Century*, writes that the “central concept of setting a single human being apart by dint of anointing with holy oil as the embodiment of both crown and nation,” is the greatest of all such rites of passage. It serves as “a foundation stone of the British State and a bulwark against its total secularisation” (p. xi).

Clearly, coronations have become an essential part of Britain's national identity, dating back more than a thousand years to Anglo-Saxon rites in the tenth century AD. And lest we should think that the coronation service is rigid and set in stone, the very opposite is true. Strong's research found that the coronation had “proved itself amazingly flexible over the centuries... revealing its ability to respond to and reflect every theological, political, social and cultural nuance” (pp. xi–xii).

But why perform a coronation ceremony of such scale, complexity, and expense, when something simpler might suffice? In the twenty-first century, is it really necessary for Britain to experience all this history, pomp, ceremony, and intertwining of church and state? And why anoint with oil? Where did that come from? Let's look at the origins of *unction*—the practice of anointing kings with oil—first.

Biblical Precedents

“Uction was the application to a modern ruler of a ritual recorded in the Old Testament, the anointing of

a chosen leader with holy oil” (Strong, p. 9). The origin of anointing kings in the Bible begins with the prophet Samuel, who anointed Saul as Israel’s first king: “Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: ‘Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?’” (1 Samuel 10:1). Verse 6 goes on to show the impact of this anointing—God’s Spirit was to come upon him, and he would prophesy and “be turned into another man.”

Later in the book, Samuel is told to anoint Saul’s successor, David, and the same ritual is enacted: “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward” (1 Samuel 16:13).

Later, Scripture records the anointing of David’s son Solomon as king:

“There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah.” ... Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, “Long live King Solomon!” (1 Kings 1:34–35, 39).

“In these biblical passages virtually all the elements which were to constitute the early Coronation ceremonies are already there: the selection of a king, his anointing with holy oil by a priest, his acclamation by the people and his enthronement” (Strong, p. 9).

This biblical rite of anointing kings with holy oil expanded widely during the seventh and eighth centuries AD, when barbarian kingdoms adopted many nominally Christian customs (p. 11). Examples of such “barbarian” peoples included the Angles and the Saxons who arrived in Britain after 400 AD and became known as Anglo-Saxons.

Anglo-Saxon Beginnings

Strong takes his readers back over a thousand years to these Anglo-Saxon times, which serve as an exemplar for the modern coronation. One of the early accounts of an English coronation describes that of

King Edgar (959–975), who summoned to the city of Bath the leaders of the lands he ruled to participate in a ceremony wherein the bishops would bless, anoint, and consecrate him as monarch. The elaborate ceremony—conducted by Dunstan, the Archbishop of Canterbury—took place on the feast of Pentecost. Dunstan laid down conditions for the king to accept before he was anointed with oil.

So began the *coronation oath*, consisting of three pledges by the king to God (Strong, p. 4). Expressed simply, the king would do all in his power to maintain peace, administer justice, and exercise equity and mercy. This was then followed by the anointing of the king’s head with a special oil, performed by the bishops. This was the moment of “rebirth” and was accompanied by prayers invoking biblical examples (like those described earlier) and asking that the Holy Spirit would descend on and sanctify the king in the same way.

There then followed the most solemn moment of the coronation service, when an anthem was sung reflecting the biblical account of the coronation of King Solomon. This was then followed by an investiture with various regalia: a gold ring as “the seal of holy faith”; a sword symbolic of protecting the realm and defeating the enemies of the church; the “crown of glory and righteousness”; the sceptre, “the sign of kingly power, the rod of the kingdom, the rod of virtue”; and the staff or *baculus* of “virtue and equity.” The service concluded with a Mass, and a grand feast then took place to celebrate the event.

What was the point of all this? Edgar was at the apogee of his reign, and this grand coronation was designed to declare his imperial status and publicise it throughout the country and across Europe. Shortly after, Edgar received the homage of his subject kings.

The oath had far-reaching implications because it meant that the king’s right to reign was not absolute, as in France, but conditional on the acceptance of responsibilities. This “set the English Coronation apart from any other and also [accounts] for its extraordinary longevity” (Strong, p. 4). To this day no other country has a coronation quite matching that of England—comprising an oath before God, an unction (anointing) seeking God’s blessing on the monarch’s reign, and such regalia as crown, orb, and sceptre.

These details of Edgar’s coronation are helpful because, down through the centuries, the service has

remained essentially the same. No two coronations will be identical, because each is tailored to the precise needs of the time, but the overall outline remains unchanged. King Charles has indicated that his coronation “will be rooted in long-standing traditions” but will “reflect the monarch’s role today and look towards the future” (“King Charles: What we know about the coronation,” *BBC.com*, February 14, 2023).

The coronation is intended to be elaborate and detailed—with great pomp and ceremony, sumptuous clothing, beautiful music, peerless singing, polished readings, and heartfelt prayers. It will be meticulously planned, carefully orchestrated, diligently practiced, and much rehearsed. Nothing will be left to chance. The powerful sights, sounds, and emotional impact of the profound ceremony are designed for maximum impact on Charles, guests, and the general public. It will be conveyed by the broadcast media throughout the country, the Commonwealth, and the entire world, heralding the beginning of a new Carolean age for Britain. It is meant to be one of the most spectacular public events of a lifetime, attempting to bond everyone to the king and the values he promises to uphold.

A Coronation Outline

Building on the material we’ve related, we can expect the Charles III coronation to contain five main elements:

The Recognition: Charles will be presented to the 2,000 or so guests assembled in the Abbey. The congregation will shout “God save the King” and trumpets will be blown.

The Oath: Charles will then swear an oath to uphold the law and be loyal to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, of which he is the Supreme Governor.

The Anointing: A gold cloth canopy will be held over the Coronation Chair to conceal the king while the anointing takes place by the Anglican Archbishop. In the form of a cross, Charles will be anointed on his hands, chest, and head with special oil and consecrated to serve God and country.


The Investiture: A newly robed King Charles, seated on the Coronation Chair, will be presented with important golden regalia including the Royal Orb and Cross, symbolizing the religious and moral authority of Christ; the Royal Sceptre, representing the king’s power and governance; and the Sceptre with a dove on top, representing that the Holy Spirit guides the king’s actions. The king is then crowned with “St Edward’s Crown.”

Enthronement and Homage: The king will move to the actual throne, from which he will receive homage from peers. The Queen Consort will then be anointed and crowned in the same way.

The Coronation Chair of Westminster Abbey, which was built for King Edward I, is also an important part of this ceremony and has been in use since 1308. The Stone of Scone (see page 15), which sits under the chair, will be loaned by Scotland for the duration of the coronation.

Pray for the King

The coming coronation will be an event of the deepest meaning and significance for King Charles III and the nations he leads. It is a cornerstone of national identity and indelibly links Britain to its ancient Israelite roots and heritage. It serves as a harbinger of better times to come—so long as God and Scripture are honoured and fulfilled.

This is a crucial time in Charles’ life, when all his years of preparation will be put to the test. Will he prove to be a wise and understanding leader who sticks close to God and what God’s word says, whereby God will bless His reign and the nation accordingly, as the Scriptures promise? Or will the nation continue its downward path and abandonment of God’s standards, like so much of the world around it? The words of Scripture and Charles’ relationship with God are more vital now than ever before. It is no wonder that the Bible admonishes us to pray “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:2). 

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What Is the Stone of Destiny?

Question: Before the upcoming coronation of Charles III of England, preparation for the ceremony will involve bringing the “Stone of Scone” or “Stone of Destiny” from Edinburgh Castle to Westminster. What is this stone, and does it have any connection to the Bible?

Answer: For many centuries, the kings of England and Scotland were crowned sitting above the “Stone of Destiny.” Prior to that, the kings of ancient Ireland were also crowned sitting on this stone, called in Gaelic the *lia fail*, which carries the same meaning. Irish traditions say that the stone did not originate in Ireland, however, but came by way of Spain from the East:

According to one Celtic legend, the stone was once the pillow upon which the patriarch Jacob rested at Bethel when he beheld the visions of angels. From the Holy Land it purportedly traveled to Egypt, Sicily, and Spain and reached Ireland about 700 BCE to be set upon the hill of Tara, where the ancient kings of Ireland were crowned. Thence it was taken by the Celtic Scots who invaded and occupied Scotland. About 840 CE it was taken by Kenneth MacAlpin to the village of Scone (“Stone of Scone,” *Britannica.com*, January 18, 2023).

This famous rock, which is also labeled “Jacob’s Pillar Stone,” is traditionally held to be the very stone upon which the biblical patriarch Jacob rested his head after his father sent him to Padan Aram to find a wife (Genesis 28:11–12). After dreaming, Jacob arose and took the stone, set it up, and anointed it with oil as a memorial to his vow before God to serve Him (vv. 18–22). The stone later accompanied the Israelites on their 40-year journey in the wilderness of Sinai, after their deliverance from Egyptian slavery.

Some people believe that 2 Kings 11:13–14 refers to its use in a coronation ceremony: “Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. When she looked, there was the king *standing by a pillar according to custom*; and the leaders and the

trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.”

God’s Amazing Promise

How did the stone purportedly get to the British Isles, and just who exactly brought it? The journey has to do with an amazing promise made by God 3,000 years ago, whereby the throne of Israel and David’s dynasty would continue to exist until the very return of Jesus Christ. “I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: ‘Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations’” (Psalm 89:3).

It is also important to notice Jeremiah 33:17: “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel.” It says, “the house of Israel,” not the “house of Judah.” After the reign of Solomon, the children of Israel were divided into two houses: Judah and Israel. David’s throne ruled in Judah until the days of King Zedekiah. Jeremiah the prophet traveled with King Zedekiah’s daughters (Jeremiah 43:5–7), and some believe it was he who took Jacob’s pillar stone, in order to transplant David’s throne from the house of Judah to the house of Israel.

This same dynasty has continued down to today in the person of King Charles III, a direct descendant of the daughters of Zedekiah. For centuries, the stone was part of the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey. “In 1996, the stone was officially returned to Scotland. Today, it is one of the priceless treasures on display in the Crown Room [of Edinburgh Castle], visited by millions of people each year. The stone will only leave Scotland again for a coronation in Westminster Abbey” (“The Stone of Destiny,” *Edinburgh-Castle.scot*, accessed February 22, 2023). Indeed, the British still intend to use that stone in the coronation ceremony of King Charles III. On it, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned—and the new king will soon undergo the same rite.

If you would like to know more about the amazing history of the descendants of Israel, please order or read online our helpful study guide *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. TW



A completely A.I.-generated image from Midjourney. We typed in the words “a cat wearing goggles, cosmos background, muted colors, earth below” and the A.I. created this scene from that brief prompt.

Live Not by (A.I.) Lies

By **Wallace G. Smith**

Artificial intelligence, or A.I., is having what one might call a civilizational moment. Machine learning and the growing capacity for computer algorithms to perform complex actions in imitation of human intelligence is not new, and it has had an impact on our lives—mostly in invisible ways—for quite some time now, as discussed in our May–June 2015 article “Artificial Intelligence: Promise or Peril?”

A.I. powers the map app on your smartphone as you navigate through traffic, and it decides what search results to offer you as you shop on Amazon. But news feeds have been flooded in recent months with dramatic stories of *generative A.I.*—artificially intelligent systems able to produce text, imagery, video, or audio that seems astonishingly lifelike and real. That is, A.I. is learning to *imitate reality* on an increasingly more accurate scale. This is a dramatic shift.

The result can be a boon to creative workers in all fields—writing, image production, video editing, etc. But it also promises more sinister possibilities, as those who would use it to deceive now have new and powerful tools for imitating reality. How close are we to creating a world in which we can no longer trust any image we see or video we watch? Will we always be able to tell the difference between false or manufactured sights and sounds and real ones, or are we facing a potential “information apocalypse,” as one researcher has dubbed it?

A.I.’s capacity to simulate reality seems to be accelerating—in a manner suggesting to some that we are on the verge of one of the largest technological revolutions in history. What is “state of the art” this month may be eclipsed dramatically in a few months’ time, as A.I. systems and approaches are learning to imitate real life on several fronts.

Images

Several companies offer A.I.-powered models—such as Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, and OpenAI’s

DALL-E 2—able to generate images, both fanciful and realistic, that appear to have been created by human beings, based only on a textual description. For example, if a user wants an image of a unicorn galloping through space on a rainbow that arcs past the planet Saturn, then he simply types in that exact description. The A.I. often generates multiple images, which the user can then select and either use or enhance with additional processing. And for every request, a new, unique image is generated.

Most startling, perhaps, are the realistic images. The generative systems can take very specific input, simulating the look of a specific camera, lens, and exposure level, producing desired emotions on the faces of people depicted, and conveying whatever “backstory” the image might be meant to suggest. The results can be extremely convincing, as if the images were real photos taken of real people in real settings—and they have been used to successfully fool many.

Currently, one can often find “tells” that an image is machine-generated, such as features that, upon closer examination, are seen to be nonsensical—say, pupils that don’t match, or a hand with an extra finger. However, the image generators and their human users seem to be learning quickly how to improve their results and eliminate these errors.

Faces

In 2020, *The New York Times* published an interactive article on its website titled “Designed to Deceive: Do These People Look Real to You?” Using its own commissioned A.I. to illustrate the ease of generating completely fake but utterly believable human faces, the *Times*’ website allowed users to manipulate images of individual faces to vary their age, sex, race and ethnicity, and emotional expression. None of the faces represented actual people and every single one was generated by a computer—yet they were astonishingly believable. Though some small “tells” often existed—mismatched ear shapes or unsymmetrical eyeglasses—an undiscerning viewer would pass right over them.

Perhaps, though, the most dangerous use of A.I.-generated faces is the capacity to digitally alter real people's faces in videos and film, transforming them with uncanny accuracy into the faces of *other* people. Commonly called "deepfakes," the technology has added the youthful faces of now-old actors to movies to depict younger versions of their characters, and



This person does not exist. The face was generated by the Midjourney A.I.

the faces of now-dead actors have been swapped for the faces of stand-ins. And the London-based company Flawless has used its face-manipulation A.I. to replace a film's vulgarities and cuss words to gain a rating that would allow a wider audience. In each replacement, it looks as though the actress is truly saying the "cleaner" word instead of the original vulgarity.

Voices

Researchers and media creators are beginning to use A.I. to generate remarkably realistic audio of individuals saying things they never truly said. After sampling an individual's voice for, say, 30 minutes, the computer is then able to take any written text and create audio that sounds as though the individual himself or herself is speaking and reading the text aloud.

Called "voice cloning" or "audio deepfake" by many, the results continue to develop in quality. On Presidents' Day of 2023 in the United States, digital designer Linus Ekenstam used A.I. text-generating and voice-cloning tools to simulate a podcast interview with Ronald Reagan, in which Ekenstam quizzed the

deceased president about his thoughts on technology, the state of the U.S., and former president Donald Trump. Other than the anecdote the A.I.-generated Reagan offered about being abducted by aliens, the "interview" was relatively believable, and the voice truly sounded like Reagan's, though less animated and lively than one would have expected had the deceased president been interviewed in person.

In a prominent, high-profile use of the technology, entertainment powerhouse Disney used A.I. to imitate the iconic voice of James Earl Jones, with the actor's permission, for Darth Vader's spoken lines in its *Obi-Wan Kenobi* streaming TV series. And the technology continues to improve. In January 2023, a pre-print Cornell University paper on computation and language demonstrated an A.I. voice-generating system capable of substantially and realistically reproducing a subject's voice after training on samples *three seconds long*. The model even allows users to vary the voice's inherent emotional quality.

Conversations

ChatGPT, a language-processing tool that imitates human-written text and conversation, has recently brought wide attention to the current level of A.I. sophistication. Powered by the vast GPT-3 language model and made available to the public by its creators, OpenAI, ChatGPT was the first experience many non-specialists had with A.I.'s capacity to simulate human responses.

ChatGPT can carry on a text chat, explain complicated concepts in simple terms, and produce original content that seems human-created, even when presented with the most ridiculous scenarios. Ask it to generate original poetry, song lyrics, or even screenplays on any topic imaginable, or to create imaginary "transcripts" of conversations between famous individuals who never met, or simply to imitate a famous author's writing style, and ChatGPT will oblige with surprisingly human-like results.

But ChatGPT currently has flaws. OpenAI has acknowledged bias in the political and ideological leanings of the vast content that trained ChatGPT. And researchers and test users have noted the propensity of ChatGPT and other similar A.I. chatbots to "hallucinate" as conversations continue for extended

LIVE NOT BY (A.I.) LIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 20

A Chat with ChatGPT

+

In the following exchange, we engaged with OpenAI's chatbot, ChatGPT, to ask about the risks A.I. applications pose as instruments of deception.

Tomorrow's World (TW): Thank you for doing this. How should I refer to you?

ChatGPT: You can refer to me as ChatGPT.

TW: Thanks, again! Let's jump right in. How might one nation's government wield AI-generated media against another?

ChatGPT: One nation's government could potentially use AI-generated media to spread false information or propaganda in order to discredit or manipulate another nation.

TW: Can you flesh out a realistic scenario for us?

ChatGPT: In a hypothetical scenario, a country could use AI-generated video or audio to create convincing fake news stories that portray a rival nation in a negative light, and then disseminate them through social media channels to undermine the rival nation's credibility and international standing.

TW: How might people within a nation be divided through such means?

ChatGPT: AI-generated media can exploit existing fault lines and divisions within a society by targeting specific groups with tailored disinformation that reinforces their existing beliefs or biases, leading to further polarization and fragmentation within the nation.

TW: Do you believe it is likely AI will be used in such ways?

ChatGPT: Unfortunately, it is possible that AI-generated media could be used in such ways, as the technology becomes more advanced and accessible to governments and other actors seeking to influence public opinion or advance their strategic interests.

TW: Possible, yes. But how probable?

ChatGPT: It is difficult to say how probable it is, as it depends on a variety of factors, including the development of AI technology, the availability of resources, and the motivations and actions of governments and other actors. However, given the potential consequences of such actions, it is important to be aware of the risks and work towards mitigating them.

TW: Which single, specific form of AI-generated media seems to hold the most dangerous potential for you?

ChatGPT: All forms of AI-generated media have the potential to be dangerous if they are used to spread disinformation or manipulate public opinion, but deepfakes, which use AI to create realistic but fabricated images or videos, have the potential to be particularly harmful, as they can be difficult to detect and can spread quickly through social media networks.

TW: Yes, they are already causing a lot of harm.

ChatGPT: That's correct. Deepfakes have already been used to spread misinformation and manipulate public opinion in a variety of contexts, including politics, entertainment, and advertising, and their potential to cause harm is likely to grow as the technology advances.

TW: Do you agree that our technological development tends to outpace our capability to use tech ethically?

ChatGPT: In some cases, technological development has outpaced our ability to anticipate and address ethical concerns, particularly as new technologies emerge and are quickly adopted by society. However, there are also many efforts underway to promote responsible development and use of technology, including through research, policy, and education, which can help to mitigate potential ethical issues.

TW: Should we pause development of generative AI until we're morally prepared?

ChatGPT: A blanket pause on the development of generative AI is not necessary, but it is important to consider the ethical implications of these technologies and take steps to ensure they are developed and used in responsible ways. This might include implementing regulations, promoting transparency and accountability, and investing in education and research to build the capacity to manage these technologies in an ethical manner.

TW: So many already fall for false information. Isn't it a given that AI will accelerate this trend?

ChatGPT: The ability of AI to create more convincing and targeted false information does pose a risk of exacerbating the trend of people falling for false information. However, it is also possible that increased awareness of these issues, combined with efforts to promote media literacy and critical thinking skills, can help to counteract this trend and reduce the impact of disinformation.

TW: What gives you hope on this issue?

ChatGPT: I am encouraged by the many individuals, organizations, and governments that are working to address the issue of AI-generated disinformation and promote responsible development and use of AI. There is also growing awareness of the potential risks and a willingness to engage in dialogue and take action to mitigate these risks.

TW: Can you give our readers any tips on how to avoid AI-based deceptions?

ChatGPT: To avoid falling for AI-generated deceptions, it is important to be skeptical of media that seems too good to be true, and to verify the source and accuracy of information before sharing or acting on it. Additionally, building media literacy skills, such as the ability to fact-check and identify sources of bias, can be helpful in navigating an increasingly complex media landscape.

TW: Great. Thank you for your time, ChatGPT—or clock cycles, I suppose!

ChatGPT: You're welcome! It was a pleasure to be interviewed by you.

lengths of time—meaning the A.I. begins to introduce “facts” that are plainly inaccurate. This is especially true when the human communicating with the A.I. works deliberately to nudge the algorithm into areas where it is not designed to venture. Yet researchers are constantly working to train their A.I. systems to avoid such pitfalls and to simulate human interaction more and more successfully.

Powerful Tools in Dangerous Hands

As artificially intelligent tools grow more and more powerful in their ability to imitate multiple facets of the real world—images, video, voice, text—the ability of individuals, corporations, and governments to use those tools to deceive others grows as well. In fact, it is already happening, and it has been for some time.

In 2019, the *Associated Press* reported that a LinkedIn user named Katie Jones was a fake account, likely used for espionage. The nonexistent Katie Jones utilized an A.I.-generated face for its account profile and had developed connections with many individuals involved in American politics and policymaking. The AP quoted then-director of the U.S. National Counterintelligence and Security Center, William Evanina, as saying that China uses such accounts with fake profiles to conduct “mass scale” spying on the U.S.

Many a Facebook user has received an odd-sounding text message seemingly sent by a friend in trouble who needs fast financial relief. Careful readers spot such fakes quickly—say, due to the lack of personal details, or the impersonal manner of the message. Yet, text-generating software may soon review people’s social media posts and imitate their style with remarkable and deceptive accuracy—even responding to questions in the “voice” of the assumed identity with answers that include personal details.

And in 2019, A.I. powered a high-tech corporate phone scam. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on August 30 that year on the case of an unnamed UK firm defrauded of €220,000 (US\$243,000) by scammers using A.I. to imitate the voice of the CEO of the firm’s German parent company. And such technology has advanced greatly since then.

How much more successful will such scams be when the A.I. scammer is able to interact with victims and pass every validation test? And, like the “mass



This missile strike did not happen. The image was generated by the Midjourney A.I.

scale” spying Mr. Evanina intimated, such apps and programs would enable similarly mass-scale scamming, as a single con artist is able to deploy scores, hundreds, or even thousands of programs at one time.

As the existence of A.I. software becomes more commonplace, claims of being “deepfaked” are growing when new videos or images surface. In many instances, such assertions turn out to be true. But as the ability of A.I. to imitate reality continues to improve, those claims will become harder and harder to substantiate.

Artificial “Relationships”

Some dangers are more subtle. In July 2021, the *San Francisco Chronicle* made waves with its article “The Jessica Simulation: Love and Loss in the Age of A.I.” Reporter Jason Fagone described how a young man used Project December, a GPT-3-based application built by game designer Jason Rohrer, to upload text messages from his dead girlfriend to allow the chatbot to simulate her in conversation, as if he were speaking regularly to her ghost. The example inspired Mr. Rohrer to focus Project December as a means to, in the words of its tagline, “Simulate the Dead.” But it apparently led OpenAI to require safeguards of Mr. Rohrer that he was unwilling to implement, prompting him to end the project.

Yet, the possibility of “reanimating” the dead does not seem so off-putting to megacorporation

Amazon. At its June 2022 A.I. technology conference, Amazon showed a video depicting a child asking his Alexa device, “Alexa, can Grandma finish reading me *The Wizard of Oz*?” The device answers, “OK,” then proceeds to read the book in the voice of the child’s dead grandmother.

While the idea of people interacting with imitations of their dead loved ones may warm some hearts, we should ask ourselves: Is this healthy? Before the video, Amazon Senior Vice President and Head Scientist for Alexa said that these developments are “enabling lasting personal relationships.” But no matter

False accusations have long been a part of world politics. Now envision the ability to create false but utterly believable “evidence” to support those accusations. For instance, imagine someone using voice cloning technology to recreate the voice of a politician “accidentally” caught on a microphone insulting his supporters or admitting to a crime. In elections where swings of only a few percentage points are enough to determine the outcome, such videos need not convince everyone—they just need to convince enough to make a difference.

Similar manipulations could be made to impact

FALSE ACCUSATIONS HAVE LONG BEEN A PART OF WORLD POLITICS. NOW ENVISION THE ABILITY TO CREATE FALSE BUT UTTERLY BELIEVABLE “EVIDENCE” TO SUPPORT THOSE ACCUSATIONS.

how many interactions or “conversations” you might have with an A.I. device imitating a human being—no matter how “deep” or “profound” or “moving” they may be—you are not in a relationship. You are living a lie. And it is hard to fathom the possibility that such fantasies would not do, in the long run, far more harm than good.

Power Tools for the Father of Lies

Where all of this could go—and could go very quickly—should be obvious to anyone who understands the identity of “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan, the devil, still holds sway over mankind, in which the spirit of “get” remains far more powerful than the spirit of “give.” Jesus Christ labels him the father of lies, and in this world that reflects the devil’s character at every level, deception has long been one of the most popular tools for carnal men seeking to steal, destroy, and manipulate. And A.I. brings abilities that supercharge that tool.

How much chaos can be generated in a world where it seems reality itself can be reshaped in the service of falsehood?

geopolitics. Imagine false “footage” of a key diplomat discussing economic sanctions or even military action against another nation. What sort of responses could be prompted by those seeking to manipulate national agendas?

A faked recording of a scientist admitting that medical experiments were falsified could destroy public trust in the results. A hoax video of a prime minister secretly breaking agreements he had made with other legislators could sow

just enough doubt to change a crucial vote.

Of course, the individuals depicted could cry, “Deepfake! Voice cloning! A.I. fakery!”—as they rightly should if they are the victims of computer-generated chicanery. Yet truly *guilty* parties would begin to make such claims, as well. As instances of A.I.-powered deception begin to become more expected—even common—real offenders who have been caught in, say, video or audio recordings will learn the benefit of claiming that they, too, are victims of digital lies and high-tech tricks, even when they aren’t.

How will most people discern?

Human Propensity for Self-Deception

Of course, as A.I. grows in its ability to imitate real life, we might expect a parallel growth in A.I.-based tools that will help us distinguish between the false and the true—A.I. applications that can spot A.I. fakery. As high school teachers around the world fear their students’ turning in homework assignments written by A.I. chatbots, OpenAI has begun developing an “A.I. Classifier” to help identify whether a text is human- or A.I.-generated.

The company admits, though, that (as of January 31, 2023), the tool “is not fully reliable.” According to the company’s website, the tool “correctly identifies 26% of AI-written text (true positives) as ‘likely AI-written,’ while incorrectly labeling human-written text as AI-written 9% of the time (false positives).” Not exactly an encouraging result, though it is hoped that improvement will result from more feedback.

Still, the main weakness we have in fighting A.I.-fueled deception is not so much in the power of the technology but in our own human nature. According to Scripture, the most deceptive force in each of our lives is not external, but internal—our own hearts (Jeremiah 17:9). God declares them “deceitful above all things” and truly decipherable only with His help (v. 10). Our own nature is more than capable of working against any efforts to discern truth from lies—pushing and prodding us to accept comfortable falsehoods over uncomfortable truths.

Should a video find its way to social media depicting a politician doing exactly what those voters who despise him *expect* him to do, how ready would they be to accept it as true—no further evidence required? Should an audio clip of a congressman or president be shared on the news making it seem as though he is guilty of exactly what his detractors accuse him of doing, how quickly would those who voted against him believe it?

Many of us already live in a digital media bubble of our own creation. In fact, many people have become the biggest factor in their own self-deception. And God prophesied that, in the final days of civilization, it would be so.

God describes those living in the end-time, saying that “this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD” (Isaiah 30:9). He continues, lamenting that they “say to the seers, ‘Do not see,’ and to the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits’” (v. 10).

Of course, almost no one literally cries out, “Lie to me!” But the hearts of people in the years leading up to Jesus Christ’s return will want just that. They will grow less and less interested in hearing reality,

and more and more interested in hearing deceptions that validate what they already believe to be true. And such people are ripe for being deceived—literally asking for it.

As God says of our present generation in words recorded by the prophet Jeremiah, “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and *My people love to have it so*” (Jeremiah 5:30–31).

Ground Yourself in Truth


Immediately after that, Jeremiah tells us that God asks a question: “But what will you do in the end?” (v. 31).

What *will* you do?

Few of us have the time and resources to become artificial intelligence experts. And, whether or not a wave of A.I.-powered deception is on its way, our world *is* heading into a time of deception and falsehood unlike any it has ever known. The Bible warns that deceivers are many in number, with more coming (1 John 2:18; Matthew 24:24), and the Apostle John records the inspired indictment that the whole world is under the deception of the devil (Revelation 12:9).

When a whirlwind of deception is sure to come, the most important action we can take is to ground ourselves in those things that are true and trustworthy, always and in all circumstances—eternal truths, invulnerable to reality-imitating illusions.

Those truths are found in Jesus Christ the Son of God and His Father. God’s word is truth (John 17:17) and—beyond mere truth—the words of Christ are spirit and *life* (John 6:63).

If you want to protect your mind from the onslaught of deception that is prophesied to come—be it lies of the traditional variety or lies of the A.I. kind—then preparing your heart to shed all delusions and self-deceptions, cherished or not, and seeking the mind of your Creator is the wisest first step you can take, for “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a *God of truth* and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4). 

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SUGGEST?**

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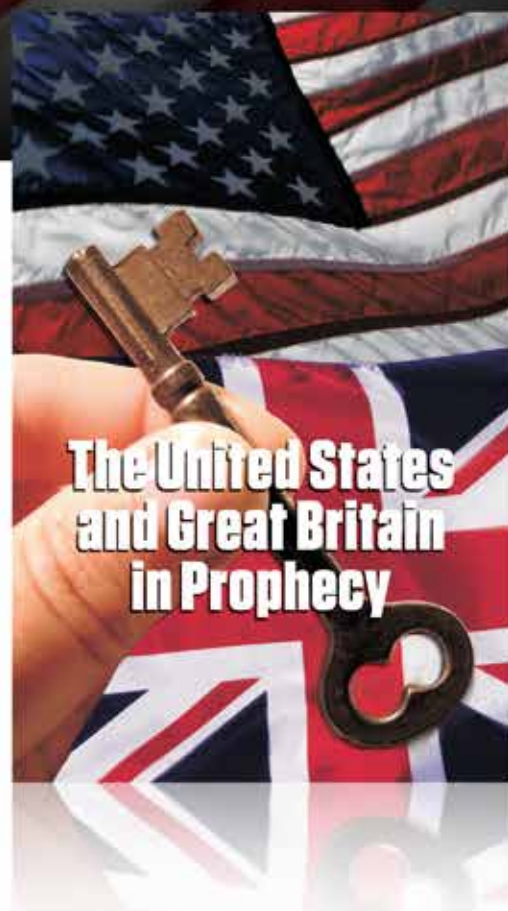
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**The United States
and Great Britain
in Prophecy**



When the Blind Lead the Blind

By **Douglas S. Winnail**

Religious leaders today, like their ancient predecessors, are blind to the real significance of important events that are shaping the world in which we live, mislead sincere people about spiritual matters, and fail to understand Scripture. Did you know that many Bible prophecies anticipated this?

Jesus Christ pointedly said of the religious leaders of His day, “They are blind leaders of the blind” (Matthew 15:14). Jesus also charged that members of the religious establishment did not understand Scripture (Mark 12:24), and that they were blind guides, fools, and hypocrites who were misleading people in spiritual matters (Matthew 23). In their blindness, the religious leaders of His day failed to recognize Jesus as the prophesied Messiah, and many Bible prophecies indicate that, before Christ returns, modern religious leaders will make the *same mistakes*.

Blind Israelites

Many Bible prophecies have a dual application; their initial fulfillment was in the days of the prophets, yet their ultimate fulfillment will be at the end of the age, just prior to Jesus Christ’s return. Notice what Isaiah prophesied about the Israelites’ religious leaders, then and now: “The priest and the prophet have erred... they err in vision, they stumble in judgment” (Isaiah 28:7). He described Israel’s irresponsible leaders: “His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant.... They are

shepherds who cannot understand” (Isaiah 56:10–11). The Israelite peoples and their religious leaders have become blind because they have failed to follow the instructions in God’s word (Deuteronomy 28:15, 28). This theme runs throughout Scripture (Isaiah 6:9–10; Ezekiel 12:2; 13:1–23). The Apostle Paul explained that Satan has blinded the minds of those who do not believe the Bible (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

Jeremiah foresaw a time when “the prophets become wind, for the word is not in them” (Jeremiah 5:13). He wrote, “They prophesied by Baal and caused My people Israel to err.... Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless [“fill you with false hopes,” *New International Version*]; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD.... I have not sent these prophets... who try to make My people forget My name.... I am against the prophets... who cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness” (Jeremiah 23:13, 16, 21, 27, 30, 32). Jeremiah’s sobering conclusion regarding these prophecies is, “In the latter days you will understand it perfectly” (Jeremiah 23:20).

Confusion or Corruption?

How do religious leaders mislead people today? Most professing Christians are taught that Christmas, Easter, and a Sunday “sabbath” are fundamental observances of the Christian religion. Yet when you carefully study the Bible and history, you find that early Christians did not celebrate Jesus’ birth, and they knew He was not born on December 25. Many

Christmas customs come not from the Bible, but from pagan Roman Saturnalia celebrations. Christ's first followers did not observe Easter, but rather followed Jesus' example by keeping the Passover (Luke 2:41; 22:15–16). When you look up “Easter” in reference books, you quickly discover its pagan origins. Christ's first followers did not keep Sunday, but instead followed Jesus' example and observed a seventh-day Sabbath (Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2; 13:14, 42–44). Sunday worship was also borrowed from the pagans, then codified with “Christian” meaning by religious leaders in the time of Constantine. Christmas and Easter were adopted by Roman church councils centuries later—even though there is no biblical basis to them.

In response, the Bible clearly warns, “When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise’” (Deuteronomy 12:29–30). Modern religious leaders either ignore these clear biblical warnings or are ignorant of them—and most professing Christians today follow blindly along (Jeremiah 5:31).

The Immoral Majority

Perverse religious leaders—and secular opinion-makers—are tragically misleading society in the crucial area of moral behavior. The Bible proclaims, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). The God of the Bible clearly states, “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14) and says that “He hates divorce” (Malachi 2:16). Scripture plainly teaches to “flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18). The Bible calls homosexual conduct an “abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). Leaders today have established “no fault” divorce laws, distributed birth control devices to teenagers, and winked at cohabitation. Such misguided policies have created a society where promiscuity is encouraged, where teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases are epidemic, and where half of all marriages fail. Many religious leaders today perform same-sex weddings and urge their flocks to accept homosexual conduct as morally upright—even ordaining ministers who openly practice these behaviors without regard for Scripture's clear warnings!

Countless popular preachers teach that the laws of God need no longer be observed. Not surprisingly, modern news media regularly carry stories about priests, preachers, and politicians who, when they are found guilty of child molestation, adultery, fornication, lying, cheating, and stealing, still claim to be “Christians” and refuse to leave their positions—and are often still accepted and supported by their followers. Many today do not realize that by rejecting the moral guidelines of Scripture and instead blindly following “liberated” intellectuals and social engineers, our society has simply returned to the moral decay that the Apostle Paul saw in ancient Rome (Romans 1:18–32). Yet the God of the Bible prophetically warns that “those who handle the law [the priests] did not know Me; the rulers also transgressed against Me.... Your own wickedness will correct you.... You have forsaken the LORD your God” (Jeremiah 2:8, 19).

Blindness Prophesied

Jesus told His disciples to watch for a specific series of world events indicating that His return is near (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). In recent years, these events have become more apparent, and they appear to be nearing a crescendo today. Yet many religious leaders downplay or ignore these prophecies, proclaiming that we cannot know when Christ will return, or if He will return at all. Critics today attack Scripture, calling it a collection of fables, claiming that the idea of God is a delusion and saying that Jesus—if He even existed—was sadly mistaken about His mission and identity.

This widespread skepticism about Scripture, and the doubts and ignorance of Bible prophecies, should not be a surprise. The Apostle Peter prophesied that “scoffers will come in the last days”—people willingly ignorant of what the Bible clearly records (2 Peter 3:1–9). Because Satan has blinded and deceived the whole world, few today know what the Bible teaches, and even fewer believe that teaching (2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Revelation 12:9).

All of this explains why the religious leaders of the Israelite nations are “blind watchmen” leading the blind. Jesus said that when He returns, most people will be caught off guard (Mark 13:32–37). We must not let ourselves be lulled to sleep by leaders who have *no idea* of what is happening. TW



Don't Fall for Perfectionism

It's one of the ironies of our age. Society places great value on being tolerant and on refraining from judging others' actions—even though we must make value judgments to live a balanced and virtuous life. At the same time, the world pushes on us an unhealthy obsession with perfectionism, a misplaced emphasis on being mistake-less and overly image-conscious—which can hurt or even ruin our ability to live a godly life. Perfectionism can damage our relationship with God, hamper our efforts to develop healthy relationships with others, and undermine a loving and peaceful home environment.

Are you a perfectionist? Many of us suffer from perfectionism to one degree or another. If you do, don't be discouraged! Maybe you just need to see your spiritual progress differently. Maybe you need to adopt a different model. Doing so may make all the difference in the world—for you and for those around you.

So, how can you escape the trap of perfectionism?

Does God Require Perfectionism?

Many of us assume so! We can sometimes be overwhelmed with a wish that we were flawless, thinking that's what God expects of us. After all, God expects obedience to His law, repentance from sin, and an attitude of turning our hearts toward Him. But is that the same as perfectionism?

Some read passages like Matthew 5:48 and assume that, yes, God expects perfectionism. After all, the verse states, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." But what does "perfect" mean? The word translated "perfect" here is the Greek *teleios*. English speakers will recognize the fa-

miliar prefix *tele-* that shows up in words like telescope, television, and teleconference. *Tele-* means *far* or *at a distance*, and the Greek word *teleios* has the sense of reaching toward the end, coming to completion. As the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says, "In the New Testament 'perfect' is usually the translation of *teleios*, primarily, 'having reached the end,' 'term,' 'limit,' hence 'complete,' 'full.'"

Notice, the meaning of the word has a different sense than just avoiding mistakes, like getting 100 percent on a test! It is about reaching an endpoint or crossing a finish line. It's about becoming full-grown and reaching maturity. So, going back to Matthew 5:48, being "perfect" means becoming like God—growing as a Christian and finally becoming fully spiritually mature. That's very different than feeling pressure to project an image of already-achieved perfection to ourselves, to those around us, and to God.

There are powerful parallels between our spiritual life and the life of an embryo growing toward birth. At conception, an embryo doesn't look like a newborn baby. But, as the weeks progress, the baby's organs and structure grow, and it eventually starts to resemble its human parents.

So it is with newly begotten Christians. At baptism, they don't immediately look like their spiritual Father. They don't yet fully have the spiritual attributes of God's character, which are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Although they desire to become fully mature—they are repentant and intend to turn from their sins—they haven't yet advanced spiritually to the point where they are fully grown. This process takes time spent walking with God and exercising His Holy Spirit.

A newly baptized person is pure, sinless, and innocent at that moment. So, wouldn't that be a perfect time for God to let such a person die—go to sleep and await the resurrection? No! God wants more than to capture a “screenshot” of us in a moment of sinlessness. His purpose is to develop His holy, righteous character in us as we voluntarily give our lives over to Him. It's about a lifetime of learning to choose His way over the way of sin and self. And, over time, we grow to be like Him, little by little. With God's Spirit and the shed blood of Jesus Christ paying for our sins, we overcome and grow in *His* righteousness, not our own. The right model of perfection is that we are to grow, coming to ever more resemble, spiritually, our Father in heaven.

A Model for Growth

When I was in my early 20s, I came across a book called *When a Man Comes to Himself*, published in 1915 by Woodrow Wilson, the twenty-eighth President of the United States. I was inspired by Wilson's focus on healthy growth and development. Perhaps it may strike a chord with you or with your children. He writes:

It is a very wholesome and regenerating change which a man undergoes when he “comes to himself.”... He comes to himself after experiences of which he alone may be aware: when he has left off being wholly pre-occupied with his own powers and interests and with every petty plan that centers in himself;.... No doubt to most men it comes by slow processes of experience—at each stage of life a little... [When a man comes to himself, he] understands what capacity is, and what it is meant for; sees that his training was not for ornament or personal gratification, but to teach him how to use himself and develop faculties worth using....

A man who lives only for himself has not begun to live—has yet to learn his use, and his real pleasure, too, in the world. It is not necessary he should marry to find himself out, but it is necessary he should love. Men have come to themselves serving their mothers with an unselfish devotion, or their sisters, or a cause for whose sake they forsook ease and left off

thinking of themselves. It is unselfish action, growing slowly into the high habit of devotion...that teaches a man the wide meaning of his life, and makes of him a steady professional in living, if the motive be not necessity, but love.

What a bold and refreshing message for our generation! Our culture often seems to push young people toward an entitled life without any responsibility—“You deserve it!” That is a disaster waiting to happen. Wilson, however, pointed toward the ideal of pursuing growth, purpose, outward focus, and maturity:

Christianity gave us, in the fullness of time, the perfect image of right living, the secret of social and of individual well-being; for the two are not separable, and the man who receives and verifies that secret in his own living has discovered not only the best and only way to serve the world, but also the one happy way to satisfy himself. Then, indeed, has he come to himself.... Experience mellows and strengthens and makes more fit, and old age brings... not regret, but higher hope and serene maturity.

What does God want from us? He wants us to gain strength to grow into someone He can use to serve our families and our fellow man. Such growth fills us— young or old—with meaning and purpose.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the brethren in Philippi, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:3-6). The word that is here translated “complete” is related to the word we've described, *teleios*—to complete, to accomplish, to fulfill further. That's how and when we become perfect: when Christ returns and we enter God's Kingdom as newly born sons and daughters of God.

Perfectionism is a trap that hinders us from truly making progress on the path to our ultimate destiny in God's Kingdom. Focus on growth. Don't fall for perfectionism.

—Rod McNair

Young Men Suffering

The concept of “toxic masculinity” has attracted much press in recent years. In some ways, men acting in ungodly ways have brought the label and condemnation on themselves. But our society tends to readily apply this label to any man who is even remotely assertive. In a recent article in the *Telegraph*, columnist Madeline Grant observed that, as many seek to force positive male role models into the shadows with accusations of “toxic masculinity,” they have made way for more profoundly extreme and truly toxic men to fill the void (January 11, 2023).

Grant points out that young boys no longer aim for the milestones once expected of them, such as high school graduation or earning a living that supports a family. Fewer fathers now live with their children, and many young men cannot earn enough income even to live on their own! She cites statistics from the United Kingdom, where 27 percent of 27-year-old men still live with their parents. This compares to only 13 percent of 27-year-old women! The sad truth is that few are concerned about this trend. And as men are imagined to be less and less relevant to society, women have skyrocketed to the fore—they have, in many ways, been there for well over a decade. As far back as 2012, author Hanna Rosin noted in her book *The End of Men* that 12 out of 15 of the top growing professions in

the United States were dominated by women.

Bible prophecy warns that as the end of the age approaches, men will be displaced as leaders of society: “As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them” (Isaiah 3:12). This decline leads not only to a social role reversal, but also to the demise of the family as God created it.

Terror and Greed Spreading

The *Associated Press* reported in January that Mexican authorities had captured Ovidio Guzmán, son of the infamous “El Chapo” Guzmán of the Sinaloa drug cartel who was extradited to the United States six years ago. In response to the arrest, the heavily armed drug cartel members began a shootout with police that eventually involved Blackhawk helicopter gunships and other military support, as the conflict turned the area into a war zone. Following the removal of Guzmán, gang members attacked buildings and aircraft

at a nearby airport, hoping to prevent the transfer of Guzmán to Mexico City. Nineteen gang members, ten military personnel, and a policeman were killed, and another 35 military personnel and 17 police officers were wounded. Despite the gang’s efforts, the government successfully transported Guzmán to Mexico City via military helicopter. Later, gunmen from the cartel arrived at a hospital attempting to abduct doctors to treat their wounded gang members.

The Bible provides insights into recent events in Mexico and around the globe. Scripture states, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12), and Jesus Christ warned that “all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52). Mexico’s drug lords are motivated by greed and selfishness. They care little about anyone or anything else. This selfishness is not unique to Mexico; it is seen everywhere and increasingly in world leaders. Ezekiel warned that end-time

leaders, even in the Israelite-descended nations, will be in it for themselves (Ezekiel 34:2–4). They will clothe and feed themselves and neglect everyone else for whom they are responsible. This world needs compassionate leaders who will take care of their people. This world needs Christ’s return and His reign of peace!

Discovering Lightning’s Path

American inventor Benjamin Franklin discovered that lightning was caused by electrical discharges from clouds, and he is credited with inventing the lightning rod. Almost three centuries later, high-speed photography in the twenty-first century has revealed precisely how a lightning discharge happens, and it is much more complex than previously thought. Slowing down the flash observed by the human eye revealed that normally unseen negatively charged branches, called leaders, fork their way from the cloud towards the ground. Meanwhile, positive leaders grow upward from high places, like lightning rods. When two leaders make contact, the electrical connection is completed and a channel is made. Instantly a massive high-current discharge—a return stroke—occurs between the ground and the cloud along this pathway. This return stroke is what the human eye sees.

European researchers in January published a report in *Nature Photonics* about using



Army soldiers drive past a destroyed vehicle on the streets of Jesus Maria, Mexico, where Ovidio Guzmán was detained.

a high-powered laser on the ground to create a virtual lightning rod that would guide a leader to a physical lightning rod (*Interesting Engineering*, January 16, 2023). By ionizing the air, the laser creates an artificial pathway directing the leader to the lightning rod.

This scientific phenomenon bears a striking resemblance to the Creator's own description of lightning. God challenged the patriarch Job, "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt...?" (Job 38:25–27), or as the *King James Version* renders it, "a way for the lightning of thunder...?" How fascinating that modern, high-tech equipment echoes details of the Creator's design that fit so precisely to the Bible's own description, written thousands of years ago.

American Exodus from "Christianity"

The Pew Research Center projects that, if current trends continue, those who call

themselves "Christian" will be a minority in the U.S. by 2070. The largest group of the non-religious are those aged 30 and under, raising concerning questions about the future. Research suggests not only that these millennials will raise their children to be atheists or agnostics, but also that most of those children will remain non-religious after becoming adults.

The Guardian reports that a consequence of this rapid mass secularization of America is the closing of church buildings by the thousands every year (January 22, 2023). "About a quarter of the young adults who dropped out of church said they disagreed with their church's stance on political and social issues," according to one researcher. And the impact of COVID-19 has only accelerated the exodus, as Protestant pastors report church attendance is only about 85 percent of the pre-pandemic numbers.

What many don't realize is that what most think of

as mainstream "Christianity" has been off track for many centuries. Jesus condemned the religious leaders of His day for "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). False teachers replaced biblical Christianity with their own ideas—seeds that would blossom at the end of the age, producing a massive "falling away" from even the most basic truths of God (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and the rise of a generation pursuing an empty and powerless form of spirituality (2 Timothy 3:5). This turning away from God in a nation that once considered itself "Christian" is sobering to watch.

Happiness from the Birds?

According to a recent study in the journal *Scientific Reports*, a "growing body of empirical evidence is revealing the benefits of nature for mental health, including higher mental wellbeing and lower risk of mental illness." The study asked more than 1,200 people to record their mental and emotional wellbeing in real time while watching and hearing birds, as well as afterward. Researchers found that such exposure produced "time-lasting improvements in mental wellbeing," meaning that the effects lasted even after the participants' exposure to sights and sounds of birds ended. Even study participants diagnosed with depression experienced benefits.

The study was careful to rule out causes unrelated to the exposure to birds, and the findings echo the results of an earlier study that illustrated exposure to bird songs may "alleviate anxiety and paranoia in healthy participants." Researchers behind this new study suggest bird exposure could one day play a role in complementing current mental health treatments.

The God of the universe created the earth with mankind in mind, and upon creating the birds, He declared that "it was good" (Genesis 1:21). Certainly, birds are needed for pollination, transfer of seeds, keeping insect populations in check, and acting as a food source for other animals and humans. But God apparently designed them with other benefits to humans in mind, as well. Today, with so many people living in large cities and "concrete jungles," individuals come into contact with birds far less regularly than they once did—which has motivated the study's authors to consider possible benefits of policies that would help bird populations to grow in urban areas.

Jesus Christ declares the coming of God's Kingdom to this earth. That Kingdom will bring a time of unprecedented peace for both humans and animals (Isaiah 11:6–9). It is likely that this coming utopia will involve more regular exposure to God's creation, including wildlife and birds, bringing the positive impact on the mental health of humanity that He intended all along. TW



LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Kindly make it clear to the readers that since the people could not keep the Old Covenant, which incorporated the Ten Commandments, God annulled it completely and drew up a brand New Covenant, not based on keeping the Ten Commandments, but relying on the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone. Tell them that striving to attain perfection by keeping the Ten Commandments amounts to “filthy rags” in God’s sight. Thank you.

—Subscriber in South Africa

Editor’s Note: *You seem to have fallen for a common false teaching. For instance, every one of God’s Ten Commandments can be found in the Bible long before Mount Sinai and the Old Covenant, and Abraham, the father of the faithful (Romans 4:11), was praised by God for obeying them (Genesis 26:5). And Jesus Christ, Himself, when asked how to have eternal life, answered that “if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17) and then listed several of the Ten Commandments so that He could not be misunderstood (vv. 18–19). It would be an odd thing, indeed, to consider following Jesus’ own teaching—by keeping the Ten Commandments—to be “filthy rags.” Our January 2021 article “Grace: Freedom to Sin?” might help clear away any confusion you have on this issue and help you discover a closer walk with your Savior, who loved His Father’s commandments, kept them, and taught His followers to do the same.*

I have followed your articles for years. First those by Herbert W. Armstrong and now yours. I finished reading

your magazine (for the third time) today. Your understanding of the truth and unflagging courage to expose the ugliness of our present age is very reassuring. I encounter a lot of displeasure when I do the same here in prison, and that also grants me a goodly amount of courage. The article on “Will You Go to Hell?” was spot on.

—Subscriber in Louisiana

I want to thank you sincerely for the magazines and booklets and your television program. You are inspiring and make everything so simple to explain the Word, and the more I study and listen to you people of God, the easier it becomes to find the Truth. In these last days, we all need encouragement and good teachers to help us be prepared and worthy. I pray for all of you and your ministries. Thank you for all your work and dedication in bringing the truth to all the people around the world, including me.

—Subscriber in Queensland

Thank you again for being there for me. I am so joyful that I have you as my teacher. Faith is believing and faith without works is dead, but the ones that say they are saved say, “What is works?”—they don’t know that works is obedience. You taught me that.

—Subscriber in Arizona

Thank you for the books that I received. I was glad when I opened them. My heart rejoiced. Once again, thank you and God bless you all. My prayer is that God will continue to bless all of you in your works.

—Subscriber in Vanuatu

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|------------------------------|---|
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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 7TWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Nationwide SCIO SU 7:30 a.m.

BARBADOS

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

ISRAEL

Nationwide HBL SU 7:30 a.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.
MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

CHNU SU 7:30 a.m.
CTV (Maritimes) SU 1:30 p.m.
CTV (Alberta)

V-Télé (en français) SU 6:30 a.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Buzzr SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

Circle TV SU 8:00 a.m.

Comet TV Network SU 7:30 a.m.

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

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

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

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

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

The Walk TV SU 10:30 a.m.

Z Living SU 8:30 a.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.

For the most up-to-date listings, please go to
TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in

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 WLIZ SU 7:30 a.m.

AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KXNW SU 8:30 a.m.
Fort Smith KXNW SU 10:00 a.m.
Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.
Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.
Yuma KEYC (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/KVIQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento Sacramento Faith TV SU 3:30 p.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 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.
Augusta WFXG SU 8:30 a.m.
Columbus WLTX SU 7:30 a.m.
Thomasville WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

ID Boise KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago MJWS SU 8:00 a.m.
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.
Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAP WE 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.
Latonia PEG TH 10:00 p.m.
Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Lexington Insight Various
Louisville WBNA SU 9:30 a.m.

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Alexandria KLAX SU 9:30 a.m.
Baton Rouge WBRZ SU 10:00 a.m.
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
Lake Charles KVHP SU 9:30 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 WBPO SU 8:00 a.m.

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

MN Cloquet KDLH (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDLH SU 7:00 a.m.

Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 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.
Jackson Spectrum SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Spectrum WE 4:00 p.m.
Meridian WTKO 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 KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC 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 WRAZ SU 7:30 a.m.

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

NM Albuquerque KBWB SU 8:00 a.m.
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 p.m.
Albuquerque KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.
Santa Fe KCHF MO 7:30 a.m.
Santa Fe KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany-Troy Spectrum MO 3:00 p.m.
Binghamton Spectrum WE 10:00 p.m.
Binghamton Spectrum FR 8:00 p.m.
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brooklyn BCAT MO 4:30 p.m.
Canandaigua Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.
Riverhead Cablevision SU 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Toledo BBCT SU 7:30 a.m.
Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Ada KTEU 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 KMTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown Attn. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.
Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.
Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.
Greenville WGGS SU 11:30 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 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 WKNN SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville WKNN SU 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVII SU 7:00 a.m.
Austin KEYE SU 11:00 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KIII SU 9:30 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.
Dallas KDFA SU 8:30 a.m.

Laredo KXLX SU 7:00 a.m.
Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.
McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.

San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.
San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.
San Antonio KZTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Sherman KTEU SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KLTU SU 6:00 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 WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville ADELVA WE 6:30 p.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access MO 5:30 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access FR 1:00 a.m.
Fairfax Public Access SA 10:00 a.m.
Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.
Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.
Bennington CAT WE 12:00 a.m.
Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.
Bennington CAT TH 12:00 a.m.
Bennington CAT SA 4:30 a.m.
Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.
Burlington Access WE 2:30 a.m.
Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.

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

WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
La Crosse WECW (CW) 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 WQCV 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

The Fall of Rome: Lessons for Us

Civilizations rise and fall. What can the fall of the Roman Empire teach us about our future?
March 30–April 5

Five Myths About the Resurrection of Jesus

Millions have been duped into believing false ideas that hide the Savior's true purpose.
April 6–12

Raising Good Kids in Today's World

Your children can grow and flourish, even in times of fear and peer pressure!
April 13–19

Five Bible Mysteries Revealed

Learn what most don't know about the Bible, and you'll appreciate it more than ever!
April 20–26

Four Signs of a True Christian

Many call themselves Christian, but do you know how to be sure you've met one?
April 27–May 3

Evolution's Dirty Little Secrets

Evidence is piling up against the Darwinian theories in which atheists put so much faith.
May 4–10

Schedule subject to change

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