

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## Where Have Real Leaders Gone?

The fiasco in the UK is merely a symptom of a global problem

# The Stone of Destiny

Seeing Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip only a few feet away at Sandringham was a memory I treasured from my time living in England, but visiting old, musty churches was not. As a teenager, I was more interested in playing sports, fishing, and exploring the countryside. That may be why I have little memory of my visit to Westminster Abbey, where I almost certainly saw the coronation throne and the famous Stone of Destiny.

Five decades later, I again visited the Abbey. While I took notice of the ancient wooden coronation throne, the stone itself was missing, having been carted off to Scotland in November 1996. But why mention these memories in *Tomorrow's World*? What is the significance of an unattractive 336-pound (152 kg) sandstone block?

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*, accessed September 21, 2022).

The stone stayed in Scotland until 1296, when England's King Edward I absconded with it to Westminster, where he had a specially designed throne built with a platform and cavity to hold the prized rock. Since Edward II's succession in 1307, with few exceptions, English monarchs have been crowned while seated over the stone.

## "This Stone Which I Have Set"

There is debate as to whether the current coronation stone is the same one Jacob anointed, but the account in Genesis does raise intriguing questions. After leav-

ing his family to get away from his brother Esau, Jacob laid down to rest one night and received a supernatural dream. He saw angels ascending and descending on a ladder into heaven, and he received promises of greatness. "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed'.... Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it." Then he declared, "And

this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You" (Genesis 28:14, 18, 22).



Why did Jacob set up a rock as a pillar? Why did he anoint it? Why did he say it represented "God's house"? Whether today's stone is the original or

a counterfeit, its historic significance to the Irish, Scots, and British is indisputable. It is the pinnacle of Scotland's treasures and is protected as such.

On June 2, 1953, Queen Elizabeth II was crowned sitting over this Stone of Destiny. Then, "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.scot*, accessed September 21, 2022). It is remarkable how highly esteemed this rock is, but what is its real significance? Is there more than legend behind it?

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### A Poorly Understood Prophecy

How many Bible students understand God's promise to King David of an everlasting human dynasty? "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and *I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son" (2 Samuel 7:12–14). Some assume this refers only to the Messiah, but notice: "*If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him.... And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever*" (vv. 14–16).

David's throne continued uninterrupted for 400 years, from his son Solomon until the house of Judah fell in 586 BC. Many assume it ended with Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:7), but God had made this remarkable promise through His prophet Jeremiah a year earlier:

For thus says the LORD: "David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel".... Thus says the LORD: "If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne.... As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me" (Jeremiah 33:17, 20–22).

Most theologians believe David's dynasty ceased to exist 600 years before Christ came, but did Jesus take over the throne of David during His first coming? Clearly, He did not—but He *is* destined to do so (Luke 1:32–33). Is God unfaithful? Did he lie to David and to the people of Jeremiah's day?

Far from it. As explained in my article beginning on page 16, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms—the southern house of Judah (the Jewish people), and the northern ten tribes of the house

of Israel. Notice this important detail in the verses above: "David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the *house of Israel*" (v. 17). The kingly line in the house of Judah ceased with King Zedekiah in 586 BC. The Bible confirms that his sons were killed, but his daughters were not! They were left behind in Judah, then taken to Egypt (Jeremiah 41:10; 43:5–7).

Irish history records the remainder of this story. It tells of the prophet Jeremiah and his scribe Baruch coming to Ireland after the fall of Judah with a young princess and the coronation stone, called in Gaelic *lia fail*. In ancient Irish records, the princess was named Tea Tephi. She married the son of the High King of Ireland. Their descendants reigned from Tara in Ireland for many centuries. Later, in the days of Kenneth McAlpine, they transferred their place of rule to Scone in Scotland. This same dynasty continues on down to today in the person of Queen Elizabeth II, a direct descendant of Tea Tephi and her husband. God has fulfilled his promises to King David just as He said! (John Ogwyn, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, p. 34).

Truth is often stranger than fiction. Queen Elizabeth II's death has thrust to the fore an ancient ceremony and rock. As reported by the *BBC*, "Historic Environment Scotland (HES), which manages Edinburgh Castle, announced the stone would be used in King Charles III's coronation before being returned to the castle's Crown Room" ("Stone of Destiny to return to Westminster Abbey for coronation," *BBC.com*, September 12, 2022). Many of you may see it beneath the King during his upcoming coronation.

Today, the British-descended and American peoples do not know their identity, but the Stone of Destiny and the enduring English throne are clues to that vital truth. To learn the full story, contact our office nearest you and order a free copy of *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, or read it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org).





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# THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS

By **Wallace G. Smith**

**W**hen British prime minister Liz Truss resigned in late October after only 44 days in office, resulting in the election of the United Kingdom's third prime minister in less than two months, many both in and out of the UK saw the turmoil playing out at No. 10 Downing Street in London as a "black eye" for the nation. A BBC article asked, "Three PMs in two months, is political chaos the UK's new normal?" Britain is facing some of its biggest challenges in modern history, and this crisis in leadership seems to be happening at the worst possible time.

But the UK's prime minister fiasco is only a symptom of a larger, global problem. Good leaders—those possessing the sorts of qualities one needs to lead others in difficult times—are an endangered species. Yet we need good leaders now perhaps more than we ever have.

## **Real Leadership Desperately Needed**

No one with any comprehension of what is going on in the world will conclude that we are not living through dangerous times. Nations do fail. Even those

nations that, until very recently, were considered unshakable pillars of the current world order are generating concern.

Certainly, there is no shortage of men and women eager to wield as much power as their positions will give them. But true leadership is far more than a willingness to wield power. Power exercised without true leadership never makes things better in the long run—in fact, it always makes things worse.

Where did this leadership crisis come from? Why do our current leaders increasingly fall so short? What, if anything, can be done to reverse the problem? And what nightmares await if we fail to do so?

These questions need answers if our world is to survive its growing leadership crisis. And those answers are found in the prophecies and teachings recorded in the one book fewer and fewer candidates for leadership seem willing to consider: the Bible.

Let's take a few moments to weigh what Almighty God has revealed concerning the leadership crisis. If we are willing to do so, we will see that the ancient prophecies of Scripture not only reveal the nature of the crisis, but also why it will get worse—and why the only path forward is to change leadership's very foundations.

## Vanishing Competence

Our first prophetic stop will be the book of Isaiah, which records God's warning about the condition of leadership in the end times. Isaiah prophesies that God will remove "the mighty man and the man of war, the judge and the prophet, and the diviner and the elder; the captain of fifty and the honorable man, the counselor and the skillful artisan, and the expert enchanter" (Isaiah 3:2–3).

It's easy to dismiss this as irrelevant. No "diviner"? No "captain of fifty"? But don't make the mistake of dismissing God's word without making an effort to see what He is telling us.

# BORDER CRISES, ECONOMIC INSTABILITY, SOCIAL UPHEAVAL, DETERIORATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS... WE ARE NOT LIVING IN AN AGE OF INCREASING COMPETENCE IN OUR LEADERSHIP.

The Almighty warns here that He will remove *anyone of competence*. Each role in Isaiah's list involves a sphere of competence and skill. In fact, some are *forbidden*—diviners and enchanters (Leviticus 19:26; Malachi 3:5). God is saying that when a nation turns against Him, even its sinful and iniquitous experts will be removed, and the rebellious nation will lack any competent leaders whatsoever, whether righteous or wicked.

Isaiah's prophecies are aimed in a special way toward nations that have descended from the ancient tribes of Israel. As we discuss in detail in our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* (available from the Regional Offices listed on page 4, as well as online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org)), those are primarily the U.S. and the British-descended nations. And, if we're honest, we can see this prophecy increasingly reflected in the leadership of those nations.

Consider—are we seeing the seats of power in these nations filled with individuals of profound *competence* more and more, or less and less? No need to guess or get "political"—just look at the fruit: Border crises, economic instability, social upheaval, deterioration in inter-

national relations, COVID-related disruption of homes and workplaces. We are *not* living in an age of increasing competence in our leadership. After seeing American President Joe Biden bungle his nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan and shaking our heads over Liz Truss' minuscule 44-day term as the UK's Prime Minister, can we even imagine national leaders today carrying out operations on the scale of the 1945 D-Day invasion?

## Governed by Children

Further still, God explains, "I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (Isaiah 3:4). Yes, the young and immature are increasingly

growing in power and influence in Western nations—the most vital sectors of society being driven by the least experienced and most unwise among us—but the verse especially concerns the rule of those who are mature in age but immature in the worst and most damaging of ways.

Consider the adult qualities of reserve and self-control. Monitor the Twitter feed of candidates and politicians, and the odds are growing

that you will see "schoolyard" language, vulgarities, and petty insults—behavior once thought below those who possess the sort of self-respect and sense of personal dignity expected of serious leaders.

Former President Donald Trump famously used Twitter to routinely mock, insult, and demean those who disagreed with him and to call them names—even some who had made personal sacrifices to support him. Though such behavior was cheered on by many of his supporters—and is increasingly common among many politicians—can we honestly say that such behavior reflects well on the current state of leadership in the U.S.? His successor, President Joe Biden—as if not to be outdone—makes confused and confusing public statements that are *routinely* "walked back" by staff the following day, reminding us of the nervous mom or dad who must recast or explain away their child's uninformed and unregulated comments to friends and neighbors.

In the highest halls of power and authority, it increasingly seems as though mature, competent, self-regulating adults are no longer in charge.

### “Princes” as Wolves

The prophet Ezekiel also depicts our world’s end-time leadership in a way that observant Bible students will recognize among the modern descendants of Israel’s ancient tribes. He writes not just of political leadership, but also vital social spheres of influence, authority, and control—all descending into an end-time condition of corruption.

Look at Ezekiel 22:27. There, God speaks to the sinful descendants of modern Israel—again, the U.S. and Great Britain chief among them—and says, “Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain.” As the ravenous wolf sees smaller creatures around it as little more than sources of continued personal sustenance, God warns that as the latter days progress, the political leaders (“princes”) of the land will increasingly “prey” upon those they serve out of their own self-interests.

End-time leaders will take full advantage of what their privilege and access provides—even while those they govern and “serve” may suffer.

Surely, images of then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s “Partygate” gatherings during COVID-19 lockdowns when the “less privileged” were not allowed to meet in like manner are not yet too old to recall. The same is surely just as true of video footage of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi getting her hair done at a San Francisco hair salon when local regulations forbade such visits. The impression of a “rules for thee but not for me” attitude is hard to avoid.

This is true, too, in the financial arena. While regulations exist to prevent the political class of the U.S. from personally profiting from their “insider” knowledge of how future regulations will impact businesses, *Business Insider* investigated the trades of U.S. Congressional staff from January 2020 to September 2021 and found that at least 182 influential staffers ignored legal deadlines in reporting their stock trades as required by those regulations. As the *New York Post* reported in January 2022, “Some who were caught paid paltry fines as low as \$200, while others were not punished at all. There is no government system that catalogs who erred.”

The *Post* cites Walter Shaub, the former director of the United States Office of Government Ethics, who said of such unethical practices, “It’s not a political issue on the right-left spectrum, but a greed issue.”

### Lying “Prophets”

As we’ve said, a nation’s leadership is not restricted to its political offices. Consider the next verse in God’s revelation to Ezekiel: “Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD had not spoken” (v. 28). And while one might not see many “prophets” in positions of leadership in most modern countries, consider what the role of the prophet was. Among many things, it was to “speak truth to power” and to proclaim to the people the real truth, before God, even when the rulers of the people might be lying to them.

In our modern context, the major media should come to mind: the news anchors, reporters, and talking heads who fill our TV screens and write our newspapers. If they do come to mind, then only a little reflection is all it takes to see “untempered mortar” as their current stock in trade.

Mortar properly tempered holds the bricks or stones of a wall together, making it trustworthy and reliable. But *untempered* mortar only makes the wall *look* good—at least for a time. When the façade eventually crumbles and the stones crash down on anything or anyone who trusted in the wall’s steadiness, the “looks” of the wall are revealed as the lie they were all along.

Such a description fits modern media depressingly well. Over the years, agenda has increasingly trumped facts, until today when many major news sources no longer even *pretend* to provide an unbiased look at the news—and few expect them to do so anyway. Those on the political right or left run to the news sources they know will tailor the news to their liking and help them continue believing reality is just what they want it to be—even if the “reality” they get from their news is only a dangerous façade that one day may fall and crush them under its weight.

In Canada, it seemed to some that media outlets’ level of interest in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s attempted interference in the SNC-Lavalin prosecution could be measured by their bias for or against Mr. Trudeau himself. And then there’s the matter of Hunter Biden’s notorious laptop computer, which contained information potentially damaging to his



father's presidential campaign. Rather than pursue the laptop story, first published by the *New York Post*, much of the "mainstream media" quickly dismissed and suppressed coverage of the matter, calling it "irrelevant" and "Russian misinformation." Twitter blocked the *New York Post* over the story. Facebook used its algorithms to suppress it.

But the story was true. And post-election polling has suggested that *one in six* who voted for Mr. Biden in the election would not have voted for him had they known the laptop story was true.

In a half-hearted *mea culpa* published in April 2021—six months after the election—the *Washington Post* said that the truth of the Hunter Biden story was an "opportunity for a reckoning" about the "danger of suppressing accurate and relevant stories." But, of course, such "humble" calls for a reckoning came only after the outcome of the election went the way the editorial board preferred.

So, if we cannot trust our news sources for leadership, perhaps we might look to scientists to fulfill a sort of "speak truth to power" role. After all, their job is to study and reveal to the public facts about reality, even if those facts are inconvenient—not to support a preconceived social or political agenda.

Well, at least that *used* to be their job. Now, major science journals are beginning to openly declare that they will not publish any studies that don't support popular social narratives. The editors of *Nature*, one of the most prestigious and respected science journals in existence, have declared in their August issue of their sub-journal *Nature Human Behavior* that studies with results that could be seen as potentially disparaging to any "socially constructed or socially relevant human groupings" (for example, those who identify as "transgender") may be refused for publication.

So, gone are the days when scientists were those brave souls who followed the evidence wherever it led. Now, they will be servants of the social order, their journals painting a picture not of reality, but of what our "enlightened" social engineers want reality to be.

### "Priests" Who Ignore God

And God's reproach of the leadership crisis among the many modern nations descended from ancient

Israel does not remain in the secular realm. Earlier in Ezekiel 22, the Almighty singles out the priests of the people for special condemnation:

Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them (v. 26).

The "priests" of a people are to represent God to that people—His will, His desires, His law, His love, and His requirements. And the words of this prophecy castigate *any and all* who would represent God as a religious leader while failing at these things, noting that, in the end times, religious leaders would utterly turn their backs on distinguishing "between the holy and the unholy" and would not be teaching the people to differentiate "between the unclean and the clean."

Clergy who turn their backs on God are rampant today—for instance, in the growing number of major denominations who ordain LGBTQIA+ "ministers," blatantly defying Scripture as to matters of sexuality and the divine design of humanity and the family. And how many ministers are truly teaching their flocks to keep *all* the Sabbaths of God—both the weekly, seventh-day Sabbath and the annual Sabbaths? Today, one is hard-pressed to find clergy even willing to confront their congregations on sex outside of marriage—which is still sin, by the way.

In every way in which the world needs real leaders and in every arena in which their presence matters, those real leaders are increasingly hard to find.

Opportunists? Sure. Power-seekers? Absolutely. Master manipulators? Of course.

But real *leaders*? Not so much. With each day that goes by, God's prophetic condemnation of end-time leaders seems to apply more and more fully to the leaders we find around us.

### Can We Blame Them?

It is easy to blame *only* the leaders of modern civilization for the terrible qualities manifesting among them, but that would be unfair. They *are* to be

**THE LEADERSHIP CRISIS** CONTINUES ON PAGE 24



# NO BLACK BELT FOR ME

## Can any of us reach perfection on our own?

**M**y son and I study a Korean form of martial arts called Tang Soo Do. In most martial arts, the highest achievement is the black belt—the student begins with a white belt, and over the course of years moves up through the color levels until reaching black belt status. A couple of months ago, we had the privilege of attending a black belt ceremony where we watched some of our classmates receive their reward for years of practice and hard work. At this ceremony, an interesting lesson presented itself.

As we saw the students receive their new belts, we noticed that the belts were not truly black. Our instructor explained, “In traditional Korean martial arts, black means perfection. Therefore, when a student completes his training, he becomes ‘perfect’ in his knowledge of the art. But we know that we can never achieve perfection in our lives, so we must always continue to learn and journey towards perfection. So, from now on, midnight blue will be our highest rank.”

My son was a little disappointed to learn that we will never earn the traditional black belt. However, I appreciate the reminder that, as we live in the flesh, we will never achieve perfection—we can only journey toward it, with God’s help through His Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus Christ was the only one perfect in His physical lifetime; Peter wrote that He “committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth” (1 Peter 2:22).

### Growing Toward Perfection

Our society is driven by the desire to achieve perfection. We seek the perfect career, the perfect relationship, the perfect house, the perfect body, the perfect achievements. It seems that the pursuit of perfection in our lives is all-consuming.

Yet in one area, our society seems to be satisfied with *just good enough*—the pursuit of *moral* or *spiritual* perfection. In Matthew 19, we read the story of Christ counseling a young ruler who asks how he can achieve eternal life. Jesus first tells him to follow the commandments, then says he must

give up everything and follow Him—which the young man is unwilling to do. Later, in Matthew 22, Christ tells us that the two great commandments are to love God with our all and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Jesus Christ makes it crystal clear that spiritual perfection means being willing to obey God to the

**Jesus Christ makes it crystal clear that spiritual perfection means being willing to obey God to the point of losing everything we have.**

point of losing everything we have. Does that mean we will each be called upon to literally give up everything we own for Him? Most likely, we will not. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, He promises not to place on us a burden we cannot endure with His help: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the

temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

As all loving fathers do, our heavenly Father will teach, push, encourage, and if necessary, discipline us—to help us reach our full potential, not to destroy us. He knew from the beginning that we will never be perfect as carnal beings. That’s why He allowed His Son to be sacrificed to atone for our sins, and that’s why He gives believers the gift of the Holy Spirit—to help us continue growing toward perfection.

I’m thankful to know that, although there may be no “black belt” for me in this life, He will always be with me on my spiritual journey toward perfection. I’ll trade that black belt for an imperishable crown any day!

Learn more about how we can grow toward perfection in obedience to our God by requesting a free copy of *The Ten Commandments* or reading it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org). Also, be sure to enroll in the free *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* and begin your journey toward true biblical understanding.

—Lawrence Taylor

# Oh Canada!

## The Meeting Tree



**A majestic white oak is growing** beside a serene hiking trail within the Westminister Ponds nature conservation area in London, Ontario. The tree is about three metres in diameter and roughly the height of a ten-story building. It is one of the oldest trees in the city, estimated to be 675 years old—well past the normal lifespan for the species. As a tree, it is impressive and beautiful. But there is more to this tree than its physical appearance and age. In 2012, the province of Ontario and the city of London officially recognized it as a heritage tree, a designation that only two trees in London have obtained. This white oak, known simply as “the Meeting Tree,” has an important historical significance. It was one of about two dozen terminal stations within Canada for passengers travelling from the United States on the Underground Railroad.

From the early 1800s to 1865, the Underground Railroad helped thousands of enslaved African Americans in the U.S. escape to freedom. It wasn’t an actual physical railroad with trains and tracks, but rather an elaborate secret network of people offering shelter, transportation, and aid. British North America—now Canada—was the primary destination. Some 30,000–40,000 fugitive slaves travelled the arduous route, following the North Star (Polaris) to find freedom in Canada. Some would have experienced their first taste of legal freedom in London, Ontario, under the welcoming, sheltering branches of the Meeting Tree.

Those taking the Underground Railroad often saw their plight as analogous to the biblical Exodus account and viewed Canada as their Promised Land. Why did these fugitive slaves see Canada as such a favorable haven?

### Far Less Slavery in Canada

Economic conditions in Canada were unlike those in other regions of the Americas. Some 12 million enslaved Africans were brought to the Americas from the sixteenth through nineteenth centuries. Only a tiny fraction of such slaves—between 4,000 and 5,000—were taken to Canada. The Canadian economy did not require a vast labour force, and at the height of slavery, slaves within Montreal—Canada’s largest municipality at the time—made up less than 1 percent of the population (Tamara Extian-Babiuk, “Slave Ads of the Montreal Gazette 1785–1805,” *Library and Archives Canada*, February 2006, p. 7). In comparison, based upon census information, the percentage of slaves in the United States just prior to the Civil War was 13 percent—4 million slaves in a total population of 31 million—concentrated mainly in the southern states.

The climate and soil of the U.S. Southeast made it suitable for commercial agriculture, and slavery was a primary labour source for massive plantations, making it integral to the economy. Legislation protected owners’ rights to use slave labour. The Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850 imposed harsh penalties on escaped slaves in the U.S. and on those who aided them or interfered with their recapture. These laws gave U.S. slave owners the legal right to search for and capture escapees anywhere within the nation. With no place safe from capture, American fugitive slaves had to flee the country to find freedom. Furthermore, there were rumors of a changing legislative environment regarding slavery in Canada.

### Slavery Limited and Abolished

In 1793, the province of Upper Canada, under the leadership of Lord John Graves Simcoe, passed *An Act to*



*Prevent the further Introduction of Slaves and to limit the Term of Contracts for Servitude*, known less formally as the *Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada*—one of the first pieces of anti-slavery legislation within the British Empire. While the Act did not outright free any slaves, nor did it prevent the sale of slaves within the province or across the border into the United States, it did pave the way to emancipation. Enslaved persons in the province at the time of enactment remained the property of their owners for life or until their owners freed them—however, the children born to these slaves after the law came into effect were to be freed upon reaching 25 years of age. Former slave owners were required to provide security for freed slaves to ensure that they would not become a burden upon society. This part of the legislation encouraged slave owners to hire their former slaves as indentured servants under contractual arrangements regulated by the Act. Furthermore, the Act made it illegal to import slaves into Canada, which meant that any slaves brought—or fleeing—into Canada became free upon arrival and were outside the jurisdiction of the United States Fugitive Slave Laws.

In 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution became law, abolishing slavery—more than three decades after Canada had ended the practice. Slavery in Canada, and throughout most of the British Empire, ended with a piece of legislation entitled *An Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies; for promoting the*



The Meeting Tree

*Industry of the manumitted slaves; and for compensating the Persons hitherto entitled to Services of Such Slaves* (later known as the *Slavery Abolition Act*). This act of Britain's parliament received Royal Assent on August 28, 1833, and

came into effect on August 1, 1834. Under this legislation, all slaves below the age of six were freed. Those older than six years of age were required to compensate their former owners for the loss of future services by working as unpaid apprentices 40 hours a week for four years, receiving full emancipation on August 1, 1838. It was after this emancipation that the greatest number of U.S. slaves began "riding" the Underground Railroad into Canada, continuing until slavery in the U.S. ended in 1865.

### An End to the Curse

God created all people in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26) for an amazing purpose (1 John 3:2). The Apostle John made a simple, yet profound statement about God: *God is love* (1 John 4:8, 16). Because He is love, and because mankind bears His image and likeness, God's goodness and mercy extends to all people (Psalm 145:8-9). God condemns oppression and will punish those who practice it (Exodus 22:21-24).

While God did not abolish slavery when He delivered the people of ancient Israel from their hard bondage in Egypt, He did regulate the practice of it through the laws and statutes He gave the Israelites, which demanded that they acknowledge the inherent value and dignity of all human life. He intended for the Israelites to model and showcase His way of life, in which all human beings are valued and respected. Yet the Israelites turned away from God, failing to become that model nation.

Examples of oppressive slavery can be found throughout history in almost every empire, nation, or culture—and it still exists today. But the end of all oppressions and slavery is on the horizon. All nations—including the modern nations descended from ancient Israel—have turned away from God, just as their ancestors did. But He will break mankind's pride and arrogance, and we will return to Him. Then, in the Kingdom of God, under the perfect rulership of Jesus Christ and the resurrected saints, our world will become a model of righteousness—a true Promised Land (Ezekiel 39:25-29). At that time, "the Meeting Tree" will take on new meaning, for "everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4). For more information about this incredible time to come, request a free copy of *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* or read it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org).

—Gary Molnar





# A Uniquely Special Throne

By **John Meakin**

**H**ow remarkable that the last official duty of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, at her Scottish home of Balmoral Castle, was the appointment of her 15th Prime Minister, Liz Truss, following the resignation of Boris Johnson. The Queen at age 96 had seemed frail, but was still her usual bright, friendly self, and determined to carry on with her duties. Yet two days later, on Thursday afternoon, September 8, the suddenness of her death caused shockwaves across the nation and around the world. Well-laid plans for her funeral and the official transfer of powers to her son and heir, Charles, were immediately put into action. After a lifetime spent preparing for just this moment, Charles was now King, Head of State, head of the Church of England, and head of the Commonwealth.

Eleven days of mourning and detailed preparations culminated with the Queen's funeral on September 19—a dry, still, and sunny day, with large crowds assembled all along the funeral route to see the procession and to show their silent appreciation and respect for a much-loved monarch. After the funeral service in Westminster Abbey, a procession continued on foot around St. James' Park, along the Mall, and past Buckingham Palace before proceeding by car to Windsor Castle for her interment with other deceased members of her family. Many millions across the country and Commonwealth—indeed, a

worldwide audience—were able to share in the funeral proceedings through extensive media coverage.

One need only read a few of the many media outpourings about the Queen to conclude that she was a highly respected and special lady. How did this come about? Elizabeth became the heir apparent in 1936 at age ten, and her parents began a program to prepare her for that role. Her teenage years coincided with the hardships and privation of the war years, during which the steadfast and dutiful example of her father, King George VI, had a powerful and effective influence on her.

Anglican leaders taught the young princess about service, duty, example, and keeping her word. At the height of her coronation service, they explained, she would be appointed before God as Queen, consecrated by her oath to fulfil her responsibilities. All this built into Elizabeth a steely resolve to put her heart into faithfully serving her peoples as their Queen. In her 70 years of public office—the second-longest of any monarch—never did she deviate from the values she believed God had given her to follow, even as society around her inexorably changed.

We would all do well to remember some important statements she made during her reign. They reveal a person deeply and passionately committed to serving all those who looked to her as Queen. In addition to reviewing several reasons why so many viewed her as special, we will recognize something *exceedingly* special about the very throne that she occupied.

The Windsor dynasty in London is the leading royal house in the world today, yet the throne it occupies has surprising biblical roots with enormous prophetic implications for the years ahead. It is a throne destined to take on even greater worldwide significance because of a future occupant who will reign over the entire world!

### **Selfless Devotion to Duty**

The Queen was much-loved because of her *selfless devotion to duty*; she kept her word and fulfilled her early pledge and lifetime commitment to serve her subjects at home and abroad throughout her life. Clearly, her heart was in all she did. She believed it was what God wanted of her—and had prepared her to do. In a speech on her Coronation Day in 1953, she promised, “I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life, and with all my heart, I will strive to be worthy of your trust.”

During her first televised broadcast of 1957, she said, “I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.” For many alive today, she was the only monarch they had known—loved and appreciated as an essential, seemingly permanent backdrop to their lives. She gave us her heart, and in return, we gave her our love and loyal support. In death, that love is expressed as grief. As she herself said, “Grief is the price we pay for love.” Truly, it could be said of the Queen that “when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice” (Proverbs 29:2).

### **Enjoyment on the Job**

What was abundantly apparent to those around the Queen was that she thoroughly *enjoyed* her service as head of state, head of the Church of England, and head of the Commonwealth. She was unfailingly friendly, with a ready smile. She was modest, down-to-earth, and humble, with a refreshing, infectious sense of humour that could be seen in the James Bond skit she performed at the 2012 London Olympic Games—seeming to parachute into the stadium—and her famously sharing afternoon tea at Buckingham Palace with a virtual Paddington Bear in June 2022.

She loved meeting people, and seemed to be ideally suited by temperament, training, strong constitution, and good health for the arduous roles she fulfilled. She grew into her roles and carried them off with aplomb that garnered respect and high praise for all she did for her country and the Commonwealth. She personified the attitudes of tolerance and fairness across all peoples in the United Kingdom. She globalised the British monarchy by her use of broadcast media and personal visits to over 100 countries during her reign. Some would say that, at the peak of her fame, she was the most recognisable woman alive.

### **Building the Commonwealth**

At a time when the old British Empire was crumbling, the Queen began to nurture the Commonwealth from its initial seven countries into the family of 56 nations it has grown into today. The Queen was the essential glue that held the Union and the Commonwealth together for over 70 years—a formidable performance, by any standard.

Her understanding of leadership was simple, yet profound: “Over the years, I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal, and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm, and their inspiration, to work together” (“A speech by The Queen at the United Nations General Assembly, 2010,” *Royal.uk*, July 6, 2010). She embodied this same thinking and had a knack for bringing peoples together and unifying them.

### **Abiding Religious Faith**

The Queen was a woman of abiding *religious faith* who said that her faith in God was “the anchor of my life.” In a 2002 broadcast, she said, “I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad.”

She became at her coronation the head of the Church of England and thereby inherited a papal title first given to the English monarch Henry VIII: Defender of the Faith. But, in reality, she became the defender of all Britons, whatever their faith. Her religious belief was that of a wholehearted Anglican—an increasingly rare thing to find in a multicultural



and secularizing Britain. Yet she believed that her civic duty extended to all her subjects—regardless of whether they embraced other faiths or had none at all. The transformation of Britain into a multi-ethnic society that unfolded throughout her reign required patience and great skill to make everyone she met feel valued. This took considerable diplomatic ability, as well as tolerance that was almost universally appreciated.

Jonathan Sacks, the former Chief Rabbi of the UK, applauded the Queen as one of the great unifying forces of Britain today. Summing up his view of the Queen's contribution, he reflected, "Hers has been the quiet heroism of service, and in an age of self-obsession she has been a role model of duty, selflessly and graciously fulfilled" (*The Times*, May 31, 2012). The Queen's approach to life was refreshingly simple and straightforward: "Every day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."

### **Courage and Resilience Through Trials**

She faced trials and hardships with courage, resilience, and an indomitable spirit. Being Queen for so long was never going to be smooth sailing—but her trials and challenges were oftentimes very public, for the entire country to observe and take note of how she managed.

All families go through periods of crisis—and royalty is no exception. The Queen and her husband dealt with royal weddings, royal divorces, and royal deaths, perhaps most notably the untimely death of Princess Diana and the assassination of Lord Mountbatten. Windsor Castle, a family home, partially burned down in 1992, a year difficult enough to be dubbed her *annus horribilis* (Latin for "horrible year").

Because of the public offices she held, national and even international trials became her trials to comment on, and opportunities for her to provide hope and encouragement for a better tomorrow, as she did so memorably during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. She said, "We should take comfort that, while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will

be with our families again; we will meet again" ("The Queen's broadcast to the UK and Commonwealth," *Royal.uk*, April 5, 2020).

As she broadcast in 2008, "when life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future." Where did her inner strength and resilience come from? The answer in part came in her comments on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2019: "The wartime generation—my generation—is resilient."

But, more than that, what gave the Queen strength as she grew older was her family upbringing, her husband Philip, and *her relationship with God*, as she understood Him. Here is the way the Queen expressed it: "None of us can slow the passage of time and, while we often focus on all that has changed in the intervening years, much remains unchanged, including the gospel of Christ and his teachings" ("Queen says 'none of us can slow the passage of time' as Edward delivers her poignant message," *ITV.com*, November 16, 2021).

Ultimately, in life, the only enduring thing left for all of us is *our relationship with God*. Just as our Queen believed, the teachings of the Bible have not changed. All we have to do—the hard part—is apply them to our lives. Part of that gospel is this: "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17). The way out of all our national and personal problems is contained in the Gospel of Christ and His teachings. God will give us His strength if we ask for it and if we will live the way of life He wants us to follow.

### **The Biblical Throne of David**

Finally, what is the surprising *biblical aspect* to the Queen's throne? Those who study history carefully in the light of biblical prophecy will recognize that the throne of the British monarch can be traced back to the throne of the biblical King David. Because David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22), God established His covenant promise with David that his throne would be "*established forever*" (2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 89:3–4, 28–37), meaning that his lineage would never cease to be. In context, Psalm 89 is clearly describing both his lineage and its establishment in

**A UNIQUELY SPECIAL THRONE** CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

# WHY SATAN LOVES CHRISTMAS

## Could the most famous “Christian” day be one of the devil’s favorites?

Most people dismiss the commercialism, the pagan influence, and the impossibility of a December 25 birth, and take comfort in slogans such as “Put Christ back in Christmas.” But how many professing Christians would feel comfortable celebrating Christmas if they understood that you *cannot* “put Christ back in Christmas” because Christmas is *Satanic*?

This is no new understanding—but the churches of the world hide or ignore this truth. *The Catholic Encyclopedia* reveals that “Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. Irenaeus and Tertullian omit it from their lists of feasts” (“Christmas,” *NewAdvent.org*, accessed October 4, 2022). Christmas was even briefly outlawed in Massachusetts in 1659 and in England in the mid 1600s as being unbiblical.

Many understand that *before* Christmas was the Roman *Saturnalia*, upon which Christmas is founded. Tertullian, considered an early Catholic church father, wrote that during the Saturnalia, presents were exchanged and “every pomp of the devil is frequented” (“On Idolatry (Tertullian)”).

But the Saturnalia was simply an adaptation of something earlier—Persian *Mithraism*. In Mithraism, the mid-winter festivals began with worship of Zurvan, whose celebrations ended on December 24. The celebrations then transitioned to worship the *reborn* Zurvan as the *newborn* Mithras, *born on December 25*, who brought back the sun after the winter solstice (cf. M.J. Vermaseren, *Mithras, the Secret God*, 1963).

The Romans eagerly adopted Mithraism in the form of the Saturnalia. Saturnus, as he was known under the name popularized by the Roman world, was in fact the ancient Persian god Mithra, the reborn Zurvan. As the *Catholic Encyclopedia* records, Emperor Diocletian built a temple to Mithra in Carnuntum, and “the 25 December was observed as his birthday, the *natalis invicti*, the rebirth of the winter-sun” (“Mithraism”).

The pagan god Zurvan was depicted as a winged, part-human, part-lion figure. Thus, we see that Zurvan depicts angelic cherubim characteristics (2 Chronicles 3:13; Ezekiel 10:14). Further, Zurvan was typically accompanied by snakes wrapped around his

legs, arms, or body (Franz Cumont, *The Mysteries of Mithra*, 1903, p. 93). Scripture reveals that Satan is a fallen cherub (Ezekiel 28:14–16), and is associated with the snake (Genesis 3:1–14; Revelation 20:2).

A righteous angel will *not* permit himself to be worshipped (Revelation 19:10; 22:9). And Revelation 9:20 warns that idolaters are actually worshipping *demons*. Clearly, the cherub who demands his worship at the winter-solstice is no righteous angel. Whether calling himself Zurvan, Saturn, or another eponym, this deity is a proxy for none other than the fallen cherub called Satan.

### Christianity, Not Christmas

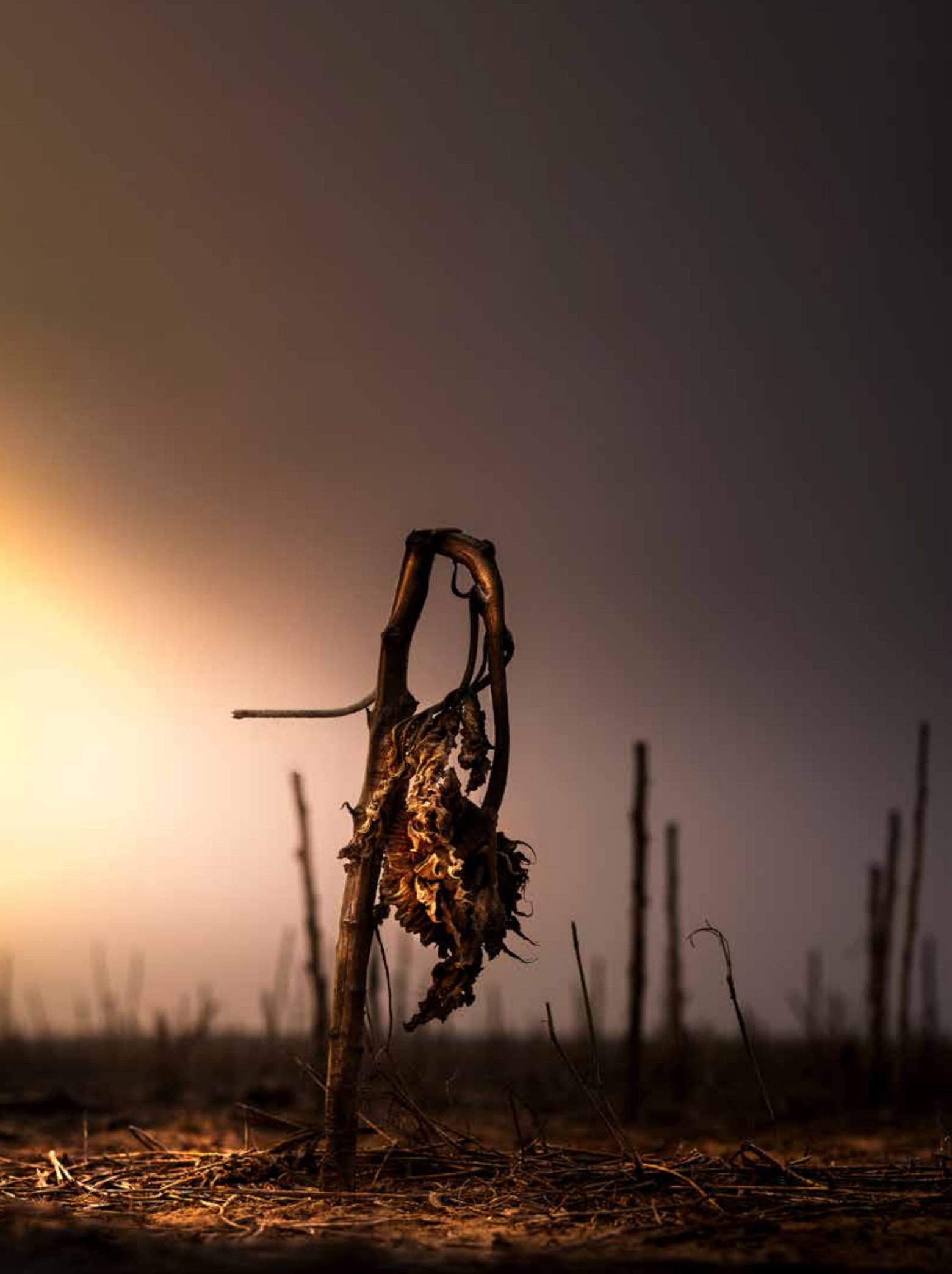
But even the Roman Saturnalia and Persian Mithraism were remnants of an *even earlier* mystery religion—the Babylonian mystery cult. The ancient Babylonians celebrated the reborn Nimrod as the newborn Tammuz by worshipping an evergreen tree—now the common Christmas tree. The Babylonians *also* celebrated this rebirth during the winter solstice. Jeremiah condemns ancient Israel for copying this terrible paganism, and even specifically mentions the decorated tree in Jeremiah 10.

Regardless of fond memories or whether “everyone does it,” a *true* Christian will reject Christmas—because Christ refuses to have any part in idolatry (2 Corinthians 6:15–16). Christ was *never* part of Christmas, and He will *not* be “put back” into it.

God commands us to reject heathen ways (Jeremiah 10:2), reveals that pagan celebrations are *abominations* to Him (Jeremiah 10:3–4; Ezekiel 8:13–14), and tells us *not* to change what was taught through Christ and the Apostles (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Understanding this truth, a *true* Christian will not even consider celebrating Christmas, realizing that these winter solstice celebrations are indeed Satan’s celebrations.

To learn more, watch the powerful *Tomorrow’s World* telecasts, “Christmas: The Missing Message” and “Insight into Christmas,” or read the insightful article “Should Christians Keep Christmas?” All of this can be easily accessed online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

—Wyatt Ciesielka



# What Is Happening to America?

By **Gerald E. Weston**

“Is God punishing the United States of America?” That is the question Sherwin Pomerantz recently asked in the *Jerusalem Post*. He continued, “I am certainly not one to dare assume to know what goes on in the mind of the God I believe in, and consider it a bit arrogant to go down that path. Nevertheless, at the risk of being labeled an old fool, it is a challenge for me to believe that the series of ‘plagues’ that have befallen the United States of America of late are not part of some heavenly master plan” (August 24, 2022).

American-born Pomerantz has lived in Israel for the last 38 years. What he sees in his homeland is a less-than-perfect country that has nevertheless served as a policeman to keep the world from self-destructing after World War II, and where most people have lived their lives in relative peace and prosperity. “However, 77 years after the end of the war, it all seems to be falling apart,” and he wonders, “Why? What happened?”

Pomerantz points to problems understood by most Americans—the intractable divide between the two major political parties, gun violence, homelessness, and catastrophic weather. Of course, the items he lists are only a few of the “plagues” affecting America today, but let us take a brief look at them.

## **Civil Strife Ahead?**

Not only is America divided politically, but the gap between “liberal” and “conservative” is widening with seemingly no common middle ground and no end. Social media and cable news networks stoke the flames of anger as both sides become ever more entrenched in their positions. As a result, one very troubling thought is that the United States could fall into another civil war. William Gale and Darrell West of the Brookings Institute raised this question in a September 16, 2021 report:

Is it really possible that America could face the possibility of civil war in the near future? It may seem unthinkable, and yet there’s much to worry about. A 2021 national survey by pollster John Zogby found a plurality of Americans (46%) believed a future civil war was likely, 43% felt it was unlikely, and 11% were not sure. War seemed more likely for younger people (53%) than older ones (31%), and for those residing in the South (49%) and Central/Great Lakes region (48%) relative to those in the East (39%) (“Is the US headed for another Civil War?,” *Brookings.edu*).

Opinions aside, it remains to be seen whether there will be civil unrest, some other form of disruptive civil disobedience, or an outright shooting war. And one must wonder how ready the country is to deal with any kind of serious unrest when police morale is dropping amidst a small but vocal anti-police movement in the nation. Violent crimes and gun violence are evidence of growing lawlessness and have risen sharply in the last few years. Through October 27, 2022, the United States had 562 mass shootings—so defined by four-or-more people having been injured or killed, not counting the shooter—putting the country on a path toward exceeding 650 mass shootings this year! This does not count the thousands injured or killed in shootings wherein there were fewer than four victims. The total number of people murdered by perpetrators of gun violence stood at 16,729, with another 19,800 cases of people turning a gun on themselves in suicide (*GunViolenceArchive.org*, October 27, 2022).

## **Driest in More Than a Thousand Years**

As though political division and gun violence were not bad enough, Pomerantz also wonders whether God is punishing America with catastrophic weather. There have always been natural disasters, but the exceptional drought in the American West has far-reaching

consequences for the country and for the world. Consider this sobering report:

Over 60 percent of the American West, Southwest, and Central Plains are considered under D3—severe droughts or higher. Seventeen states that account for nearly half of the nation’s \$364 billion in agricultural production are struggling with water shortages, including California... [which] is the largest agricultural state in the country producing 60 percent of all U.S.-grown fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts (“California droughts spur ‘Water for Farms’ video series,” *AGDaily.com*, September 7, 2022).

While some temporary relief came to the Southwestern U.S. in mid-September due to tropical storm Kay, the long-term effects of severe and exceptional drought conditions are causing western lakes to dry up, creating alarm on two fronts. Lake Mead and Lake Powell are, by volume, the two largest reservoirs in the United States. Together, they supply water and electric power to tens of millions in the U.S. Southwest, including the major metropolitan areas of Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, and Las Vegas. And water is critical to agriculture as well as for household needs. Note this concerning report from *CBS News*:

The American West is facing its *most severe drought in human history*. Research suggests conditions are drier now than they have been for *at least 1,200 years*, and, compounded by the effects of climate change, will likely persist for another decade.

Communities across the region are contending with the consequences of less water.... But mounting concerns about the mega-drought seemed to reach a peak in recent months, when its repercussions became startlingly clear at Lake Mead.

The reservoir, the country’s largest by volume, sank to record-low elevation levels this summer. Photos revealed cracked earth and barren canyons while satellite images showed the reservoir’s shrinking shorelines from space (“Lake Mead’s water level has

never been lower. Here’s what that means,” September 4, 2022, emphasis mine).

Less publicized is what is happening to Utah’s Great Salt Lake. Due to greater demands for human use, including agriculture, the amount of water flowing into it has been on the decline; add to this the extreme drought conditions of recent years, and the lake has dropped to its lowest level since records began in the mid-1800s. What many are not aware of is the economic impact of this unusual body of water. “Brine shrimp are harvested by the billions... [and] account for one-third of the world’s supply.” This “contributes \$57 million to Utah’s economy” (“Get To Know Great Salt Lake,” Utah Department of Natural Resources, accessed September 14, 2022). And brine shrimp are only a small part of the economic picture. Minerals and fertilizer are major Salt Lake industries, and evaporation from the lake supplies moisture for winter snowfalls that feed the lucrative winter recreation industry.

### What Is Happening to America?

Why is everything seemingly going wrong? Why would an observer in Israel ponder the question of whether God is punishing America? And when the country that has provided relative stability for more than 70 years has problems, what happens to the rest of the world?

It is easy to deceive ourselves into thinking that our scientific and technological progress has made us wiser than the “ignorant” people of the past. But that would be a mistake. Many leaders and historians are recognizing that something is going wrong in our world—that something very bad is on the horizon and that it is naïve to think that good times will continue because we are somehow wiser than previous generations. In 2018, American historian and foreign-policy commentator Robert Kagan reminded us of the fragility of the geopolitical balance in the world:

If the last century has taught us anything, it is that scientific and technological progress and the expansion of knowledge, while capable of improving our lives materially, have brought no lasting improvement in human behavior. Nor is history rightly viewed as a progressive upward march toward enlightenment.... When it comes to human behavior,



history is a jagged line [of enlightenment and darkness] with no discernible [upward] slope (*The Jungle Grows Back*, p. 5).

Kagan, like Pomerantz, sees ominous trends in America and the world—and Kagan’s reminder came *prior to* COVID-19 and its fallout: lockdowns, economic upheaval causing inflation and supply chain disruptions, and political divisions over masks and vaccine mandates. Since then, the world has also suffered from the war in Ukraine and saber-rattling between the U.S. and China.

But, unlike Kagan, Pomerantz suggests that more than the failure of leaders is to blame for the problem. He may risk “being labeled an old fool,” but a fool he is not! He has recognized something others fail to see—that the problems America faces at this time are the results of God’s displeasure due to our arrogant rejection of Him and His moral laws. These problems are hardly limited to America, but what happens in America has consequences for the world. Canadians often say, “When the United States sneezes, Canada catches cold.” And when America catches cold, it spells trouble for nations everywhere. Those who would cheer the downfall of America should carefully consider what they desire!

*Tomorrow’s World* looks at the big picture from the pages of the Bible. We understand that there is a cause for every effect (Proverbs 26:2). We recognize that ancient prophecies explain what is happening today to the U.S. and the British-descended peoples.

### The Biblical Identity of America

Most people, even theologians, assume that the terms *Israelite* and *Jew* are essentially interchangeable in modern context. Yet this is patently false, both biblically and historically. The biblical patriarch Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons—one was Judah, the father of the Jewish people. Centuries later, King Solomon took over the throne of the nation of Israel as ruler of all twelve of its tribes upon the death of his father, King David. But unlike David, Solomon fell away from God, and God took ten of the twelve Israelite tribes away to form a totally separate nation. From the time of Solomon’s son Rehoboam until now, the house of Israel (ten tribes) and the house of Judah (the Jewish people) have been separated. You can read of this breach in 1 Kings 12. You can also read of the many conflicts and

wars fought between the two separate nations in the biblical books of Kings and Chronicles.

The northern ten tribes of the house of Israel went into Assyrian captivity around 720 BC, and the house of Judah went into Chaldean captivity around 590 BC. However, some of the Jews returned to their homeland 70 years later and remained in the area that today we think of as the small nation of Israel. Jesus would later descend from the line of David, some of whose descendants were among these returning Jews.

In 135 AD, the Jews were removed from their homeland and did not form a nation there again until 1948. But at no time in their history, from their initial separation until now, have these two nations been united as a single nation. That not only is a historical fact, but is also corroborated by Scripture. These nations are prophesied to be reunited, but not until after the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the age. You can read of this in Ezekiel 37:15–28, where it is evident from context that this reunification is still in the future.

I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them (Ezekiel 37:22–24).

We also read in the first book of the Bible the future of all twelve tribes of Israel at the end of the age. Notice what God predicted through the patriarch Israel for his children: “And Jacob called his sons and said, ‘Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you *in the last days*: Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father’” (Genesis 49:1–2).

God then prophesied through Israel what would become of each of his twelve sons at the end of the age. Several are described with just one sentence

each, but five verses are devoted to Judah (the Jewish people), focusing on the promises of rulership. Then there is a lengthy section devoted to Joseph—the son whose descendant Jeroboam (1 Kings 11:26; Genesis 48:3–6) led the northern ten tribes in rebellion against Judah to form a separate nation.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers (Genesis 49:22–26).

### The Birthright and the Ruler


Why such emphasis on these two brothers, Judah and Joseph? The answer is partially found in 1 Chronicles 5:1–2: “Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph’s.” The kingly line that culminates in Jesus Christ would come from the Jews, but the birthright—the promise of incredible national wealth and power—would come through a different brother: Joseph and his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

People today know who the Jews are descended from, but what about the descendants of Joseph? And what does this have to do with whether God is punishing the United States of America? Everything!

God told the Israelites that if they looked to Him, kept His Sabbaths, and obeyed His other commandments as well, He would give them “rain in its season” (Leviticus 26:4), there would be no scarcity of food, they would dwell in a peaceful land, and their enemies would fall before them. He sums up these wonderful promises: “I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people” (Leviticus 26:1–13). But God also tells us the inevitable results of rejecting him:

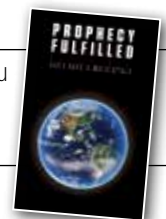
But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. And... I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze (Leviticus 26:14–19).

Sherwin Pomerantz is no fool. Even if he does not fully understand who Americans are descended from, he is onto something when he muses that “it is a challenge for me to believe that the series of ‘plagues’ that have befallen the United States of America of late are not part of some heavenly master plan.” The Americans and the British-descended peoples do not know who their ancestors are, why God has blessed them above all peoples on the face of the earth, or why God is removing those blessings. Sadly, instead of giving God the credit for these blessings, we have arrogantly taken credit for them ourselves.

Soon, we will decline to such a degree that we will cease to be a superpower, and we will be taken captive by our enemies. Only then will we learn that God will not be mocked! 

MAY WE  
SUGGEST?

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Did the archangel Michael become Jesus Christ?

**Question:** My friend's pastor says the archangel Michael is the same spirit personality as Jesus Christ. Does the Bible actually say anything about Michael and Jesus being one and the same?

**Answer:** Some believe that Jude 9 is evidence that Jesus Christ and the archangel Michael are the same being. Their reasoning is that the term “archangel,” from the Greek *archangelos*, is singular, and so must refer to the existence of *one* supreme archangel. They then connect this verse to 1 Thessalonians 4:16—the only other New Testament use of the word—which states, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.”

The assumption—an incorrect one—is that the returning Christ must therefore be the same spirit personality as the archangel Michael.

Of course, to describe an archangel as descending “with the voice of an archangel” makes about as much sense as describing a human male singing “with the voice of a man.” It is far more rational for Paul to be referring to *three different sounds*—Christ returning with a triumphant shout, the voice of an archangel heralding His arrival, and the trumpet of God calling mankind to attention. This is how we can best understand Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

### His Angels

Another mistaken argument assumes that since Revelation 12:7 describes Michael and an army of “his angels” battling Satan “the dragon,” Michael must be the unique head of that army and must therefore be the same personality as Jesus Christ, whom Scripture elsewhere describes as the commander of powerful angels (Matthew 13:41).

This, too, is a faulty assumption. Every army has ranks and squadrons, such that a sergeant and a general may both call a group of soldiers “my men.” Michael having “his angels” does *not* preclude Michael himself being an angel under Jesus Christ. Consider, too, the context of Michael's war. Scripture describes Michael as fighting against the dragon and *his* angels. Obviously, though Satan has “his angels,” he is not Je-

sus Christ—and it is the same with Michael. Satan was once a ruler of angels, one who was perfect in his ways (Ezekiel 28:14–16). His existence as the luminous

**Scripture makes it clear that no angel is any more than a servant. Angels are not to be worshipped and are limited in their office.**

“Lucifer,” or “day star”—*star* being yet another term for *angel* and *messenger* in Hebrew—placed him in no less a position than that of a mighty *archangel* or “covering cherub.”

Scripture makes it clear that no angel is any more than a servant. Angels are not to be worshipped (Colossians 2:18; Revelation 22:8–9) and are limited in their office. Were Michael and Christ the same being, we would not see the vastly different ways in which they dealt with Satan. Note that Michael did not rebuke Satan in Jude 9—in sharp contrast to Christ's *stinging* rebuke to Satan in Luke 4:8.

Note also that Jude mentions Jesus Christ directly in verses 1, 4, 17, and 21 of his epistle. In no way does he connect his mention of Michael in verse 9 with any reference to Jesus Christ. He treats them as two distinct beings—which, indeed, they are.

### That Rock Was Christ

So, where was Jesus Christ before He came to the earth as a human? Scripture explains that the Word—the *Logos*—was God, and was *with* God the Father from eternity (John 1:1). The Word was not a created angel. Indeed, it was the Word—not God the Father—with whom the ancient Israelites interacted, “for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:4). Jesus Christ told His fellow Jews very directly that they had never known God the Father—only He Himself had known Him, and it was He who revealed the Father to them (John 1:18; 17:25).

No mere created angel could be a fit sacrifice for the sins of mankind; only the divine, eternal *Logos*, the perfect Son of God made fully flesh, could fill that role—and that divine Being had always existed, having no creator. Scripture clearly reveals that Michael the archangel is a *created* being who serves under Christ. TW



Replica of the Stone of Scone at Scone Palace in Perthshire, Scotland

every generation. God compares the likelihood of this covenant failing with the cessation of the natural order of days and nights that He appointed—something that has never, ever happened (Jeremiah 33:17–22). The Scriptures show that, ultimately, “forever” can only indicate Jesus Christ. The returning Christ is prophesied to occupy the throne of David and reign over the entire earth (Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:32–33; Acts 2:29–30).

What this means is that in every generation, from King David’s to this day, there have been descendants of David’s bloodline available to reign on the Davidic throne. That lineage would never cease, die out, or be cut off. Importantly, this shows that Jesus the Messiah could only inherit David’s throne if He was literally born of David’s lineage. The two biblical genealogies of Christ clearly show this to be the case: His “legal” descent goes back to David via Solomon (Matthew 1:6), while His blood lineage via his mother goes back to David through Nathan, another of David’s sons (Luke 3:31).


So, what do we know about David’s lineage? Do we see any evidence that it exists today? Look no further than the throne currently established in London! It reliably dates back to Edward I in 1296 AD, dates before that to the Scottish lineage of kings, and then stretches back into the mists of time to the kings of Ireland. Importantly, all these monarchs



The Stone of Scone in the Coronation Chair at Westminster Abbey

were said to be crowned over a stone that today is called the Stone of Destiny or Stone of Scone, also referred to as Jacob’s pillar stone.

All this should cause us to even more strongly value and respect this ancient and exceedingly special throne, which has survived and prospered under our special Queen’s 70-year tenure. It may yet seem to fail in its British manifestation—it has seemed to fail several times already throughout its long and eventful history. But God will always honour His covenant promise and the Davidic dynasty will always prevail in some form. And when the glorified Jesus Christ comes to the earth to establish God’s Kingdom over all of it, He will occupy that glorious throne forevermore—a throne that God promised to preserve in every generation throughout history.

If you would like to know more—and there is so much more to relate—request our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* from our regional office nearest you, or read it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org). It may just cause you to radically alter your perspective on life and what is prophesied to happen in the years ahead. 

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

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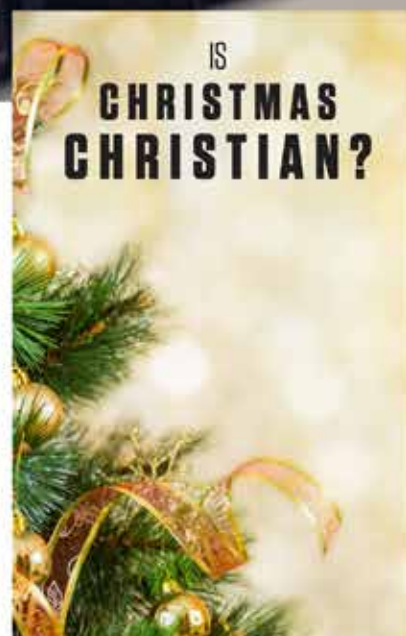
# Is Christmas Christian?

## How does God want us to worship Him?

- Has Jesus ever been “the reason for the season”?
- When was He really born?
- Does He even want us to celebrate His birth?



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blamed, to be sure, yet leaders in the West rise and fall on their ability to appeal to their constituents, customers, or consumers. Politicians attain their offices by appealing to enough voters. Media figures gain prominence by resonating with enough audience members. Influencers and celebrities are provided platforms by feeding fans what tastes good to them.

While many on both the political right and the political left cry aloud that we are living through the demise of democracy, they refuse to acknowledge how democracy has contributed to bringing us to this point. And while finger-pointing has become the most predictable reaction to complaint and criticism, each side continues to exploit the worst of what democracy enables to achieve its ends.

For all the complaints some make about former President Trump's crass style and rude demeanor, many of his supporters were looking for exactly that—and he fulfilled their expectations. And while others complain that President Biden seems to act as an “empty suit,” he has many supporters who are grateful that he provides a face for the power brokers working behind him to achieve their policy goals. These are what so many people voted for.

*Polarized* voters and donors are *motivated* voters and donors. Therefore, increased polarization is the rule of the day. A demonized and dehumanized opponent is far easier to attack and degrade—and thus defeat. Therefore, politicians naturally choose to demonize and dehumanize their opponents.

The stories of ancient Israel and Judah were often of people following their leaders—good kings influenced their people to be good, and bad kings shifted their people toward wickedness. Today, through the “magic” of the popular vote, the influence goes both ways. Leaders still influence their people, but the people select the leaders they want. It is a vicious cycle that promises a terrible conclusion. “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land.... And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?” (Jeremiah 5:30–31).

We should recognize that while we can point our fingers at a leadership crisis, to a great extent those fingers point back at us—as it is a crisis of our own creation.

## Where Will It All End?

Around our world today, we can see how easily a charismatic leader can cut his own keys to power, morally compromising in whatever ways he feels are necessary and feeding his public whatever it most wants to eat. On the right and on the left, authoritarian leadership is becoming more and more common in modern global politics.

And biblical prophecy reveals that the time is soon coming when such an authoritarian leader will rise in Europe—not just to take power in one European nation, but to lead a continental superpower when he convinces ten other leaders to empower him to become a despot the likes of which the world has never seen before. With the power and authority these ten “kings” share with this prophesied tyrannical “beast” (Revelation 17:12–13), the old lines of leadership will be redrawn.

The U.S. and Great Britain will collapse under this beast's crushing heel, and—in conjunction with a miracle-working false prophet—he will bring persecution on anyone unwilling to embrace the counterfeit “Christianity” his European empire will militantly proclaim (Revelation 13). Though many will grow rich under the political and economic gains this militaristic empire will bring, its leadership will ultimately bring warfare, destruction, and calamity that would bring a violent end to literally all life on the planet (Matthew 24:22).

But before that end can come, a *real* leader will arise—or, more accurately, will descend! The returning Jesus Christ will descend from heaven—heralded by the angels of God and accompanied by His saints, those who lived and died as His faithful followers in this present age. He will “cut short” those coming days of destruction.

The Lord—the King of kings, the Leader above all other leaders—will then take rightful possession of the kingdoms of the earth (Revelation 11:15), leading with righteousness, truth, love, and power. Seeing Him on His throne and prospering under His rule, the people of planet Earth will come to recognize Him as the true leader they have needed all along. And the leadership crisis will have passed—for good. TW

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

***The Beast of Revelation*** The increasingly tumultuous conditions in the world today are enabling the rise of the infamous beast of Revelation! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **[TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org)**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



# THINKING **BIBLICALLY** ABOUT ENTERTAINMENT

## We all need to relax our brains sometimes—but can we afford to turn them off?

One of the most important principles that anyone aspiring to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ can apply is to *think biblically* about any given topic—to keep our brains turned on and “tuned in” to what the Bible has to say. And one very important area of life where this principle can be applied is our *entertainment*.

In today’s world, this can be a special challenge, since entertainment is usually designed to help us *stop* thinking. When I consider some of the entertainment I enjoy, I know that part of the reason I enjoy it is because it’s not mentally taxing—I can transport myself to a happy, fictional place where superheroes defeat villains and good triumphs over evil.

Sometimes, wrong messages in movies or other entertainment are so blatant that they immediately trigger our mental filters. But what about entertainment that we *like*, of which we are not as prone to be critical? For example, *Star Wars* is my favorite film franchise—but can I just mindlessly take it in?

### Use the Bible to Filter the World

There were a few points I realized I needed to filter out of my mindset after being raised on *Star Wars*. First, it sugarcoats war. Most PG or PG-13 movies do this—characters just scream and fall over when they die, and good guys can mow down legions of bad guys, rarely getting hurt themselves. As a result, I grew up thinking that even though war sounded bad, it was probably something I could survive. I was thankfully able to grow out of that mindset as I got a better idea of what war is really like. Needless to say, God never sugarcoats war, and He is looking forward to doing away with it entirely (Matthew 5:9; Isaiah 2:2–4).

Secondly, *Star Wars* usually makes its bad guys faceless; stormtroopers are just evil and deserve to be shot for their crimes against the galaxy, neither giving nor receiving mercy. But when we apply that thinking to real human beings, it takes us to examples in history like the Holocaust and other instances of genocide. We have to keep in mind that *every* human being is created in God’s image and that God’s master plan includes resurrection for

*all* who have died. When God resurrects Nazis (see Matthew 12:41), do we think He’ll just have them gunned back down? Or will we encourage them to repent of their evil deeds? Some Nazi soldiers were *literally called stormtroopers*—yet, despite all their evil in this age, they were still human beings made in God’s image who will, in the resurrection, finally be open to Christ’s message and have their opportunity to repent.

Also, consider that in *Star Wars*, the rebels are the good guys. In the Bible, rebels are not the good guys—they include Korah, Absalom, Nimrod, and Sa-

**In the Bible, rebels are not the good guys—they include Korah, Absalom, Nimrod, and Satan himself. Many biblical references to rebel, rebels, rebellion, and rebellious refer to the ancient Israelites’ attitudes and actions against God and His ways!**

tan himself. The vast majority of biblical references to *rebel, rebels, rebellion, and rebellious* refer to the ancient Israelites’ attitudes and actions against God and His ways! Though we must sometimes disobey men because of our greater responsibility to God (Acts 5:29), it’s clear that we should be trying to obey humanly constituted government as much as possible. David the son of Jesse is a great example to us—he had every reason to rebel against King Saul, but he waited for God to handle the situation. The Bible tells us to try as hard as possible to be obedient, while *Star Wars* celebrates the mindset of rebellion.

And, for all that, I still like *Star Wars*, along with the Marvel Cinematic Universe and other franchises. But I

try to remind myself never to neglect a biblical mindset. We must make sure we use the Bible to filter the world and its entertainment, or the world will quickly start to influence us more than the Bible does. Don’t let the world slip in subtle messages through movies and other entertainment—*keep your brain turned on.*

—Mark Sandor



# If Not You, Then Who?

**M**any centuries ago, when the Jews were captives in Babylon under the Persian King Ahasuerus, a man named Mordecai took his uncle's orphaned daughter Esther into his home. Mordecai was a kind and thoughtful man, and he raised Esther as his own daughter. She grew to be a beautiful young woman who, through a remarkable series of events, was brought before the king.

When young Esther stood before King Ahasuerus, he reigned over 120 provinces, from India to Ethiopia. As a humble Jewish woman who had almost certainly never considered that she might one day be the Persian king's potential bride, she may not have even wanted to be there—yet she won his heart. “The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king” (Esther 2:17-18).

But her story almost came to a tragic end. The day came when a man named Haman, an evil adviser to King Ahasuerus, convinced the king to cause all the Jews that lived anywhere throughout his kingdom to be killed. Esther was forced to confront an impossible choice. Should she say nothing, hide her own identity as a Jew, and make no effort to stop the murder of her people? Or should she approach the king without an invitation—which, according to the law, could result in her own death? Mordecai gave Esther advice that stands as a challenge to us today: “Do not think in

your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13-14).

In other words, he was asking Esther, *If you don't act, who will? God will call upon someone, but it is you who are in the best position to save your people.*

## Crossroads of Conscience

As we learn the difference between right and wrong, we begin to feel the effect of that knowledge. And the day may come when someone does something blatantly wrong right in front of us—something that is not only contrary to one of God's commandments, but also an action that hurts someone else. If my friend Bill steals from my friend Tim's wallet, there is an impact—an injury. And I'm faced with a crisis of conscience. Will I let Tim know and try to make the situation right? If I don't, who will? At some point, the truth will come out. But if I don't step up and say something, I've struck a blow to my character. That's the message of James 4:17: “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

On April 30, 2019, students at UNC Charlotte were completing their last day of spring semester classes when a gunman opened fire in a classroom. Four students were wounded and two died. But what stands out about this tragic episode is that it could have been much more tragic, but for the courageous action of 21-year-old Riley Howell, who tackled the shooter, giv-

ing the police the opportunity to apprehend and arrest him. Riley died from gunshot wounds, but many more lives were saved.

Don't mistake what I'm saying; we shouldn't go *looking for* an opportunity to face death, and Christians should not become involved in political protests or similar attempts to change this world, which only Christ can truly fix (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20). But our actions—or inaction—will affect others. Doing the right thing might mean standing up to defend someone whose name is being slandered, or perhaps sacrificing some of our time to help a neighbor in need. But it often boils down to the same principle—if not you, then who? Who will speak up and stop the rumor? Who will take the time to lend a helping hand?

### The Bystander Effect

Sometimes our choices are private, and no one else will know what we did or didn't do. But not always. Researchers have identified what they call the “bystander effect,” which can deter people from having the courage to do what needs to be done. In 1964, a young woman named Kitty Genovese was murdered outside her apartment building in Queens, New York. The *New York Times* reported that 38 witnesses saw or heard her being murdered, but none came to her assistance or even called the police. Though the newspaper article was later found to be incorrect on both the number and the actions of those who were aware, the horrifying story demonstrated that most people will not find the

courage to step up to help when they believe *others* are involved or aware of the problem.

Author Catherine A. Sanderson, in her 2020 book *Why We Act*, describes one famous study of this phenomenon. “John Darley of New York University and Bibb Latané of Columbia University created a realistic emergency in an experimental setting so that they could assess how the presence of other people would influence participants’ responses” (pp. 26–27). They found that 85 percent attempted to help a fellow participant struggling with a seizure when they thought that only they could help. Yet only 31 percent offered help when they thought others were aware of the seizure and the need for help. This “bystander effect” or “social loafing” tends to exist with children as well as adults, according to Sanderson’s description of studies on this topic.

We see an example of this in the Bible when we read the account of Goliath. Goliath was an intimidating warrior, “and all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid” (1 Samuel 17:24). What makes David’s actions so heroic is that he rose above the “bystander effect.” David recognized the personal danger Goliath posed, but still stepped up to meet the challenge. If he hadn’t, who would have?

### Why Not You?

We all face moments when we must summon the courage to do what we know needs to be done. Perhaps our employer finds out that we meant it when we said in our interview that we wouldn’t work on the Sabbath. Who will be an example of a God-fearing person? Sure, God could bring someone else along, but what about you? Will you be that example?

This is the challenge that Queen Esther faced. Mordecai said, “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:13–14).

God can and will provide other means to accomplish His purpose if you do not step up. But why not you?

—Jonathan McNair





## Haiti in Chaos

The Caribbean island nation of Haiti suffered another round of chaos as the government threatened to cease fuel subsidies in the midst of soaring fuel prices earlier this year (*New York Times*, September 21, 2022). This is just the latest turmoil to rock a nation where poverty is rampant and stable government has been lacking for decades. One opposition leader called on crowds to close down local banks, and a well-known gang leader publicly exhorted people to depose the sitting prime minister and “overturn” the system.

Haitian customs officials have cracked down on illegal drug and weapon imports and have increased taxation on legally imported goods. While this has increased tax revenue, it has also angered those who run drugs and guns, as well as Haitian businessmen who rely on revenue from duty-free imports. The prime minister has made enemies of powerful individuals. While inflation in Haiti, overall, is hovering at 30 percent, “the cost of imported rice rose by 40%, cooking oil by 88% and wheat flour by 68%, leaving nearly half of the population facing severe hunger” (*MSN*, September 21, 2022).

Haiti is a nation used to suffering. But the current rate of inflation in a nation reliant on imports is too much for the average citizen to bear. Haiti is a microcosm of what much of the world may look like in the years ahead, as famine and

inflation continue to increase and governments lose control. The situation in Haiti reveals why Jesus Christ must come to establish a just and perfect government.

## North Korea Approves Preemptive Nuclear Strikes

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed his nation will never abandon nuclear weapons (*Wall Street Journal*, September 9, 2022). His comments accompanied new North Korean legislation authorizing a nuclear strike “if an imminent attack against the country’s strategic targets, including its leadership, is detected” and allowing for the future use of automated systems to launch such strikes. U.S. and South Korean officials verified that North Korea has resumed nuclear testing for the first time since 2017. Although leadership in the U.S. and South Korea has offered to meet with North Korea at any time to open dialogue, North Korea appears uninterested.

With the new law in place, Kim Jong Un announced that his nation will now forever remain “a nuclear-armed state,” regardless of international pressure (*European Conservative*, September 13, 2022). However, experts fear that a small “misstep” could result in a nuclear conflict with repercussions far beyond North Korea.

Words from high-level world leaders continually

increase in aggression as nations appear to stir up other nations. Jesus Christ warned that nations would be capable of causing great devastation at the end of the age (Revelation 9:18), and the second of the Four Horsemen depicts a coming level of warfare unlike any mankind has ever seen (Revelation 6:4).

## Water Crisis in the Middle East

The area of the Fertile Crescent and “the cradle of civilization,” known for its rich crops and orchards, is drying up (*The Guardian*, September 7, 2022). The Fertile Crescent runs from the Holy Land, along the Mediterranean Sea, and eastward along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. As one resident of the area noted, the “green land has been transformed into a barren desert.” Some say the water levels in the great rivers have dropped by 50 percent.

In addition to reduced rainfall and poor water man-

agement in Iraq, upstream neighbors Turkey and Iran are using up water before it even reaches Iraq. One researcher speculates that “precipitation in Iraq will decrease by 15–20% this century, reducing the water in the Tigris and Euphrates by up to 73%, with grave implications for groundwater levels.” Farms are drying up and water-use policies are not changing to protect the scant resource. As water levels drop, they are also revealing archaeological sites that have been submersed for decades (*AI-Monitor.com*, August 27, 2022).

News of a drying Euphrates should remind students of biblical prophecy that, upon Jesus’ return, an angel will completely dry up the river, allowing a great army from the east to pass over it and gather with others at the place called “Armageddon” (Revelation 16:12, 16)—before soldiers descend upon Jerusalem and try to fight the returning Christ.







## “End of Abundance” in France

With global recession, global inflation, and energy woes facing Europe, the comfortable life enjoyed by so many for so long appears to be drawing to a close in France (*France 24*, August 24, 2022). Speaking at a recent cabinet meeting, French President Emmanuel Macron soberly announced, “I believe that we are in the process of living through a tipping point or great upheaval. Firstly because we are living through... what could seem like the end of abundance.”

In Europe, wildfires, growing inflation, and the shut-off of the Nord Stream gas pipeline from Russia have contributed to a sense that the comfortable life so many have enjoyed is starting to fade away. France, however—with its high dependence on nuclear and hydro power—may fare better than European nations that rely on natural gas or coal from Russia for winter heating. Not only does much of Europe depend on Russia for natural gas—Europe also depends on Russia for 45 percent of its coal.

Biblical prophecies reveal that Israelite-descended nations—including France—will suffer greatly at the end of the age, because they have turned away from God and will reap the consequences of their sins (Hosea 8:7–8, 12–14). These consequences will include the loss of homes and fields, as cities become deserted and land returns to the wild (Isaiah 32:13–14). President Macron’s comments are sobering, but they also echo the ancient prophecies of Scripture. Although the immediate future will be bleak, a better world is coming!

## Global Recession Worsening

Higher prices and slowing global economic growth have caused business activity to fall in Japan, Europe, and the United States, according to the *Wall Street Journal* (August 23, 2022). The U.S. economy contracted for two consecutive quarters—technically signaling recession—and private sector activity in both Japan and Australia has also fallen. European business activity has also declined.

Global manufacturing fell earlier this year for three months in a row, and the global surplus in inventory suggests manufacturing will not resume in earnest anytime soon. Purchasing Managers’ Index numbers in Germany and France are at their lowest levels since the first quarter of the pandemic. The immediate future shows no signs of a real turnaround, according to the *Wall Street Journal*: “Economists at Barclays expect the eurozone economy to grow this quarter and then contract in the final three months of this year and the first quarter of 2023.”

End-time biblical prophecy indicates that global finances may come to dire straits before a German-led economic powerhouse rises in Europe and leads the globe to a temporary time of economic prosperity (see Revelation 18). That “peace and prosperity” will then transform into worldwide conflict. The current and growing global recession could help set the stage for a global trade system introduced by the coming European “beast.” It is important to watch world events and follow biblical prophecy so that we are not caught unaware.

## EU Bolsters Pacific Presence

Until recently, Europe has avoided high levels of involvement in the Pacific. However, with China’s efforts to control more islands in the South China Sea and its threats regarding Hong Kong, Europe is prepar-

ing to act in the region (*The Guardian*, May 17, 2022). Earlier this year, an agreement was reached to allow European nations to coordinate defense spending across several nations (*Politico*, May 17, 2022). For the first time, Germany sent a contingent to participate in Australia’s biennial international air force exercise. Germany’s Air Force Chief explained its motivation for putting fighter jets in the South Pacific in 24 hours from leaving their base in Germany, “We want to demonstrate that we can be in Asia within a day” (*The Diplomat*, August 19, 2022). This not only enables Germany to project its power into the Asia-Pacific region, but also suggests it could act as a “security guarantor” for the region.

Many analysts have noted that the balance of power in the Pacific is changing, and part of this change involves a greater European presence. Germany’s involvement is important to watch. As China flexes its political and military muscles in the region, other nations in the world are getting involved, as well, to counter that influence—tensions that can tie into end-time biblical prophecies. The Bible warns of an end-of-the-age conflict in which a future European “beast” power is alarmed by news concerning activity in the east (Daniel 11:40–45). We may be witnessing the start of a geopolitical struggle that will erupt in the years ahead between these western and eastern powers. [TW]

# LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I have watched your program on Sunday for some time, and I have received your literature. Thank you very much for that. I have begun attending your church in Joplin.

—Subscriber in Missouri

**Editor's Note:** *That is wonderful to hear! For any of our readers who are interested in attending a congregation of the Living Church of God, information can be found by contacting one of our Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine or by visiting [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org) and clicking on "Meet the Church Behind TW" near the bottom of the home page.*

I am a regular reader of your magazine, and I can assure you that I have learned a lot about what is happening in the world today. The things that I read in the Bible and did not understand, you have opened my eyes to understanding.

—Subscriber in Jamaica

Thank you for the free DVD "The Truth About the Transgender Movement." It is OUTSTANDING! It has interesting facts, is beautifully produced, and—as always—is presented in a gentle and respectful manner. What a great DVD! Thanks for sharing this important information with me!

—Subscriber in Wisconsin

I so much want to thank you for your magazine! Your excellent articles resonate in my own heart and soul! Long may you keep up your good work! God bless you all!

—Subscriber in the United Kingdom

I'm living in Johannesburg, South Africa. My wife receives the *Tomorrow's World* magazines. I'm happily reading them, and I am richly blessed by the subjects developed by the writers.

—Subscriber in South Africa

I would like to thank you, Mr. Weston, for the very best article I have ever seen in your magazine or any other publication. And I have been around for over 88 years. I am referring to "Sliding Towards Sodom" [the cover article of the September 2022 issue]. There are times in a person's life when we are blessed with a great burst of talent, and I believe this was one of yours. God bless you and keep you.

—Subscriber in Vernon, British Columbia

I just wanted to thank you all for the information you give out on the Holy Bible. It is refreshing to hear the truth of what's going on in the world today. You are such an inspiration to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, as well as the hope for a better future. I know *Tomorrow's World* will continue for years to come and I look forward to each issue.

—Subscriber in New Mexico

I just came across you on the TV. I went to your site and love it. I find your writers so excellent at describing everything so articulately. It makes reading the long articles very enjoyable and I can't stop reading it—I want to finish it all in one reading! Thank you so much for adding the modern-day connection to it. I love also seeing what is happening around the world.

—Subscriber in Tennessee

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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](mailto: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.

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

CTV (Maritimes) SU 7:30 a.m.

CTV (Alberta) SU 1:30 p.m.

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.

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.

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](http://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 WAMY SU 9:30 a.m.

Montgomery WBMM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Opelika WLTZ SU 7:30 a.m.

AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.

Fort Smith 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 KEYC (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 KSTB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Santa Barbara KSTB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Santa Maria KSTB (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.

Columbus WLTZ 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 WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.

Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.

Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.

Quincy WGEW 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.

Wichita KSCW-TV 33 SU 11:00 a.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.

Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.

Lexington WTVQ TH 10:00 p.m.

Lexington Insight SU 7:00 a.m.

Louisville WBNA Various SU 9:30 a.m.

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.

Alexandria KXAX 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 WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAI SU 11:00 a.m.

Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

Duluth KDLH SU 8:00 a.m.

Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

Rochester KTTC SU 8:00 a.m.

Roseville CTV SU 8:00 a.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.

Meridian Spectrum WE 4:00 p.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 a.m.

Canandaigua SU 11:30 a.m.

Elmira Finger Lakes SU 8:00 a.m.

Oneida WENY SU 8:00 a.m.

Queens Access TH 2:00 p.m.

Queens Public Access TH 7:00 p.m.

Queens Public Access MO 11:00 a.m.

Riverhead Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.

Rochester Cablevision 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 KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.

Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.

Tulsa KQCW SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.

Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.

Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.

Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.

Johnstown Atl. 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 WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.

Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 9:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

WE 12:00 p.m.

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

TomorrowsWorld.org

## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### What Is the Feast of Trumpets?

A little-known Holy Day that Jesus observed has vital meaning for His followers today!  
November 24–30

### Four Hidden Mysteries of John 3:16

The “golden verse” is not just a message of hope—understanding it can change your life!  
December 1–7

### Have You Taken the Mark of the Beast?

Are you taking that deadly mark without realizing it? You need to know!  
December 8–14

### Revelation and the Day of the Lord!

The last book of your Bible foretells key end-time events leading to Jesus Christ's return!  
December 15–21

### Is Christmas a Pagan Holiday?

The ancients kept a December 25 festival long before Jesus. What should His followers do?  
December 22–28

### 2023 in Bible Prophecy

What does the Bible tell us about the troubled times ahead and how we can prepare?  
December 29–January 4

*Schedule subject to change*

## TOMORROW'S WORLD Bible Study Course

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Nationwide  
Sundays 8:00 a.m. E.T.  
Mondays 2:00 a.m. E.T.

Find your local station on page 31  
of this magazine.

