

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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WILL YOU GO TO  
HELL?



# Will Christian Nationalism Fix the World?

**M**any are thankful that the last three years are over and are hoping for a better year ahead. Perhaps you are among these thankful folks, and we cannot blame you. The list of disasters is endless, and the terms *perfect storm*, *historical*, *of biblical proportions*, and *black swan event* are heard too often for our liking. We all know that times have been difficult and that decisions by leaders have seemed maddening and disastrous.

So, where do we go from here? What does 2023 hold? Will it be better or worse?

There is reason to hope for a better year. Leadership in several key countries has changed. Israel, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States have seen important political shifts, and history shows that some leaders are better than others. Some are more compassionate and truly care for the people they govern. Yet being compassionate does not necessarily make one a good leader. Vision and courage are necessary, as are decisiveness and recognizing the best course of action. However, it often takes time—even years or decades—to know whether a decision was actually the right one or not. Great leaders do make a positive difference, but—here’s the rub—the difference is often short-term. Why?

## Not Our Father’s World

The problem is human nature. Human beings are naturally selfish and take the easy paths. Once someone is in power, he or she is driven to stay there. Dictators tend toward egotistical rulership, often turning to oppression to control their people and challenge neighboring countries. We can easily think of names that fit this bill. Democracies, on the other hand, also cater to the baser nature of mankind, as politicians bribe people with public money. “Free” money is never free, but tell that to a naïve public. How often we hear, “The public is smarter than that”—but sadly, that is not often what we see.

The public falls for the same old tactics, generation after generation. Politicians get elected by telling people what they want to hear—flattering them,

promising them, and, above all else, telling them what a scoundrel the opponent is. We may rightly say that the surest way to get into power, and to stay in power, is through lying. Yes, leaders do make a difference, but even at their best, they only buy time—as any student of history realizes. Eventually, the consequences of human nature set in.

So, where does this leave us? Is the solution to join a group to overthrow the government, either by the ballot or by violence? Or is there a better way?

And what can we expect of government in the years ahead?



The biblical book of Proverbs is instructive: “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). No matter who the leader may be, a sinful nation will be beset with unsolvable problems. One can hope

that a righteous leader will come along to lead a nation out of sin, but history is not encouraging on this note. A leader who bribes people with their own money to get their votes, who tells them what they want to hear—rather than what they need to hear—and who spreads half-truths and deceptions regarding his opponents is hardly a righteous leader who will lead people out of sin. As the proverbs instruct us, “It is an abomination for kings [rulers] to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness” (16:12).

One must wonder how such a righteous leader, if there were one in the wings today, could inspire his or her nation to turn to righteousness. The anti-

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God agenda has infiltrated all levels of Western society: education, business, the media, and government, including entrenched bureaucracies. Any truly righteous leader would be unelectable—or, if in office, removed by impeachment or a vote of no confidence. Court injunctions and bureaucratic foot-dragging would further impede any attempt to turn around a nation that has been fed a steady diet of anti-God propaganda. It is for this reason that, while some leaders are undoubtedly better than others, no leader waiting in the wings will solve our entrenched problems. Furthermore, even if a leader did somehow bring order humanly, apart from turning his country to God, would God—who commands the weather and other events mankind itself cannot control—bless the nation?

Let me be blunt: “Christian nationalism” is not biblical. This is Satan’s world, and you and I will not change that by “getting out the vote” or resorting to violence. Don’t just believe me—open your Bible and look up John 14:30, 2 Corinthians 4:3–4, and Ephesians 2:2–3. But if Christian nationalism is not the answer, what is?

Many people are familiar with the rousing words of the “Hallelujah Chorus” in Handel’s *Messiah*, proclaiming that Jesus will be “King of kings and Lord of lords.” Those words come from Revelation 19:16. But who are these kings and lords that Christ is King and Lord of? The answer is found in your Bible. So few understand the *true* Gospel of Jesus Christ—the message He proclaimed for three-and-a-half years. *Gospel* means *good news*, but what is that good news?

### Our Savior’s True Message

The prophets foretold a time when God’s true servants, under the direction of the returning Christ, would be given rulership over the world. The book of Daniel describes that before this time, four world-ruling Gentile empires would rise, beginning with Babylon and extending to the end of the age (Daniel 2:36–45). Daniel 7 describes these four empires as wild beasts. Then what? “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting king-

dom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27).

Chapter 14 of the book of Zechariah tells of this time of the end, when the Messiah will step in to save mankind—when Jesus Christ will be King over all the earth. This is the message Jesus proclaimed in detail throughout His ministry. The Kingdom of God was His message from the beginning (Mark 1:14–15). It was the message He said He was sent to proclaim. “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent” (Luke 4:43). The Kingdom of God was the focus of most of His parables (Mark 4:10–20; Luke 19:11–27). This was the message His followers understood and taught after His resurrection (Acts 8:12; 20:25; 28:30–31). And the reward for those who are called, chosen, and faithful during this present age will be future rulership under Jesus Christ. Only then will there be the kind of leadership the world craves yet refuses to accept (Revelation 17:14; 20:4).

Dear friends, we have entered a time when God is going to deal with the world in the only terms it can understand. We have come to the place where one misstep—one miscalculation, one accident by a nuclear power—can bring down our whole house of cards. As Jesus foretold nearly 2,000 years ago, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22). But it is not all bad news—God *will* step in by sending His Son back to save us!

Until then, new “saviors,” “messiahs,” and “champions” using the same old tactics and slogans will delude people for their votes and support. It is true that some of them will be better leaders than others, but none can truly solve mankind’s systemic problems. Yet in your own life today you can experience a foretaste of the coming Kingdom of God, preparing for a future when you truly *will* help to change the world. To learn more about this glorious truth, please contact us for our free resource *Do You Believe the True Gospel?*





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# A wake-up call for Australia

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# ARE YOU GOING TO HELL?

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By **Richard F. Ames**

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**D**o you worry that your deceased friends and loved ones are suffering in fiery torment because they weren't faithful Christians—or never accepted Jesus Christ at all? What about your own future? The truth of the matter is an awesome revelation of God's mercy and justice—and it is *not* what most people assume.

A November 2021 survey found that 73 percent of Americans believe in the existence of Heaven, while 62 percent believe in Hell. Researchers from the Pew Foundation found that 61 percent believe in both Heaven and Hell, while 26 percent do not believe in Heaven or Hell (“Few Americans Blame God or Say Faith Has Been Shaken Amid Pandemic, Other Tragedies,” *PewResearch.org*). One percent said they believe in a hell, but do not believe in Heaven.

In August 2020, a similar survey conducted by researchers at Arizona Christian University found that 54 percent of adults in the United States believed they would go to Heaven after they died. Just 2 percent said they expected to go to Hell. Fifteen percent said they didn't know where they would go after death. Another 13 percent said they did not believe in

an afterlife, while 8 percent said they would be reincarnated and a similar 8 percent said they expected to go to a “place of purification” before entering Heaven (“AWVI 2020 Survey: 1 in 3 US Adults Embrace Salvation Through Jesus; More Believe It Can Be ‘Earned’,” *ArizonaChristian.edu*).

The idea of a tormenting hellfire is understandably quite frightening. Can we imagine how the 2 percent feel who say they expect to go to hell after death? Yet there are many who ridicule the entire concept of Heaven and Hell. How many people reject Christianity entirely when they hear that only those who hear Jesus Christ's teachings and accept them can go to Heaven? What kind of God would send billions of people to Hell simply because they were born in times and places where Jesus' message was not available?

It seems so cruel. So, why do the majority of professing Christians believe that billions of people who lived and died without ever hearing Jesus' name will spend eternity experiencing unimaginable torment? Is this really what the God of the Bible has in mind for human beings He has created?

Would you be shocked to learn that your Bible actually teaches that no one is burning in hell at this

moment? In fact, there are *no* immortal souls writhing and screaming in the flames of hell for eternity—and there *never will be*. Yes, there will be a hellfire, but not the kind that so many mistakenly imagine.

Your Bible teaches a truth that should both comfort you about your future and reassure you about the goodness, mercy, and perfect justice of God. If you have loved ones who died “in their sins” or you are frightened because someone has cursed you to “go to hell,” you *need* to read this article.

### Don't Believe Dante

It may surprise you to learn that today's most common ideas of hell come mostly from a work of *fiction*. Specifically, they come from the famous poem *La Divina Commedia* (in English, *The Divine Comedy*), composed more than 700 years ago by the Italian poet Dante Alighieri. Dante's poem consists of three parts: *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*—or *Hell*, *Purgatory*, and *Paradise*. His vivid description of souls writhing in agony is central to the beliefs of millions even to this day.

In *The Divine Comedy*, the ancient Roman poet Virgil guides Dante on a journey through Hell. At Hell's entrance is a foreboding sign with this message: “ABANDON ALL HOPE, YOU WHO ENTER HERE.” Here is how Virgil introduces his tour of Hell to Dante:

I'll be your guide, and you will follow me  
And I will lead you through a world of pain  
where dead souls writhe in endless agony  
and clamor, as they cry, to die again  
(Canto I, lines 107–110, translated by Elio Zappulla, 1998).

Notice the words “endless agony” in Dante's description. Many are surprised to learn that the idea of an immortal soul did not come from the Old Testament or the New Testament, but was adopted by Roman Catholic philosophers familiar with the philosophy of ancient Greece and ancient Rome. Consider this acknowledgement by the author Tertullian (155–220 AD):

For some things are known, even by nature:  
the immortality of the soul, for instance, is  
held by many.... I may use, therefore the opin-

ion of Plato, when he declares: “Every soul is immortal” (“On the Resurrection of the Flesh,” *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 3).

But we as Christians must hold to the opinion of *the Bible*, not of Plato or the “many.” Let's look carefully at one of the most famous verses in the Bible, often called the “Golden Verse”—John 3:16. We read:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Notice John's claim that Jesus died so that you and I would not perish. Eternal life is a gift from God, not something we inherently have as human souls. Later in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's writings confirm this important truth, as when he wrote to the Corinthians:

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:53–55).

Could it be any more plain? Jesus gave His life so that we, His followers, would *not* need to perish—not need to be dead for eternity. He came that we might *not* be destroyed forever—not lose our life forever! To the surprise of many, the Bible teaches that human beings are mortal, not immortal. It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that you and I can “put on immortality” at the *resurrection* from the dead.

We know that the body dies. But what about our “soul”? Jesus told us that God is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna fire (Matthew 10:28). How could that be possible if the human soul is immortal? Clearly, we can see that the human body is destroyed at death, but what happens to those human beings who supposedly would go to hell?

We need to understand that we were not born with immortality. It is a gift from God! Remember that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23, *Modern English Version*). Notice that this scripture does not state, “The wages of sin is immortal life in hellfire.” The reward of sin is not immortal life, it is death—the absence of life. If you already have an immortal soul—if you already have eternal life—then you do not need it as a gift from God. Yes, a soul can die! The prophet Ezekiel reminds us, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). In that verse, the Hebrew word for “soul” is *nephesh*, which refers to physical or natural life. In Genesis 1, the same word, *nephesh*, also refers to every living “thing” and “creature”—to all animal life, including mammals, fish, and birds. The Bible does teach that there is a human spirit, the spirit in man (1 Corinthians 2:11; Job 32:8, 18), but that human spirit is *not* an immortal soul. So, what does it mean that a soul may go to hell?

### Which Hell?

When we read the Bible in English, we need to realize that there are actually four words in the original inspired Hebrew and Greek—one in Hebrew and three in Greek—that are translated as “hell” in English-language Bibles. And those four words have *three different meanings*. Yet many who read the Bible in English come to the mistaken conclusion that the word “hell” always means an eternal fire. In fact, it does not!

One meaning of “Hell” in your Bible comes from the Hebrew *sheol* or the Greek *hades*. This “hell” simply means “the pit” or “the grave.” It is this word that found its way into Old English as the word describing a hole in the ground or the earth. Farmers stored their potatoes in *helle*, what we might call a “root cellar.”

Of course, today many people choose cremation over burial. Still, the ancient connection between *hades* and *sheol* and “the grave” as the place where we all go until our future resurrection is plain, and is recognized by modern Bible translators.

The Hebrew word *sheol* occurs 65 times in the Old Testament, and in the *King James Version* it is translated as “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times, and “pit” three times. The *New International Version* of the Bible, however, translates the word *sheol* as “grave” and never translates it as “hell.”

Another meaning of “hell” comes from the Greek word *tartarus*, which indicates the confinement of fallen angels—it does not refer to human sinners. Notice: “God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [*tartaroo*] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment” (2 Peter 2:4).

The third meaning of “hell” is found in the

Greek word *Gehenna*, which literally refers to the Valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem. The residents of Jerusalem

## IT MAY SURPRISE YOU TO LEARN THAT TODAY'S MOST COMMON IDEAS OF HELL COME MOSTLY FROM A WORK OF FICTION.

maintained a fiery pit where the city's garbage was burned to ashes. Jesus warned us to “not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [*Gehenna fire*]” (Matthew 10:28). *Gehenna fire* thus pictures the lake of fire, also described in the book of Revelation (Revelation 21:8).

Do you realize what this means? If we ask the question “Who is burning in hell?,” the answer is “No one” if we are talking about *sheol* or *hades*.

But what about *Gehenna fire*? If you are a longtime reader of *Tomorrow's World*, you know that we look forward to three resurrections described in your Bible. The first resurrection is for the saints—the followers of Jesus Christ who have lived and died as His faithful disciples in this present age. They will assist their Savior in ruling planet Earth during the Millennium and will continue that role during the White Throne Judgment, the time just after the Millennium when the second resurrection will give most of humanity their *first genuine opportunity* to hear and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and to live His way. We read:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and

the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books [Greek *biblion*, meaning the Bible] were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books (Revelation 20:11–12).

### Purified by Fire

At the end of that judgment period, those who refuse to obey God—those who have sealed their character as evil—will be thrown into the lake of fire. “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14–15).

This is when the “third resurrection” will occur. Those who were called and rejected Jesus Christ will

## THE WICKED WILL BE REDUCED TO ASHES AND EXTINGUISHED—NEVER TO BE SEEN OR BROUGHT TO LIFE AGAIN.

be resurrected to receive their punishment—the same punishment meted out to those who reject Christ after the second resurrection.

That punishment is the “second death” spoken of in Revelation 20, from which there is no resurrection. Remember, God can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna fire.

But who will be consumed in that fire? The wicked will be destroyed, not tortured forever. Notice: “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:7–8).

This punishment is called a death, not an eternity of torture—though the punishment will be eternal in the sense that the wicked will be burned into non-existence. The lake of fire will *completely destroy forever* every human being cast into it. And

it will not be just some trash heap outside of Jerusalem. It will eventually encompass the whole of the earth, as God purifies our planet before the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven. We read that “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

Is this an eternally burning fire? Notice that Jude writes of “Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (v. 7).

But, obviously, fire is not still burning in the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The Greek word for “eternal” in this verse is *aionios*, meaning age-lasting. This is the way *Young’s Literal Translation* renders it: “as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them, in like manner to these, having given themselves to whoredom, and gone after other flesh, have been set before—an example, of fire age-during, justice suffering.” In other words, the fire of judgment lasts only for the age in which it was intended. The wicked will be

burned up—destroyed—reduced to ashes. They will be extinguished. Their *punishment* will be everlasting, in that they will cease permanently—never to be seen or brought to life again (Matthew 25:46).

### What About You?

Peter’s sobering descriptions should motivate us to avoid such an awful destiny. We read:

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:11–13).

**ARE YOU GOING TO HELL?** CONTINUES ON PAGE 24



# ARE YOU PROTECTED?

## What lessons should we take from times of suffering?

**T**he thought flashed through my mind: “It sure is nice to have God’s protection.” And then it happened! Up until that moment, it was just another long, hot day during my summer break from college, spent toiling in the oil fields near Zwolle, Louisiana. One moment, everything seemed normal; the next moment, I was struggling to breathe.

I had just finished serving as the tong operator—unscrewing each section of production tubing as it was pulled from the well—and had moved to my least favorite position: operating the tubing elevators and guiding the pipe onto the rack. Working in this position was enough to make anyone feel claustrophobic. Hemmed in by a rack of pipe, the wellhead, and the pumping unit, workers were cramped, to say the least.

When the ancient-looking hydraulic tongs were unable to unscrew the tubing, the screw connection had to be loosened up with several blows from a sledgehammer. As I stood directly opposite the tong operator, who, sledgehammer in hand, was preparing to loosen up the tubing joint, I thought about how nice it is to have God’s protection. Just then, a mighty blow from the sledgehammer connected with my stomach instead of the tubing. I thought I was going to die that day! After a few minutes, my breath came easier, but my thoughts were still reeling. *How could this be? Wasn’t I just thinking about God and His protection? Why did He let this happen to me—especially since I was in the process of acknowledging His intervention in my life?*

The realization that I actually *had* been protected came slowly because, in the immediate aftermath, I felt anything *but* protected. But I soon saw that if the blow from the sledgehammer had landed any lower, my pelvis would have been shattered! Such an accident would surely have caused severe injury, rather than the bruises I received. As the bruises healed, I began to understand the lessons from this experience.

### We Need Sunshine *and* Rain to Grow

Although God does protect His children, His protection does *not* mean our lives are entirely free

from trials. The Bible is replete with examples of those whom God allowed to be sorely tested in order that they might draw closer to Him and develop His character more fully. Our Father in Heaven, as a perfect and loving father, always uses the smallest degree of trial necessary in order to teach the lesson

**Just then, a mighty blow from the sledgehammer connected with my stomach instead of the tubing. I thought I was going to die that day!**

that He would have us learn from the experience. No matter how difficult the trial, it is important to remember that our merciful Father in Heaven does not take any joy in our suffering but, rather, intends that we should draw close to Him (cf. Ezekiel 33:11).

God’s desire is to protect His sons and daughters (Matthew 23:37). Through His law, we are guided in the paths of life (Psalm 119:97–105), which, when followed, keep us from pitfalls and allow us to escape

the trouble ahead that will come upon the whole world (cf. Revelation 3:10).

Scripture describes this coming time of trouble as worse than anything that has ever occurred since the beginning of the world (Matthew 24:21). This paints a very dark picture when you consider all the savagery that has taken place down through history. It is indeed unsettling to realize that a time is coming that will be worse than the bleak days of World War I and World War II. Having personally toured a Nazi concentration camp, I shudder to think of a time worse than that.

However, by God’s mercy, there will be a people who are protected in the wilderness during that dark time ahead, just before Christ’s return (cf. Revelation 3:10; 12:14). Will you be one of those protected from the tribulation to come?

To learn how you can be among the protected, be sure to watch our telecast “The Watchman’s Warning” and check out our free booklet *Armageddon and Beyond*.

—J. Charles Ogwyn



## A Force for Change

**S**eldom in human history has one man's conscience driven a social reform as significant and far-reaching as the abolition of the British slave trade. Though others played their vital parts, it is William Wilberforce—a member of the United Kingdom Parliament—whose bold and life-changing efforts as an opponent of slavery were central to reforms that would bring freedom to millions and forever change the world.

From the Slave Trade Act, which in 1807 brought an end to Britain's slave trade, to the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833—which ended slavery itself across the British Empire—Wilberforce's nearly 50 years of effort caused him to be widely considered in parliament the leading light of the anti-slavery movement in Britain. But what inspired his choice of vocation and provided *the driving force* to accomplish his life's mission, seemingly against all odds? There's much we can learn from his personal motivation to change his own life and character, and his transformation into a major force for change on the world scene.

### From Dissipation to Determination

When Wilberforce was a teenager in the late 1700s, English traders were raiding the African coast around the Gulf of Guinea and annually transporting 35,000 to 50,000 captives across the Atlantic to the West Indies to be sold into slavery. Thousands died on the way due to the harsh conditions, while slave traders grew wealthy from the lucrative business.

Britain was not the only nation involved in the slave trade at the time. Indeed, African tribes supplying the slaves from conquered, exploited peoples were also

involved. After personal research into the brutal nature of the trade, Wilberforce became convicted of the need to end slavery and determined to abolish it altogether. Perhaps where Britain led, other nations would follow.

Those who knew Wilberforce as a young man would have been surprised to find him with such conviction. He had grown up surrounded by wealth in Hull, Yorkshire, before going to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he was not particularly studious, preferring instead to spend his time socialising. He had political ambitions and was elected to Parliament in 1780, later admitting that in his first years there he did "nothing to any purpose."

It was customary during the long recesses for Members of Parliament to travel abroad. On a whim, Wilberforce asked an old acquaintance from grammar school, Isaac Milner, a professor at Cambridge and a deeply religious man, to accompany him to the south of France and Italy. Their discussions that summer about genuine individual faith led Wilberforce to return to London with a personal and professional crisis of conscience. He turned to Scripture and gave up things he felt God was not pleased with, including his excessive socialising. He began to question even his participation in the business of politics, often conducted in questionable social settings.

He turned to a friend for advice. John Newton was a former slave ship captain who had converted to Christianity, becoming the foremost evangelical Christian in London (he composed the words to the hymn "Amazing Grace"). Newton convinced Wilberforce to conduct his religious life in politics because God could use him "for the good of the nation." Wilberforce, who now prayed and studied the Bible daily, became convicted to use his wealth, talents, and position for God's purposes.

In 1787, he decided the two great objectives for his life should be the reformation of the slave trade and what he termed the “reformation of manners,” meaning the moral standards of society. Prominent abolitionists sought his support. He recognised the benefits of working with similar-minded friends, and together, they mounted an early sort of public relations campaign. Even the famous potter Josiah Wedgwood produced anti-slavery plates bearing the image of a kneeling, chained slave and the words, “Am I Not a Man and a Brother?” In May of 1787, many of these friends formed the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Wilberforce risked both his career and his reputation in challenging supporters of the slave trade. Despite that opposition, in his very first anti-slavery speech to Parliament on 12 May, 1789, he said that “so enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did [slavery’s] wickedness appear that... I from this time determined that I would never rest till I had effected its abolition.”

He also called for Parliament to consider their duty from an eternal standpoint: “There is a principle above everything that is political.... When we think of eternity, and of the future consequences of all human conduct, what is here in this life which should make any man contradict the principles of his own conscience, the principles of justice, the laws of religion and of God?”

### Source of Inspiration

Wilberforce’s personal reflections on God’s word and his responsibilities in life produced not just an outward change in his conduct, but a profound change in his character and outlook. He strove to abide by what he



Engraving of William Wilberforce, from 1867

understood the Eternal God of Creation stated was morally pure and to follow His commandments, which reflect His perfect character. God expects us to read the Bible

and view it as His inspired word (2 Timothy 3:16–17)—not just as purely academic knowledge, but as something to complete us and our character, to equip us for the challenges of life. God makes it clear in James 1:22 that we should be “doers of the word and not hearers only.” Troubled by what he saw as a hypocritical and decadent English church, Wilberforce sought to obey God by establishing more than 60 philanthropic organisations to help the lives of the poor, support education and prison reform, and end child labour.

In 1807, after 20 years of persistent work and repeated failed votes, Parliament passed the Abolition Act outlawing the British Atlantic slave trade. It was another 26 years—just days before Wilberforce’s death in 1833—before the House of Commons passed the Slavery Abolition Act outlawing slavery itself in the British Empire.

Wilberforce endured in the face of overwhelming political opposition and trusted God for strength through his lifelong bouts of poor health. He challenged the *status quo*—first in his own life, and then in society—for almost 50 years, becoming a formidable force for change. However, despite all of his noble and valiant efforts, slavery remains today in various forms around the world. Not until Jesus Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth will human beings everywhere be truly free. Christians who involve themselves in politics may experience short-term victories, but Satan’s world always prevails eventually. This is one reason why we are reminded that today’s Christians are “ambassadors” of God’s Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20) and should not involve themselves in political disputes.

Yet we can respect William Wilberforce for the strength of character that spurred him to act on the knowledge he had. How many of us have such conviction? Have we proved to ourselves what the Bible truly says? Despite the inevitable opposition we will face in this present evil world, have we committed to becoming examples of personal change by following the God of the Bible and His way of life?

That is what we at *Tomorrow’s World* strive to support you in doing, through this magazine, our literature, and the ministry of the Living Church of God. The starting point, however—recognising the need for personal change based upon God’s word—is very much up to you.

—Simon R. D. Roberts





# Australia's Watery Wake-Up Call

By **Greg Watt**

**W**e have all heard the saying, “God works in mysterious ways.” And we do not need to look very hard for events to which we could ascribe this proverb today. Australia’s recent travails are a prime example.

Since February 2022, this island continent has experienced unprecedented flooding, particularly in eastern regions that are west of the Great Dividing Range, as far as South Australia. Lives have been lost, thousands of houses and commercial properties have been damaged or destroyed, essential infrastructure—electricity, water, and gas—has been interrupted, and sewage systems and treatment plants have flooded. And the rains are forecast to continue for at least one more La Niña cycle over this coming summer.

## **The Cost of Great Suffering**

Flooded residents have been left to try to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. While there has been some financial relief in the form of government assistance and honoured insurance claims, these payouts only lessen the burden. For many, it is a case of too little too late, and for none more so than our rural communities. One insurance industry survey reported, “In NSW [New South Wales] alone, over 4,000 properties were deemed uninhabitable, over 10,000 properties were damaged, and over 8,000 were inundated with water. In the Tweed Shire, the floods resulted

in \$80 million of damage to roads, in Lismore, 90 per cent of their 1200 km road network suffered severe and extensive damage, which the Lismore City Council estimated would cost approximately \$150–200 million to rebuild and repair” (The McKell Institute, *The Cost of Extreme Weather: Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster*, September 2022).

Agriculture has suffered greatly. “The floods resulted in devastating losses of livestock, crops, and machinery, with NSW Farmers president, James Jackson, saying that he expected inflationary pressures to arise because of the ongoing floods. In Queensland, more than 2,250 primary producers were affected across 17 local government areas, with losses estimated at more than \$250 million. Losing crops or losing the ability to manage crops has far-reaching impacts on Australians across the nation. Disruption of the supply chain, whether through infrastructural damage or crop loss, meant that production was displaced, reducing regional output and incomes.”

The tangible costs are difficult to quantify, but insurance claims can give us an idea. “Over the course of the floods and storms that battered Australia’s east coast, over 230,000 insurance claims were made. The Insurance Council of Australia estimated that there would be approximately \$5.275 billion in insured losses and has found the floods to be the most expensive in Australia’s history, as well as the second costliest disaster overall. In the March quarter, non-life insurance claims rose 18.6 per cent, reflecting \$2.8 billion paid due to the floods



and storms. Non-life insurance claims are now at the highest they have been, \$584 million higher than claims seen during the 2020 bushfires.”

These figures only account for immediate losses and do not take into account the future or ongoing costs—such as, for example, the impact of crop loss. “The nationwide consumer price index (CPI) measure for fruit and vegetables grew by 5.8 per cent in the June quarter, compared to 1.8 per cent for all goods and services. This difference in prices, which the ABS [Australian Bureau of Statistics] suggests was brought about by flood-induced agricultural losses, resulted in all Australian households spending more on produce. The Australia-wide average cost of fruit and vegetables spiked by 4 per cent over a three-month quarter, shifting \$153 million in costs onto Australian households.” When considered carefully, the flooding itself is only the epicentre, the catalyst for a whole series of cascading events that radiate out from the disaster and continue to impact the nation long after the flood waters subside.

And we should not forget the intangible effects—emotional pain from loss of loved ones, income, and livelihood; depression fed by the isolation and extended relocations; and anxiety disorders triggered by the stress of it all.

We clearly see that God does indeed work in “mysterious” ways—delivering an unprecedented wake-up call to Australians, who, as they begin to recognize that these natural disasters and their effects are extraordinary, are naturally questioning why they are happening and what is driving them. They want answers and they want action. While the vast majority of Australians would never concede that an omnipotent God is directing these weather events, it is undeniable to virtually everyone that unprecedented weather disasters are now becoming the new normal—whether prolonged scorching droughts, devastating bush fires, or extreme flooding.

### **The Cost of Rejecting God**

So how can we explain the causes of such events? Regular readers of this magazine know that they are no mystery. Bible students know and understand that there is an omnipotent God who rules from the heights of the heavens and who is fully engaged in directing the events on planet Earth below. King David recognized

this fact and said as much when speaking of God’s omnipotence; “You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter. Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD, and that a foolish people has blasphemed Your name” (Psalm 74:15–18).

Has Australia blasphemed God’s name? Emphatically, yes! Consider the nickname Australians have adopted for their country: the “Lucky Country.” Such a name attributes to blind chance the awesome blessings this country offers them—an unmatched living environment because of extraordinary mineral and agricultural wealth, providing an incredible lifestyle, the envy of most countries. Is this just luck? Only the most hardened atheist or materialist would make such a claim. God has blessed Australia and its citizens exceedingly, despite widespread lack of gratitude and acknowledgement of Him and His merciful generosity. Despite the blessings God has poured down, despite the incredible period of peace the nation has known—we have only once had to repel an invading force from our shores, in what could best be described as a skirmish—few acknowledge God and His authority.

This rebellion and contempt toward God must and *will* have consequences. Consider this verse from Job:

Is not God in the height of heaven? And see the highest stars, how lofty they are! And you say, “What does God know? Can He judge through the deep darkness? Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, and He walks above the circle of heaven.” Will you keep to the old way which wicked men have trod, who were cut down before their time, whose foundations were swept away by a flood? They said to God, “Depart from us! What can the Almighty do to them?” (Job 22:12–17).

Australians should be afraid. Speaking through Solomon, God says, “Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, though the misery of man increases greatly” (Ecclesiastes 8:6). If a nation such as Australia, blessed by God, refuses to acknowledge Him and in effect says, “Depart from us!,” what can it

expect? If they go further by turning from just laws and in effect saying, “What can the Almighty do to us?,” it should come as no surprise that God intervenes and delivers a timely wake-up call to that nation.

In our so-called modern and progressive society, Western nations celebrate evil. Abortion is seen as a woman’s right, and the biblical family unit is under attack from the education and legal systems as well as the full gamut of the media, all determined to upend the gender roles God created and ordained. Justice is wanting as criminals, both individual and corporate, evade responsibility for their crimes. This is merely a brief synopsis of Australian society today.

### **Blessings Given, Taken, and Given Again**

Bible students understand that there are consequences when a nation rejects God and scorns His blessings. When an omnipotent God decides to do so, these blessings can be taken away just as easily as they have been given. Moreover, students of biblical prophecy recognize that today’s extreme weather events are just a precursor to what is ahead for nations that refuse to listen and ignore the warnings God sends to them. Will Australians listen and take notice of this warning, this wake-up call? Sadly, the answer appears to be no. As a people, Australians are not listening—in fact, they do not appear to be taking any notice of God and His servants. Consequently, the nation can only expect things to get worse before they get better.

The great news is that things *will* get better, even though Australia’s people must yet learn the lessons God intends to teach. Speaking to our generation and our time, God prophesied through Moses:

When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And



Flooding in Brisbane, Australia, on February 27, 2022

the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them (Deuteronomy 4:25–31).

Australians—like all the nations and peoples descended from Ephraim and Manasseh—will not be forsaken by God in what He calls “the latter days.” Sadly, most in our present age will ignore God’s interventions, which will bring His wrath upon us. But floods and other disasters will not continue forever. A time is soon coming when He will send Jesus Christ back to planet Earth, and all the formerly rebellious nations will experience peace and safety as never before. Then, the society we all long for will become and remain a glorious reality. TW

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

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



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Is the Holy Spirit a divine being?

**Question:** I've been reading your magazine and watching your telecasts for a while, and I've noticed that you don't seem to talk about the Holy Spirit as a person. Why not? What is the Holy Spirit, if not a third person in a divine Trinity?

**Answer:** The Apostle John gives insight into the nature of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). Setting aside any preconceived notions, we see here *two* beings. John reveals that the One known as the Word became Jesus Christ (John 1:14), and it was through Jesus that everything was made (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15–18). The Holy Spirit is never mentioned as a part of this Family.

Many professing Christians simply assume that the Bible shows the Holy Spirit as a person. Yet the writers of the New Testament made no such assumption, as we can see in how they started several of their epistles with greetings on behalf of God the Father and Jesus Christ (cf. Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; James 1:1; etc.). If the Holy Spirit were a person like the Father and the Son, we can be sure that person wouldn't be absent from those greetings.

But how, then, should we understand John 14:16–17, which tells us, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you"?

The word translated "Helper" ("Comforter" in the *King James Version*) comes from the Greek *parakletos*. Nouns in Greek are gendered—masculine, feminine, or neuter. A noun's gender does not impute actual gender to the object—a table is not itself male or female simply because of its noun and pronoun. The noun *parakletos* is masculine, so most English translations translate its pronoun as the masculine "He"—though "It" would be both grammatically and doctrinally acceptable.

### Not a Person, but His Power

However, even with the pronoun "It," some readers infer that the passage is talking about a person. They

are neglecting the common literary device known as *personification*, in which personal or human characteristics are attributed to non-human things.

Does the Bible ever do this? The answer is an emphatic yes! See Proverbs 8:1–3: "Does not wisdom cry


out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors." Now, does anyone think wisdom is a person? Of course not, unless "Wisdom" happens to be someone's name.

Consider, too, that Scripture describes the Holy Spirit as being poured out (Acts 10:45) and as the power of God (Luke 1:35; Romans 15:13). It is also described metaphorically as wind (Acts 2:2–4; John 20:22) and

water (John 7:37–39). These would be odd descriptions of a divine person, but very naturally describe the flow of God's powerful Spirit.

When Jesus said that He would send the Helper (John 14:16–17), He finished the thought in the next verse: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." The Holy Spirit is the power that flows out from God the Father and Jesus Christ. It is the agent through which Christ would come to them, and why Paul could proclaim, "Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). It is the Spirit of truth that will guide us *into* truth (John 16:13–14), just as wisdom instructs us (Proverbs 9:1–6).

Yes indeed, the one and only true God of the Bible did so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16)! And that very God gave true Christians His Spirit—His very power—through which they can live His way in preparation for that everlasting life to come.

For more information, see our free booklet, *John 3:16: Hidden Truths of the Golden Verse*. 

**Many professing Christians simply assume that the Bible shows the Holy Spirit as a person. Yet the writers of the New Testament made no such assumption.**





# The War Against Normal

By **Wallace G. Smith**

**I**n the realm of sex, gender, and sexuality, what is *normal* now? What is a normal marriage? A normal family?

The answers were once commonly understood. While some might dither about details, most would broadly agree on what represented normal standards of such fundamental facets of human life: Marriage was a lifetime commitment between a man and a woman, defining a family and creating the healthiest environment for childrearing. Mankind was organized into males and females, and the fact that sex was designed to take place between a male and a female was an obvious matter of biology—often simply, if awkwardly, explained in terms of instructive birds and busy bees. The vast majority of parents—one dad and one mom, by the way—knew their child’s gender the moment he or she was born.

That was the world most of us knew as recently as 20 years ago—or even ten. It is not the world we see today. In fact, in this “brave” new world, simply *asking* what is normal is offensive to many—and it may have offended even some of you who are reading this article. That’s because we are living in the final stages of a long-running *war against normality*. Social engineers have mounted an aggressive campaign over multiple decades, seeking to eradicate any idea that some things should be seen as normal and some as abnormal.

The war has been waged in and through popular media and entertainment, educational institutions, and the halls of government—and it has been successful. The saying popularized by humorist Patsy Clairmont, that “normal is just a setting on your dryer” has been methodically turned into a foundational concept for a brand-new approach to civilization, unseen before on planet Earth—with the possible exception of societies such as Sodom’s and Gomorrah’s, whose destruction was so swift that the details of their cul-

tures have been erased from the record of human history.

In the war against normal, it is plain that normality is losing terribly. And as normality is driven from the world, a contorted and abnormal world is quickly growing to fill the space that is left behind. It is that latter world that our children will inherit—a world in which there is no such thing as “normal” and it is the highest offense to suggest otherwise.

How did we get here? How bad is it—and can it get worse? And finally, what does God think of a culture in which anything normal has become the enemy?

## The Rise of Queer Theory

Make no mistake: While the combatants attacking normality are not as coordinated and conspiratorial as many think, there *are* common doctrines and goals that drive and unite them. The influence of philosophers who desire to “deconstruct” Western civilization and recast it in their own image has been covered in these pages before. In his July 2021 *Tomorrow’s World* article, “What’s Behind the War on History?,” Dr. Douglas Winnail described in detail the “long march through the institutions” that “visionaries” have undertaken over many decades. Originating in the academics of the infamous Frankfurt School in the 1920s, so-called “Critical Theory” in various forms has become all the rage. The 1970s saw the rise of Critical Legal Theory. More recently, Critical Race Theory became the hot topic of discussion, covered in our September 2021 article “The New Racism.”

Less overtly mentioned, but no less pervasive in its influence on modern culture, is *Queer Theory*. Like other critical theories, Queer Theory seeks to “deconstruct” common ways of thinking, to challenge widely held norms, and to recast elements of societal structure into a paradigm of power: some cast as the “oppressed” and others as the “oppressor.” Developed in LGBT Studies and Women’s Studies programs at col-

leges and universities across the Western world, Queer Theory focuses specifically on deconstructing *sexuality and gender*—and, consequently, everything affected by those facets of life, such as family structure.

Academics steeped in these ideas seek to subvert what has been considered normal and to celebrate what were previously “abnormal” ideas and practices. To them, it is not enough for society to merely *accept* or *allow* the fullest possible spectrum of sexual behaviors and “gender constructs.” Their goal is to “queer” the discourse entirely, meaning to change mainstream thinking in society so that nothing is even *thought of* as “normal” or “not normal.”

Dr. Roberta Chevrette of Middle Tennessee State University, for instance, has written of the need to “queer family communication”—changing thinking and discussions within families so that heterosexuality is no longer held as the norm against which other sexualities are compared. The goal of these social engineers is to change societal thinking so that all forms of sexual activity are considered equally “normal.” And, of course, when everything is normal, nothing truly is.

The prejudice against normal, healthy sexuality and gender expression can be seen in the growth of, essentially, a new vocabulary. Are you familiar with its new words? Because your college-educated children probably are—and, increasingly, your younger children are, too. More importantly, those designing your school’s policies and programs *definitely* are.

One new word is *heteronormative*. As of November 2022, *Merriam-Webster* defines it as “of, relating to, or based on the attitude that heterosexuality is the only normal and natural expression of sexuality.” An important aspect of making what is normal seem *not* normal is labeling it so that it can be attacked, and a quick Internet search is enough to show you that “heteronormative thinking”—that is, thinking that the normal expression of sexuality is between a man and a woman—is no longer “right thinking.” In fact, if you think that sexual relations between men and women are more normal than others, you are now considered guilty of *heterosexism*.

Similarly, if you are a man or a woman who, like almost all humans on the planet, still considers yourself the same gender you were declared at your birth, it is not enough to call yourself a *man* or *woman*

anymore. Now, you must be a *cisgender man* or *cisgender woman*, to distinguish you from a *transgender man* or *transgender woman*. And if you are, say, a man who thinks that referring to himself as a “cisgender man” is unnecessary (after all, if you were born male and you know you’re a man, why do you need extra words?), watch out—you’re engaging in *cisgenderism*. Also, you had better not think it is *natural* and *normal* for someone in a male body to think he is a man, because if you do, now you’re practicing *cisnormativity*. How dare you think anything—any sexuality, any relationship between sex and gender, any sort of family structure—is *normal*?

### **“Normal” as a Tool of Oppression?**

For a glimpse at how attitudes toward normal sexuality and family structure have been recast as evils, one need only look at—believe it or not—the Black Lives Matter movement.

When the Black Lives Matter movement was making global headlines in the wake of George Floyd’s tragic death, some interested in supporting the cause were distressed by what they found on the organization’s “About Us” webpage. There, under the heading “What We Believe,” they saw Black Lives Matter declare proudly, “We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege,” “We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure,” and “We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking.”

While that page was removed in the days leading up to the 2020 U.S. presidential election, the question did not go away: What does trying to end discrimination and violence against black people have to do with transgender ideology? Why would supporting black lives hinge upon standing against “heteronormativity” or traditional family structures?

The answer is that the war against all things normal has successfully woven itself into nearly every effort to create social change. As critical theorists irrationally recategorize all elements of human relationships as expressions of coercive power, any attempt to address injustice must in some way be made to connect with all other injustices, real or perceived. Believing there is a normal family structure, a normal

human sexuality, and a normal understanding of sex and gender is increasingly equated with upholding power structures designed to crush and oppress.

To today's self-appointed social engineers, believing that family is best grounded in a marriage between a man and a woman, that sex between that man and that woman represents normal and natural sexuality, and that it actually *is* possible in virtually all cases to identify a child's gender at birth, is to align oneself with the likes of fascists such as Mussolini and Hitler or the bigots of the Ku Klux Klan. Presuming someone's gender based on their appearance is labeled an act of ignorance at best and violence at worst. If a young girl is plagued by thoughts that she might be transgender, to help that girl feel more comfortable being a girl is to commit the unforgivable sin of attempting "conversion therapy."

But as bad as things are, we are far from reaching how bad they can get.

### Targeting Children

The war on normality is a war on boundaries. Human beings crave sexual "freedom," unbound by any rules, definitions, laws, and even feelings of shame—to define sexuality based solely on individual desires. So,

## BELIEVING THAT IT IS POSSIBLE IN VIRTUALLY ALL CASES TO IDENTIFY A CHILD'S GENDER AT BIRTH IS TO ALIGN ONESELF WITH THE LIKES OF FASCISTS SUCH AS MUSSOLINI AND HITLER!

boundaries must fall—the boundaries keeping sex within marriage must fall, the boundaries defining marriage as between one man and one woman must fall, and the boundaries defining differences between sexes or genders must fall.

Among the final boundaries to remain—defining one of the final lands yet to be conquered by the war against normal—is the age boundary. Many people still consider childhood a time for protection from the incursions of modern sexual "liberty," yet our

self-appointed social and academic superiors deem that this boundary, too, must fall. And disturbing signs indicate that it is, indeed, falling.

Consider the flood of sexual content into school libraries. The American Library Association found that eight of the top ten school library books most challenged in 2021 were challenged due to their sexually explicit nature. The most challenged book—which we will not name, so as not to risk promoting it accidentally—contained imagery that any reasonable person would consider pornographic and indecent. Not long ago, any teacher who would have shared such a book with a child would have been labeled a pedophile, a predator, and a "groomer" seeking to prepare children for sexual activity, and that teacher would have been disciplined or dismissed.

But that was before the sustained assault against normality had taken such extensive ground. In today's world, the author of said book has been honored with an interview by *Time* magazine—made-up pronouns and all—and opposing the book's placement in school libraries marks one as a "bigot," "homophobe," or "transphobe."

Consider, too, the mind-bending phenomenon of Drag Queen Story Hour, which *Tomorrow's World's*

Editor in Chief, Gerald E. Weston, covered in his September-October 2019 article "Unhappily Ever After?" For those blessed to be unfamiliar with it, Drag Queen Story Hour involves men who dress up as women—often in exaggerated and sometimes sexually suggestive clothing—reading to children wherever they can gain entrance. And the extreme, shocking nature of Drag Queen Story Hour is exactly its *point*—if it were truly about encouraging literacy among young children in an environment that pro-

motes healthy attitudes about diversity, any number of volunteer readers could serve.

The fact that "drag" is essential to these events reveals that the underlying purpose of Drag Queen Story Hour is to convince children to cast aside gender and sexual boundaries and accept as normal the perversity of drag performance. The juxtaposition of extremes—the innocent inexperience of children and the perversity of men imitating women in bizarre and extreme ways—is meant to blur sexual and gender

lines in children's impressionable minds so that they grow up with a sense that everything is just as "normal" as everything else.

Such goals are essentially admitted by those involved in these events. In the academic journal *Curriculum Inquiry* (2021, vol. 50, iss. 5), "critical pedagogy" researcher Harper Keenan and a drag queen known as "Lil Miss Hot Mess" collaborated on a paper titled "Drag pedagogy: The playful practice of queer imagination in early childhood." In this paper, addressing those worried that the inherently "risqué nature" of drag performance is being "sanitized" at these events, they explain that Drag Queen Story Hour is "less a sanitizing force than it is a preparatory introduction to *alternate modes of kinship*" (emphasis ours).

The inverted, sexually "risqué," and perverse values on display in drag performance are not being watered down, they assure us. Rather, they are the very tools being used to change the minds of the children who innocently participate—to *teach* them that *there are no sexual or gender boundaries and nothing is normal*. Such an approach would help explain why the effort has so quickly expanded into supposedly "family friendly" performances at drag bars where children give dollar bills to performers in the manner of patrons at a strip club. That is why there are events and television shows in which children themselves are encouraged to perform in drag.

The goal is not mere "acceptance," and it never was. It was to program children to forget what is normal and embrace a world with no gender or sexual boundaries. As the authors of the *Curriculum Inquiry* paper note, "While drag has some conventions, it ultimately has no rules—its defining quality is often to break as many rules as possible!"

In fact, the current pressure to sexualize childhood calls to mind King Solomon's observation that there truly is "nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and the attack on society's sexual barriers between children and adults goes back to the philosophers and academics whose ideas laid the foundations of today's Queer Theory. In 1977, "enlightened" souls such as Paul-Michel Foucault, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Jacques Derrida famously signed a petition to the French government to allow adults to engage in "consensual" sexual relations with children. French

law, they demanded, "should acknowledge the right of children and adolescents to have relations with whomever they choose."

Motivated by the spirit of that age—before it temporarily fell out of favor—French author Tony Duvert publicly argued in favor of the "great adventure of pedophilia" and castigated the "fascism of mothers." (No, labeling one's ideological opponents "fascists" is not a modern phenomenon, nor a particularly creative one.) While these academics were ahead of their time, their ideas did not go away—and time has caught up with them. As this ideological conflict rages on, the constant attacks against the sexual barrier between child and adult are being made without even the *pretense* of subtlety.

Tony Duvert's *Diary of an Innocent*, written at the height of the libertine sexual atmosphere of the 1970s, ends in a conclusion that includes, as described by its English-language publisher, MIT Press, "a fanciful yet rigorous construction of a reverse world in which marginal sexualities have become the norm"—in other words, today's world. Or, at the very least, the world our self-declared betters are passionately trying to create around us, as they work to obliterate the last remaining elements of resistance in their war against normal.

### A God of Boundaries

The societal chaos created by the normalization of perversity and the perversion of normality does *not* reflect the mind of Almighty God, the Creator of human life, who established the institution of marriage as the foundation of family. In fact, the very first pages of Scripture, in which we are introduced to our Creator, are sufficient to illuminate what He thinks of boundary-obliterating chaos, for that is exactly what they illustrate—that He deals with chaos by *creating* boundaries.

The opening passage of Genesis details a world in chaos: "The earth was without form, and void" (Genesis 1:2). A world "without form"—without guiding distinctions, shapes, and ideals—is exactly the sort of society today's social engineers seek to create. (Why the world was in such a state is detailed in our booklet *Evolution and Creation: What Both Sides Miss*, available from any Regional Office listed on page 4 of this magazine.)



In that environment, the Creator brought order to chaos by establishing clear boundaries. He separated light and darkness (v. 4), the waters below from the waters above (vv. 6–7), and the dry land from the seas (v. 9). In creating life on land, He established a distinct boundary between the animals and humanity—humans are created beings, yet unique in bearing God’s own image (vv. 25–26). He organized humans into two sexes: male and female (v. 27).

Upon ordering the world He had created, God declared the whole “very good” (v. 31). And we enjoy the goodness of that order today. We look upon the heavens and enjoy the variety of clouds in the sky—the “waters above”—like a vast, aerial landscape suspended over the earth. We look at the seas and marvel at the separate world of life and wonder beneath their waves. Separate from sky and sea, the land provides the foundation on which we live, much of the food we eat, and varied vistas of beauty and majesty.

So, too, do we delight in the difference between mankind and the animals. Even as our society continues to wade into insanity in this regard—granting animals legal “rights” as if they were people, instead of simply recognizing the human obligation to treat animals humanely (e.g., Deuteronomy 25:4; Proverbs 12:10)—we still fundamentally recognize that human beings are profoundly different. That understanding is exemplified in every assertion that humans must respect each other’s God-given dignity, a level of respect and consideration that wolves and sharks will never bother to provide. There is a reason we call it “humane” to extend kindness to animals and call extreme violence “animalistic.” For all our legal, ideological shenanigans, the boundaries God has set represent reality—and deep down, we *do* know the difference.

Finally, the difference between man and woman is obvious to even the most casual observer. They are profoundly *not* the same, and as the old saying goes, *vive la différence!*

Embracing the boundaries God has woven into the fabric of reality itself is not *sufficient* to create an orderly, peaceful, healthy society, but it is a necessary first step, just as establishing those boundaries was the


first step God Himself took in creating our world. And embracing those boundaries means admitting that some things are normal—and others simply aren’t.

### A Truly New Normal

In the end, it is a great irony that so much of the world is waging such a passionate war against normal, because Jesus Christ Himself intends to fundamentally correct the definition of what is normal when He establishes a new world at His Second Coming.

Even those “traditional” standards against which today’s social engineers rage—such as biblical family, marriage, sexuality, and gender roles—have been tainted and corrupted in a world that does not truly rely on God’s guidance. Some *have* sought to use biblical gender roles to oppress women and treat them as less than fully human. Even when husbands and fathers are able to serve as the main breadwinners and leaders of their families, their jobs too often come between them and the wives and children they ostensibly serve, distorting and corrupting what it means to lead a family. And long before “alternative” sexualities were accepted and celebrated, plenty of men and women twisted and mishandled male-female sexual relations to satisfy illicit and perverted desires—a far cry from the design and intention of the Creator.

The Kingdom that Jesus will establish will not look like 1950s America, nor the Judea of Jesus’ day. Nostalgia for a better past is no substitute for the fullness of transformation called for in His Gospel, and the life to which Christians are called transcends what was ever lived in ages throughout history. To live God’s way requires a complete and utter change in how we see ourselves, our relationships, and our obligations: “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9).

After Jesus’ return, the world will learn what family, sexuality, relationships, and society can be when human beings follow the original design and intention of the Creator of human life. From the blessings that follow, mankind will finally understand why no one should ever want to exchange *God’s normal* for anything less. 

MAY WE  
SUGGEST?

**What Is the Meaning of Life?** All human beings share a glorious purpose, and you can know what it is! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.





# Can There Be Peace on Earth?

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By **Douglas S. Winnail**

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**I**n a world beset by war, we may wonder: “Is world peace really possible?” The quest for peace seems endless. From Afghanistan to Ukraine, war seems to be in the news almost every day. Rather than finding peace, our world grows more brutal by the minute! The two world wars fought in the twentieth century did not bring peace, nor did the end of the Cold War; they brought only a more divided and troubled planet.

Every year at Christmas, religious leaders speak of the Christ-child and peace on earth—yet violence and war continue to escalate! Religious people light candles and say prayers for peace. Idealists sign petitions, stage marches, and organize conferences to seek it. “Hawks” urge their nations to build bigger weapons to *enforce* peace. Yet all these efforts have failed.

Is peace a mirage—an unrealistic, unattainable goal—an impossible dream? Why is the peace process so frustrating and difficult? Many in our modern world do not realize that biblical prophecies are coming alive in today’s news headlines. The Bible not only foretells the major challenges of our age; it also reveals why human efforts have not produced peace. Scripture also explains the *way to peace*, and how peace on earth will ultimately come.

## **Jesus Christ’s Real Message**

Preachers often tell us that the message of Christmas is “Peace on earth and good will toward men.”

This is in reference to an angel’s announcement at Christ’s birth: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Luke 2:14). But the Bible does not indicate that peace will come from humanity’s good intentions or by everyone working together for peace. In fact, it says just the opposite!

We often hear that the “gospel message” is about love, peace, and harmony. Yet Jesus plainly said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). Christ indicated that political, religious, and philosophical differences would divide human beings and generate strife until the end of the age.

Jesus also said that one of the signs of His imminent Second Coming would be the constant news “of wars and rumors of wars... for nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.... All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:6–8). Jesus did not say that prayers, candle-lightings, negotiations, or nuclear weapons would bring peace. He warned that world conditions would grow worse and worse, culminating in a period of great tribulation that would mark the end of the age (Matthew 24:9–22).

Many religious leaders gloss over—or ignore—this sobering aspect of Christ’s message. Yet that message permeates Scripture! The Apostle Paul wrote that “in the last days perilous times will come.” These times would be characterized by selfish materialism, skepticism, blasphemy, disobedience, brutality, and the mad pursuit of pleasure, with many having a form of godliness but denying that religion has any real

authority in their lives (2 Timothy 3:1–5). What an accurate description of our age!

The Hebrew prophets predicted a coming time when well-intentioned but misguided civil and religious leaders would cry out “‘Peace, Peace!’ when there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14). They will say that “we looked for peace, but no good came” (Jeremiah 8:15). Isaiah warned, in the context of the end time, that “the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly” as they see their plans and efforts come to nothing (Isaiah 33:7). Ezekiel prophesied that “they will seek peace, but there shall be none. Disaster will come upon disaster” (Ezekiel 7:25–26).

Jesus proclaimed that, as we approach the end of this age, human civilization will face the threat of annihilation and that “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22). Biblical prophecies that are coming alive today reveal that human efforts to find peace will ultimately fail. Scripture also reveals why!

### God’s Way to Peace

Describing human efforts to find peace, the Bible tells us a sobering truth: “The way of peace they have not known” (Isaiah 59:8). Human efforts fail because the world has largely ignored or rejected what the Bible teaches about peace.

King David wrote, “Great peace have those who love Your law” (Psalm 119:165), yet most professing Christians today believe that God’s law has been rendered obsolete! David also wrote, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105). The laws of God point the way to peace.

Jesus told His disciples, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15), yet many—even many who call themselves “Christian” and profess to be Christ’s followers—believe that such obedience is no longer necessary! If we keep the commandments of God, we will not kill, steal, lust, lie, commit adultery, practice fornication, nor disrespect parents or others in positions of authority. This is how to really love your neighbor and avoid conflict!

If we love God, we will avoid the idolatrous worship of other gods—or *anything* apart from Him. We will not follow religious practices the Bible condemns. We will keep the Sabbaths God has des-

ignated, rather than holidays steeped in paganism and materialism. To find the way to peace, we must learn to obey and live by the laws of God. Reasoning around the commandments, lighting candles, praying to saints, joining marches, or seeking United Nations interventions will not bring lasting peace. Jesus Christ is called the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), and He said, “I am the way” (John 14:6). There is no other way to peace!

### The Future of Peace

Jesus Christ preached a Gospel about the coming Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15). That Gospel, that

**Jesus proclaimed that, as we approach the end of this age, human civilization will face the threat of annihilation. Biblical prophecies coming alive today reveal that human efforts to find peace will ultimately fail!**

“good news,” is not about a baby in a manger who is waiting patiently for people to give their hearts to Him. The Kingdom of God is more than a warm, fuzzy feeling in your heart. It is not some semi-peaceful ecumenical community that the church will establish on earth by compromise and consensus.

Biblical prophecy foretells that Jesus Christ will return to take over the kingdoms of this world, and that He will rule with great power (Revelation 11:15–18). He will set up a world-ruling government, headquartered in Jerusalem, that will bring peace to this earth (Isaiah 2:2–4; 9:6–

7). The saints—today’s genuine, faithful Christians who will be resurrected as “firstfruits” at the start of the seventh millennium of human history—will reign with Christ (Revelation 1:6; 5:10) and teach the world to follow the laws of God (Isaiah 30:20–21).

As human beings learn a new way to live, “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks... neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). In this way, peace on earth will finally be achieved! These prophecies will come alive in the years just ahead. This is the real biblical message of peace, and what the *true* Gospel is all about. TW

There will be a fire burning on earth throughout the Millennium, and it will eventually engulf the entire planet. After the earth is finally purified with fire, the fire will cease, and the new heavens and new earth will prevail. The torment suffered by Satan and his demons, however, will never cease: “They will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). They will suffer in the fire “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). But any human being thrown into that fire will perish and be forever destroyed—as will be the “beast” described in Revelation, along with the “false prophet” (Revelation 19:20).

You do *not* want to be in that fire—and you need not be in that fire! You can repent and be saved! If you feel that God is calling you, I urge you to contact the Regional Office closest to you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) and ask for counsel. *Tomorrow's World* has representatives around the world who will be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

Will you be one of those faithful Christians who inherit the earth—and eventually “all things,” as we read in Hebrews 2:8? Notice that God not only promises Christians the earth (Matthew 5:5)—He will also give us the entire universe: “He who overcomes shall

inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7; Romans 8:32). Consider this amazing promise: “For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him” (Hebrews 2:8).

### A Promise Beyond Heaven

“Nothing” not put under him? “All” in subjection? Yes, this is the promise! The Greek phrase translated as “all” in Hebrews 2:8 is *ta panta*—which literally means “the all.” As Greek lexicons explain, *ta panta* in the absolute sense means “the universe.” God wants to give you, along with billions of others, dominion not just over the earth, but over the *universe*. Yet we can only receive that after we have inherited eternal life—only once we’ve become God’s immortal children to reign with Christ in His Kingdom for all eternity. Our job during the Millennium, vital as it will be, will only amount to a foretaste of what will come afterward.

God’s purpose is to prepare us to govern the universe. We will be able to travel instantly to far-off galaxies. We will not be limited by time and space. God wants us to liberate the creation from its decay and corruption. As Paul wrote, “the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:21). We will not spend eternity with nothing to do in a Heaven of only harps and clouds—God is preparing us for an awesome destiny across the universe!

Thank God for His awesome plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thanks to that plan, no one is now burning in hellfire—and no one will be burned in hellfire simply because of not hearing Jesus’ name or His true Gospel. Today, your deceased loved ones are asleep in the grave. Most who live and die in this present age—who were never called and may never even have heard of Jesus Christ—will be resurrected in the White Throne Judgment to have their first genuine opportunity for salvation. Only after that will the incorrigibly wicked be thrown into “Gehenna fire” where they will be burned up and destroyed forever. May you choose God’s way of life, and ultimately receive His gift of life everlasting! TW



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# What Happens When You Die?



## The mystery has been solved.

- Is there any way to know with certainty what awaits us after we die?
- Do the dead go to Heaven or Hell? Or does the Bible say something else entirely?
- Does God have a plan for those who die without having ever heard about Jesus Christ?



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## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?





## Beyond Genetics

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**H**uman genetics are powerful. Watching a growing son match his father's stride or hearing a mother's voice in her teen daughter can be striking. If you look at your hands, eyes, hair, and many other features, one biological mother and one biological father clearly gave much of themselves to you. How we look on the outside and how we work on the inside is largely passed down from our parents.

All these heritable traits are found in DNA—a long, twisted, ladder-shaped molecule composed of just four chemicals assembled into 23 pairs of chromosomes. Half come from your father and half from your mother. Genes are short DNA sections and each performs specific functions. Your “genome” is your complete set of genetic information, coded within your chromosomes and genes. When researchers in 2003 first “mapped” the entire human genome, hyperbole abounded. As Richard Gibbs wrote in *Nature*, “The announcement was hailed as ‘the end of the beginning’ and a launch pad for a new era” (“The Human Genome Project Changed Everything,” August 7, 2020). Our genes were thought not just to determine physical attributes like eye and hair color, but also far more complex traits, such as criminality and promiscuity. Visions of genetically engineered “super babies” were borne of this deterministic view, and theorists speculated over the possibility of mixing and matching the “perfect” factors. Theories and possibilities seemed endless.

### DNA Is Just the Beginning

Reality is different from theory, however. Skeptics of complete genetic determinism pointed out objections. Scientists had thought it would require more than 100,000 genes to account for the range of human physi-

cal and behavioral complexity—yet the Human Genome Project only sequenced a measly 20,000. And studies of identical twins could not turn to DNA to explain notable differences of health status and diseases acquired.

Even within the womb, DNA leaves some unanswered questions. All cells in a person's organs and tissues have the same DNA, yet the cells themselves in the various tissues and organs differ in their specific shapes, structures, and functions. For instance, the skin cells on your hand and the eyeball cells in your eye socket have the exact same DNA within the nucleus of each cell. Yet there are obvious differences between your skin and your eyeballs! How do we explain your body “knowing” which tissue to form in each place? If the cells on the palm of your hand had become confused, eyeballs theoretically might have sprouted and grown there. Particular genes are somehow turned on and off at the right time and right place.

The field of epigenetics is giving us an even more intricate view of genetic complexity. It studies the reversible mechanisms whereby environmental factors like exercise or excess alcohol can “turn on” or “turn off” specific genes for the good or the harm of the body. All this is accomplished without changing the actual genes. Of the several epigenetic “marks” or “switches,” *methylation* and *histone modification* have been studied the most. Methylation is the bonding of an extra chemical to a gene. Much like a sticky note covering a passage of print on a page, an attached methyl group can block the effectiveness of certain proteins that “read” the genetic code. Thus, the affected gene is deactivated or turned off.

Histones are what DNA normally wraps around, much like the pages of a book are attached to the bind-

ing in the book spine. A new, tightly bound book may not allow you to open the pages fully for easy reading. Similarly, when DNA is bound tightly by a histone, it is inaccessible and “turned off.” Like methylation, this epigenetic factor may be passed down to offspring.

Epigenetics suggests important implications for us individually—we have a degree of responsibility to our future selves and even to the next generation. Lifestyle choices made during our youth affect our mental and physical health in later life. And heritable epigenetic switches passed down to children present even greater concerns. Researchers reason from animal studies that human binge drinking may even affect the brain development of offspring who are not directly exposed to alcohol (“Binge Drinking and Intergenerational Implications: Parental Preconception Alcohol Impacts Offspring Development in Rats,” *Journal of the Endocrine Society*, vol. 2, issue 7, July 2018, pp. 672–686). A 2008 study found that children whose mothers had been pregnant with them during the Dutch winter famine of 1944–45 were more likely to develop heart disease, schizophrenia, or type 2 diabetes (“Persistent epigenetic differences associated with prenatal exposure to famine in humans,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 105, issue 44, November 4, 2008).

Scientists tell us the sea of chemicals that modern life bathes us in can trigger epigenetic changes outside of our control. Increasingly, the epigenetic changes made by our environment may affect our future health, even though we count our calories and faithfully get our “steps” in.



### God's Plan—The Next Stage in Development

Truly, humankind is wonderfully made. The wonder of a genetic code written in the masterful chemical script of our Creator's hand astounds us today. The host of epigenetic factors that switch on or off parts and pieces of our genes shows the awe-inspiring depth and breadth of a dance between DNA and environment. We should rightly feel a responsibility to care for the bodies given us, and make wise choices in diet, exercise, and even the thoughts we think.

However, we also recognize that our bodies have been subjected to impermanence. Despite millions of dollars spent researching life-extension, we all are made to eventually die (Hebrews 9:27). Expensive supplements, strict food plans, high-intensity interval exercise, intermittent fasting, breath-training apps, and even the most disciplined and effective “power thoughts” will inevitably fail. At the end of even the loftiest promises of all physical-human-potential movements is death. No so-called “word of faith” can dethrone the God who wrote your very genetics. And in order to have true hope, we must see through the false hopes.

Is there one true hope? Did you know that you are promised an existence without corruptible genes (1 Corinthians 15:53)? Science may fail to save ears gone deaf, eyes gone blind, cancer gone unchecked, and bent bodies wracked with pain. However, our Creator has a plan to give us a brilliant existence at our future birth into His Family (John 3:5). God is not just kicking the can down the road—He will not just give us another corruptible genetic structure by reincarnating us as chickens, pigs, cows, or even superhumans.

God is preparing for a task that only He can fulfill. He plans to make a very mortal you into an immortal being (1 Corinthians 15:54). He plans to give you power that defies imagination—limitless power that will extend across our expansive universe (Hebrews 2:8; Philippians 3:21). We behold with awe the fearful and wonderful design of our bodies (Psalm 139:14), yet the wonder of our current design cannot even begin to compare with the future your Creator has in mind for you (1 Corinthians 2:9). Genetics are powerful. Your Creator, who designed your body and plans an incredible future for all mankind, is even more powerful.

—Bryan Fall



Flooding in Karachi, Pakistan, on August 22, 2022

## Floods Multiply Pakistan's Distress

Pakistan has been experiencing widespread flooding, along with a host of other challenges (*Reuters*, September 22, 2022). Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced and forced to live in open plains as floodwaters cover large swaths of land. As a result of the stagnant water, mosquitos are breeding rapidly, and malaria is spreading. In one week, there were more than 44,000 new cases of malaria and one in four people screened for malaria test positive.

Lacking fresh water, people are drinking stagnant water to stay alive. This will lead to diarrheal disease and subsequent death, especially among the elderly and small children. Typhoid is also spreading rapidly. The recent flooding has affected 33 million people in Pakistan. Aid is slow to arrive, and some estimate it will take \$30 billion to restore the situation to normal.

Neither the government of Pakistan nor its rural inhabitants are equipped to handle widespread flooding. While the nation's leaders have pledged some funding for food and water, money and supplies will run short, and global weather

catastrophes are forecast to continue in the years ahead. Ultimately, it is God the Creator who controls the weather, and whose helping hand we should seek in such times as Pakistan is facing. In the Bible, God associates “rain in its season” with following His laws (Leviticus 26:3–4)—and negative consequences for ignoring those laws (Leviticus 26:14–16, 31–32).

## Korean Peninsula Heating Up

Missiles have begun to fly in a troubled region on the coast of Asia. According to a *Reuters* report, “North Korea fired multiple ballistic missiles into the sea on Thursday” (November 3, 2022), the latest in a record year of missile testing by the nuclear-armed North. One of the missiles launched was thought to have been a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile. In response to the apparent ICBM heading toward their island, Japanese officials directed citizens in the north of the country to shelter indoors (*The Guardian*, November 2, 2022). Trains were also temporarily stopped over concerns that the missiles could fly overhead.

The North claims that their launches are in response to

recent joint U.S. and South Korean military air exercises, their largest ever in the region. As many as 240 aircraft, including the advanced F-35 fighter jet, were involved in over 1,600 sorties. In response to the barrage of missiles from the North, the allies extended their air exercises instead of ending them. The exercises are “designed to deter North Korea’s nuclear ambitions.” The North Koreans described their launches as a simulated attack on South Korea and the United States (*Reuters*, November 6, 2022).

Experts warn that if any mistakes are made, it could trigger a larger and potentially devastating event. The actions by all parties in this turbulent region are helping to polarize the world to an even greater degree. The Bible reveals that human beings simply do not know the way to peace (Isaiah 59:8), and that only the return of Jesus Christ will finally bring true peace to this earth (Isaiah 9:6–7).

## The Fracturing of Europe

In recent years, France and Italy have worked closely in a “Franco-Italian axis,” founded primarily on the close personal relationship between France’s president Emmanuel Macron and Italy’s former prime minister Mario Draghi (*Politico*, October 27, 2022). Now, with Italy’s new prime minister Giorgia Meloni—historically anti-French in her positions—the Franco-Italian axis is being threatened.

At the same time, the relationship between France and

Germany—often referred to as the “engine” powering the European Union—is under increasing strain. After a long-planned meeting between French and German representatives was abruptly rescheduled, the German newspaper *Deutsche Welle* observed, “The French-German relationship is in crisis again and this time, the spat seems more serious than usual.” It also comes at a critical time, as it undermines the EU’s ability to act in a crisis (October 26, 2022). Leaders of the two nations have clashed on how to handle the energy crisis, as well as on the issue of defense (*Politico*, October 26, 2022). Macron and German chancellor Olaf Scholz had a working lunch to discuss their differences—a lunch that was apparently productive (*The Local*, October 26, 2022).

Biblical prophecy indicates that relations in Europe at the end of the age will be tenuous—resembling a mixture of iron and clay (Daniel 2:40–44). The Bible also indicates that the relationship between Israelite-descended nations and the German-led “beast” power will deteriorate, resulting in the captivity of many—and France is an Israelite-descended nation. Will the recent Franco-German spat grow more serious, or is it just a temporary bump in the road?

## Next “World War” in Africa?

While much of the world is focused on the fighting in Ukraine, there are serious conflicts elsewhere—such as in Africa. According to *The*



*Telegraph*, “Ethiopian federal forces, Eritrean soldiers and allied ethnic militias have been battling Tigrayan rebels in a desperate infantry war on four fronts across the Tigray region’s mountainous terrain since a fragile ceasefire shattered in late August” (October 3, 2022). The conflict involves hundreds of thousands of troops, with both sides accusing each other of using “human wave” tactics costing vast numbers of lives. Tens of thousands have died in the past few months alone as fighting has increased. Troops on both sides have observed that the violence has reached unprecedented heights compared to the previous two years of the conflict.

*The Telegraph* reports that “full-scale war is tearing the region apart again. Eritrea, a totalitarian state of about 6m, which used to be part of Ethiopia, has launched a general mobilisation calling up men in their 50s to fight.” The fight is pulling in many other nations: “Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan and now

increasing signs that forces from as far away as Chad, Niger and Libya may also be playing a role.” Experts warn that the whole horn of Africa could be pulled into and devastated by the conflict, seen by analysts as possibly “the deadliest war in the world” and dubbed by one, “Africa’s next World War.”

The Apostle James noted, “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?” (James 4:1). Much war is rooted in human self-will. This world is in desperate need of godly leaders who put the needs of their people before themselves. However, a time is coming when wars will cease (Isaiah 2:2–4).

### India’s Ties to Russia Grow Closer

India is one of the few nations in the world that did not criticize Russia’s military actions in Ukraine (*Deutsche Welle*, November 8, 2022). Foreign ministers from India and Russia

have been engaged in ongoing discussions of closer trade ties and cooperation in the areas of space travel and nuclear energy.

According to the Russian foreign minister, “We discussed in detail the state and prospects of military-technical cooperation, including joint production of modern arms.” In his first visit to Russia since the invasion of Ukraine, the Indian foreign minister was accompanied by “senior officials from agriculture, petroleum and natural gas, ports and shipping, finance, chemicals and fertilizer, and trade.” As part of the meetings, India also pledged to continue buying Russian oil. Twenty-three percent of India’s oil imports now come from Russia (*Reuters*, November 8, 2022). India is one of just a few nations that have a good relationship with both Russia and the West.

Scripture indicates the rise of a massive war-making power east of Jerusalem at the end of the age (Revelation 9:13–19). This army will likely consist of forces mustered by several large and powerful nations—and Russia, India, and China could be sources for those future troops. If these nations are to work together in the future, closer relationships between them must develop. As we watch world events, we see the bonds between these nations growing tighter.

### Advances in Biblical Archaeology

*Deutsche Welle* reported in October on interesting new methods of dating the past.

Archaeologists use historical documents, pottery, and other cultural items to establish timelines for ancient civilizations (October 31, 2022). Still, these methods are prone to error. For example, when pottery is used to establish a date, the deeper the pottery is buried, the older it is believed to be. But this assumption is simplistic and often yields an imprecise measure.

Recently, scientists from Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem published findings employing a new dating technique. Using stones burned in fire and a process called archaeomagnetic dating, they were able to more precisely determine the year that a fire burned a Judean city. The dating method uses metal particles in the rock and the earth’s magnetic field. Findings from the research revealed the fire that burned the Judean city occurred roughly 80 years earlier than archaeologists had previously thought. The new technique holds promise for more accurately matching historical findings to biblical records.

For most people, the dating of biblical events has little relevance. However, for those interested in demonstrating the historical accuracy of Scripture, precision in dating is vital—helping to prove that the Bible is not a book of myths and legends, as so many today wrongly assume. As time goes forward, God is allowing mankind to discover additional tools to establish the accuracy of His word! TW



# LETTERS TO TW

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Hello, *Tomorrow's World* staff! I just wanted to say thank you for another issue of the magazine. "The Global Opioid Crisis" really hit home for me personally. I am a recovering addict. This was just a short note to express my gratitude for the words of encouragement found in my TW magazine. I must admit that most topics "scare the pants off of me." I guess I am scared of the consequences of not heeding the doctrine that's quoted from scripture. I am currently incarcerated, and this magazine subscription makes my prison sentence that much easier. So again, thank you to all the *Tomorrow's World* staff!

—Subscriber in Louisiana

Thank you for your literature about false prophets and counterfeit Christianity. Indeed, there is so much which is false and confusing. And, yes, Satan can masquerade as an angel of light. As Jesus said, false prophets can be known by their fruits. He also referred to those who prophesied in his name. There are so many prophecy groups today.

—Subscriber in South Australia

I wanted to write you a note to say "Thank you" so much for sending me the *Tomorrow's World* Bible Study Course, Lessons 1–4. I have really enjoyed doing the lesson 1 and I'm ready for lesson 2. I love looking up all the scriptures and I feel like I'm retaining what I've looked up much better than usual. I don't know how I received your *Tomorrow's World* Bible Study Course Lessons 1–4, but I'm *very grateful*! I've

learned so, so much as I've looked up the scriptures and read the notes also in my Bible. Thank you again for the study book you sent me. It has been a joy to my spirit and in making my heart more eager to know more about Jesus.

—Subscriber in Oklahoma

Greeting you again from Fiji in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for the book I have received last week. May God bless you all.

—Reader in Fiji

I feel privileged to contribute to God's Work. I am delighted to reconnect with the true Church. As a senior citizen I find it difficult to attend services but appreciate being able to catch Sabbath services by way of webcast. My prayer is that God will continue to bless the Church with growth and reach as many that are hurting for the true Gospel.

—Subscriber in South Carolina

Just a note of appreciation for your tireless Christian advocacy and excellent journalism. "Why Human Life has Value" in the October 2022 edition confronts in a balanced, historically valid manner the current slaughter of the innocents in government-sponsored and protected "vile facilities that masquerade as medical units." Here in Australia, and particularly here in Queensland, that masquerades as the "Smart State."

—Subscriber in Queensland

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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 WLIZ SU 7:30 a.m.

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

Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.

Fort Smith KXNW SU 8:30 a.m.

Fort Smith KXNW SU 10:00 a.m.

Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.

Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.

Yuma KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Chico KHSL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

El Centro 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 WLTX SU 7:30 a.m.

Thomasville WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

ID Boise KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.

Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.

Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.

Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.

Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.

Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAR 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 7:00 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.

Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.

Queens Access TH 7:00 p.m.

Queens Public Access MO 11:00 a.m.

Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.

Riverhead Cablevision SU 7:00 a.m.

Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.

Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.

Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.

Toledo BBCT SU 7:30 a.m.

Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Ada 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 WGGS SU 11:30 a.m.

Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 9:00 a.m.

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WE 12:00 p.m.

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### 2023 in Bible Prophecy

What does the Bible tell us about the troubled times ahead and how we can prepare?

December 29–January 4

### Coming Soon: Jerusalem, Capital of the World

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

January 5–11

### The False Prophet of Revelation

Will you be deceived by this evil religious figure whose rise is foretold in Scripture?

January 12–18

### What Happens When You Forget God?

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

January 19–25

### Seven Keys to Understanding Prophecy

You can make sense of the Bible's mysterious symbols and images if you use these vital keys!

January 26–February 1

### The Best a Man Can Do?

How does God define masculinity? What should men aspire to be? The truth may surprise you!

February 2–8

Schedule subject to change

## TOMORROW'S WORLD Bible Study Course

Learn exciting and inspiring truths from your Bible, **absolutely free!**

Order at ***TWBibleCourse.org*** or from the **Regional Office** nearest you!  
The *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* can be taken by mail or online.



## Watch us on The CW Plus

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.

