

Jesus and His Message

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Light in the Dark

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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THE CHAOS OF A
BORDERLESS WORLD

The Good Life

It is natural to desire a comfortable life lacking pain and sorrow. Who does not want an easy life? But is a life of nonstop comfort, ease, and entertainment the best life? What way of life brings the greatest rewards?

In his memoir *Walden*, American essayist Henry David Thoreau observed that “the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” He rejected the common emphasis on material wealth and status, discovering that he could meet his basic physical needs with six weeks of labor each year. Extolling the value of introspection and leisure, Thoreau saw these as a cure for misplaced values and avarice.

The twenty-sixth President of the United States saw life’s value much differently. Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt had been a sickly youth, afflicted with severe asthma, but he pursued a challenging life marked by vigorous physical activity. He was an able politician, a writer, a rancher, and “a brave and well-publicized military leader. The charge of the Rough Riders (on foot) up Kettle Hill during the Battle of Santiago made him the biggest national hero to come out of the Spanish-American War.” “In 1884, overcome by grief by the deaths of both his mother and his wife on the same day, he left politics to spend two years on his cattle ranch in the badlands of the Dakota Territory” (“Theodore Roosevelt,” *Britannica.com*, December 27, 2023).

Roosevelt recognized that we will find no true success without effort, courage, and risk. Speaking to university students in Paris, he famously said, “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly... who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly” (“Citizenship in a Republic,” April 23, 1910).

Thoreau and Roosevelt espoused different paths to a meaningful life. Thoreau rightfully recognized the futility of the deceptive values by which most people live, but he badly missed the mark regarding

the solution. He lived by a belief known as transcendentalism, “an idealistic system of thought based on a belief in the essential unity of all creation, the innate goodness of humanity, and the supremacy of insight over logic and experience for the revelation of the deepest truths” (“Transcendentalism,” *Britannica.com*, November 14, 2023).

The belief that humanity is innately good hardly holds up to scrutiny, considering mankind’s history of war and inhumanity. Nor are Thoreau’s ideas aligned with the Bible, which tells us that man’s heart is far from good (Matthew 15:18–20; Jeremiah 17:9). Tho-

reau’s inward search for truth was a vain one, looking in the wrong places.



Roosevelt’s admirable advocacy for hard work and being “in the arena” is in line with King Solomon’s advice: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Yes, it is most often the difficult things

we do that bring the greatest rewards—but a truly meaningful life must go beyond the here and now. Solomon’s refrain, “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity” reflects this reality (Ecclesiastes 1:2). And we must ask, *When the last breath is drawn, what is the difference between a life of hard work and a life of leisure if this life is all there is?* Ultimately, there can be no lasting meaning if life is only temporary.

The Bigger Picture

Philosophers and statesmen often give good advice. Thoreau rightly observed that many lives are empty,

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lived out in “quiet desperation.” Roosevelt, like Thoreau, loved the natural world, but dared us by word and example to set aside Thoreau’s life of leisure in exchange for what he considered a more rewarding life forged in vigorous effort. But what is missing from both perspectives is the big picture of why we are here on earth. What is the meaning of life? That is the big picture *Tomorrow’s World* gives to those willing to accept it.

The answer is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ—a message few professing Christians understand. The almost universally misunderstood message of the Kingdom of God is embedded in the New Testament scriptures. This good news of a coming world-ruling kingdom that we can be part of marked the beginning of His ministry: “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14–15).

This was the good news that Jesus said He was sent to proclaim. Rather than stay in one place, “He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent’” (Luke 4:43). How many Sunday-morning preachers tell their audiences this clearly stated truth? How many regular churchgoers understand this?

The message of the Kingdom of God is not about going to heaven. Matthew presents many parables using the phrase “kingdom of heaven,” but there is a difference between a kingdom *of* and a kingdom *in*. Mark and Luke record Jesus’ same parables using the expression “kingdom of God.” The “kingdom *of* heaven” is the same as the “kingdom *of* God.” Both indicate possession, not location—that kingdom is not “in heaven” any more than it is “in God.” Heaven’s kingdom *is* God’s kingdom, and Matthew uses the two expressions interchangeably, as seen in Matthew 19:23–24.

The Kingdom of God, at the heart of Jesus’ parables, is about more than vigorous effort *or* a life of leisure. The parable of the mustard seed gives us an example: “Then He said, ‘To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we

picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade’” (Mark 4:30–32).

But what is that kingdom? What does it encompass beyond what Thoreau and Roosevelt envisioned? And how does it relate to *your* life?

Many scriptures make plain that the kingdom Jesus proclaimed is a world-ruling kingdom that you can be a part of. We read that Jesus will be King over all the earth, ruling from Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:8–9). We learn that David will be king over all Israel (Jeremiah 30:9), and that each of the Twelve Apostles will rule over one of the tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:27–29).

What’s in It for You

Jesus spoke the “Parable of the Minas” because His followers misunderstood, thinking He would set up a literal kingdom in their day. “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Do business till I come’” (Luke 19:12–13).

When the nobleman returned after many days, he gathered his servants to see what each had done. “Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.’ And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be over five cities’” (Luke 19:16–19).

Yes, there is an amazing reward for the few who respond to God’s calling today. Whether one lives a life of leisure or vigorous physical activity, there is only one arena that counts at the end: As Jesus told the rich young man, “if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17).



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The “Good News” Gospel

By **Richard F. Ames**

The November 2023 *National Geographic* magazine featured the headline, “The Race to Save The Planet: Can Technology Help Fix the Climate Crisis?” An almost universal feeling is that the end of the world is coming soon—and the famous Doomsday Clock maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists confirms that sentiment. As of January 2024, that Doomsday Clock shows the measure of danger to our world at 90 seconds before midnight. We seem to be on the verge of *destroying* ourselves.

We all yearn for good news, but world news shocks us into facing the reality of apocalyptic dangers and the fear of a coming Armageddon. So, can science save us? Will God save us? Can we have any hope for the future? Is there any good news to be found? Happily, there is—if you know where to look. And that good news is not just for you and your loved ones; there is good news for the whole *world*.

Even a casual look at the book of Revelation—the last book in your Bible—reveals that there is certainly much bad news ahead. The ills symbolized in Revelation 6 by the Four Horsemen of the

Apocalypse will ravage planet Earth before Jesus Christ returns: war, famine, pestilence, widespread death, and the rise of an evil false religion that has the appearance of good. *Billions* will die as famine and disease spread across the earth, killing an entire quarter of the human population. And many will be deceived by the teachings of a false prophet who will have risen and joined forces with an evil political ruler whom Scripture calls “the beast.”

So, where is the good news to be found? Is it that each of us can be saved from the horrors to come, and that we can become part of God’s very family? That is *part* of it—but there is more. Jesus of Nazareth foretold that “no flesh would be saved” from the Great Tribulation were He not to return, But He also said that “for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

Yes, the Savior of the world *will* intervene before we suffer total annihilation (John 14:3). He will establish a world of peace and prosperity. The Gospel Jesus came preaching is not simply a message of salvation for those relative few who have been able to hear His true teachings; it is a message of His coming kingdom, which will bring to our whole world not just peace, but the opportunity for salvation—including salvation

for the billions who have lived and died without ever hearing Christ’s name or His true message.

There are difficult times ahead, but Christ’s words to the people of Galilee still apply to us today: “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14–15). Christ came first to announce the coming Kingdom of God, and when He returns He will establish that kingdom, right here on planet Earth—and it will be good news for *all* who have ever lived.

What Is the “Good News”?

Even the different denominations within mainstream “Christianity” teach many different so-called gospels. One is the “prosperity gospel,” whose adherents falsely proclaim that all true Christians are physically healthy and materially prosperous—which, if it were true, would mean that the Apostle Paul was not a true Christian. Another is the “political gospel,” which exhorts Christians to become involved in political activism in a doomed attempt to build God’s kingdom on human foundations through human methods. Those who preach these and other false gospels may be sincere, but they are sincerely *wrong*.

How can we know the *true* Gospel? In the New Testament of your Bible, the English word “gospel” is translated from the Greek word *euangelion*, which is translated as “good news” or “good tidings” (“2098. euangelion,” *BibleHub.com*). We can see by this simple definition that Christ preached not a “prosperity gospel” or a “political gospel,” but a “Good News” Gospel—because Gospel *means* “Good News.” But what is the Good News that Jesus Christ proclaimed? The Apostle Paul warned the Corinthian brethren that they were gullible enough to accept a false gospel:

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy.
For I have betrothed you to one husband,
that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness,
so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached,
or if you receive a different spirit which you have not

received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it (2 Corinthians 11:2–4).

The *Berean Standard Bible* puts it a little differently: “For if someone comes and proclaims a Jesus other than the One we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit than the One you received, or a different gospel than the one you accepted, you put up with it way too easily” (v. 4).

The Corinthians put up with a false gospel. They were so tolerant and inclusive that they accepted falsehood as truth. Dear readers, are you *sure* that you haven’t done the same? God instructs us, through Paul, “Test all things; hold fast what is good.” Or, as the *Modern English Version* states it, “Examine all things. Firmly hold onto what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

We must hold fast that which is good—the *real* good news, the Gospel our Savior brought. Don’t blindly believe your minister or this magazine. Examine what you believe and prove for yourself that you have received the *true* Gospel.

Jesus proclaimed the coming Kingdom of God. Yet some believe it is already here and that the Church is that kingdom. But the God of Heaven proclaims the coming Kingdom, which will be ruled by the King of kings, Jesus Christ—and which has *not* yet been established (Revelation 1:1). Yet “the time is near” (v. 3).

How do we know that today’s mainstream Christian church is not the Kingdom of God? The message is very clear and powerful, proclaimed from Heaven itself. The seventh trumpet announcement will herald the greatest event in all human history. Read it in your own Bible: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

That’s the wonderful news of the Gospel. The warring, selfish, oppressive nations of the world will be conquered and controlled by the King of kings—but first, the nations will fight against Christ at His coming. “The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants

the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18).

In the Apostle John's words, that kingdom will be established after "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Revelation 16:14). Christ will win that battle: "These [nations] will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14). At last, "the LORD shall be King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).

Christ Will Rule

What kind of government will rule all nations? The Kingdom of God will, of course, be ruled by Him. We read that "He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:16). Dear readers, you need to be on God's side and rejoice in His coming kingdom—as Jesus said, you need to "believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

In the coming Kingdom of God, all peoples and all nations will learn the way to peace. Thank God for His loving government that will ensure world peace for all nations. The amazing world to come will have a universal system of laws to ensure godly liberty and freedom. Notice, "Many nations shall come and say,

beating a sword into a plowshare. Imagine how the world will be transformed from destructive ways to productive ways. "He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Micah 4:3).

Yes, God's divine government will bring universal peace. This awesome prophecy of the prophet Isaiah will finally be fulfilled:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:6–7).

Today's Christians Will Assist Christ

Christ will not rule alone. God's faithful servants from this present age will also have a role to play, ruling under the Savior of the world. Remember

the "transfiguration" vision in which Jesus revealed an astonishing truth to three of His closest followers? Earlier, He had proclaimed to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" (Matthew 16:28).

Of what "some" was Christ speaking? He revealed the answer in the form of a marvelous vision He shared. "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him" (Matthew 17:1–3).

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'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (Micah 4:2).

Weapons of war will be turned into instruments of peace and productivity. Some of you may have seen the sculpture outside of the United Nations headquarters building in New York, depicting a man

Yes, not only will the Prince of Peace govern all nations; He will be assisted by Moses and Elijah! And who else will assist Christ in ruling the nations? The Apostle Peter asked Jesus what the apostles' responsibilities would be. “So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’” (Matthew 19:28).

And the apostles will not be the only ones. Ancient Abraham, whom Scripture calls “the heir of the world” (Romans 4:13) will have a position of service over the whole earth. Righteous King David will again rule over a united house of Israel, reunited with Judah (Ezekiel 37:19–25). And you and I will also play a part in that future Kingdom if we are truly faithful Christians and members of the body of Christ. We read that “you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:26–29).

Yes, today's faithful Christians will serve under Christ as kings and priests! This is powerfully and poetically described in the “song of the saints,” which reads, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9–10).

But how can human beings ever experience lasting peace? Only by a change in human *nature*. Your Bible reveals why this nature is a problem: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). In other words, “the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot” (*Revised Standard Version*). We also read, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). Or, as the *New International Version* states it, “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” The Gospel teaches a total

change in our hearts, from carnal human nature to God's own holy and righteous divine nature.

God's Plan for You

If you have come to the place in your life where you have repented and believe the Gospel as Jesus stated in Mark 1:15, you may want to consider committing your life to Christ and begin counseling for baptism. God made it plain what a repentant sinner must do: As Peter proclaimed to thousands on the first Day of Pentecost after Christ's resurrection, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

The Lamb of God, the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, paid for our sins by His blood. We have been redeemed by “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:19). Dear readers, you need to believe the good news that you can be forgiven for your sins. We have representatives in many parts of the world—if you would like to counsel for baptism, just contact us at one of our regional offices, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or visit us online at TomorrowsWorld.org and click on “Meet the Church Behind TW.”

The way to peace among all nations is a change in human nature. That change begins with education. We learn from the prophet Isaiah that peoples from all over the world will travel to the capital of the world to be reeducated:

Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isaiah 2:3–4).

That's right—instead of massive military expenditures on deadly weapons of mass destruction, nations

THE “GOOD NEWS” GOSPEL CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Should we pray to God the Father or to Jesus Christ?

Question: Jesus' death and resurrection removed the veil between human beings and God the Father (Matthew 27:51; 2 Corinthians 3:14–16). Since we now have direct contact with the Father—unlike the ancients, who only knew the God of the Old Testament, now revealed as Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4)—why do we need to pray to Jesus? In fact, should we be praying to Christ at all, since He came to reveal the Father (Matthew 11:27; John 14:7)?

Answer: It is surprising to see how many in mainstream “Christianity” almost totally ignore God the Father in their prayers. This is ironic, since Christ Himself in His “model prayer” taught His followers to begin their prayers after the manner of “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9). Jesus Christ personally taught Christians to direct their prayers toward God the Father.

Even though Christ, as the Word of God, had existed from eternity with God the Father (John 1:1–4), He deferred to His Father. In agreement with His Father's will, He chose to become flesh (John 1:14–15). Considering Himself the servant of His Father, He did not in any way seek to draw attention away from God the Father. Indeed, He considered Himself subordinate, telling His disciples, “My Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

Jesus never resisted His Father's will. Knowing that He would soon be crucified, Christ prayed to His Father, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42). Indeed, Jesus was one in thought, attitude, and purpose with His Father (John 10:22–39).

So, we should follow Christ's words and example, and primarily direct our prayers to God the Father. But, when we pray to the Father, we must never forget that we can only do so by the authority of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

Obeying What Christ Taught

Christ is connected intimately to His Father. The Apostle Paul hoped that our “hearts may be encour-

aged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:2–3). God the Father does not want us to lack a loving, personal relationship with His beloved Son (Matthew 17:5).

Scripture gives us the example of the deacon Stephen—the first recorded martyr after Christ's resurrection. “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” (Acts 7:59). Even at the very end of his life, while he was being murdered for his bold preaching, Stephen called out not to God the Father, but to Jesus Christ, his Savior. Stephen knew that he had a profound relationship with both God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Jesus accepted worship—the reverence of others—directed toward Him. When He appeared to

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the disciples after His resurrection, “they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him” (Matthew 28:9). Since His resurrection and ascension, the glorified Jesus Christ has sat at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 10:12; 1 Peter 3:21–22). As our High Priest and Mediator, He intercedes continually for us, His disciples (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25–26). As our Cre-

ator and our Savior, He is worthy of worship and of receiving our prayers. If we have a relationship with Christ, we will obey Him and pray to God the Father, but we will never forget that it is our relationship with Christ that allows us to know the Father (John 14:6; 17:20–23).

No, it is not wrong to pray to Jesus Christ—but we should not dismiss Christ's instruction that we pray to His Father. We will please and honor Christ far more by obeying what He taught than by minimizing or ignoring His direct command that we pray first and foremost to our Father in Heaven. TW

Oh Canada!

Canada's Opioid Addiction



A country needs an abundance of tradeable resources or commodities in order to become an exporter nation. When we think of Canadian exports, we often think of oil, auto-manufacturing, fertilizers, wheat, and hockey players—things Canada has a natural abundance of or has the ability to produce in large quantities.

Mathieu Bertrand, RCMP chief superintendent of Serious and Organized Crime and Border Integrity, stated in an interview with the *CBC*, “Sadly, Canada is a producing country of fentanyl and synthetic opioids. Not only are we a producing country, we’re an exporting country” (“Canadian-made fentanyl is an international problem,” *CBC.ca*, November 18, 2023). Canada’s opioid exports are known to be reaching Australia and New Zealand. Several drug busts in and near Toronto and Vancouver have resulted in the discovery of what are being called “super labs”—illicit manufacturing facilities capable of processing millions of doses of fentanyl.

A recent *Washington Post* article highlights the specific threat posed by these facilities: “The super labs that police are finding in Canada differ [from those found in Mexico] because they are synthesizing the drug—not merely pressing pills—using precursor chemicals” (“Fentanyl super labs in Canada pose new threat for U.S. opioid epidemic,” *WashingtonPost.com*, December 24, 2023).

Though Canada’s economy has been struggling, it still boasts the ninth- or tenth-highest GDP in the world as only the thirty-eighth most populous nation. Historically, Canada has taken pride in using its wealth for the benefit of its own population as well as to aid other nations. Today, we find this opioid crisis as an-

other example of modern Canada’s determination to lead the way in moral decline.

Grim Statistics

Home-grown production is also ensuring an ample supply of drugs for domestic users. In 2016, Canada announced a new strategy to combat the increasing prevalence of drug use. Rather than simply focusing on prevention, a new focus was introduced—“harm reduction.” Billions of dollars have been spent to provide safe injection sites, free needles, stronger support services for mental health issues, and many other efforts to reduce the harm caused by dangerous drug use. Nevertheless, since that time, more than 30,000 Canadians have died as a result of opioid overdose. In 2022, an average of 20 Canadians died every day from this preventable ailment.

Mark Haden, a professor at the University of British Columbia described the shortcomings of the current program: “If your success is measured by overdose deaths, we still have a complete disaster on our hands” (“Adding up the billions of government dollars directed at Canada’s opioid crisis,” *BIV.com*, May 30, 2023).

In 1987, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney took a cue from the United States to pursue a “war on drugs.” More than 35 years later, no solution has been found to stem the crisis of Canadians becoming addicted to deadly drugs. Why is it that no solution can be found?

The Bondage of Addiction

You likely remember the slogan, “Just say no to drugs.” It seems simple enough. The message that drugs are destructive is one that most would agree with. Few would argue against the reality that opioid use has terrifying

consequences, yet demand for the product continues to grow. A paper by the Mayo Clinic describes addiction and how self-destructive behaviour becomes powerfully compulsive for someone caught in the grasp of drugs:

Addiction is a condition where something that started as pleasurable now feels like something you can't live without. Drug addiction is defined as an out-of-control feeling that you must use a medicine or drug and continue to use it even though it causes harm over and over again. Opioids are highly addictive, largely because they trigger powerful reward centers in your brain.... When an opioid dose wears off, you may find yourself wanting those good feelings back as soon as possible ("How opioid use disorder occurs," *MayoClinic.org*).

When watching interviews or speaking with someone caught in the grip of addiction, it is not difficult to realize that addiction is a form of bondage. What else could make someone huddle outside in a blizzard for a few puffs from a cigarette and a temporary hit of nicotine? Writing to a growing congregation in Rome, the Apostle Paul described human beings as slaves to whatever we choose to obey. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

Opioids are not the only addiction that plagues mankind. There is no shortage of vices that people know are not good for them in the long term—yet countless millions give themselves over to the control of addictive substances and behaviors, to such a degree that breaking free may require medical help. Addictions, which so often start as avoidable vices, can tragically turn many into their unwilling slaves. When we allow any vice to direct our actions, we are becoming enslaved to it.



That Which Satisfies

The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write an instructive passage regarding true value. The verse is primarily intended to highlight the nation of Israel's spiritual deficiencies; however, it reveals a powerful principle describing the addict's physical reality: "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy?" (Isaiah 55:2).

Those who suffer from addiction are willing to exhaust their limited resources (money, time, health, relationships) for something that will fail to produce even limited satisfaction in the long run. Recreational drug users may delight in the chemically induced euphoria of getting high, and many individuals have fallen into drug use hoping to escape a life that seems devoid of hope. And Scripture acknowledges that doing the wrong thing can result in *momentary* pleasure. Moses is described as rejecting "the *passing pleasures* of sin" (Hebrews 11:25). The highs of drug use and any other addiction are just that—*passing* pleasures. Eventually the effects wear off and users are left with the scars of their decision and a void needing to be filled by the next high.

Addiction is an itch that, when scratched, is only satiated for a moment. As Isaiah was inspired to ask, *Why spend on what does not satisfy?* The preceding verse reveals what is guaranteed to satisfy: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).

God encourages us to discern the comparative value of what we have available, and to prioritize what holds hold long-term value. This means rejecting temporary, sinful pleasures, as Moses did, in favour of the promise of something better. God's promise is a reward greater than any physical high or passing pleasure we could imagine. He encourages us to come and buy from Him without money. His promise does not come at a cost to our health, and it ultimately results in a life of abundance and an eternal blessing that will not leave us unsatisfied.

If you would like to know more about this promise, about what can truly satisfy, you can request a free copy of *What Is the Meaning of Life?* from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Michael Heykoop

EASTER'S FIVE FATAL FLAWS

Do you plan to participate in Easter sunrise services this year? If you really love Jesus, you won't.

Millions of sincerely religious people will soon attend Easter sunrise services, supposedly dedicated to celebrating Jesus' resurrection. However, one of Satan's greatest deceptions (Revelation 12:9) is in deceiving sincere people into worshipping a *false* Jesus on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday does not honor Jesus; in fact, celebrating Easter greatly displeases Him, as do all idolatrous and heathen practices (Deuteronomy 12:29–32). With that in mind, let's briefly review five fatal flaws of Easter.

First, Jesus was not resurrected Sunday morning. A careful study of Scripture reveals that Jesus was in the tomb for exactly three days and three nights—just as He had promised He would be. To deny this is to reject the only miraculous sign Christ said He would offer the critics of His Messiahship (Matthew 12:39–40). Jesus died on a Wednesday afternoon, just before the annual Sabbath known as the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He was buried and then resurrected 72 hours later, just before the end of the weekly Sabbath—near sunset on Saturday.

Second, your Bible condemns sunrise worship services as pagan abominations to God. Sunrise worship was an integral part of the ancient Babylonian religion derived from worshipping the pagan deity Tammuz. In Ezekiel 8:14–16, a vision from the Lord shows the ancient Israelites committing an “abomination” by “weeping for Tammuz” during sunrise worship services. Similar traditions surrounded the idolatrous worship of other figures the ancient Israelites had borrowed from surrounding cultures, including “the queen of heaven” (Jeremiah 7:18), who is known by names such as Astarte, Ashtoreth, and Ishtar—a figure whose worship persisted into the Greek and Roman periods in various cults and religions. Worship of Tammuz continues today in the form of Easter sunrise services, along with other associated counterfeit traditions involving the aforementioned idols.

The third flaw is simply this: Your Bible sternly condemns anyone who adopts pagan practices into their worship, regardless of whether or not someone claims that they keep these customs “to honor Jesus.”

Jeremiah 10:2 commands us to “learn not the way of the heathen” (*King James Version*) and Matthew 15:9 demands that we do not replace God's commands with the “commandments of men.”

The fourth flaw is similar, in that claiming we somehow “honor” Jesus by pagan practice simply defies common sense and sound reason. Consider this question: If you knew that your human father enjoyed steak and potatoes for dinner and hated ham sandwiches, yet you refused to make steak and potatoes for him and instead kept making him ham sandwiches, could a rational person really argue that you were honoring or loving your human father?

God has shown in the Bible how He wants to be worshipped—through His weekly Sabbath and annual Holy Days. Yet, while perhaps well-intended, many supposed Christians reject God's Holy Days and claim to show love to their Lord and heavenly Father by continually trying to serve Him with what He calls pagan and abominable. Jesus asks such people, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Finally, 1 Corinthians 6:9 and Revelation 22:15 condemn those who practice these pagan and idolatrous customs as not being allowed in the Kingdom of God. This is a most serious indictment, one that should be taken into the utmost consideration by anyone claiming to be a follower of Christ—especially in light of the preceding flaws. Will you have the courage to examine these five fatal flaws of Easter and start considering the true value of freedom from man-made religious traditions? You won't be disappointed.

For much more about the origins of Easter and what God says about true, righteous worship, request a free copy of the eye-opening *Easter: The Untold Story* from the regional office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. And if you truly desire to learn how to please and honor God by observing the biblical Holy Days—some of which are right around the corner in April—you can find out how with a free copy of *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*.

—Wyatt Ciesielka

will pour their resources into the health and prosperity of their peoples. The Messiah, the Prince of Peace, will teach all people in His kingdom to repent of their evil deeds and carnal nature. What will it be like for the human beings who have lived through the terrible prophesied times ahead? They will have endured the Great Tribulation and unprecedented human suffering, and the returned Christ will bring them the good news of His kingdom, as Ezekiel describes:

For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:24–28).

Yes, God will give once-vain peoples a humble and teachable heart, able to learn the very love of God. We read that “this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). The whole world will learn the way to peace and true values.

That is the *true* Gospel. Our salvation is not a selfish one—God is calling Christians in this age to prepare for a role of service in His kingdom. We should not focus on material gains in this life; God wants us to live abundantly (John 10:10), and He promises that if we have the right focus, we will do so. Jesus told us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

Your Part in God’s Plan

The good news of God’s coming kingdom reveals the role faithful Christians will have in the world ahead.

True Christians will be serving all nations as kings and priests, assisting their Savior, the King of kings, in reeducating the world to the way of true love, peace, and prosperity. Scripture describes the role faithful Christians will play during the seventh millennium of human history, the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on planet Earth: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

God has blessed the earth with awesome, majestic mountains, fertile valleys, and productive plains. We marvel at pristine lakes and churning oceans. We appreciate the variety of flowers, plant life, birds, animals, and sea life. Yet, as beautiful as the natural world is, it will become more beautiful in *tomorrow’s* world, when even the very nature of animals will change. The amazing world ahead, the glorious Kingdom of God on earth, will produce beauty and productivity the world has never known. Isaiah gives us this vision of the future 1,000-year period of Christ’s reign with the saints:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:6–9).

Let’s rejoice in the Gospel—the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. An amazing new world is coming soon, and each of us needs to pray for its swift arrival. May we all be watching the prophetic trends and signs heralding Jesus Christ’s triumphant, magnificent return. TW

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

Restoring Original Christianity Understand not only what Jesus really taught, but how He really wants us to live. Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



God's Continuing Work in the UK



Who remembers Radio Caroline? As the first 1960s “pirate” radio station aimed solely at the United Kingdom, Radio Caroline was famed for its pioneering mode of broadcasting from a ship moored off the coast of England. However, this radio station made an important contribution to more than just popular culture. It also played a key role in allowing God’s word to be broadcast on a wider stage.

Over a three-year period, the number of Radio Caroline listeners to that particular Bible-based programme grew steadily, and some faithful Church members who responded at that time are still alive today. The *Tomorrow’s World* magazine you are now reading is a part of the continuation of God’s work, in which Radio Caroline played a surprising and important role.

Caroline’s Beginnings

In 1964, Irish entrepreneur Ronan O’Rahilly followed the example of Danish pioneers who had set up Radio Mercur, transmitting commercial radio from a vessel in international waters. O’Rahilly purchased a used 700-ton Danish passenger ferry, the *Fredericia*, to use as a radio broadcasting platform. On a fundraising trip to the United States, O’Rahilly saw in *LIFE* magazine a picture of President John F. Kennedy applauding his children as they danced in the Oval Office, disturbing the weighty governmental affairs around them. It is said that this image inspired O’Rahilly to name his radio station after Kennedy’s daughter Caroline.

MV (Merchant Vessel) *Caroline* was anchored approximately three miles out to sea off Felixstowe, just outside British territorial waters, and on Saturday, 28 March, 1964, started broadcasting popular music throughout the day, which the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) found unacceptable. Soon began a three-year battle between the British government, BBC regulators, and what became known as “pirate” radio stations, including Radio Caroline.

While Radio Caroline and other offshore stations operated, they provided a unique opportunity, a short-term “open door” for God’s Church to broadcast the Gospel message to millions of homes in the UK (Revelation 3:8). The radio programme *The World Tomorrow*, broadcast on Radio Caroline from late 1964 to August 1967, was a predecessor of the modern *Tomorrow’s World* programme.

MV *Caroline* later moved to near the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea and became Radio Caroline North, while another ship, MV *Mi Amigo*, became Radio Caroline South. Together, their signals covered the whole of the UK mainland. Other offshore radio stations like Radio London also carried *The World Tomorrow*, with a combined potential audience of roughly 55 million.

The UK government could not regulate these offshore stations, as they operated outside British territorial waters. Instead, British regulators used a statutory instrument of law to silence them. Called the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act of 1967, it did not directly ban the stations’ operation, but rather made it a criminal offence for British citizens to work for or assist in running the

stations. It came into effect in August 1967, and most offshore stations had no practical choice but to close down.

The World Tomorrow Programme

In many ways, *The World Tomorrow* was not compatible with the popular message found in most of the offshore radio stations' broadcast schedules. However, Radio Caroline needed paid programming to survive financially, so an agreement was made. In that way, God opened the door for the true Gospel message to go out to many who had previously been beyond reach. Radio listeners and the circulation numbers of *The Plain Truth* magazine climbed rapidly in the UK during this period—and, in time, so did the number of Church members. Indeed, a few older UK members in the Living Church of God today came into the Church at that time, after hearing messages that made them think seriously about what they believed.

Our regular *Tomorrow's World* readers will realise that we produce this magazine, along with our TV programme of the same name, to fulfil the commission

Through Radio Caroline, millions heard the Scriptures' promise of a better world under the direct rule of Jesus Christ, where all will be blessed as they follow the laws of God.

The Gospel message 60 years ago, as today, deplored the prophesied decline in the moral standards of the Western nations, identifying mainstream "Christianity" as a deceptive force working against clear biblical teaching. Through Radio Caroline, millions heard the Scriptures' promise of a better world under the direct rule of Jesus Christ, where all will be blessed as they follow the laws of God. Certainly, this message, broadcast to the UK via Radio Caroline for nearly three full years, made some uncomfortable. That is, however,

God has given to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the whole world—something Jesus Christ specifically instructed His disciples to do. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). That Work of preaching the true Gospel continues today, as we have not yet reached the end of this world's society, which remains under the deceptive influence of Satan, the devil (Revelation 12:9).

a natural side effect of the Church's duty to point out sin in this world: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1).

Jesus Christ Himself, from the very beginning of His ministry, described the need to repent of sin, to change how we live so we can be in accordance with God's law: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14-15). For three fruitful years, God used Radio Caroline to spread that message.

Christ's focus did not change after His resurrection. In Matthew 28:19-20, He instructed His followers, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them... [and] teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

God's Continuing Mission

God has called us to the ongoing mission of preaching His Gospel message in "this present evil age," as the Apostle Paul labelled it in Galatians 1:4. This message is desperately needed, both in the UK and around the world. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things'" (Romans 10:14-15).

At the beginning of his booklet *Do You Believe the True Gospel?*, the late Dr. Roderick C. Meredith gives us a stirring reminder: "Your eternity depends on your willingness to understand and believe the true Gospel!" We must fervently pray for God to open doors for the Gospel message to resonate widely and powerfully (Matthew 9:37-38). Radio Caroline, for a brief time, was one of those doors.

Just as those listeners to offshore radio who responded between 1964 and 1967 did, some people today desire to grasp God's tremendous truth and make a change in their lives. Are you willing to wholeheartedly surrender your life to God, walk with Christ, and depart from the sins of this world to follow God's inspired way of life?

—Simon R. D. Roberts



The Chaos of a Borderless World

By **Wallace G. Smith**

Immigration—illegal or irregular immigration, in particular—is tearing at the fabric of Western civilization. Caught between a sense of compassion for the vulnerable and a desire to preserve national stability, the United States and many European nations are facing an almost unprecedented challenge as migrants stream across their borders.

The situation is far more than a mere political or policy-making challenge. In some ways, the waves of migration have the nature of invasions—destabilizing the destination countries, overwhelming government resources, and widening the deep fissures that decades of societal polarization have created. For the West, the challenge of migration has become a crisis in every sense of the word.

Yet, for others, the migration crisis is also an opportunity. Opportunists and cynics see a chance to forcefully advance a long-held vision of a world *without* borders, and many would like to use the current crises to reshape the world according to their own designs. But would the fulfillment of such a vision usher in a utopian dream or a dystopian nightmare?

The only way to fully understand the migration crisis and its solution is *not* to view it through the lenses of political pragmatism, economic and demographic dynamics, cultural conflict, or even humanitarian compassion. We must consider the intentions, designs, and desires of the One who created humanity in the first place—the One who will soon make His voice heard in every nation on earth. Why are borders being challenged and crossed, and what does this mean for those on each side of those borders?

Another Nation Within the Nation

As reported on January 23 by *The Hill*, “The number of illegal immigrants in the country has roughly

doubled under President Biden. The United States had some 10.2 million illegal immigrants in 2020, and another 10 million have entered during Biden’s presidency. If the 20 million illegal immigrants were all in one state, it would be tied with New York for the fourth most populated state.”

Actually, 20 million people means that the total prospective population of illegal immigrants can represent a “nation” *within* the U.S. that, by itself, is larger than nearly three-quarters of the individual nations and dependent territories of the world. Imagine the entire population of Ecuador (18.2 million), Somalia (18.1 million), or Kazakhstan (19.6 million) illegally immigrating into the United States. How would such a massive influx of people change the nation? Shift its values? Alter its culture? Rearrange its politics?

Now imagine that influx continuing, virtually unabated, and the comparisons to an invasion begin to sound more reasonable.

In his fight against what even many Democratic politicians, such as Senator John Fetterman, consider loose-to-nonexistent border management by the Biden administration, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared the 6 million immigrants who illegally crossed the southern border in the last three years just that: an invasion.

Seeking to stem the tide of immigrants illegally swimming across the Rio Grande into Texas, Governor Abbott had new barriers and razor wire installed along the border with Mexico. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Biden administration’s authority to remove those obstacles, but Abbott—in apparent defiance of the federal government—told Texas law enforcement agencies and the National Guard to continue adding barriers. The day after Governor Abbott issued a letter explaining his objections to the Supreme Court ruling, 25 Republican governors signed a letter supporting Abbott’s actions. As one observer

noted, that step could provoke the greatest American Constitutional crisis since the Civil War.

“A Weapon... to Destabilize Our Society”

The situation in Europe is no better—and is arguably worse. For example, until recently, Sweden had been known as one of the ten safest nations on earth, despite having some of the most generous asylum regulations in all of Europe. But now?

The Financial Times summarized the nation’s situation in a report last November: “The Nordic country has gone from having one of the lowest levels of fatal shootings in Europe to one of the highest in just a decade. Well-established criminal gangs, largely run by second-generation immigrants, are no longer just killing each other but increasingly relatives and... innocent bystanders. Many of the perpetrators are children as young as 14 who are groomed by gangs to carry out hits.”

In Sweden, deaths by assault with a firearm now occur at a rate 80 percent higher than Croatia’s. And there is growing evidence that immigrant-powered criminal networks “have infiltrated some public services, political parties and even the criminal justice system.” Richard Jomshof, a member of the Swedish parliament, was blunt: “If this continues for the next two decades, Sweden is lost.”

Speaking with the *Telegraph* in December 2023, Poland’s former prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki said, “Yes, I do believe that illegal migrants represent threats to European peace, to European security, and in the longer distance, in the longer term, also to European civilization.” In particular, he highlights the “huge [numbers of] Muslim migrants from the Middle East who are coming to Germany and France and other countries and who want to change the culture of those countries, those nations.”

Italy has borne the brunt of what has seemed to be out-of-control immigration from North Africa, causing frustrations that helped put Italy’s current Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, into office.

From Italy, migrants often seek to enter France and then travel to other parts of Europe. But France has pushed back, seeking to reestablish border controls reminiscent of the days before the European Union, restricting the free movement that has become a hallmark of modern European life. Like her

counterparts in France, Ms. Meloni has warned that the EU is at risk of being overwhelmed by the growing tsunami of human beings entering the continent.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak agrees. In December 2023, joining Ms. Meloni in speaking to a gathering of right-wing Italian politicians in Rome, Mr. Sunak spoke of the migrant crisis facing the West, and the criminal organizations that take advantage of it for their own profit:

Criminal gangs will find ever cheaper ways to ply their evil trade. They will exploit our humanity, and they think nothing of putting people’s lives at risk when they put them in these boats at sea. And our enemies will also see that we are unable to deal with this and they will increasingly use migration as a weapon, deliberately driving people to our shores to try to destabilize our society. If we do not tackle this problem, the numbers will only grow. It will overwhelm our countries and our capacity to help those who actually need our help the most.

A World in Pain

Mr. Sunak’s words reflect the compassionate sentiment that has often characterized the West’s response to suffering populations—a sentiment that recognizes that, while the waves of immigrants might form a virtual invasion, they do not form a literal one. However unprecedented the current situation, the suffering and hardship behind it is as old as humanity.

There are varied reasons why people take up the challenge of uprooting themselves from the land of their people to replant themselves far, far away in a new and very different land. Some are forced away by warfare, violence, and persecution. The United Nations reported in October 2023 that more than 114 million people had been displaced from their homes by such violence. Conflict in Myanmar has led to the growth of one of the world’s largest refugee camps—the Kutupalong-Balukahli camp in Bangladesh, housing 700,000 refugees fleeing the persecution they face in their homeland.

Disasters, too, have always played a role. Just as famine drove the ancient patriarch Abram and his household to dwell for a time in the land of Egypt



(Genesis 12:10), environmental and ecological disasters today continue to drive populations to seek safety and security. It is now fashionable for some to turn such disasters into arguments against “climate change,” but regardless of the cause, natural disasters provide real pressure on people to relocate. The merciless forces of nature have driven human migration for millennia.

Some leave their homelands desperately seeking a future for their families and an escape from the poverty of their broken nations, often ruled by governments that waste their people’s wealth on delusional economic models, or by corrupt officials more interested in feeding their bank accounts than the starving children within their borders. Facing intolerable living conditions, desperate and hurting people make what may be the hardest decision of their lives: to pack up all they can carry and begin walking. The hardships they face traveling to unknown lands can be terrifying, but compared to the hardships they face in their native lands, they are considered worth the risk, whether that risk involves hiking across deserts that span the southern U.S. or sailing across Mediterranean waters that separate North Africa from Europe. Any dangers of the journey are far outweighed by the hope of a better life.

Sadly, some travel to new lands for more sinister purposes, hoping to escape the consequences of crimes committed or to find new venues for criminal enterprise. In the U.S., for instance, among the illegal immigrants caught in fiscal year 2023 were 736 known or suspected terrorists—a record high. And the market for illegal drugs such as fentanyl drives many across the border to seek addiction-based profits.

Whether due to disasters of nature or of the manmade variety, our world is one filled with pain.

And, for many, the chance to be free of that pain is worth undertaking dangerous journeys across rivers, through deserts, over mountains, and across stormy seas in barely seaworthy boats.

An Opportunity for Villains and “Visionaries”

Where there is human misery, there is often opportunity. Desperation to cross international borders has been a boon to smugglers and criminal cartels caring only for the money they can gain by exploiting desperate migrants. In testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives, agents serving along the nation’s southern border made plain the fact that cartels in Mexico have absolute control over that border, requiring migrants to pay outrageous sums for their help—and punishing with beatings and even executions those who attempt to cross without paying them for the “privilege.”

And politicians know an opportunity when they see it. A frustrated electorate is an electorate looking for change, and many governments in the West have changed hands primarily over concerns about immigration. Some parties see anger over immigration as a key to gaining votes for larger agendas. Others see new immigrants themselves, legal or illegal, as more voters they can use to sustain their own power.

Some seek to downplay immigration as an issue, acknowledging the new crises but preferring to portray them as the result of economic inequity rather than a clash of conflicting cultures and values. And there are others who go a step further, who see the current moment as an opportunity to reshape our world in the most fundamental of ways. In the eyes of such “visionaries,” mass migration and refugee camps are not simply reflections of economic hardship, natural disasters, or violence, but are signs that the existence of *borders themselves* is a problem. The current migration crises, to them, present an opportunity to advocate their dream of a *borderless utopia* as an idea whose time has come. The motivations inspiring those who promote this fantasy vary from dreamer to dreamer, but their influence on policy, politics, and culture is very real.

It may seem surprising that many now argue on *capitalistic* grounds for the opening—even the near-elimination—of borders. Billionaire Charles Koch supports more open borders on such grounds,

Crossing Borders

MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE

Most people live and die in the nation where they were born. Only around one in 30 migrate to another country. Some migrate to escape war. Others seek asylum from social and political turmoil. Many seek greater economic opportunity.

The United Nations in 2020 estimated that 281 million people were living in a country where they had not been born—triple the number estimated in 1970. Many nations are facing a dramatic increase in migration—both legal and illegal—generating dramatic cultural shifts and political conflicts while straining governments and economies.

2X

U.S. Border

The number of illegal immigrants in the country has roughly doubled under President Biden. The United States had some 10.2 million illegal immigrants in 2020, and another 10 million have entered over the last three years. If the 20 million illegal immigrants together comprised one state, it would surpass New York as the fourth most populated state in the nation.

EU Migration

The United Nations reported in October 2023 that more than 114 million people had been displaced from their homes by violence. Many nations in Europe are struggling to find a place for refugees, asylum seekers, and others fleeing across their borders and traveling across the Mediterranean.

114m

30X

Crisis in Sweden

Known for one of the most open immigration policies in Europe, as well as generous welfare systems, Sweden is plagued with violence rooted in immigrant-powered criminal networks. Stockholm's gun-murder rate is now 30 times higher than London's.

700k

Refugee "Cities"

The number of refugees fleeing violence and disaster has grown to 27 million and is expected to quadruple by 2050. The result has been the growth of massive refugee camps, such as Kutupalong-Balukahli in Bangladesh, with 700,000 refugees. More large camps are listed below.

UGANDA

270,000 refugees

The Bidi Bidi refugee camp houses refugees from war and turmoil in South Sudan.

KENYA

385,000 refugees

The Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps primarily house refugees from war and economic upheaval in Somalia.

ETHIOPIA

268,000 refugees

The Aw-barre, Kebribeyah, and Sheder refugee camps primarily house refugees from war and economic upheaval in Somalia.

JORDAN

115,000 refugees

The Azraq and Za'atari camps primarily house Syrian refugees displaced by war in their home country.

BANGLADESH

700,000 refugees

The Kutupalong-Balukahli refugee camp complex is the world's largest, housing primarily the Rohingya Muslims displaced by persecution in their native Myanmar.

SOURCES: Foreign Affairs Insights & Review, Migration Policy Institute, Pew Research Center, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Organization for Migration, United States Border Patrol, Wall Street Journal, Brookings Institution

and uses his foundation to press for immigration reform to bring more laborers into the U.S. Some go even further and argue that there should be almost no restrictions at all. Economist Bryan Caplan of George Mason University suggests that throwing borders open as much as possible, thus maximizing the free movement of people, would generate a 50 to 150 percent increase in global productive output by recovering worker potential now wasted in unproductive nations.

Others, ironically, argue in favor of open borders as an *attack* on capitalism. Writing for *The Nation* in May 2021, columnist Todd Miller titled his article “Visions of a Borderless World,” painting a picture of borders as serving only to help the wealthy and powerful while keeping the poor and oppressed under control. Writing in March 2021 for Columbia Law School’s “Abolition 13/13” social justice project, lawyer Anita Yandle declares, “Borders are a violent extension of the carceral, imperialist state.” Worried that her calls for “global justice” will seem anti-open-borders, Yandle explains, “This is not to argue against open borders; instead, open borders are a step on the way to abolishing borders (and indeed, the states that control them).”

Yes, abolishing states, *themselves*. Yandle leaves no room at all for doubt in her position: “Open borders will alleviate many issues and save numerous lives, but abolishing them through abolishing even having countries is the solution to the violence borders create.”

It may be tempting to dismiss such sentiments as ideas of fringe legal scholars, but the cultural and classical Marxist philosophies at the root of these ideas have long ago escaped the confines of academia and are now shaping policies—and, thus, the societies that live by them. Miller and Yandle are canaries in the coal mine. Many of society’s most educated people view clearly defined and defended national borders as racist and xenophobic at best, and as a tool of oppression and human rights violations at worst. In the minds of those with such “visions,” the radical opening of borders, perhaps even abolishing them altogether, won’t be a doubling down on the chaos we see growing in our nations—instead, a borderless world is the ultimate key to a just, vibrant, and fair global civilization in which human potential is finally unlocked.

A Very Ancient Idea

Visions of a world without borders are not new at all. In fact, they are almost as old as humanity itself. Millennia ago, in the plains of the ancient land of Shinar, mankind sought to create a borderless world—one people and one nation, without boundaries. We read of this attempt, the infamous Tower of Babel, in Genesis 11: “Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.... And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth’” (vv. 1–4).

Instead of families spreading out and establishing new nations in different places of the earth, the people sought to remain one “name” and refused to be “scattered.”

But what does God seek? Politicians, policymakers, academics, and intellectuals all offer their solutions, but who among them is seeking the guidance of the One who created humanity? Who is asking for advice from the One who truly understands the way to peace, fulfillment, and human flourishing? No matter how wise our own solutions and philosophies appear in our eyes, “the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:25).

God’s View of Borders

Our Creator’s vision of how humanity should live upon the earth—and the way Jesus Christ will govern this world upon His return—is made plain in the inspired pages of Scripture. The Bible shows clearly that God seeks the *distinction* of families across the earth.

In Scripture, nations are depicted as, essentially, families grown large, defined by extended familial connection rather than political ideas and governments—hence mention of “the family of Egypt” among the “families of the earth” during the future Millennial reign of the Messiah (Zechariah 14:17–18). And, so, too, the talk of *borders* in that Millennial reign (Isaiah 19:19). God’s word states plainly that “the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He *set the boundaries of the peoples* according to the number of the children of Israel” (Deuteronomy 32:8). Yes, God set *boundaries*—and not just for the people of ancient Israel, as the Apostle Paul explained: “And He has

made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times *and the boundaries of their dwellings*" (Acts 17:26).

Paul's short statement highlights that all people—of every race, ethnicity, and nationality—are united as descendants of Adam and Eve, and that God Himself chose to set *boundaries* to define the dwelling places of the nations that would descend from those common ancestors.

Since the God of the Bible is clearly a God of boundaries and borders, any vision of a borderless world is ultimately contrary to how He desires His world to work. He made this plain enough at Babel. There, humanity sought to thumb its nose at the Creator—sought *not* to build separate new nations and seek out new dwelling places in the post-Flood world as their families grew large. Rather, the masses at Babel sought to defy God's plan and to stay in one place as one people, one nation.

And their defiance did *not* go well—in the end, defying God never does. Language is one of the most fundamental unifying elements of any people, so God famously confused the peoples' languages so they could no longer communicate with each other (Genesis 11:7). "So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth" (v. 8), forcing them to do as He had wanted from the beginning.

Our Father in Heaven is consistent. His desires do not change (Malachi 3:6), the opinion of Jesus Christ does not change (Hebrews 13:8), and we can expect that the world They will begin rebuilding upon Christ's return will be just as They wanted the ancient world to be, as we see in the Millennial descriptions of Jesus' reign: a world of borders and families grown into nations.

No Solution Apart from Jesus Christ

No world problems can be solved in ignorance of God's laws and desires. No actions taken contrary to His will can ever produce happiness, peace, and safety in the long run. Fanatics may sincerely believe in their fantasy that a borderless world is the ultimate key to human flourishing, but God pronounces on

them and their ideas the same verdict He pronounced at the Tower of Babel.

But what then *is* the alternative to the chaos offered by a borderless world? How can millions of suffering people be helped without draining the resources of their host countries or inciting conflict as fundamentally different cultures chafe against one another in close quarters?

On the small scale, the Bible provides guidance for our attitudes and the orientations of our hearts. We see that the God of ancient Israel encouraged compassion for foreigners in need, commanding His people, "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21; cf. Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:19). In the New Testament, Christ inspired the Apostle Paul to teach that we should seek to "do good to all" when we have opportunity to do so, though our own families and those of the "household of faith" have a prior claim on our support (Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:8).

On the large scale, however, we must admit the facts: In this world, unless there is worldwide repentance and submission to the rule of Jesus Christ, there *can be* no real and permanent solution to the migrant crisis. Suffering will continue as man mismanages his resources, goes to war against his neighbor, and suffers the effects of his choice to kick God out of his affairs. Supplies will remain limited as man ekes out a living from the soil while denying himself the blessings that come from obeying his Creator. And the Israelite-descended nations in particular, including the U.S. and Great Britain, will increasingly feel the consequences they are prophesied to experience as they reject the God of the Bible—including the consequences recorded in Deuteronomy 28:43: "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower."

In a way, every migrant's cry for mercy, help, and justice is—whether he knows it or not—a cry for the return of Jesus Christ and for Him to establish His Kingdom of peace and abundance. He truly is "the Desire of All Nations" (Haggai 2:7). TW

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THE Works OF HIS HANDS

Light in the Dark

Just off the coast of Cape Horn, near the southernmost tip of South America, a 23-year-old scientist was languishing on the deck of an eighteenth-century sailing vessel. He had started out seeking high-seas adventure as the ship naturalist aboard the *HMS Beagle*—however, his adventure was periodically marred by intense seasickness. Later, from Sydney, Australia, he would write to a relative, “I hate every wave of the ocean, with a fervor, which you, who have only seen the green waters of the shore, can never understand.”

However, one night was different. In the blackness of the night of October 24, 1832, eventual evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin was captivated by a brilliant sight. Darwin recorded the incident in his journal:

The night was pitch dark, with a fresh breeze.

— The sea from its extreme luminousness presented a wonderful & most beautiful appearance; every part of the water, which by day is seen as foam, glowed with a pale light. The vessel drove before her bows two billows of liquid phosphorus, & in her wake was a milky train.

— As far as the eye reached, the crest of every wave was bright; & from the reflected light, the sky just above the horizon was not so utterly dark as the rest of the Heavens (“Charles Darwin’s Ocean Upwelling,” Smithsonian Institution, *Ocean.Sl.edu*, February 2015).

Luminous Beings

Darwin saw a phenomenon called *bioluminescence*—living organisms emitting visible light produced by an inter-

nal chemical reaction. In this case, the pale blue glow he saw was produced by plankton called *dinoflagellates* (“dinos”), named for their dinosaur-looking spines. These microscopic organisms produce a chemical reaction when a molecule called *luciferin* gains electrons from oxygen, assisted by an enzyme called *luciferase*. The result is a small packet of light called a photon.

The chemical reaction can be compared to a wood fire using oxygen to “oxidize” a log, producing light and heat. However, our small dinos produce light without heat. The “cool” light is triggered by the agitation of water against the dinos’ protruding spines. Millions of split-second photon flashes released by the millions of organisms appear together as a steady glow that lights the sea surface.

Each photon of light is produced by a chain of complex factors: spiny protrusions that mechanically harvest water movement, “gears” that trigger a cascade of chemical changes inside the cell, perception of these changes by the wall of an internal “sack” or organelle, and, finally, the heat-free “fire” that produces light. What part of this whole cascade would develop independently and not be weeded out by natural selection? Random chance here would start to look like a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle putting itself together by an experimenter shaking the box.

Coincidence or Creation?

However, when young Darwin observed bioluminescence in so many different organisms, he was not likely thinking of microscopic spines and layer upon layer of chemical reactions. In fact, the many classes of organisms that produced bioluminescence caused Darwin

considerable discomfort. He wrote that he had difficulty explaining how so many evolutionarily unrelated random organisms had this light-producing capacity.

Normally, evolutionists simplify the overwhelming improbability that random chance could design complex traits by lumping organisms together into “evolutionary trees.” However, the Smithsonian Institution elaborates on the compounding problem: “The number of species that bioluminesce and the variations in the chemical reactions that produce light are evidence that bioluminescence has evolved many times over—at least 40 separate times! This number continues to grow as research makes new discoveries. In 2018, scientists discovered the ray-finned fishes themselves evolved bioluminescence 27 separate times. That’s quite an increase from the handful of times that were known before” (“Bioluminescence,” *Smithsonian*, April 2018).

Bioluminescence commonly occurs on land in fireflies, glow worms, fungi, and bacteria. But most deep-sea life has the capacity to produce this light; it has been observed in at least 10,000 species, with undoubtedly many more to come (Aubin Fleiss and Karen Sarkisyan, “A brief review of bioluminescent systems,” *Current Genetics*, August 2019). So, what is the probability that bioluminescence, with its complex set of factors, could have woven itself together from scratch by random chance 40 or more separate times? If you found a comparatively less complex wristwatch on the seashore, wouldn’t it stretch the imagination to assume the glass, gears, springs, and metal casing all joined themselves together by the random slapping of sea waves? How about trying that explanation for more than 40 different wristwatches?

The Hand of God Is No Dilemma

Explaining bioluminescence is a mountain of a task for evolutionists. Evolutionist Anthony Campbell attempts to solve the problem with the single enzyme *luciferase*. In a 2012 issue of *Luminescence*, he makes this massive leap: “All that is needed is a solvent cage, within which are just a few critical amino acids” (“Darwin shines light on the evolution of bioluminescence,” *ResearchGate.net*, November 2012).

This is a huge oversimplification, considering that even the simplest enzyme is an exceedingly complex and intricate protein that functions like a key—essentially a bundle of encoded information—which, by definition, essentially requires design. Furthermore,

environmental triggers can cause this key to change, “folding” into a different key or turning off and on.

For further explanation of how cells manufacture enzymes and proteins, see chapter 4 of *Evolution and Creation: What Both Sides Miss* by Mr. Wallace Smith. You can read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org or order your free copy from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine.

Campbell attempts to base his leap of reason on research, but his simplification contains a notable flaw. Ironically, experimenters use intricately designed lab experiments in their attempts to show how precursors of complex structures could result from random chance. Even from within their own scientific circles, researcher Clemens Richert has expressed concern that reasoning people may start to ask “what replaced the flasks, pipettes and stir bars of a chemistry lab during prebiotic evolution, let alone the hands of the chemist who performed the manipulations.” Richert even warns that these experiments may damage the argument and trigger the “‘Hand of God’ dilemma,” as he calls it (“Prebiotic chemistry and human intervention,” *Nature Communications*, December 12, 2018).

The Light of the World

Creation bears witness of the works of God’s hands. From countless billions of organisms on land and in the sea, to the chemistry of bioluminescence and its incredibly complex enzyme—all point to a Master Designer (Psalm 19; Isaiah 6:3; Romans 1).

Yet the history of mankind is full of counterfeit lights (Matthew 24:24). In every form imaginable, lies have been woven into the world’s traditions, myths, histories, and religions (1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9). Whether the lies of hijacked Christianity (Matthew 7:15–16), Darwin’s theory of evolution (Psalm 10:11, 14:1, 53:1), or reborn humanist paganism (Romans 1:23–24, 28), we can take heart that all counterfeits will ultimately crumble before the true light that will pierce the darkness (Isaiah 60:1–3, 19–22). Creation bears witness of a magnificent and powerful Creator and Designer.

Who do you think your Creator is? Does that creator really match what Scripture says Jesus Christ was, became, and will be? If not, like Darwin standing in the dark, you may have your turn to be shaken and confused when the Creator of all light returns to planet Earth to establish His kingdom.

—Bryan Fall



Use the Tool of History

One tragedy of our modern times is the neglect of history. On the personal and academic levels, society has become so engrossed in the here and now that facts and lessons of history often go ignored or disregarded. How far back can you trace your genealogy—your “personal history,” so to speak? The Bible reveals that the Israelites could determine their ancestry over multiple centuries (Numbers 1:17–19; cf. Matthew 1), but I would need to pay a website to help me go back more than three generations!

Teaching our children lessons from history can be a daunting task, since it involves more than learning basic facts; we must have the proper context. But it is worth it! Ignorant assumptions about history are dangerous and allow bad actors to cherry-pick or even falsify history, often in service of a devious agenda.

Skewed Facts, Skewed Conclusions

I recently saw an online survey that asked which world empire had been the worst. I chose the one that I thought had treated its opponents and subjects the most brutally. Imagine my shock when I saw what the majority had chosen—the British Empire! Though far from perfect, any honest inquiry should reveal that Britain did *not* lead history’s “worst” empire.

Facts matter. The British Empire *did* commit many national sins; it was, after all, an empire stretched over centuries, with millions of people and generations of leaders who did not make the right decisions in every situation, and with many “bad apples” as well. But other historical facts show real benefits that flowed from British rule. The same could be said for many

other empires, with different balances of positive and negative.

Learning about the history of different peoples, nations, and empires can help us discern when facts are manipulated or distorted, and thus when *ideas* are manipulated and distorted. While one Internet poll ought not be taken too seriously, the idea that the British Empire is the worst in history has indeed gathered a following. Yet it is simply an ignorant or dishonest take on history. Find a good history book on the British Empire and compare it to the Assyrian Empire, the Mongolian Empire, the Spanish Empire, the Soviet Empire, or the Third Reich. You will not find that the British Empire was perfect; however, you *will* see that it was far from the worst empire in history.

Avoiding Past Mistakes

The lessons of history should also help us in our personal lives. Parents naturally want their children to learn to avoid mistakes, and the Bible includes much instruction that can help children to do so. The book of Proverbs should jump to the forefront of parents’ minds as a great book to read with their children, because it will expose them to godly principles for making decisions. Solomon even introduces the book by writing that his purpose is “to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (Proverbs 1:4).

Beyond direct moral instruction, the histories recorded in Scripture should help us learn lessons. The Apostle Paul was reflecting on various details of Israel’s past when God inspired him to write that “all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have

come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). The Old Testament is full of stories that record how God worked with His people and how their faith was rewarded; many of these stories are summarized in Hebrews 11. Our children can learn many positive qualities such as perseverance, obedience, and focus from the lives of those who were aiming to "obtain a better resurrection" (Hebrews 11:35).

By studying history, our children can also learn the consequences of bad choices. When Paul recounted the Israelites' travails, he pointed out how Christians should avoid the many sinful actions the Israelites committed: "Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted" (1 Corinthians 10:6). Paul also highlights idolatry, sexual immorality, tempting Christ, and complaining as evil actions that we can learn from (vv. 7-10).

Applying History to Ourselves

Parents can teach their children history to help them learn to avoid sinful conduct—and thus to avoid the consequences of disobeying God. But, as our children grow older, they can go deeper. Like their parents, children can draw the wrong lessons from history if they don't understand *how and why* certain events occurred.

For example, when we see mistakes that people have made throughout history, it can be easy to assume we would have known better than our ancestors. It is tempting to cast ourselves in the story as the "good guys." We tell ourselves that we would have been the faithful Israelites, not the disobedient, sinful, stiff-

necked ones. When we do this, whether out of vanity or naivete, we too easily overlook the painful fact that there are times in history when the *vast majority* of people made the wrong decision, and we would likely have been part of that wrong majority. Would we *really* have been the third faithful man standing next to Caleb and Joshua? Or is it far more likely that we would have fallen to temptation like the hundreds of thousands of Israelites who did not enter the Promised Land?

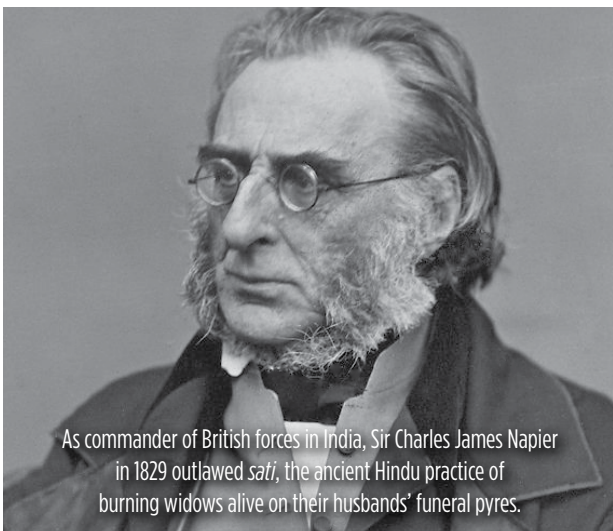
To apply one lesson Paul presents in 1 Corinthians 10, do we *really* think we would have gone through the Exodus without complaining? Perhaps we think that we would have been too smart, too focused, or too righteous to complain. The truth is that this is almost certainly not the case. When we study history with our children, we as parents can point out how easy it is to complain. Most children will at times complain—some more often than others. However, many children in the Western world present complaints that are often trivial compared to what the Israelites endured during the Exodus. They were hungry, thirsty, and tired. The Israelites fell into complaining under dire circumstances. But how often do our children fall into complaining about *what* they get to eat or what *entertainment* they get to have? Of course, as parents helping our children learn these lessons of history, our children may turn those lessons around on us if we are the ones yielding to the temptation to complain!

The Bible Is the Foundation of History

History can be an amazing teacher, but parents must understand that it can easily be manipulated, cherry-picked, or ignored. As Christian parents, we have the obligation to both learn lessons of history and learn to accurately apply those lessons in our lives and the lives of our children. This can be tricky, since the time and energy required to do so might seem beyond our ability.

Thankfully, there is a solution to this problem. That solution is the Bible. It provides a framework of historical facts as well as lessons we can learn from those facts. The Bible teaches the reward of faith—and the cost—while reminding us how easy it is to fall into temptation. It even reveals prophecies proving that there would be far worse empires than the British Empire throughout the history of the world! Studying the inspired word of God is the best way to ensure that we rightly understand the facts and lessons of history.

—Mark Sandor



As commander of British forces in India, Sir Charles James Napier in 1829 outlawed *satī*, the ancient Hindu practice of burning widows alive on their husbands' funeral pyres.

Who Determines Morality?

Late last year, in a Sunday service at St. John the Baptist's in Felixstowe, the Eucharist service of the Church of England



“Pride” flag hanging from Peterborough Cathedral, Cambridgeshire, UK

“included a blessing, for the first time in the Church of England's 489-year history, for same-sex partners” (*Telegraph*, December 17, 2023). To be clear, officials of England's national church—ostensibly the moral authority of the nation—asked God to bless a relationship that the Bible clearly deems sinful (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26–27). In fact, the couple receiving the blessing were, themselves, two female Anglican priests.

While the Church of England claims to be Christian, it is clearly not following Jesus Christ—the One who inspired the laws and commands that forbid same-sex relationships (2 Timothy 3:15–16). Although the Church of England still technically forbids same-sex “marriage,” its leaders have approved prayers for those in romantic same-sex relationships. The event in Felixstowe took place one day before the Roman Catholic Church also approved blessings on same-sex couples (*AP*, December 19, 2023).

One of those “blessed” by the Anglican minister remarked that “as Christians, we're clear that the gospel is about love... [T]here's more in the Bible about not being a gossip than there is

about homosexuality—and Jesus himself never said anything about it.” However, this ignores clear New Testament teachings—both Jesus' and others' (Matthew 19:4–5; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Revelation 21:7–8). Jesus Christ also warned of such hypocrisy, saying that “in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:9).

Right and wrong do not change, just as God does not change (Malachi 3:6). In fact, Jesus Christ, who is also the God of the Old Testament, “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). What God considers right and wrong, moral and immoral, is solid and unchanging, regardless of what is currently fashionable or acceptable in the Church of England—or anywhere else. The day is coming when a foundation of true godly morality will finally be established in all nations. That time will start at the return of Jesus Christ.

A Growing Culture of Hate

As we observe the war in Gaza, we see the results of teaching children to hate Israel and glorify terrorism from their very young years, even in school (*Council on Foreign Relations*, May 1, 2017). In response to the violent Hamas attacks, we also see young Israeli rap artists encouraging their listeners to move from despair and mourning to anger (*Jerusalem Post*, December 16, 2023). Hate is emerging as a driving force for violence between nations on the world stage.

We also see anger and hate motivating mass shootings and killings in locations all over the world—Africa, Mexico, Europe, and the United States. The *BBC* recently published an article calling for an end to the “culture of hatred.” The article follows the story of a Scottish mother living in Colorado with her American husband and 23-year-old son, who was recently shot and killed by a 15-year-old during an argument. In an interview, this mother rightly observed, “I don't believe for a single minute that we can change any of the gun laws in America, but I feel that today within the teenage youth there's a terrible culture of hatred.”

The Bible warns that “in the last days perilous times will come,” saying that men will be “lovers of themselves,” as well as unthankful, unholy, unloving, “without self-control,” and “brutal” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). The Bible reveals that, as society

descends further from God, a “root bearing bitterness” or hatred settles in (Deuteronomy 29:14–19). The Scriptures also warn that hatred is a “work of the flesh” manifested in those who choose to live apart from God's laws (Galatians 5:19–21). The Bible forbids hatred, which is the spirit of murder (Leviticus 19:17–18; Matthew 5:21–22). Children must be taught to love and not to hate. Yet the world will not truly learn the way of peace—love toward God and love toward neighbor—until Jesus Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God.

Middle East Attitudes Are Shifting

For centuries, Muslim Middle Eastern nations have been generally divided along denominational Sunni-Shia lines. The Sunni branch of Islam makes up 85 to 90 percent of all Muslims and the dominant population in nations such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, while Shias make up only about 10 to 15 percent of all Muslims and form majorities in nations such as Iran and Iraq. The Sunni-Shia divide has been a major source of division among many countries in the Middle East.

However, times are changing. The current war between Israel and Hamas appears to be pushing many Muslims to reconsider their historic antipathy toward each other. In a recent study of Tunisians, survey participants were asked their opinions about other Middle Eastern nations (*Foreign Affairs*, December 14, 2023). Before October 7, 2023,

many Tunisians had increasingly positive perspectives toward Israel and negative perspectives about Iran. But, within just three weeks of the onset of the current war, attitudes there had shifted greatly. Additionally, before the war began there was much friction between Iran and most of its Arab neighbors. Now, Iran has removed visa restrictions on 33 nations, including many Arab states in the Gulf (*Reuters*, December 14, 2023). Iran and Saudi Arabia have reinstated communications after seven years of silence. And all the while, Israel, who just a couple of months ago was building ties with many of its Arab neighbors, is rapidly becoming an enemy.

Such a shift in Middle Eastern allegiances, with longtime enemies suddenly treating each other as potential allies, is significant. Students of Bible prophecy should take note of such developments, but not be surprised. Zechariah 12:2–3 speaks of the hatred of Israel that will fill many peoples and governments

of the world and prophecies that, eventually, we will see that “all the nations of the earth are gathered against it.”

Germany’s Historic Military Deployment

German and Lithuanian defense ministers in December signed a historic agreement (*Newsweek*, December 18, 2023). Germany agreed to permanently deploy a military battalion to Lithuania—the first foreign German troop deployment on European soil since World War II. This move, to occur over the next three years, will involve 4,800 troops and their families. Lithuania is responsible for infrastructure preparation, and Germany will provide troops and equipment. The battalion should have full-operation capabilities by 2027.

As the Lithuanian defense minister noted, “The German commitment of permanently stationing a brigade in Lithuania is a historical step for both Germany and Lithuania.... We are turning over to a page of

even deeper strategic partnership.” Lithuania is bordered by Russian ally Belarus, which in turn is bordered by war-torn Ukraine. He also stated, “The German Brigade will significantly increase our defensive potential and enhance NATO deterrence and collective defense.” His German counterpart pointedly commented, “Germany understands clearly the new state of affairs in security politics: we are taking the role of leadership and responsibility in the [NATO] Alliance.”

Students of history should note this pivotal event. German military undertakings beyond its borders were the genesis of history’s only two world wars. Bible prophecy sheds powerful light on Germany’s role in the future of Europe. It will eventually lead a group of ten European powers politically and militarily. This agreement with Lithuania could be the first step in German troops being stationed around Europe—and even the Holy Land.

Declining Confidence in Western Democracies

In a recent poll, Europeans and Americans were asked if they were satisfied with their national democracies and the EU central government (*Politico*, December 11, 2023). Results show that nearly 70 percent of American respondents said the state of democracy had declined in recent years, while a similar number of polltakers in France shared the same opinion and 60 percent of UK respon-

dents felt their democracy was in decline. Sweden was the only country where more than half (58 percent) of respondents were satisfied with their democracy. When asked about the state of democracy within the EU government, most respondents were unsatisfied, even though they were supportive of the EU in general.

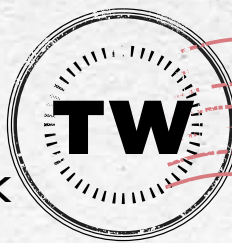
Many are concerned about the declining respect for democracy in Western nations. Some idolize democracy as the best form of government, yet former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill put such thoughts in perspective: “Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

All the governments of this world are using humanly devised forms of governance that have never been able to pave the way to peace (Isaiah 59:8). Around 400 BC, the Greek philosopher Plato observed that governments follow cycles of decline—beginning with aristocracy, eventually transitioning to an oligarchy, then to democracy and accompanying anarchy, and finally ending with tyranny under a dictator. The Bible reveals that such cycles will end only when Jesus Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God—the government that will finally bring real peace to this earth (Isaiah 9:6–7). TW



LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Thank you for letting me be your subscriber. I was especially blessed by your articles. I have been receiving your magazine for several years now. I've got a lot of knowledge and share with my people in Thailand, Myanmar, and USA also. Most of them don't understand English. Most of them are my people (Karen) in refugee camps in Thailand. Thank you very much for your message from God.

—Subscriber in New York

To all at *Tomorrow's World* and the Living Church of God pastors who make it possible for me to hear the "real gospel," thank you! You have been a blessing to me for many years.

—Subscriber in North Carolina

Thank you for all the information, enlightenment, and booklets that you share to me reminding me of all the suffering God has been through and still goes through for the love He has for humanity. I was also overwhelmed when I suddenly realized [the errors in] my "up-bringing beliefs" as well, though I have much more to learn. I am reading your latest letter and want to order myself a booklet entitled *Law or Grace: Which Is It?* I can't wait to read and be more enlightened to follow Jesus Christ our Lord. Thank you for all the work that you do for our Lord and the magazine we also receive. May God's blessing be upon you tenfold.

—Subscriber in New Zealand

I appreciate the information you provide through your magazine. I would like your next magazine. I'm aware

the magazines are free, but I like to contribute from time to time. May the Lord bless you and keep the faith going.

—Subscriber in Oklahoma

Greetings to everyone at *Tomorrow's World*. I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for the free subscription you have been sending me. Indeed the knowledge you share in every issue enlightens me on what is happening around the world. It added more to my consciousness of having to "watch and pray" and be obedient to God in my life. I am renewing my subscription for 2024. Thank you very much. God Bless you more as you share knowledge with us.

—Subscriber in the Philippines

Just want to thank you for the book *The Plain Truth About the Protestant Reformation*, by Roderick C. Meredith. I truly enjoyed reading it. It really is quite a shock, and truly a reality of what all these different churches of today are kind of doing. So many of them are *not* professing the Lord's word, as it actually is written in the Bible. They are really sugarcoating what they think or feel that their congregation wants to hear. So sad. I truly feel that you do preach the Bible as written. It's awesome. I wait each month for your magazine. Your articles are profound and are always with the word. Thank you for your wonderful services.

—Subscriber in Nevada

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

TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7TWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Nationwide SC10 SU 7:30 a.m.

BARBADOS

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

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 SU 8:00 a.m.
Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 SU 9:00 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

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

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

UK & NW EUROPE

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



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SA 3:30 a.m.

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

TU 5:00 p.m.

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

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

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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

COMET SU 7:30 a.m.

The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 2:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 11:00 p.m.

MO 10:30 p.m.

SA 11:00 p.m.

Faith TV USA SU 8:00 a.m.

Positiv TV (POSI) SU 8:30 a.m.

Rewind SU 9:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.

SU 7:30 p.m.

FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 268 SU 11:00 p.m.

MO 10:30 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

Word Ch. 373 SU 6:00 a.m.

SU 7:30 p.m.

FR 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date listings, please go to

TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in

AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.

Fairbanks KATN SU 7:00 a.m.

Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WTVY (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Huntsville WZDX SU 9:30 a.m.

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

Opelika WLTX SU 7:30 a.m.

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

Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.

Fort Smith KFTA SU 10:00 a.m.

Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.

Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.

Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

El Centro KECY (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

Eureka KECA-LD/KVIQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Salinas KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

San Francisco BAVC (Public Access) WE 8:00 a.m.

San Luis Obispo KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Santa Maria KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

CO 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 (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Macon WMAZ SU 8:00 a.m.

Savannah WSAV SU 8:00 a.m.

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

IA Ottumwa KWOT SU 8:00 a.m.

ID Boise KBOI SU 7:00 a.m.

Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

Twin Falls KMTV SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.

Chicago WJYS SU 8:30 a.m.

Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.

Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Evansville WTVW SU 7:30 a.m.

Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:00 a.m.

Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.

Lafayette WLFI SU 8:00 a.m.

KS Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.

Topeka KTKA SU 7:00 a.m.

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

Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.

Louisville WBNA SU 9:30 a.m.

Paducah WDKA SU 11:00 a.m.

LA Alexandria KALB SU 7:00 a.m.

Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.

Lake Charles KPLC SU 7:00 a.m.

Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

New Orleans WNOL SU 7:00 a.m.

Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.

West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.

Presque Isle WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAI SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAI SU 11:00 a.m.

Calumet WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet KDHL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Duluth KDHL SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.

Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.

Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.

St. Joseph KNPQ SU 7:00 a.m.

St. Louis KPLR SU 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.

Columbus WCBI SU 7:00 a.m.

Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.

Hattiesburg WHLT/WXXX SU 7:00 a.m.

Meridian WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KVSJ/NSVI (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Butte KCWB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.

Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.

Great Falls KCWG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Helena KTVH SU 7:00 a.m.

Missoula KTVM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Asheville WGGG SU 9:30 a.m.

Asheville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.

Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.

Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.

Charlotte WCCB SU 11:30 a.m.

Greenville WNCT SU 8:00 a.m.

Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.

Raleigh WRAZ SU 7:30 a.m.

Willmington WWAY SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Fargo KJXB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Williston KXMD SU 7:00 a.m.

NM Albuquerque KBQB SU 8:00 a.m.

COLO SU 7:00 a.m.

WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.

BRIC SU 7:00 p.m.

MO 12:30 a.m.

WENY SU 8:00 a.m.

WWTI SU 7:00 a.m.

Utica KYWKTV SU 8:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.

Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.

Columbus WOXB/WXC/WGCT/WOIZ SU 8:00 a.m.

Toledo BBCA SU 7:30 p.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.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.

Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.

Pittsburgh WPCW SU 7:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.

Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.

Greenville WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.

Greenville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.

WYLB SU 8:00 a.m.

Rock Hill WAMB SU 9:00 a.m.

Rock Hill WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.

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

Sioux Falls KFSY SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBKJ SU 7:00 a.m.

Knoxville WKNX SU 12:00 a.m.

Knoxville WKNX SU 7:00 a.m.

Knoxville WKNX SU 7:30 a.m.

Knoxville WKNX SU 6:00 p.m.

Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.

Amarillo KVH/KVII SU 7:00 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.

Laredo KXLX SU 7:00 a.m.

Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lufkin KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.

McAllen KCWT/KNOV SU 7:00 a.m.

Midland KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.

Odessa KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.

San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.

San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.

Sherman KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.

Tyler KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.

Tyler KYTX SU 7:00 a.m.

Tyler KFXK SU 7:30 a.m.

Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.

Victoria KVCT SU 7:00 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.

Chesterfield TH 6:30 p.m.

Harrisonburg WSVW SU 8:00 a.m.

Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.

Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Burlington WFFF SU 6:00 a.m.

Burlington WNNH SU 2:00 a.m.

Burlington WNNH SU 8:00 a.m.

WA Everett KSTW SU 6:00 a.m.

Kennewick KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.

Pasco KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.

Richland KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.

Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.

Yakima KIMA SU 8:00 a.m.

WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

La Crosse WKOW/WEAU SU 7:00 a.m.

Wausau WSAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

Wittenberg WZAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Charleston WQCW SU 7:00 a.m.

Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

Parkersburg WOVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Wheeling WBWO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

The War Against Parents

Who is in charge of your children? The schools? The media? How can parents succeed today?
February 29–March 6

How to Build a New World

Nearly everyone can agree that our modern world is broken. But will we ever be able to fix it?
March 7–13

Five Prophecies for the Middle East

Is there a future of peace yet ahead for a troubled region beset by wars and ancient hatreds?
March 14–20

Why Germany Matters in End-Time Prophecy

Most Bible students fail to recognize the vital prophesied role of a powerful European nation!
March 21–27

The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday

Scripture reveals that when Jesus rose from the dead, He did so on the seventh-day Sabbath!
March 28–April 3

Your Questions, the Bible's Answers! Part 3

Who was Cain's wife? Did Elijah or Enoch go to Heaven? Scripture has these answers and more!
April 4–10

Schedule subject to change

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