HISTORIC MIDWAY



CBD: Miracle or Snake Oil?

SEVEN SIGNS ANNOUNCING

Natural disasters, nuclear war, and heavenly signs herald the Second Coming!

What Does "Thy Kingdom Come" Mean?

he Lord's Prayer" is familiar to many, but how many who repeat it understand what they are actually praying? The prayer may be found in two different New Testament passages. Both accounts need to be compared if we seek a proper understanding of it.

Jesus never intended for people to mindlessly repeat this prayer over and over, as some do. More than being a specific prayer to be repeated word for word, this so-called "Lord's Prayer" was meant to be an outline, and was given in response to a request from one of Jesus' disciples. "Now it came to pass... that one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11:1).

What followed was Jesus' response to that request. "So He said to them, 'When you pray, say..." (Luke 11:2). If we only had this one account, we might assume that He wants us to memorize and repeat these exact words, as a child might pray before going to bed, "Now I lay me down to sleep...." My sister and I memorized a prayer of thanks that we, as children, mindlessly recited before eating dinner. But is this what Jesus meant for us to do?

Matthew's account adds a slightly different nuance to the subject, telling us that He instructed, "*In this manner*, therefore, pray..." (Matthew 6:9). This was preceded by an important caution: "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do" (v. 7). Memorization is good and has an important purpose. But, as I mentioned at the beginning of chapter six in our booklet *John 3:16—Hidden Truths of the Golden Verse*, the problem with memorization is that, once we learn the words, we often fail to consider what they mean.

Three Important Words

While the entire prayer outline is important, I want to focus on three words. How many understand what they are praying when they utter the words, "Thy kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2, *King James Version*)? *What* is this kingdom, and *when* does it come? This information is mostly hidden from modern mainstream Christianity. Some think the kingdom is set up in their hearts. Others think it is the church. Still others think it is heaven. Which is true? According to the Bible, none of these!

Jesus' message from the very beginning was that of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14–15). Luke tells us of an occasion when, after preaching and healing on the Sabbath day and healing many more that evening, He rose the next day to depart to a quieter place, and then to move on. However, the crowds found Him and begged Him to stay. "But 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). The Kingdom of God was the primary message



Jesus proclaimed throughout His earthly ministry, and a careful reading of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) demonstrates this.

> The Kingdom of God was the subject of many of Jesus' parables, either directly stated as such (Mark 4:26–32; Luke 13:20–21) or clearly implied (Luke

14:15–24). Jesus' listeners understood that His message was about a coming kingdom (Luke 19:11–27). They misunderstood the timing, but they understood that He taught there was a kingdom coming.

Kingdom-Focused

This magazine that you are reading—and our telecast, which is aired on hundreds of stations around the world—is called *Tomorrow's World* for a reason. We are not talking about a humanly devised world

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Tomorrow's World has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged and may be tax-deductible. of ever-increasing technological developments, but about a world in which human nature will be changed. Space does not allow for a full explanation, but consider that this is what the New Covenant mentioned in the Bible is all about. "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them" (Hebrews 8:10-11). We are talking about the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to take over its rulership and bring workable solutions to mankind's problems. And He will have the power to bring that about.

The prophet Zechariah tells of a future time when Jerusalem will be surrounded by enemies, and a strong hand will save the inhabitants of the city (Zechariah 12, 14). This is when Jesus Christ will return as "King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9). This is when King David will be resurrected to rule over all the tribes of Israel under Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23–24; 37:24–25). This is when Christ's twelve apostles will assist King David by each ruling over one of the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28). This coming Kingdom of God is what Jesus preached for three-and-a-half years prior to His death by crucifixion!

Is this the message people think of when they pray "Thy kingdom come"? Is this the message *you* think of when *you* read or speak those words? Jesus said He would come again and set up a kingdom on this earth. Do you believe that? I hope so, because He commands us to believe it: "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).

Jesus is the King of the kingdom and He was at hand to represent it, but notice that it was not for that time. "Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately" (Luke 19:11).

The True Hope for Followers of Christ

The coming of that kingdom does not depend on whether we believe it or not, but there is very good news for those who *do* believe. The parable Jesus spoke in Luke 19 shows that there is an incredible reward for those who are Christ's at His coming. Just as David and the apostles were promised posi-

Jesus is calling individuals who do not go with the flow of this world, who step out of their comfort zones, and, in faith, do the Work of God. tions of rulership, so are we. To the one who multiplies his mina ten-fold, He gives ten cities. To the one who multiplies it five-fold, He gives five cities. The minas here represent what we do with God's calling, how much we grow and overcome. We are *saved* by faith (Ephesians 2:8), but *rewarded* according to our works: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My

reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" (Revelation 22:12).

Jesus is calling individuals who do not go with the flow of this world, who step out of their comfort zones, and, in faith, do the Work of God. These are the few chosen ones who act on what they know not the many who are called but procrastinate and *fail* to act. Note this sober warning: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13–14).

The Kingdom of God is what every true believer ought to strive for, as Jesus instructed: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). And everyone who puts that goal first in his mind and heart will pray every day—in whatever words he is moved to use—for the very same thing Jesus said we should pray for: "Thy kingdom come"!

Mul E Weston

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Jesus Christ will return! And while many claim we cannot know when He may arrive, the Bible gives us clear signs that will tell us the time is near.

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SEVEN SIGNS OF THE SECOND COMING

By Richard F. Ames

he end of the world fascinates millions. Many blockbuster movies, like last year's *Avengers: Endgame*, feature the world on the brink of destruction, while others, like *Captain Marvel*, portray it in the midst of conflict between forces of good and evil. Other popular films, such as the 2017 thriller *Geostorm*, depict widespread natural disasters with the potential to destroy our entire planet.

Do any of these disaster movies portray a real future?

Sadly, the reality of devastating disasters lies all around us, whether we are aware of it or not. How many of us in North America even heard about last autumn's terrible flooding across central Africa, which killed scores of people and forced thousands from their homes, many of which were destroyed? Earlier, Hurricane Dorian, which caused damage along the United States' eastern seaboard, was the worst natural disaster in the Bahamas' recorded history, leaving roughly 70,000 people homeless and hundreds presumed dead. Estimates suggest that Dorian caused \$7 billion in property damage in the Bahamas alone.

Elsewhere, fires caused terrible destruction. In the first nine months of 2019, more than 40,000 wildfires across the U.S. burned about 4.4 million acres. California was one of the hardest-hit states. One report observed:

If it seems that wildfires are burning nearly all the time these days, that there's no longer a definable fire season in California, you're right. Fourteen of the 20 most destructive fires in state history have occurred since 2007, and California has 78 more annual "fire days" now than it had 50 years ago. When 2018 became the worst fire year on record, we recognized a new reality. Now each year could surpass the last, setting records for the size, destruction, cost and loss of life ("California Fires Are Getting Worse. What's Going On?," *LAist.com*, October 28, 2019).

In many ways it seems that things *are* getting worse, in California and elsewhere. Some say that we

have always had disasters, and that natural catastrophes simply affect us more now because of our growing population. Others recognize the growing dangers, but explain them away as the results of random chance or a phenomenon such as global climate change.

But what if there is an entirely different dimension to the apparent increase in natural disasters and world turmoil? What if things *don't* get better? Many are shocked to learn that the Bible predicts a dramatic increase in specific phenomena and previously unimaginable disaster and suffering. The good news, however, is that Jesus Christ *will* return and put an end to all the turmoil and suffering—and that you can find encouragement in watching for the signs of His Second Coming.

Will Humanity Survive?

We are living in humanity's grand experiment in governing itself without God. Can the 193 United Nations member states ever find the way to world peace? History should make the answer plain! The twentieth century brought two world wars responsible for the deaths of tens of millions and violent tyrannies that killed further millions of innocent civilians. It brought humanity to the brink of nuclear self-annihilation. Even today, biological, chemical, nuclear, and other threats keep our planet on the brink of disaster and destruction.

So, will planet Earth survive at all? Is there any hope for world peace? Many do not know that the Bible predicts specific events leading up to the end of this age. We read, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

But *who* will shorten those days to save us? Your Bible reveals that Christ will return to this earth to prevent total *cosmocide*. Danger is ahead, but Scripture also shares the awesome good news of a coming world government under the King of kings. Until He comes, what should we do? Many try to "live for today" and enjoy all they can, avoiding the sobering reality of what is to come.

But Christ wants us to be different. He admonishes us to "take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34–36).

This article will examine seven trends or signs for which we should be watching. As we watch, we will know that we are approaching that wonderful day when Jesus Christ will return and the seventh trumpet will sound. "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). Will you be ready to meet Him when He comes? You will, if you follow His commands as you prepare. So, look for these seven signs!

1. Growing Danger of Nuclear War

Despite many treaties meant to control the proliferation of nuclear weapons, experts are worried. One agency reports that, since 2016, "there has been significant backsliding on the standards related to arms control and risk reduction" ("Assessing Progress on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament," Arms Control Association, July 2019, p. v). In addition to the known nuclear nations—Russia, the United States, France, China, the United Kingdom, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea—the report looked at Iran and Syria, where biological and other forms of deadly weaponry are also being researched, and found "evidence that Iran, North Korea, and Syria all engaged in illicit trafficking of dual-use [weapon and non-weapon] materials and technologies" (p. vi).

Will Russia detonate one of its estimated 6,850 nuclear weapons in a coming war? Will the United States detonate one of its 6,550? We should remember that mankind's pattern is *not* to let technology sit unused. Last January, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* reminded us of this danger: "The current situation—in which intersecting nuclear, climate, and information warfare threats all go insufficiently recognized and addressed, when they are not simply ignored or denied—is unsustainable. The longer world leaders and citizens carelessly inhabit this new and abnormal reality, the more likely the world is to experience catastrophe of historic proportions." *The Bulletin* called our present situation "a new abnor-



mal" ("A new abnormal: It is *still* 2 minutes to midnight," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 2019). Sadly, your Bible confirms that humanity is not finished with war. Scripture foretells World War III, when a huge army will move west across the Euphrates River.

Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths (Revelation 9:16–18).

As shocking as it may seem, one-third of all human beings will die in a future world war! Watch for the development of nuclear capabilities on the world scene.

2. Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters

As we saw above, floods and fires continue to ravage our planet and seem to be increasing. Consider the following comments by this magazine's Editor in Chief, Evangelist Gerald E. Weston, in his eye-opening booklet *Acts of God: Why Natural Disasters?*:

Hawaii is a very popular tourist destination, as are the islands of the South Pacific. These beautiful volcanic islands are the stuff of songs and musicals. But as we know, volcanoes can be very dangerous to anyone living too close to them. Thousands of people perished in Pompeii and the surrounding area when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D. Fifty-seven people died when Mount St. Helens erupted May 18, 1980.... There were warning signs of a catastrophe in the making, just as there had been before Mt. Vesuvius erupted. The north side of St. Helens bulged some 300 feet and was growing five to six feet a day. Warnings to evacuate the area were given, but as is often the case, people do not heed such warnings: "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished" (Proverbs 27:12).

As we saw earlier, natural disasters cause both human and financial devastation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported in late 2019 that since 1980, the U.S. had suffered over \$1.7 trillion in financial losses as a result of 254 major weather events that each cost the nation more than \$1 billion. Last year was the fifth consecutive year in which the U.S. suffered ten or more separate billion-dollar disaster events ("Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview," *NCDC.NOAA.gov*, October 8, 2019). Altogether, natural disasters conservatively cost the United States \$91 billion in 2018, according to the NOAA, while several insurance companies such as Munich Re present even higher estimates.

And these figures are just for U.S. losses. One single event in 2011—the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that damaged Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant—has been tied to more than 20,000 deaths and \$360 billion in economic damage. This compares to "just" \$250 billion in damage and additional economic impact in the U.S. from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

We could go on listing these events and lamenting the suffering they cause, yet your Bible reveals that today's worst disasters pale in comparison to what will come at the end of this age. The book of Revelation explains: "And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth" (16:18).

Scripture reveals that terrible times are ahead, be-

MANY PERCEIVE THAT ONLY A STRONG And charismatic power can Bring Unity to the struggling Eu

fore Christ's return. "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:7–8).

Of course, preparing for the occasional emergency or natural disaster is prudent. But while "doomsday preppers" stockpile vast amounts of food, water, and resources, the only preparation that will ultimately protect you from what is coming on the whole world is to stay close to your Savior and do what He tells you to do!

3. A United Europe Seeks Global Primacy

The European Union has experienced the challenge of "Brexit"—the controversy surrounding British voters' choice to leave the European Union and the consequences of that vote. The EU is also struggling with problems caused by massive flows of refugees and other immigrants, some of whom bring to their new countries the very different values of the countries they left behind. Smaller and weaker EU nations chafe as Germany strives to exert a leadership role proportionate to its economic strength, while all are left unnerved by the uncertain nature of the United States' commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Many perceive that only a strong and charismatic power can bring unity to the struggling EU. In fact, your Bible prophesies that such a leader is coming, symbolized as a beast with seven heads and ten horns. God reveals the meaning of this symbol: "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast" (Revelation 17:12–13).

Ten kings or kingdoms will support this charismatic leader, producing a powerful, unified force. Currently, the European Union is not so unified, but watch for international events that will spur a future combination of nations in Europe to fulfill a

final revival of the historic Roman Empire, which will dominate the world politically and militarily. Notice the description of its power: "And all the world marveled and followed the beast... and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation

13:3–4). The world power structure will change dramatically over the coming years. Watch developments in Europe as an ascendant European Union seeks and ultimately achieves global primacy.

4. A Powerful Leader Unites Billions in a Religious Revival

We've seen the prophecy that a great superpower will ascend on the world scene, but notice that there's *another* world figure also described as a beast. *This* symbolic beast has two horns like a lamb.

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived (Revelation 13:11–14).

Jesus Christ is called the Lamb of God. By contrast, this religious imposter will *appear* Christian while speaking like a dragon. You need to watch for an internationally respected religious figure who will influence a European political and military superpower. You must not let him deceive you, though his miracle-working deceptions will cause billions to follow him and his false religion. Notice: "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). One of the false prophet's lying wonders will be to call down fire from heaven, as we saw in Revelation 13:13.

The Apostle Paul emphasizes that this false prophet will be a servant of Satan, not of God, and will be judged at the coming of the King of kings, Jesus Christ: "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8). Watch religious trends in Europe, where a great religious revival will draw billions to a false and lawless religion.

5. The Abomination of Desolation

Jesus gave us a vital warning sign: "'Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains'" (Matthew 24:15–16). If you've read the books of Daniel and Matthew in your Bible, you may have been puzzled by the mysterious "abomination of desolation." What is it, and what does it mean in end-time prophecy?

Clearly, this is an important sign to understand. It signals when God's people are to flee and escape the final three-and-a-half-year sequence of end-time prophetic devastations.

Historically, the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes issued a decree in 167 BC that prohibited the Jews from making temple sacrifices. We read, "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation" (Daniel 11:31). Antiochus not only stopped the daily sacrifices, but also erected in the temple a statue of Jupiter Olympus and directed everyone to worship it.

This event, also described in Daniel 8, *pre*figured a prophesied end-time milestone. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days" (Daniel 12:11). Yes, 1,290 days before Jesus Christ's Second Coming, animal sacrifices will again be stopped! Jesus warns Christians to be alert to an end-time abomination of desolation! Just as Antiochus Epiphanes profaned the Temple and cut off the sacrifices in 167 BC, so will a profane authority cut off Jewish sacrifices in the future! You need to watch for developments in Israel that will lead to the restoration of animal sacrifices by religious Jews, and for developments leading to an international treaty allowing these sacrifices.

6. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God Preached to All Nations

Jesus gave this sign signifying the end of man's failed attempts to produce world peace: "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). You've been reading that Gospel in this magazine, which proclaims tomorrow's world and the Kingdom of God on Earth. Yes, the world-ruling Kingdom of God will bring peace and prosperity to all nations. It will be ruled by the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus came preaching that Gospel or good news: "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).

The prophet Isaiah reveals an inspiring promise of the Messiah's world-ruling kingdom of peace: "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 world of conflicts, oppression, and wars will be replaced by the Kingdom of God—the government of God. "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).

SECOND COMING CONTINUES ON PAGE 27



Common Law vs. Napoleonic Code





In the year 1666, the Great Fire of London destroyed more than 13,000 properties covering an area of 436 acres. The narrow pathways and streets that snaked through the city made it easy for the fire to spread quickly among buildings that were made mostly

of wood. Immediately after the flames died down, King Charles II started reviewing architectural plans that would have completely redesigned the city. He issued a Royal Proclamation on the 13th of September:

Since it hath pleased God to lay this heavy judgment upon us all in this time, as an evidence of his displeasure for our sins, we do comfort ourself with some hope, that he will, upon our due humiliation before him, as a new instance of his signal blessing upon us, give us life, not only to see the foundations laid, but the buildings finished, of a much more beautiful city than is at this time consumed (*The Historical Charters and Constitutional Documents* of the City of London, p. 224).

Of all the visions put forth to guide the rebuilding of London, perhaps Sir Christopher Wren's is the most well-known. The previous year, he had travelled to Paris and admired the wide boulevards and grand design of that city. His plans would do away with the narrow streets that had only served to spread the flames. In their place were to be wide avenues with classically designed buildings and carefully placed plazas. However, virtually none of his designs—nor anyone else's, for that matter—were approved for construction. The landowners in London chose instead to rebuild along similar boundary lines, albeit with stricter laws on materials and spacing.

In an interview regarding the plans to rebuild London, Charles Hind, currently the Chief Curator at the Royal Institute of British Architects, stated that "Wren's is the most practical and interesting of all the plans.... But personally I'm glad his scheme didn't get built. I think it would have still been essentially un-English to masterplan on that scale. I rather like the higgledy-piggledy, piecemeal nature of London's development over the centuries" ("How London might have looked: Five masterplans after the great fire of 1666," *TheGuardian.com*, January 25, 2016).

Common Law vs. Code Napoléon

In much the same way that the cities of London and Paris reflect very different approaches to design, so, too, do the laws that govern the respective nations reflect different perspectives. English common law is not written down as legislation but represents a legal system based upon precedent: centuries of case law largely based on Judeo-Christian values. On the continent and in many nations outside the British Commonwealth, Code Napoléon, or the Napoleonic Code, is the basis for governing laws. The key difference between these two systems is that common law is a bottom-up legal system that implies, "What is not forbidden is permitted." In other words, common law defines what you can't do while leaving you free to do everything else, while the Napoleonic Code, also known as civil law, is a top-down system that often becomes a vastly more bureaucratic and controlling approach to governing citizens, effectively spelling out in detail what you *can* do, under a "Government knows best" mantra.

In Canada, we find a mix of these two systems. The Province of Quebec utilises a fusion of Napoleonic civil law and common law, using the latter for criminal and other matters, while the rest of the country is based on common law for both civil and criminal applications. These two systems have been well established since Canadian Confederation in 1867.

However, in 1982, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau signed into law the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The key difference between these two systems is that common law is a bottomup legal system that implies, "What is not forbidden is permitted." The intent behind the Charter was to firmly establish in the Constitution the rights and freedoms of Canadian citizens and permanent residents, which would then be authoritatively interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada. Canadians enjoyed the same freedoms prior to the Charter as after. The difference that has become evident is that unelected judges have now been given power to strike down laws that appear to infringe on the 1982 Charter's vaguely worded rights and freedoms. Such was

the case in 2015, when Bill C-14, a federal law prohibiting physician-assisted dying, was struck down because it was considered an unconstitutional violation of the Charter right to "life, liberty and security of the person." The Supreme Court also used the ambiguous list of rights and freedoms to overrule a law prohibiting euthanasia.

In the *Globe and Mail*, Canadian jurist and legal scholar Grant Huscroft argued that the Charter had given the judiciary too much power:

Consider just a few of the recent Charter decisions made by Canadian courts. Same-sex marriage has been established, along with abortion on demand; marijuana has been legalized... and prohibitions on private health care have been struck down, along with laws banning tobacco advertising. Laws governing parental discipline of children and prohibiting the possession of child pornography have been rewritten by the court in the course of their constitutionality being upheld ("Yes. The Charter of Rights has given judges too much power," *TheGlobeAndMail.com*, July 31, 2017).

The ultimate effect of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has been to override the common law system and replace it with a system that more closely resembles the Napoleonic Code. In his book titled *The Trouble with Canada... Still!*, author William Gairdner describes how Prime Minister Trudeau effectively turned Canada's legal system on its head. "In short, after a mere 115 years of existence as a self-reliant people exercising responsible government, we surrendered the supreme authority over our own lawmakers and handed it back to judges we could not remove. Suddenly, with the stroke of Trudeau's pen, we—he—replaced *parliamentary* sovereignty with *judicial* sovereignty" (p. 44).

A New Form of Government

Upon consideration, it becomes clear that neither English common law nor the Napoleonic Code provides a sufficiently solid legal foundation for right government. Neither of these systems provides a perfect law of liberty (cf. James 1:25). Legal scholars may argue the nuances of the rights and freedoms of citizens under different legal systems, but an entirely different form of government will soon be established by Jesus Christ to set a new precedent—a legal foundation based on the commandments of God. The ancient Scriptures state clearly that "it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). We require direction based on godly wisdom and knowledge, and the perfect law of liberty defines what is right and wrong according to God's will and purpose, not our own. It does not change from generation to generation, but remains a constant guide to how we are to conduct ourselves for the benefit of our households, our neighbours, and our nations.

The same God to whom Charles II attributed the destruction of the City of London in 1666 will remove both the higgledy-piggledy approach of English common law and the top-heavy burden of Napoleonic civil law and replace them with a perfect government. As it is written in the book of Isaiah, "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" (Isaiah 9:7).

—Jonathan Riley

The Miracle at MIDWAY

What Hollywood and Historians Have Forgotten

By Douglas S. Winnail

he recent release of the movie *Midway* has once again focused attention on one of the most significant battles of World War II and an *amazing* turning point in the war in the Pacific. At stake in this deadly contest was the future of the United States and the Japanese Empire. A series of remarkable events during this ferocious naval engagement *suddenly* altered the course of the battle and dramatically changed the course of the war—not to mention the course of history.

What were those remarkable events that caused the sudden reversal for both the Americans and the Japanese? What lessons can we learn from a momentous battle fought nearly 80 years ago near two little islands in the central Pacific? And *why* are those lessons important to each of us today?

Numerous books have tried to explain why the Japanese lost a pivotal battle they were confident of winning, and why American forces suddenly prevailed when they should have been destroyed. Historians point to decisions by commanders, mistakes in combat, different battle tactics, better intelligence information, and particular weather conditions. Another factor often credited for the surprising turn of events during the Battle of Midway is *just plain luck!* In the 1976 movie *Midway*, actor Henry Fonda, in the role of Rear Admiral Chester Nimitz, famously asked, "Were we better than the Japanese, or just luckier?" Indeed, the Americans appeared to benefit from more than a little "luck," while the Japanese seemed to come up short again and again during the battle.

As we will see in this article, there was *more* to Midway than just being lucky or unlucky! There was *another vital factor* in the amazing turn of events one that historians often seem to sense and hint at, but seldom mention directly. As we examine the remarkable series of events that contributed to the surprising conclusion of the Battle of Midway, the *nature* of this vital factor will become more obvious.

Setting the Stage

How did American and Japanese forces find themselves in a life-and-death struggle in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles from their homelands? The two nations were thrust into deadly conflict with a surprising and devastating raid by Japanese planes on the American naval base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which then-President Franklin Roosevelt called "a date which will live in infamy." The raid on Pearl Harbor was part of Japan's plan to destroy American naval power in the western Pacific and extend the power and influence of the Japanese Empire. The dawn raid crippled America's naval capability in the Pacific Ocean, and in succeeding days, the Japanese invaded the Philippines, sank two British battleships in the Indian Ocean, and overran Singapore-the "Gibraltar of the East." For six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese attack forces were unstoppable, going from victory to victory, while America and its allies reeled from defeat after defeat. During this time, a Japanese submarine surfaced off the coast of California and spent nearly half an hour shelling an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, before sailing down the coast on the surface and finally submerging and disappearing into the Pacific Ocean.

In an attempt to land a counterpunch, Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle led 16 carrier-based American bombers on a surprise raid on several Japanese cities, dramatized in the film *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*. However, running out of fuel, many of the American bombers crash-landed along the coast of China. In response to the raid, the Japanese inflicted severe reprisals on the Chinese—burning villages and killing some 250,000 civilians in areas that appeared to aid the downed American flyers.

Flushed with success and brimming with confidence-and, perhaps, desirous for a bit of revenge-Japanese Admiral Yamamoto planned to extinguish American naval power in the Pacific by invading Midway, a crucial point for controlling Pacific sealanes. He hoped to draw the American carriers into a trap where they would be destroyed by Japanese battleships in one final cataclysmic engagement, after which the defeated Americans would sue for peace. That was the plan. What the Japanese did not realize was that just days before the Battle of Midway, the Americans had cracked the Japanese military code and learned the location of the impending attack. When the powerful Japanese carrier attack force arrived in the waters just off Midway, the Americans were already in position-watching and waiting.

Fateful Battle

On the morning of June 4, an American scout plane from Midway spotted the Japanese armada just as the plane was running low on fuel. American bombers were sent from Midway in response, but hours later when they reached the Japanese armada, *none of their bombs struck their intended targets*—a reflection of just how difficult it is to hit a moving target on the ocean from a high altitude.

The first wave of planes that attacked Midway from the Japanese carriers inflicted considerable damage, but the squadron leader felt a second attack would be needed, so Japanese Admiral Nagumo ordered the returning planes to be reloaded with bombs. Then, when he learned that American carriers were in the vicinity, he ordered the planes rearmed with torpedoes—all of which took precious time.

During this time, planes from the American carriers began attacking the Japanese carriers. The Japanese ships changed course, so they were not where the American pilots thought they should be. In fact, most of the fighters and dive-bombers from one carrier, unable to find the Japanese fleet, returned to the carrier or ran out of fuel and ditched in the ocean. However, the leader of the American torpedo bomber squadron, playing a hunch, found the Japanese carriers and immediately attacked. But the American torpedo bombers were slow and had to fly in a straight line just above the waves to launch their torpedoes. In this position and without fighter protection, the bombers were extremely vulnerable to antiaircraft fire and the much faster Japanese fighters, the "Zeros." *All of the torpedo bombers were lost without inflicting any damage on the Japanese carriers*. During the engagement, an American submarine launched a torpedo at the Japanese destroyer *Arashi*, but the torpedo missed, and the destroyer chased the sub away.

Dive-bombers from the American carriers had found no Japanese ships when they arrived at their initial destination. However, the squadron leader happened to notice the wake of the Japanese destroyer Arashi racing to rejoin the Japanese fleet, and he followed it directly to the Japanese carriers. When the American dive-bombers arrived, they found the sky above the carriers clear of Japanese fighter planes. The Zeros had all been ordered down to strike low-flying American torpedo bombers. The incredible result was that within about five minutes, three Japanese carriers were shattered by explosions and enveloped in flames from bombs dropped by the unopposed American dive-bombers. The mighty and menacing Japanese armada was severely crippled in a matter of minutes. A few hours later, the fourth carrier of the Japanese fleet was dealt with in a similar manner. The attacking Japanese force, intent on trapping and annihilating the American carrier force, had itself sailed into a deadly trap and was decisively defeated-losing four carriers, 330 planes, and 2,500 soldiers-irreplaceable pilots and highly trained ground crews. The Americans lost one carrier, one destroyer, 147 planes and 307 men.

Military historian John Keegan described it as "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history



The Miracle of Midway

On the morning of June 4, 1942, the fearsome Japanese carrier force heading toward Midway was the most powerful military armada ever assembled—yet by sunset on that same day this awesome assembly of ships and planes had been decimated, and Japanese hopes to expand their Pacific empire were devastated. Before Midway, the Japanese forces had known only victories. After Midway, they experienced a succession of defeats at the hands of America and its allies.

Was this incredible turn of events just a matter of *luck, chance*, or *fate*? Considering the remarkable series of events that led to the American victory and turned the tide of the war in the Pacific, many have sensed that there is *more* to the story than lucky coincidence.

Just as the Japanese armada set sail, one of Admiral Nagumo's air commanders developed ap-

> pendicitis and had to be relieved of his duties. Several days later, the key commander who had planned the air attack on Pearl Harbor came down with pneumonia. Just days before the armada was to strike, American codebreakers identified Midway as the target of a coming invasion. Though he faced resistance from his superiors in Washington, Admiral Nimitz was moved to

trust the information provided by his intelligence team. Then there was the element of surprise. Was it only a coincidence that the American scout plane spotted the invasion force first—just as the **MIDWAY** CONTINUES ON PAGE 30

THE JAPANESE CARRIER FORCE WAS THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY ARMADA EVER ASSEMBLED— Yet by Sunset It was decimated

of naval warfare" (*The Second World War*, 2005, p. 275). The unexpected American victory at Midway turned the tide of the war in the Pacific and changed the course of history.

Was I properly baptized?

Question: I was baptized years ago, so at first, when your magazine and your telecast talked about the need for baptism, I assumed it did not apply to me. Now, after reading your literature, I am beginning to wonder whether I was properly baptized. How can I know?

Answer: Christ commanded His disciples to baptize those whom God called to repentance: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 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" (Matthew 28:19–20).

What does God require for a baptism to be valid in His eyes? Surely Jesus Christ knows, as it was He who established the requirement of baptism for salvation: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15–16).

What must one believe? One must believe the Gospel Jesus preached. What was that Gospel? "Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom [government] of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14–15).

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, brought the good news that God's Kingdom will ultimately take control of all the world's governments, administering a time of peace between formerly warring nations.

Of what must one repent? Of sin. What is sin? "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, *King James Version*). At your baptism, did you obey Jesus' instruction to repent of transgressing the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19:17–19)?

Keeping these points in mind, you can ask yourself: When you were baptized, did you truly repent of your sins? If you knew what sin is, but did not resolve to turn utterly and completely away from it with the help of your Savior, you did not truly repent. And if you did not even know what sin is (perhaps you believed that as a Christian you could do whatever you wanted and not have it counted as sin) you certainly did not repent of your sins.

One sign of an invalid baptism is that it did not follow the scriptural example. Notice that Scripture clearly instructs that baptisms are to be performed by fully immersing someone in water (Matthew 3:13–16; John 3:23; Acts 8:38–39). A mere sprinkling does not adhere to the biblical symbolism of washing away past sins (Acts 22:16).

Additionally, if you were baptized at a very young age—perhaps even as an infant—you could not have comprehended what it means to repent. If you were not even the one who requested your own baptism, this is a sure sign that it did not signal your true repentance.

Perhaps you feel that you did repent when you were baptized. If so, ask yourself another question: Did you believe the true Gospel? Today, most people who call themselves "Christians" have a hazy and incorrect

If you were not even the one who requested your own baptism, this is a sure sign that it did not signal your true repentance. idea of the Gospel. Some think of it as a message about Jesus, while others think of it as a message about prosperity or self-affirmation. Few understand the truth—that the Gospel Jesus preached was the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the message of a soon-coming Kingdom ruled by Jesus Christ Himself, under which all of humanity will experience the joys and blessings of living God's way.

Some people rush into baptism because they think it is the socially acceptable thing to do—perhaps because their friends have all been baptized and they feel left out. As a result, they may seek baptism long before they have truly "counted the cost" of this eternal commitment (Luke 14:28). Because baptism is such a weighty decision, you should be wary of those who want to hurry you into baptism without allowing you time to pray, study, and fast as you seek God's will for your life. To learn more about baptism and to more deeply consider your need for it, please write or call the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, for a free copy of our informative booklet *Christian Baptism: Its Real Meaning*.

冒London CALLING

"God Save the Queen!"



od save the Queen" is an instantly recognisable phrase of patriotic sentiment in the British Commonwealth. It expresses hope for the monarch's long reign and respect for her preeminent place in national life; indeed, it is found on all formal proclamations coming from the Crown. It also looks to God to come to the country's aid in time of need. In the mid-eighteenth century, during the reign of George II and the troubling period of the Jacobite rebellion, the anthem "God Save the King" was first sung, later becoming the national anthem of the UK. Quickly adopted by other royal households across Europe, it remains in use today by nations of the Commonwealth.

The words hearken back to the Bible's account of King Solomon's coronation (1 Kings 1:34–39), and were used in the first recorded coronation of an English monarch, when Egbert was crowned king in Bath Cathedral in the early 800s AD.

But how can God "save the Queen" when so much of her realm seems to have accepted Friedrich Nietzsche's famous 1882 edict that "God is dead" (Die Fröhliche Wissenschaft: Leipzig: E.W. Fritzsch, p. 137)? God is certainly not alive in the thoughts and behaviors of many British citizens. In 2017, the Guardian reported on the results of a British Social Attitudes survey, in which more than half of all adults in the UK and almost three-fourths of 18- to 24-year-olds say they have no religious affiliation to speak of ("More than half UK population has no religion, finds survey," September 4, 2017). A Pew Research Center study reported in 2018 that 65 percent of "religiously unaffiliated" citizens in the UK said they were reared that way. Of that group, more than 70 percent saw science as sufficient to displace any need for religion in their lives.

Greg Sheridan, a visiting fellow at King's College, part of the University of London, noted in a recent magazine article, "Most British people seem to take it on faith that to have faith is stupid" ("The West cannot survive without a re-energised belief in Christianity," *The Spectator,* August 10, 2019). He notes that Britain is more atheistic than his home country, Australia, which in turn is more so than the United States—and that, across the English-speaking world, religious belief is rapidly deteriorating.

Why Is This?

Following World War II, Britain's elites determined to remake British society based upon science, and rationalism rather than spirituality became the presiding ethos. The result has been the rapid secularization of society. In 1963, Anglican theologian Harry Blamires proclaimed, "There is no longer a Christian mind"—the opening sentence of a chapter he titled "The Surrender to Secularism" (*The Christian Mind*, p. 3). Now, almost 60 years later, writers like Sheridan can make this observation of British society with even greater certainty.

Sheridan's point is that for Western civilization to survive it needs "a re-energised belief in Christianity." Sheridan is not the first to point this out. Pope John Paul II, addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, October 1988, called for a Europe "united from the Urals to the Atlantic." Religious unity, rather than political, was uppermost in his mind—a unity resulting from Europe searching "more intensely for its soul" (George Weigel, Witness to Hope, 1999: HarperCollins, pp. 542, 584). Ignoring that plea, Europe has instead sought to whitewash or outright erase references to the part Christianity played in



its foundation and identity, as though it were something to be ashamed of. Sheridan sums it up well in his

article when he states, "Modern liberal opinion is not only hostile to Christianity, it is positively embarrassed about any connection with it." This holds true

for both Europe and the United Kingdom. So how can the Western world develop a "re-energised" belief in Christianity when the world around it is becoming increasingly secular? Sheridan, like John Paul II before him, offers no easy answer to the problem, but rather emphasises the need for *a return to religion*.

But How Might This Happen?

According to a reliable source written millennia ago, there will soon come a religious resurgence in Europe that will seem to show the way. However, it will require one major change in European thought: a willingness to acknowledge the supernatural world, despite today's widespread rejection of such ideas in favour of rationalism.

The book of Revelation, the last book in your Bible, foretells of a person who will perform signs, wonders, and miracles to *deceive* the world (Revelation 13:11-17). The result will be a religious revival in which our current rationalistic populace will embrace the creation of a combined religious/economic system. It may appear to be a remarkable religious revival of sorts, but the Bible

Europe has instead sought to whitewash or outright erase references to the part Christianity played in its foundation and identity, as though it were something to be ashamed of. shows that this will be a decidedly *ungodly* development. And it will not stand forever—nor, indeed, for very long at all.

Regular readers of *Tomorrow's World* know that we proclaim the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, as set out in prophecies throughout the Bible—not least in the book of Revelation. Jesus Christ's return will bring about the destruction of this revived religious system, which will fight against Him and be defeated at His return. The result—prophesied and sure—

will be the establishment of *the true worship of God*. This is not the solution that John Paul II sought in his statement to the Europeans, nor subsequently discussed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to the Vatican in 1989. John Paul II sought "a restoration of normality, a return to Europe's true historical course" (Weigel, p. 602). Rather, the effect of Christ's return will be that the earth will become filled with the knowledge of God "as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14).

After the return of Jesus Christ, the citizens of the United Kingdom—and all other earthly kingdoms—will

be able to shout, with both understanding and conviction, to the King of kings: "God save the King!" Everyone—everyone—will know that a great God rules in the heavens, and on the earth as well.

If you have not read our booklets Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled! and The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?—both of which shed an enormous amount of light on this topic—you can read them online at TomorrowsWorld.org, or you may request free printed copies from the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine).

Queen Elizabeth II visits Royal Albert Dock in Liverpool during her Diamond Jubilee tour in 2012.

—Peter Nathan





CANNABIS: Miracle Cure or Snake Oil?

By Gerald E. Weston

hile we don't hear the term as often as we used to, modern life suggests we should embrace it again: **Snake oil**. In eighteenth-century Europe and America, peddlers sold snake oil "remedies," claiming they could heal everything that ails you despite much evidence to the contrary. In time, the term "snake oil" came to describe any fraudulent health product for which exaggerated claims were made, sold by individuals interested in nothing but money.

Cannabis is controversial. Why? And why do people who have no interest in "getting high" suddenly support it? Much of the answer involves what is often called "medical marijuana." What do we need to know about this ever-evolving subject?

Two ingredients in marijuana receive the most attention: delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). THC is the intoxicating, hallucinogenic ingredient, while CBD alone has no such effect. CBD is legal in many jurisdictions and should not be confused with the intoxicating aspect of cannabis—and therein lies much of the problem. As one highly advertised brand states, "CBD is not marijuana." *Medical News Today* clarifies the difference:

CBD comes from the cannabis plant. People refer to cannabis plants as either hemp or marijuana, depending on their level of THC. Hemp plants that are legal under the Farm Bill must contain less than 0.3% THC. Over the years, marijuana farmers have selectively bred their plants to contain high levels of THC and other compounds.... However, hemp farmers have rarely modified the plant. These hemp plants are used to create CBD oil ("Everything you need to know about CBD oil," July 27, 2018).

Nevertheless, the intoxicating, THC-heavy marijuana plant has been widely conflated with the hemp plant used to derive CBD. Why? As we shall see, by linking and confusing the two plants and their primary ingredients, those seeking legalization of the intoxicating marijuana are winning a well-conceived propaganda war. We will explain this further, but let us first look at CBD. Those promoting it give the impression that there is scientific proof of its benefits. However, articles written by objective medical sources and promoters of the product are filled with subtle phrases such as "Studies *suggest* that CBD *may* help," "Studies *indicate* that CBD *may* help reduce symptoms," and "CBD *shows promise*."

THIS MARIJUANA CONTROVERSY WOULD BE EASY TO SORT OUT IF CBD AND THC WERE LOOKED AT SEPARATELY, BUT THEY ARE NOT—AND DELIBERATELY SO!

The Agenda

Medical marijuana has been heavily promoted over the last decade, and the number of ailments it reportedly "helps"—and even "cures"—is astounding. The Ohio Medical Marijuana Control Program lists 21 conditions for which it can be prescribed legally:

AIDS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, cancer, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, Crohn's disease, epilepsy or another seizure disorder, fibromyalgia, glaucoma, hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, pain that is either chronic and severe or intractable, Parkinson's disease, positive status for HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord disease or injury, Tourette's syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and ulcerative colitis.

Despite this, one distinguished member of the Ohio Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee, Dr. Gary Wenk, wrote the following in *Psychology Today*:

If you suffer with one of these disorders, the most important question to ask your recommender is whether you can to [*sic*] benefit from using marijuana. If your recommender says "yes" then you can be certain that he or she is ignorant of the current state of medical research on marijuana. Simply stated, there is no reliable clinical evidence to support the use of marijuana for any of these conditions—none at all ("What Medical Marijuana Is, and Is Not, Good for," July 15, 2018).

Dr. Wenk goes on to say that he believes the ideal

medical advisor in such a case is one who admits to not truly knowing whether medical marijuana is helpful or not—someone who is open-minded, but duly cautious.

He points out that much of the evidence for medical marijuana is anecdotal, involving testimonies from individuals rather than the findings of objective and carefully performed scientific studies. He also mentions the very real placebo effect:

People who think they will get better often do—not from the "medicine" (often mere "sugar pills," unbeknownst to those taking them), but as a result of the mind at work. Dr. Wenk notes that some animal studies suggest cannabis has some promise in lessening pain—but, as someone of his stature knows from experience, what works in mice does not necessarily work in humans. He is open to possibilities on the subject, yet rightfully circumspect and hesitant to draw unjustified conclusions.

His approach stands in stark contrast to so many uninformed enthusiasts, who jump to the defense of marijuana without asking some fundamental questions: Does anecdotal evidence qualify as proof? Or is it the main ingredient of a snake-oil sales pitch? Is cannabis the only route to go? Or even the best one? What dosage is appropriate? What are the side effects? How does it interact with other medicines or foods?

In the midst of it all stands a statement by Dr. Wenk that must not be dismissed: "Simply stated, there is no reliable clinical evidence to support the use of marijuana for any of these conditions—none at all."

A Lesson Learned and Forgotten

It *may be* that the derivative CBD has some remarkable potential in medicine. But many of those promoting legal marijuana carelessly take "it may be" to mean "it's a sure thing." Some go so far as to promote it as "the sacred plant"—a God-given miracle medicine that cures just about anything that ails you. What is the problem with all of this?

The average person is probably not familiar with *High Times*, an American magazine devoted to the drug culture. Tom Forçade founded *High Times* in 1974, but suffered from something all too common among heavy pot users—mood swings and paranoia—and he ended his life with a single bullet to the head in 1978.

Bob Greene of the *Chicago Tribune* interviewed the executive editor of *High Times* and wrote in a March 30, 1987, column that "the magazine's founder, Thomas Forcade... had wanted *High Times* 'to do for drugs what *Playboy* did for sex, and what *Rolling Stone* did for music" ("What to Read If You Just Don't Say 'No," *ChicagoTribune.com*).

Keith Stroup is another prime promoter of hallucinogenic marijuana. In 1970, Stroup started the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) in response to a friend's arrest for possession. He originally wanted the "R" to stand for "Repeal" but realized that most Americans were not in favor of legalizing pot.

Stroup claims he was more anti-jail than pro-marijuana, but like so many during the 1970s, Stroup himself dabbled with weed. At that time, most marijuana contained very low levels of THC, often less than 1 percent and rarely more than 2 percent. However, Stroup was introduced to a much more powerful supply, and experienced paranoia, which brings us to something many do not recognize: Today's marijuana is **not** the marijuana of the Woodstock generation. It is more typical today for marijuana to have 20 to 25 percent THC!

Alex Berenson was a reporter for the *New York Times* and a self-described "libertarian" when it came to marijuana—until a conversation with his wife, a psychiatrist who works with the criminally insane, raised questions in his mind. That conversation drove him to do some serious research, which led him to write *Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence.* In it, he explains the following:

Stroup and NORML had won when they framed their fight as about civil rights and fairness in law enforcement. Once they were perceived as advocates for getting high, the public turned on them. The way to get traction for marijuana legalization was to make the argument about everything other than the reason that people used the drug. Stroup had realized that fact before anyone else. Then he'd forgotten—and his movement had paid the price (Berenson, p. 46).

Bait and Switch

This marijuana controversy would be easy to sort out if advocates looked at CBD and THC separately, but they deliberately do not. While much of the "medical" discussion concerns *CBD*, the real goal of marijuana advocates is to legalize *THC*, and what many fail to understand is that a huge cannabis lobby is at work with millions of dollars, painting the bandwagon with glowing colors. How many know that billionaire George Soros has pumped \$100,000,000 into the sales pitch?

Activists have mounted different public opinion campaigns at different times, such as making the claim that the war against cannabis, and against illegal drugs in general, is racially biased. They have promoted the idea that the war on drugs is a waste of resources, and that it ruins "ordinary" people's lives by making them criminals for enjoying a supposedly harmless pleasure. But the goal of their most recent and most successful campaign is to convince ordinary people like you and me, people who have no interest in "toking up," that cannabis is medicine. After all, who wants to be against medicine? On top of this, people wrongly believe cannabis is *natural* and *safe*, unlike chemical pharmaceuticals.

What far too many ordinary people do not realize is that they have been pawns in the hands of individuals who are waging a well-orchestrated campaign to *legalize recreational marijuana*. That is their game. As Berenson explains:

Linking legalization to medical use has proven the crucial step. It encourages voters to think of marijuana as something other than an intoxicant. In reality, except for a few narrow conditions such as cancer-related wasting, neither cannabis nor THC [the intoxicating ingredient] has ever been shown to work in randomized clinical trials (pp. xvii-xviii). Numerous medicines are derived from plants. Opioids come from poppies and are welcome relief to patients suffering excruciating pain, but they come with a price. Over 2016 and 2017 alone, opioid overdoses killed more Americans than the Vietnam War.

One of the claims of advocates is that cannabis, whether THC or CBD, cures cancer, or at least lessens the unpleasant effects of cancer treatments. However, as Dr. Wenk wrote:

According to The National Cancer Institute... there is insufficient evidence to recommend using marijuana as a treatment for cancer-related symptoms or cancer treatment-related symptoms or cancer treatment-related side effects. Yes, marijuana can kill cancer cells; however, so can many other chemicals, such as nicotine, but no one is going to recommend that you start smoking cigarettes to treat your lung cancer.

I am not a doctor, and I don't play one on television. Neither do I swallow all the claims of the pharmaceutical companies. But one point should be obvious: Medicines have short-term and long-term side effects, and this includes CBD as well as THC. Television stations air ads that promote the latest miracle drug, followed by ads for law firms planning to sue the drug companies for their *previous* miracle drug. Drugs help some individuals, but kill others. That is a fact of life—and death!

When people speak of "medical marijuana," it is important to understand what they truly mean. One should also ask, "Why do we hear so much about legalizing medical marijuana when CBD is already legal in most jurisdictions?" The answer is obvious. *Medical marijuana advocates want THC legalized, not just CBD*. These snake oil salesmen have done a bait and switch. Notice the progression in one jurisdiction after another: First legalize medical marijuana, then legalize recreational marijuana.

We at *Tomorrow's World* do not deny that limited medical benefits from either, or both, of cannabis' two main ingredients may someday be discovered and clearly demonstrated through proper medical and scientific testing. But we also recognize that the endgame for activists is to use medical marijuana to pro-





mote legalization of recreational use. This is a *moral* issue, rather than a medical issue. The rush toward legalization has already brought serious consequences, and the situation will only get worse.

Besides overdose deaths, one of the most serious consequences of marijuana use is *amotivational syndrome*: the loss of initiative. There may be exceptions—a few users who are highly motivated—but with today's far more potent strains of marijuana there is a generational wave of unmotivated casualties. What can *that* do for a nation's future?

Follow the Money

A funny thing happened after medical marijuana gained acceptance. Entrepreneurs discovered that there is *money* in it! Not only is medical marijuana, whether THC or CBD, the wonder drug to cure what ails you, it is also the goose that laid the golden egg. Growers, distributors, and governments are cashing in.

Yes, marijuana is suddenly big business. Even former U.S. Speaker of the House John Boehner has advertised seminars on how to cash in on the cannabis boom, and it's all the rage in financial newsletters. One investment advisor recently wrote, "By 2020, cannabis is going to be bigger than chocolate... bigger than organic food... bigger than wine!" ("Why Cannabis Will Be More Popular Than Chocolate and More American Than Apple Pie," *WeissRatings.com*, May 20, 2019).

Since legalizing marijuana, Canada is becoming a major supplier both domestically and internationally, exporting cannabis products to Australia, Brazil, the Cayman Islands, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, New Zealand, and South Africa ("Global Reach," *Tilray.com*). One of the largest exporters is Tilray, which produces CBD oils (the non-hallucinogenic extract from the cannabis plant) as well as a product called "Tilray 1:1," which contains equal amounts of CBD and the hallucinogen THC. Twenty-one marijuana-product companies were publicly traded in Canada at the beginning of 2019. Nine companies are hauling in billions of dollars, with two boasting more than \$10 billion annually.

"But I thought this was all about the greatest miracle drug ever discovered!" It may be. Only time will tell. If history repeats itself, it may prove to be one more bottle of snake oil the townsfolk are buying. While people decry the greed of the pharmaceutical companies, those who press for medical marijuana are in on the act, big-time! Can we not see that? When any "medicine" is promoted as curing just about anything and everything, should we not be a bit skeptical—especially when the main evidence for its effectiveness is anecdotal rather than the result of rigorous testing?

When hundreds of millions of dollars are pumped into a campaign that leads to legalizing an intoxicant—one with far too many side effects to list in this article—should we not be a little suspicious about what is going on? When even such terms as "sacred plant" are thrown into the mix, are we not seeing a religious fervor taking over? Take note that, despite some misguided or ill-motivated assertions to the contrary, cannabis has been used in pagan religions for centuries, but **never** by the priests of the true God.

A Future High

The late American folk singer John Denver spent much of his life in Colorado. One of his greatest hits was "Rocky Mountain High." The 2014 legalization of marijuana in that state has given the song a connotation Denver never intended. Although some suggested that his song was about drugs, he plainly and clearly denied that before a U.S. Senate hearing:

My song "Rocky Mountain High" was banned from many radio stations as a drug-related song. This was obviously done by people who had never seen or been to the Rocky Mountains and also had never experienced the elation, celebration of life, or the joy in living that one feels when he observes something as wondrous as the Perseids meteor shower on a moonless, cloudless night, when there are so many stars that you have a shadow from the starlight, and you are out camping with your friends, your best friends, and introducing them to one of nature's most spectacular light shows for the very first time ("Rocky Mountain High by John Denver," *SongFacts.com*).

John Denver was describing a very different kind of high than merchants all over the city of Denver are now promoting. Yet a drug high will never truly satisfy. Experience shows that indiscriminate drug use destroys lives. There was an ancient king who experimented with hedonism, a philosophy espousing that the purpose of life is to give oneself over to physical pleasure. He sought meaning in wine, women, and song, but did not find it there: "Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?... Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind" (Ecclesiastes 2:12, 17).

Sadly, very few indeed know the meaning of life. Are you finding life empty and lacking? Are you asking, "Is that all there is?" There is a purpose for our existence-and it is found not in hedonism, but in the pages of your Bible. You can learn about it in our free publication Your Ultimate Destiny. Knowing why you are here and working toward that supreme goal brings a far greater fulfillment than a not-always-so-cheap puff of smoke. Also, for a more complete discussion of this subject and the consequences of recreational marijuana, read our informative booklet Marijuana: What They Aren't Telling You. You can read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org or request a free printed copy by contacting the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine. 🔟

MAY WE SUGGEST?

Marijuana: What They Aren't Telling You Many who press for legalized cannabis ignore important facts—facts you need to know! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



OF HIS HANDS

What in the World Is "Quantum Supremacy"?

n the waning months of 2019, headlines claimed that Internet giant Google had achieved *quantum supremacy*—leading many to scratch their heads and ask, "What in the world is 'quantum supremacy'?"

Answering that question requires us to explore one of the most fundamental and startling aspects of God's creation: the world of quantum mechanics.

On Zebras and Pixels

For a taste of how this strange realm of physics is being used to revolutionize computing, consider the quantum-mechanical concept of *superposition*. It is an odd property of matter, and an odd illustration can help us understand it better.

Imagine you take a photo of a zebra and look at the image on your computer. As you zoom in, you begin to see the image's individual pixels. Where the zebra's black stripes meet its white ones, you notice that some of the pixels are gray—some darker gray, some lighter, but definitely not 100 percent black or white.

In those cases, the pixels represent a sort of superposition: a *mixture* of black and white. The *single* pixel is forced to represent a superposition of *multiple states*—not purely black stripe and not purely white. *Both* states are represented in the *single* pixel, based on the percentage mixture of black and white zebra hairs in the small fraction of an image the pixel represents.

In a (very) roughly analogous way, according to quantum mechanics, subatomic objects we often think of as discrete "particles" are not quite *particles* at all, but rather exist in multiple states at once. As the pixel's gray color represents a *combination* of certain percentages of black and white, a subatomic particle's state is "fuzzy" and unclear, defined by a combination of all the different states it *could* have, based on their individual probabilities of happening.

The idea that particles are not always clearly defined objects with definite locations and states but can exist, instead, in *indefinite* locations and states—only *probably* existing here or there—is undeniably strange. But quantum theory's value has been proven time and time again, providing the basis of much of our modern technology. It has unlocked a deeper understanding of processes as down-to-earth as photosynthesis and as cosmic as the fate of massive black holes.

But what can it do for computing?

Ones and Zeros Get an Upgrade

Since the early 1900s, the basis of computing has been *binary*—representing information as a collection of ones and zeros. Using 1 to represent "true" or "on" and 0 to represent "false" or "off," binary arithmetic is fundamental to the *entirety* of computer programming, from the apps on your smartphone to the life support systems on the International Space Station.

That basic unit of information—*on* or *off, true* or *false, 1* or *0*—has been dubbed a "bit," a word derived from combining "binary" and "digit." And as bits, each equaling only 1 or 0, are collected into larger and larger groups, they grow into bytes, megabytes, and gigabytes, representing increasingly larger amounts of information. For instance, if your computer can store 500 gigabytes of information, that means it has electrical architecture that can store 4,000,000,000,000 bits—four trillion ones and zeros. *Everything* on that computer is stored as a group of those ones and zeros.

The simplicity of the bit has proven a phenomenal tool that has enabled our complicated digital world to exist. But it has also been limiting, and the application of quantum mechanics promises a major upgrade. If a switch that can only be "on" or "off" is useful, what if it could be a mixture of both?

Enter the *qubit*. If a bit is like a pixel limited to only black or white, a qubit is like a pixel able to be *both* possibilities simultaneously as a shade of gray.

Where a classical computer's bit is limited to a value of 1 or 0, a quantum computer's qubit can exist in an indeterminate state that represents a kind of combination of both 1 and 0—a superposition of multiple conditions at once, based on the probabilistic laws of quantum mechanics. As such, qubits bring far more problem-solving power to a calculation than bits can. How much more?

That was illustrated by the results published in the science journal *Nature* on October 23, 2019.



Google assigned its quantum computer, named "Sycamore," a problem that it solved in about 200 seconds.

Nature estimated that the same calculation would take the combined might of 100,000 "normal" computers up to *10,000 years*.

"Quantum supremacy" is the milestone we've passed when a quantum computer achieves a result that is effectively impossible for classical computers. Solving a problem with one single processor in less than three-and-a-half minutes that would take 100,000 computers longer than the history of civilization itself to solve certainly qualifies!

Computer powerhouse IBM has disputed the



claim, estimating that its own classically designed supercomputer could achieve the same result in twoand-a-half days. Yet even if IBM is correct, no one can deny that Sycamore's achievement is significant. IBM's supercomputer, nicknamed "Summit," takes up the space of two tennis courts and is currently the fastest non-quantum computer on the planet. If Sycamore, which could fit in a closet, achieved in 200 seconds what would take Summit more than two days, we really are on the verge of something revolutionary.

And Sycamore represents only a crude, simplistic beginning to the quantum computers scientists envision. If it isn't here yet, quantum supremacy is on the way.

What Is the Potential Impact?

The potential for quantum computing to change the world becomes clear when we consider how vital "number crunching" has become in our lives. Quantum computing's dramatic leap in calculation power holds the potential to help us design new building materials and medicines or accelerate the advance of artificial intelligence. We may see advancements we cannot now even imagine.

Some theorize that the universe itself acts as a vast quantum computer, "processing" the activity of its countless particles and forces from one end of reality to another. If so, as computers begin to more directly imitate nature's own computations, new insights may open into physics, chemistry, and biology—even the architecture of the brain itself.

Yet mankind has not proven the best steward of such knowledge. On our path to learning more about how God's remarkable creation works, we inevitably come to various crossroads regarding how we choose to use what we learn. Understanding God's design of matter and energy has allowed us to harness the power of the atom—both to power our cities and to destroy them.

Understanding the strange, counterintuitive world of quantum mechanics will bring us to a similar crossroads. What decisions will we have to face when quantum computing is fully ours to wield however we wish? Will we have the character to properly apply what we learn from this aspect of God's creation?

Sycamore's success has put us on notice that we may soon find out.

-Wallace Smith

THE SINS OF PREJUDICE, PARTIALITY, AND PARTISANSHIP

There is a difference between unjustified judgment and true discernment.

estern media frequently throws out the words *prejudice* and *partisanship*. The word *prejudice* describes a biased and negative attitude toward another person or group of people, the usual result of which is intolerance and open hostility towards them. Most commonly, prejudice is a strong dislike of someone solely based on preconceived notions or assumptions about race, ethnicity, age, sex, religion, or other factors. Related to prejudice is the word *partiality*—often used to describe a strong, unjustified preference or favoritism unfairly showed to someone over someone else. *Partisanship* refers to one-sided sectarianism or factionalism—attitudes that often drive the participants in the political theater.

Social media is rife with the rancor and knee-jerk reactions of partisanship, as well as prejudicial invective, name-calling, and accusations of various "-isms" such as racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, and chauvinism. All of this emotionally charged rhetoric fuels the fires of hatred, which seem to burn hotter by the day. And in the news, allegations of partiality among politicians are rampant.

It seems to be human nature to *pre*judge and then show bias or favoritism based on those prejudgments.

The Bible certainly teaches followers of Jesus Christ to make judgments, to discern differences, and to prefer some things while rejecting others. Such Christian discernment is often mistakenly lumped in with these sinful practices—prejudice, partiality, and partisanship—while embracing sin and *failing* to practice discernment is now considered the height of enlightment and unbiased thinking. Sincere followers of Christ must reject such notions!

God's Judgments are Good

The Almighty God is not prejudiced, partial, or partisan. Through the Apostle Paul, He tells us, "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" (Galatians 3:28). Clearly, being of a particular race, ethnicity, economic status, or biological gender—male or female—is not sin, and therefore should not be a basis for prejudice or partiality. But a Christian is required to make a distinction between sin and righteousness as they are defined by the Bible. Likewise, Christians must withdraw from those who obsess over disputing and arguing, and who revile and have evil suspicions (1 Timothy 6:3–5). Christians are also instructed, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Timothy 2:19). The Creator God decides what is iniquity or lawlessness. Doing what God says is Christianity, not partiality. Identifying sin and choosing to separate oneself from it is not prejudice. To be a true follower of Christ is not partisanship.

Discernment Is the Christian Way of Life

God instructed ancient Israel to not show partiality in judgment (Exodus 23:2–9; Leviticus 19:15), but He also commanded Israel not to behave like the nations around them (Leviticus 18:3, 24; Deuteronomy 18:9). By Jesus Christ's time, religious Jews essentially shunned the Gentiles, having little or nothing to do with them. But in a vision to the Apostle Peter, God revealed that salvation was also being offered to the Gentiles. This was, in fact, the purpose of Peter's vision—it was not to indicate that unclean meats were now approved to eat, but rather showed that *no man* is to be regarded as common or unclean (Acts 10:28) and that God shows no partiality (v. 34). (See our July-August 2019 article "Do You Really Want to Eat That?" for more information.)

James also taught against prejudice and partiality. In fact, they are sinful (James 2:1, 8–10). But no one should conclude that avoiding prejudice, partisanship, or partiality means that a Christian must approve of anything that God, in His word, labels as sin. Being "politically correct" is not God's approach, nor should it be the approach of those who follow Christ. The Father and Son call any transgression of God's holy law what it is: sin (1 John 3:4, *King James Version*).

For more on this subject, read "Sins of Racism, Anarchy and Secularism!" and "Racism in America: A Thing of the Past?" at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

-Roger Meyer



7. Heavenly Signs and the Day of the Lord

Many who watch world news and study Bible prophecy know that a cosmic disturbance in the heavens will shock everyone on earth. Some Bibles include a header above Revelation 6:12, calling attention to this disturbance: "Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances"—but what does that refer to? Does it mean the recent "blood moon" lunar eclipses that captured so much attention? We read the following:

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (vv. 12-17).

So-called "blood moon" eclipses certainly remind us of this prophesied event, but the real thing will be far, far more impressive—even terrifying—and will not be explainable by the positions of the Earth, Sun, and Moon. These prophesied cosmic disturbances will herald the Day of the Lord, the "great day of His [Christ's] wrath." Through Scripture, God warns us in advance of future judgments. The Moon will be turned to the color of blood and the Sun will become dark. Thousands of meteors will light up the sky.

Yes, judgment is coming on all nations of planet Earth. How can you escape the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord? Our Savior admonishes us to "take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:34–36).

The Conclusion of the Matter

Some preachers misleadingly teach that we cannot understand prophecy and Jesus Christ may return at any moment. On the contrary, as we have seen from the Bible, and as you can know from other *Tomorrow's World* publications, there is a specific prophetic framework in which you can have confidence. But what about you, personally? You may die at any time and wake up to the resurrection of the saints, or to a resurrection of judgment. You cannot afford to delay in responding to your Savior!

We look forward to the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, to rule all nations and establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. What is **your** greatest goal? Your Bible gives us the most important and vital goal we could ever set: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Watch for these seven signs of Christ's return, prepare, and pray, "Your kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10).

MAY WE SUGGEST? **Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled** The prophetic book of Revelation is a mystery to many, but you can understand it! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.





Someone to Talk To

o you sometimes feel that you have no one to talk to? Do you ever find yourself wearing a smile to mask inward pain—craving to talk, but finding no one there to listen? If so, you are not alone. In an age abounding with technological connections, an alarming number of people don't have anyone they can really talk to. In early 2019, the New York Post reported on a study revealing just that: "One in four people don't feel they have someone to confide in, according to new research. Even after sharing their feelings, seven in 10 have held back how they really felt from a coworker, friend, or partner. A study of 2,000 Americans examined how daily stressors can affect mental health and what prevents people from seeking out therapy and additional help" ("1 in 4 Americans feel they have no one to confide in," April 30, 2019).

We all need someone to talk to and confide in. And maybe the fact that more and more people are feeling *disconnected* from others is a symptom of the times in which we're living. Jesus said that in the last days "the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). Are you feeling isolated and lonely? If you are, take heart—you don't have to go it alone.

How can we be so sure? Because there is a source of light and love that supersedes any darkness this world can bring. There is a sovereign Being who created all mankind, and we are His children. He cares for you, and He can help you. He gives advice on *how* to face depression and loneliness, something especially needed in today's increasingly fragmented world.

So, what can we do to combat the feeling of having no one to really talk to? Consider the following steps.

Reach Out to Family and Friends

The God who created us also created *family*. He designed families to form the most basic building block of society—and to provide emotional support when we need it most. Yet many families today have become fragmented and disconnected. If that describes your family, think about what relationships you can repair and strengthen. Consider family members with whom you may be losing touch—perhaps parents, children, or siblings—and do your best to connect with them. Reach out. Seek reconciliation, if necessary. Forgive. Invest in family. You may be surprised at the results of reaching out to your own flesh and blood.

What if your family is filled with strife and anger? Sometimes family relationships are complicated or strained. Some are damaged beyond repair. In some cases, physical distances separate us from our closest relatives. What then? The book of Proverbs says, "Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away" (Proverbs 27:10). Are there friends in your life from whom you have drifted away? When was the last time you called someone—or even sent a letter, card, or e-mail—just let the person know he or she was on your mind? Our world is filled with distractions that are pulling us away from really investing in friendships. Maybe it's time to identify one or two friendships you would like to reinvest in—and then make it happen.

Don't Forget Your Spiritual Family

As we reach out to friends and family, we shouldn't neglect to consider our *spiritual* family—those who are seeking to live by God's word, just as we are. God did not intend us to live in isolation. In the book of Hebrews, Paul warned that as the end times draw near, faithful Christians should not abandon assembling with others (Hebrews 10:25). It's not enough to be studying and learning by ourselves—we also need to spend time with others who are striving to live the Christian life!

And Jesus Christ told His disciples to behave toward others just as we'd want others to behave toward us (Matthew 7:12). If we want our emotional tank to be filled, are we seeking out others who need support as well? Surely, we know of people who are in pain and hurting, feeling alone. One of the best ways for us to find inner peace and closeness in relationships is to reach out and serve others who need it.

Let Down the Walls

In seeking to connect with other people, sometimes pride or fear holds us back from confiding in others and

Maybe it's time to let down the walls and admit to someone we trust what's really weighing on us. Needing support is not a sign of weakness—it's a sign we are part of the human family. "letting down the walls." Maybe we fear others will think less of us if they know our vulnerabilities and insecurities. We might be afraid of embarrassment or rejection. The *New York Post* noted, "The results revealed that nine in 10 people admit to downplaying their emotions so they won't worry or burden a loved one.... One in four [respondents] didn't think their troubles were 'serious enough' to warrant talking to someone."

If our loneliness is causing us mental anguish or even physical ailments, is it truly realistic to say, "It's not a big deal"? When something is

eating us up inside, is it worth keeping it hidden to avoid "burdening" someone else? Maybe it's time to let down the walls and admit to someone we trust what's really weighing on us. Needing support is not a sign of weakness—it's a sign we are part of the human family.

Back Away from Social Media

We should also consider our relationship to technology. Heavy use of social media can be a façade that masks loneliness without truly alleviating it. When the first social media outlets were unveiled, they promised to create a whole new realm of human connections. Yet the sad reality is that too many now struggle with an addiction to social media, and there is growing evidence of a connection with depression. The conclusion of a University of Arizona study on smartphone use stated, "The main takeaway is that smartphone dependency directly predicts later depressive symptoms" ("Which comes first: Smartphone dependency or depression?," *University of Arizona*, September 30, 2019).

Human beings were designed to need face-to-face contact. If you are struggling with feeling alone in your relationships, you may need to put down the phone, reach out to someone you care about, and have an "unplugged" conversation. Meet over coffee or a sandwich. Look them in the eye and really talk. Let them know about what's going on in your real life—not what you show on Facebook or Instagram.

What if you're not into social media, but have immersed yourself in online gaming? Or even just keeping busy with an endless cycle of work, entertainment, or both? The same applies. Why not take a break from virtual reality, or ceaseless activity, or distractions, and try stepping into the real world of human, dynamic relationships in a way you never have before? You may be pleasantly surprised at how friendships flourish and develop.

Spend Time with Your Most Important Friend

Most importantly, consider your relationship with your Creator. Even many people who believe in God have only a superficial relationship with Him. What about you? Is He real to you? You can confide in Him, but you have to trust that He's there and that He wants to be close to you! Before His crucifixion, Jesus Christ told His disciples, "No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). That's an amazing statement from the Savior of all mankind!

As one researcher noted in the *New York Post* report, "Having someone in your corner who is there to help you with life's challenges can make a world of difference." And the most important "Someone" to have "in our corner" is God. Our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ love us. No matter how alone we feel in this world, They will not leave us nor forsake us if we reach out to Them in faith, trust, and heartfelt obedience (Hebrews 13:5).

Do you need someone to confide in? You don't have to be alone.

—Rod McNair



plane was close to running out of gas and the pilot was preparing to return? This early warning of the impending attack enabled the U.S. forces on Midway and the American carriers to prepare to meet the enemy.

Was it just coincidence that when carrier-based American pilots could not locate the Japanese fleet due to its change in course, the leader of the American torpedo-bomber squadron was able to locate the Japanese fleet on little more than a hunch? Was it just "luck" that, minutes later, the leader of the American dive-bomber squadron, who was also looking for the elusive Japanese fleet, suddenly spotted the wake of Japanese destroyer Arashi, which led him directly to the Japanese fleet? Was it a coincidence that he arrived just in time to watch Zeros descend to engage the low-flying American torpedo bombers, freeing the American dive-bombers to swoop down from clear skies and demolish the unprotected Japanese aircraft carriers? Was it only a coincidence that Japanese Admiral Nagumo decided to rearm his planes with torpedoes to replace bombs, giving American dive-bombers the time they needed to arrive and launch their devastating attacks on the Japanese carriers?

These improbable details are just some of the remarkable events collectively referred to as the "miracle" of Midway (see *Seven Miracles that Saved America* by Chris and Ted Stewart, pp. 198–248). And there is still more to consider.

A Divine Plan

Most Hollywood movie producers, historians, and academics who reflect on the Battle of Midway look only at the physical aspects of these major engagements. Yet there is a *spiritual dimension* to history that is too often overlooked and ignored. In the 2019 Roland Emmerich movie *Midway*, God is only mentioned in profanity and by a young sailor who asks why he needs to set up chairs for a church service when he doesn't believe in God. Such comments are increasingly common in our secular society, where it is becoming the norm to mock religion, especially Christianity. In such an environment, it is not surprising that secular scholars and writers do not consider God's hand in historical events.

However, the Bible reveals that there *is* a God who *guides* the course of history. We read in Scripture that God "makes nations great, and destroys them"

(Job 12:23), that "He removes kings and raises up kings" (Daniel 2:21), and that "the Most High rules in the kingdom of men" (see Daniel 4:17, 25, 32). Unlike human beings, the God of the Bible predicts the future and brings it to pass to accomplish His plan and purpose (Isaiah 46:8–11).

The Bible also reveals that God chose to work with a man named Abraham and his descendants as part of an overall plan. As a reward for his obedience, God promised that Abraham's offspring would become great and be a blessing to the peoples of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3; 18:18-19). How those promises were fulfilled in a remarkable way is explained in our booklet The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy. God also chose ancient Israel (and its descendants) for a special responsibility (Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6). Given the laws of God, the Israelites were meant to be lights to the world, demonstrating a different way of life (Deuteronomy 4:6-8). They were told, "You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight" (Leviticus 26:7-8), and "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways" (Deuteronomy 28:7). This was certainly the case at the Battle of Midway, where God fulfilled these promises in a remarkable series of events that changed the course of history and allowed America to become the most powerful nation in the world-all according to God's plan and His promises to Abraham.

However, *continuing* in such a state of blessing was conditioned on Israel's commitment and obedience to God. God warned that if the Israelite nations forgot God and turned away from His laws, there would be serious consequences—they would become the conquered, not the conquerors: "As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God" (Deuteronomy 8:20). Moses also told them that if they turned away from their Creator, their enemies would reign over them—that God would "break the pride of your power," allowing the Israelites to be defeated, to be scattered among the nations, and to see their cities laid waste, all while powerless to protect themselves (see Leviticus 26:14– 15, 17, 19, 33, 37).

Scripture reveals that, while these prophecies certainly applied anciently to past events in Israelite history, they will see their ultimate fulfillment as we approach the end of this present age. Moses warned, "I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands" (Deuteronomy 31:29). Moses' words will be fulfilled at the end of this age, during "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7)-because the descendants of Abraham have forgotten who they are and how God has blessed and protected them at *numerous* points in their history, including the Battle of Midway.

Lessons for Today

As modern audiences watch the latest movie about Midway and witness the miraculous outcome of a remarkable series of events that suddenly altered the battle in favor of the American forces-and changed the course of history-will they recognize that there really is a God who intervenes in world affairs? The same God who delivered the modern Israelite nations from what should have been an inevitable disaster will soon bring major punishments on these same peoples, because they have rejected His laws and forgotten their own amazing history of deliverance. Unless the modern Israelite nations change course and repent of despising the laws of God-as they continually do by promoting homosexuality and same-sex "marriage," murdering unborn children, and committing other national sins-future encounters with enemy nations will end very differently than did the Battle of Midway. While Bible prophecies indicate that our nations will not change, you can-if you sincerely begin to seek God and learn from these vivid lessons of history.

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy** The Bible reveals the future of these nations—a future that will shake the world! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



Macron Makes Waves in Europe



Since French President Emanuel Macron came to power as a Eurocentric change agent, he has passionately advocated for a stronger Europe and consistently pushed for a greater centralization of European power. In a recent interview, Mr. Macron claimed that lack of U.S. leadership is causing "the 'brain death' of NATO" (Deutsche Welle, November 7, 2019). In Germany, both Chancellor Merkel and Foreign Affairs Minister Heiko Maas have responded negatively to Mr. Macron's comments. arguing instead for a strong NATO to play a continuing role in European defense.

However, Mr. Macron's comments and his efforts to advance a European superstate are pushing the Europeans to view the European Union as a world leader, less dependent on the United States (*Financial Times*, November 10, 2019). Mr. Macron's aggressive comments—certainly not embraced by all Europeans are intended to bring about a response from his counterparts (*European Council on Foreign Relations*, November 8, 2019). It is both interesting and significant that the two world leaders putting the greatest pressure on Europe to centralize, militarize, and become a more unified force are U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Macron leaders from nations the Bible shows to be intimately connected to biblical Israel.

What Connects Britain, Israel, and the United States?

In September of last year, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited Luxembourg to discuss Brexit strategy with his European counterparts. While there, he cancelled a press conference in order to avoid the jeers of an angry crowd. Luxembourg's prime minister carried on the press conference anyway, with Johnson's chair left empty in a clear attempt to discredit the British leader (*The Guardian*, September 17, 2019). In response to the fiasco, U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom Woody Johnson publicly proclaimed America's support for the British Prime Minister and for Brexit, commenting, "We stand with the people of the UK and we always will" (*The Telegraph*, September 17, 2019).

In the last few years, the United States has also shown a great deal of support for the nation of Israel and its president. While many nations frequently stand in public opposition to Israel, the U.S. has moved its embassy to Jerusalem and has made many other public overtures in support of the beleaguered nation-often over the objections of diplomats from other countries. Israeli news sources have even declared that "Trump is a friend of Zion" (New York Times, May 13, 2018).

Why have the United States, Britain, and Israel possessed such consistently close ties over the years? Is this just a coincidence, or is there more



to the story? Bible prophecy reveals the reasons why these three nations have a special relationship, despite the criticism they receive from the rest of the world. History and the Bible indicate these three nations are really "brothers" who have fulfilled important prophecies of the past-and who will stand in the center of numerous end-time prophecies that will be fulfilled in the days ahead. To learn more about coming world events that involve these nations, visit TomorrowsWorld.org to watch our telecast "America and Britain—A Special Relationship."

Europe Evaluating Military Options

In the face of NATO's uncertain future, many nations of Europe are preparing their own defenses. As the United States signals that it will not be around to provide military support for Europe, and with Russia increasing its military presence on Europe's borders, many European nations are taking greater action to rearm. As the *Guardian* reported last year, "Sweden's navy HQ is returning to a vast underground cold war fortress designed to withstand a nuclear attack, in what has been seen as a defensive move against a resurgent Russia" (September 30, 2019).

The massive underground fortress, which has been closed for 25 years, contains large docks, a hospital, and miles of tunnels. The

N E W S W A T C H

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NEWS & PROPHECY Weekly Report

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Swedish government fears that Russia might use some of its advanced weaponry against them and sees this underground fortress as the only location safe enough to withstand such an attack. "Sweden's army and airforce commands are also moving out of the capital and into more fortified locations, spreading their headquarters geographically to make them less vulnerable to attack."

Meanwhile, Josep Borrell Fontelles, the European Union's "Commissionerdesignate for a Stronger Europe in the World" and incoming foreign policy chief, publicly shared his personal concern that if the EU does not "speak with one voice" and develop a "military capacity to act," it may soon be seen as irrelevant on the world stage (Reuters, October 7, 2019). Several EU nations have already begun increasing their military spending, and the EU has created a central command location. 🔤

Talking with Children Helps Brain Development

Many are aware that reading to young children is beneficial for their development. A host of recent research studies have further highlighted the positive impact that *conversation* with young children has on their learning and their developing brain (*BBC*, October 1, 2019).

It is not enough for children just to hear conversation occurring around them, and it is not the number of words they hear that matters most. Rather, it is direct conversation with their caregivers-conversation that involves the child's participation-that makes an impact. Children whose parents and other caregivers involve them the most develop much stronger verbal skills, placing them at a great advantage over children who are not regularly involved in such conversations.

In today's fast-paced society, some parents spend as little as 15-minutes a day interacting with their children, placing their sons and daughters under the burden of a great learning disadvantage. God makes it clear that His earnest desire is for "the hearts of the fathers" to be turned to their children (Malachi 4:6). He also directed parents to talk throughout the day with their children about the things of God and His way of life (Deuteronomy 6:7). This new understanding of the developmental significance of conversation between children and parents highlights that obedience to such commands may have a greater impact on a child's growth than anyone has expected.

For more information on the divine wisdom God makes available to parents for the task of childrearing, consider requesting our free booklet *Successful Parenting: God's Way.*

Australian Countdown to "Day Zero"

several are digging deep wells, searching for new underground water sources. Many farmers are feeling the pressure of the drought. Warragamba Dam, the largest in Sydney, "has dropped to 50%, after almost being at capacity less than three years ago" (*Reuters*, September 27, 2019). Australia's central bank estimates the drought will soon begin affecting the nation's economic growth.

Severe drought understandably generates fear and worry. Bible prophecies have long warned that Israelite nations, including Australia, would experience severe droughts at the end of the age because they have turned against God and rejected His ways, proclaiming that "your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall



Towns in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland are in the midst of one of Australia's most devastating droughts. Many towns are now counting down to "day zero"—the day each town will completely run out of water. For most, this terminal date will fall in mid- to late-2020.

Many towns are trucking in water from other locations, and

come down on you until you are destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:23–24). The drought in eastern Australia should stir us to consider the difficult times prophesied to lie ahead not only for Australia, but for all Britishdescended nations. However, the encouraging truth is that Christ is going to return, these nations will repent, and droughts will become a thing of the past.

LETTERS TO TW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Dear Brothers in Christ, I live in India and came to know about your magazine *Tomorrow's World* through my son, who lives in Sydney, Australia. I have received your July-August 2019 edition of the magazine and read your article "Do You Really Want to Eat That?" written by Douglas S. Winnail. It's really informative, with scientific reasons. Thank you very much for educating today's world through *Tomorrow's World*. My sincere thanks to all the Editorial staff. God bless you.

-Subscriber in Bangalore

My husband has received this magazine for years. He passed away last year, and I contacted your office to have the subscription cancelled, since I have a vision impairment and can't read it. I was told I could still have access to it online. My husband would read it to me, and we enjoyed studying from it. There are not words to express my joy of still having access to this literature. THANK YOU!

-Subscriber in Arkansas

Editor's Note: Much of our literature can be listened to on our website, TomorrowsWorld.org. Look near the top of any booklet or article's webpage to see if there is a playable audio file.

A few days ago, I worked as a security guard in an elderly people's home. Within a stack of *Hello! Canada* magazines I found a single copy of your *Tomorrow's World*. It was a pleasant surprise to read it, agreeing with your journal's truly biblical direction and valuable contents. When I was a teenager, brainwashed by Soviet propaganda, my best reading was a huge Bible in Hungarian, illustrated by Gustave Doré (1832–1883). Despite the wonderful Bible, our family was atheist. In those days, I saw a movie suggesting that God's intelligent angels visiting Earth may have been astronauts. Everything seemed confusing, so I made the first major prayer in my life. It was a request to God to let me understand the Bible, its heroes, the places and dates. I wanted to know if everything was true in those stories, and how the miracles happened. I ended my prayer with a condition: "Dear Lord! I cannot become a Christian if I do not get an explanation for my questions." But perhaps it was not an accident to find a single copy of Tomorrow's World before my death. I am 70 years old and not planning to live on earth forever. My original professions are geologist and land surveyor, presently a retired "born-again" Christian. Thank you for your precious time and kind attention. Please do not hesitate to publish this humble letter in any edited form as you wish. Best regards to you, with your editors and readers: they are following the right leaders.

-Reader in Alberta

Thank you for so much leadership in the Scriptures. I love seafood, but now I have taken a look at scriptures, and I have come to change a lot about myself and my diet. Thanks again.

-Subscriber in Missouri

Something has happened. I think I know the truth now. It's more than a belief—it is so simple in beauty that it is a marvel to my mind... and I am relieved to find truth in a world built on lies. I need to heal myself now and look forward to life, and I believe the time has come for the truth and for people including me to realise we have been deceived.

-Reader in the United Kingdom

Editor's Note: This reader is referring to what he learned after reading our free booklet Satan's Counterfeit Christianity. For your own copy, contact any of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine.

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All scripture references are from the New King James Version

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the regional addresses listed at the front of this magazine, or send e-mail to: Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

TOMORP TELEVISION LOG

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Why Neglect Jesus' Gospel?

Is the Christian message today the same one Jesus Christ actually preached? January 9–15

Discovering God in Your Backyard

Evidence to prove the existence of your Creator may be easier to find than you think! January 16–22

What Happens When You Die?

This question has plagued mankind since the dawn of history. What really comes after death? January 23–29

Will God Forget Your Children?

God's ways can protect your children from a world gone morally off the deep end. January 30-February 5

The Mark of the Beast is HERE!

The foreboding mark foretold in Revelation is a religious sign you can see around you today! February 6–12

Holidays or Holy Days?

Are Christmas and Easter really found among the Holy Days kept by Jesus and His followers? February I3–I9

Schedule subject to change

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TOMORPOWS

Find your local station on page 35 of this magazine.