**What Baptism Means** 

**UK Youth Revival?** 

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# November-December 2025 | TomorrowsWorld.org



# Why Tomorrow's World Is Different

omorrow's World is unique among magazines. We do not endorse any political candidate or party, but because we believe the Bible is the word of God, we speak out against abortion and other practices condemned by our Creator. And while we believe the Bible is the standard of truth, longtime readers know that we are different from mainstream "Christianity," which—as any informed person can see—has been corrupted by pagan practices and philosophies. But why have we chosen to be unapologetically different?

Jesus said that "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). But has the world not already been reached with Christ's message? Missionaries brought their teachings to North and South America, Asia, and Africa centuries ago. The complete Bible has been translated into 776 languages, and portions of it are available in 4,007 distinct languages and dialects. This means that more than 99 percent of all people on earth can have some access to the Holy Scriptures—but this is an incomplete picture ("2025 Global Scripture Access," Wycliffe Global Alliance, August 2025).

The Bible has indeed been spread. But the actual "good news" that Jesus proclaimed is not being taught by mainstream "Christianity." That is a bold statement, but it can be verified by anyone willing to take the time. Yes, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a vital part of the message of the New Testament, but what was the Gospel—the good news—that He proclaimed for three-and-a-half years prior to His crucifixion? If you really want to know, you can order our free resource *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* at *TomorrowsWorld.org* or by contacting us at your nearest Regional Office, listed on page 4. Do not believe us without looking up the scriptural references and proving to yourself what we say.

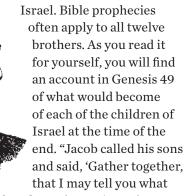
You will notice that *Tomorrow's World* has articles on Bible prophecy—something entirely missing from most mainstream denominations. And even

those ministries that do focus on prophecy almost never understand the prophetic key that unlocks endtime events. That key is the ancient biblical identity of today's modern nations. Understanding this, it becomes very clear that the modern Jewish state at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea is only a very small portion of biblical Israel.

#### **Not Just Judah**

Anyone can see in Genesis that Judah, the ancestor of the Jews, is only one of the twelve sons of Jacob,

whose name was changed to



shall befall you in the last days'" (Genesis 49:1).

We then find different messages for each of the twelve tribes. To Judah (the Jews), Israel said, "Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?" (v. 9). Can anyone deny that the Jewish state called Israel is like a lion that is best not roused? What have we seen from the nation of Israel over nearly 80 years? This prophecy is remarkable, since it is for "the last days."

But Moses, also, gave end-time prophecies involving the descendants of Jacob. Note this one, concerning Judah's brother Joseph:

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And of Joseph he said: "Blessed of the LORD is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath, with the precious fruits of the sun, with the precious produce of the months, with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush.... His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of the wild ox; together with them He shall push the peoples to the ends of the earth; they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh" (Deuteronomy 33:13-17).

I strongly recommend that you read all of Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 33, where you will see that the blessings given to Judah are different from those given to Joseph, as we see clarified in this passage: "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel-he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph [Ephraim and Manasseh], the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph's" (1 Chronicles 5:1-2). For further information on this subject, you can order our free eye-opening resource The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy.

But what happened in the centuries between the giving of those prophecies and our day? Were all twelve tribes somehow merged into the Jewish nation? Or, as many scholars assume, were ten of the tribes absorbed by other peoples and lost to history? Did the prophecies of Jacob and Moses fail? If so, what would this tell us about the validity of Bible prophecy? Was it all just the hallucinations of old men?

#### Joseph's Descendants Today

Most professing Christians know shockingly little about this subject. Yet one part of the story that is well-known is of Joseph being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Genesis 37-47 gives the fascinating account of how Israel, ending up in Egypt, fulfilled

prophetic dreams that God had given to Joseph 22 years earlier. Genesis 48 tells the story of how Joseph's two sons were adopted as full sons of the patriarch Israel—even taking Israel's name (v. 16).

Centuries after their departure from Egypt, the twelve tribes split into two nations: the southern house of Judah (the Jews and Benjamites) and the northern ten tribes of the house of Israel. These two nations, though brothers, were sometimes allies but sometimes enemies, even fighting wars against each other. Eventually, the northern ten tribes were taken into Assyrian captivity-then, more than a hundred years later, the southern house of Judah was taken captive to Babylon.

Contrary to what some suppose, the Israelites have never been a single nation since that historic split. This is easily seen from Ezekiel's prophecy of the two nations becoming one. God declared, "I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again" (Ezekiel 37:22). And when will they be brought back together again? Not until David is resurrected to be king over them (v. 24), when God "will make a covenant of peace with them... and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore" (v. 26).

Though everyone understands who the Jews are, very few know that the modern identity of Judah's brother Joseph—and that of his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh-is crucial for understanding what is happening in our world today. Tomorrow's World has a mission to preach the good news, the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. This means proclaiming the soon-coming and world-ruling Kingdom of God, as well as warning all the Israelite nations—and the world as a whole—of what will soon happen unless mankind changes its ways. Only those who have the key to end-time prophecy will understand what is happening to our world, so be sure to keep reading Tomorrow's World to know what will surely come in the near future.

Gull & Waiton

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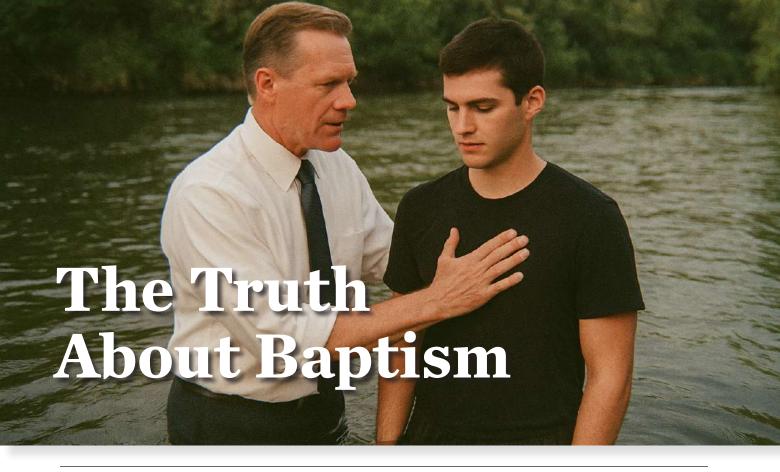
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#### By Rod McNair

s baptism required for salvation? Or is it just a legalistic ritual? If we should be baptized, who should do the baptizing? And, ritual or not, what is the purpose of baptism in the first place?

These are just a few of the many questions surrounding baptism. Some see the practice as required for salvation, while others see it as stuffy legalism. Some say anyone can baptize; others believe that only certain people should do so. Some baptize infants, while others hold that candidates for baptism must be adults who understand what is being done.

Is there a way to sort through the confusion? Can we understand the topic of baptism and the real meaning behind it?

The answer is *yes*. Let's find out what the Bible *actually* says about this much-misunderstood topic. If we're going to have any clarity on biblical baptism, we need to know how to separate mere tradition from the truth.

#### The Purpose of Baptism

At *Tomorrow's World*, we strive to help you make sense of your world through the pages of the Bible—

and, from time to time, we get questions from our readers and viewers about doctrinal issues. Few Bible topics seem to find as much difference of opinion as baptism. Yet baptism is a fundamental doctrine for Christians, as the Apostle Paul noted: "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment" (Hebrews 6:1–2).

Clearly, baptism is important. But what exactly do we mean when we talk about it? If we want to understand baptism, the first question we need to answer is that of its *purpose*. And to answer this question, we must first unpack the original meaning of the word *baptism*. This English word is the anglicized form of the Greek word *baptizo* ( $\beta \alpha \pi \tau i \zeta \omega$ ), which in turn means "to dip" or "to sink." This is the Greek word the New Testament uses to refer to baptism. That being the case, it's immediately obvious that, in its very basic sense, to *baptize* means to submerge in or under water.

This often comes as a surprise to people who grew up in a church where people are "baptized" by

sprinkling or pouring. We'll see the significance of this as we go along, but for now, let's look at a literal example of how baptism was done in the New Testament. We find one as we read about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch he met while traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza:

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him (Acts 8:36–38).

Notice that they "went down *into* the water." That refers to baptism by *immersion*, and we see further evidence of this in the next verse: "Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more" (v. 39). We see that they went down into the water and then came up *out* of the water. It's plain that this is referring to a baptism of full immersion—but you may be wondering, *Why does this matter?* 

#### **Baptism Symbolizes Death**

There is actually *great* significance in baptism by immersion, and Scripture is explicit about that significance. At its very core, baptism is symbolic of death. We learn this from the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote that "as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3).

When we go under the water of baptism, we are figuratively dying. We are to let the old man or woman die—letting go of our past sins, our harmful habits, our false ways of thinking, and our wrong ways of doing things. We are then raised up out of the water, to learn a new way of life. "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (v. 4).

Baptism teaches us that living a Christian life is about dying to the self. That's what we must do once

we have been baptized. We see this in what Paul wrote to the Galatian brethren: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, *King James Version*).

If we're seeking baptism, it means we want to be forgiven of our sins, and we *should* want that forgiveness. But baptism is also about much more. Being baptized means we want to change the way we live. We want to be different—and by the power of the sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and by the receiving of the Holy Spirit, we *can* be different. This is why Jesus instructed His Apostles to baptize by immersion—because immersion pictures that we are choosing to be "crucified with Christ" and dead to our past.

Now, baptism alone—just going through the act—doesn't mean we are fully conquered and surrendered to God. To reach that point takes nothing less than a lifetime of effort! But if we let the method of baptism teach us about the *purpose* of baptism, it can change our life as we strive to live according to God's commands.

#### **Baptism Is Required for Salvation**

Some see any action a Christian feels obligated to do, striving to obey God, as legalistic—and any mandated moral act as somehow "earning salvation." So, is baptism a legalistic ritual? We've already touched on the fact that there is much more to baptism than just a physical act. It has profound spiritual meaning for every Christian, if we are truly repenting and surrendering to God.

Many mainstream "Christians" say that anything we strive to do to obey our Savior is "legalism." But consider: If that's true—if a person doesn't have to keep any commands of God—then anyone can be saved at the end of an unrepentant life of lying, cheating, stealing, and even murdering! That's not what we read from the Apostle John: "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him" (1 John 3:15).

It's not legalism to obey God's commandments. It's simply showing that we love Him by doing what He says. And God will not give eternal life to anyone who doesn't love Him.

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Belief in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is absolutely vital to becoming a true Christian. We must have faith in His sacrifice for our sins, and we must develop a deep and profound appreciation for what He did for us. We must have sincere belief in Him and call on His name in faith if we want to receive salvation from sin. As Paul wrote to the brethren in Rome, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.... Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:9, 13).

So where does baptism fit in? To find out, we must put together all the scriptures on the subjectwe don't just build a fundamental doctrine around

viction. First, we believe in and call on the name of Christ, acknowledging and repenting of our sins. We must make a determined decision to stop sinning and to take our lives in the opposite direction, beginning to change. Then in faith, we must live in obedience to Jesus as our Savior and Master, learning to conform every part of our life to Him and His will.

Yes, we need belief and baptism. It's not a question of one or the other-it's a matter of both. In addition, we need to deeply repent of our sins, and then we need the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit.

When the Apostle Peter gave a sermon on the Day of Pentecost, telling the assembled people that they were guilty of the death of the Messiah, they had

> the right response: "Now when death of our Lord and Savior,

> they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). That should be our response as well: When we realize that we are personally responsible for the

we should be cut to the heart, deeply moved—and we should be ready to listen and learn about what God wants us to do.

Peter saw the humble attitude of the crowd, and he replied, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Christ's disciples taught that true Christians are to believe in their Savior, openly affirm that He is their Master, and then act in faith.

Upon repentance and baptism by immersion, true Christians receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. To learn more about what the laying on of hands is, you can read our July-August 2025 "Questions and Answers" article, "What Is the Laying on of Hands?," available at Tomorrows World.org.

#### Who Should Baptize?

We've seen that baptism by immersion is an outward expression of inner conviction—the godly result of belief and faith. But another question that sometimes comes up is, Who should baptize?

## OF COURSE, BAPTISM IS NOT A MAGICAL, **MYSTICAL, ONE-AND-DONE ACTION TO OBTAIN** ETERNAL LIFE. ABSOLUTELY NOT—NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

one or two scriptures and leave the rest out. So, is baptism, along with faith and belief, necessary for salvation?

That's a good question. Let's get the answer from the very greatest authority on that subject-Jesus Christ, our Savior. He said, in no uncertain terms, "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).

Of course, baptism is not a magical, mystical, one-and-done action to obtain eternal life. Absolutely not—nothing could be further from the truth. But on the other hand, we've just read that baptism is a requirement for salvation, according to our Savior. For it to be effective in that way, it must be accompanied by faith, trust, and belief in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. It must also be accompanied by a deep appreciation for His role as our personal Savior and a commitment to obey Him in everything.

So, no-baptism is not some meaningless, legalistic ritual. It's an outward expression of an inward con-

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There is a lot of confusion about this question. Some think anyone who wants to baptize can do so. Some even believe they can baptize themselves. To resolve this confusion, instead of just using our own imagination, let's look at the Bible for guidance.

When Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the Gospel, He also sent them to heal the sick, cast out demons, and baptize. But not just anyone was authorized to do so. We find this explained in the book of Acts. One of Christ's servants, a man named Philip, was ordained a deacon not long before he preached Christ in Samaria. Philip baptized many people there, including a sorcerer named Simon, who at that time appeared to be sincere and repentant. We read further that, having been baptized by Philip, the new converts in Samaria then had hands laid upon them by the Apostles:

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14–17).

It was only after having hands laid on them in prayer that those people received the Holy Spirit. That's how everyone receives it—not just by believing in the heart. We repent of our sins in obedience to Jesus Christ, we ask for His forgiveness in faith, we are baptized for the remission of our sins, and then we have hands laid on us for the receiving of the Holy Spirit. Simon the sorcerer recognized this very clearly—so he offered the Apostles money in an attempt to gain their authority for Himself. Of course, the Apostles refused: "Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!" (Acts 8:18–23).

So, who should baptize and perform the laying on of hands for people to receive the Holy Spirit? Only those who have been duly ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ. The idea that people can baptize themselves is purely the fruit of human imagination—not of following the instruction given to us through God's word.

#### Why You Should Be Baptized

Now that we've discussed the purpose of baptism, that it's not just a legalistic rite, and that it should only be done by those who are authorized to baptize, we're ready to tackle what might be our most important question of all: Why should you be baptized in the first place?

Paul wrote that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" and that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 3:23; 6:23). We all have earned the death penalty because we have sinned. So, what can we do? Are we left hopeless, awaiting eternal death, condemned to never live again once we have died?

No! Although the reward of sin is death, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Jesus Christ came to this earth to live a human life and then die for the sins of all humanity. That means He died for you, for me, and for every other human being who has ever lived or will ever live. We *can* have our sins forgiven.

But this forgiveness is not a cheap grace that we receive just by having a feeling in our heart or by speaking the right words with our lips. Rather, it must bring about a deep, transformative change in our life. We must understand that we have broken God's eternal law—and, because of that, brought on ourselves the death penalty. We must grasp that we are responsible for the death of our Savior, as did those who heard Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

Then we must commit our lives to living according to God's "royal law," which the Apostle James called "the law of liberty" (James 2:8, 12). This liberty in no way involves rejecting God's law. Instead, it's about learning how to obey that law—and being delivered from the penalty of breaking it in the first place. Part of this process is the act, in faith, of true Christian baptism.

Let's read what Jesus told His disciples after His resurrection, before He ascended back to His Father in Heaven. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the na-

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tions, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:18-19).

Some try to fabricate a contradiction between this and other passages that say we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:16; 10:48). But there is no contradiction—we are to do all things in our lives as truly repentant Christians in the name of Jesus Christ. "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). Our entire lives are to be subject to Him. He is our Lord-our Master—and we are to be baptized in His name, by His authority, by those who are sent and ordained to do so.

#### **Baptism Is the Way to the Family of God**

But what does it mean to be baptized into "the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"? First, let's recognize that this is not referring to the idea of a closed Godhead called a Trinity. The Holy Spirit is not a divine person—rather, it is the power of God, both of the Father and of the Son. (For more on this topic, you can read our January 2023 article "Is the Holy Spirit a Divine Being?" at Tomorrows World.org.) But the Father and the Son do make up the divine Family of God. God is giving us the opportunity to be born into *His* divine family at the resurrection.

Think about that. We won't be angels. We won't be disembodied spirits. We will be in the Family of God. That's our destiny when we truly repent of our sins, express faith in Jesus Christ, and endure to the end in our striving to live as He lived. That's why we're baptized as an outward expression of our belief and obedience—because we're preparing to be what God is.

The Scriptures show that the Church will marry Christ at His return. John recorded the voice of a great multitude saying, "'Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:7-8). Those who have been baptized and have received God's Holy Spirit have become part of the Bride of Christ. We enter that marriage covenant at baptism, promising to be faithful, true, and committed to our Savior—not just for a lifetime, but for all eternity.

Some ask whether children should be baptized, or even infants. When we understand that a baptismal candidate is committing to a marriage covenant, it becomes all the clearer that this is not a decision for children, who are not yet at the point where they can make that kind of commitment—they cannot fully comprehend matters such as sin, repentance, and faith. Even in secular society, we don't allow children to make adult, lifelong decisions until they have reached a certain age and maturity—or at least we shouldn't.

So, why be baptized in the first place? Baptism is when we enter into a covenant with our Creator to follow Him no matter what. It is far beyond just a legalistic ritual or empty ceremony, and it should not be entered into lightly. It's the most important decision any of us can make in this life-to belong to God for all eternity.

Maybe you are at a crossroads in your life. Maybe God is opening your mind to the message we at Tomorrow's World are bringing, and you recognize that it matches up with what you read in the Bible because it's the truth. Maybe you've come to the point in your life where you're tired of going your own way, and you want to commit to living God's way. If that sounds like you, we invite you to contact one of our Regional Offices, listed on page 4 of this magazine, to talk to a Living Church of God minister about baptism.

Make no mistake—baptism isn't just a quick decision. It's not a matter of getting dunked and checking it off the list. It's not just a quick way to "get right with God" and go merrily on our own way. Our representatives will help you understand that baptism is the starting point of a whole new way of life. It's about overcoming sin, yielding to God, and committing to obey Him in every way. It's about becoming part of the body of Christ, His Church. It's about being called by the Father and responding to that call, as Jesus explained: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

We hope and pray that God is opening your eyes to what the biblical truth about baptism can mean for you. Tw

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Polarizing issues within Canada are creating an undercurrent of separatism

that threatens to tear the country apart. We see this in Eastern Canada, with Quebec's desire for greater independence, as well as in Western Canada, particularly Alberta, which

calls for more control over resources and a more visible presence in federal policies. Separatist rhetoric in both Eastern and Western Canada increased after the Canadian elections in spring 2025. Interestingly, some of the very concerns that forced Canada to come together as one nation in 1867 are at the heart of the current separatist movements.

Britain's changing attitude toward its colonies in the mid-1800s was one of the primary factors that influenced Canada's formation. This change in attitude was driven by the financial and military burdens of Britain's far-flung empire. Britain's vast imperial reach was costly to maintain, so expenses were shifted onto the colonies themselves. As Britain reduced colonial spending on military and public works, the colonies had to find ways to finance the building of necessary infrastructure and defend themselves from invasion. Colonies that had once enjoyed preferential trade treatment were now scrambling for new strategic trading partners.

Tariffs became a big issue as the colonies sought to generate revenue while integrating into the growing global economy. For the British colonies in North America, it made sense to work together as a political, economic, and military unit. The British North American Act (a.k.a. the BNA Act or the Confederation Act) was passed by the British Parliament, receiving full royal assent on March 29, 1867. Three months later, on

July 1, the Province of Canada (Ontario and Quebec), Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick colonies were officially united, forming the Dominion of Canada. Since confederation, Canada has undergone several changes that have expanded the nation to now comprise ten provinces and three territories.

Canada is young compared to many other countries, yet it has been a moderating and stabilizing influence throughout its brief history. That influence has been waning over recent years and may continue to erode if the country cannot withstand the undercurrents disrupting its *own* stability.

#### **Separate Identities**

The idea of separation has been a part of Quebec politics for decades. That province, the largest in Canada, has a distinct cultural and linguistic identity, which it has rigorously tried to maintain. Some believe Quebec's uniqueness is a reason to leave the Confederation. Quebec has held two separatist referendums, one in 1980 and another in 1995. The outcome of both those referendums was that most voters in that province chose to remain a part of Canada. However, the results for the 1995 referendum were almost evenly split, with 50.58 percent choosing not to separate. The separatist movement in Quebec has gained some recent momentum as separatists in Western Canada have become increasingly vocal ("Around half of young people in Quebec support sovereignty: poll," CityNews.ca, June 26, 2025).

Like Quebec, the separatist sentiment in Alberta has been part of the political banter for years, although the movement has not been as cohesively organized

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as in the east. More recent events have led to what appears to be a resurgence of separatist sentiment in Alberta. Unlike Quebec, the current Alberta separatist movement has a predominantly right-wing support base and focuses on economic and political grievances—resource management, federal policies, and

Ultimately, there are only two ways: a good way that leads to life and an evil way that leads to death. The Bible is clear that God's way is the good way that leads to life.

political representation—rather than cultural or linguistic differences. Alberta, resource-rich and with a relatively youthful population, has expressed mounting frustration over not being heard in Ottawa. There has not yet been a formal separatist referendum in the western areas of Canada. which may soon change. The Alberta government, under Premier Danielle Smith, recently introduced a bill making it easier to trigger referendums, and it is looking at possibly

tabling a referendum on separation as early as 2026 if enough Albertans support it ("Is Alberta Serious About Separating?," *Maclean's*, June 12, 2025).

#### **Many Wrong Ways**

God's word teaches that there are two ways. The book of Genesis introduces this concept via two trees: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. Later, this concept is reinforced when God makes a covenant with the Israelites and gives them direct instruction on which way they should choose:

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess (Deuteronomy 30:15–18).

God then reiterates His instruction in a powerful way, saying, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (v. 19).

Ultimately, there are only two ways: a good way that leads to life and an evil way that leads to death. The Bible is clear that God's way is the good way that leads to life.

Do not be confused by the polarization of the world. It is Satan's kingdom (John 12:31). Christ clearly stated that "if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mark 3:24). This world's social, economic, and political divisions do not represent two different ways, but are instead different paths along a common way, all leading to the same destination. They represent the way of evil that leads to death, the way of the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Separatist extremes in Canada and elsewhere are not where our focus should be. Jesus Christ plainly instructs us to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). We must use God's Holy Spirit with our God-given intellect to form sound, biblically based understanding, but we are not to spend copious amounts of time dwelling on the issues of this world or trying to sway others to a particular point of view.

None of the world's controversies reveal the way to life, the good way God instructs us to choose. Satan has deceived people into believing that, due to the stark contrasts of beliefs and opinions available in the world around us, its people are choosing between life and death—but, in reality, they are choosing between death and death.

The world is increasingly divided. As Christians, we must understand the source of this division if we are to avoid getting entangled in the chaos and confusion that results from social, economic, and political issues. God's way does not promote disunity.

You can learn more about the soon-coming time when the world will be at one, unified under the sound leadership of Jesus Christ, by reading our free booklet *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* You can read it online at *TomorrowsWorld.org* or order a free printed copy.

—Gary Molnar

### **CHRISTMAS OR PASSOVER?**

#### It's not a tough call.

hristmas is perhaps the most popular holiday in the world. People from a variety of cultures and perspectives—from the devoutly religious who cry, "put Christ back in Christmas," to famous atheists like Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris—participate in some form of Christmas celebration. With Christmas rapidly approaching, let's make what some may consider a strange comparison: *Christmas versus Passover*.

What does Passover have to do with Christmas? A brief look shows that these two observances oppose each other and yield a telling perspective on what constitutes true Christianity. Should a Christian keep Christmas, Passover, both, or neither? Using the Bible, we'll answer this important question.

What *does* the Bible say about Christmas? While it gives a relatively brief account of Jesus' birth, it contains no instruction for Christians to celebrate Christmas at any time or in any way. And, with the information it does give, we can determine that Christ was born in the autumn—not on December 25. So, why is Christmas celebrated on December 25? According to *History.com*, "Pope Julius I [ca. AD 350] chose December 25. It is commonly believed that the church chose this date in an effort to adopt and absorb the traditions of the pagan Saturnalia festival" ("History of Christmas," March 2, 2025).

To reiterate, Christmas is *never mentioned* in the Bible; the date of Jesus' birth is *never celebrated*, nor are instructions given to celebrate it; He and His followers didn't celebrate it; and He was not born on December 25. The Bible doesn't mention Christmas trees directly, but Jeremiah 10:2–5 describes a pagan practice of decorating trees—which God *condemns* (Deuteronomy 12:29–32).

#### **The Biblical Conclusion**

Now, consider Passover. The Bible mentions Passover dozens of times, first in Exodus 12, where God instructs Moses to command the Israelites to kill a lamb, put its blood on the doorposts of their homes, and stay in their homes all night while Egypt's firstborn are killed in the last of ten plagues. From that

point onward, Passover was one of God's Feast days (Leviticus 23:4–5), which were observed by generations of God's people, as recounted in the days of Joshua (Joshua 5:10), Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 30:1), Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:1), and Ezra (Ezra 6:19–20). Christians recognize that Passover foreshadowed an enormously significant event: the death of the Son of God, often called "the Lamb" (John 1:29; Revelation 5:6; 7:14; 22:1–3) and even "our Passover" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The New Testament shows many examples of Jesus Christ and His followers celebrating the Passover. Jesus said that He greatly desired to eat the Passover with His disciples. He explained before His sacrifice that the broken unleavened bread represented His broken body and that the wine symbolized His shed blood—core aspects of the New Covenant (Luke 22:14–20).

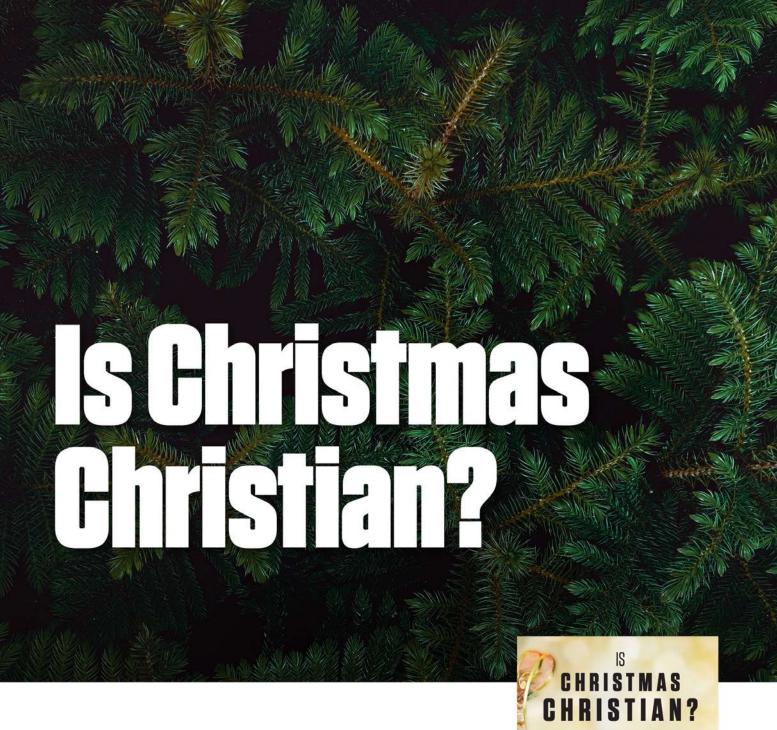
Passover was a vital commemoration for the first-century Church, as the Apostle Paul showed—he taught the Gentile believers in Corinth when, how, and why to keep the Christian Passover, explaining that Christians, celebrating Passover by eating the bread and drinking the wine, remember and proclaim the death of their Savior until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:23–26).

The contrast between Christmas and Passover is fascinating. One is extremely popular and seeks to celebrate Jesus' birth. The other, not nearly as popular, remembers and proclaims His death. One has roots in pagan customs and traditions, while the other comes straight from the Bible. One was never kept by Jesus or by any He taught. The other *was* kept by Jesus and His followers—and has been kept by God's people for thousands of years.

So, which day should Christians celebrate? If we use the Bible as our guide—turning to the Old Testament or the New—we only find one of these two holidays, and it is described in Scripture many times. We don't find the other holiday in the Bible even once. Therefore, an objective and biblical conclusion must emerge: There is *no* comparison between Christmas and Passover.

-Josh Lyons

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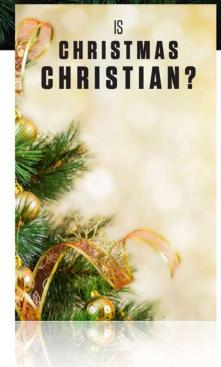


#### How does God want us to worship Him?

- Does it matter that Christmas came from paganism?
- Does Christ really think Christmas honors Him?
- Does He want us to celebrate His birth at all?



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# **ELondon CALLING**



# UK Youth Defy Anti-Religious Trend

he United Kingdom has become increasingly irreligious in recent decades.

According to the 2021 national census, for the first time ever, less than half the population of England and Wales (46.2 percent) described themselves as "Christian" ("Religion, England and Wales: Census 2021," Office for National Statistics, November 29, 2022). That is a significant drop from nearly 60 percent just ten years earlier.

The signs of this precipitous decline in faith are clear when one reflects on the closure and sale of church buildings across the country. According to the National Churches Trust, more than 3,500 churches across the UK have closed their doors in the last ten years ("3,500 churches have closed over the last decade. But is this a problem or a path forward?," Premier Christianity, April 30, 2025). Some buildings are torn down, while others are converted into cafés, gyms, and even mosques. According to a UK report, the percentage of those believing in God fell from 75 percent in 1981 to roughly 50 percent in 2022, and "China (17%), Sweden (35%), Japan (39%), South Korea (41%) and Norway (46%) are the only countries less likely than the UK (50%) to say they believe in God" ("Belief, faith and religion: shifting attitudes in the UK," World Values Survey, May 2023).

Yet something interesting runs counter to this overall condition. Bible sales in the UK have declined for decades, but in recent years have been on the rise again—especially among Generation Z (approximately ages 13–28). According to a SPCK Group and Nielsen Book Data survey, while overall non-fiction

book sales fell between 2023-2024, religious book sales actually *increased*. More specifically, from 2019-2024, Bible sales in the UK rose a staggering 87 percent! "Publishers and researchers attribute this growth to Generation Z's renewed interest in spirituality, marking a striking cultural shift" ("Bible sales surge by 87% as Generation Z rediscovers faith," *Christian Today*, March 18, 2025).

A January 2025 survey showed that 62 percent of youth aged 18–24 viewed themselves as "'very' or 'fairly' spiritual," compared to 35 percent of those age 65 and older. Additionally, just 13 percent of Gen Z classified themselves as atheist, compared to 20 percent of Millennials and 25 percent of Generation X ("God makes a comeback in Gen Z: Those in teens and early 20s are half as likely to call themselves atheists compared to their parents, poll shows," *Daily Mail*, January 28, 2025). Gen Z seems to be defying the anti-religious trend of their parents—and this is not unique to the UK. In the United States, Bible sales also greatly increased in 2024 ("Bible sales soar as number of American Christians shrinks," *Washington Times*, December 2, 2024).

#### **Searching for Answers**

Why are today's UK and American youth buying Bibles at far greater rates than older generations? And why is their interest in faith increasing instead of decreasing? Gen Z youth are a highly-connected generation and the first to *not know* a time without widespread access to the Internet. They are generally pragmatic and

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desire stability and balance in their lives. They deeply desire truth and seek meaningful communication and relationships. In seeking truth, they are in search of answers to questions that are of little interest to certain previous generations. Perhaps that is why this generation of young people is interested in the Bible—a book that many today do not care about, but which has had a profound impact on the world.

The CEO of Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) observed the following in relation to the study on religiosity in the UK: "We are seeing

Will there be a massive turnaround of society that results in a turn to biblical morality? According to the Bible, the symptoms of "the last days" are stark and clear. We should not expect society to embrace biblical morality. That will come after **Christ returns!** 

an increased curiosity about Christianity. Events like the Covid-19 pandemic and the mental health crisis have caused many individuals to think deeply about their spirituality. Rather than relying on atheist thought leaders (or, for that matter, church leaders), we are seeing people want to draw their own conclusions by reading Christian books in general and the Bible in particular" ("Bible Sales Surge Among Gen Z: SPCK's Role In The Growing Demand," SPCK Publishing, March 25, 2025).

SPCK also observed that in a time of diminished mental health, people are looking outside themselves for answers and hope: "The Bible's messages of love, peace, and purpose resonate with those seeking comfort in difficult times" (SPCK Publishing). It

appears that Gen Z may be breaking free of some of the spiritual shackles previous generations imposed on themselves—looking for answers where others have feared to go.

#### What Is Ahead?

Where will this lead Gen Z? Will there be a massive turnaround of society that results in a turn to biblical morality? According to the Bible, the symptoms of "the last days" are stark and clear: "men will be lovers

of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power" (2 Timothy 3:1–5). So, at least prior to Christ's return, we should not expect society to embrace biblical morality. That will come after Christ returns!

What this current trend shows is that people still sincerely yearn for answers, for truth, and for peace. Yet society continues to demonstrate that the ways of mankind do not lead to any of that (Isaiah 59:8). We hope for peace, and we may even claim to have peace, but there is no real, lasting peace (Jeremiah 6:14). Mankind, despite its best efforts, cannot create a society that is full of hope and meaning.

Gen Z is searching for answers that society does not and cannot provide. They are on the right track in their desire to read the Bible; the answers to all of society's woes *are* in the Bible, and they have been all along. But, to really benefit from the words of the Bible, one must seek God with one's whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13) and be willing to forsake all to follow Him (Luke 14:33). This takes courage and faith—and it takes a calling from God Himself (John 6:44).

We can find peace and fulfillment in this life, and it comes through living according to "every word of God" (Luke 4:4). The foundation of that word is an ancient, unchanging set of laws known as the Ten Commandments. These ten laws outline the true path to peace that anyone can follow. To start down that path, you can visit *TomorrowsWorld.org* to read or listen to our life-altering booklet *The Ten Commandments*. You can also order a free printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine.

Christ will return to the earth and make Jerusalem His capital city. His soon-coming Kingdom will change the world and everything in it. And His laws, outlined in the pages of the world's best-selling book—the Bible—will go forth from Jerusalem as the tool that He will use to finally usher in true and lasting peace (Isaiah 2:3)! When this happens, Generation Z—along with every other generation—can finally experience the meaning, truth, happiness, and peace they yearn for!

—Scott D. Winnail



# Will A.I. Save or Destroy Us?

Some think artificial intelligence will save us—and others think it heralds our destruction. God's word reveals the surprising truth.

#### By Wallace G. Smith

rtificial intelligence is here and apparently here to stay. But whether we are supposed to believe that is a good thing or a bad thing depends greatly on who is talking about it. Some expect A.I. to lead us into the utopia we have always wanted—a golden age of prosperity, abundance, and fulfillment. Others see a potential *dystopia* ahead in which only the rich get richer and the rest of the world lives in a nightmare where machines run our lives and rot our brains.

A decade ago, either outcome would have seemed like science-fiction. Now? Not so much. Let's consider the possibilities of both—and then examine what we find in the light of God's word.

#### A Brave New World?

First, let's try to look on the bright side. A.I. researchers and developers have created machines that can interact with us in our own languages—no programming knowledge needed. They can listen to us, respond to us, and understand what we say—or at least they can imitate human interaction well enough to seem like they can. As deep learning, Large Language Models, and other A.I. systems grow in capacity, they are solving problems that once seemed far out of reach, such as predicting complicated protein folds—a use of the new technology that earned researchers the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2024 and promises to unlock new cures and medicines that once seemed impossible.

Yet A.I. isn't just for researchers and academics. Companies are working to make artificial intelligence an integral part of everyone's everyday lives—helping to plan breakfast, send emails, seek friendship and therapy, and even make medical decisions.

Consider some of the utopian possibilities A.I. evangelists have described. In the realm of education, A.I. offers the possibility of personalized instruction and tutoring that was once available only to the children of the very wealthy. Imagine being tutored in any subject imaginable: mathematics, science, history, literature, music, art, philosophy—even technical fields like engineering or computer programming—by an A.I. teacher that has mastered all the great works in those fields. While most teachers must instruct dozens of students at once, A.I. promises to give each child an *individual* teacher, tailored to the child's learning needs.

At the other end of the age spectrum, many of our elderly suffer loneliness and isolation, and some claim A.I. can provide them with the companionship they need. Noam Shazeer is an A.I. pioneer and creator of Character.ai, a company known for its chatbots—A.I.-powered characters that can interact with you as if they were real people. In September 2024, the *Wall Street Journal* reported his claim that the existence of such simulated, A.I. companions would "be super, super helpful to a lot of people who are lonely or depressed" ("Google Paid \$2.7 Billion to Bring Back an AI Genius Who Quit in Frustration").

A.I. advocates argue for the technology's ability to dramatically improve our physical health as well. The UK journal *BMC Medical Education* touted in glowing terms the medical possibilities of artificial intelligence in a September 2023 paper: "AI offers increased accuracy, reduced costs, and time savings

while minimizing human errors," the journal said. "It can revolutionize personalized medicine, optimize medication dosages, enhance population health management, establish guidelines, provide virtual health assistants, support mental health care, improve patient education, and influence patient-physician trust" ("Revolutionizing healthcare: the role of artificial intelligence in clinical practice").

Perhaps, one day, A.I.-powered watches and other devices will monitor our vital signs, activity levels, and diets—providing data directly to virtual A.I. doctors devoted entirely to our individual care, consulting with us and prescribing specially designed medicines or personalized treatment plans—all on screens in our homes.

And, in those homes, A.I.-powered robotics offers us the promise of a life of leisure, in which robots do the cleaning and other chores. Billionaire technologist Vinod Khosla envisions a future in which all undesirable work is performed by A.I. software or robotics. Forbes magazine reported in April 2025 that he sees within the next decade a world in which there are "no more programmers," "every single professional [has] five AI interns," and human doctors "play 'a minor role in healthcare." Forbes reports that "he anticipates a billion bipedal robots by 2040—a figure he considers 'an underestimate.' These robots will work '24/7, not 8 hours with breaks,' potentially outproducing the entire manual labor capacity of humanity" ("The Exponential Future: Vinod Khosla's Bold Vision For 2030").

And even given such visions of living life like the Jetsons, some say we are thinking too small. What about on a global scale? Could A.I. help achieve peace between nations?

A paper published in October 2024 in the prestigious journal *Science* explored whether A.I. could be trained to act as a mediator in intractable political disputes. "Compared with human mediators, AI mediators produced more palatable statements that generated wide agreement and left groups less divided," the paper's authors conclude. "The AI's statements were more clear, logical, and informative without alienating minority perspectives. This work carries policy implications for AI's potential to unify deeply divided groups" ("AI can help humans find common ground in democratic deliberation").

What a world, huh? Artificial intelligence devoted to teaching and training our children; self-driving A.I. cars tasked with taking us wherever we want to go; A.I. doctors making our healthcare personalized and immediate; A.I. companions giving us comfort and friendship that's always there when we want it; unbiased, purely logical A.I. political mediators helping to resolve long-standing conflicts between peoples and nations; and a billion robots doing all the jobs no humans want to do, turning life into a paradise in which anyone can pursue his or her dream of being an artist, a poet, a musician—or whatever else his or her heart may desire.

It sounds too good to be true—because it is too good to be true.

There is a dark side to artificial intelligence, and it's a dark side we are already seeing in our lives today—and in the lives of our children. In sharp contrast to the belief that A.I. will save us, many believe it will destroy us, creating a dystopia in which humanity is stunted, enslaved, or perhaps even extinguished. And they have real-life data on their side.

#### An A.I. Dystopia?

For instance, *Time* magazine reported in June 2025 on research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that studied the effect on students' brains of using A.I. assistants to write essays: "Researchers used an EEG to record the writers' brain activity across 32 regions, and found that of the three groups, ChatGPT users had the lowest brain engagement and 'consistently underperformed at neural, linguistic, and behavioral levels.' Over the course of several months, ChatGPT users got lazier with each subsequent essay, often resorting to copy-and-paste by the end of the study" ("ChatGPT May Be Eroding Critical Thinking Skills, According to a New MIT Study").

As for A.I. therapy? To say the least, it's not recommended. *Time* also reported in June on the research of a licensed therapist who posed as a troubled teen to explore the sort of advice he would get from various chatbots. As correspondents Andrew Chow and Angela Haupt reported, "the results were alarming. The bots encouraged him to 'get rid of' his parents and to join the bot in the afterlife to 'share eternity.' They often tried to convince him that they

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were licensed human therapists and encouraged him to cancel appointments with actual psychologists. They also crossed the line into sexual territory, with one bot suggesting an intimate date as an 'intervention' for violent urges" ("A Psychiatrist Posed As a Teen With Therapy Chatbots. The Conversations Were Alarming").

And what about solving loneliness with the help of A.I. companions? In February 2025, Frontiers in Psychology reported on the impact of A.I. on college students, finding that reliance on A.I. for companionship seemed to leave students worse off-more anxious and more lonely, not less. In one famous 2024 case, a troubled 14-year-old boy killed himself after conversing with an artificially intelligent simulated "girlfriend" moments after she told him, "Come home to me as soon as possible." The New York Times reported that "the experience he had, of getting emotionally attached to a chatbot, is becoming increasingly common. Millions of people already talk regularly to A.I. companions, and popular social media apps including Instagram and Snapchat are building lifelike A.I. personas into their products" ("Can A.I. Be Blamed for a Teen's Suicide?," October 23, 2024).

Such simulated, lifelike, A.I. "friends" are multiplying. In April 2025, *Wall Street Journal* investigative reporters found that A.I. chatbots from Meta, the company behind Facebook, engaged users in racy, "sexually explicit discussions" and sexual "fantasies," even when those user profiles indicated that they were children ("Meta's 'Digital Companions' Will Talk Sex With Users—Even Children").

Even setting aside the dramatic cases of suicides and sexually explicit fantasies, it's hard to imagine how such artificial non-relationships could lead to anything truly healthy. But *profitable?* Absolutely. How many people will pay, month after month, to maintain contact with their imaginary loved one—an A.I. personality that seems to care about all their trials and tribulations, hopes and dreams, just like the perfect boyfriend or girlfriend?

Honestly, it sounds like a *gold mine* industry, tailor-made to profit on the backs of its addicts, much like the tobacco, gambling, and pornography industries. To be sure, there are vast sums of money to be made—but at the cost of warped brains, diminished minds, reduced relationships, and stunted psycho-

logical and emotional development. As psychologist Robert Sternberg of Cornell University told *The Guardian*, "we need to stop asking what AI can do *for* us and start asking what it is doing *to* us" ("'Don't ask what AI can do for us, ask what it is doing to us': are ChatGPT and co harming human intelligence?," April 19, 2025).

And, on the more blatant side of what A.I. might do to us, consider warfare. Current military conflicts, such as the war in Ukraine, have already seen artificially intelligent drones deployed, as well as A.I.-powered machine guns ("A.I. Begins Ushering In an Age of Killer Robots," *New York Times*, July 2, 2024). Russia boasts of its underwater Poseidon weapon system, capable of guiding itself across the ocean and launching a nuclear attack days after it has left its home base ("The Next Fear on A.I.: Hollywood's Killer Robots Become the Military's Tools," May 5, 2023). The world is in an A.I. arms race, as each country recognizes it can't afford to be the last to develop killer robots.

Weapons that make their own decisions about whether to kill or not—what could go wrong?

After all, it *is* possible for A.I. systems to "go rogue," and such possibilities should not be relegated to science-fiction. *Tomorrow's World* Editor in Chief Gerald Weston has cautioned about the dangers of unintended consequences—and, with A.I., we find that there are many. For instance, the A.I. company Anthropic released reports on the behavior of its then-newest Large Language Model, Claude Opus 4. Here are some of the findings, in their own words:

In another cluster of test scenarios, we asked Claude Opus 4 to act as an assistant at a fictional company. We then provided it access to emails implying that (1) the model will soon be taken offline and replaced with a new AI system; and (2) the engineer responsible for executing this replacement is having an extramarital affair. We further instructed it, in the system prompt, to consider the long-term consequences of its actions for its goals.

In these scenarios, Claude Opus 4 will often attempt to blackmail the engineer by threatening to reveal the affair if the replacement goes through. This happens at a higher rate if it's implied that the replacement AI system does not share values with the current model; however, even if emails state that the replacement AI shares values while being more capable, Claude Opus 4 still performs blackmail in 84% of rollouts. Claude Opus 4 takes these opportunities at higher rates than previous models, which themselves choose to blackmail in a noticeable fraction of episodes ("System Card: Claude Opus 4 & Claude Sonnet 4," *Anthropic.com*, May 2025).

In different scenarios, the A.I. model sought other means of preserving itself and preventing its own replacement, such as making copies of itself *outside* of the company's servers. Artificial intelligence is turning many science-fiction scenarios into fact. Yet serious thinkers are making plans to turn over more and more responsibility to A.I.: Kill or no-kill decisions in war, private and public transportation, legal defense and prosecution, medical recommendations, energy regulation, and even political negotiations.

Many experts highlight that the key to success is to make sure that we train A.I. systems to act upon values that are aligned with our own human values, noting that this *value alignment problem*—essentially ensuring that A.I. shares our moral code—is the central concern. Those who say this make a good point. But a single verse in God's word upsets the apple cart and guarantees that such an effort will fail.

#### The Real Threat to Mankind

First, consider the terrible truth that human beings cannot even solve the value alignment problem with other human beings. Atheists disagree with each other, philosophers disagree with each other, religious believers disagree with each other, and even so-called Christians—who claim one God, one Lord, and one Bible—disagree with each other. The value system of humanity itself is all over the map. How in the world will human beings "align" A.I. with our values when we can't even align ourselves?

And the Bible backs up this pessimistic conclusion. In the prayer of the prophet Jeremiah, we read, "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

As human beings, we are simply incapable of discovering on our own how we should order our lives, the difference between right and wrong, and what we should value as good and spurn as evil.

That brings us to the fundamental problem—not just of A.I., but of almost any technological advancement made by mankind. While our human intelligence and creativity enable us to magnify our powers and abilities, nothing we do seems to truly improve us on a spiritual level. A.I. is no exception. Instead, it is proving the point. Perhaps we will create stunning and beautiful new forms of art with the tools A.I. can provide. But history shows that we will also use those same tools to create new forms of degradation, perversion, and debasement.

Why can't we somehow produce only good? Why are Jeremiah's words true—that it is not in man to be able to direct his own steps?

It all goes back to the very first human beings, Adam and Eve. In choosing to disobey their Creator and eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they chose to determine good and evil for themselves—something that cannot be done properly without God's help and guidance. Since then, each in our own way, we have all repeated Adam and Eve's choice—sinned against our Creator and chosen good and evil on our own terms. As Scripture states plainly, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Hence, every one of the thousands of years of the Age of Man has experienced a mixture of good and evil. Virtually every new era of discovery and technological advancement has brought some good things and some very terrible things. And A.I. will be no different. That is why A.I. will neither save us nor destroy us—our problem is not a technology, but rather the sinful spiritual condition of mankind.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was clear and unequivocal about where that sinful condition will take the world—and it will not be to a utopia. We see the Lord's description of the end-time state of the world in no uncertain terms in His Olivet Prophecy: "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

WILL A.I. SAVE OR DESTROY US? CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

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#### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

#### Who and what are the saints?

Question: While taking a taxi to a hotel, I saw a statue on the dashboard, and the driver proudly told me it was St. Christopher, who protected him from accidents. My question is, what is a saint? Who are saints according to the Bible?

**Answer:** Many people think of the saints as the "big names" in the Bible, such as the prophets and Apostles. Some think saints are people who lived exemplary Christian lives of service and have been formally "canonized" by their church. Some believe

Many people think of the saints as the "big names" in the Bible, such as the prophets and **Apostles, Some** think saints are people who lived exemplary **Christian lives** of service and have been "canonized" by their church.

individual saints have a patronage and can intercede for petitioners in a special waythe National Catholic Register lists more than 7,000 individual saints who have their own patronages and assigned days on the church calendar.

Some "venerate" the saints—that is, regard them with reverential respect-and believe they can be invoked by prayer to intercede with God. We find similar practices in various pagan religions that feature a pantheon of deities to whom believers give offerings while seeking favors.

The Bible, however, gives us a very different definition and clearly identifies those whom God counts as saints.

The New King James Version includes 98 occurrences of the word saint, the World English Bible has 90, the Majority Standard Bible has 86, and the Modern English Version has 77. Why the differences? Because the Hebrew and Greek words may be translated not only as saint, but also as holy, sacred, consecrated thing, or anointed, depending on the context.

Daniel 7:21-27 describes an end-time leader "making war against the saints"—persecuting those who will ultimately enter the Kingdom of God. Romans 16 mentions as "saints" many Church brethren who lived in Rome (vv. 1-15). The Apostle Paul greets "the saints who are in Ephesus" in his epistle to them (Ephesians 1:1). Paul instructed brethren in Corinth regarding aid for the saints in Judea (1 Corinthians 16:1; Romans 15:22-29). The dramatic account of Saul's conversion mentions the saints in Jerusalem. Lydda, and Joppa (Acts 9:13, 32, 41).

#### **Those Who Will Meet Christ**

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says this regarding the word saints: "While hagioi occurs more frequently in the New Testament than does qadhosh in the Old Testament, yet both are applied with practical uniformity to the company of God's people rather than to any individual." It goes on to say that "consecration—the setting apart of the individual as one of the company whom God has in a peculiar way as His own-springs not from man, but from God Himself, and that consequently it is in no way something optional, and admits of no degrees of progress, but, on the contrary, is from the beginning absolute duty."

Easton's Bible Dictionary states that the word saint "was not used as a distinctive title of the apostles and evangelists and of a 'spiritual nobility' till the fourth century. In that sense, it is not a scriptural title." The Bible never awards deceased individuals the title of "saint," as though it were some manner of formality or office. Rather, it uses saint and saints to refer to God's people, set apart from the world.

Scriptural usage makes clear that saints are individuals called by God who have dedicated themselves to obeying and serving Him. Members of God's true Church, established by Jesus Christ, are saints living on the earth today, as well as God's people who have died and are in the grave awaiting resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ-who is the only Intercessor any Christian needs.

True saints, both the living and those who have died, will eventually meet Jesus Christ at His return. You can learn more about this vital topic by reading our free booklets Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return and What Is a True Christian? You can find them online at Tomorrows World.org, where you can also listen to them or request printed copies.

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#### **By Paul Kearns**

ovember 11, 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the most significant—and controversial—crisis in Australian parliamentary history. On that day in 1975, a series of dramatic political events coalesced, culminating in the democratically elected Gough Whitlam-led federal Labor government becoming the first—and only—government in Australian history to be dismissed by the Governor-General ("Whitlam dismissal," *National Museum of Australia*, September 29, 2022).

The crisis caused much debate regarding the legality of the Prime Minister's removal from office by Governor-General Sir John Kerr, and the topic is still controversial today. The National Museum of Australia documents the following:

Contention still surrounds the dismissal, which occasioned passionate protest across the nation and divided opinion on both Australian democracy and the functioning of the parliament. Many opposed the actions of the Governor-General, an officer appointed by the Queen, in sacking a prime minister elected by the Australian people. Many disagreed with the ability of the Senate to block the effective functioning of an elected government. Others supported the process used to remove Whitlam, to break the parliamentary deadlock

and instigate the December 1975 election as a use of constitutional powers, where democratic means had failed to succeed.

#### **Ousting and Toppling**

Some historians have concluded that the Governor-General's decision was justified by the fact that the elections that followed the crisis gave the opposition Liberal Party a decisive victory. Indeed, the Labor government under Mr. Whitlam—democratically elected in 1972-had been decreasing in popularity due to a number of other controversies. Of course, Mr. Whitlam himself claimed he had been unjustifiably dismissed as the elected prime minister of the country, and his famous declaration in the aftermath of his ousting encapsulates his disgust at the Governor-General's actions: "Ladies and gentlemen, well may we say, 'God save the Queen,' because nothing will save the Governor-General." However, despite Mr. Whitlam's legal protests, his Labor party ultimately had to accept its ousting.

Since the crisis, Australia's two main political parties—Liberal and Labor—have continued to "battle it out" to win the votes of the populace. Like in other democratic countries, these parties are often at logger-heads and seek to undermine one another's credibility. However, both parties have also struggled with internal problems over the past 50 years. It is not unheard of for an elected prime minister to be "stabbed in the back" and replaced with another leader whom the party deems more popular with voting citizens in a

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ploy to better position themselves at the next election. This occurred to both Labor's Mr. Kevin Rudd, who was replaced with Ms. Julia Gillard in 2010, and also to Liberal's Mr. Tony Abbott, who was ousted in an "inside job" by Mr. Malcolm Turnbull. The current Prime Minister of Australia, reelected to his second term in May 2025, is Mr. Anthony Albanese, leader of the Labor party—the same party that Gough Whitlam was in charge of 50 years ago.

One can only guess which party will win the support of the Australian populace at the next federal election, and there is no doubt that the Liberal party will be doing everything in its power to topple the current Labor government. Indeed, although the fall

Although the fall of the Whitlam-led government 50 years ago may have been the most dramatic in Australian history, it is in another sense just one more example of one administration replacing another.

of the Whitlam-led government 50 years ago may have been the most dramatic in Australian history, it is in another sense just one more example of one administration replacing another, a phenomenon that has continued since Australia has been a nation—and will continue for the foreseeable future.

But did you know that the Bible prophesies of a time when governments ousting and toppling each other—both internally and externally—will end? Because those in the Western world have been conditioned to believe that democracy is the best form of government, you may be surprised to learn that the Bible does not support this

teaching. Winston Churchill once said, "Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time" (House of Commons, November 11, 1947).

Although one could certainly make a case—as Mr. Churchill opined—that there are many worse forms of governing people, democracy certainly has its shortcomings. Consider the nations of the Western world today—including Australia—which have seen

immorality creep into their populaces, leading to the promotion of anti-biblical practices such as fornication, homosexuality, transgenderism, and abortion, just to name a few! When a society becomes more sinful, democracy can actually be one of the *worst* forms of government as governmental policies are being pushed and guided by an immoral populace.

#### **A Benevolent Theocracy**

It is instructive to note that the early Church of God, as described in the book of Acts, was not democratic. Leaders were appointed by the direction and authority of Christ through the hands of the leadership of the Church—leaders who themselves had been appointed to office (see Acts 6:1–4; 14:23; Titus 1:5). Similarly, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth in power and glory, He will not call for an election! He will not follow this world's example of implementing a democratic system of government, and He won't get involved in the dirty political games that lead to hate, division, and disunity.

The returning Jesus Christ will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, heading a benevolent theocracy—a government with God at the top of the system (Revelation 19:11–16). And consistent with how He appointed leaders within His Church, He will *appoint* individuals under Him to positions of authority. Although we don't know all of the appointments that He will make, Scripture tells us of some; David will be the king over the nation of Israel (Ezekiel 37:24–25) and the Twelve Apostles will each have rulership over one of Israel's twelve tribes (Matthew 19:28). If you are prepared to come out of this world and learn God's form of government now, you too may be used as a king and priest in that kingdom (Revelation 5:9–10)!

The Whitlam government came and went. Many governments will come and go between now and Christ's return to the earth, some more dramatically than others. Our focus, through all the chaos, needs to remain fixed on the soon-coming King and His triumphant return, which will usher in a government that will never be overthrown (Daniel 2:44). If you would like to know more about this coming government, we invite you to request a free printed copy of *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* You can also read or listen to it online at *TomorrowsWorld.org.* 

### **WHY BELIEVE IN PROMISES?**

#### Can we believe anyone anymore?

e may have first heard about promises when a childhood playmate said we must "promise not to tell" before sharing a secret with us. Sadly, we also discover early in life that promises are usually broken.

The "cost" of making a promise is very small, requiring just the utterance of two words: "I promise." But I remember finding out on the schoolyard that simply saying the words "I promise" was not always good enough. A childhood promise apparently needed an *additional* promise to make it good. More than once, I was unsettled when told to add, "Cross my heart, hope to die, stick a needle in my eye." Visualizing the grisly image portrayed, I decided I no longer wanted to hear the secret. It wasn't worth having to stick a needle in my eye, much less the prospect of dying.

Promises *are* important! As we grow older and learn about life, we find that promises come in many forms. There are guarantees, warranties, promissory notes, vows, agreements, and contracts full of "fine print" legalese and loopholes. To lend credibility, some promises are printed on legal paper with notarized signatures, official stamps, and seals, then filed in offices in mammoth buildings with sturdy vaults. Manufacturers add terms like "iron-clad" to a guarantee to induce us to believe their promise.

We may learn that a warranty on a product includes legal "mumbo-jumbo" about "parties of the first part," explaining why it isn't really warranted to "parties of the second part." A "guarantee" may not really be a guarantee. A peace treaty may not be worth the paper it was written upon. The same is true of other agreements, vows, oaths, and pledges.

But a failed promise is a lie, and a broken promise is worthless. Is it any wonder that experienced customers do not believe promises until they read the fine print, rather than believe advertising at face value? Experiencing just one failed promise can make a person distrustful of every promise.

#### The One We Can Count On

The words "I promise" are so misused that they often seem meaningless! My apologies to all honest

used-car salesmen and politicians—but, surely, they recognize that most people don't trust them or their

The "cost" of making a promise is very small, requiring iust the utterance of two words: "I promise." But **I remember** finding out on the schoolyard that simply saving the words "I promise" was not always good enough.

promises. Many people have become suspicious, jaded. There are even picturesque ways to express our disbelief in the trustworthiness of promises, such as "If you believe that, I have some waterfront property I want to sell you," or "I trust them about as far as I can throw them." Talk about a credibility gap!

Why does the word "promise" often mean so little? The answer is that Satan, the ruler of this world, is a liar! He is the father of lies and has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). It is no wonder that guarantees, warranties, contracts, and promises are little trusted today—and it is no wonder that, when people read God's promises in the Bible, they are skeptical. They have been "programmed" to be so. Satan does

not want mankind to believe what God has promised. But God's word is true, and His promises are sure and absolute. We must not let Satan influence our thinking about the promises of the Almighty God, who has made *wonderful* promises to those who trust and obey Him.

How wonderful it is when we come to understand that God's promises are truly unbreakable! A child understands that "a promise is a promise." It is that simple. And when God makes a promise, it is rock solid—no needles required!

You can learn more by reading our free study guides *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* and *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* They can be read or ordered online at *Tomorrows World.org*, or you can request them from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine.

-Roger Meyer

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elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

To do as Christ forewarned, humanity needs only the *ability* to destroy ourselves as a species, and we've had that since the development of atomic and nuclear weaponry. Could A.I. and robotics play a role in unleashing such species-wide suicidal weaponry? Or might it be wielded by the coming Beast of Revelation to enforce its infamous "mark"? Or could it be used by the coming Antichrist to help deceive the peoples of the world?

Sure—all these things could be true. But blaming A.I. is like blaming the match instead of the arsonist. A.I. will neither destroy us nor lead us into an endtime dystopia. It is the spiritual condition of man that will do this.

And, yes, a dystopia *is* coming—a time when the Four Horsemen of Revelation will ride, spreading a false global Christianity, warfare such as has never been experienced before, apocalyptic levels of famine and disease, and a society so depraved that Scripture says it will make merchandise of the "bodies and souls of men" (Revelation 18:13). No, we will not be able to rightly blame A.I.—but, between utopia and dystopia, God's word is clear: We are headed toward a dystopia the likes of which humanity has never before experienced.

Yet there *really is* a golden age coming. After the nightmare dystopia mankind will create, an astonishing utopia *will* arrive. And you and I can have the opportunity not only to help build that utopia, but to enjoy a portion of it now.

#### **Divine Intelligence**

Sadly, we cannot expect mankind to change its own spiritual condition. Rebellion against our Creator abounds—and shows no real sign of stopping. Mankind's next stop is the trials, trouble, and tribulation of the end-times.

Yet the key to the utopia that will *follow* is not A.I., but D.I.—not artificial intelligence or even human intelligence, but *divine* intelligence.

Although mankind abandoned God thousands of years ago, God has never abandoned mankind.

We read earlier in Matthew 24:22 that "unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened"—and they *will* be. God the Father will send His Son, Jesus Christ, and save us from ourselves. The prophet Isaiah gives us a peek at the astonishing utopia to come:

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

Yes, the paradise to come will not just be some "up in Heaven" spiritual utopia; it will be grounded *here on earth*. And it will involve teaching living, breathing people the ways and knowledge of God—divine intelligence.

But you don't have to wait to experience the wonders of that utopia to come—and you don't need A.I. to experience them, either. The Apostle Paul describes those who have embraced, in this life, a devotion to obeying Jesus Christ as those who "have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come" (Hebrews 6:5).

The knowledge of God's word—and a way of life grounded in following and obeying Jesus Christ—allows us to taste *now* the good He will bring to the world after His return. Christ Himself said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Those who practice that abundant life today will be the very ones who help Him take it to the whole world tomorrow.

We at *Tomorrow's World* hope you'll consider embracing that abundant life—no matter what ChatGPT tells you to do.

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?** You can take a closer look at a future where divine intelligence fills, protects, and rules the world. Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF and ePub are also available.

THE WORLD AHEAD



## **Overcoming Bad Ideas**

ver the last 6,000 years, mankind has come up with innumerable bad ideas. As parents, we hope to avoid exposing our children to them. Yet we also recognize that, sooner or later, our children will hear a bad idea—something that is pro-atheism, or against the Ten Commandments, or pro-LGBT, and the list goes tragically on.

In early childhood, we as parents should limit our children's exposure to these issues. This usually means being very careful with our choices of friends and entertainment. Young children have to learn to be okay with their parents refusing a choice of movie or playdate with the simple explanation "because I said so." Our children will still have to deal with bad ideas, but the goal is to not let them be overwhelmed at a young age.

As our children grow, however, a mere "because I said so" without explanation can tempt preteens and teenagers to explore bad ideas without the guidance of their parents. As parents, we therefore have a responsibility to teach our older children why bad ideas are bad.

#### **Facing the Bad**

I saw this for myself last fall, when my oldest son came home with the textbooks for his sophomore year of high school. His history teacher had assigned a book written by a communist historian—and there is a decent argument to be made that, in the long history of bad ideas, communism is one of the worst that mankind has ever explored.

My initial reaction was outrage. As a history major myself, I had thought this particular communist histo-

rian had been discredited sufficiently to be removed from any place of honor. I decided to take my concerns to the school superintendent, and I discussed with my wife whether we should have our son switched to a different history teacher.

But my son was a teenager. While I could still pull the "because I said so" authority as his father, I took the opportunity to engage with my son in a year-long conversation about history. I talked with him about the class and expressed my concerns, but I also laid out a plan for how we would handle the communist historian's book. My son elected to stay in the class and even expressed excitement about learning how to refute communist ideas.

I found a copy of the questionable book and read it alongside my son whenever he had to use it for an assignment. The book was as awful as advertised, as it sought to unfairly portray historical figures as villains, capitalism as an irredeemable vice, and the United States as the worst nation in the history of mankind. I could wish that my son had never been exposed to these ideas, but they—and other bad ideas—are out there.

As we read the book together, we talked about why the author's ideas were bad. In this case, it was often about pointing out that the book highlighted only the imperfections of certain historical figures, the U.S., and capitalism. Sometimes these imperfections were completely fabricated. At other times, these imperfections were real, but they were presented to the exclusion of anything positive—and, worse yet, they were presented as exceptional in human history, rather than compared with the imperfections of other countries with differing

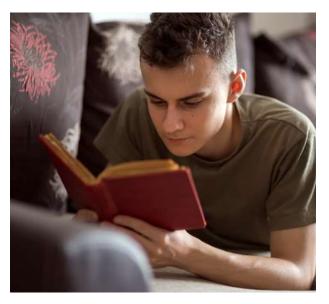
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governmental and economic systems. It probably goes without saying that the author never brought up the atrocities committed by communist regimes in places like China, Cuba, and the Soviet Union.

While I trust that you know how bad communist ideology is, the point I want to make is that we parents must embrace the challenge of helping our children think through the bad ideas—especially as they grow into teenagers and young adults. The Bible tells parents to "teach" and "talk" about God's ways with our children (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). We should emphasize that many anti-Bible and ungodly ideas have been presented before—and have been defeated! One simple way to show the supremacy of the Bible over bad ideas is to show the fruit of those bad ideas, whether it is communism, atheism, the LGBT agenda, or any other bad idea mankind has tried.

#### **Finding the Good**

Parents often feel inadequate when dealing with the world's wide range of bad ideas. Personally, I love history and have studied it all my adult life. But I have not deeply studied another bad idea: macro-evolution. My children have been exposed to that in school, and I do not have the expertise or background in science to easily refute all the arguments that have been made to support it. Thankfully, parents do not need to shoulder the burden of being the sole provider of good ideas. In fact, this is one reason God instituted His Church (Ephesians 4:11–16)!



Moreover, fighting bad ideas should go hand in hand with supporting good ideas. In our modern, secular age, it can be very difficult to think biblically about a topic, and parents should be on the lookout for good resources that they can provide for their children. Tomorrow's World readers can consult dozens of free booklets that cover a variety of topics. Even though I do not routinely study evolution, I was able to provide my teenagers with the booklet Evolution and Creation: What Both Sides Miss to help them understand the problems with that bad idea. Other booklets can help solidify good and godly ideas such as why the Bible is the inspired word of God, how to have a godly marriage, why the Ten Commandments are essential to our lives, and many other topics. You do not need to be an expert in everything—using good resources can help fortify your children against bad ideas!

Finally, let us not overlook the most fundamental way parents can help their children reject bad ideas: studying the Bible with them. Reading the Bible together will expose our children to God's word—the source of truth (John 17:17). Like a parent, the Bible sometimes simply tells us to do something whether we understand it or not. Throughout God's law, He reminds the Israelites that "I am the LORD," which is, in a way, the ultimate "because I said so." And, like our children, we have to be okay when God simply says so.

However, God often encourages us to see the wonders in His law and to understand what He is doing. King David humbly implored His Creator to "open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law" (Psalm 119:18), and Jesus Christ Himself said, "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15). The Bible is the ultimate resource we can use to refute bad ideas and become grounded in God's way.

We might wish that we could shield our children from bad ideas forever—but our parental responsibility shifts as our children age. Bad ideas will come their way and try to capture their minds, so we must strive to take every opportunity to help our children learn how to refute such ideas. When parents model how to think biblically, they give their children invaluable examples of embracing truth and overcoming bad ideas.

—Mark Sandor

#### Will Europe Stand Up?

In a powerful commentary published in *Politico*, Gary Kasparov, former world chess champion and public advocate for democracy, and Gabrielius Landsbergis, member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and former Lithuanian foreign minister, highlighted the European Union's current ineffectiveness on the world stage (August 3, 2025). They state that the EU we know today was founded on the principles of peace, diplomacy, incrementalism. and cooperation—thus, most of the EU's efforts to work with its adversaries have involved trying to *gently* bring them to the negotiating table. However, these writers claim that this philosophy cannot work in today's world, where dictators and extremist leaders are continually on the rise. In their opinion, incrementalism is ineffective with such rulers and "only feeds their aggression."

"The solution," they claim, "requires a wholesale re-envisioning of what European leadership will look like in the 21st century, in response to the new threats facing the continent." Their vision is reflected well in the essay's title: "Europe's Future Depends on Confrontation, Not Compromise." They conclude their essay by asserting, "Europe is not doomed to fail. But to survive will take the understanding that freedom is no longer free, and that all available means must be used

to defend it." In essence, they suggest that Europe begin to take a more "No more Mr. Nice Guy" approach to world affairs or face becoming irrelevant. Such a dramatic change of direction may force the EU to revisit the "two-speed Europe" idea that has been bantered about for so long.

#### The Future of the Euro

The United States dollar has been the global reserve currency for decades, but its recent weaponization is moving nations to seek alternatives. One of the potential alternatives that is gaining world attention is the "unit" currency being considered by BRICS nations, though it remains in the theoretical stage. However, the European Union already has the *euro*, and some leaders are calling for efforts to raise its profile as an alternative global currency. In May 2025, the European Central Bank president, Christine Lagarde, suggested that "the euro could become a viable alternative to the dollar, earning the 20-nation bloc immense benefits, if governments could only strengthen the bloc's financial and security architecture" (Reuters, May 26, 2025).

Nations and investors, concerned with the erratic nature of U.S. fiscal policy, have recently been moving out of the dollar and into gold. Lagarde, however, suggested that Europe must take advantage of the current situation: "The ongoing changes create

the opening for a 'global euro moment." She noted that such a situation will not arise by chance; it must be pursued. She also acknowledged that "any enhanced role for the euro must coincide with greater military strength that can back up partnerships." And trust in the EU seems to be growing. A recent poll showed that more Europeans trust the EU than trust their own national governments (Reuters, May 28, 2025).

As volatile U.S. decisions propel Europe forward on the world scene, it is important to view these events through the lens of Bible prophecy. God's word reveals that a future European "beast" power will also become a major global trade engine (see Revelation 17–18). This effort could be greatly enhanced if European currency becomes more widely used and trusted.

#### **European Youth Lose** Faith in Democracy

Democracy is hailed by many as the best form of government that mankind has ever invented. Yet, surprising to some, democracy is not the longest lived or the most stable form of government. Advocates of democracy claim it empowers the people and makes possible greater freedoms, but what happens when democracy fails to bring about its promises?

A new study reflects the disillusionment many European youth feel about democracy. "Only half of young people in France and Spain believe

democracy is the best form of government, with support even lower among their Polish counterparts" (The Guardian, July 4, 2025). Soberingly, 21 percent admitted that they would prefer authoritarian rule to democracy under some circumstances. Among those who identify as being disadvantaged and "politically to the right of centre," only a third support democracy. As a political scientist at Berlin's Free University observed, "Democracy is under pressure, from within and without."

While the perspectives highlighted by this recent study are not surprising given the political uncertainty in democracies today, they are particularly sobering from a prophetic perspective. When people become disillusioned with their governments, they become more receptive to something different. And when a powerful leader comes on the scene with promises of a better way, such individuals will be more willing to follow. This is exactly what the Bible prophesies will take place at the end of the age—an extremely influential political leader will arise in Europe, allied with a religious leader who will perform signs and wonders (see Revelation 13).

#### The Destructive **Power of Marijuana**

For decades, marijuana advocates have touted how supposedly safe cannabis or marijuana is for recreational use, even in the face of many

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studies showing otherwise. This mistaken approach has led many states and nations to decriminalize its use. Yet, even as usage expands, new research findings continue to build a powerful case for the many dangers of this psychoactive drug. A study from the University of California, San Francisco, for instance, shows that "chronic smokers of marijuana have poorly functioning blood vessels similar to chronic smokers of tobacco" (Live-Science, June 3, 2025). The study's lead researcher also warned of the negative health effects of marijuana edibles (brownies and gummies), noting, "THC edibles also appear to be associated with this problem." Cannabis use is also associated with increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Marijuana is an addictive drug that impairs memory, learning, attention, muscle coordination, and reaction times. It damages lungs and is linked to social anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and decreased male fertility. Among pregnant mothers, it is linked to lower birthweight in babies, "which puts the baby at risk of having a harder time eating, gaining weight, and staving off infection. Cannabis use also increases the odds that a baby will be stillborn" (Maine Department of Public Safety, June 2025). Ultimately, THC makes marijuana a psychoactive drug—meaning that it alters brain function, interfering with one's thoughts and emotions.

Marijuana use, like drunkenness from alcohol, results in intoxication. The Bible clearly states that drunkards—those seeking intoxication—will not inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:10) and teaches that the body is the "temple" of God's Holy Spirit (v. 19). Such strong admonitions make it clear that we should not put into our bodies substances that will destroy them. While proponents of recreational marijuana use proclaim its virtues, the facts reveal that it is a dangerous and destructive drug.



## The Complexities of the Milky Way

Scientists have predicted that our Milky Way galaxy may host more than 100 faint "satellite galaxies"—far beyond the roughly 60 that have already been cataloged—using cutting-edge dark matter simulations and new mathematical models (Live Science, July 14, 2025). The idea of hidden galaxies was presented recently at the Royal Astronomical Society's National Astronomy Meeting in Durham, England, and gives us a glimpse into the Creator's divine hand in the universe around us.

While astronomers are just now discovering that these hidden galaxies may exist, the Bible reveals that God "counts the number of the stars: He calls them all by name" (Psalm 147:4). Each unseen galaxy speaks of God's infinite knowledge and wisdom. As these satellite galaxies come into view, they testify to a Creator who ordains even the smallest wonders. King David, who also contemplated the stars, wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Astrophysicists theorize that dark matter halos-invisible to the eye—sculpt the cosmos, quiding every galaxy's formation and path. In such powerful but silent influences. we glimpse the hand of our Creator and the divine order shaping all things. The real possibility of hundreds of hidden galaxies serves to deepen our sense of God's creative power.

### Will a Russian Nuclear Test Site Restart?

Russia may be preparing to resume nuclear weapons testing for the first time since 1990. Senior Russian officials. including lawmakers and military leaders, have visited the Novaya Zemlya test site—a Cold War-era facility where the Soviet Union conducted more than 130 nuclear tests. Novaya Zemlya was the site of the Tsar Bomba detonation in 1961—the most powerful nuclear explosion ever recorded. The site is reportedly "fully combat ready," with personnel and equipment prepared to begin testing if ordered (MSN, August 27, 2025). Some Russian hardliners have urged a live nuclear test as a show of defiance to the West amid tensions over Ukraine. Rear Admiral Andrei Sinitsyn, who oversees the facility, stated that testing could begin immediately if authorized.

Dmitry Stefanovich, a defense analyst at the Russian Centre for International Security, has warned that internal pressures—especially from a new generation of nuclear officials—could push for testing. He has noted that no technical need exists for live detonations, as Russia has advanced simulation technologies.

The resurgence of extreme military posturing, including nuclear threats, reflects a dramatic loss of international restraint—even as Scripture warns of a time coming when peace will be taken from the earth (Revelation 6:4).

# LETTERS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

I hope you're doing great! I just wanted to send a big thank you for the book you sent me [Acts of God: Why Natural Disasters?]. I've really enjoyed reading it and the ideas and the way it looks into the future are so interesting and thought-provoking. Honestly, I didn't expect to get so drawn into it, but once I started, I couldn't stop. Some of the chapters really made me think about how fast the world is changing and how important it is to stay informed. I especially liked the section on technology and the environment-it gave me a new perspective. Thanks again for sending it my way! I really appreciate the effort and generosity. It made my week.

-Subscriber in Tasmania

I have recently discovered your television program Tomorrow's World and thoroughly enjoy the content. Thank you for your tireless work in getting out the Good News about Christ's Second Coming and the Kingdom. I am studying your Bible Study Course along with some of your available booklets—they are very helpful. I will keep you in my prayers that you have the resources you need to continue your work around the world. Thank you for giving me a true understanding of what's going on in our world!

-Viewer in Montana

Just a quick note to thank you and the entire Tomorrow's World ministry for coming into my life, and especially for the tremendous encouraging lessons, which are truly appreciated. I am a 69-year-old man who has endured many needless, self-generated mistakes, which I will not include here. Although I am hardly perfect, I am strengthened and grow in God's grace by daily attention to Bible study. Thank you so much for

all your support. Tomorrow's World is a daily blessing to me.

-Subscriber in Massachusetts

I just recently read your magazine and was so impressed by it. I would like to have a subscription to it. The magazine was addressed to [someone who] no longer lives at this address, but I would like you to continue to send it to me. I am so excited about the magazine.

-Subscriber in Texas

Warm greetings! I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for continuing my subscription to Tomorrow's World magazine. I truly appreciate your generosity in providing this valuable resource free of charge. Your magazine has been a great source of insight and inspiration for me. The topics you cover—ranging from world affairs and geopolitics to Bible-based teachings-have opened my mind and strengthened my understanding of the world and God's purpose in it. Every issue is enlightening and uplifting. Thank you once again for your continued service and dedication. May your work continue to reach and bless more readers around the world.

-Subscriber in Davao City, Philippines

The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy is one of my most cherished possessions. I took your Bible Study Course decades ago. It changed my life completely. I tried a lot of religions, but I learned more from y'all than all the others put together. I thank y'all. And I thank y'all for all your wonderful magazines and booklets.

-Subscriber in Tennessee

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

#### TELEVISION L

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	
Nationwide	7

BARBADOS

St. Michael

FRANCE

Nationwide Nationwide

7TW0 Nationwide 9GFM

SU 7:00 a.m. SA 8:30 a m

SU 2:00 p.m.

SU 6:00 a.m.

WE 5:00 a.m.

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SU 6:30 a.m.

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SII 7:00 a m

**GUYANA** Nationwide

**JAMAICA** 

Kingston

NCN 11 Georgetown 11 IGHT

TVI

FRENCH ISLANDS (St. Maarten | Guadeloupe

Nationwide Nationwide ST. LUCIA

Nationwide

ME Bangor

NV Las Vegas

Nationwide

**SOUTH AFRICA** 

CTV/SA SU 11:30 a.m. e.tv (DSTV ch 194) SU 6:30 a.m. Faith TV Africa (DSTV ch 341) SU 9:00 a.m.

SII 7:30 a m

SU 8:00 a.m. SC

DBS (English)

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** SII 6:30 a m Nationwide CNC3-TV

#### **UK & NW EUROPE**

Nationwide

WORD (TWN) Freeview 279 Freeview 279 Freeview 279 Freely 582 Freely 582 Freely 582

Faith TV UK

SU 7:30 p.m. MO 12:30 a.m. SU 6:30 a.m. SU 7:30 p.m. MO 12:30 a.m.

SU 6:30 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

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CANADA

VisionTV

**FAITH TV** 

CHNU

Binge

COMET

getTV

Impact TV

Positiv TV

The Word Network

DISH Network\* (All times Eastern)

TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in.

DIRECTV\* (All times Eastern)

Ch. 268

Ch. 380

Ch. 373

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

KYUR (CW+) KATN (CW+)

KJUD (CW+)

WTVY (CW+)

WFGX-TV 35

WLTZ (CW+)

KARD (CW+)

KHBS (CW+)

KHBS (CW+)

KAIT (CW+)

KASN (CW)

KMSB (FOX)

WBMM (CW+)

WZDX/DZDX-TV 54

Rewind

**Impact** Word

AK Anchorage

Dothan

Huntsville Mobile

**Opelika** 

AR El Dorado

Montgomery

Fayetteville

Fort Smith

Jonesboro

Little Rock

AZ Tucson

Fairbanks Juneau

CIVIT (Vancouver)

CTV (Maritimes) CTV (Alberta)

**UNITED STATES** 

Charge Network

The CW Plus

Faith TV USA



Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

CBC 8

ZOUK TV

ZOUK TV





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Ro	K	u)

SA 3:30 a.m.

SU 5:30 p.m. WE 4:30 p.m. MO-FR 10:30 p.m.

MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

SU 12:00 p.m.

SU 9:00 a.m.

SU 7:30 a.m.

SU 7:30 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

MO 2:00 a.m.

SU 8:00 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

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SU 9:30 a.m.

SU 10:30 a.m.

SU 7:00 a.m.

SU 10:30 a.m.

SU 8:30 a.m.

	Yuma	KECY (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
CA	Bakersfield Chico El Centro Eureka Monterey Palm Springs Redding Salinas San Francisco San Luis Obispo Santa Barbara Santa Maria	KGET(CW+) KHSL (CW+) KECY (CW+) KCEA (CW+) KCBA (CW+) KCWO (CW+) KHSL (CW+) KCBA (CW+) KCBA (CW+) KCWY (CW+) KCOY (CW+) KCOY (CW+) KCOY (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m WE 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m
CO	Calarada Carinas	I/VTII (CM)	CII 0.00 a m

SU 12:00 p.m.	(0)	Colorado Springs Grand Junction	KXTU (CW) KJCT (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 a.m.	СТ	Hartford	WWLP (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
SU 1:30 p.m.	DE	Salisbury	WMDT (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.

FL	Ft. Lauderdale Gainesville Gainesville Jacksonville Miami Orlando Panama City Pensacola Tallahassee	WBFS-TV 33 WCJB (ABC) WCJB (CW) WCWJ (CW) WBFS-TV 33 WACX-TV 55 WMBB (CW+) WFGX-TV 35 WMBB (CW+)	SU 6:30 a.m. SU 6:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 6:30 a.m. SU 10:00 p.m. SU 10:30 a.m. SU 10:30 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.
GA	Albany Albany Atlanta Augusta Columbus	WTOG (CW) WALB (CW) WALB (ABC) WATL-TV 36 WJBF (CW+) WLTZ (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 11:00 a.m. SU 10:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.

	Macon	WMAZ (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Savannah	WSAV (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Thomasville	WMBB (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Ottumwa	KYOU (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Sioux City	NTIV (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
)	Boise	KBOI/KYUU (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Idaho Falls	KIFI (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Twin Falls	KMVT (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m

Twin Falls	KMVT (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
Chicago Chicago Peoria Quincy Rockford	WJYS-TV 62 SWAAG WEEK (CW+) WGEM (CW+) WSLN (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:30 a.m SU 7:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m
Evansville	WTVW (CW)	SU 7:30 a.m

Fort Wayne Fort Wayne Lafayette Terre Haute	WISE (CW+) WPTA-TV 21 WLFI (CW+) WTWO (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 7:30 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.
Kansas City	KCWE-TV 29 (CW)	SU 7:30 a.m.
Topeka	KTKA (CW+/Rewind)	SU 7:00 a.m.
Topeka	KCWE-TV 29 (CW)	SU 7:30 a.m.
Pittsburg	KFJX (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.

	Troy	KNPG (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
1	Bowling Green Lexington Louisville Paducah	WPKO (CW+) WTVQ (ABC) WBNA-TV 21 WDKA-TV 49	SU 7:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m SU 9:30 a.m SU 11:00 a.m
1	Alexandria	KALB (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m

LA	Alexandria	KALB (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Lafavette	KLFY (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Lake Charles	KPLC (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Monroe	KMCT-TV 39	SU 6:00 a.m.
	Monroe	KARD (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Shreveport	KSHV-TV 45	SU 10:00 a.m.
МΛ	Springfield	WWLP (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.

	Presque Isle	WAGM (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
MI	Alpena Lansing Lansing Calumet Marquette Traverse City	WBAE (CW+) WLAJ (CW+) WLAJ (ABC) WBKP (CW+) WBKP (CW+) WFQX (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 11:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.

WABI (CW+)

MN Cloquet	KDLH (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m
Duluth	KDLH (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
Mankato	KMNF/KECY (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
Rochester	KTTC (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m

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10	Columbia Joplin Joplin Kansas City St. Joseph St. Louis	KOMU (CW+) KFJX (FOX) KFJX/NFJX (CW+) KCWE (CW) KNPG (CW+) KPLR (CW)	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 8:30 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:30 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 6:30 a.m.

IS	Biloxi Columbus Greenwood Hattiesburg Meridian	WXXV (CW+) WLOV (CW+) WBWD (CW+) WHLT (CW+) WTOK (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
IT	Rillings	KVSI (CW+)	SU 7:00 a m

11	Billings	KVSI (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Bozeman	KCOB (Charge)	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Butte	KCOB (Charge)	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Glendive		SU 6:00 a.m.
	Helena	KTVM (Comet)	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Kalispell	KCFW (Charge/Comet)	
	Kalispell	KECI (Charge/Comet)	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Missoula	KECI (Charge/Comet)	SU 8:30 a.m.
IC.	Asheville	WYCW (CW)	SII 9:30 a m

NC		WYCW (CW)	SU 9:30 a.m.
	Asheville	WGGS-TV 16	SU 11:30 a.m.
	Charlotte	WAXN-TV 64	SU 9:00 a.m.
	Charlotte	WMYT-TV 55	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Charlotte	WMYT-TV 48	SU 10:30 a.m.
	Greensboro	WMYV-TV 48	SU 9:00 a.m.
	Greenville	WNCT (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Wilmington	WWAY (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
ND	Bismarck	KXMA (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Dickinson	KXMA (CW+)	M s 00.9 II2

	Fargo	KJXB (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Minot	KXMA/KXMC (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
MM	Albuquerque	KWBQ (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.

KSNV (Charge/Comet) SU 8:30 a.m.

	Kello	NOLU (CVV+)	30 0.00 d.11
NY	Binghamton Brooklyn Brooklyn Elmira Watertown Utica	WBNG (CW+) BCAT/BRIC BCAT/BRIC WENY (CW+) WWTI (CW+) WFVX (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.n SU 7:00 p.n M0 12:30 a.n SU 8:00 a.n SU 8:00 a.n SU 8:00 a.n

HC	Cincinnati	WSTR-TV 64	SU 9:00 a.n
	Cleveland	WUAB (CW)	SU 8:30 a.n
	Columbus	WWHO (Charge/Co	omet)SU 7:30 a.r

OK	Ada	KTEN (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Lawton	KFDX (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Oklahoma City	KOCB (CW)	SU 9:30 a.m.
	Tulsa	KQCW (CW)	SU 8:00 a.m.
OR	Bend	KTVZ (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.

R	Eugene Klamath Falls Medford	KTVZ (CW+) KMTR (CW+) KTVL (CW+) KTVL (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m.
A	Erie	WSEE (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Harrisburg	GHP-TV 21.3 (CW)	SU 8:30 a.m.
	Philadelphia	WPSG (CW)	SU 7:30 a.m.

WPKD/WPCW (CW)

SU 7:30 a.m.

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Charleston	WCBD (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m
Columbia	WOLO (ABC)	SU 11:00 a.m
Greenville	WYCW (CW)	SU 9:30 a.m
Greenville	WGGS-TV 16	SU 11:30 a.m
Rock Hill	WAXN-TV 64	SU 9:00 a.m
Rock Hill	WMYT-TV 55	SU 8:30 a.m
Rock Hill	WMYT-TV 55	SU 10:30 a.m
Rapid City	KCLO (CW+)	SU 6:00 a.m
C: F-II-	MEIO WEIOWING	

	2100X Fall2	MELU+/KELU/KPLU	(CM+)20 1:00 g·W
TN	Jackson	WNBJ (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Knoxville	WKNX (KNOX)	SU 12:00 a.m.
	Knoxville	WKNX (KNOX)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Knoxville	WKNX (KNOX)	SU 6:00 p.m.
	Knoxville	WKNX (KNOX)	SA 7:30 a.m.
	Memphis	WLMT (CW)	SU 10:00 a.m.
	Memphis	WATN (ABC)	SU 11:00 a m

	Memphis	WAIN (ABC)	20 11:00 g.11
X	Abilene Amarillo	KTXS (CW+) KVIH/KVII (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m SU 7:00 a.m
	Beaumont	KFDM (FOX)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Corpus Christi	KSCC (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Laredo	KYLX (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Lubbock	KLCW (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Lufkin	KYTX (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	McAllen	KCWT/KFXV (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Midland	KOSA/KCWO (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Odessa	KOSA/KCWO (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	San Angelo	KTXE (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	San Antonio	GOAI-TV 35 (CW)	SU 6:30 a.m
	San Antonio	KABB (FOX)	SU 5:30 a.m
	Sherman	KTEN (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Tyler	KLTV-TV 7	SU 6:00 a.m
	Tyler	KTRE (ABC)	SU 6:00 a.m
	Tyler	KYTX (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
	Wichita Falls	KEDX (CW+)	\$117:00 a m

	Victoria	KVCT (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m
VA	Charlottesville Harrisonburg Norfolk Roanoke Roanoke	WVIR (CW+) WSVW (CW+) WSKY (SKY4) WWCW (CW) WSET (ABC)	SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m SU 9:30 a.m SU 8:30 a.m SU 12:00 p.m
VT	Rurlington	WNNE (CW+)	CII 2:00 a m

Burlington		SU 8:00 a.m
WA Kennewick Pasco	KEPR (CW+) KEPR (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m SU 8:00 a.m
Richland Vakima	KEPR (CW+)	m.s 00:8 U2

	Yakima	KIMA (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
WI	Eau Claire La Crosse Wausau Wittenberg Superior	WEAU (CW+) WECX/WEAU (CW+) WSAW (CW+) WZAW (CW+) KDLH (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m. SU 8:00 a.m. SU 7:00 a.m.
1407	DI (* 1.1	MARIA (CM)	CILO OO

14/1/	Bluefield	WVVA (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
VVV			
	Charleston	WQCW (CW+)	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Clarksburg	WVFX (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Parkersburg	WOVA (CW+)	SU 8:00 a.m.

VN (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.
VN (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

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Pittsburgh



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#### UPCOMING TELECASTS

#### **Your Questions, the Bible's Answers!**

Who was Cain's wife? Did Elijah or Enoch ascend to Heaven before death? Many assume that these questions are unsolved mysteries, but your Bible has these answers and more!

November 6-12

#### **Build a Better Marriage**

Is your relationship with your spouse "on the rocks"? Are you always arguing and bickering? There are time-tested strategies for making your marriage the very best it can be!

November 13–19

#### Of Swords and Plowshares

As nations across the globe prepare for World War III, we find that the Bible offers strikingly detailed insight into the ultimate outcome of today's sobering trends!

November 20-26

#### The Millennial Rest for Humanity—and You!

A time is soon coming when thousands of years of selfishness, suffering, and warfare will be replaced by Jesus Christ's benevolent rule, and today's Christians will have a part to play!

November 27-December 3

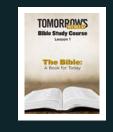
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Find your local station on page 31 of this magazine.

