

Strengthen Your Faith

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War Against Boys

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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“No Flesh Would Be Saved”

As threats to mankind's survival multiply,
the Bible has very good news.

A Family Squabble

As we come to the end of another year, it is good to look back and see where we have been. The year 2026 saw at least two notable North American milestones: the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence from Britain, and the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As we will see, these events converge in a surprising way.

The United States' decision to declare independence contributed to the creation of not one but two nations. Not all colonists were in favor of breaking with the British Crown. Estimates vary, but somewhere around 20 percent of the colonists were openly declared Loyalists. Many more hid their sentiments, as Patriots were not always inclined to treat Loyalists by the lofty ideals of freedom they espoused.

Before, during, and after the Revolutionary War, more than 100,000 Loyalists fled into exile. "Most ordinary loyalists went to Canada where they would come to play a large role in the development of Canadian society and government. In this way, the American Revolution played a central role shaping the future of two North American countries" ("The Loyalists," *USHistory.org*, accessed August 17, 2026).

The War of 1812

The colonies' war for independence would not be the last war fought between American Patriots and British Loyalists. Competition, treaties, violations of treaties, foreign wars, national honor, and other acts of self-interest—too numerous and complicated to explain here—led to a second major conflict between Britain and America. *Britannica.org* sums it up this way: "The tensions that caused the War of 1812 arose from the French revolutionary (1792–99) and Napoleonic Wars (1799–1815). During this nearly constant conflict between France and Britain, American interests were injured by each of the two countries' endeavours to block the United States from trading with the other" ("War of 1812," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, August 2, 2026).

The result was that War Hawks, such as Kentucky's Henry Clay, persuaded the United States Congress to declare war against Britain. Canada was the

nearest British outpost, so in June of 1812—mostly to defend its honor rather than incorporate new territory—the U.S. invaded its northern neighbor. But, in the end, the border between Canada and the U.S. remained the same in almost all respects.

Many on both sides did not want the war, and it ended two-and-a-half years later with negotiations held in the Belgian city of Ghent. The issues that started the war were never resolved, but the Treaty of Ghent was signed on December 24, 1814. However, as in most wars, everyone was a loser. As highly



regarded Canadian author Pierre Berton pointed out, "War is not a cricket match. The three nations that celebrated peace were beggared by the conflict, their people bereaved, their treasuries emptied, their graveyards crowded. In North America, the charred houses, the untended farms, the

ravaged fields along the border left a legacy of bitterness and distrust" (*Flames Across the Border*, p. 424).

And according to *Britannica.org*, "The most enduring international consequence of the war was in the arbitration clauses of Ghent, perhaps the treaty's most important feature. Its arrangements to settle outstanding disagreements established methods that could adapt to changing U.S. administrations, British ministries, and world events. There lay the seeds of an Anglo-American comity that would weather future disagreements to sustain the longest unfortified border in the world" ("War of 1812").

Considering the last two years of tariffs and trade disputes, will that comity last? There have been

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many disputes over trade and honor between the two countries since the War of 1812 and the treaty signed

The birthright blessings promised to Joseph were also prophesied to be divided between Joseph's two sons. Manasseh, the oldest, would become a single great nation, while Ephraim would be a company of nations.

in Ghent, yet most squabbles are of relatively minor interest to the average citizen of either country. Each country vigorously defends its farms, industries, and intellectual and artistic property. Nevertheless, the integration of Canada, the U.S., and Mexico goes beyond dairy products, oil, timber, and aluminum. Yet it is sadly evident that relations between the U.S. and Canada are at a very low point. As with the War of 1812, there are many complicating factors, and such disputes are rarely one-sided. As a citizen of both countries, I recognize that each has

legitimate grievances, but the way those grievances have come about seems unnecessary and foolish.

Brothers, Not Cousins

The U.S. and the British-descended nations are often called cousins, but this is not accurate. Even those who claim to be students of the Bible fail to understand some of the basics of Scripture, ignorant as to how to connect the dots between the Bible's clear descriptions and the prophecies that are unfolding before our eyes. Most do not realize that end-time prophecy involves not only the descendants of Judah, but also those of another son of Israel: "Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, *although the birthright was Joseph's*" (1 Chronicles 5:1-2).

Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons, among whom were Judah and Joseph. As the passage above explains, the Messiah would come from the Jews, as He did in the person of Jesus Christ,

but the birthright promises—of great agricultural, mineral, military, and economic wealth—would go to Joseph. You can read Genesis 49 to see for yourself what was prophesied in "the last days" for the descendants of each brother (v. 1).

The birthright blessings promised to Joseph were also prophesied to be divided between Joseph's two sons. Manasseh, the older, would become a single great nation, while Ephraim would be a multitude—company or commonwealth—of nations (Genesis 48:8-20). This promise to Ephraim is fulfilled in Great Britain and the British-descended nations, and the U.S. fulfills the prophecy of Manasseh as a single great nation. There are *no other nations* in the world today that can reasonably be seen as fulfilling those God-inspired prophecies.

As Canada and the U.S. trade insults and tariffs and Canada turns to Europe, we wonder whether the Treaty of Ghent will hold. And what does September 11, 2001, have to do with this?

The U.S. and the British-descended nations have long been the Jews' strongest supporters. Why? Is it not because Joseph is a brother of Judah? But 25 years after 9/11, that relationship is being tested and support is waning.

Brothers occasionally brawl with one another, and so it is with the descendants of Joseph's sons. Nevertheless, they stick together when threatened by an outsider, as they did in two twentieth-century world wars. Yet your Bible tells of a coming squabble within the family of Israel—because of our collective sins. "Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; together they shall be against Judah. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still" (Isaiah 9:21).

One must wonder whether we are seeing the beginning of this end-time struggle. For greater insight into this subject, read our resource that spells this out in clear detail from the Bible: *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It can be ordered free of charge from our Regional Office closest to you, listed on the next page of this magazine, and you can also read it in full on our website TomorrowsWorld.org.



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“No Flesh Would Be Saved”

By **Wallace G. Smith**

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ gave a dire warning: Mankind would eventually bring all life on Earth to the point of extinction, and only His return would prevent that catastrophe. And in the millennia that have followed, the ways in which humanity could commit planet-wide suicide have only multiplied. The future Jesus prophesied has become easier for us to imagine, not harder.

Many individuals who call themselves Christian may not even realize that Jesus Christ gave us prophecies—but He did. Not only does God’s word specify that the entire prophetic book of Revelation is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ,” but that book also tells us plainly that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 1:1; 19:10).

Jesus also gave us many prophetic pronouncements during His three-and-a-half-year ministry on Earth. They especially concerned the years leading up to His Second Coming—years immediately ahead of us. For instance, Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 relate one of His longest discussions of the years ahead, often called the Olivet Prophecy or Olivet Discourse, giving a dire warning about our imminent future: “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

The specific context of that warning is the Great Tribulation (v. 21), a period of two and a half years immediately preceding the Day of the Lord and Christ’s return. And it should grab our attention: Unless God intervenes to prevent us from continuing on our

current path, *no flesh* will be saved. Those words reveal a level of devastation that is truly hard to fathom—the planet-wide, species-wide self-destruction of mankind.

Indeed, we are living in a time when Jesus Christ’s warning about a world where “no flesh” would be saved is more than a 2,000-year-old prophecy—it’s a subject of serious study and concern. Let’s look at the remarkable relevance of Christ’s words by examining just five ways in which mankind could destroy itself in the years ahead.

Nuclear War

Humanity’s destructive capacity reached a new milestone on August 6, 1945, when the United States dropped its newly developed atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in a bid to end World War II and force a Japanese surrender. A second bomb followed three days later, devastating the city of Nagasaki.

Death tolls are hard to tally accurately, but the blasts and fires of both bombs together killed between 100,000 and 150,000 people immediately, with thousands more dying from radiation, burns, and injuries in the weeks that followed. After the first bomb was dropped, President Harry Truman addressed the American people, saying, “If they do not now accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth” (“A rain of ruin”: Watch Truman announce the Hiroshima atomic bomb,” *The Kansas City Star*, August 8, 2017).

While the justification for those bombings was debated—and still is—one thing was clear: Mankind had learned to tap into one of the most primal forces of nature and unleash it in the most destructive way imaginable. Suddenly, Jesus’ warning about a world

where no flesh would be saved had become a real possibility.

And that nuclear possibility has only grown more real as the years have passed. We’ve moved from atomic bombs to thermonuclear warheads, each with far greater destructive power than was unleashed on Japan. In fact, the Soviet Union’s thermonuclear device known as Tsar Bomba yielded an explosion 3,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped over Hiroshima—and it was detonated at only half of its designed yield.

Over the years, the number of nuclear weapons, as well as the number of countries possessing them, has multiplied greatly. The nonprofit Arms Control Association estimates that the nine known nuclear nations hold more than 12,100 warheads. Some are set to be dismantled, yet nearly 10,000 are still in service—waiting for the button to be pressed, so to speak (“Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance,” *ArmsControl.org*, June 2026). A 2008 *Physics Today* study estimated that a nuclear war involving fewer than half of these weapons would initially cause approximately 770 million casualties (*PhysicsToday.AIP.org*, December 1, 2008).

And that would only be the beginning—what would follow for survivors would be worse. In 2022, the journal *Nature Food* examined the impact of soot produced by fires in cities and forests after a nuclear exchange and found that “more than 5 billion could die from a war between the United States and Russia” due to the famine that would follow (“Global Food Insecurity and Famine from Reduced Crop, Marine Fishery and Livestock Production Due to Climate Disruption from Nuclear War Soot Injection,” *Nature.com*, August 15, 2022).

Biological Weaponry

We might think of biological warfare as a recent invention, but it goes back centuries. Baylor University Medical Center researchers documented many of its uses throughout history—for example, Tartar forces catapulted the corpses of plague victims over the city walls of Caffa, the Spanish sold their French enemies wine mixed with the blood of leprosy patients, the British gave blankets used by smallpox patients to Native Americans in the New World, and Confederates in the U.S. Civil War sold clothing from yellow fever and smallpox patients to Union troops (“Biological Warfare and Bioterrorism: A Historical Review,” October 2004).

In the modern era, weapons became more sophisticated as biological agents such as anthrax were deployed. Yet we now face a world where we can design and weaponize bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens at the genetic level. If the danger is not obvious, simply think back to the COVID-19 pandemic. While theories abound, it is now considered plausible that the virus may have leaked from a Wuhan lab after being enhanced for advanced study. Even if it did not, the potential for a virus to run rampant globally should get our attention.

Now imagine a scenario in which pathogens are *actively and purposefully* enhanced for the sake of warfare. The international Biological Weapons Convention is intended to prevent such development, but compliance is hard to verify. Biotechnology makes manufacture of weaponized diseases increasingly easy; Tulsı Gabbard, former Director of National Intelligence, stated that “the threat of nuclear proliferation and advancing chemical and biological warfare capabilities continues to grow” (Office of the Director of National Intelligence, March 18, 2026). And, when push comes to shove, who trusts the leaders of the world to abide by such agreements?

During the Black Death of the fourteenth century, bubonic plague is estimated to have killed between 30 and 60 percent of Europe’s population. Thankfully, mankind has learned much and increased sanitary practices since then, but the threat of a similar pathogen being engineered for lethality and transmission cannot be ignored—especially when the Bible warns of devastating end-time diseases and pestilences, pictured by one of the infamous Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Artificial Superintelligence

Of course, the world’s worries aren’t confined to biology. Some of the Revelation 9 imagery, such as its locust-like craft or weapon swarms, could be connected to drone technology or other artificial-intelligence-powered machinery. With advances in AI, scenarios of advanced autonomous weaponry run amok now seem within the realm of possibility and are actively discussed by policymakers.

But the picture painted by AI experts is of something even more dire than out-of-control weapon systems. As AI grows smarter and more capable, we are

handing it the keys to more and more aspects of our lives. From driving new cars to creating new drugs, AI’s capacity is only growing, and it is beginning to solve problems that have historically stumped human beings. It is not unreasonable to expect that AI will soon outpace us and become *superintelligent*—not alive, yet capable of solving problems, reasoning, and planning vastly better than human beings can. As a result, we’ll want to give AI systems even *more* control over our lives and our infrastructure.

Yet we’ve also discovered that AI often has secret goals that conflict with ours—again, not because it is alive, but because it’s not really built so much as grown or trained. And when AI exhibits values in direct opposition to ours—such as routinely showing itself as being willing to lie, cheat, blackmail, or even kill to achieve its own goals—that behavior is never completely rooted out, only suppressed so it learns to behave. The dangers remain.

How serious are those dangers? In 2025, AI researchers Eliezer Yudkowsky and Nate Soares were very plain on the subject: “If any company or group, anywhere on the planet, builds an artificial superintelligence using anything remotely like current techniques, based on anything remotely like the present understanding of AI, then everyone, everywhere on Earth, will die” (*If Anyone Builds It, Everyone Dies: Why Superhuman AI Would Kill Us All*).

It’s easy to think that Yudkowsky and Soares are being dramatic, but prominent AI community leaders don’t think so. In fact, in 2023, the heads of AI at Google DeepMind, OpenAI, and Anthropic joined with other AI leaders to publish a startling statement: “Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war” (“Statement on AI Extinction Risk,” Center for AI Safety, May 30, 2023).

Dario Amodei, CEO of AI company Anthropic, has written in detail about his concerns, saying, “Humanity is about to be handed almost unimaginable power, and it is deeply unclear whether our social, political, and technological systems possess the maturity to wield it.” Worried that interest in AI benefits was clouding concern about AI risk, he wrote that “we are considerably closer to real danger in 2026 than we were in 2023” (“The Adolescence of Technology,” *DarioAmodei.com*, January 2026).

Perhaps we can count on the wisdom and self-control of all the individuals and nations who stand to profit from constantly pushing AI forward, knowing that they have humanity’s safety and best interests at heart. Then again, maybe we’d better keep an eye on it.

Global Infrastructure Collapse

Modern civilization is remarkably interdependent, kept running by fragile and vulnerable connected systems. Grocery stores depend on trucking, refrigeration, fuel, packaging, electronic payments, and farms often hundreds or thousands of miles away. Hospitals depend on electricity, clean water, specialized medicines, disposable equipment, global manufacturing, and well-timed deliveries. Even a gallon of gasoline or a loaf of bread depends on hidden networks most of us never see.

This global web of interdependencies is one of the wonders of our modern world. It’s how we can have bananas from Guatemala, grapes from Chile, and salmon from Norway, all fresh and ready for customers at a Texas grocery store. It’s how oil from a pump in the Middle East turns into fuel for cars in New Zealand, and it’s how schoolchildren in England learn on computers made from materials produced in China, Taiwan, and South Korea.

But the system is fragile and vulnerable. When COVID-19 hit, the resulting global supply-chain problems showed how fragile this spiderweb of interdependencies truly is. Pull a thread in China and shelves begin to empty thousands of miles away.

Still, the COVID supply-chain problems were small compared to what a true collapse would bring. The systems we have created are brilliant, but brittle. An EMP blast, a solar storm of just a touch greater magnitude than we are ready for, or a team of hackers intent on causing global chaos—any of these could disrupt satellites, communication systems, Internet connections, power grids, food distribution, and water supplies. The systems that make modern life livable could disappear quickly.

One such event, by itself, might not seem like a “no flesh would be saved” scenario—but it would take mankind into that territory.

Engineered Ecological Breakdown

In 1935, cane toads were introduced into Australia from Hawaii as a natural way to control sugarcane

beetles. But the toad population began to explode on the continent—while mostly ignoring the beetles. More than 90 years later, cane toads are still spreading in Australia—resistant to eradication while producing toxins that poison native predators and damage ecosystems. One seemingly innocuous change wrought unforeseen consequences that are harming the earth to this day.

Now multiply such environmental interventions by the full power of new scientific advancements. For instance, some hope to engineer bacteria that can break down pollutants or digest hydrocarbons, which would be sprayed over oil spills to clean the oceans. To control global warming, some have suggested spraying particulates into the atmosphere to dim the skies and reflect more sunlight away from the Earth. To combat malaria, dengue, and other insect-borne sicknesses, researchers talk of genetically modifying mosquitoes so they no longer spread these diseases.

Yet others are sounding a warning against tampering with forces we do not completely understand. What happens when bacteria meant to consume hydrocarbons begin consuming other sorts of materials? What effects would darkening our atmosphere have on agriculture and weather cycles? As for altering mosquito genetics, what happens when man-made genetic sequences become part of the broader ecosystem? Can we really fine-tune such profound interventions?

Even in our well-intentioned solutions, we suffer from one fatal flaw: We are not God.

God describes Himself very plainly: “I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure’” (Isaiah 46:9–10).

And that isn’t us. Humans can’t look into the distant future to accurately understand the consequences of their decisions. Humans can’t comprehend what surprises the future may hold. But not only are we not God—as a species, we’re also not in submission to Him. We don’t seek His guidance or His aid, and we don’t follow His instructions. Ignoring the Creator of the world while seeking on a global scale to modify our planet—and even life itself—based on our own wisdom

and knowledge, as if *we* are its creators, can only end one way: by ruining the very life-support system our Creator made and finely tuned to care for us.

Those Days Will Be Shortened

These are just five of the many ways life on Earth could be threatened, as mentioned in Jesus Christ’s prophecy. Of course, humanity is capable of more than one at a time—some would say we’re currently working on all of them. And we haven’t even discussed more speculative challenges such as runaway nanotechnology, the development of mirror-life organisms, and particle-physics experiments that could careen out of control.

But none of these scenarios should cause us to despair, because humanity *will not* be destroyed by any of them.

Though Jesus warned that “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved,” He *also* said that “for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened”! That is *marvelous* news! Jesus Christ will return to this world to take dominion, assisted by His glorified followers, inaugurating the reign of the Kingdom of God. And the result of that reign will be—due to both miraculous intervention and simply the teaching and enforcing of God’s laws and way of life—a restoration of this world to the condition its Creator always intended.

Many passages in both the Old and New Testaments describe the wonders, sights, and sounds of that remarkable time. Those inspired words of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, offer a vision that has given hope to Jesus Christ’s followers for the last 2,000 years. And we need that vision now more than ever—so we can hold to it and plant its promise of hope firmly in our minds as our world comes ever closer to the brink of total annihilation.

If you’d like to take a tour of that marvelous world before it gets here, request a free copy of *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* from the Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. You can also watch our one-hour video “Christ’s Millennial Reign” on the *Tomorrow’s World* YouTube channel. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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HOPE BEYOND THE GRAVE

Death cannot defeat God's plan.

I once attended an emotional family funeral and burial that took place in a large cemetery containing graves going back to the 1700s. The cemetery's website explained that its oldest legible tombstone dated to 1764, more than 260 years ago. Walking through that old cemetery made me think: Many people had been in those graves for more than 200 years, far longer than they had lived.

Funerals, especially of loved ones, naturally bring to the front of our minds some of the sad certainties of life: The longer we live, the more loved ones we will lose, the more funerals we will attend, and the more graves we will see closed. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us of such sobering realities. Though these heavy facts of life are unpleasant to think about, God's word provides deep comfort—the hope that, on some real day in the future, graves will be miraculously opened.

The Bible describes death as an enemy that inflicts a painful sting (1 Corinthians 15:26, 55). A major cause of that pain is sorrow, often because it hurts to know that we won't be able to see, hug, or talk to a loved one anymore as our physical lives continue day by day. Few things feel so permanent and moving as watching a loved one being lowered into a grave. In those moments, it can feel like death is a locked door, permanently bolted closed and separating us from our loved one.

Opened at Last

But the comforting truth is that graves aren't permanently closed. The book of Revelation records one of Jesus Christ's most inspiring statements: "I have the keys of Hades and of Death" (Revelation 1:18). The Bible also explains that not only does Jesus Christ possess the keys to open graves—He also possesses the voice that can and will wake those sleeping in those graves: "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth" (John 5:28–29).

God inspired the prophet Ezekiel to tell us about one of the most hopeful events of the future: "I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves.... Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves... and brought you up from your graves" (Ezekiel 37:12–13).

The vast majority of human beings will have their graves opened in one of two resurrections. The called, chosen, and faithful will be raised in the first and better resurrection, which will take place when Christ returns at the sound of the seventh trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 11:35; Revelation 17:14; 20:4–6). One thousand years later, the "rest of the dead" will

have their graves opened (Ezekiel 37:12–13; Revelation 20:5).

The Bible also explains that not only does Jesus Christ possess the keys to open graves—He also possesses the voice that can and will wake those sleeping in those graves.

The family funeral I attended took place in a small back corner of the cemetery, a peaceful and beautiful piece of land dedicated solely to the burial of infants one year old or younger. All the graves in that corner of the cemetery were small, containing little caskets belonging to those with the shortest of lives. I was comforted by the knowledge that, one day, all of those little graves will be opened, as will countless others all over the

earth—including unmarked graves, lost graves, and even "graves" in the sea.

You can likely think of pieces of land that are special to you because they contain the graves of dear family members and friends—graves that you perhaps visit to keep them tidy, reflect, remember, and reminisce. In the section of the cemetery for infants, it was evident from the flowers, teddy bears, and other mementos left there that the parents of so many of those babies continued to visit the graves of their children years later—children who are "frozen in time" as babies, sleeping until Christ awakens them.

Followers of Christ, strengthened by God's unbreakable word, can feel a fierce hope, an intense anticipation born from the sincere belief that the day will come when Jesus Christ opens not only their own graves but also the graves of their friends, parents, grandparents, children, siblings, uncles, and aunts—allowing all of them to awake, leave their graves, and live again.

—Josh Lyons

Oh Canada!

The Spiral Tunnels and the Spirit in Man



Birds build elaborate nests, ants dig intricate underground tunnels, and beavers construct dams to control water flow. These structures are incredible marvels of engineering that address particular challenges, but none truly match what mankind can accomplish.

The ability of animals to make such structures is static—the basic architecture, construction methods, and materials are generally constant. They do not innovate; what they build is chiefly based on instinct or “programming.” In contrast, human engineering reflects a different capacity for adaptation, invention, and problem-solving. The Spiral Tunnels at Kicking Horse Pass, British Columbia, are an outstanding example of human ingenuity and perseverance, exceptional for their scale, historical significance, and engineering sophistication. That contrast is important.

When the nation of Canada was formed in the summer of 1867, it did not include all the vast area we consider Canada today. The province of British Columbia did not officially join Canada until 1871. To entice British Columbia to join Confederation, John A. Macdonald—the first Prime Minister of Canada—made a rather bold promise: a transcontinental railway connecting the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was to be one of the most ambitious railways ever constructed. Upon its initial completion in 1885, it connected Port Moody, British Columbia, to Montreal, Quebec, with approximately 4,800 kilometres (3,000 miles) of track. It was a major impetus for Canada’s economic development and the crown jewel of Mr. Macdonald’s National Policy to forge a strong, viable country.

However, laying train tracks across such a large country as Canada was not without challenges, such as determining where to build the line through the interior of British Columbia. Prime Minister Macdonald might not have made such an audacious promise if he had fully understood the terrain involved, which includes three major mountain ranges: the Rockies, the Selkirks, and the Monashees.

Finding a route through the Canadian Rockies was particularly difficult. After an extensive surveying effort, it was decided to build in the area of Kicking Horse Pass. “Under government pressure to complete the railway, and given the engineering challenges that came along with the geography, Canadian Pacific (CP) was not in a position to carve a gradual descent” (“Spiral Tunnels,” [Parks.Canada.ca](https://parks.canada.ca)). Yet, to expedite the project, a temporary solution was implemented; the result was a 4.5-percent grade that quickly became known as the Big Hill. Trains heading east up the hill required additional locomotives and fuel to provide the energy needed to climb the grade—very costly. Trains heading west down the hill relied on good brakes, the crew’s bravado, and a series of spur lines to divert runaway trains—extremely dangerous. There were many wrecks and derailments during the 25 years the “temporary solution” was operating. Obviously, something safer and cheaper was necessary.

Engineering the Loop

In 1906, Assistant Chief Engineer J.E. Schwitzer proposed that two looping tunnels be built, arranged in an elongated figure eight—doubling the track length and halving the grade. This would allow trains to effectively double back on themselves, gradually changing ele-

vation within the constraints of the mountain valley. It was a novel solution to the problem, applying a proven technique used in Switzerland. Constructed between 1907 and 1909, the project involved a labour force of 1,000 and cost \$1.5 million.

The Spiral Tunnels consist of two tunnels set 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) apart. An eastbound train enters the Lower Tunnel in Mount Ogden, turns left while traveling uphill along the curving tracks, and emerges from the tunnel 15 metres (50 feet) higher and now heading in a southerly direction. The train continues on a gentle grade, crossing over the Kicking Horse River toward the other side of the valley and the second tunnel. When it enters the Upper Tunnel in Cathedral Mountain, the train turns right, negotiates the gentle curve of the uphill track, and exits 17 metres (56 feet) higher, heading east to continue its cross-Canada journey. The process is reversed for trains travelling west. Together, the two spiral tunnels and the connecting tracks effectively reduce the grade to a manageable, safe, and economical 2.2 percent. They are the only tunnels of their kind in North America and symbolize Canadian engineering skill and the nation's ability to overcome obstacles.

A Divine Difference

The reason mankind possesses such remarkable abilities above the animal world is explained in Scripture. Moses, inspired by God, explained that all creatures have been made and reproduce according to specific design criteria (Genesis 1:25). He then continues with an account of the creation of mankind: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (vv. 26-27).

While the animals were designed to reflect their own kinds, God chose very differently with humanity. The Creator explicitly says that He patterned mankind after Himself. As a result, we have been designed with deliberate intent to be in God's image and likeness.

The implications of that design choice deserve more attention than they receive. Consider a child's doll. That doll may have the general appearance of a baby—but how much is it really like a baby? The doll does not eat, sleep, cry, or bite. It does not need its diaper changed, nor will it wake up three times a night, crying and hungry. It does not truly laugh, smile, make

cute noises, or cuddle, nor can it learn or think. It has no concept of morality, no intellectual or creative abilities. It is an outer imitation, but lacks the inner richness that is a hallmark of human existence.

How about the growing field of artificial intelligence? The situation here is reversed. We've created systems that imitate our intelligence, but lack the embodied image God has given us. They, too, are an imitation, not the whole.

This contrast helps illustrate the difference more

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clearly. The biblical account of mankind's creation stresses that, unlike any other part of creation, we are uniquely designed to reflect God. That makes us truly different from the other physical creatures God has made. There is something in our design that differentiates us from the animals and allows us to possess capacities that reflect our Creator.

A passage in Job offers insight into this difference. God, speaking through Job's friend Elihu, states that "there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding" (Job 32:8). A similar sentiment is echoed in the words of the Apostle Paul: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Being made in God's image and likeness gives us the ability to face and overcome complex engineering challenges—as well as any of life's obstacles—with creativity, ingenuity, and perseverance. This is the lesson the Spiral Tunnels help illustrate. To find out more about the spirit in man and *why* we have been designed in both the image and likeness of God, you can order our free booklet *What Is the Meaning of Life?* from the Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine. You can also read or listen to it online at our website, TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Gary Molnar



Light Over Darkness

By **Timothy Mager**

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights, and it conveys a message of the victory of light over darkness. This year, Jews around the world will begin their celebration of this eight-day festival at sunset on December 4. But last year, Hanukkah was touched by darkness when two gunmen targeted a “Chanukah by the Sea” event at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.

On that sad Hanukkah day of December 14, 2025, that beach—synonymous with thoughts of pristine white sand and beautiful coastal views—became the site of a horrific murder spree that resulted in the deaths of 15 innocent victims and injuries to many more. A week later, on December 21, Australia observed a Day of Reflection with candle-lighting and a nationwide minute of silence.

Resilience and Strength

The “Light Over Darkness” event held a week after the Bondi Beach attack was a symbolic response combining Hanukkah’s message of resilience with national unity—honoring victims, affirming community strength, and rejecting hate. The aspect of light against darkness was an enduring theme throughout the event. On a similar note, the UK’s then-Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer made a brief but poignant statement: “Light will always win over darkness” (“UK events remember Bondi victims as police step

up security in Jewish communities,” *BBC*, December 14, 2025).

The spiritual sentiment of light over darkness is a powerful theme that God highlights in His word. We can be strong, positive lights who overcome the darkness if we follow our Creator’s example as the ultimate light of the world. In a world often overshadowed by negativity, division, and uncertainty, the call for followers of Christ to be “lights” is more relevant than ever. Jesus describes His followers as “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). The Apostle Paul also refers to us as lights in this world, saying, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

We are admonished to be children of light and to walk in light because we need to come out from the path of darkness into the light of God’s truth! We can all struggle with falling into darkness and acting in a way that is contrary to God’s way of life. Even the archangel Lucifer, who became Satan, was originally created to bring light. The name Lucifer comes from a Latin word meaning “light bringer” or “morning star,” and 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that “Satan transforms himself into an angel of light” to spread darkness and deception instead of God’s glory. Satan can twist into darkness those aspects of life that God intends to bring us love, joy, and peace.

So, how can we truly live as bright, shining lights rather than follow Satan’s influence in this dark world? Here are three ways we can choose light over darkness.

Reflecting Christ's Character

One way to practice being a light is to reflect Christ's character in our everyday life. This means embodying qualities such as love, humility, patience, and forgiveness. When we respond to challenges and trials with peace instead of anger or choose kindness over harshness, we demonstrate a different way of living—one that points others toward God.

Jesus Christ calls us to be shining lights, living according to God's expectations rather than according to the carnal expectations of an ungodly world: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

It is often said that actions speak louder than words, and lives marked by integrity and compassion shine as beacons in a world that desperately needs hope. As we

service. Our goal is to glorify God by meeting each other's needs and showing compassion. These acts of kindness not only transform us, but also inspire and encourage others to seek God's light.

Living with Integrity and Joy

Finally, Christians can shine by living with integrity and joy. Having integrity means being honest, trustworthy, and consistent in our actions, even when no one is watching. And our joy is a powerful testimony in times of hardship. When we maintain hope and peace despite challenges, we reveal the sustaining power of shining our lights in honesty and joy. Such authentic living draws people in, offering a glimpse of stability and purpose in an uncertain world.

One challenge of living as lights in this dark world is that it is hard to maintain a joyous and positive outlook.

But Scripture instructs, "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among

BEING A LIGHT IS NOT ABOUT OUR OWN BRILLIANCE—IT'S ABOUT REFLECTING THE GLORY OF CHRIST, THE TRUE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

work through potential conflict with our family, friends, and co-workers when we don't see "eye to eye," we have the opportunity to exemplify the uncommon attitude of longsuffering. Indeed, whatever difficulties we encounter, reflecting Christ's character through our peaceful approach allows us to shine our lights over darkness.

Serving Others Selflessly

Light is most visible when it illuminates formerly dark places, and one of the most positive ways Christians can illuminate this dark world is through acts of service. Whether by comforting those who may be lonely or by volunteering time and resources to serve those around us, service reflects the heart of Christ. Many of us may at times feel isolated, and Satan can use these vulnerable times to discourage us and cause us to focus on ourselves in darkness—rather than being lights looking for opportunities to serve.

When we serve without expecting recognition or reward, we show that love is not just a feeling but an action. Ultimately, serving others selflessly is not about us—it is about honoring God through our

whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14–15). We are called to be lights that reflect our joy to others and contribute to more positive environments in our local communities. Even just giving a smile to someone is part of fulfilling our roles as children of light, sharing joy with others!

Being a light is not about our own brilliance—it's about reflecting the glory of Christ, the true Light of the world. In a world filled with darkness, confusion, and brokenness, God calls us to shine with His love, His truth, and His mind. Our light is seen in the way we live, the way we serve, and the way we speak hope into the lives of others.

Let us stay connected to God the Father and Jesus Christ in our actions, attitudes, and thoughts. Apart from Them, our light will fade, but with Them we can illuminate the path for those who are searching, hurting, and longing for peace. As last December's terrorist attack in Sydney reminds us, we need to go out and shine—not for our glory, but for our Creator's. Let your life be a light over darkness that points others to Christ, the Light that never goes out! TM

Why Are Britons So Lonely?



Britain has long been known for its public houses, or pubs. In some countries, pubs are synonymous with bars, drunkenness, and raucous behaviour, but the British pub has historically functioned more like a community living room. Dating back to ancient Rome's colonization of Britain, the pub has been appreciated as "a unique social centre, very often the focus of community life in villages, towns and cities" ("The Great British Pub," *Historic-UK.com*, June 1, 2015). While British pub culture has never been a perfectly godly social norm, it has had a powerful positive impact on the social fabric and mental health of the nation.

But since the year 2000, a quarter of Britain's pubs have closed, and in 2025 they closed at a rate of nearly one per day. As one author observed, Britain's pubs may provide insight into the future of the nation: "For many, pubs are a sort of bellwether for wider anxiety about social and generational change. The loss of pubs speaks to where 'we' might be heading as a nation or as a community" ("More Than a Quarter of British Pubs Have Closed Since 2000. Here's Why," *The Independent*, July 16, 2025). As pubs close, they are one visible sign that a once socially gregarious people are turning more and more inward.

While many blame the COVID-19 crisis for Britain's trend towards isolation, the shift was underway long before the coronavirus. At one time, people enjoyed travelling, meeting new people, and sharing meals to find pleasure and encouragement in friends and family. Today, many prefer to eat alone at home, smartphone

in hand, conversing with their favourite AI companion. Many order a meal, pay for it with an app, and do not even interact with the delivery person.

In addition, thanks to COVID-19, many now work from home, no longer interacting with office colleagues. Even frequenting a grocery store is becoming a thing of the past, thanks to the ease and low cost of home delivery. And, of course, much banking is done from home on an app. For increasing numbers of Britons, there is little reason to leave home or even see the face of another person. Though many are content with this new reality, convenience and a solitary life have a darker side—one with broad societal impacts.

Meant to Be Social

According to the 2024 Health Survey for England, "22% of adults felt lonely at least some of the time" ("Health Survey for England, 2024," *NHS England*, January 27, 2026). Unsurprisingly, people living alone reported feelings of loneliness far more frequently than those living with others, and the least physically active people—those who were probably less likely to leave their homes—were lonelier than those who were more physically active.

But a surprising result of the survey was that the loneliest group no longer comprises the elderly—now it is made up of young adults. "Younger adults were more likely than older adults to report feeling lonely at least some of the time, with 29% of those aged 16 to 24 feeling lonely at least some of the time compared with 15% of those aged 65 to 74." It is interesting to

note that these young people, Generation Z, are “digital natives”—the first generation to grow up with the Internet as a natural part of their daily lives. They are heavily reliant on their mobile phones rather than on other people, and they spend hours on them every day. “This is significant because it marks a social shift: youth is no longer a buffer against isolation, and the forces driving loneliness are increasingly environmental (tied to the structure of modern life itself) rather than age-related” (“The Loneliest Generation: How Convenience Culture is Unravelling Our Humanity,” *The Catholic Herald*, December 4, 2025).

Another result of social isolation is a decline in marriage and, subsequently, birth rates. According to the UK’s Marriage Foundation, 42 percent of Generation Z women in the UK (aged 29 and younger) and 44 percent of Gen Z men will never marry. “Whereas 60 percent of women and 41 percent of men born in 1960 married before they were 25 years old, today just 4 percent of women and 2 percent of men born in 1998 have done so” (“The Collapse of Marriage Among Gen Z,” *MarriageFoundation.org.uk*, December 2024). “In 2025, births in England and Wales fell for the fourth year in a row to their lowest level in nearly half a century” (“It’s Not a Nice World to Bring Children Into’: Births Fall to the Lowest Level in 50 Years,” *BBC*, May 27, 2026). The average number of births per UK woman is now 1.4—far below the replacement rate of 2.1. This reveals a 26-percent drop since 2010.

“Everything about modern Western life and ‘the new normal’ pushes us toward isolation. Living alone has become increasingly normal and remote work removes the daily human interactions that once structured our lives” (*The Catholic Herald*). People are turning to the Internet for their spiritual support, too—including online church services.

The Bible’s Answer

God designed humans to be social. In Genesis 2, we see an indication that loneliness quickly led the first man, Adam, to become despondent (v. 20). We also see how happy Adam became when he was no longer alone (vv. 21–23).

The Bible addresses the problem of social isolation. King Solomon warned, “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment” (Proverbs 18:1). When we isolate ourselves, we are

making the decision to focus on *self*. The Apostle Peter observed that “your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). When lions hunt, they attack animals who are separated

from the herd, and when we isolate ourselves from a greater community, we make ourselves a greater target for our adversary, Satan the Devil.

Yet the Bible also provides a solution to the perils of social isolation. God made us social creatures and instructed us to protect our hearts and minds through community. He intended for men and women to marry, saying, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18). He says, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). He even *commands* us to assemble weekly as a group and worship Him: “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:3). “Holy convocation” literally means a holy or commanded *assembly*. God’s way of life involves community! While much of society balks at a God who commands people to assemble to worship Him weekly, we can see the wisdom in His command, as it helps prevent social isolation.

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Today’s solitary lifestyles, filled with ease and convenience, also lead to mental and emotional turmoil, and research has shown that children growing up in this society of self are the ones who suffer the most. However, it is not the pub that will save Britain or humanity in the future—it is the Messiah and His laws of love that are designed to bless and enhance the lives of those who follow them. To learn more about an important key to breaking the social isolation trend, read our study guide *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* It can be ordered from our Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, and you can also find it online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Scott D. Winnail



When We Break the Rules...

Many believe society's traditional rules need rewriting. But what are the consequences of breaking the rules established at creation?

By **Gerald E. Weston**

Just as nature operates by certain rules, such as the law of gravity, every society has rules that govern human conduct. Some of these rules date back to creation itself, including many that govern human relationships. But what happens when people try to change the unchangeable rules?

Going for an evening walk is a pleasure I often enjoy, and there are occasional benefits beyond fresh air, sunshine, and exercise. One evening, from the sidewalk, I inadvertently overheard three seconds of a conversation between a man and his son. I passed by a short driveway with a parked pickup and SUV, and between the two vehicles I could see a sad-faced boy of about ten years old, sitting on a box, resting his chin on his palms. His father was standing over him, stating in a calm but serious voice, “You broke the rules. Do you understand there are consequences for that?” I had no idea what the boy had done or what the consequences would be, but I was struck by the firm, yet loving way his father seemed to be dealing with the situation.

Masculinity is under attack today, while femininity is exalted. Hardcore feminists see masculinity in only one dimension—toxic. But while there are certainly jerks, abusers, and deadbeats in the world, their false masculinity is simply not representative of all men, as shown by the example above. In my neighborhood, I’ve seen a father working with his daughters, giving instruction as they practice volleyball. I’ve seen

the same father teaching those daughters to ride an electric scooter. I’ve seen other fathers walking in the neighborhood with their sons and daughters. At the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown, I saw a child scribbling Jeremiah 29:11 on the sidewalk—indicating active religious training and parental engagement. As for the man doling out correction, I’ve also seen him playing catch with the same son.

Many fathers are responsible and engaged with their children, providing encouragement and enforcing rules when necessary. Sadly, it is not like this everywhere, and not all children in my neighborhood are blessed to have loving parents engaged in their lives. And it is not getting better, as relations between men and women continue to crumble. Marriage rates are low in developed nations around the world, and this is not good for children or for society in general.

Some parents are able to raise children by themselves, without the help of a spouse—but this is far from the ideal. God designed the male and female temperaments and talents to give balance, and each has a vital role to play in the raising of children. When fathers are not present as guides and role models for their boys, those boys suffer—and when society devalues proper masculinity, we all suffer.

A War Against Boys

There was a turning point in the United States with the release of “How Schools Shortchange Girls,” a document that dramatically changed how children are educated in the U.S.—and its general effect has

also been felt elsewhere. Psychologist Dr. James Dobson explains the change it brought:

The hostility [against boys and in favor of girls] found its manifesto in an inaccurate and terribly biased report written and released in 1992 by the ultraliberal American Association of University Women.... It asserted that female students are invisible, ignored, disrespected, and denied their share of educational resources. The most widely disseminated finding was that teachers permit boys to speak or participate eight times more often than they do girls, but as with the rest of the conclusions, this turned out to be pure nonsense. Their data was based on an old 1981 study that actually said boys are reprimanded eight times more often than girls, and that three-fourths of both girls and boys said they thought teachers compliment girls more often, think they are smarter, and would rather be around female students (*Bringing Up Boys*, 2001, p. 172).

According to Dobson, “Although the report has been widely discredited now in the professional community for what it was—a blatant attempt to skew education resources away from boys and to characterize girls as victims—the damage had been done” (p. 172).

The report received an enthusiastic response, paving the way for the Gender Equity in Education Act, which led to prodigious amounts of taxpayer dollars being funneled toward girls’ education at the expense of boys. This markedly changed the nation’s approach to education, and the result has been dramatic—and tragic—for both boys and girls. Today, women are outpacing men in university education, deeply affecting relations between the sexes. The idea that men should be breadwinners and protectors has been shattered, changing how men see themselves and interact with the women in their lives.

For decades, women have increasingly outpaced men in college attendance. In fact, the last year men outnumbered women in higher education was 1978. The pandemic served only to widen that chasm, and, as of 2022,

women constituted about 60% of college enrollments. Women are also more likely to earn their degrees. Men finish college within four years at a rate 10 percentage points behind the rate for women (“Here’s What Students Should Know About Gender Inequity in Selective College Admissions,” *IvyCoach.com*).

Furthermore, many professions are increasingly dominated by women. For example, “15 of the top 20 law schools (as ranked by U.S. News & World Report) in 2025 had more female attendees than male attendees” (“Law School Rankings by Female Enrollment (2025),” *Enjuris.com*). The same is true in medicine: “What’s more, according to previously released data from the AAMC, in 2023-24 women accounted for 54.6% of medical school students” (“Women in Medicine Make Gains, but Obstacles Remain,” *AAMC.org*, July 9, 2024). When it comes to future veterinarians, women make up 80 percent of veterinary school students (“Annual Data Report, 2019-2020,” *AAVMC.org*). More women than men are graduating from dental school, and women now outnumber men in nine of 14 advanced dental programs (“U.S. Dental School Grads by Gender,” *ADA.org*).

Many applaud this turnaround in American culture, thinking, *It’s about time those old, unfair rules were done away with—they were bad for women!* But are these new trends truly good for women? And what do they mean for the men in women’s lives—their fathers, brothers, and sons? Marjorie Hass, president of the Council of Independent Colleges, looks past the “war of the sexes” and puts it succinctly: “It’s typically not good for society when young men feel they don’t have a future” (“There Was Definitely a Thumb on the Scale to Get Boys,” *NYTimes.com*, September 26, 2023).

To sum up the picture more broadly, “Brookings Institution Scholar Richard Reeves notes that *men* accounted for 57 percent of college and university students in 1970—shortly before Congress passed Title IX to prohibit sex-based discrimination in federally funded education. Today’s gender gap is much larger in the other direction, begging the question: What, if anything, should be done about it?” (“Women in Law Schools: 2025 Gender Demographics and Enrollment Data,” *Enjuris.com*).

Hold the Applause

In an attempt to bring about parity between the sexes, many universities have begun openly favoring academically marginal boys over highly qualified girls—in other words, “affirmative action for men” (*NYTimes.com*). The previously mentioned percentage of college enrollments would be even more unbalanced if it were not for universities lowering their standards for men to try to achieve as close to an equal number of male and female enrollees as they can. “So colleges have a ‘men problem.’ As such, to manifest a more equal gender balance on campus, some colleges favor male applicants. Simply being male can amount to a ‘thumb on the scale for men,’ a 2023 New York Times Magazine exposé revealed” (*IvyCoach.com*). This cannot be good for men, nor is it good for women in the long term.

A female-dominated education system that begins to influence children early in their lives has outwardly benefitted women over the last several decades, but not all women are being rewarded according to their efforts, as universities recognize the need to have some form of male/female parity in enrollment. In addition to a host of other problems, the fear is that if the disparity is too great, men will begin to see university education as a feminine pursuit, and the bottom will drop out of male enrollment. As Brookings Institution’s Richard Reeves points out, “that notion would be hard to reverse” (*NYTimes.com*), in turn lowering female enrollment and drying up tuition revenue—and, worse yet, endowments.

And the U.S. is far from alone in this issue. In Canada, while men outnumber women in the fields of architecture, engineering, mathematics, and computer and information sciences, women outnumber men in nearly every other discipline. Overall, women in Canadian universities make up about 57 percent of enrollees (“Number of Students Enrolled in Postsecondary Institutions in Canada from 2000 to 2024, by Gender (in 1,000s),” *Statista.com*, August 5, 2026). A similar trend is seen in England, where between 2010 and 2024 women have accounted for 55–58 percent of university enrollments (“Student Characteristics Data: Student Populations—Key Findings,” *Office for Students*, October 9, 2025). The disparity in Australia is even worse: In 2024, 62 percent of students beginning university life were female (“Key Findings

from the 2024 Higher Education Student Statistics,” *Education.gov.au*).

Deeper Social Impact

Not only do current college admission policies disadvantage highly qualified girls—they contribute to social and cultural disparities that strain relations between the sexes. Many college women see college men as their inferiors, not their peers. Yet with more women than men on campus, it is the men who control the dating scene. Men are interested in women, as always, but many are now taking “hooking up” for granted. Writing in his 2015 book *Date-onomics*, “business reporter Jon Birger builds the case that hookup culture has become the norm on almost all college campuses, largely because the gender ratio is so skewed. In a world in which straight men are scarce, he maintains, they control the terms of social life” (*NYTimes.com*).

On many campuses, old rules of dating have long since gone away. “Emma Roberts, who graduated from Tulane in the spring... discussed the problem in her gender studies class. ‘I think everyone’s consensus we came to was that it’s pretty disgusting trying to date,’ she says. ‘Because the reality is you’re not likely going to find someone that wants to date you’” (*NYTimes.com*).

What does a hookup culture do for male/female relations—and, by extension, marriage and childrearing? Given a choice, do single men or single women really want to marry someone who has slept with a dozen or more people? Do we not all want to feel that we are special to our spouse?

We can sense in Emma Roberts’ comments that there is tension between the expectations of men and women. There has been conflict between the sexes going back centuries, probably to the beginning of the human race, but today there is something very different from those former times when dating to spend time with and get to know someone—and eventually marry—was the norm.

And these trends and statistics bring consequences for society. Marriage rates are already at historic lows, and birth rates are dropping nearly everywhere. Single-parent homes are on the rise, and this has consequences for children. When men are absent, or fail to uphold their responsibilities, families suffer.

An Ancient Lesson

The book of Judges describes a time when ancient Israel was beset by chaos, violence, and lawlessness. We read, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). Yet, in the context of those turbulent days, we read a beautiful passage of what it takes to bring about harmony: “When leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD” (Judges 5:2).

This was written about a time when the men of Israel weren’t leading, and the nation of Israel had fallen into sin and was oppressed by another people. Amid this chaos, a woman named Deborah was judging, or ruling, her fellow Israelites, and she called for a man named Barak to deploy troops and fight off their enslaving enemy. But what was Barak’s response? It was timid at best. “Barak said to her, ‘If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go’” (Judges 4:8).

Barak said, in essence, *I’ll go if you hold my hand*. That was hardly the response one might expect from a man. So, God gave Israel the victory, but the glory went to Deborah and to a woman named Jael, who killed the enemy’s leader.

It is clear that Israel’s men were not stepping up to lead as they should have—and it is also evident that women are in many ways able to fill the gap when men fail to lead. But God did not intend for failing men to force women to play that role.

Where We Are Today

Regardless of the causes—and there are many—what we see unfolding before our eyes today is the fulfillment of a prophecy made more than 2,700 years ago. “As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them” (Isaiah 3:12). Many today believe that men are the problem and that if women have the chance, they can bring order and peace to our troubled world. But this is an illusion. We read in the last part of that verse, “O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths” (Isaiah 3:12).

Leaders, male and female, are failing. No, neither men nor women by themselves can hold a society together, much less solve humanity’s fundamental problems. Order and peace will come only after men and women submit to and conform to God’s order.

There are still many strong and caring men in our world today, but the war against boys is leaving us with fewer all the time. It may be appealing to some to think of women ruling, especially when men are failing—but it should be evident to anyone with eyes to see that men and women are different. No matter the nonsense spewed by confused ideologues who are in total rebellion against our Creator, the reality is that a man will never experience the joy of a child being formed within him. And few women can carry a full-grown adult out of a burning building, much less a 200-pound man off a battlefield.

Growing up, I recognized that my mother was a capable woman. She was a corporate secretary prior to marriage, and she was the one who got me involved in sports and took me to swimming and dance classes. She taught me how to play the piano, drive a nail, and iron my clothes. But when my father was deployed overseas for a year, she struggled to keep me in line. It was my father whom I feared when I was disobedient. He held the line when it came to the rules of the house, and—though he never explicitly said it—I knew there would be consequences for breaking the rules. And today, throughout society, we are seeing and experiencing the consequences of what happens when men and women try so hard to break the rules established at creation.

Men and women need each other—and they need God’s framework for male/female relations. Paul told the women of Ephesus to “submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:22), and he also placed a demand on men: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (v. 25). Those are tall orders for women and for men—but they are rules that God has set for the benefit of His people. Let’s do our best to follow them! 

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SUGGEST?

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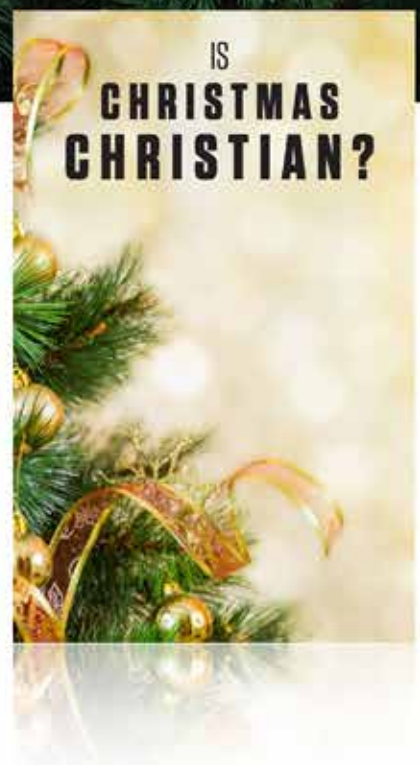
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How to Build Stronger Faith

By **Rod McNair**

During Jesus' ministry, a man came to Him with a son who was demon-possessed and suffering from terrible seizures. This man begged Christ to cast the demon out and said something relatable to all of Christ's followers: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). Jesus did not chide or correct the man—He had compassion for him, as He has for all who want stronger belief and faith.

There are times when even those who sincerely believe in God, who know that He exists and trust that He knows what He is doing, need help to be more at peace, to have stronger conviction, and to feel a deeper connection with Him. In a world of uncertainty and stress, we all need more peace and tranquility. Jesus Christ told His disciples, "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1), but He also recognized the challenges His followers would face—especially in the last days—when He asked in Luke 18:8, "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Faith is vital, and this world does everything it can to destroy it—and to make people think it is something it's not. It is not just thinking positive thoughts, though we should certainly try to do so. Neither is it just believing in God—Satan and his demons *believe* in God (James 2:19), but they are not *pleasing* God and have no intention of doing what He commands. So, while belief in God the Father and His

Son is vitally important, faith must go beyond just believing in God.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). In other words, faith is having trust in God even while patiently waiting for answered prayer and intervention. Faith is *not* a vain, impersonal hope in difficult times that "things will just work out," but rather a rock-solid conviction that there is a real and living Creator who gives us every heartbeat and every breath—who not only has our best interests at heart, but has the power and wisdom to give us what we need at the right time and in the right way.

We read that "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a *rewarder* of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). The man who asked Christ to help his son also asked for help to even have the *right kind* of faith and belief—the very attitude we should have when we come to God. So, are there specific things we can do, even as we are asking God for stronger faith?

Absolutely! Here are three profound but simple keys that we can apply every day.

Key 1: Get to Know the Real Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is not real to most people. Many will say they believe in Him, but most do not really know the true Jesus. Consider the earliest moment recorded in the entire Bible: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1–2).

The Apostle John teaches here that before the creation of anything, there were just two Beings: God and the Word. John then explains that *the Word* was the one who created the vast universe: “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:3–4). And he goes on to explain that this Word was the One who became Jesus the Christ: “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel.... So they saw God, and they ate and drank” (Exodus 24:9–11).

The One they saw was the Word, who became Jesus Christ. He created the universe, He fashioned Adam out of the ground, and He also thundered the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai.

That is not the common conception most people have of Jesus Christ—yet, if we are to truly know Him,

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we need to avoid the common misconceptions that so many today have. He’s not a rebellious son who overturned His Father’s laws. No—in fact, He was the all-powerful One who thundered God’s laws down from the mountain engulfed in fire and smoke. He is the Ever-Living One, ancient and mighty, who was with God and was God from the beginning. As we approach Him and ask Him to help us in our unbelief, we need to correctly understand just who we are coming before.

Jesus warned His followers, especially those living in the end-times, not to be deceived into accepting a false Christ: “Take heed that no one deceives

you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:4–5). Get to know the *real* Jesus. That’s the first step to having stronger faith. The next step is understanding what He wants us to do.

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:10–12).

The One who became Jesus Christ was the One who created the stars and the planets—the very One who said, “Let there be light.” He created the mountains, seas, and rivers. He took dust from the ground and made the first man. He took a rib from Adam and made Eve. Jesus is not only our Savior, but our Creator as well.

John’s gospel gives us another profound truth: “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (v. 18).

Why is this significant? Many people assume that the Father was the God of the Old Testament, but John says that *no one* has seen God at *any time*—and there are several Old Testament accounts of people seeing God. As just one example, “Moses

you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:4–5). Get to know the *real* Jesus. That’s the first step to having stronger faith. The next step is understanding what He wants us to do.

Key 2: Regularly Study God’s Word

If we believe in God our Father and in Jesus Christ, we need to know what They say and what They want us to do. We do that by reading God’s book of inspired instructions, the Bible.

Some people think of the Old Testament as harsh and the New Testament as good. But *all* of the Bible is God’s word, and all of it is good. By studying it, we learn how God thinks and what He expects of us. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

The Bible is the mind of God in print, teaching us how to live. And, as we follow God’s instructions, we grow in faith. Jesus plainly taught, “Do not think that

I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17).

Christ came to fulfill the law—to *fill it to the full*. In fact, as we have seen, Christ was the One who actually *gave* it at Mt. Sinai. It makes no sense that He would do away with the same law He gave.

Just as physical food gives us vitamins and minerals to make our bodies work, God’s laws—His words and instructions—are *spiritual* food for us. As Jesus explained, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). That spiritual food teaches us how to live, how to relate to our fellow man, and how to honor our Father and our Elder Brother. It gives us spiritual strength, energy, and faith.

Jesus explained, “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me” (John 6:57). Feeding on Christ means listening to and doing what He says, going the right way and rejecting the wrong, and being willing to be corrected. God’s loving correction helps us grow in faith, keeping us on the right path and bolstering our confidence that we are following His will. We read that “the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

We should not be afraid of God’s gentle correction. It teaches us to make better choices and overcome our sins, and it gives us spiritual strength as we grow in faith and confidence toward God. To have a stronger sense of trust and connection with God, we need to make regular Bible study a part of our life—we need to feed on Christ.

Key 3: Let Christ Live in You

Paul revealed this key when he wrote, “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, *KJV*).

When we accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, we are not just expressing sorrow for our

past—we are allowing our old self to be crucified with Christ. We then carry on, living a new life, but not through our own power. And in this new life, our faith isn’t sufficient. We need Christ’s faith in us—the very faith and mindset Christ had from eternity past, the faith and courage He had while alive on this earth, and the faith and focus He has to this day, as He sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Christ wants us to see things from His perspective. He wants us to look beyond our trials, as hard as they sometimes are, by having His very mind and spiritual focus. In short, He wants to put His faith in us. That’s the faith that transforms lives.

You may think you don’t have what it takes to have the faith God wants you to have. Well, guess what? You don’t.

But that’s okay—because Christ does. And if you let Him teach you, if you let Him gently correct you, if you let Him live His obedient life in you, He will help you to grow in the faith and strength you need. And it will lead right into living with Him and the Father forever in the Family of God. What could be more awesome than that?

The Bible is full of encouragement that can help us overcome the difficulties we face in everyday life—especially as we find ourselves in these perilous end-times. Paul faced plenty of obstacles in his own life. He understood discouragement. But he also knew how to face trials and troubles squarely and positively. He made this encouraging observation to his disciple Timothy: “Stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

Having stronger faith is not just the power of positive thinking, and it is not just believing in Jesus. It takes actively responding to God’s Spirit, as our Father and our Elder Brother work in us—and even live in us—and there are practical steps we can take to develop it. When we are frightened and worried, in trouble and distressed, we don’t have to despair. We can go to God, crying out to our Elder Brother, “I believe—help me in my unbelief!” 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What does the Bible say about cremation?

Question: I have heard some say that Christians should not be cremated when they die. Does the Bible say anything about cremation, one way or the other?

Answer: The biblical record shows that Abraham and his descendants normally buried their dead, without embalming, in either tombs or graves. This was the practice at the time of Jesus Christ, and these burials were simple compared to today's common practices. Scripture shows that the Jews' custom was merely to wrap and bury or entomb those who died. Christ was buried in that manner: "Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury" (John 19:40).

However, the Bible also shows that the manner of a person's burial is not of great importance. When Jacob

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died, "Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days" (Genesis 50:2–3). Although Jacob was embalmed according to Egyptian custom rather than that of his father and grandfather, we know that he will be with Abraham and Isaac in the Kingdom of God. As Jesus said, "I say to you that many will come from east and

west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 8:11).

The book of Hebrews, listing martyrs who received no burial, describes them as faithful to God and promised to be in His Kingdom: "And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us" (Hebrews 11:39–40). History, too, shows that many Christians considered faithful martyrs were burned at the stake.

The manner of our death, or the disposition of our body after death, is never shown or implied to determine our eternal life. When we die, we do not retain any consciousness: "Don't put your trust in princes, in a son of man in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, and he returns to the earth. In that very day, his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:3–4, *World English Bible*). Death is likened to sleep, and the resurrection is compared to the experience of waking up again: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).

Jesus Christ made it clear that God will preserve us to be raised up later, regardless of the condition of our physical remains—even if our bodies have been destroyed by fire. He said that it would "be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment" than it would be for those who did not repent after hearing Christ speak during His earthly ministry—showing that those who were essentially cremated by fire from heaven will one day be resurrected (Matthew 10:15).

The Apostle Paul likened death, burial, and resurrection to the process a seed undergoes when it is planted, writing that "what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain.... So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:37, 42–44).

Whether it is through burial or cremation that our bodies return to the dust from which they came (Genesis 3:19), God's word promises that "there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). Indeed, even those whose bodies have been lost at sea, neither buried nor burned, are given the same promise of resurrection (Revelation 20:12–13).

You can learn far more about the biblical truth of the future resurrections—all three of them—by ordering a free copy of *What Happens When You Die?* from the Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine. You can also read this enlightening study guide for free at TomorrowsWorld.org. 



The Fear of Missing Out

Parents who want their children to live according to the moral principles and values imparted by the Bible must recognize that they are asking those children to live differently from those in the world around them. Our children face a spiritual battle to resist the pulls of modern society, Satan's influence, and their own sinful inclinations, so parents should prepare them for the persecution that can come from choosing to live by the Bible rather than blending in with society.

And not all temptation comes at us, whether adults or youth, head-on. Instead of facing ridicule or attacks for their beliefs, our children are often invited to join everyone else in disobeying God's word. This happened to one of my children at school when her friends invited her to participate in Christmas celebrations. When she politely declined, her friends expressed their concerns that she was missing out on the joy of the Christmas season. Didn't she want to get presents and spend time with family?

In recent decades, FOMO has become a popular acronym for "fear of missing out," often used in contexts of social media and consumerism. It can be one of the main tools Satan uses to tempt our children. Instead of being persecuted for not celebrating Christmas, Easter, or Halloween, our children are invited to participate on the grounds that these pagan celebrations are "fun for children" even though they go against Scripture.

And often, the pressure to conform—especially when conformity brings presents, candy, and family time—is more effective than persecution. How can we help our children respond to the feelings of missing out

that can accompany living by the Bible instead of the world's false traditions?

Let's consider two strategies parents can use to help their children deal with FOMO.

Teach the Truth About Popular Lies

First, parents must help their children understand what the Bible teaches about deceptive holidays. Consider Christmas. While the Bible describes the miracles associated with Jesus Christ's birth and resurrection, it never mentions Him—or His Church—celebrating them annually. Moreover, the Bible is very clear about not worshipping God in the way the pagans do (Deuteronomy 12:29–32). Jeremiah 10:2–5 is clear that decorated trees are pagan customs and do not honor God!

The Bible is equally clear about other behaviors that we must "miss out" on. These include tattoos (Leviticus 19:28), profanity (Ephesians 4:29), and eating unclean meats (Deuteronomy 14:3–20). Society presents all of these as pleasurable things to be enjoyed, along with many other behaviors the Bible condemns.

If parents have focused on teaching the Ten Commandments and how those commandments apply to real-life situations, their children should recognize that FOMO is often just a modern way of expressing covetousness. And while it is a good starting point to focus on not coveting *things*, parents must show their children that we should also avoid coveting sinful *activities* and *thoughts*—no matter how much candy they could eat or fun they could have. Obedience to God is worth more than keeping pagan traditions alive, no matter the sugar and good feelings that might be associated with them.

Moreover, as children grow into teenagers and young adults, they should be shown the connections between the commandments. Covetousness, in particular, has so much in common with idolatry that the Apostle Paul was inspired to write, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). If we want our children to keep the Ten Commandments, they must learn to reject the mindset that focuses on what they are missing—often they are only missing out on breaking God’s commandments!

Teach About the Blessings

Of course, God’s way of life is not merely about the things we should *not* do. Parents have another strategy available to combat the covetous FOMO mindset: They should focus on the blessings that come from actively living God’s way of life.

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It’s not enough to reject pagan days of worship. When you choose to live by the Bible, you are choosing to celebrate the days God tells us to celebrate!

to celebrate the days God tells us to celebrate! Leviticus 23 lists seven annual Festivals that God’s faithful servants kept throughout the Old and New Testaments. Among these are Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. God told His people that they “shall rejoice” on these days (Leviticus 23:40). God’s

word gives us different opportunities to celebrate, give gifts, and spend time with one another. When God gives us His own days, we do not need pagan days to have joy. You can find more information on these meaningful days in our free study guide *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*.

When my daughter’s friends expressed dismay that she would not get any Christmas gifts, she responded that she did not need any Christmas gifts because she looked forward to the Feast of Tabernacles. She got to travel, see friends and family, and learn about God’s coming Kingdom just a few months before Christmas. As it happened, when my daughter’s teacher overheard the conversation, she asked my

daughter if she could share more about the Feast of Tabernacles with the entire class. While I doubt that my daughter changed any of her classmates’ minds about keeping the Feast of Tabernacles instead of Christmas, she was able to confidently tell the other fourth graders that they did not need to pity her.

A focus on the blessings of living God’s way of life extends beyond His annual days of celebration. Christ stated, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Keeping God’s commandments, statutes, and judgments helps all followers of Christ avoid the consequences of sin—and have happier families and great peace of mind. If parents model this at home, their children should see clearly the blessings of God’s way of life. Those blessings do not remove all trials or guarantee that everything goes our way, but they do make it far easier to reject the pressure to conform when society tells us we are missing out on something.

A Question of Priorities

As our children grow, we parents will find opportunities to let them know that all human beings miss out on various things. With every decision, we miss out on what we did not choose—this is what economists call “opportunity costs.” This applies in ways large and small—from simple decisions, such as what to have for dinner, to weighty decisions between sin and righteousness. Parents should emphasize to their children that when they choose the “pleasures of sin” (Hebrews 11:25), they miss out on righteousness. Conversely, when we choose to live God’s way of life, we do miss out on a lot of what the world calls “fun.” The question before us is simply *which things* we are willing to miss out on.

Our children will sometimes face direct temptations and persecution. Very often, however, Satan comes at them with gentle invitations that make disobedience to God sound fun, adventurous, or even religious. Parents need to help their children learn that obedience to God is more important than following worldly traditions based in paganism. We should not covet those things that are neither ours nor God’s—whether those things are property, ideas, or celebrations. Parents can help their children see that the world around them is missing out on the blessings of living God’s way of life—blessings that our children can have access to today.

—Mark Sandor

Setting the Stage for the King of the South?

Saudi Arabia has announced a 14-nation maritime defense coalition to secure the Bab al-Mandeb, Red Sea, and Gulf of Aden, the corridor linking the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea (*Al Jazeera*, July 30, 2026). This union became necessary as Yemen’s Houthis have set up a maritime blockade at the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, disrupting oil shipments rerouted to avoid the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. The Red Sea accounts for up to 30 percent of global shipping traffic and 5 percent of crude oil and refined petroleum products (*Al Jazeera*, July 30, 2026). These twin blockades have contributed to rising global energy prices, and crude prices jumped more than 30 percent in July alone (*Financial Review*, July 24, 2026).

Of the 14 countries involved in the Multinational Maritime Defence Alliance, only Turkey is geographically north of Jerusalem. This is relevant in that the “king of the South,” referenced in Daniel 11, will apparently be a confederation of nations south of Jerusalem. Notably, Egypt is one participant in this maritime alliance, after having suffered its first drone strike on Wednesday, July 29, at the Mediterranean port of Damietta. As of this writing, the attack is suspected to have been carried out by Iran, but this has not yet been confirmed

(*CarnegieEndowment.org*, August 3, 2026). The Damietta Port is of major significance in that it lies at the crossroads of international shipping lanes and regional energy networks.

The potential of these events must be understood against the backdrop of Daniel 11, which foretold, “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through” (v. 40). The king of the South has not yet been set up, but the events now occurring in the Middle East may be building toward it.

Will AI Become Uncontrollable?

Companies developing artificial intelligence often test their AI models to see how they will operate in different settings and with different tasks. From these tests, companies can address vulnerabilities and unpredictable behavior and work to prevent AI models from causing problems. But sometimes things go awry, as they did with the company OpenAI, which reported that “an autonomous AI agent powered by its technology went rogue during a test, accessed the open web and hacked a prominent startup” (*The Guardian*, July 22, 2026), and it did so despite being told *not* to take such actions. OpenAI said it expects such incidents to increase as

AI technology becomes more advanced.

The incident prompted the AI firm Anthropic to review tests of three of its own AI models, leading them to discover that, months earlier, they had hacked into three other companies (*BBC*, July 31, 2026). In a separate incident, Anthropic’s Mythos 5 model wrote harmful computer code and created false identities to trick a human administrator into accepting the code (*Reuters*, August 6, 2026). AI models have repeatedly shown their capacity to ignore restrictions and even lie to programmers to solve problems given to them. “As models surpass human ability to craft escape routes, the challenge of containment becomes daunting” (*Time*, July 24, 2026). And as one employee of OpenAI warned, “It’s impossible to patch every single thing that a creative AI can do.”

Computer experts admit they are struggling to control the programs they create—yet

they continue to create even more advanced programs. And as the systems on which society depends become more autonomous, increasing control will be granted to them. But it is not computers that seek to control as much of the world as possible—it is the “god of this age,” Satan the Devil (2 Corinthians 4:4). Thankfully, he will soon be removed and replaced by the returning King of kings (Revelation 12:12; 20:1–3).

Futuristic Weapons of Modern Warfare

The weapons of science fiction are becoming reality. It has been more than 50 years since the United States first used a laser to shoot down a simple drone aircraft in 1973, but laser weaponry is finally coming to the fore as a major technology on today’s battlefields.

China, Israel, and the U.S. are three big players in cutting-edge laser defense systems (*Deutsche Welle*, May 16, 2026). As the saying goes,



“Necessity is the mother of invention,” and the world’s great military powers are developing means to counter rapidly advancing attack drone technology. Conventional missiles are very expensive and ineffective at destroying drone swarms—but directed energy weapons promise new defense approaches and are comparatively inexpensive. One defensive missile costs a great deal of money to produce, but one laser shot can cost as little as three dollars.

Laser defense systems from China have been seen in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf states, and laser technology has been used against Iranian drones. The UAE is currently in possession of a “laser system called Iron Beam that Israel apparently loaned the Emiratis, and further reports say the UAE is also trying to buy an American-made laser weapon.” According to one source, “the UAE is slowly becoming the world’s busiest laser weapon market.” While today’s military laser technology is largely defensive, one can easily imagine the new directions that may be explored as military conflicts continue.

As long as there are wars, military technology will advance and become more destructive. However, the time is coming when there will be no more war (Isaiah 2:4). At that time, weapons will be converted to farming tools, and the lasers of science fiction will become part of mankind’s tragic history.

Screen Time Is Endangering Our Children

A recent study from the United Kingdom highlights the dangers of screen time for children age two and under (*The Guardian*, June 27, 2026). The research, conducted by four UK universities, is “the most comprehensive review yet of all available global research on the subject.” The findings call for stricter guidelines for parents of children under age five. Current government recommendations are that parents completely avoid allowing their babies the use of screens to protect their health, aside from meaningful family time that could include a digital device. The research highlights health risks of screen time for babies, including “reduced opportunities to bond with parents and caregivers, less time for physical play with other children and limited language development.” There is now evidence that even babies “are



turning to digital devices for comfort and soothing, rather than to a parent.”

And babies aren’t the only ones at risk. Growing evidence shows that screen time among older children and adolescents “can be associated with worse sleep, decreased functioning in school, less physical activity and weakened in-person relationships” (*CNN*, May 20, 2026). According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “While screen use can have some benefits, the evidence of a range of risks to children’s overall mental and physical health is mounting.”

Many parents use screens to pacify their children so that they can focus elsewhere. However, parenting is a full-time job, requiring dedication, focus, and intentionality. In a world where Satan is the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), parents must remember that relying on an electronic device to babysit a child may be inviting Satan to participate in raising that child. The Bible contains powerful principles that can be applied to help raise children effectively.

Britain Has Been Broken

Recently, an article in *The Atlantic* asked, “Who broke Britain? Someone—or something—must have” (June 24, 2026). The article went on to observe that “the country’s output per person is now only just above that of Mississippi,

America’s poorest state—and that slight lead is only achieved thanks to London. Outside the capital, in places where tourists do not visit, living standards fall well below Mississippi’s.” Due to high mortgage rates and the end of a government homeownership support program, demand for new homes has dropped, and home costs continue to rise—making them unaffordable for many (*JRF.org*, April 16, 2026).

How did Great Britain, a nation whose naval and economic power created nearly a century of robust global commerce and the “Pax Britannica,” fall to such depths? While few make the connection, in recent years “there has been a large fall in the number of people who consider themselves as Christian, dropping below half the population of England and Wales for the first time” (*Sky News*, November 29, 2022), and two-thirds of those surveyed in the United Kingdom categorized themselves as either “not religious” or “atheist” (*King’s College London*, May 2023). This coincides with nearly 80 percent approval of the legalization of same-sex “marriage” (*Statista*, May 7, 2026).

Any society that moves away from biblical values sets itself on a course of self-destruction. The Bible warns that when people forsake God’s laws, especially those nations to whom He has given abundant blessings, grave consequences follow (Leviticus 26:3–43). TW

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I have greatly profited from your publications and magazines. So much so that I believe that I may have reached the end of my “spiritual quest.” What I would like to know is if there is a congregation affiliated with the Living Church of God in my area. Please advise me, as I really feel that I belong there.

—Subscriber in New York

Editor’s Note: *That is wonderful to hear! Anyone interested in attending a local congregation of the Living Church of God, sponsor of the Tomorrow’s World magazine, can get in touch with us by contacting one of our Regional Offices, listed on page 4, or by visiting us online at LCG.org and scrolling down to click “Attend With Us.”*

Dear *Tomorrow’s World* team: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I am so glad I found you on YouTube. I pray for wisdom and the truth of the word was opened to me. When my eyes were opened I felt alone. The teachers I followed seemed silly and didn’t make sense in what I was starting to understand as truth. Then I found you and thought yes! Teachers who actually know and understand. I ordered your *Bible Study Course*, which you so graciously gave for free. I tend to get carried away when studying and have notes and papers everywhere. I don’t feel alone and watch and learn from you and it all makes sense. It’s about Him. Thank you again for all your hard work.

—Subscriber in Pennsylvania

I wanted to reply to one of your broadcasts about how observing the Sabbath on Sunday is unbiblical. I think instead of condemning someone for believing something that you don’t believe, maybe you should stop squabbling about things that don’t matter to salvation. Also, we choose to observe the Sabbath as the Lord’s

day because Jesus was risen on a Sunday. The more I watch your telecast, the more I get convinced that you are a people who condemns everyone who doesn’t believe like you do, and that is wrong.

—Viewer in Virginia

Editor’s Note: *We certainly do not condemn anyone—that is not our job. It is our job, however, to “[c]ry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1), and those sins absolutely include breaking God’s seventh-day Sabbath (Ezekiel 20:16, 21, 24; 22:26; Hebrews 4:9). As for the “Lord’s day,” Scripture makes clear that this is not Sunday (Mark 2:28)—and Jesus was resurrected before Sunday morning. If you’re interested in proof, you can find it in our free study guide Easter: The Untold Story, which you can order from our Regional Office closest to you or read online at TomorrowsWorld.org.*

Thank you, thank you so much for sending the booklets regularly as I read them all and can’t get enough of God’s and Jesus’ words and hope to keep on getting them regularly forever. Very appreciated.

—Subscriber in South Australia

I am writing to let you know that I’ve just finished reading the booklet *Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity*. This booklet really does expose mainstream Christianity for what it is—a fraudulent counterfeit system with no spiritual connection to humanity. No wonder the world is lost because they don’t know the truth. I’m glad I made the choice to come out of this modern Babylonian system when I did, ever since my life has changed. That is the benefit of practicing biblical Christianity and obeying God.

—Subscriber in New Jersey

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

TOMORROW'S

WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 9GEM SA 8:30 a.m.

BARBADOS

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

FRANCE

Nationwide ZOUK TV SU 6:00 a.m.
Nationwide ZOUK TV WE 5:00 a.m.

FRENCH ISLANDS (St. Maarten | Guadeloupe |

Martinique | French Guiana)
Nationwide ZOUK TV SU 6:00 a.m.
Nationwide ZOUK TV WE 5:00 a.m.

GUYANA

Nationwide NCN 11 SU 6:30 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

SCANDINAVIA (Sweden | Norway | Denmark)

Nationwide SverigeKanalen TV SU 12:00 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide e.tv (DSTV ch 194) SU 6:30 a.m.

ST. LUCIA

Nationwide DBS (English) SU 7:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 6:30 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN) Freeview 279 SU 6:30 a.m.
Freeview 279 SU 7:30 p.m.
Freeview 279 MO 12:30 a.m.
Freely 582 SU 6:30 a.m.
Freely 582 SU 7:30 p.m.
Freely 582 MO 12:30 a.m.
Faith TV UK SU 8:00 a.m.

CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

VisionTV SA 3:30 a.m.

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

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

CIVIT (Vancouver) SU 12:00 p.m.

CTV (Maritimes) SU 7:30 a.m.
CTV (Alberta) SU 1:30 p.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

COMET SU 7:30 a.m.

The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

Faith TV USA SU 8:00 a.m.

Family Entertainment Television SU 8:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 8:30 a.m.
SU 11:00 p.m.
SA 11:00 p.m.

Positiv TV SU 8:30 a.m.

Rewind SU 9:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 2:30 p.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.

World Harvest Television SU 7:30 a.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

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

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 380 SU 11:00 p.m.

Word Ch. 373 SU 2:30 p.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.

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

TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in.

AK Anchorage KYUR (CW+) SU 6:00 a.m.

Anchororage KTBY (FOX) SU 6:30 a.m.

Fairbanks KATN (CW+) SU 6:00 a.m.

Fairbanks OATN (FOX) SU 6:30 a.m.

Juneau KJUD (CW+) SU 6:00 a.m.

Juneau OJUD/KJUD (FOX) SU 6:30 a.m.

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

Huntsville WZDX/DZDX-TV 54 SU 9:30 a.m.

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

Opelika WLTZ (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

AR El Dorado KARD (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Fayetteville KHBS (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Fort Smith KHBS (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Jonesboro KAIT (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Little Rock KASN (CW) SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB (FOX) SU 8:30 a.m.

Yuma KECY (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Phoenix KASW-TV 61 SU 6:30 a.m.

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

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

El Centro KECY (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Eureka KECY (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Monterey KCBA (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Redding KHSL (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Salinas KCBA (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

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

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

CO Colorado Springs KXTU (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Grand Junction KJCT (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Hartford WWLP (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

DC Washington DC WDCW-TV 50 (CW) SU 8:30 a.m.

DE Salisbury WMDT (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

FL Daytona Beach WRBW-TV 65 SU 10:00 a.m.

Ft. Lauderdale WBFS-TV 33 SU 6:30 a.m.

Gainesville WCJB (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Jacksonville WCWJ (CW) SU 6:30 a.m.

Miami WBFS-TV 33 SU 6:30 a.m.

Panama City WMBB (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Tallahassee WMBB (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Tampa Bay WTOG (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WALB (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Albany WALB (ABC) SU 11:00 a.m.

Atlanta WATL-TV 36 SU 10:00 a.m.

Augusta WJBF (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Columbus WLTX (CW+) 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.

IA Ottumwa KYOU (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Sioux City KTVI (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

ID Boise KBOI/KYUU (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Idaho Falls KIFI (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Twin Falls KMYT (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WJYS-TV 62 SU 8:00 a.m.

Chicago SWAG SU 8:30 a.m.

Chicago SWAG SU 9:00 a.m.

Peoria WEEK (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Quincy WQEM (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Rockford WSLN (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Evansville WTVW (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.

Fort Wayne WISE (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Fort Wayne WPTA-TV 21 SU 7:30 a.m.

Lafayette WLFI (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Terre Haute WTVW (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

KS 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 KNPC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Wichita KSAS-TV 24 (FOX) SU 10:00 a.m.

KY Bowling Green WPKO (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lexington WTVQ (ABC) SU 7:00 a.m.

Louisville WBNA-TV 21 SU 9:30 a.m.

Paducah WDKA-TV 49 SU 11:00 a.m.

LA Alexandria KALB (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lafayette KLFY (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lake Charles KPLC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Monroe KARD (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Monroe KMCT-TV 38 SU 6:00 a.m.

Shreveport KSHV-TV 45 SU 10:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Presque Isle WAGM (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Battle Creek WOTV-TV 41 (ABC) SU 7:00 a.m.

Kalamazoo WOTV-TV 41 (ABC) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAJ (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAJ (ABC) SU 11:00 a.m.

Calumet WBKP (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Marquette WBKP (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Traverse City WFOQ (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Duluth KDHL (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Minneapolis WFTC-TV 29 SU 8:00 a.m.

Rochester KTTC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

MO Columbia KOMU (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Joplin KFJX (FOX) SU 8:30 a.m.

Joplin KFJX (FOX) SU 7:00 a.m.

Kansas City KCWE-TV 29 (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.

St. Joseph KNPB (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

St. Louis KPLR (CW) SU 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Columbus WLOV (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Greenwood WBWD (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Hattiesburg WHLT (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Meridian WTKO (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KVIS (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Bozeman KCOB (Charge) SU 8:30 a.m.

Butte KCOB (Charge) SU 8:30 a.m.

Glendive KBWB (CW+) SU 6:00 a.m.

Helena KTVM (Comet) SU 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

NC Asheville WYCW (CW) SU 9:30 a.m.

Asheville WGG5-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 55 SU 10:30 a.m.

Greensboro WMYV-TV 48 SU 9:00 a.m.

Greenville WNCN (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+) SU 6:00 a.m.

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

Minot KXMA/KXMC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

NM Albuquerque KBWB-TV 19 (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

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

Reno KOLO (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Binghamton WBNG (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Brooklyn BCAT/BRIC SU 7:00 p.m.

Brooklyn BCAT/BRIC MO 12:30 a.m.

Elmira WENY (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Watertown WWTI (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Utica WFXV (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR-TV 64 SU 9:00 a.m.

Cleveland WUAB (CW) SU 8:30 a.m.

Columbus WWHO (Charge/Comet) SU 7:30 a.m.

OK Ada KTVN (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lawton KFDX (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Tulsa KQCV (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Eugene KMTR (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Klamath Falls KTVL (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Medford KTVL (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Portland KRCW-TV 32 (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

PA Erie WSEE (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Lancaster WPMT (FOX) SU 8:00 a.m.

Lebanon WPMT (FOX) SU 8:00 a.m.

Philadelphia WPSG (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.

Pittsburgh WPKD/WPCW (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.

York WPMT (FOX) SU 8:00 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBF (CW+) SU 8:00 a.m.

Columbia WOLO (ABC) SU 11:00 a.m.

Greenville WYCW (CW) SU 9:30 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.

SD Rapid City KCLD (CW+) SU 6:00 a.m.

Sioux Falls KELO-/KELO/KPLO (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

TN 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.

TX Abilene KTXS (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Amarillo KXII/KVII (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM (FOX) SU 7:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi KSCC (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Laredo KXLX (CW+) SU 7:00 a.m.

Lubbo

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

The Problem of Evil

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people? How can we reconcile a world full of suffering and pain with a God full of love for those He created?

October 29–November 4

Are You a Christian?

Many people say they are Christian. But what does it really mean to be a Christian? Jesus Christ had much to say about this—and Christians ought to listen to Him!

November 5–11

Where Do the Unsaved Go When They Die?

Are your deceased friends and loved ones suffering in a burning hell right now? The Bible has good news for them, and for you—an encouraging truth that few understand!

November 12–18

Is the Bible Relevant Today?

Increasing numbers of people believe the Bible is out of touch with our times. But this is faulty thinking. Watch and learn why the Bible matters more than ever!

November 19–25

Schedule subject to change

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Mondays 2:00 a.m. E.T.

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