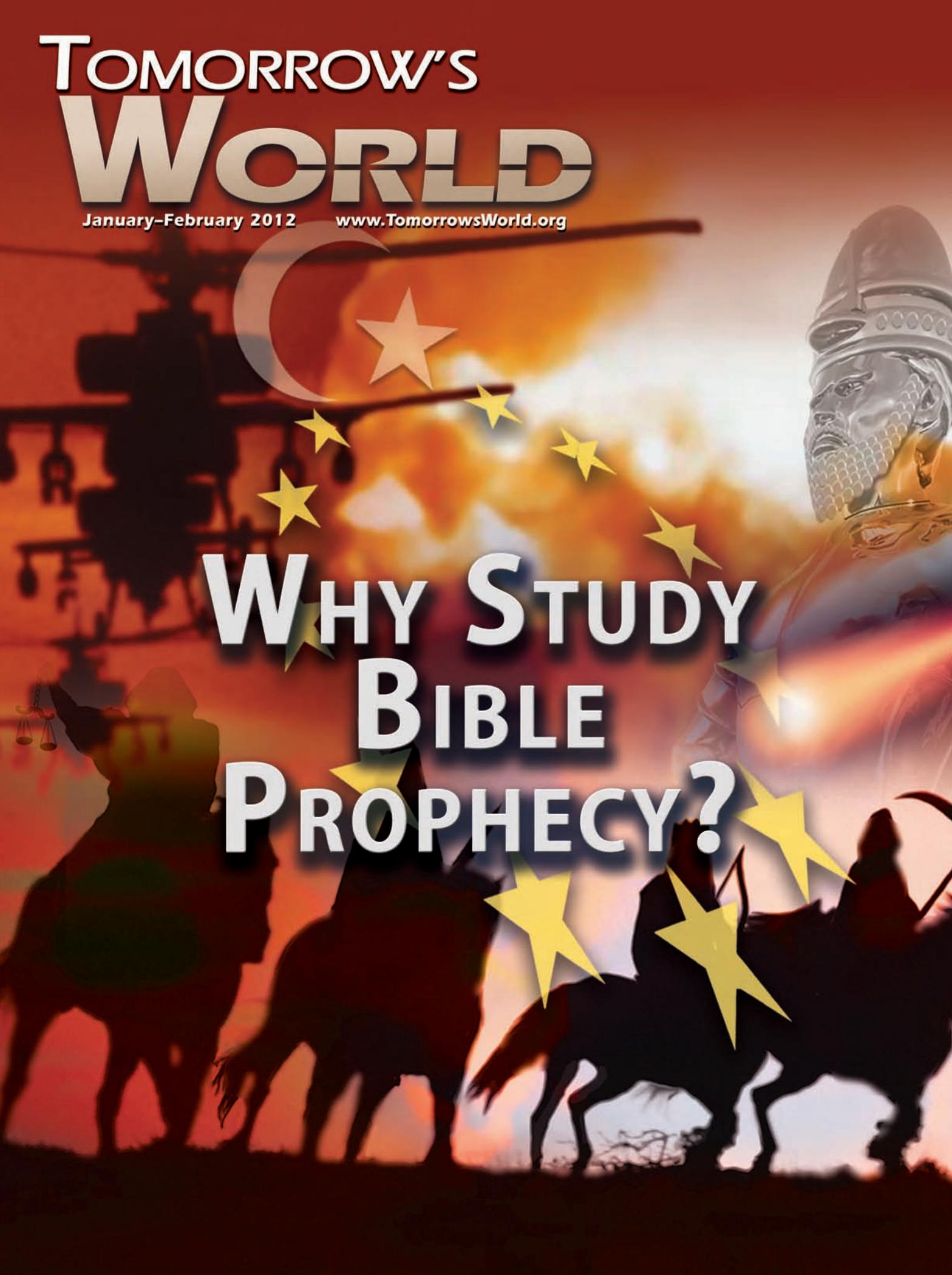


# TOMORROW'S WORLD

January-February 2012

[www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org)



## WHY STUDY BIBLE PROPHECY?



A personal message from the Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith

## Fulfill Your PURPOSE!

It is all around you. The noise, the hubbub and the scores of distractions that prevent most people from thinking deeply about the **purpose** for their lives. Very few people on this earth—including professing Christians—even remotely understand the Supreme Purpose for which they were created. But *you* can truly understand—if you are willing to sincerely and humbly **seek** that understanding and the knowledge of the *true God*.

*True God?*

Yes! *Please wake up!* False “gods” and false religions and false teachings fill this entire world. *How dare* I say that? Because your own Bible says it over and over in many different ways. Yet this basic fact makes most people uncomfortable. They do not like to even consider that they may be greatly deceived about the most vital questions in all of life—*why* we were born, what is the genuine **purpose** for our lives, and *how* you and I can fulfill that great **purpose**.

The “key” to understanding is to be willing to humble oneself, to take time to *think deeply* about the basic questions of life. Then, we all need to pray fervently for *understanding*, for the willingness to *prove to ourselves* that the Holy Bible really does have the answers to these questions—if we are willing to believe that the Bible *says what it means and means what it says!*

“But,” you may ask, “don’t most Christians believe that?”

*No!* They honestly do not! For in dozens and scores of teachings, the “mainstream” churches of this world believe dozens of doctrines and ideas *diametrically contrary* to what your Bible clearly says!

For instance, the vast majority of professing Christians constantly talk about “going to heaven” when they die. They continually indicate that the eternal reward of a true Christian is to “go to heaven” with essentially **nothing** to do for all eternity.

**Nothing** to do? Having a sense of emptiness and no activity for *all eternity*? Sounds pretty exciting, eh? But we need to ask ourselves, *what kind of God* would put us into eternity with **nothing** to do, no sense of accomplishment and simply sitting around in emptiness **forever**?

My friends, what does the Bible actually say—over and over—about life after death? Jesus Christ said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall *inherit the earth*” (Matthew 5:5). Jesus directly stated, “**No one** has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13). Again, Christ is prophesied in the Bible to *return to this earth* and **rule** over the Kingdom *here on this earth*, **not** up in heaven: “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The *kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord* and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

Will the true saints of God assist Christ in ruling this earth? Or will they be off in heaven with **nothing** to do? Again, the inspired Bible answers, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27).

So the *reason* true Christians should be “overcomers” is that we are now “in training”—preparing to *assist Christ* in **ruling** this earth in Tomorrow’s World! Over and over, your Bible talks about this as the *genuine purpose* for which we ought to be preparing and as the *responsibility* we will be having in the resurrection from the dead in the soon-coming Kingdom of God. In the inspired “song of the

Continued on page 30

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# THE DANGER OF FALSE CONVERSION

By Roderick C. Meredith

*Millions who consider themselves “Christian” have been taking their conversion for granted. How can you be sure you are truly converted?*

All around us are signs that we are living in the “last days.” Economic crises continue to reverberate around the world, and events in the Middle East are heating up as the “Arab Spring” movement continues to bring down dictators who had ruled for decades. These events along with many others are heralding the soon return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Revelation 11:15).

But what about you and me? As time is running out for the world, and for us individually, we need to consider soberly whether we are genuine servants of the living Christ. Jesus reminds us that “he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Revelation 2:26).

So, are you “overcoming”? Are you changing your life—day by day, month by month and year by year, through Jesus Christ living His life within you?

We need to “get real” about our own condition. As the Apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians: “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. *Test yourselves.* Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Does the Christ of the Bible truly live His life within you through the Holy Spirit? Or did you (as I did!) simply grow up in a church and take all of its doctrines and practices for granted?

## A DEAD RELIGION

Although people tend to cherish favorite opinions and man-made traditions—and although we hate to be told we are wrong—today’s “mainstream Christianity” is a dead religion.

Some of us realize this. But most people hate to admit it. People find it painful to admit they have been wrong. But they will soon have no choice. God will bring an end to mankind’s secular and anti-God ways. “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” (Amos 4:12).

Are you prepared for this? God tells us to make ourselves ready! The time is now! Most of you who read *Tomorrow’s World* regularly realize that, in the past, you had been lacking something spiritually for many years. Now, you have come to understand a great deal of new truth. A new way of life is opening up before you. Now, you are beginning to really understand Bible prophecies, and the great purpose being worked out here below. So, ask yourself: if you were really a Christian for all those years before you began to learn what you now know, why did you lack so much understanding? Why did God seem so much less real to you then than He does today?

We need to face the facts! Excusing ourselves will do no good whatsoever when we are brought before the judgment seat of God! We need to examine ourselves honestly!

## DOES THIS MEAN SOMEONE ELSE?

The little word *my* is precious to most people. They lovingly speak of “my opinion”—and of “my religion,” “my way” and “my God.” People do not like to be told that

their opinion, or their religion, is wrong.

Yet, in all this maze of religious Babylon, *somebody* has to be wrong! Are you willing to admit that it *could* be you? May God help you to do so! Because, if we will believe our Bibles, we will find that most of the people on this earth are steeped in religious error. Even most professing Christians are deceived!

One of the least understood principles in the Bible is that God has purposely blinded this world (Romans 11:8), and is letting it go its own way and learn lessons during this first 6,000 years of human history. At the same time, God has allowed Satan to influence mankind. Scripture plainly describes Satan as “that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who *deceives the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9).

Do you find that hard to believe? It is true. In many places, your Bible indicates that this whole world has been completely deceived in spiritual things. Remember that a deceived person does not know he is deceived. He is sincere. But he is sincerely wrong!

The great false religious system dominating our Western world today is pictured in Revelation 17. God describes this apostate church as a fallen woman—a great whore with whom “the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (v. 2).

Because of false teachings and false concepts assumed since childhood, most people are spiritually drunk—having a distorted outlook so that they are unable to see spiritual truths. Like drunkards, they are stupidly satisfied in the foggy, hazy, confused spiritual state in which they find themselves.

They think they are all right—on the surface at least. But deep down

inside is the haunting realization that something is missing—their religion seems empty. God seems unreal somehow, and so very, very far away.

## A COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY

The great religious deception that has gripped this world is the result of Satan the Devil working through false ministers who preach a *counterfeit Christianity*. After all, a deceiver is a counterfeiter. And Satan the Devil is the supreme counterfeiter of the ages! Therefore, his ministers have a doctrine that appears to be the truth.

The Apostle Paul describes these false Christian ministers—who were already prevalent in his day: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his [the devil’s] ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:13–15).

Yes, Satan the Devil has ministers! They appear to be the ministers of Christ! But actually, they teach a doctrine of “no works”—no obedience to God’s law. Therefore, they themselves will be judged according to their evil works!

God warns us to *test* every spirit or spiritual doctrine that comes through men. “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

Unknowingly, and in most cases sincerely, most of you reading this article have in the past been deceived by false preaching—which

originated and proceeded forth from Satan the Devil through his demon spirits which inspire and influence the religious systems and false ministers of our day! It is time to wake up!

In these last days before the second coming of Jesus Christ, you need to know whether or not you are prepared to meet your God! With an open mind, you should be willing to prove whether or not you have ever been *really converted*.

This is serious stuff! People's misplaced confidence in a false conversion is a great and mortal deception, which can cause them to forfeit their eternal destiny! But what about you? Are you willing to face this possibility? Are you willing to change if God shows you that you have never really been converted before?

### WHAT CONVERSION REALLY IS

God's word says: "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9). In plain language, you must have Christ's Spirit in you or you are not a Christian—you have never been converted.

A truly converted person is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit of God. God places and lives His very life within us through His Holy Spirit. By this means, we are begotten of Him as children—and thus partake of His very nature! "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

Frankly, in the past, most of you reading this article did not even know what the Holy Spirit was, what it was supposed to do in your life, and what would be the real result of your being led by God's Holy Spirit.

In Romans 5:5, God tells us that "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts" by the

Holy Spirit that we have received. Through His Spirit, God gives us His love. Thus we partake of His nature—His character. And God's character is expressed in the spiritual principles contained in the Ten Commandments—obedience to God's Law. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).



God's Spirit leads us to obey Him as our Maker and Ruler. The Apostle Peter was inspired to remind us that God gives the Holy Spirit "to those who obey Him" (Acts 5:32).

*Real conversion*, then, involves a *genuine surrender* to obey God and His Laws. Peter was inspired to tell us how to be converted. He said: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

We repent of sin. And what is the Bible definition of sin? "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, *KJV*). So, to really be converted, you must repent of breaking God's law! Remember that Jesus Christ, in the New Testament, *magnified* God's law—particularly in Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount as a

whole. We are to keep not only the letter but the *spirit* or *intent* of God's law in every facet of our lives. Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

Then, we need to be baptized as an outward sign of our willingness to *completely bury* the old "self"—and literally *give our very lives to God* and to Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, High Priest and Master.

The Apostle Paul describes baptism as a burial of the old self (Romans 6:1–4). It is to be a complete immersion of the body under the water, as a symbol of the burial of the old selfish self in the grave.

### FALSE CONVERSION IS VERY COMMON

Frankly, even most so-called "baptized" people (many were just "sprinkled") never really knew what to repent of! They did not know what sin really is. Perhaps they sincerely intended to "do better" or to "make their peace with God." But since they were not taught what sin actually is, they never really repented of sin! They were never "broken up" about the wretched state of their lives, determined to "bury" their own human vanity and selfishness—which expresses itself constantly in the lusts of the flesh.

They *never really repented!* They never took seriously the study of their Bible. They just continued to "go along" with the customs, the ways and the traditions of this world. Their lives were *not actually changed*. They never came to know God personally! This is how most "Christians" are today.

By contrast, speaking of truly converted people, Jesus explained that the Spirit of truth "will guide you into all truth" and "will tell you things to come" (John 16:13). If you are truly converted, God's Spirit

will guide you into truth you did not know before, and will help you grasp Bible prophecy in a way you never previously understood.

Yes, genuine conversion actually revolutionizes the lives of Christians! It renews their minds, their attitudes—their very character! Converted Christians come to know God as never before. They begin to pray and talk to God in a personal way. And they receive real answers to their prayers! As they grow, they become more and more like Christ with every month and year that goes by!

Sadly, most who call themselves “Christians” have *never* even begun to get ready to start on the road to the *genuine* Christian life.

Are you willing to face this fact—and act on it?

### FACE UP TO HUMAN NATURE

The Almighty God who created our minds and our human nature warns us in the book of Proverbs. He cautions: “There is a way that *seems right* to a man, but its end is the way of *death*” (Proverbs 16:25; 14:12). It is only human nature to believe that your way is right. But God says that the way that seems right to you will end up in death! Remember that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

The greatest stumbling block that prevents most people from accepting the truth and being truly converted is their own vanity. Countless people have grown up in and attended some sort of church, so they hate to admit that they have never been converted! Human nature makes most people want to proclaim their own righteousness. They never truly repent; never come to really *abhor* themselves as sinners!

But the true God commands us to quit justifying the self! “Let

the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).

Perhaps you think that you have not been wicked? The Almighty God declares: “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). He reminds us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (v. 23).

Yes, we have all sinned! We have all broken God’s laws. Most people are still breaking His laws—and trying to justify doing so!

But God thunders: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8–9).

Our own human ways and reasonings, apart from God, are *always wrong!* Do not apply this only to other people—apply it to *yourself!*

It is almost certain that most of you reading this article still have what the Bible describes as a “carnal” mind. Many of you think

you are already “saved,” when the truth of the matter is that you never have come to the place of total surrender to God and His absolute rule over your lives! Therefore, you have never received God’s Holy Spirit and been begotten as His spiritual son or daughter.

That is why you have not been able to understand Bible prophecy before! That is why you never really understood the great purpose being worked out here below. And that is why God always seemed so far away—so unreal.

This lack of God’s Spirit is the reason that you were not continually growing in grace and in knowledge—and that you have lacked vital scriptural truths for so many years of your life.

Now it is time to *awaken!* Now it is time to be really *converted!*

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

First of all, you should apply this article to yourself. And you should strive not to let your feelings be hurt by the correction and the exhortation which is given here in deep love!

Remember that when Jesus had been showing His disciples that

## RESTORING ORIGINAL CHRISTIANITY



Why is today’s “Christianity” so different from what Jesus Christ and the first-century Christians taught and believed? Can converted Christians really practice the very Christianity of Jesus Christ today? Yes, they can!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *Restoring Original Christianity*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org).

they had to “eat” of Him and His message, many had their feelings hurt and drew back. “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can understand it?’” (John 6:60). But Jesus asked the twelve: “Do you also want to go away?” (v. 67).

Then Peter gave an answer that has the same significance today. He said: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v. 68).

If God has shown you by the “fruits” that what you are reading in this magazine is the truth, then you should fear to turn aside from the truth! Where else would you go?

Thousands of you have come to realize that you are receiving the truth and message of God through this Work—the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast and the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine. You are beginning to realize that this is the Work of the true Church of God.

But you have never thought of actually doing very much about it! If we are the servants of the Most High God, then you ought to follow our teaching and example as you see it is according to the Bible. You ought to apply such articles as this more literally and personally in your own private lives.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). You need to imitate the example of God’s true ministers—and of Jesus Christ.

Frankly, most of you reading this article have never counseled with one of God’s true ministers about *real conversion* and *baptism*. But the opportunity is there if you are willing to take it. Hundreds and thousands of you *Tomorrow’s World* readers have phoned, written or contacted us by the Internet to

request personal counsel from a true minister of Jesus Christ. If you have begun to understand that the Work behind this magazine is the



Work of God’s true Church today, and you recognize the importance of changing your life—for real—do not fail to contact us at the Regional Office nearest you, as listed on page 30 of this magazine.

One way or another, all of you readers need to realize the vital importance of coming to a *real conversion!* Do not put it off so long that you miss the opportunity! Remember that God does not have a habit of doing His Work through deceived ministers! If you want to be really sure of your spiritual state, you should counsel with the true ministers of God who are being used as instruments to preach His message to this dying world. You then need to humble yourself to take their advice—to follow their instructions—if you are satisfied that they are truly God’s ministers.

### BE WILLING TO CHANGE

Never forget that before *real conversion* comes *real repentance*. You need to humble yourself until you can sincerely say, as David did, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my

transgressions, and my sin is always before me” (Psalm 51:2–3).

Notice that David did not try to justify himself—he acknowledged his sin freely and asked for forgiveness. He continued: “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight” (v. 4). God did not need to argue or “reason” David into admitting his guilt! In the light of God’s commandments, David had come to see himself as he really was and to *abhor* himself. And neither you nor I are any better than David!

When you are finally ready to repent of breaking God’s laws, of following human traditions, of conforming to this society and its ways, then here is what God requires of you: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

Were you formerly a “religious hobbyist” who liked to argue “how I see it” with God’s ministers? Were your “feelings hurt” when they showed you, from the Bible, that you were wrong? When the time comes that you are truly converted, you will not hang on grudgingly to an old false conversion. Instead, you will be grateful for your teachers. You will be humble and teachable like a little child. You will not think of yourself as a “spiritual giant” as you start down the road of real conversion. And you will realize the great danger of letting your old spiritual pride and vanity convince you that a previous *false conversion* was “the real thing.” Rather, you will be grateful to God for His Church, and for His ministers who are teaching you His Truth (Romans 10:15). And you will have the great peace that comes with knowing that you are truly being guided by God, as never before. ■

# Questions & Answers

**Question:** Scripture describes that Jesus Christ was scourged by Pontius Pilate before His crucifixion (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; John 19:1). Was there any special meaning behind this scourging?

**Answer:** The Apostle Peter, describing Christ's crucifixion, explains that the Savior "bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Peter's words echo those of the prophet Isaiah, describing the coming Messiah: "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

What Christ endured was not some ritualized beating. Although no bones were broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36), Scripture foretold that, because of the severe scourging, His appearance would be "marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men" (Isaiah 52:14).

For what purpose did Jesus Christ endure this terrible beating? Notice His words: "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Eternal life is the gift God will give at the resurrection, but with these words Christ was describing an abundance His followers would have in their physical lives.

Of course, there is nothing more important than the spiritual healing that takes place when Christians receive the Holy Spirit and replace their carnal human nature with the spiritual nature of Christ. But is that all there is to Christ's sacrifice? No! Christ's shed blood paid the penalty for our sin and makes possible the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). But his broken body—"His stripes" as symbolized by the bread of which Christians partake at the Passover service (1 Corinthians 11:23–24)—specifically made possible our physical healing.

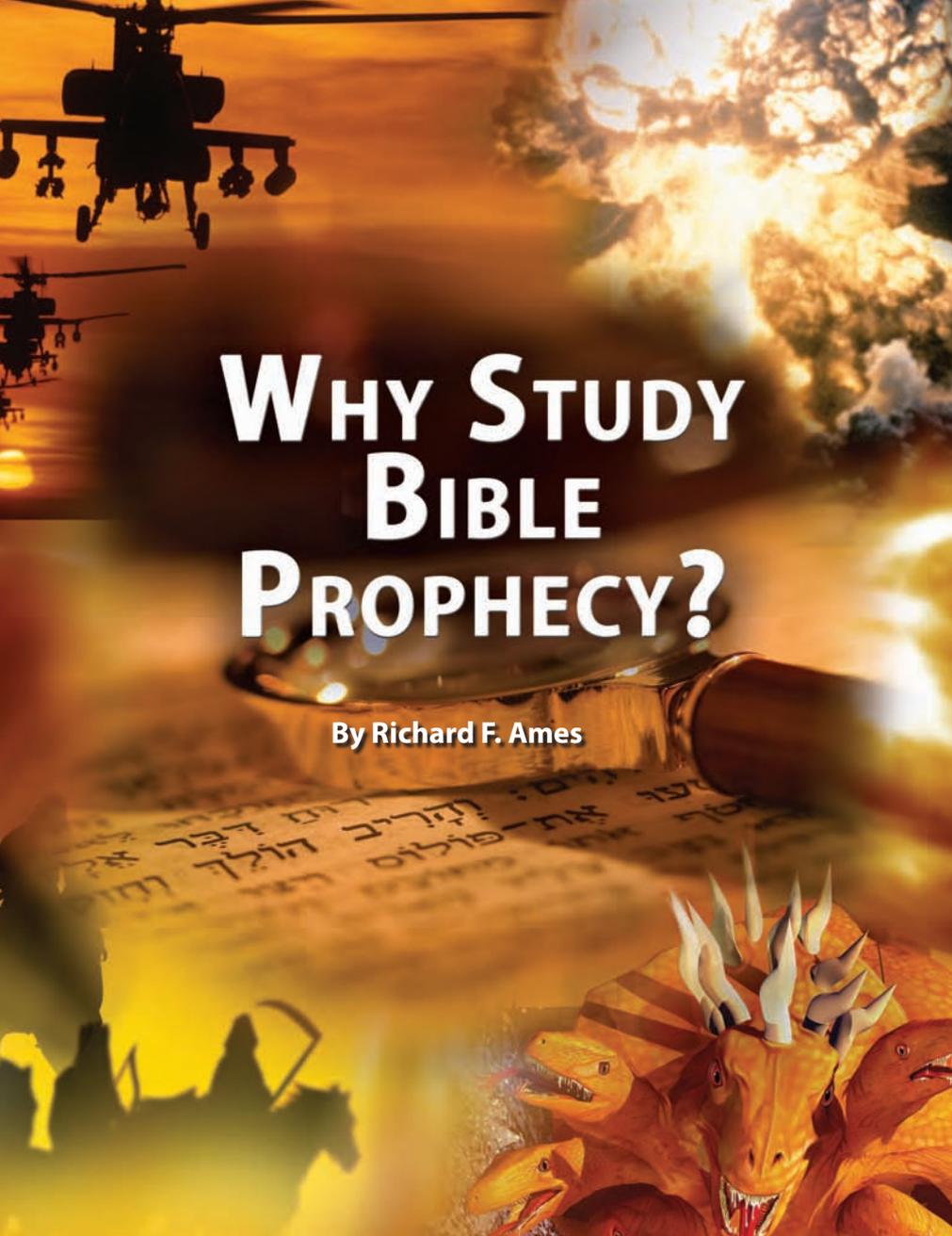
Eternal spiritual life is a gift that cannot be earned, but those who willfully disobey God and rebel against His law may reject that gift (Hebrews 6:4–6). Similarly, if we obey the physical laws that govern human life, we can expect health. But, if we act contrary to those laws, we can expect sickness. Jesus Christ—the God of the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 10:4)—told the ancient Israelites, "If you diligently heed the voice of

the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26).

Scripture confirms that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We all need healing. When we sin, we ask God for forgiveness, and if we are truly sincere we repent—change our behavior. This principle also applies to our physical healing. God may, for example, heal the emphysema of a long-time tobacco smoker. However, if the one who is healed does not quit smoking, he should not expect God to bless him with further healing. Rather, when we ask for healing we should be diligent in examining ourselves to discern what we might have been doing in violation of the basic laws of health that made us subject to the malady for which we seek healing. We should be willing to change the behaviors that harmed our health, and we should make the effort to do so (1 Corinthians 11:31–32).

What else should we do if we desire divine healing? The Apostle James gave simple instructions: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:14–16). James' encouraging instruction reminds us that being anointed with oil by a true minister of God is a powerful tool for our healing. Furthermore, just as we ought to pray for others, we should not neglect to ask for the prayers of other faithful Christians.

To learn more about divine healing and how you can seek it, read our booklet, *Does God Heal Today?* You can read it online or request your free copy at our Web site, [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org), or you may make your request by writing to our Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 30 of this magazine).



# WHY STUDY BIBLE PROPHECY?

By Richard F. Ames

***Bible prophecy reveals your future—and the future of the world. What does it mean to your life?***

**M**any “religious hobbyists” are curious about Bible prophecy, but they do not know its real significance and purpose. Some professing Christians dismiss Bible prophecy as insignificant and unimportant. They may concede that prophecy can be interesting, but they say it does not have anything to do with salvation.

Can you see what is missing in that approach? As Jesus said, in His own words: “But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13). True Christians look forward to the prophesied future when “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (v. 14).

Our hope as Christians is in this yet-to-be-fulfilled prophecy! True Christians right now are preparing to be transformed, to enter into that Kingdom at Christ’s return. As the Apostle Paul wrote: “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,

at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (1 Corinthians 15:51–54).

The resurrection of faithful Christians will take place at the “last trumpet”—the seventh trumpet blast, announced in Revelation 11:15. Those who “endure to the end” will be saved, as Jesus said. For some, the “end” will be the end of a faithful Christian life. Others will still be alive at Christ’s return. All these faithful Christians will be resurrected and changed at Christ’s return, and will enter the prophesied Kingdom of God.

Some do not recognize that there is a future Kingdom of God. They miss the significance of Paul’s reminder that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption” (1 Corinthians 15:50). If you are a flesh-and-blood Christian, you are preparing to inherit the Kingdom, but you have not yet inherited the Kingdom! You will receive your full inheritance at the time of the resurrection (John 3:5–6).

Jesus Himself emphasized that this inheritance will take place at the end of this age: “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’” (Matthew 25:34).

## WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Some wrongly try to disconnect prophecy from God’s

plan of salvation, but this cannot be done. What exactly is prophecy? First, let us consider what it is *not*. As *Unger's Bible Dictionary* states: "Prophecy is not intended to open the future to idle curiosity, but for the higher purpose of furnishing light to those whose faith needs confirming" (Moody Press, 1967, p. 892).

Does your faith need confirming? *Unger's* continues: "The revelation of future events may be needful in times of discouragement to awaken or sustain hope, to inspire confidence in the midst of general backsliding, and to warn of evil threatening the faithful. The predictions against Babylon, Tyre, Egypt, Nineveh, and other kingdoms, were delivered to the people of God to comfort them, by revealing to them the fate of their enemies" (*ibid.*).

*Unger's* defines prophecy very simply: "The oral or written message of a prophet" (*ibid.*, p. 893). The Greek word is *prophetes*, which means "foreteller" or "inspired speaker." As the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* states: "In the secular world, the word 'prophet' was used... to mean 'one who speaks for a god and interprets his will' to human beings" (Vol. 5, p. 496).

God's true prophets revealed His will to the people. They also warned the peoples of ancient Israel, and of many other nations. For example, after the death of Judah's king Jehoiada, the nation abandoned the true God and worshiped idols: "Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass" (2 Chronicles 24:18). How many people today worship modern idols of power, possessions and position? In the pages of this magazine, and on the *Tomorrow's World* telecast, we have been warning our Western nations to repent. What action did

God take when Judah and Jerusalem committed idolatry? "Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen" (2 Chronicles 24:19).

Eventually, God sent the kingdom of Judah into Babylonian captivity for its wickedness. We need to listen to God's warnings to us today! God's word, the Bible, gives us sobering prophecies and warnings that we need to heed!

The prophets were God's messengers. They gave both instruction and revelation. *Unger's* comments on the role of the prophets: "The predictive element was a frequent part of the content of the prophet's message. But this is not the only element. The prophets frequently appear in the role of social and political reformers, stirring preachers of righteousness and religious revivalists in addition to being predictors of judgment or blessing, as the occasion demanded. The prophet's message was ever religious and spiritual, announcing the will of God to men and calling for complete obedience" (p. 893).

So, as we have seen, God sent prophets to help reform nations from their immorality. The prophets also revealed God's plan for the future. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ referred to some of the many prophecies concerning Him: "Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (Luke 24:44-45). By "Scriptures," Jesus was referring to what we now call the Old Testament. The Old Testament was organized into three divisions: the Law, the Prophets and

the Writings. The book of Psalms is the first book in the Writings. Jesus emphasized the importance of Bible prophecy in foretelling His first coming and His Messiahship. Many Old Testament prophecies also predict His return.

## PROPHECY IS FOUNDATIONAL

Prophecy is at the foundation of the New Testament Church. As Paul wrote: "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

The Creator God inspired His prophets to give us instruction, revelation and warning. It is important, therefore, to know who is a true servant of God, and who is falsely claiming that role. Jesus warned us: "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many" (Matthew 24:11). How can you know who God's true servants are? Scripture gives us the answer. "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

If someone today claims to be a prophet, but contradicts the plain words of Scripture, putting his own words above the faith "once for all delivered" (Jude v. 3), he is a false prophet. God's servants preach and teach according to His word, the Bible! That applies to me, and to this magazine. Test us—prove our words in your Bible—and be sure to test others who say that they teach God's word.

Many religious hobbyists create wild misinterpretations of prophecy, taking their "pet ideas" and trying to set them in the context of Scripture. Sometimes these self-

made prophets are innocents who have been deceived, but sometimes they are deceivers trying to mislead the innocent. Be careful!

#### FOUR PURPOSES OF PROPHECY

Bible prophecy has been given for many purposes. Here, we will consider **four purposes** that are the most **f u n d a m e n t a l**. First, Bible prophecy warns people and nations to repent, **so they can avoid punishment.**

John the Baptist moved many by his preaching. What was his message?

“In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’” (Matthew 3:1–2). Jesus Christ soon afterward preached this same message of repentance (see Mark 1:14–15).

How did people respond to John’s preaching? “Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he [John] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance’” (Matthew 3:5–8).

We must all heed this warning, and bear fruits worthy of repentance. If we truly repent, Jesus Christ promises protection for those who are faithful. The Apostle John records this message Christ delivered to the Church at Philadelphia: “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from

the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth” (Revelation 3:10).

An hour of trial is coming upon our rebellious and wicked world. Jesus warned us that a Great Tribulation is coming (Matthew 24:21). But God will protect those who listen to His prophetic warnings, and change their lives. The book of Jonah shows a rare example of a people actually heeding a warning from God, and changing its ways. Will we also repent nationally and individually?



God determined to destroy Nineveh unless its people repented. And they *did* repent!

How did God view their repentance? “Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it” (Jonah 3:10). The prophetic warning resulted in God’s blessing on the people. Will we respond to today’s prophetic warnings as ancient Nineveh did? If we do not, we will experience the severe punishment of the Great Tribulation.

A **second purpose** of Bible prophecy is that it **warns people in captivity to repent.** Prophecy reveals that many who do not repent before the Great Tribulation will be able to remember God’s prophetic warnings, and repent during the pain and suffering of the Great Tribulation. God gave this warning—and promise—to those who will in the future suffer national slavery and captivity: “And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive

you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in *the latter days*, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them” (Deuteronomy 4:27–31).

Jesus said that the Gospel of the Kingdom would be a witness to all nations: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). Many will hear the gospel, but they will not respond to it at first. As a result, they will not be able to avoid the Great Tribulation. However, prophecy indicates that many who have heard the true Gospel *will repent* during that future time of national captivity. If you are one of them, please remember God’s promise when you are in captivity. He will rescue you. He will deliver you, if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul!

A **third purpose** of Bible prophecy is to **announce the coming Kingdom of God on the earth.** For nearly 6,000 years, mankind has practiced the way of sin, selfishness, war and greed. Humanity has not learned the way of peace. Only under the rule of the Prince of Peace—our Savior, Jesus Christ—will people ever enjoy lasting world peace.

Prophecy gives us the encouraging news that Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom here on earth, and faithful Christians

**Continued on page 29**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to thank you for helping me put my life in perspective through your magazines and helpful booklets. Instead of being concerned about “my” purpose, you have given me a global insight on God’s purpose and His divine will! So, thank you for opening and expanding my mind to the true essence of God. It’s not about me, but about Him! May God continue to bless you, your staff, and this informative work!

L. S., Monroe, LA

I woke one morning to look in on my son in his room. While there I put on the television and saw your program. It was so interesting that I decided to call for the booklet *Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs*. I received the booklet a couple of weeks later. The book was so inspirational that I called for another. I have been receiving your booklets ever since. I would just like you to know these booklets have opened my eyes and answered a lot of questions I had. They have been such a blessing to me. Thank you for your clear explanation of Scripture.

M. A., Arouca, Trinidad and Tobago

I couldn’t go another day without thanking you for inspiring me to study the Bible. I can truly say that I have learned more in these past three years of study through *Tomorrow’s World* magazines and the *Bible Study Course* than in my entire life of attending church services. Although I have completed the *Bible Study Course*, I continue to study it with my family and friends every Saturday morning. They are amazed at what is revealed in the study. *Tomorrow’s World* has opened my eyes, mind, and heart to the true gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom to come. I owe you a debt of gratitude because my life has changed for the better forever. Thank you!

P. P., St. Louis, MO

I feel I must write to thank you for preaching, teaching and exhorting straight from the word of God. Your *Tomorrow’s*

*World* telecast, magazine and informational booklets are an amazing blessing and most importantly a desperately needed light in a world of ever-increasing darkness. I especially want to thank you for the direct impact your ministry has had on my wife and me. You have brought us to a greater understanding of God’s plan for our lives and that is truly priceless.

D. W., Tucson, AZ

I’m sending my thanks and appreciation for the booklets and magazines I received the other day. I am happy with what I’m reading and learning, specifically *The Middle East in Prophecy*, where I am getting to know facts I haven’t learned before. My husband, who’s not a Sabbath-keeper, got interested in reading some of the booklets. God bless you.

M. L., Naga City, Camarines, Philippines

I just had to write to tell you all that I so enjoy my daily use of *Tomorrow’s World* on the Internet. It really does help me through these days. You explain in detail your points and I love the fact that we can have our Bibles next to us and go along. I also love the fact that I can pause and go back over, think, and continue. These comments are just my way of saying thank you and to praise God in Jesus’ name.

N. L., Youngstown, OH

Dear *Tomorrow’s World*, I just finished my last *Bible Study Course* lesson. The course was so enlightening! I learned so much about the true God and the ways of Jesus Christ. I was brought up in a “mainstream” church and always felt like I was searching. Then I became acquainted with *Tomorrow’s World*. Now I know that I am in the truth because it all comes from the Bible. I would love to continue my studies of God and Jesus—you can never know too much! Thank you for all the work that you do. I watch your telecasts every week and read your magazines and booklets from cover to cover.

B. K., Casa Grande, AZ

**We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow’s World*. Please direct your correspondence to “Letters to the Editor” at our United States address, or send e-mail to [Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org](mailto:Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.**

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## New Europe Rising!

As 2012 gets under way, the European Union is facing unprecedented uncertainty and upheaval. The governments and peoples of Europe have become mired in social, political and economic distress that is throwing the future of the EU into crisis. Already the world outside Europe is feeling the effects, as national banks have flooded world markets with dollar liquidity, hoping to stave off global economic collapse.

Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has said that Europe is now staring into the abyss of *a lost decade* of growth and progress. Economic data suggest things could well become worse than they were in 2008. Professor Simon Johnson, a former chief economist at the IMF, has even warned that the world is “looking straight into the face of a great depression.”

Here is how the *Economist* magazine summed it up: “When the world’s third-largest bond market begins to buckle, catastrophe looms. At stake is not just the Italian economy but Spain, Portugal, Ireland, the euro, the European Union’s single market, the global banking system, the world economy, and pretty much anything else you can think of” (November 12, 2011, p. 13).

Where is this economic and political chaos heading? How will it affect Europe, and Great Britain in particular? And how do today’s fast-moving events fit in with Bible prophecy?

### EUROPEAN UNION UNRAVELING?

The European Union, so painstakingly constructed step-by-step over the past half-century, has come under intense pressure to unravel in the face of harsh economic realities. Critics from the very beginning said that the idea of uniting all the disparate nations of Europe into a supranational entity with one common currency was

hubristic and destined for failure. And today we see the very foundations of the EU and its euro currency being shaken to the core, in the midst of a grand scramble to impose austerity measures, pay off debt, and balance national budgets. EU leaders struggle to contain rampaging financial markets. Many have concluded that the euro cannot survive without extensive reform and restructuring.

At the heart of the EU’s plight lies the Eurozone, the 17 countries that share the euro as their common currency. Some of its members, such as Greece, were allowed to join despite economies that scarcely satisfied the entrance criteria. Weaker Eurozone economies riding on the strength of the euro could rack up large debts, borrowing what became “cheap money.”

The global “credit crunch” of 2008 hit hard at those debt-laden countries bound to the euro. These nations no longer had the flexibility to exert control over their own currency. Neither was there a “lender of last resort” within the Eurozone, to which troubled countries could look for help. It soon became clear that the richer Eurozone countries would be pressed to bail out the poorer ones, a project that involved ever more vast sums of money as the crisis deepened, to the point where even the healthiest economies could no longer afford it.

So, it is no surprise that Germany—the EU’s largest and healthiest economy—has begun to assume preeminent control over the Eurozone. And observers are noting that what Germany wants, Germany is determined to get—even if this means overruling democratic accountability in the process.

Mindful of the devastating hyperinflation that racked the Weimar Republic between World War I and World War II, Germany has no fondness for an Anglo-Saxon “market-led” solution that would involve printing more money to cover debts. Rather, Germany is pressing for



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greater responsibility among political leaders, matched by austerity, balanced budgets and the paying down of debts. To facilitate this, Germany is leading the push for a revision of EU treaties to enable even greater political and economic union, including measures for removing from the Eurozone any countries that fail to fulfill their responsibilities.

What we are now facing is a standoff between the financial markets and the German-led solution. At stake is the collapse of the euro and the breakup of the Eurozone, with collateral damage to the world economy that could spread like a contagion and draw the United Kingdom, United States and other nations deeper into financial crisis.

Can the United Kingdom withstand German-led pressure to become more involved with the troubled euro? The nation now faces the threat of a German-inspired financial transaction tax that would threaten London's status as a world finance hub. Some doubt that Britain can retain its favored "arms length" distance from the Eurozone while retaining good relations with other EU countries. Germany and France, in particular, resent the UK's present "semi-detached" relationship with the EU, but the British seem firm in their determination never to arrive at the status of vassals to a German-dominated union of nations.

Will the EU be able to hold on until calmer waters can be reached? Or will overwhelmingly powerful economic, social and political forces cleave the EU asunder, resulting in a smaller and more effective union—or even a new union altogether? Short-term developments are brewing even while this magazine is on press. Thankfully, a much-neglected authority gives us a framework for the longer-term answer.

## TEN SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY

The Bible paints a dramatic picture of a short-lived, comprehensive realignment of nations within Europe. This, we believe, is exactly what is now tortuously forming within Europe. *A new Europe will rise out of all*

the chaos to burst onto the world stage. It may take some time to form, but it is on its way.

There will come a union of ten nations within Europe that will surrender their sovereignty to one overall strong leader for a short time (Revelation 17:11–13). This leader will ally with a major European religious leader (vv. 3–6). Together, they will resurrect the Holy Roman Empire to project their philosophy, ideology and power onto the world at large (v. 18). It will become a time of immense peril. The Bible predicts that Britain and America, as well as many other nations, will fall victim to this short-lived world power.

God will use this nascent superpower to punish the Anglo-Saxon peoples of Britain, America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, amongst others—who have gone astray through rebellion and ignorance (v. 17). For more on this topic, request your free copy of *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

For many, this remarkable biblical perspective seems fantastical and unbelievable. But it is nonetheless true and it will happen just as God has predicted within the prophecies He has inspired. What we now see developing in Europe is setting the stage for a cataclysmic world crisis that will mark the end of human misrule, the intervention of Jesus Christ to prevent human annihilation, and the setting up of Christ's earthly rule in the Kingdom of God (v. 14).

The prophet Daniel best summed up this age-changing series of events when he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream: "And in the days of these [ten] kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever... The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure" (Daniel 2:44–45).

You urgently need to understand the prophesied world events that are bearing down fast upon this generation, and how you should respond. Write for our free booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return* to learn more. It could be later than you think.

—John Meakin



# WILLPOWER

By Rod McNair

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*You can gain mastery of your spirit and control of your life!*

**M**ost people would like to have more willpower. But building it, we often think, is about as fun as pulling a tooth or extracting a splinter. As each new year begins, millions profess yet another round of resolutions to make changes in their lives: exercise more, eat less, stop smoking or drinking, spend more time with family. So, why do so many well-intentioned goals wind up in the discard pile?

The Apostle Paul prophesied that people living in the end-time would be bombarded by a withering barrage of temptations. Many in the last days, he said, would be self-indulgent “lovers of themselves, lovers of money... unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:2–5).

What exactly is “willpower”? Strange as it may sound, many social scientists *no longer even believe* in its existence! In their book, *Willpower: Rediscovering the Greatest Human Strength*, authors Roy Baumeister and John Tierney describe this shift: “The will came to seem so

unimportant that it wasn’t even measured or mentioned in modern personality theories. Some neuroscientists claim to have disproved its existence. Many philosophers refuse to use the term... they prefer to speak of freedom of action, not of will, because *they doubt there is any such thing as will*” (p. 8).

No will means no capacity for making moral choices. No will means no responsibility for sin. Faults and shortcomings can be blamed on genetics, background, parents, environment, or just “bad luck.” The “non-existence of the will” theory is just another way for a confused and deceived mankind to pursue its lusts without the pain of guilt and shame.

But willpower is real. God says so! He tells us that willpower (or “self-control,” as the Bible refers to it) is *crucial for success in life*. The wise king Solomon explained that anyone who aspires to lead others must first learn to rule the self: “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city” (Proverbs 16:32). He further recorded, “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down,

without walls” (Proverbs 25:28). Without willpower, or self-control, we are vulnerable to the ravages of temptation and sin. By contrast, self-control produces tangible benefits in happiness and well-being. Gaining control of the will is crucial to our inner peace, contentment and ultimate success.

What about you? Can you harness your thoughts and impulses and channel them in a positive direction? Or do you sometimes feel blown about by the deceptive winds of temptation? The good news is that if you want it, willpower *can* be developed and strengthened. And doing so may be much easier than you think.

### FLEE TEMPTATION

The Apostle Paul said that we “wrestle” against principalities or spirits trying to deceive us (Ephesians 6:12). So, as Christians, we must always be ready to stand and fight the good fight of faith (2 Timothy 2:3; 1 Timothy 6:12). As the Apostle James wrote, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

But fighting is not the whole answer. Often what is most important is to flee temptation. Here is what Paul wrote in regard to handling sexual temptation. “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body” (1 Corinthians 6:18). Paul knew not to “hang around” to see what might happen as he was tempted—he knew to escape from it, as he would from a burning building!

Paul gave a similar explanation to the young evangelist Timothy, regarding the temptations of wealth: “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts...

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness” (1 Timothy 6:9, 11).

Is fleeing from temptation a sign of weakness, or lack of willpower? No! It keeps our willpower strong. Rather, allowing ourselves to remain in close proximity to any sort of immorality is what will erode and weaken our resolve, little by little, until eventually we give in to temptation.

Authors Baumeister and Tierney describe research confirming this sound biblical principle. Test subjects were seated in a room to watch a movie. Some were put within arm’s length of a bowl of candy; others were seated across the room from the candy bowl. After the movie, those who had been seated closest to the tempting candy were found to have significantly less willpower than the others! Researchers concluded that those seated farthest from the sweets had used less mental power to resist them, and therefore had more willpower “in reserve” saved up for the next exercise.

This underscores Paul’s advice to Timothy. If we are tempted by sexual lust, or covetousness, or a desire for anything unethical, we must get out, without delay! At a minimum, we must keep the temptation as far away as possible. If you struggle with an addiction to alcohol, do not keep liquor in the house, and do not visit places where you know it is accessible. If you have trouble resisting pornography, put a filter on your computer (and let someone else whom you trust set the password). To strengthen our willpower, we must make concerted efforts to *flee temptation*.

### EXERCISE YOUR WILLPOWER

Athletes prepare for sporting contests by practicing. They practice, then they practice some more. Merely

knowing *how* to swing a bat, kick a ball, or shoot a basketball does not bring proficiency. It takes hundreds or thousands of repetitions, hour after hour, day after day, before the motions become so natural that they are practically automatic.

Paul described the spiritual journey as a race to be run with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). He emphasized that Christians do this by using God’s Spirit, which brings many benefits, including self-control (Galatians 5:23).

Godly self-control is like a muscle that will atrophy if it is not developed. When we decide to forgive someone who has wronged us, we are exercising spiritual power over our will. When we do this again and again, repeating the pattern, it becomes more natural for us, and even second nature. It is no wonder why Jesus Christ said we must forgive our brother “seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22). He wants us to develop *the habit* of forgiving others. He wants our self-control “muscle” to be well exercised!

Authors Baumeister and Tierney describe an experiment examining college students’ desires to improve in one of three areas: physical fitness, study habits and money management. Predictably, the more self-control students exercised toward their goal, the better they progressed. But there was also an unexpected finding. Those who exercised the “self-control muscle” the most in their area of focus also began to improve in other areas of their lives! “Exercising self-control in one area seemed to improve all areas of life. They smoked fewer cigarettes and drank less alcohol. They kept their homes cleaner. They washed dishes instead of leaving them stacked in the sink, and did their laundry more often. They procrastinated less. They did their work and chores instead of

just watching television or hanging out with friends first. They ate less junk food, replacing their bad eating habits with healthier ones... Some of the people even reported improvements in controlling their tempers” (*Willpower*, p. 136).

Yes, you can improve, as these students did! Commit to taking control of one area of your life, and the benefits will flow to the rest of your life! Paul wrote that spiritually mature people should “by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14). So, set some goals, however simple. Maybe you want to go to bed earlier, or to be more courteous to other drivers, or to sit up straight and maintain better posture. As you focus on putting into practice even the simplest of goals, the resulting gain in self-control can start to carry over into the more difficult struggles in your life.

### STAY WELL-FED

Every parent knows that if you want small children to behave better, make sure they have full stomachs. So, feed your body in order to feed your willpower. Nutritionally balanced meals, eaten in moderation, help us make good decisions, function well and exercise our willpower effectively. If willpower is like a muscle, it needs energy. Our brains, through which we transfer our willpower into physical action, need glucose in order to perform. Without proper fuel in adequate quantity, our brains will not function and our willpower will be weakened.

The authors of *Willpower* explain: “No glucose, no willpower. The pattern showed up time and

again as researchers tested more people in more situations... Glucose depletion can turn the most charming companion into a monster. The old advice about eating a good breakfast applies all day long, particularly on days when you’re physically or mentally stressed. If you have a test,



an important meeting, or a vital project, don’t take it on without glucose. Don’t thrash out serious problems with your partner just before dinner” (pp. 49, 57).

Physical fuel, however, is only the beginning. It is necessary, but not sufficient.

Jesus Christ cautioned His followers not to place too much focus on life’s physical aspects while neglecting the spiritual. He said, “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (John 6:27). What is the spiritual food that lasts forever? “‘For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst’” (John 6:33, 35).

How do we feed on Christ? By surrendering our will to His, and by *asking Him* to live His life in us (Galatians 2:20). We develop willpower physically by providing fuel to the brain. We develop willpower spiritually by taking in the “fuel” of prayer, Bible study, meditation and occasional fasting. Christ Himself said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of

God” (Matthew 4:4). We strengthen our willpower by *having regular contact with God*, and by doing His will in our lives. Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (John 4:34). Prayer, Bible study, meditation and fasting are the spiritual “food” we need to draw closer to our Savior.

### GET REST

An exercised muscle needs time for rest and recuperation. This principle of physical activity also applies to mental activity, and to the exercise of our willpower. We cannot expect to operate at high levels continually without “recharging our batteries” regularly. Baumeister and Tierney remind us, “We shouldn’t need to be told something so obvious, but cranky toddlers aren’t the only ones who resist much-needed naps. Adults routinely shortchange themselves on sleep, and the result is less self-control. By resting, we reduce the body’s demands for glucose, and we also improve its overall ability to make use of the glucose in the bloodstream. Sleep deprivation has been shown to impair the processing of glucose, which produces immediate consequences for self-control... Not getting enough sleep has assorted bad effects on mind and body. Hidden among these is the weakening of self-control and related processes like decision-making. To get the most out of your willpower, use it to set aside enough time to sleep. You’ll behave better the next day—and sleep more easily the next night” (*Willpower*, pp. 59–60).

Our modern Western culture is a sleep-deprived culture. It is no wonder that we have less self-control than ever! When we grow depleted mentally, our strength of willpower will decline. We need to take time to recharge and recuperate.

Sometimes that just means taking care of our physical health, getting adequate rest and sound sleep. But physical rest goes only so far in rejuvenating our depleted spirit. He promised, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28–30).

Is life stressing you out? Are you burned out from handling all the problems and decisions and temptations that you face every day? Jesus Christ tells us, *you do not need to “go it alone.”* What will truly revive us is our surrender to His will, empowered by His Spirit to experience the fruit of obedience to His laws in our lives.

### THE ULTIMATE WILLPOWER

Paradoxically, we have willpower most fully when we come under the power of God. Living under and by His power is freeing, calming, and settling as we experience the power of His Spirit in our lives. In the final analysis, growing in willpower means *totally and unequivocally trusting in God and His power to lead us.*

Have you really handed over the reins of your life to God? Have you come to the point in your life when you are willing to submit to Him totally and obediently? Do you really trust Him to direct your life, knowing that He knows what is best for you?

When you are faced with temptation, consider what ancient King David wrote: “Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to

the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him” (Psalm 37:3–7).

We live in times of stress, not of “rest.” We see constant turmoil around us—violence and war in every corner of the globe and growing fears of global economic meltdown. We face constant temptations to compromise our Christian values. So, what can we do? We cannot resist temptations and endure trials solely on our own power. We need the stamina, strength and willpower that can only come from God.

Consider Christ’s example. The night before He laid down His life for all mankind, He faced the most difficult choice of His life. To become our Savior, He would have to go through an agonizing death. The temptation to turn back and walk away must have been enormous. He went to the Mount of Olives with His disciples, telling them “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” He walked on a little farther, and then cried out, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” Then

an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Luke 22:40, 42–44).

Did Christ just “grit His teeth” and “force” His will to do the right thing? No! What allowed Him to pass this excruciating test was His willingness to surrender to the will and the power of the Father.

This is how we, too, can find the willpower to resist and overcome temptation. As we surrender our lives in true obedience to the One who made us, we can be imbued with His spiritual power. Paul wrote to the brethren in Philippi, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:12–13).

If we seek and obey Him, God will work through us “*to will and to do*” His will in our life. We *can* overcome; we *can* direct our spirit and our life. Through God’s help, we *can* have willpower! ■

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# PROPHECY Co

## Twilight of the Gods

The Twilight of the Gods—heralded as *Götterdämmerung* in the opera by composer Richard Wagner—is a medieval story from pagan Norse mythology. It describes a series of natural disasters and a great battle that results in *the death of several gods* and brings the end of the world—after which the earth is reborn anew.

From a very different perspective, Bible prophecies have long foretold something similar. The 20th century saw the rise of numerous social theories that were promoted as the “saviors” of nations and the world. Yet the *dramatic failure* of these modern “gods” left a trail of tears, suffering and destruction in their wake. The history of the last century clearly demonstrates the persistence of God’s truth, and the amazing accuracy of prophecies, inspired by the *real God* of the Bible, which are *still coming alive* today!

### THE REAL GOD

While Egypt was the most powerful nation on the earth, God began to do a series of great miracles through Moses. Egyptian magicians, *frustrated* when they could not duplicate God’s miracles, *realizing* they were dealing with a power greater than they had ever encountered, concluded: “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19). God then *visibly spared* the land of Goshen—where the Israelites resided—from the plagues He brought on the rest of Egypt (Exodus 8:22; 9:4, 26; 10:23). The Israelites and the Egyptians *witnessed* the power of God when He parted the waters of the Red Sea to aid the Israelites’ escape from their Egyptian overlords (Exodus 14–15). The Israelites also *saw* God stop the waters of the Jordan River as they crossed into

the Promised Land (Joshua 3:14–17), and they *witnessed* how God supernaturally intervened in battle during the conquest of their new homeland (Joshua 6:5; 10:11). The Bible records that even pagan kings—Nebuchadnezzar and Darius—came to see that the God of Daniel “*is the living God...* He delivers and rescues, and He works signs

and wonders in heaven and on earth... *there is no other God* who can deliver like this” (Daniel 3:28–29; 6:25–27). The God of the Bible repeatedly and openly reminds skeptics that *He alone* is able to predict the future and then bring it to pass (Isaiah 41:21–24; 45:21; 46:8–10). The Bible records these remarkable events as verifiable history. Please read our booklet *The Bible: Fact or Fiction* for more on this vital topic.

### ANCIENT WARNINGS

However, Moses also warned the ancient Israelites not to drift away from the living God and follow false gods, to “take heed to yourself... lest you *forget* the things your eyes have seen... Take careful heed to yourselves... lest you *act corruptly*

and make for yourselves a carved image... in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you” (Deuteronomy 4:9, 15–19, 23). The *living God* of the Bible clearly instructed His chosen people, “I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt... you shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:2–3).

Yet, despite often witnessing the miraculous power of the *real God*, the Israelites turned away and began to worship an idol during the 40 days that Moses was on Sinai receiving the laws of God (Exodus 24:18; 32:1–9). Recognizing the Israelites’ tendency to forget the living



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# PEOPLES ALIVE

God and look to false gods, Moses warned “I know that after my death you will become *utterly corrupt*, and *turn aside* from the way which I have commanded you. And *evil will befall you in the latter days*, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 31:29). The Old Testament records the sad story of how the nations of Israel and Judah *repeatedly turned away* from the *real* God to worship the *false* gods of neighboring nations (2 Kings 17:7–8, 18–20).

The prophets of God, however, also foresaw what would happen to the descendents of the Israelite nations in the *last days*. Jeremiah prophesied of a “time of Jacob’s trouble... *in the latter days*” when false teachers—including misguided religious leaders—would “cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness” (Jeremiah 30:3–7, 12–15, 24; 23:13–16, 20). Jeremiah declares that the Israelite nations would worship of a different god, “They have forsaken Me... and hewn themselves... broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:4, 5–13). The prophet bemoans the fact that the Israelite nations have *created their own gods—which are not real gods!* Jeremiah warns that there will be serious consequences for rejecting the living God, “it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God” (Jeremiah 2:19).

## FALSE GOD OF MODERNITY

The false gods with the greatest influence over our modern world are **not** the glaring idols of wood and stone created by the ancients. Today’s most dangerous false gods are the *intellectual constructs* of misguided human minds, largely stemming from Renaissance philosophers who sought to dethrone the real God (and His inspired word, the Bible) and replace Him with a secular humanism based on human reason. This fundamental intellectual shift laid the groundwork for fertile human minds to conceive of Marxism (the socialist vision of a “new man” without God), National Socialism (which made a “god” of nationalism and racialism) and crony capitalism (using “free” markets to amass wealth and gain power over others).

Other new “gods” around us include consumerism (worshipping the output of human hands), environmentalism (elevating the creation as “Mother Earth” above the Creator), hedonism and sexual indulgence (seeking pleasure without regard for long-standing societal norms and the good of others). It should not be surprising that *all* of these false gods have proven—and still prove—to be dismal failures! Marxism turned out to be a colossal mistake. National Socialism perished in flames that ravaged a continent. Socialism and capitalism are both struggling today. Environmentalists are not saving the planet, and the hedonistic pursuit of sexual indulgence has unleashed on the world a plague of sexually transmitted disease and suffering. Studies have shown that when communities are forced to adopt unbiblical values of “anything goes” under the pretext of “tolerance” and “diversity,” without regard for biblical standards of love of neighbor and obedience to God, this leads to breakdowns in trust, people withdrawing into themselves, social and political cleavages becoming aggravated and social tensions increasing (*Suicide of a Superpower*, pp. 262–272).

Long ago, the prophets of the *real* God warned His chosen people that, if they rejected Him, “Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you” (Jeremiah 2:19)—in other words, they would reap what they sowed! The blood-soaked history of the 20th century vividly illustrates the tragic results that occur when people make false gods of man-made philosophies intended to bring salvation to mankind. For those with eyes to see, the last century witnessed the *death of many false gods*—these flawed ideas generated in the minds of misguided individuals who had rejected the true God of the Bible. Thankfully, the *real* God will soon intervene in the affairs of mankind by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth and bring peace, justice and the knowledge of the *true* God to the peoples of the world. That great event is just ahead (Isaiah 9:6–7; 11:1–9)!

—Douglas S. Winnail



# IRON AND CLAY

By Dexter B. Wakefield

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**I**n the ancient kingdom of Babylon, the magicians and astrologers were in deep trouble. King Nebuchadnezzar had a terrifying dream, and wanted to know its meaning. In his fear, frustration and rage, he had ordered the execution of all his magicians and seers if they could not tell him both the dream and its meaning. He said, “My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap” (Daniel 2:5). Nebuchadnezzar knew how to motivate people!

Unable to comply with the king’s demand, the seers replied, “There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh” (vv. 10–11). Nebuchadnezzar responded by starting the slaughter.

## ENTER DANIEL

But, there was a young Jew in captivity whom God had blessed with the ability to interpret dreams and receive prophetic visions. God revealed the dream and its meaning to this young prophet, Daniel.

Daniel had been taken captive as a young man, after the Babylonians defeated the Kingdom of Judah around the year 604bc. But through his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, and other incidents that followed, God caused Daniel to become one of the most respected officials in Babylon under both Babylonian and Medo-Persian rule. Daniel’s historical contemporary, Ezekiel, mentions him three times as a man renowned for his wisdom and righteousness (Ezekiel 14:14, 20; 28:3). Jesus Christ also mentioned him as “Daniel the prophet” (Matthew 24:15).

Daniel told the king that his dream was of a great statue, picturing the Babylonish system of

rule as it would progress across successive empires down through history (Daniel 2).

Daniel had predicted a series of empires before they even existed! Daniel directly identified Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom as the statue's head of gold. He then described the statue's chest and arms of silver, a subsequent kingdom that we know as the Medo-Persian Empire. He described a belly and thighs of bronze—the Greek Empire. And he described iron legs and feet, the eastern and western “legs” of the Roman Empire (whose capitals were Constantinople and Rome).

Daniel also pointed out one striking detail in the king's dream. The feet and toes of the statue—depicting the empire ruling just before the Messiah's return, consisting of ten toes representing ten kings—were partially of iron and partially of clay.

Daniel explained, “Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the *toes of the feet* were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (vv. 41–44).

Much of Daniel's prophecy has been proven true by events long past. The Babylonians were overthrown by the Medo-Persian Empire. Then, under Alexander the Great, the Greek Empire defeated the Medo-

Persians. Later, the “Iron Empire” of Rome overwhelmed the Greeks and everyone else, including Maccabean Judah, just as Daniel had foretold. The “legs” were fulfilled in 395AD when the Eastern Roman Empire, commonly called Byzantium, separated from Rome and established its capital in Constantinople (today called Istanbul).

### THE TALE OF THE TOES

But who are “the toes of the feet... partly of iron and partly of clay”? History has not yet seen the fulfillment of this prophecy. The Bible reveals that they will be kings or governments at the end of this age that will be part of a great and final revival of the Roman Empire. *Two particular characteristics* will identify them: *there will be ten of them*, and just as iron is strong and clay is fragile “*so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.*”

The Apostle John saw in vision some other vivid details about key end-time events. “I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and *ten horns*. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement” (Revelation 17:3–6).

Just as the nation of Israel is pictured as a woman in the Bible, and the Church—spiritual Israel—is pictured as the chaste bride of Christ, the harlot of Revelation 17 pictures a great false church that will be active

in the last days of this age. She will play a vital role in the final revival of the great Babylonish system that Nebuchadnezzar saw as a statue.

John was also told, “The ten horns which you saw are *ten kings* who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will *give their power and authority to the beast*. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (vv. 12–14).

The “woman” rides a great political power that has “ten horns”—ten subsidiary governments. The ten toes of Daniel 2 and the ten horns of Revelation 17 represent the same ten governments acting in the same period of time.

### SOME RECENT HISTORY

Rome was the last seat of this ancient empire, which has been revived several times. Today, Rome is part of a European Union undergoing great turmoil that may threaten its existence in its present form. Since the EU was established, 17 nations have adopted a common currency, but not a unified fiscal policy. To a great degree, each nation could spend, tax and borrow as it wished. However, it was inevitable in such a union that the stronger industrial economies—such as Germany and France—would dominate weaker economies such as Spain and Portugal and Greece. Industrial Germany has a value-added, export-oriented economy, while the nations of southern Europe tend to be more agricultural, adding much less value per man-hour worked.

Making matters worse, the governments of Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain (collectively

referred to as the PIIGS nations) have engaged in profligate social spending, resulting in unmanageable deficits. For some time, they were able to use the bond markets to cover their deficits at artificially low interest rates, taking advantage of the perceived strength of the EU and the euro. In effect, economically fragile Greece was riding Germany's powerful coattails into the bond markets. Yet the EU nations never guaranteed each other's bonds, and as the total debt burden of the PIIGS nations has risen to unsustainable levels, bond buyers have become increasingly reluctant to lend, and have demanded higher interest rates when they did lend.

Europe's banks have held much of this risky sovereign debt, and the prospect of massive default by Greece or other EU nations is sending shock waves through the European banking system. If Greek bonds must be written down in value—or written off altogether—the loss will come out of the banks' capital base, curtailing their future ability to lend. Already several major European banks, including Societe Generale and Credit Agricole of France, have had their credit ratings downgraded and are under a “negative outlook.”

Some in Europe have talked about a “bailout” for Greece, but any such largesse would be mostly a bailout of the banks. The EU Central Bank has moved to shore up the shaky situation, but grave concerns of a major banking crisis remain. Such a crisis could plunge the EU into recession, even putting the very existence of the EU at risk. The EU depends on monetary union, and if the euro fails, the EU—at least in its current form—would likely end.

### THE STRESS TEST

Many EU leaders have suggested that the best way to resolve their current problem is to bring members'

budgets and fiscal policies together under the control of one federal body. “Unless Europeans agree ‘to complete economic and monetary



union... with a fiscal union, **with a strong governance**, with a feeling that some political decision should be adopted in common by those who are sharing the single currency, we will not succeed,’ said Joaquin Almunia, a vice president of the EU commission, the closest thing to a central government in the union” (“Experts: Europe Needs More Perfect Union,” *Associated Press*, September 3, 2011).

Other suggestions have involved refinancing the problem debts with bonds guaranteed in some form by EU states. Germany has not been enthusiastic about such suggestions, since it would end up bearing the brunt of the financial burden without addressing the underlying problem of the PIIGS nations' lack of fiscal restraint. Clearly, in order to receive the financial help they need, Europe's troubled economies will need to give up a large measure of sovereignty over their budgets—and it is Germany that will be in the “driver's seat” as a condition of the credit.

“Valerie Pécresse, spokeswoman for the French government, said... ‘Euro bonds are for us the *end of a*

*process of consolidation* in the euro zone, because sharing debt also requires the convergence of our budget policies” (*ibid.*). The term “convergence of budget policies,” is a diplomatic way of saying, “central control of the expenditures of EU nations.” Some, such as former German Prime Minister Gerhard Schroeder and former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, have explicitly called for an actual “United States of Europe”—a development the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and its predecessors have foretold from Bible prophecy for more than half a century!

Are the stresses on the European Union and the euro currency too much for these relatively new institutions to bear? Some commentators—Euro-skeptics—suggest that the EU will soon be torn apart, also destroying the euro as a common currency. But will the Europeans—having come this far at so great a sacrifice—give up their dream of a federal Europe? For at least the most committed core of EU supporters, this is unthinkable.

And there is another view—that the stresses that now seem to be tearing the EU apart will actually ensure European consolidation. How can that be? ***The greater the stresses that would tear the EU apart, the stronger are the federal ties needed to hold the EU together.*** Some believe that, apart from the crucible of the current crisis, the Europeans cannot forge the bonds of a truly federal Europe. In this view, if the Europeans remain committed to moving forward instead of backward, the currents of history will sweep them into a true, federal “United States of Europe.” ***So, it may take a great crisis and a great leader to produce a great solution!***

### ARE THOSE THE TOES?

Nations rarely give up their sovereignty voluntarily—it is usually taken by force. Yet, if the EU

is to continue and avoid economic disaster, many believe that its member states will need to give *their power and authority* to a central European government.

Observers who understand the political situation in Europe agree that Germany will have to be the main financial power bankrolling such an arrangement, and so will insist on playing the dominant role. It will be in a position to demand renegotiation of the current EU political structure, and to oversee the imposition of far greater central political and economic control over member states, allowing weak states to be controlled or even removed from the union. One way or another, few now expect the current configuration of a 27-nation EU and 17-nation Eurozone to continue. Read “New Europe Rising!” on page 14 of this issue for a British perspective on these developments.

Now, recall the toes of the feet in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. God revealed, in vision to the Apostle John, that at the end of this present age, there will be a revival of the Roman Empire consisting of ten nations or kings who will “give their power and authority” to this continuation of the ancient Babylonish system. These ten nations will be partially weak and partially strong, like toes of iron and clay. *Could we be seeing the emergence of those toes?*

We should also remember that economic events do not occur in isolation from geopolitical developments. Even as they face financial crisis, Europeans are seeing a resurgence of radical Islam to their south, and feeling its effects even in their own nations. Many outside Europe do not consider that, as recently as 1683, Muslim military forces were at the gates of Vienna. Today, Islam is growing throughout Europe, primarily as

a result of immigration, and many prominent voices (including Pope Benedict XVI) are urging Europeans to reclaim their heritage as Roman Catholics and resist the spread of secularism and Islam. Will a strong central leader unify Europe against the spread of Islam?

### HAVE A LOOK!

In His “Olivet Prophecy,” Jesus Christ made reference to what He had prophesied through Daniel centuries earlier: “So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet...” (Mark 13:14). Christ reminded us that in the end-time, Christians will be able to identify world events and their meanings in the context of *Bible prophecy* “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!” (vv. 28–29).

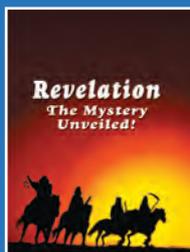
Further, He said: “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who

left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (vv. 32–37).

The book of Daniel reveals Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, which shows us thousands of years of fulfilled prophecy and sets the stage for what will come in the years just ahead. Not long from now, we will see the prophesied ten toes that are “partly strong and partly fragile.” But that is not the end of the story. We read: “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

The toes of iron and clay will give way to the prophesied Kingdom of God. Mankind’s pattern of Babylonish rule will be forever replaced by the perfect government of Jesus Christ. God speed that day! ■

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# WATCH AND W

## The End of “Occupy”?

Planned austerity measures and “anger at Wall Street elite” have triggered protests throughout Europe and the United States. In America, the “Occupy Wall Street” movement quickly grew into rage against what is seen as corrupt capitalism, called by some “a foul stench in our society” (*Reuters*, November 18, 2011). Much as European austerity protests spread from nation to nation, the U.S. protests quickly spread from New York to other cities, including Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Portland, Oakland and Seattle. The disorder has forced already financially hard-pressed city governments to pay over ten million dollars in police overtime, and city services (*ABC News*, November 17, 2011).

The “Occupy” movement and similar demonstrations are not unified by a single voice. Within these demonstrations there are often anarchist, socialist, anti-corruption, anti-corporation, environmentalist, and common, disgruntled unemployed worker elements, just to name a few. Some protests have aimed at trying to “shut down” New York’s financial markets (*Financial Times*, November 18, 2011). Others have protested the recent Russian elections (*Washington Post*, December 6, 2011). Still others are driven by the fear of austerity measures and deep cuts in welfare and pension programs. Some protestors may have noble ideas. Some are truly fighting for the rights of the weak and the poor. Others are misguided. Some are simply lawless. But all are frustrated and all want change.

### CHANGES AHEAD?

Today, the world faces overwhelming challenges. Apart from deep economic challenges such as trade imbalances,

currency manipulation and massive sovereign debt, the world is threatened by numerous other challenges such as nuclear proliferation, war, religious tensions, environmental crisis, food scarcity and disease. Consider the impact of *severe weather* alone. Extreme global weather conditions (whether or not they are influenced by human activity) are already affecting millions of people’s lives, currently cost global economies as much as \$200 billion a year and are predicted to grow much worse. (*Associated Press*, November 18, 2011).



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Indeed, the “Occupy” movement’s concern over jobs will soon pale in comparison to greater national catastrophes. As *Tomorrow’s World* Editor in Chief Roderick C. Meredith recently wrote, unrepentant nations “will soon face increasing famine and drought. With more and more people out of work, unable to afford the rising price of scarce food and water, there will be a shocking rise in the number of families going hungry. Expect not just ‘job riots’ ahead, but also ‘food riots’ and massive civil unrest as a result!” (*Tomorrow’s World*, September-October 2011, p. 5).

Thankfully, Scripture reveals that the fate of the nations is not left to protestors, national governments, big corporations, or anarchists. The nations are *not* doomed to oppressive corporate greed, runaway capitalism, social injustice, socialism or communism. Instead, the fate of nations is in God’s hands (Daniel 4:32), and He will soon intervene to bring *all* nations under *His* authority (Revelation 11:15). Then, Christ will be called “Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” He will relieve the weak

# WARN

and the oppressed. He will establish righteousness, prosperity and social justice (Isaiah 9:6–7)!

## PERMANENT CHANGE

Neither the “Occupy” and austerity protestors, nor the smoldering “Arab Spring,” nor corrupt human government can relieve the oppressed, can install righteous government or can solve this world’s myriad other problems. However, righteous change will come—and it will come from God! Consider these seven brief facts about the coming Kingdom of God:

*First*, Christ will return as the “blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:14–15). Every knee will bow to Christ (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10). He will be the reigning King, and He will triumph over all protests, all protestors, all multi-national corporations and all world governments! He will enact universal peace, righteousness and prosperity. He will reign from His temple in Jerusalem (Ezekiel 43:2–6), and God’s righteous law will flow out throughout the entire earth (Micah 4:2)!

*Second*, the glorified firstfruit saints will rule under Him (Revelation 20:6). *Third*, immediately following Christ’s return, the land will be *blessed*. Healing waters will flow from the temple to the east and to the west (Ezekiel 47:1–8; Joel 3:15–18). The land, the seas and the oceans will be healed. Food will be in abundance and the people will thrive (Jeremiah 31:9, 12; Ezekiel 34:26–29). *Fourth*, those physical descendants of Israel who live over into the Millennium will be re-gathered (Jeremiah 23:5–8), and will be repatriated to the land of Palestine. Each tribe of Israel will receive a division of the land (Ezekiel 48:1–13), and Jesus Christ will dwell in the very midst of the nation (vv. 9–10; Zechariah 8:3).

*Fifth*, in the Millennium, there will be care and respect for the weak. Notice just some of God’s instruction regarding care for the weak in society. In Deuteronomy 15:9–15, God instructed ancient Israel to be kind and generous to the poor and indentured; they were to be released from their debts every seven years.

And, in Exodus 22:25, God forbids “usury” (charging excessive interest on debt); a practice that has become a scourge today! *Sixth*, God demands special care for the widows, the elderly and the fatherless (Deuteronomy 24:19; Proverbs 15:25; Zechariah 8:4; Romans 15:26; Galatians 2:10). Notice how God instructed His chosen people to “defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17). If only all nations practiced these godly principles today! In fact, people sometimes forget that it was not only because of ancient Israel’s and Judah’s terribly idolatry, but *also* because they wrongly oppressed the fatherless, the widows, and the elderly, that God sent them into captivity and destruction (Jeremiah 22:3–6)!

*Seventh*, as Ezekiel 36:33–35 explains, the cities will be rebuilt. People will live in safety and security in their homes and on their land (Micah 4:4). Unemployment will no longer be a problem. Crime will be eradicated. Corporate greed will be abolished. Instead, there will be ample and honest work to do. Godly rule is not socialism or communism, but it is also not excessive capitalism. God expects people to perform honest *work* to sustain their households (Exodus 20:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:10). However, in the Millennium there will be plenty of honest work to do! There will also be an abundance of food to eat (Amos 9:13). And there will peace throughout the land (Isaiah 2:4)!

In the years to come, protests, violence, social injustice and economic disparity will intensify, but all of this will eventually *end*. Neither the “Occupy” movement, austerity demonstrations nor the Arab Spring will usher in an age of prosperity or peace. And humanity is *not* doomed to endless and increasing social injustice, corporate greed, a widening income gap, lawlessness, weather calamity and war. There are dark days to come. But, afterward, there is a *wonderful future* ahead. The Bible offers *hope* to those who understand that Jesus Christ is Lord (Psalms 31:24; 1 Peter 1:13). Christ *will* return. The Lord of lords *will* occupy Jerusalem. The Messiah—the King of kings—*will* rule the entire earth!

—Wyatt Ciesielka

# THE SEARCH

In his famous book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Dr. Viktor Frankl, a survivor of Nazi concentration camps, wrote of his horrific experiences during World War II. Frankl, a psychiatrist by profession, approached his imprisonment with a scientist's analytical mind. He observed that those prisoners who had a clear goal, or a cause greater than themselves, were the ones most likely to carry on and survive—even in the midst of sadistic brutality and cruel deprivation. Those without such a purpose were most likely to perish. Frankl concluded that, as the philosopher Nietzsche observed, "He who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*."

In coming to this conclusion, Frankl—a very learned individual—came to understand something that the Bible makes very plain. God's word also demonstrates this principle, giving us powerful instruction through stories both of people who succeeded and those who failed. We find that lasting success came to those who were motivated by their desire to love, obey and serve God and to seek His Kingdom. Those who rejected God's ways—seeking their own temporary selfish goals—ultimately failed.

What does this have to do with us today? We have jobs or careers, family responsibilities, school requirements, financial obligations—all of which have to be dealt with. Though there are blessings along the way, for most people in our world there is also a gnawing emptiness inside. The question, "What is the purpose of it all?" comes to mind in quiet moments.

You may have heard the old quip, "He who dies with the most toys wins." In truth, most people eventually figure out that "things" do not fill the void in their lives. Activities and pleasures provide only temporary gratification. And still, the question remains, "What happens after I die?" This unanswered question causes much angst and despair for countless millions of people. Hoping to answer this question, mankind has come up with a variety of religions and creeds based on different mythic gods and philosophic concepts. Yet these man-made answers do not really satisfy. Even "mainstream Christianity" offers answers that the Bible does not

actually support, and which do not prove satisfactory after a while.

So, are there *any real answers*? **Yes, there are!** There is a trustworthy source, which starts at the beginning and progresses all the way to the end of a great Plan being carried out by the Creator God of the Bible. Those who have understood this Plan—who have discovered the purpose for their existence,



and who have learned God's way of life, not based on man-made traditions—can face life with joy and contentment, even in times of difficulty. Why? Because, like Dr. Frankl, those who have come to understand God's Plan, as revealed in the Bible, have come to realize that we as human beings *do* have a transcendent goal, a great cause and a reason for being—not an invented or temporary one that may leave us disappointed when

it fails, but an enduring one that allows us to handle even life's most challenging trials with focus and purpose.

Jesus Christ offers these comforting words to those who are troubled: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28–30). Those who accept Christ's invitation, and who make the necessary changes in their lives to take on Christ's "easy yoke," will discover for themselves that the true Christian life equips them to handle the frustration and stress that plague our world today. As the Apostle Paul told the Christians in Philippi, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the **peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6–7).

Are you searching for the meaning of life? Do you long to learn the purpose for which God created you? Read our inspiring and encouraging booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*, to discover what God has in store for those who serve Him. With God's help, your search will be successful.

—J. Davy Crockett, III

## Why Study Bible Prophecy?

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will rule with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6). Then will come the “Great White Throne Judgment,” when all those who lived and died without hearing God’s Truth will be resurrected and given their first actual opportunity to accept His message and live His way. You can read some of the prophecies of the Millennium in Isaiah 2, 11, and 35, and in Micah 4. These are inspiring prophecies that give us real hope.

Edersheim’s *Prophecy and History in Relation to the Messiah* observes: “The one pervading and impelling idea of the OT is the royal reign of God on earth.... This Messianic idea is the sole *raison d’être* of the OT viewed as revelation” (pp. 48, 135). Jesus Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords, as it states in Revelation 19:16. “The royal reign of God on earth,” as Edersheim described it, will bring world peace and prosperity.

Throughout history, government without God has brought terrible suffering. Without God’s prophesied intervention, mankind’s godless forms of government would bring planet Earth to cosmocide—total destruction. As Jesus said: “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 Bible prophesies that there will be a time of restoration for the earth. Remember Peter’s promise that God will “send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”! (Acts 3:20–21). God will restore the earth to natural, unpolluted beauty and prosperity,

under the divine government and Kingdom of God. We can all rejoice at that good news.

A **fourth purpose** of Bible prophecy is that it **demonstrates God’s total sovereignty and power**. Nothing can deter God’s plan of salvation. That plan is revealed in your Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. God has an awesome purpose for every human being who will respond to Him. That purpose is to become God’s glorious, immortalized children, for all eternity. As we already read: “This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53). God’s great power, through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring this to pass.

Almighty God declares His power and sovereignty: “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; 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,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it

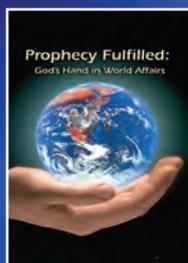
to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it” (Isaiah 46:9–11). God Almighty will powerfully fulfill His purpose and prophecy.

The prophet Amos warns us that a time will come when the truth that you are now reading will not be available: “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it’” (Amos 8:11–12).

You need to act on the truth while it is available. Read this magazine, and watch the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast. And, most importantly, read your Bible and put its truths into practice in your life!

Jesus Christ offers a wonderful promise to those who seek Him, sincerely wanting to understand: “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3). You can be blessed, as you sincerely study God’s word, and understand its many prophecies. ■

### PROPHECY FULFILLED: GOD’S HAND IN WORLD AFFAIRS



Contrary to what skeptics say, we can have confidence that God will fulfill end-time prophecy, just as He has done in the years and centuries before our time!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, *Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org)

## Fullfill Your PURPOSE!

Continued from page 2

saints” we read about what the *genuine* reward of the saints will be. The saints are pictured singing about their coming reward and about Jesus Christ: “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth*’” (Revelation 5:9–10).

Yes! True saints will be assisting Jesus Christ to “reign”—or to *rule*—on the earth!

In 1 Corinthians 6:1–5, the Apostle Paul was inspired to tell us about the future of the true saints of God. He describes how we are—in personal disputes—not to allow ourselves to be “judged” by the outside world, but rather by *true leaders* in God’s Church. He says, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (vv. 2–3). So the true saints are now “in training” to “judge the world.” And, in the future, we are actually to assist God, as we “shall *judge angels*.”

Truly, the magnificent future which awaits all human beings in the very Kingdom or Family of God is almost beyond human comprehension. For we are made “in the image” of God in more ways than one. He is working with us—if we are willing to surrender to Him. He is fashioning and molding us. He is teaching us *lessons* for all eternity. But we have got to be willing to *genuinely surrender* to our Creator and seek *His* purpose, *His* will in our lives. Very few people on earth are willing to do that at this time. For God has truly “blinded” most people, as the Bible clearly indicates. Yet, many of you who read this are probably being “called” or you would not be reading the Truth of God on a regular basis!

So, do you want genuine *understanding* of the real *purpose* for your life? Are you willing to go above and beyond and “seek” for that purpose? Are you willing to exercise *faith* and *courage* to attain the purpose for which you were born? When “great multitudes” were following Christ, He realized that most of them were not *really* willing to go “all the way” in being His disciples! So He

said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate (or *love less* by comparison) his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26–27).

Each of you subscribers will have to face this issue at some point in your lives. As the prophetic events we have predicted for decades come toward their final conclusion, as the human societies around us come crashing down and the “world” as we have known it slowly begins to change in very bad ways, *what will you do?* Again, may God give you the *faith* and *courage* to seek *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). May He give you the faith and courage to love Christ more than “father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also.”

If you sincerely want to be God’s servant, to have *eternal life* in Tomorrow’s World, and fulfill your *purpose* for life, then *please begin to act*. Learn to genuinely *study* the articles in this magazine—*proving* what they say by checking up with the scripture references in *your own Bible*. Try to regularly view the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast and, again, *check up* on us by following the scriptures in your own Bible. Write for and receive our *free* booklets on so many extremely vital topics and *prove* what they say *from your Bible*.

Finally, I tell you sincerely that one of the most powerful tools available to you in the entire world today is the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. This course—like *all* our literature—is *absolutely free* without obligation. I encourage you—indeed I *urge you* in the name of Jesus Christ—to contact us to request your *free* enrollment in the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. This course will take you, step-by-step, through the basic truths of the entire Bible *if you will read it and study it along with your own Bible* and *prove* these truths to yourself. It will genuinely transform your life! The only thing you are required to do is to put forth the time and the effort to *genuinely study* this course and be willing to understand and learn what *your Bible actually says*. May God give you the understanding, the faith and the courage to *take action* in all of the above ways so that you may do *your part* in preparing for the *purpose* for which you were created!



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**WGN:** SUN 6:00 a.m. ET

**WORD (TWN):** SUN 7:30 p.m. ET; WED 1:00 a.m. ET (TUE 10:00 p.m. PT); FRI 7:00 p.m. ET

**VISION, Canada:** SUN 4:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m. ET; MON-FRI 3:00 a.m. ET

## **NEW NATIONWIDE ON THE DISH NETWORK:**

**ANGEL ONE:** CH 262, MON 7:00 a.m. ET; WED 7:00 p.m. ET

## **NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATIONS:**

CA, Los Angeles: KCOP, SUN 7:30 a.m.

TX, Dallas: KTAO, SUN 8:30 a.m.

## **NEW AUSTRALIA TELEVISION STATION:**

Nationwide: TV 4, SUN 7:30 a.m., SAT 7:00 p.m. AEDT

## **UPCOMING TOMORROW'S WORLD TELECASTS**

**Satan's Dangerous Deception** Airs February 2-8

Could you be deceived and not know it?

**Can You Trust the Bible?** Airs February 9-15

What makes the Bible different from other books?

**Why Believe in God?** Airs February 16-22

Is your faith reasonable, or just sentimental?

**Restoring Original Christianity** Airs February 23-29

Would Christ even recognize today's "Christianity"?

Schedule subject to change