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TOMORROW'S WORLD

January-February 2019 | TomorrowsWorld.org



Has Science Discovered
The Creator?

Our Best Hope

Our world is changing faster than you can read this magazine. What will be the end? The surprising answer is that we are advancing toward a world at peace! But let's not get ahead of the near future. The time just ahead is not going to be pretty. A new dark age is coming prior to that peaceful age.

The United States is still the leading world power, but it will not remain so forever, as surprising as that may sound to many Americans. *No* empire has endured forever. We can imagine that the citizens of past civilizations also expected their governments to remain. The "impregnable" city of Babylon with its great empire fell in one night to the Medes and Persians. None of them saw it coming. The Persian Empire fell before the daring conquests of Alexander the Great and his Greco-Macedonian Empire, which later fell to the rising might of Rome. And as we know, Rome's power and dominance also came to an end. Many people around the world root for America's demise, but have little idea who will fill the vacuum or what will be the consequences.

Right-leaning populist parties are rising in the world. The AfD (Alternative for Deutschland) is now the third largest political party in Germany and is saying things that were unthinkable and unacceptable just five years ago. Its leaders boldly speak what many Germans think, but have, in the past, been afraid to say. *New York Times* writer Brian Dawson recently concluded an article with this sobering question regarding the AfD: "Will its vision stay at the fringes of Germany [sic] society, or creep further into the mainstream, and drag the center along with it?" ("How the Far Right Is Shaking Germany's Political Order," *NYTimes.com*, October 31, 2018).

Who will fill the vacuum when German Chancellor Angela Merkel steps down in 2021? This Work has for decades predicted the rise of the far right within Germany, which will bring a strong leader to the heart of Europe. Ten kings will eventually give their power over to this charismatic leader to create a powerful force of global influence that will rival the currently dominant English-speaking nations.

The Not-So-United States

The United States is badly divided, and not at all united anymore. Not since the American Civil War has the nation been at greater odds with itself, and nothing indicates a way to bridge the chasm. How can one compromise on the subjects of abortion, the LGBT agenda, assisted dying, and open borders? Where is the middle ground on abortion? Does life begin at conception or does it not? Is it morally right to kill an unborn child?

Whatever anyone thinks of U.S. President Donald Trump, can anyone rationally dispute the fact that a country without borders ceases to be a country? Why

would any country allow people to fly into its major cities *completely unvetted* and be welcomed to stay? Is there any difference between walking into a country and flying into it? Should not every country, no matter how compassionate, have the right to control who enters through its gates? *Tomorrow's World* does



not support or oppose candidates for public office and finds fault across the political spectrum—right, center, and left. Still, some things are simply foolish and wrong. Abortion is murder. Open borders make no sense. Sanctuary cities are insane.

Civility is lacking on both sides of the political divide, and there is more than enough blame to go around. When politicians encourage their followers to harass their opponents in restaurants, gas stations, and anywhere else that they find them, something is seriously amiss.

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Peace will come, but not in the way that most people expect. For decades, this Work has predicted the eventual demise of both Britain and the United States. Britain has ceased to be great, and the United States will follow. Where will that leave Canada, Australia, and New Zealand? What will happen to Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian countries? Where will France end up? Will it be allied with a coming European power, predicted long ago in the pages of the Bible? Or will it end up with the short end of the stick, as it did in two great wars during the last century?

The End Foretold in Advance

The Bible, despised today by so many, predicted long ago that mankind would come to the point where all life not merely *could*, but *would* be destroyed. (Matthew 24:21–22). Yet, there is good news. As the world reaches the brink of utter destruction, God will intervene to stop the insanity.

Many believe in God. They believe that Jesus came

Competing interests fight for control of the city of Jerusalem—there is no peace in the “city of peace”!

to this earth as a human being, that He performed mighty miracles, that He was killed, and that He was raised from the dead. For some reason it is easier to believe in something that happened two millennia ago, than it is to believe that Jesus Christ will return, literally intervene in human affairs, and rule on earth as King of kings. We had better hope that He will, because the way we are going, the fall of the American empire

and even human annihilation are not as remote as we would like to think!

Competing interests fight for control of the city of Jerusalem—there is no peace in the “city of peace”! The Bible tells us this will change. Notice that it accurately describes what we see today: “And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it” (Zechariah 12:3). Zechariah also describes how the ongoing conflict

will end: “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming.... For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:1–4, 9). He then shows that the King, Jesus Christ, will compel all nations to keep the Feast days that explain His purpose and plan for mankind (vv. 16–19).

This is the good news Jesus proclaimed! It is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, as explained in greater detail in my article on page 12, “Why Is This Message Left Out?” It is also documented in our booklet, *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* This message of peace and prosperity for all is found among some of the most beautiful passages of Scripture:

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Micah 4:1–3).

The reigning Christ will direct resources toward building rather than destroying. He will know how to deal with ruthless dictators that oppress their neighbors and even their own people! Not only is this our best hope for peace, it is our *only* hope! This is the message we proclaim here at *Tomorrow’s World*!



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Circulation: 250,000



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Has Science Discovered The Creator?

By **Dexter Wakefield**

The scientific world had a shock around the turn of the new millennium, as developments in physics and cosmology were proving that our universe could not have resulted from chance. It appeared that the basic constants of physics had been designed and “tuned” to each other. These findings were not based in mere conjecture, but rather upon scientific facts. The question had to be asked: Is it possible that our universe cannot be understood without being recognized as *designed*? This question unsettled a lot of scientists, because it challenged their most basic assumptions—not only about the universe, but also about themselves.

Just Six Numbers

What shook the scientific community can be summarized by focusing on a set of six very important numbers, some very large, some very small. Our universe is governed by these six numbers—constants that were

established at the moment of the “Big Bang.” If any of them were just slightly different, then stars, planets, the elements themselves, and all life-forms could not exist. If these constants were any different, our universe simply could not exist in its current form. They do not appear as units of length, mass, time, or temperature, but as simple, dimensionless numbers that result from measuring such things. And, once more for emphasis, *as a fact of science, the universe as we know it **could not exist** if these constants were to vary or change by more than the most miniscule amounts!*

The situation is a bit like the old story of “Goldilocks.” Upon entering the home of the Three Bears and tasting one of three bowls of porridge, Goldilocks says, “This porridge is too hot!” So, she tastes the porridge from the second bowl. “This porridge is too cold.” She then tastes the last bowl of porridge. “This porridge is *just right*,” she says happily, and eats it all up. Our universe had to be a Goldilocks universe—“*just right*”—to be anything like the universe in which we exist.

This fact is explained quite well by Sir Martin Rees in his acclaimed book, *Just Six Numbers: The Deep Forces That Shape the Universe*. Rees was a Royal Society Research Professor, is Emeritus Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics at Cambridge University, and holds the title of Astronomer Royal. He is also a member of the Royal Society, the United States' National Academy of Sciences, and the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is well-qualified to comment on the constants that govern the physics of the universe.

Dr. Rees explains these important six constants and how they operate. “At the start of the twenty-first centu-

As Professor Rees has reiterated for us, if any of them varied more than slightly, or if they were not “fine-tuned” to one another, the universe and life as we know it could not exist. The odds of these constants all having their specific values as a result of mere chance are extremely small—nearly zero. Therefore, the existence of a Cosmic Designer must be considered. But many scientists prefer to pursue another explanation.

A Multiverse?

If the mathematical probability of our viable, life-supporting universe evolving by chance is almost infinitely

IF THE MATHEMATICAL PROBABILITY OF OUR UNIVERSE EVOLVING BY CHANCE IS INFINITELY SMALL, HOW CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN ITS EXISTENCE WITHOUT A DESIGNER?

ry, we have identified six numbers that seem especially significant. Two of them relate to the basic forces; two fix the size and overall ‘texture’ of our Universe and determine whether it will continue forever; and two more fix the properties of space itself” (Rees, *Just Six Numbers*, p. 2). Since *Just Six Numbers* was published in the year 1999, a number of similar constants have been identified. (See “A Universe Tailored Just for You,” in the September-October 2018 issue for more.)

The following is one of the six constants described briefly by Professor Rees:

Epsilon [ϵ], is **0.007** and defines how firmly atomic nuclei bind together and how all the atoms on Earth were made. The value of *epsilon* controls the power from the Sun and, more sensitively, how stars transmute hydrogen into all the atoms of the periodic table. Carbon and oxygen are common, and gold and uranium are rare, because of what happens in the stars. **If epsilon were 0.006 or 0.008, we could not exist** (Rees, p. 2, emphasis added).

Taken together, these six numbers have been described as a kind of “recipe” for our universe.

small, how can anyone explain its existence without a designer? The only way to do so is to assume that *an infinite number of universes* have formed and that ours—through mere chance—just happens to be the one that works! If our universe did not exist as it does, these scientists reason, we would not be

around to know it. That is not a very satisfying answer.

This hypothesis promotes “*the multiverse*” (as opposed to “the universe”). It is speculative and entirely hypothetical, but it gets tremendous attention from scientists who understand that without the possibility of some kind of multiverse (and many different concepts of a multiverse have been proposed), the only logical conclusion may be that *our universe was designed*. The implications of this would be enormous. *Some argue that science would, in effect, prove the existence of God!*

Again, Professor Rees explains his view:

These six numbers constitute a “recipe” for a universe. Moreover, the outcome is sensitive to their values: if any one of them were to be “un-tuned”, there would be no stars and no life. Is this tuning just a brute fact, a coincidence? Or is it the providence of a benign Creator? I take the view that it is neither. An infinity of other universes *may* well exist where the numbers are different. Most would be stillborn or sterile. We could only have emerged (and therefore we naturally now find ourselves) in a universe with the “right” combination (Rees, p. 4, emphasis added).

Professor Rees leans toward this “multiverse” view, but admits that “it is plainly still no more than a *tentative hypothesis*” (Rees p. 150, emphasis added). He hasn’t changed his mind about these matters; in his 2018 book, *On the Future*, he writes concerning multiverse theory, “It’s **highly speculative**... but it’s exciting science, and it **may** be true” (p. 188, emphasis added).

Highly speculative? May be true?

In other words, he hopes that mankind may someday prove that we live comfortably in a “Goldilocks Universe”—one that is “just right”—surrounded by an *infinite number* of other universes that are (so to speak) “too hot” or “too cold.”

Dr. Rees explains that one response people have when confronted with these facts is that “we couldn’t exist if these numbers weren’t adjusted in the appropriate ‘special’ way: we manifestly are here, so there’s nothing to be surprised about. Many scientists take this line, but it certainly leaves me unsatisfied” (*Just Six Numbers*, p. 148). He is not alone in his dissatisfaction!

George F. R. Ellis is a Templeton Prize-winning cosmologist, mathematician, and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Complex Systems at Cape Town University. He also co-authored *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time* with another acclaimed cosmologist, the late Stephen Hawking. Regarding the possibility of a multiverse, Ellis observed

...that no possible astronomical observations can ever see those other universes. The arguments are *indirect at best*. And even if the multiverse exists, it leaves the deep mysteries of nature unexplained... *I am skeptical about this claim. I do not believe the existence of those other universes has been proved—or ever could be*.... Parallel universes may or may not exist; the case is *unproved*. We are going to have to live with that uncertainty. Nothing is wrong with *scientifically based philosophical speculation*, which is what multiverse proposals are. But we should name it for what it is” (“Does the Multiverse Really Exist?” *Scientific American*, August 2011, emphasis added).

Researchers are nowhere near an answer to the multiverse question. In his most recent book, Dr. Rees also stated, “We may, **by the end of this**

century, be able to ask whether or not we live in a multiverse, and how much variety its constituent ‘universes’ display” (*On the Future* p. 186, emphasis added). But is it necessary for the world to wait until “the end of this century” to admit the high probability that our universe has a designer?

Canadian philosopher John Leslie wrote that if he faced a 50-man firing squad, he would not be around later to consider the fact that each of its members had missed him *unless they all missed him!* But if they all missed, and he did survive the experience, he would naturally conclude that there was a *reason why* they had missed, and he might want to know that reason. When looking at our “finely tuned” universe, a rational person considers the possibility that it was created. In light of the fact that the alternative to a designed universe is—in the words of famous cosmologists—“scientifically based philosophical speculation,” a “tentative hypothesis,” and “unproved,” it seems irrational to preemptively reject the idea that our universe was designed, as so many do. Ironically, when presented with facts that challenge their personal beliefs, people who present themselves as devoted to reason can be very irrational.

The Elephant in the Room

Modern cosmology generally understands that the choice is between (1) a designed universe and (2) a multiverse of some kind. Even many scientists who reject religious faith reluctantly acknowledge that unless definitive proof is found of an infinite number of universes, our universe *might* have had a designer.

Professor Ellis continues: “Proponents of the multiverse make one final argument: *that there are no good alternatives*... if we are to give up the multiverse, we need a viable alternative. This exploration of alternatives depends on what kind of explanation we are prepared to accept” (“Does the Multiverse Really Exist?” emphasis added). Many scientists are very averse to considering the alternative that there was a designer of our universe, because they only accept explanations based completely on the material world—explanations that they feel can be measured and tested. If they were to conclude that our universe was designed, they would have to ask, “Who designed it?” And most would rather not.

Are Those Who Believe in a Creator Irrational?

People often say that they will only believe something to the extent that they see evidence of it. Perhaps you have said it yourself. That statement stems from a philosophy called “evidentialism,” which is the dominant view of modern science and the general educational system. Philosophically, evidentialism dates back to the 1700s, and there are a number of questions concerning what exactly such a philosophical approach truly means and how it is applied. But for now, let’s apply its principle to the universe/multiverse issue.

As noted earlier, the odds of our universe having originated through chance are nearly zero. The evidence of a cosmic design—and of a designer—is profound.

But is there actual empirical evidence of a multiverse? Evidence that can be observed? *There is none*, though astronomers, physicists, and cosmologists have searched diligently for many years. In fact, multiverse proponents do not even have a solid, operational theory for it; they acknowledge that the multiverse remains only a hypothesis—an unproven idea. Yet highly educated people continue to have faith that a multiverse exists, while rejecting the idea of a designed universe—despite overwhelming evidence for the latter.

So, who is being irrational here? The evidence vastly favors a designer.

If one can believe something to the extent that there is evidence for it, **has science provided such evidence for the existence of God?** Or, at least, for *a designer of the universe?*

Rationally, one must admit that without solid, scientific evidence of a multiverse, a designed universe is highly probable *scientifically*—and is indeed the primary alternative. But this alternative has become “the elephant in the room” that few in the world of science want to notice. *Most act as if it is not there.*

Let Us Reason Together

Let’s be rational and consider the possibility of a universal designer. Would a designer design without a reason? Would a designer have intended our extraordinary blue jewel of life—the Earth—to be apart from a larger design? Would this designer have stopped at “Just Six Numbers,” or is it possible that complex proteins and DNA were designed also? And would a designer not communicate with those who could ask questions about the design?



God reveals information that we cannot know solely by analyzing the physical world. At *Tomorrow’s World*, we understand that *we can be informed by faith* in what God says. The Apostle John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and *without Him nothing was made that was made*” (John 1:1–3). The Bible reveals Who set those six numbers.

The Apostle Paul gave some straight talk to the critics when he wrote that “what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made*, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Romans 1:19–22). Paul explained further, “... for in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). Those six constants were designed and “tuned” by Him,

THE CREATOR? CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

EVALUATING LIFE'S POSSIBILITIES

Does your life feel incomplete?

The mystery of the future often captivates the mind of a young person as he or she imagines life ahead. Children come to wonder about their personal futures. A young boy may declare that when he grows up, he wants to fly jet aircraft. One of my own sons wanted to operate heavy earth-moving equipment. My granddaughter wants to be a princess. Most often, the desires of youth shift toward different goals as youngsters become more familiar with their talents and skills. But a young person will always want to know about his or her personal future.

In many societies, the future holds a great deal of promise for young people. Many are familiar with high school or university commencement ceremonies, at which a speaker may tell the audience that the future is what they individually and collectively make of it—or that if they work hard and listen to their hearts, striving toward a worthwhile personal goal, they will achieve it. Some cultures may place the future and reputation of an entire family on the shoulders of one young person who is given a great chance at success or education. Yes, the future holds many possibilities.

Despite all of the possibilities, many adults sense that something is missing—that their future did not wind up as they had hoped.

When Having Everything Still Disappoints

Long ago, there was a young man whose career path and its boundless possibilities were essentially guaranteed by his inheritance. He had the best personal tutoring available, and nearly unlimited resources for travel and experience. His future was virtually set. As he grew and assumed control of his nation, his reputation as a thoughtful and practical leader dramatically increased. That man was King Solomon of ancient Israel. “And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men... and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.... And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon” (1 Kings 4:29–34).

King Solomon could carry out any project he chose, yet something was missing from his life. Like Solomon, many young people want to be success-

There is more to life than money or material pursuits, though many an individual has had to travel through much of life to find that out.

ful, happy, and fulfilled, but find that they really don’t know the way. Material pursuits, though attractive in one’s youth, become uninteresting and come to seem hollow over time. Solomon learned this, himself: “So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:9–11).

Seeking Something Deeper

There is more to life than money or material pursuits, though many an individual has had to travel long through life to find that out. A young person should plan as best he or she can for the future—developing skills and interests that will help support a future family. But all of us, young or old, must remember that what we have materially can never compensate for the deeper meaning that may be missing from our lives.

One wiser than Solomon once said, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.... Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing” (Luke 12:15, 23). The God who spoke those words while walking amongst us 2,000 years ago commissioned His Church to teach a way of life that transcends material abundance. That way that is both exciting and fulfilling—and worth seeking.

—Brian Pomicter

h Canada!

The Origins of Gender Identity



In May 2017, the Canadian Human Rights Commission amended the Human Rights Act to add “gender identity” and “gender expression” to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination.

This has led to the adoption of provincial policies designed to protect individuals from gender discrimination. For example, Ontario has produced a brochure titled “Gender Identity and Gender Expression.” In this brochure (available at www.ohrc.on.ca), the terms *gender identity* and *gender expression* are “clarified” as follows:

Gender identity is each person’s internal and individual experience of gender. It is their sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person’s gender identity may be the same as or different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is fundamentally different from a person’s sexual orientation.

Gender expression is how a person publicly presents their gender. This can include behaviour and outward appearance such as dress, hair, make-up, body language and voice. A person’s chosen name and pronoun are also common ways of expressing gender.

What are the origins of gender identity, and where did the concept of gender begin to stray from early dictionary definitions?

If you look up the definition of the word “gender” on the Internet today, you often read something to this effect: a “category of human beings that is outside the

male/female binary classification and is based on the individual’s personal awareness or identity” (*Dictionary.com*). But the word wasn’t always understood this way.

The noun “gender” comes from the Latin word “genus,” meaning a kind or sort, and has been used to categorise individuals within a species as either male, female, or neuter. It refers primarily to the biological distinctions in species. Gender has therefore traditionally been used interchangeably with the word sex, which is used to classify the distinctions between male, female, and neuter with reference to reproductive functions.

However, in the 1950s, psychologist and sexologist Dr. John William Money began using the word “gender” in his journals when describing individuals’ self-perceived sexual *identity*—how individuals see themselves, as opposed to their genetic makeup. His approach to “gender” was not widely adopted until much later, but Dr. Money is now seen as a pioneer in the psychology of gender fluidity, identity, and expression. He believed an individual’s gender to be a social construct, determined by upbringing and subsequent exposure to what society deems masculine or feminine. He argued that “nurture” overrides “nature.”

Testing Nurture over Nature

In the summer of 1965, in the city of Winnipeg, a mother gave birth to identical twin boys. Dr. Money used these two children as test subjects in an effort to demonstrate the validity of his gender theory.

The boys, named Brian and Bruce Reimer, had difficulty urinating when they were only a few months old, and doctors recommended circumcision without explaining the method that would be used. The procedure

was done with an electrical cauterizing machine, which malfunctioned and burnt off part of Bruce's genitalia.

While watching television months later, the Reimer parents came across the charismatic Dr. John Money describing his work with transgenderism. After they contacted Dr. Money and described their situation, he agreed to help. Bruce, he decided, was to be reared as Brenda.

"Brenda" underwent surgery to remove the rest of his reproductive organs. Under the strict understanding that they must never inform him that he was born a boy, the Reimer parents reared him as a girl. The twins were to meet privately with Dr. Money annually, so that he could examine and assess their development. The twins later described how he would force them, at a young age, to undress and assume dominant and submissive positions in front of him, saying that he photographed them while this took place.

In the BBC-produced documentary entitled *Horizon*, their mother, Janet Reimer, was interviewed. "I could see that Brenda wasn't happy as a girl," she said. "She was very rebellious. She was very masculine, and I could not persuade her to do anything feminine. Brenda had almost no friends growing up. Everybody ridiculed her, called her cavewoman. She was a very lonely, lonely girl."

For years, Dr. Money continued to write about his "successful" experiment on the Reimer twins, despite the fact that Brenda later transitioned back to being identified as a male, took the name David, and eventually married. Regrettably, amidst all of this confusion and trauma, both David and his brother ended up committing suicide. The case of the twins is a tragic experiment that should never have taken place, and Dr. Money's research was unethical, damaging the lives of everyone in the Reimer family.



Modern-Day Confusion

Many psychologists and sexologists still consider Dr. Money to have been a brilliant scientist, and his gender theory is widely accepted. Downplaying gender determination by chromosomes and reproductive organs, Canadian law and the majority of school curricula across the country have adopted the concepts of gender identity and gender expression.

Until recently, there was little public objection to these concepts, or to the introduction of new laws to prevent discrimination. One vocal opponent to these changes is Professor Jordan Peterson from the University of Toronto, who has received widespread media attention. "Peterson has continued to state publicly he won't use non-gendered pronouns—especially ones that have been created like 'ze' and 'zir'—which he said 'compel the use of a particular kind of ideological language'" (Patty Winsa, "He says freedom, they say hate. The pronoun fight is back." *TheStar.com*, January 15, 2017).

More recently, Ontario elected Doug Ford as premier of the province. Ford had campaigned to repeal Ontario's Health and Physical Education Curriculum, which had been introduced by the previous Liberal government. Two months after his election, he instructed schools in Ontario to revert back to the 1998 Health and Physical Education Curriculum, which predated Ontario's introduction of more modern approaches to gender identity.

Values that change with the election cycles and stories such as that of the Reimer twins demonstrate that society lacks the wisdom and knowledge necessary to rule with justice and fairness. An ancient proverb encourages us to seek out the true source of discernment: "Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:5-6).

If society continues hurtling down its current track of choice, many of you might consider asking, "How do I get off the train?" The good news is that someday soon, the governments of this world will fall under the government of a wise and powerful Creator. He will impart knowledge and understanding that will correct the wrongs of the past, teaching all humanity—including those who now struggle with gender confusion—how to live vibrant, productive, and happy lives. May that time come soon!

—Jonathan Riley

Why Is This Message **Left Out?**



By **Gerald E. Weston**

People everywhere yearn for peace. They desperately want to see an end to poverty, violence, and disease. They want to love and be loved, to raise families and be left alone by dictatorial and selfish rulers. Yet such peace eludes us. Poverty, violence, and disease thrive, and governments that ought to help people often oppress them.

Mindful of this unfulfilled longing of the human heart, an ancient prophet once referred to “the Desire of All Nations” (Haggai 2:7). To what exactly was he referring, and how will this desire be fulfilled? Is it possible for mankind’s hope to become reality?

Haggai’s reference was to the Messiah, the One whom Jews have hoped for throughout much of their existence as a people. But this hope is not for one people only. It is truly the hope of all men and women everywhere. We hope for someone to bring an end to the evils we experience in life, and a peace that far exceeds the absence of war.

The Messiah of whom Haggai prophesied was Jesus of Nazareth, but His first coming was only a partial fulfillment of the prophecy. Haggai spoke of a turbulent time when God would intervene in the

world in a way that no one could miss: “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations’” (Haggai 2:6–7). He was speaking to the people of Judah after their return from Babylonian captivity, urging them to build the second temple in Jerusalem. It was *then* a turbulent time, and the prophecy indicated that if they built the temple, “the Desire” spoken of would come. He would come to that temple and bring about lasting peace.

Jesus *did* come to that temple, but several centuries later. God’s timing is not the same as man’s timing! Even then, the prophecy was not completely fulfilled in the first century A.D. The time when He “will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and [He] will shake all nations” is yet ahead.

One must wonder: Will this prophecy ever come to pass, or is it merely a pipe dream with which we delude ourselves? To understand, we must grasp the larger picture of what God is doing here below.

In the Beginning

Going back to the beginning, we see that God created life on this tiny orb, which He placed in a universe

so large we cannot wrap our minds around it. We are like the smallest of ants crawling around on the earth. Nevertheless, the mind of man allows us to do truly amazing things. Though a few refuse to believe man walked on the moon, even the Soviet Union during the “Cold War” never disputed that twelve Americans did so. China’s leaders are investing time and resources toward achieving the same. *They* certainly believe the American flag is there! Yes, mankind is capable of amazing things, and you can make your own list of incredible human accomplishments.

Here we are, in comparison, the smallest of microbes on the tiniest speck in what seems like a limitless universe. Leaving out groundless hope and speculation, all evidence points to the fact that we are alone in the cosmos. No credible evidence of extraterrestrial life has ever been found.

So what is it all about? Why are we here? How could life come from the non-living? This is no easy question for scientists to answer! In fact, they *cannot* answer it! How could such intelligence as man possesses evolve from undirected laws? And how could such laws arise? Why do we see such perfection and beauty in the natural world? Are we to believe there is no purpose in all of this?

Returning to the question of whether that which all men desire will ever come to pass—and if so, how—we need to go back to a starting point. There is much left out of the picture and many side points that we do not have time to address in this article, so let us begin with the first man and woman. After all, there had to be a first.

Evolutionists claim that man came from some kind of primate, but one must wonder how evolutionary processes developed male and female, regardless of where it started. Reproduction from two, as opposed to reproduction by a single cell splitting, is rather remarkable. Did it result from some unknown freakish accident, with both male and female somehow arising at the same time? What a remarkable *accident!* Or is there a Creator who brought it about? We at *Tomorrow’s World* believe that the *evidence* is on the side of an Intelligent Being we know of as God. Furthermore, we recognize that God did not leave us without a revelation of His plan and purpose for us.

If we look at His revelation, we find that He made man and woman, placed them in a beautiful envi-

ronment, and gave them a choice. “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’” (Genesis 2:15–17). The choice was clear. He could either trust God, or he could choose to determine for himself what is right and wrong. We know his choice. He and the woman chose to do it their way, and all men and women since have continued this course. Is it any wonder that problems result when man thinks he knows more than the One who created him?

As God spoke concerning ancient Israel, “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29). Contrary to popular belief, God gave us commandments, laws,

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and statutes for our good! Consider how different life would be if everyone observed even one of His com-

mandments. What if no one committed adultery? How much more stable would be our marriages. What if no one stole from his neighbor? What peace of mind we would have when we leave our homes. No longer a need for security systems. It would be a very different world if any one of the commandments were kept. The problem is, of course, complex. *You* may keep these laws, but not everyone does. However, we live in a world where we all bear some responsibility. Just consider how much of the entertainment we “enjoy” features the violation of the Ten Commandments. Take sex and violence out of entertainment, and scriptwriters would suffer “brain freeze”!

Mankind’s Only Solution

Jesus Christ *is* “the Desire of All Nations”! Some theologians are famous for saying “Jesus is the answer,” and that He is. But in what way is He the answer? This is where many of these theologians miss the mark.

Christ, His Apostles, and first-century Christians understood that Haggai’s prophecy of “the Desire”

was not completely fulfilled at Christ's first coming. They understood something that is generally lost in today's praise and worship services. Edward Gibbon explains, "The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ.... But when the edifice of the church was almost completed, the temporary support was laid aside. The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd

who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (6:33; 7:21).

Many are shocked to learn the reason Jesus spoke in parables. They think that He did so to better relate to fishermen, farmers, and shepherds, but this is not at all the case. When His disciples asked, "Why do You speak to them in parables?," He responded, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given" (Matthew 13:10–11; Mark

4:10–11). Few understand this, but it was Jesus' standard practice, often speaking to crowds only in parables, while later explaining the *meaning* of the parables to His disciples, alone: "All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable

He did not speak to them" (Matthew 13:34). "And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples" (Mark 4:34).

MOST PEOPLE ASSUME THAT "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" MEANS THAT WE GO TO HEAVEN, BUT THIS IS BOTH PROBLEMATIC AND IN ERROR

invention of heresy and fanaticism" (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 1, p. 262).

But *is it* heresy and fanaticism? Why did early Christians believe in the coming rule of a spirit-born Kingdom of God on earth? Because that *is* what Jesus taught! He preached a message about His coming Kingdom from the very beginning of His ministry. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.... Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:1, 14–15).

Jesus did not stay in one city, content with a comfortable little following. That was not why He was here. Instead, He traveled all throughout Galilee, Judea, and parts in between. Very early in His ministry, "the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent'" (Luke 4:42–43).

The Sermon on the Mount is at the heart of Christ's message. Yet how many notice all the references to His Kingdom? Check these passages out in your Bible: Matthew 5:3, 10, 19–20; and 6:10. Of special note is the command to "seek first the kingdom of God," and a warning that "Not everyone

The Message of Jesus' Parables

A study of Scripture reveals that the Kingdom of God was the focus of Jesus' parables. One parable was about a sower going out to sow. Some of the seed fell by the wayside, some fell on stony ground, some fell among thorns, and some fell on good ground (Mark 4:3–8; see verses 13–20 for the explanation). Matthew adds that this parable was about the Kingdom (Matthew 13:18–19).

It is important at this point to explain the difference between the expressions *Kingdom of God* and *Kingdom of heaven*. Matthew often uses "Kingdom of heaven," but he used the terms interchangeably, as in Matthew 19:23–24. So what is the difference?

Most people assume that "Kingdom of heaven" means that we go to heaven, but this is both problematic and in error. For example, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Yet two verses later He says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (v.5). Are we to understand that while the "poor in spirit" go to heaven, the meek "inherit the earth"?

THE MESSAGE CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

THE END OF ROE V. WADE?

Will abortion be banned in the U.S.?

With a new year begins a new slate of cases to come before the Supreme Court of the United States. After an astonishingly contentious confirmation hearing, Brett Kavanaugh joined that court last October, and his appointment brought with him a possibility that some would have considered impossible even a few years ago: Could the U.S. Supreme Court overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision?

Roe v. Wade, an infamous Supreme Court case from 1973, ruled that abortions were protected by the 14th Amendment's focus on personal privacy. While some states had already legalized abortions, this ruling struck down many states' anti-abortion laws, which had been on the books since the 1800s.

Many conservative Americans hope that the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh will encourage someone to bring a new case to the Supreme Court—a case that might allow a ruling against legalized abortions. How likely is this scenario? Can America actually backtrack after nearly a half-century of legalized abortions? Will the sanctity of unborn life be respected again?

The Case of *High Hopes v. Reality*

Regardless of where the new Supreme Court justice may stand or what effect he may have on the political or ideological leanings of the court, there are several reasons why the results of any future Supreme Court case will never completely rid America of abortion. The first is that even if the Supreme Court were to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, it would likely only return legal authority for regulating abortion to the states, and many states are expected to keep abortion legal.

The most vital reason, however, is that any government action against abortion would be a matter of treating the symptom and not the disease. Tragically, the United States seems to have forgotten that non-marital sex has consequences!

Since the sexual revolution of the 1960s, America and other Western nations have seemed driven to remove or ignore any of the consequences of non-marital sex—which the Bible calls the sin of *fornication*. Condoms are passed out freely, universal health care is proposed to help deal with the outbreak of sexually

transmitted diseases and infections, and abortions have been legal nationwide for 45 years. Yet sin inevitably brings repercussions, and many Americans have been ravaged with insecurity, anxiety, diseases, regret, and a host of other ailments due to their refusal to reserve sexual intimacy for marriage.

The Creator of the universe designed sex as something for a husband and wife to enjoy *within the confines of marriage*. When sex is reserved for marriage, many risks are greatly reduced or rendered



nonexistent: sexually transmitted diseases are not a concern to faithful couples who abstain from sex until

they are married, and pregnancies, while sometimes still unplanned, occur in an environment that maximizes support, both for parents and children. And instead of inevitably producing insecurity, anxiety, regret, and the like, sexual intimacy within the confines of marriage gives couples an opportunity for passion and tenderness, spontaneity and stability, within the safety and security of a larger, transcendent commitment that no man-made social structure can match.

Our Hearts Must Change

All of this is lost on most Americans today! Instead of looking to the Bible for moral guidance, they look to avoid the consequences of their sins. Rather than repenting of fornication and adultery, far too many simply think that they can live however selfishly they wish! Any changes to abortion laws on the federal or state level will not change the hearts of people who think of their own pleasure as the top priority.

I'm not saying that a reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would not be a positive step for the United States. However, that positive step is not a magical cure for the nation's woes. We have come to a point where people believe that they can obey their lusts and ignore the costs. No Supreme Court ruling will change that. Until true repentance occurs and *hearts* are changed, expectations about changes in *laws* must be tempered.

—Mark Sandor

#MeToo Is Nothing New



On October 25, 2018, Lord Peter Hain rose to his feet to address those assembled in the House of Lords, the United Kingdom's upper house of Parliament. His speech lasted all of 37 seconds, but created a blast that would not have been exceeded had he detonated a nuclear device. Rather controversially, he had taken upon himself the responsibility of exposing what he saw as an intolerable "modern-day" injustice.

The purpose of his speech was to reveal the identity of a prominent U.K. businessman charged with sexual harassment, whose name had been previously concealed by the High Court. Lord Hain used archaic laws of parliamentary privilege—which protect Members of Parliament and peers from libel lawsuits for what they say within the House of Commons and the House of Lords—to circumvent the judges and go public with the person's name. The businessman had been accused of gross sexual harassment of staff, and the uncovering of such allegations quickly led to others. In one case, a peerage—and thus a seat in the House of Lords—was offered in return for sexual favours.

So, 2018 in London appears to end on a similar note to where it began.

January 2018 started with identity, sex, and gender issues. Sexual harassment and exploitation charges by women against politicians, news personalities, and movie stars exploded in the media. Well-known men in positions of power—including Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers—were named and shamed, forced out of jobs, and saw their public standing shredded. Every section of society seemed to be included, as

more and more abused women joined what came to be called the "#MeToo" movement.

Yet one magazine that highlighted these scandals among its January 2018 headlines also boasted about "The Best Sex Scenes in Movies and Television of 2017" in the very same issue. Most modern societies appear to be completely obsessed with sex!

A Problem with a Long History

But these problems are not new. Down through the centuries, feudal kings, bishops, and nobles have used their power and position to get what they wanted. And this behavior goes back even further, all the way to the beginning of mankind's history as recorded in the Bible. The Book of Genesis alone recounts numerous situations that would be right at home with the ones that have been splashed across headlines and news channels over the past months.

From the time of Noah through the end of the book of Genesis, we are introduced to almost every form of sexual activity that has featured as part of the recent #MeToo movement: adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, rape, prostitution, and sexual harassment. Oftentimes the Bible uses euphemisms to describe these sins instead of the explicit language or "gutter talk" that is used today. But there are some exceptions: the rape of Dinah by the Prince of Shechem (Genesis 34:1-2); Reuben's indiscretion with his father's concubine, Bilhah, and the consequences (Genesis 35:22; 49:1-4); and the explicit references in Genesis 38 to Judah's escapades with prostitutes.

Are these events just recorded as salacious tales, or is there a greater lesson to be learned?



The experience of Abraham, a central figure in the book of Genesis, provides part of the answer. He had a beautiful wife, Sarah, in an age when beauty was the preserve of royal palaces and kings. A man could lose his life if someone more powerful wanted his wife to grace a palace or harem. Abraham found himself in such straits more than once: first when the Pharaoh of Egypt took Sarah into his palace (Genesis 12:10–20), and also when the King of Gerar took her to be his wife (Genesis 20:1–18).

On both occasions, God intervened to protect Sarah and return her, untouched, to Abraham, despite the fact that Abraham had misled these rulers to believe that Sarah was only his sister and not his wife. When questioned about why he had done this, Abraham's response was that he was afraid that he would be killed on account of Sarah, and specifically that the men in Gerar would kill him *because they did not fear God* (Genesis 20:11).

When Society No Longer Fears God

Like Abraham, we live in a world that has no fear of a Divine Being who might hold us accountable for our actions. We have chosen to become the arbiters of our own morality. We live in a society in which "fear" of God (i.e., a profound respect) barely exists. We like to think of ourselves as liberated—above all, from a God who presumes to tell us how we should live our lives.

Abraham's great-grandson Joseph was a young man who faced sexual harassment from his employer's wife. The result was that he was thrown into prison based on trumped-up charges of attempted rape, because he feared God and had refused to respond to her advances (Genesis 39:1–15). Joseph understood the sanctity of marriage and knew that it was not right to take another's wife, no matter how alluring and attractive that idea may have been. He understood that to indulge in sex with her would have been wickedness and sin (Genesis 39:8–9). He was driven by the fear of God, an almost unheard-of concept in the 21st century.

The Apostle Paul picked up on these thoughts while addressing Christians living in Corinth, one of the most sexually active cities in the world of the first century. He focused the minds of the Church then, and does so today, on a fundamental point that is lost to many people. It is our Creator alone who has the right to establish what is right and wrong in the use of our hormones and drives—and we are told to honour (fear) God with our bodies by "fleeing from sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18–20). Paul further emphasized this to the church at Thessalonica, adding that each of us should know "how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor" (1 Thessalonians 4:3–4).

The #MeToo headlines highlight something profoundly simple: We don't think as God does! Our "liberated" societies have established that sex is something for personal enjoyment, with the emphasis on "personal." It's for the self. And if we're not careful, it's all too easy for any of us to succumb to that way of thinking.

We need to be aware of what shapes our thinking and outlook in today's society. Is it the news media and the entertainment world, with their "anything goes" mentality? Or is it the teaching that has been given to us in God's word, His handbook for our lives? Do we give in to the libertine spirit and unbridled sexuality that characterize our world and have ruined the lives and reputations of so many people? Or do we approach others—including someone we are dating, or our spouse—in a way that reflects the "fear of God," which Abraham had to learn and which Joseph practiced?

Continue to read this magazine to learn more about the importance of fearing God and how doing so opens the door to solutions for the problems we face in this world.

—Peter Nathan



The Powerful Privilege of Prayer

Do you find prayer to be difficult or an unwelcome chore?
When you learn how to pray, it becomes a great privilege that
brings life-changing blessings and benefits!

By **Richard F. Ames**

We sometimes hear about the “one percent”—the affluent and powerful elite who have access to privileges and opportunities not available to most people. They may own mansions, yachts, and even personal jets. Do we envy them? Do we imagine that their wealth gives them happiness?

The encouraging truth is that those who know the Holy Bible, and the God of the Bible, enjoy a privilege that cannot be bought with all the wealth of the world. Very few people can talk freely with the ruler of their nation, but **you** can unburden your heart in conversation with One far more powerful—the Ruler of the universe!

Do you feel that God is answering your prayers? Your Bible reveals vital keys to answered prayer—keys unknown to carnal seekers of power, possession, and pleasure. The God of heaven offers you a privilege that can bring awesome benefits and blessings. You need to know how you can have those blessings through the powerful privilege of prayer.

We all have needs. Billions around the world suffer from extreme poverty, lack of water, poor sanitary conditions, wars, diseases, and starvation. In the Western world, we are accustomed to a far higher standard of living than those in the so-called Least Developed Countries—nations in which, according to the United Nations, the per capita gross income is less than \$1,025 per year. Very few of us in the industrialized West experience that kind of poverty. But we do experience the stress of terrorism, school shootings, and other forms of

violence. Many have serious medical conditions and financial troubles. Where can we find help? What is the greatest resource available?

What are your needs? Are you lacking food, clothing, housing, or a job? Perhaps your needs are more social. You may need comfort. You may need friends. You may need better relationships with your own family members. How can you ensure those needs are met? Of course, you should do all you humanly can do, and take advantage of every resource available to you. **But you should never neglect the powerful privilege of prayer!** With prayer, what might seem impossible can become possible through God’s merciful intervention. Consider this powerful promise, which the Apostle Paul wrote while commending the Philippians for their attitude of generosity: “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Perhaps you feel neglected, or left out, or unimportant, when you see how our world’s politicians and businessmen cultivate professional contacts and seek favor from those in more powerful offices or positions. People in the business world, the government, the legal profession, high finance, and other positions of power often exercise influence on behalf of those who petition them for help. *Oxford Living Dictionaries* defines a “power broker” as “a person who deliberately affects the distribution of political or economic power by exerting influence or by intrigue.”

Do you need a “power broker” to help you advance in life? Who will be able to help you the most? Who will be able to guide you toward true success and true

happiness? Dear readers, there is no higher position than God's throne in heaven. God promises you His personal love, grace, and mercy. Humble yourself, get down on your knees and pray to your Father in heaven, and you will gain benefits far beyond what you can imagine. Am I exaggerating? Not at all! It is a promise I have claimed many times, with wonderful results. God can and will accomplish extraordinary blessings for us, if we come to His throne in faith. "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20–21).

Yes, God gives us the privilege of coming before His throne in heaven—through prayer. And your Bible shows you how to pray so that you can truly trust God to provide "all your needs" and bless you "abundantly."

Seek God's Will

You have probably heard of selfish prayers or "Gimme" prayers. They focus only on asking God to "give me whatever I want." People whose prayers go no further than that are often disappointed.

Please don't misunderstand—God truly does want the best for each of us. We *can* ask for our needs to be fulfilled, and we *should* ask. But what is your attitude in asking? Is it focused merely on selfishly getting ahead? Is it to have your own way, as if God is your personal butler or vending machine? Would

we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14–15).

Even Jesus the Christ (Greek for "Messiah") surrendered His will to His Father's will. On the night before He was crucified, "He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done'" (Luke 22:41–42). Had there been another way, Christ would have chosen something other than the excruciatingly painful death He suffered. Yet His first priority was the will of His Father.

Christ taught us this principle when He gave His disciples the "model prayer" (Matthew 6; Luke 11). When we follow His model in our own prayers, we begin by addressing our Father in heaven and honoring His name. We then pray for the prophesied Kingdom of God to come to planet Earth. But notice the next aspect of our prayer: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Yes, Christ taught us to pray that **God's will** be done here on earth. His will involves the mightiest of nations and the humblest of individuals. It may seem hard, at first, to surrender to God's will in our lives. Yet, God assures us that when we do so, we will experience contentment, comfort, confidence, and peace of mind. Ancient King David wrote of this joyous, humble attitude: "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

Be honest with yourself. Would you rather have

"things" that become a burden and a source of envy? Or, would you rather have the "delight" that comes from knowing you are doing God's will, and are receiving the specific blessings that He knows you need? The closer you come to God's will, the more you can have that delight. God reveals His

will in the Holy Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Read your Bible daily. The more you know God's will, the more your prayers will be answered in harmony with His care and concern for you!

Claim God's Promises

Do you really need a big, expensive mansion? Do you really need a fast, new automobile? Do you need

AS WE STRIVE TO DRAW CLOSE TO GOD, WE NEED TO SHARE OUR INTIMATE THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WITH HIM IN PRAYER

you really expect God to make your wishes come true, if those wishes would hurt you or even get in the way of your eternal life? Of course not! When we grow as Christians, our will comes closer to God's will. Now, notice the wonderful promise God gives to those who seek His will above their own: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if

millions and millions of dollars? Our loving God will not give you things that will only distract you from your loving, obedient relationship with Him. Rather, He will give you whatever you need, and He will fulfill your desires when they are in harmony with His will. Never doubt that God is your loving Father. How great is His love? Let's look at one example from Scripture: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:7–11). If we believe that normal human fathers sincerely love their children, we should have even greater confidence in God's love for us!

Bare Your Heart

As we strive to draw close to God, we need to share our intimate thoughts and feelings with Him in prayer. We know that He does not always grant our requests on our own timetable, and we may

be hesitant to admit to ourselves our longing, our frustration, and our deep desire to know His will for us. How should we respond to Him? We should strive to be as open in our prayers as ancient King David was in his. Some of David's prayers may at first sound like complaints, as when he cried out, "How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?... Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death" (Psalm 13:1, 3).

Are you frustrated? Share your frustration with God. Your human friends and family may grow tired of hearing your innermost struggles, but God is patient and will always be there for you. However, be sure that you don't just complain. Have the courage to take responsibility for your actions. Admit your failures, your offenses, your mistakes, and your wrongful habits, actions, and thoughts. Perhaps you have a problem with uncontrolled anger, drug abuse, gluttony, or sexual lust. Whatever you may have done, **confess your sins to Him**. God gives us this promise: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God is willing to forgive our sins, *if* we acknowledge them, *if* we confess them to Him—and *if* we are willing to change our ways of





living. If God does not seem to be answering your prayers, He may be telling you, “You need to repent first, and make amends such as you are able.”

John also wrote that “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). Even King David, a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22), confessed his sin to God—adultery with Bathsheba and sending her husband Uriah the Hittite to death in battle. Despite the gravity of his sin, David prayed humbly in repentance, and he trusted in God’s forgiveness. His words should resonate with all of us: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm 51:1–2).

How can we be cleansed from our sin? The Savior of the world, as He is called in John 4:42 and 1 John 4:14, shed His blood to pay for our sin. John the Baptist testified of Him, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Are You Willing to Change?

We must be willing to repent of carnal behaviors and attitudes, choosing instead to live in harmony with God’s law of love—the Ten Commandments, and Christ’s magnification of those commandments. We

need to walk in the light of truth. God’s word—the Bible—**is** truth (John 17:17). Consider this promise: “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). What an amazing privilege God has given us!

Come humbly before God in prayer, just like King David, who said, “I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge” (Psalm 51:3–4).

You may be familiar with the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee was proud of his religious rituals. But what was the attitude of the tax collector? “And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13). What did Christ say about the tax collector’s attitude? “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (v. 14).

Do not fear. God will bless you as you confess your sins to Him in prayer. When you share your sins, worries, and frustrations with God, He will give you peace of mind. You can then grow and learn the way

of abundant and successful living! Cry out to Him as King David did: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

Follow the Example of the “Model Prayer”

People often misunderstand the “model prayer”—often called the “Lord’s Prayer”—in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. Our Savior did not give us this prayer to repeat verbatim; in fact, He gave us this warning: “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (Matthew 6:7). Christian prayer is not the repetition of some phrase or verse. The prophet Hosea lamented the lax approach he saw around him, of people for whom prayer was rote and routine: “They never put their heart into their prayers” (Hosea 7:14, *Moffatt*). Christ wants us to do better—to pray from the heart, addressing the topics He described in His model prayer.

As mentioned earlier, the model prayer teaches us to pray to our Father and honor His name. Yes, we are to pray for our own needs, and for forgiveness for ourselves and for others (Matthew 6:11–12). We are to pray for protection against Satan and his temptations. But we are also to pray for God’s will to be done, and for His Kingdom to be established on the earth. Why do you want God’s Kingdom to come? Today’s world is filled with wars, violence, poverty, and catastrophic natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, floods, drought, and volcanic eruptions. Tomorrow’s world—the Kingdom of God—will rejoice with sustainable agriculture, rain in due season, prosperity, and peace among nations. Pray for God’s Kingdom to come soon, and look forward to a glorious world under the loving rule of the King of kings and Lord of lords—the Prince of Peace, the Messiah—Christ Jesus.

As we pray about each topic in the model prayer, in whatever ways apply to us and our present situation, we are praying according to God’s will. In doing so, we should remember God’s promise: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14).

Pray in Jesus’ Name

While God tells us to come boldly before His throne of Grace, we need to understand that we have a Great High Priest at His right hand. By whose authority do you pray to God in heaven? Notice what our Lord and Savior told His disciples. “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full” (John 16:23–24).


Jesus the Christ is our great High Priest who makes intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). He gives us the authority to pray to God in heaven. We pray in Jesus’ name and by His authority. Since He has given us that authority, we can pray boldly, as we saw in Hebrews 4:16.

We can pray with confidence because Christ is our High Priest and Savior. He sympathizes with our weaknesses. He knows what it’s like to suffer. He was tempted in all points, as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

The Privilege Is Yours!

God wants you to be His begotten son or daughter. He has shown His love by giving His son to pay for your sins. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Dear readers, time is growing short as the world moves headlong toward the Great Tribulation and Armageddon. You need God’s protection, guidance, and assurance. **Now** is the time to seek God with all your heart. Remember this powerful admonition: “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. 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 55:6–7).

God in heaven invites you to come to Him through the powerful privilege of prayer. Apply these keys to answered prayer, and you will experience blessings you have never experienced before in your life. 

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Make Your Family a Priority

Folk singer Harry Chapin's 1974 song "Cat's in the Cradle" poignantly depicts a scenario familiar to too many families. The first two verses of the song describe a father who is repeatedly too busy to spend time with his growing son. The last two verses tell of the son, now an adult, who does not have time for his dad. Between each verse, the heartbreaking chorus repeats the point that each says he will spend time with the other when he has more to spare.

There are a few powerful lessons illustrated in "Cat's in the Cradle," and one is to prioritize your family over other obligations, even your work, while you have the opportunity.

We may say that our families are a top priority, but do our lives reflect that? How we use our time reveals what matters most to us. Consider how much time you spent with your family over the past month and you will probably see reflected the priority you put on your family. As Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Why It Matters

Another lesson from "Cat's in the Cradle" is that parents set the standard for how family time is prioritized. As portrayed in the song, the son grew up to be just like his father, who set an example of not spending time with his family.

In the article, "Importance of Family Time on Kids Mental Health and Adjustment to Life," child psychiatrist Gail Fernandez writes, "Children from birth to adulthood need time and attention from their parents" (*ChildDevelopmentInfo.com*, January 4, 2012). She lists five benefits of time parents spend with their children:

1. The child feels important and loved.
2. He or she has an opportunity to model the parent's behavior.
3. The parent can observe and learn about the child's strengths and weaknesses, in order to better guide the child.
4. The child has a chance to voice personal thoughts and feelings.
5. The parent and child strengthen the bond between them.

Simply put, parents show that they value their children by spending time with them. When children feel that they are a priority, their place in the family is validated. Indeed, developing each child's sense of belonging is one of the important purposes of family. As communication expert Deborah Tannen puts it, "Family represents a sense of belonging—a foundation for everything else we are or do. It feels that if we can fit into our families, we can fit into the world" (*I Only Say This Because I Love You*, 2002, p. xvi).

However, it is not only children who benefit from this connection. Parents learn the personalities and traits of their children as they take the time to get to know each child as a unique individual to be appreciated. If parents challenge themselves to love their children through positive engagement, their family will be closer—and stronger—as a result.

If this sounds like the family environment you would like to have, you can! There are many ways that your family can create an atmosphere of mutual nurturing that validates each member, but it will not happen accidentally. You must decide that you want to make this

one of your highest priorities. In other words, you must be *intentional* in creating this type of family. Here are two suggestions that may help you accomplish this goal.

Create Family Traditions

Every family is an independent group that builds its own culture on the collective preferences of its members. Much of this culture naturally and unconsciously develops over time, but other aspects of it should be intentionally guided. This is where creating traditions can shape the tone and identity—the culture—of a family.

According to Brett and Kate McKay of *The Art of Manliness*, “Traditions are behaviors and actions that you engage in again and again—regular rituals that you perform at the same time and/or in the same way. Traditions can be big or small, but they differ from routines and habits in that they are done with a specific purpose in mind and require thought and intentionality” (“Creating a Positive Family Culture: The Importance of Establishing Family Traditions,” 2013, artofmanliness.com).

The McKays also suggest that each family should

Instead of shoveling in food on the run, family members can make daily, shared meals the single most effective time to connect with each other.

have three types of traditions: daily traditions, weekly traditions, and traditions of family milestones. Every family has opportunities to *intentionally* create such traditions.

Perhaps the most important and obvious daily activity to make a family tradition is sharing meals together. Instead of shoveling in food on the run, or allowing mealtimes to be dominated by media devices, family members can make daily,

shared meals the single most effective time to connect with each other.

According to *The Family Dinner Project*, “Over the past 15 years, research has shown what parents have known for a long time: Sharing a fun family meal is good for the spirit, brain and health of all family members. Recent studies link regular family meals with the kinds of behaviors that parents want for their children: higher grade-point averages, resilience and self-esteem. Additionally, family meals are linked to lower rates of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, eating disorders and depression” (TheFamilyDinnerProject.org).

There are other daily rituals that can also become positive family traditions, such as reading to each other, singing together, taking evening walks, bedtime stories, etc. Don’t overlook asking the kids for ideas. The point is to create traditions that work for your family.

Schedule Family Time

Members of a family may have sincere intentions to spend time together, but the busyness of life tends to take over. This is why purposefully *scheduling* family time is necessary. One of the easiest ways to do this is to designate a weekly family day or night, on which the family is focused upon being—and doing something—together.

There are so many activities a family can do during this scheduled time together, many of which are free. Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

- Ride bicycles together. Many areas have community bike trails.
- Visit an elderly friend or family member who may be in a nursing home or otherwise unable to leave his or her home.
- Take a stroll together at a local park.
- Work on a jigsaw puzzle together.
- Take out some old family photo albums, or look through pictures taken during a family event.
- Visit a local farm that is open to the public and designed for visitors.
- Play a board game or card game after dinner.
- Look up nearby museums or planetariums. Some have free admission.
- Go fishing.
- Head out to an open field and play frisbee or fly a kite.
- Go roller skating or ice skating.

With a little creativity, the possibilities are endless!

One way to ensure variety is to have the members of your family take turns choosing weekly activities. You are only limited by your imagination. The point is to make the activity a priority by *scheduling* family time.

It’s All Up to You

Don’t let “Cat’s in the Cradle” become your family’s theme song. Take the time now to make your family a priority!

—Phil Sena

The answer is simple. In this context the word *of* indicates ownership. When we speak of the Bank of Morgan, we understand that the bank is not *in* the man named Morgan. Morgan was the owner or founder of it. Likewise, the “Kingdom of heaven” will be wholly owned and run according to the laws and principles of God, who reigns in heaven! On the other hand, our actual inheritance is the *earth*.

Many scriptures demonstrate in the clearest of terms that the Kingdom of God will be established on earth! One of the most powerful is found in Zechariah 14. The chapter begins by informing us that “the day of the LORD is coming” (v. 1). In reference to the Messiah, it tells us that “in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives” (v. 4). This is confirmed by the New Testament account of Jesus ascending into a cloud from the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:9–12). Zechariah continues by declaring that “the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9).

Next, read Zechariah 14:16–19. Blow the dust off your Bible and read it for yourself! The Kingdom of God will rule on this earth, not up in heaven! Those who are Christ’s at His coming are destined to rule with Him (Revelation 20:4), and where will we rule? We are told that we will be “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation

says, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God?” Matthew 13 records that Jesus likened the Kingdom to a mustard seed, to leaven, to an enemy sowing tares among wheat, to hidden treasure, to a pearl of great price, and to a dragnet.

Jesus instructed His followers to preach the Gospel, the good news of the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:60–62). His disciples understood that this would be a real Kingdom ruling on this earth. What they did not understand was *when* the Kingdom would be set up. That was why Jesus gave the parable of the nobleman. He gave the parable “because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately” (Luke 19:11). He went on to show that He would go into a far country (to heaven after His resurrection) and would return to the earth sometime in the future, calling His servants to account for what they had done with what they had been given.

Many have heard of Joseph of Arimathea, but how many realize that his goal in life was the Kingdom of God? Read it for yourself in Luke 23:50–51. Jesus spoke of this Kingdom after His resurrection, and His disciples understood His message. They wanted to know *when* (Acts 1:3, 6).

What about the Apostle Paul? What was his message? On one special occasion he spoke to the elders

of Ephesus, saying, “I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more” (Acts 20:25). This was the same message he taught while in Roman custody: “So when they had appointed him a day... he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses

and the Prophets.... preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 28:23, 31).

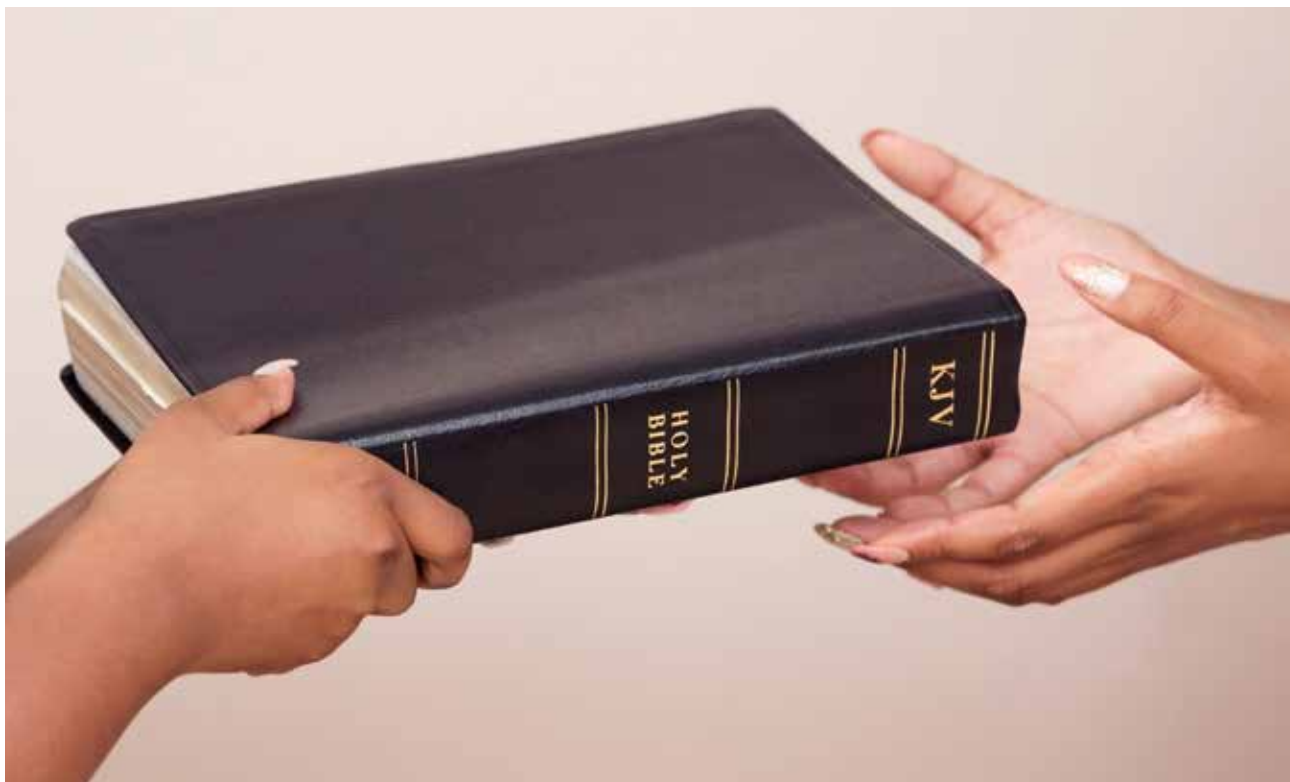
The newly ordained deacon named Philip went down to Samaria and “preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 8:12). Note that he not only preached about the Kingdom, but also about the name of Jesus Christ. We also saw this in the previous paragraph regarding Paul’s preaching.

THE WORD “GOSPEL” SIMPLY MEANS “GOOD NEWS” AND ONE CANNOT SIMPLY SEPARATE THE MESSAGE OF GOD’S KINGDOM FROM THE GOOD NEWS OF WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US

5:10). So when the Bible refers to the Kingdom of heaven, it does not refer to a kingdom *in* heaven but simply to God’s Kingdom. It is another way of referring to the Kingdom of God.

Did His Disciples “Get it”?

We have already seen that the parable of the sower is about the Kingdom. Now let us look at a few more parables. Mark 4:26 reads, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.” Verse 30



The word *gospel* simply means *good news*, and one cannot separate the message of God's Kingdom from the good news of what Christ did for us. He gave His life so that we may live in God's Kingdom. He is the way *to* the Kingdom and the King *of* the Kingdom! Yes, the central message of the New Testament is all about Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God! The problem is that the message that He proclaimed has been abandoned. It has been replaced by a message about the *person* of Christ. And sadly, the message preached about that person named Jesus is often grossly distorted or, frankly, describes someone else entirely.

As Paul corrected the church of God at Corinth, "For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it" (2 Corinthians 11:4). He went on to explain that not all who call themselves by the name of Christ are Christ's servants. No, many are servants of another! "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 ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works" (vv. 13–15). Those are powerful words! Paul called them ministers of Satan, even though they appear on the surface to be ministers of righteousness and ministers of Christ.

One must wonder *why* the good news of Christ's Kingdom coming to this earth is not more widely preached. After all, unless He does return, no flesh will survive mankind's rebellious path (Matthew 24:21–22). The return of Jesus Christ to this earth is the best news one could ever imagine. Perhaps that is why Jesus instructs us to keep it at the forefront of our minds when we pray. As the sample prayer says, "Your kingdom come.... For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:10, 13). ^[TW]

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THE Works OF HIS HANDS

Science and the Glory of Kings

In some ways, science is reminiscent of one of the biblical proverbs: “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2). The “hard” sciences—physics, chemistry, biology, and their subdisciplines—represent the spirit of this verse well. Each of these disciplines is an effort to explore the works of the Creator’s hands and seek out facts hidden under the surface. Like an engine concealed beneath the hood of a car, so many of the intricate, inner workings of His creation are concealed under the surface, and there is wonder to be found in revealing them.

Perhaps the proverb helps to explain how science has come to be treated almost like a religion today, and scientists as priests. There is an aura about the work of science. Its findings are treated in a way that pronouncements about God’s revelation and the Bible once were, and those who question the consensus of scientists are sometimes treated like secular heretics.

Yet, for the noble pursuit it can be and the “glory” it brings, science is still a very human pursuit, subject to human fallibilities. This side of science was on display in the news recently, and meditating on what transpired can teach us a number of worthwhile things.

Waving Goodbye to Gravity Waves?

If you were a subscriber of this magazine in 2016, you may have read our article “Einstein, God and Gravity Waves” in that year’s May-June issue. The finding that had been announced earlier that year was impressive and inspiring: A team manning the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory

(LIGO) experiment announced that gravity waves had finally been discovered—the result of a collision of two black holes, far away in space. The LIGO teams created innovative and remarkably sensitive instruments that seemed to have detected minute ripples in the spacetime fabric of the universe. Such ripples, or gravity waves, are predicted by Albert Einstein’s general theory of relativity.

The discovery was hailed far and wide, and we reported on it ourselves, noting how remarkable it was that Einstein could, essentially, begin with “thought experiments”—limited to the confines of our relatively small world—and draw accurate conclusions about such events deep in the cosmos. The discovery was, as we wrote then, “a tribute to God’s magnificent and orderly design at the foundation of reality!”

Or at least it was until recently.

As reported in *New Scientist* in their November 3, 2018 issue (“Wave Goodbye?” by Michael Brooks), particle physicist and cosmologist Andrew Jackson and a group of fellow researchers at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark, began to examine the LIGO results the moment they were announced, and they had serious questions. They are experts at examining large collections of data and distinguishing between legitimate signals in the data and mere noise. (Imagine listening to a weak radio station with a lot of static. The static is the “noise,” while the music you are trying to hear is the “signal.”)

The Danish team disputes the gravity wave detection, claiming that the LIGO team did not properly process the noise in the data and that the signal detected by the team is an illusion created by that

mistake. As *New Scientist* notes, their doubts have won over a number of scientists. Most of the LIGO team is resolute in their conviction that they did, indeed, detect gravity waves, and others sit along the spectrum between those positions.

It seems that, for now, the jury is still out.

Larger Lessons

Regardless of how the matter is eventually settled, the questions now surrounding the LIGO experience give an opportunity to reflect.

First, it should be noted that there is a reason searching out something God has hidden is the “glory of kings”: It is not easy work. God’s creation is marvelous and serves as a fitting monument to the ingenuity and intelligence of the One who created it. As we had noted in our own article, it is a wonder that we can understand *anything* of the cosmos—a tribute to the fact that He has made this physical realm according to real laws and ordinances that *can* be discovered (cf. Jeremiah 33:25), consistent with His own existence as an orderly and rational God. But that doesn’t mean that they are easy to find and understand.

And, further still, it is a reminder of the truly humble position we occupy in comparison to our Creator. Psalm 147:5 declares, “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.” Note: *His* understanding is infinite. *Ours* most definitely is not. When King David contemplated the remarkable capabilities of the mind of God—and the joyous fact that such a mind actually took note of his own small life in this world—he concluded, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it” (Psalm 139:6).

While we are able to discover true wonders in the manifold creations of our Maker—the traces of His fingerprints upon their forms—we are only catch-

ing those glimpses we are capable of perceiving. As the patriarch Job noted, “Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can under-

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stand?” (Job 26:14). When searching for those fingerprints, those whispers, humility should be our

guide. A profound understanding that we are groping around in His world, not He in ours (cf. Acts 17:27), should be our close companion.

The LIGO discussion should also remind us that, in this life, we will never know *everything*, however much we may want to. The Apostle Paul embraced that fact, understanding that, at this time, we “know in part,” and that only upon our glorification and entrance into the Kingdom of God will we at last know thoroughly, even as God knows us (1 Corinthians 13:12). Until then, there will always be missing pieces of the puzzle—perhaps just enough missing pieces to prompt us to pause, reflect, and consider whether or not we are spending enough time solving the *right* puzzle.

The Greatest Search

Because, in the end, there is a puzzle that is more important than the others—a search that glorifies us more than any other we could undertake. It involves doing more than scouring the works of His hands for hidden knowledge of how everything works. It requires embracing the fact that we, ourselves—all of us—are the work of His hands, and that He has fashioned and molded us for a *purpose*.

Finding that purpose, and the means of achieving that purpose, is the search of a lifetime. And instead of groping in the dark—unable to separate the signal from the noise—we can find what we need directly, if we are simply and humbly willing to go to the Source. We are told that the search does not cost \$620 million like the LIGO detectors, but it does cost “all your heart” and “all your soul” (Deuteronomy 4:29). On one hand, that seems a much higher price. Yet, on the other, it is a very small price indeed when one understands the goal of such a search: Not to partake of the glory of kings, but to share in the glory of God (1 Thessalonians 2:12).

—Wallace Smith



Northern leg (x-arm) of LIGO interferometer on Hanford Reservation



TURNING POINTS

in

WORLD HISTORY

ISLAM'S LAST JIHAD

Recent decades have witnessed the global resurgence of militant Islam. This modern eruption is surprising to scholars, especially those who assume that as societies modernize and become more secular, religion will gradually fade away. However, Islam is now the fastest-growing religion in the world, and within that faith, an Islamist revival is driven by zealous believers determined to reverse the course of history. Their goal is to return to the “true faith,” reclaim former territories, and fulfill Muhammad’s promise that Islam will ultimately dominate—and eliminate—all other religions. They believe that this will occur when Sharia law is imposed upon the world—and America, Britain, Europe, and Israel are in their sights!

But will the course of history actually *turn again* in favor of Islam? Ancient Bible prophecies reveal a surprising answer.

Undiscussed Aspects of Islam

Modern politicians, academics, and theologians seek to portray Islam as a religion of peace, and it is seen that way by many Muslims. They claim that *jihad* is merely an internal spiritual struggle, and that amicable coexistence is possible when people of different faiths understand one another. However, the facts of history and the fundamental teachings of Islam tell a very different story—and radical Islamists want to return to those original, fundamental teachings.

The religion of Islam, from its inception in Arabia in the 600s A.D., has been an *implacable foe* of those it calls “unbelievers”—including Christians, Jews, and Western civilization. As stated in the Quran, the teach-

ings of Muhammad command true followers of Islam to “fight those among the People of the Book [Jews and Christians] who do not believe in Allah... nor embrace the religion of truth [Islam], until they pay the *jizya* [an extortion tax on unbelievers] with willing submission and feel themselves subdued” (Quran 9:5, 20; see also *Sword and Scimitar* by Raymond Ibrahim, p. 11). The sobering alternatives: Convert to Islam, be enslaved, or die!

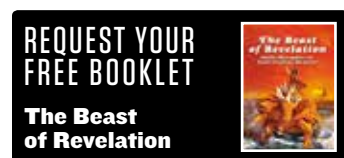
The concept of *jihad* or “holy war” against infidels—unbelievers—was promoted by Muhammad as a religious duty. He promised his followers rich rewards (the spoils of war) in this life if they *survived*, but if they *died* in battle, the reward was immediate access to Paradise, with rivers of wine and beautiful maidens—an exhilarating win-win situation for jihadists. As these fiercely driven warriors surged out of Arabia, they rapidly conquered Jerusalem, the Middle East, and all of North Africa, threatening both Eastern and Western Europe. They left a trail of death and destruction as they slaughtered, beheaded, and tortured “infidels,” and enslaved countless Africans and Europeans. Men and boys were castrated and sold, while women and girls were consigned to Muslim harems. This part of the forgotten history of Islam persisted for 1,400 years. Modern radical Islamists have not so much as “hijacked” Islam, as some claim—rather, they are simply reviving *traditional* Islam (Ibrahim, pp. xiv–xv).

The clash between Islam and Christendom is also marked by sharply conflicting religious beliefs and the West’s reluctance to worship Allah or accept Muhammad as his messenger. Islam recognizes numerous biblical personalities, including Jesus, but Muslims believe that Jews and Christians corrupted the Holy

Scripture and that Allah's final revelations to Muhammad corrected the problems—thus they believe that the Old and New Testaments are untrustworthy. Islam teaches that Jesus was only one of many prophets, was not the Son of God, did not die by crucifixion and was not resurrected, but instead ascended into heaven and will return in the Last Days to assist the Mahdi in converting the world to Islam. The Quran differs greatly from the Bible in many ways, such as allowing wife-beating (Quran 4:34) and commanding amputation as punishment for thievery (5:38). The Bible instructs Christians to “love your enemies” (Luke 6:27), but the Quran states, “unbelievers are unto you enemies” and “slay them wherever you catch them” (4:101 and 2:191-193; see also *Differences: The Bible and the Koran* by Ben J. Smith). Western laws that are contrary to instructions in the Quran offend some Muslims, and the sexual license and moral degeneracy of the increasingly godless West are viewed by some as an affront to Allah that must be removed.

The Last Jihad

Today's burning question is: Where is this resurgence of Islamist anger and aggression going to lead? History records that the Muslim quest for world domination by holy wars (or jihads) is marked by periods of conquest and defeat (see *Destiny Disrupted* by Tamin Ansary). A long period of effort begun under Muhammad himself was eventually thwarted by defeats at the



battle of Tours and at the siege of Vienna. The Ottoman Turks and Crimean Tartars saw the conquest of

“Christian” Constantinople, but that effort ended with the defeat of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

The current resurgence of Islam is considered by some to be part of a “Third Jihad”—one marked by bombings and armed attacks in Europe, America, and elsewhere. However, this latest revival is not limited to violence and terror. There is also a *demographic* aspect to this jihad, involving higher birthrates among Muslims and their massive migration into Europe and North America. This has become a *cultural jihad*, as some Muslims demand Sharia law courts and changes in laws to accommodate Muslim customs and practices—meanwhile local traditions are restricted in order to avoid offending Muslims. In parts of Sweden, Islamic

prayer calls are permitted, but church bells are not allowed to ring. As part of this cultural jihad, Muslim groups pressure schools to present Islam favorably and have special days when students adopt Muslim dress, assume Muslim names, and recite Muslim prayers, while the history and customs of host nations are minimized or ignored. Numerous observers see this as part of an organized strategy to bring about the gradual Islamization and conquest of the West (see *The Third Jihad: Radical Islam's Vision for America* by Wayne Kopping and Erik Werth). If it is not an organized strategy, it is certainly a developing trend. Of course, ISIS and its operatives have openly promised to obliterate Israel and to conquer Europe, London, Rome, and Washington, D.C.

The Arab World, Europe, and Prophecy

Will Islam eventually dominate Western civilization, or will history *turn again* in another direction? The prophet Daniel records, “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack” the king of the North (Daniel 11:40). However, Daniel's prophecy also states that “the king of the North shall come against him [the king of the South] like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships”—in other words, the king of the North will *react*, invading and occupying the territory of the king of the South (Daniel 11:41-43).

The king of the North will be linked to the ancient Roman Empire (as is the European Union) and will emerge as a “beast” power centered in Europe (Daniel 2:40-45; 7:7, 23-27). It will be associated with a prominent church and a major religious leader, also centered in Europe, and it will be composed of ten kings or leaders who surrender their sovereignty to a central authority (see Revelation 13 and 17). Meanwhile, Daniel's prophecies indicate the king of the South is connected to countries that are part of the Arab world, dominated by the religion of Islam. Islamist terror, the relentless demographic pressure of Muslim migration into Europe, and the cultural efforts to promote Islam are all part of what is perceived by many to be an Islamic threat to European identities, values, and homelands. Could such pressures play a role in igniting the fulfillment of these end-time prophecies? What lies ahead in the Middle East could well be another *critical turning point in history*—a violent replay of the Crusades of the Middle Ages—with a destructive but familiar ending for this last jihad.

—Douglas Winnail

and even in the unlikely event that real evidence of a multiverse were found, *it would not prove that God did not create it.*

What Did the Designer Say?

Those who create do so for a reason. What is the Creator of the universe working toward? His word answers: the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob tells us that He did both the creating and the “fine tuning,” and He *reveals* His great purpose for the creation and for human existence. No cosmologists, philosophers, theologians, or physicists can *deduce* what God is doing. God’s purposes must be revealed.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God puts things in perspective. “‘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). He has *infinite* knowledge and wisdom, and has lived forever.

God issues a challenge to those who think that they can know more than He does: “Remember this, and show yourselves men; recall to mind, O you transgressors. 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’” (Isaiah 46:8–10).

What Is the Reason?

God reveals that He has had a plan from the very beginning of the universe. The Apostle Paul explained, “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends [Greek: *telos*—final outcomes] of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). The final stage

of God’s plan intimately involves a people that He is setting apart in this age.

This great plan is not something that people can observe scientifically, or reason through on their own. *This plan is revelatory.* The Apostle Matthew reported, “All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter *things kept secret from the foundation of the world*’” (Matthew 13:34–35).

What is this well-kept secret? That God is creating children! Sons and daughters of God! “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy

to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God... For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now” (Romans 8:18–22). This

great event—the birth of the children of God—will happen when Jesus Christ returns to establish His Kingdom on earth.

These immortal children will be given a Kingdom that will encompass the whole world, bringing the blessings of God’s truth to all of mankind. “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).

At the end of his 1999 book, Professor Martin Rees asks the big question that most scientists would rather avoid. “Are there an infinity of other universes that are ‘badly tuned’, and therefore sterile? Is our entire universe an ‘oasis’ in a multiverse? *Or should we seek other reasons for the providential values of our six numbers?*” (*Just Six Numbers*, p. 161, emphasis added).

GOD REVEALS THAT HE HAS HAD A PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE. WHAT IS THIS SECRET? THAT GOD IS CREATING CHILDREN! SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GOD!

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

The Real God: Proofs and Promises Many mistakenly believe science has done away with God. Prove His existence for yourself! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Just what is the unpardonable sin?

Question: In Matthew 12:31–32, Jesus spoke of an unpardonable sin. What is this sin, and why can it not be forgiven?

Answer: The thought of being cut off from God forever is horrible to contemplate. Yet many sincere people have misunderstood this matter and are needlessly worried.

In Matthew 12, a demon-possessed man was brought to Jesus for healing. After the demon was cast out, this man regained his eyesight and ability to speak. A crowd witnessed this amazing miracle and exclaimed, “Could this be the Son of David?” (Matthew 12:22–23). They thought Jesus might be the prophesied Messiah, for such power “was never seen like this in Israel!” (9:32–33).

The Pharisees, seething with envy, tried to discredit Christ by saying that He performed this miracle “by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons” (12:24). Jesus responded with a somber warning: “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will *not* be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (vv. 31–32). Jesus held these unconverted Pharisees responsible for their attitudes.

The word “blaspheme” comes from the Greek *blasphemeo*—“to rail against, to speak contemptuously of God or of sacred things” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, p. 69). Jesus called it blasphemy to “speak against” the Son of Man and the Holy Spirit. Why was blasphemy forgivable against Jesus Christ, but *unforgivable* against the Holy Spirit?

Jesus came in the flesh as a common Jew of his day—a humble carpenter’s son. The average person


could easily misunderstand who He was. Physically, He did not appear special or unique (Isaiah 53:2). Yet no one—not even the resentful Pharisees—could mistake the power of the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, knew that Jesus was a teacher from God. He knew God’s power was with Christ (John 3:1–2)! The multitudes, too, loudly acknowledged this truth that the Pharisees tried to deny.

In spite of *knowing better*, the Pharisees attributed Christ’s miracles to the evil work of Beelzebub, another name for Satan the Devil (Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). The Pharisees’ actions insulted the very power of God, calling it “an unclean spirit” (Mark 3:28–30).

The Apostle Paul also warns Christians about dangers leading to the unpardonable sin: “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the *heavenly gift*, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have *tasted the good word of God* and the *powers of the age to come*, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:4–6).

The unpardonable sin involves falling away after experiencing the “good word of God” and God’s power, and doing so to such an extent that repentance becomes “impossible.” The Pharisees had observed firsthand many wonderful miracles performed by the power of God’s Spirit, so they were in danger of willfully rejecting not only Jesus Christ, but also the very power of God that transforms people into the Sons of God (Romans 8:15). They were about to “sin willfully” (Hebrews 10:26), irreparably searing their consciences. The Pharisees needed to repent and change the way they were thinking before it was too late!

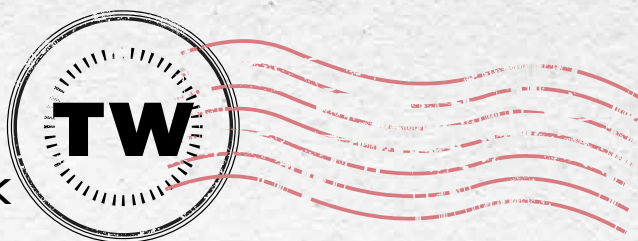
True Christians must carefully watch what they allow into their minds. They desire to be led by God’s Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14) in order to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

For more information about the unpardonable sin, go online to read our March–April 2015 article “Is There an Unpardonable Sin?” at TomorrowsWorld.org. 

Jesus came in the flesh as a common Jew of his day—a humble carpenter’s son. Yet not even the resentful Pharisees could mistake the power of the Holy Spirit.

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



This teaching [the booklet *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer*] is absolutely life changing. It's scary because for as long as I've been a Christian, I've been doing praying wrong, and if not for this teaching I would be still lost. It was after midnight and I couldn't sleep. I was thinking to myself about the questions of how to pray or how do we know if we are praying right. That's when I stumbled on this booklet.

—E-mail from a Reader

Found this article by Douglas Winnail ["The Anglosphere's Sobering Future," September-October 2018] spot on and should be read by every person of the English-speaking nations. The excerpts from all the sources he quotes are so true. I can see no way the world can recover, even if they all believe in Jesus. The tipping point has passed.

—Reader in Texas

I was thrilled with one of your latest television programs, which exposed the falsehoods of Darwin's theory of evolution and accidental self-generation of the first animals on earth. Why should anyone with a brain accept the evolution of species or accidental generation of the first single-celled organisms?

—Viewer in British Columbia

I've been getting this magazine for a little while now. I love it. I really like the way you make news from today make good sense biblically. I like the ideas that you present. Please keep sending this magazine to me—I read every issue from cover to cover. I also like the booklets I have gotten from you so far.

—Reader in Virginia

I have been receiving *Tomorrow's World* for some time, and really enjoy reading and sharing the

information it contains. I have learned loads, which I believe is helping with my walk with God. May God bless and continue to bless your ministry as you bless us. Thank you very much.

—Reader in the United Kingdom

I just discovered your streaming channel on my Roku device. I am so appreciative. In one hour, I have learned so much. I look forward to reading your magazine and booklets too! God bless all of you and your work for the kingdom.

—Roku Viewer in Pennsylvania

[Concerning the booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return*, available online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.] Informative website. I never studied the Bible before. I was Catholic until the age of 12 when I was confirmed, and thereafter stopped going to church. It took me 3 hours to go through this site. I'm glad I took the time.

—E-mail from a Reader

When bad things happen to me or you, God can turn it into something good! Two years ago I had real bad seizures that almost killed me. I believed in Jesus, but I put work first, making money to support my family. I didn't study the Bible as much. But after I had the seizures, I was very weak. So, I quit my job as a carpenter, fixing houses for the poor, and I started to watch church TV shows. I found out some churches were acting as a "club," not a church. One day, I found *Tomorrow's World*, and it was wonderful. Finally, there is a church speaking the truth. You opened my eyes. I am very happy for what you are doing and very grateful.

—Reader in Alaska

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7Two SU 7:00 a.m.

BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 9:30 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

ICELAND

Reykjavik Gospel FR 8:30 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 TU, WE, FR 5:30 a.m.

Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 TU, WE, FR 6:30 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

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

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Port of Spain CNC3-TV SU 7:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

CBS Action Freeview 64 SU 8:30 a.m.
CBS Action Sky TV 148 SU 8:30 a.m.
CBS Drama Freeview 74 SA 7:30 a.m.
CBS Drama Sky TV 149 SA 7:30 a.m.
CBS Reality Freeview 66 SU 7:30 a.m.
CBS Reality Sky TV 146 SU 7:30 a.m.
Gospel Sky TV 587 MO 7:00 p.m.
WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WE 6:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 MO 12:30 a.m.
Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SU 4:00 a.m.
SU 4:30 a.m.
SU 5:30 p.m.
MO-FR 3:00 a.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Angel One SU 8:00 p.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.
TH 9:00 a.m.
SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

CW Plus

NewsMax SU 9:30 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.
WORD Network SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Angel One Ch. 262 SU 8:00 p.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.
TH 9:00 a.m.
SU 11:00 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

WORD Ch. 373 SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date listings please go to:
TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in

AK Anchorage GCI SA 10:00 p.m.
Anchorage CREDO SA 7:00 p.m.
Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 6:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WTVY SU 7:00 a.m.
Montgomery WBMM SU 7:00 a.m.
Tuscaloosa, AL WUUA SU 10:30 a.m.

AR Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.
Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Prescott Community SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SA 5:30 p.m.
Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KUVU-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Monterey KION SU 8:00 a.m.
Orange County Time Warner MO 5:00 p.m.
Palm Springs KCWO SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento KCWO-LP MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas RCTV SU 8:00 a.m.
San Francisco KION WE 8:00 p.m.
Access

CO Denver KCDO SU 6:30 a.m.
Grand Junc. KJCT SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Naugatuck
FL Gainesville WCJB
Jacksonville WCVJ
Panama City WJHG
Tampa Bay WTOG

GA Atlanta WUPA SU 7:00 a.m.
Atlanta COW SU 9:30 a.m.
Augusta WAGT SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon Cox SU 5:00 p.m.
Macon Cox TU 7:30 a.m.
Macon Cox FR 2:00 p.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.
Dubuque Mediacom MO 3:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom MO 7:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom TU 10:00 a.m.*

ID Boise KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago Various* SU 7:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS FR 10:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS MO 5:00 p.m.
Moline Mediacom SU 7:00 a.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 5:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 1:00 p.m.
Springfield Insight TU 10:00 p.m.

IN Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAR WE 7:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT TH 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT FR 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT SA 9:00 a.m.
Salina SCAT SU 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.
Latonia PEG TH 10:00 p.m.
Lexington Insight Various*

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

MA Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.
North Adams NBCTC WE 8:00 p.m.

MD Baltimore Community SU 9:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia TH 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia FR 10:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Brunswick TV3 SA 8:30 a.m.
Brunswick TV3 SA 6:30 a.m.
Presque Isle WBQP SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Detroit WBAE SU 7:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV SU 6:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV WE 8:30 a.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet MEDCLO SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 7:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SA 11:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Duluth Public Access TH 12:00 a.m.
Minneapolis MNW SU 10:30 p.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SU 4:30 a.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SU 10:30 a.m.*
Rochester KTTT SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 4:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.

Tele-Media

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Which national powers will compete for control of the world before the return of Jesus Christ?

January 10-16

Will Jerusalem Survive?

The Bible makes four powerful predictions about the future of Jerusalem. What are they?

January 17-23

The Powerful Privilege of Prayer!

The Bible gives us keys to experiencing answered prayer. You need to know what they are!

January 24-30

The Origin of Satan the Devil

Like every villain, Satan has an origin story. Only this villain and his story are very real.

January 31-February 6

Holidays or Holy Days?

In a world of holidays, the Bible gives us Holy Days! Should you observe them?

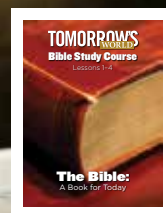
February 7-13

The Biblical Holy Days, Part 1

This three-part series will open your eyes to the deep meaning behind God's Holy Days!

February 14-20

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