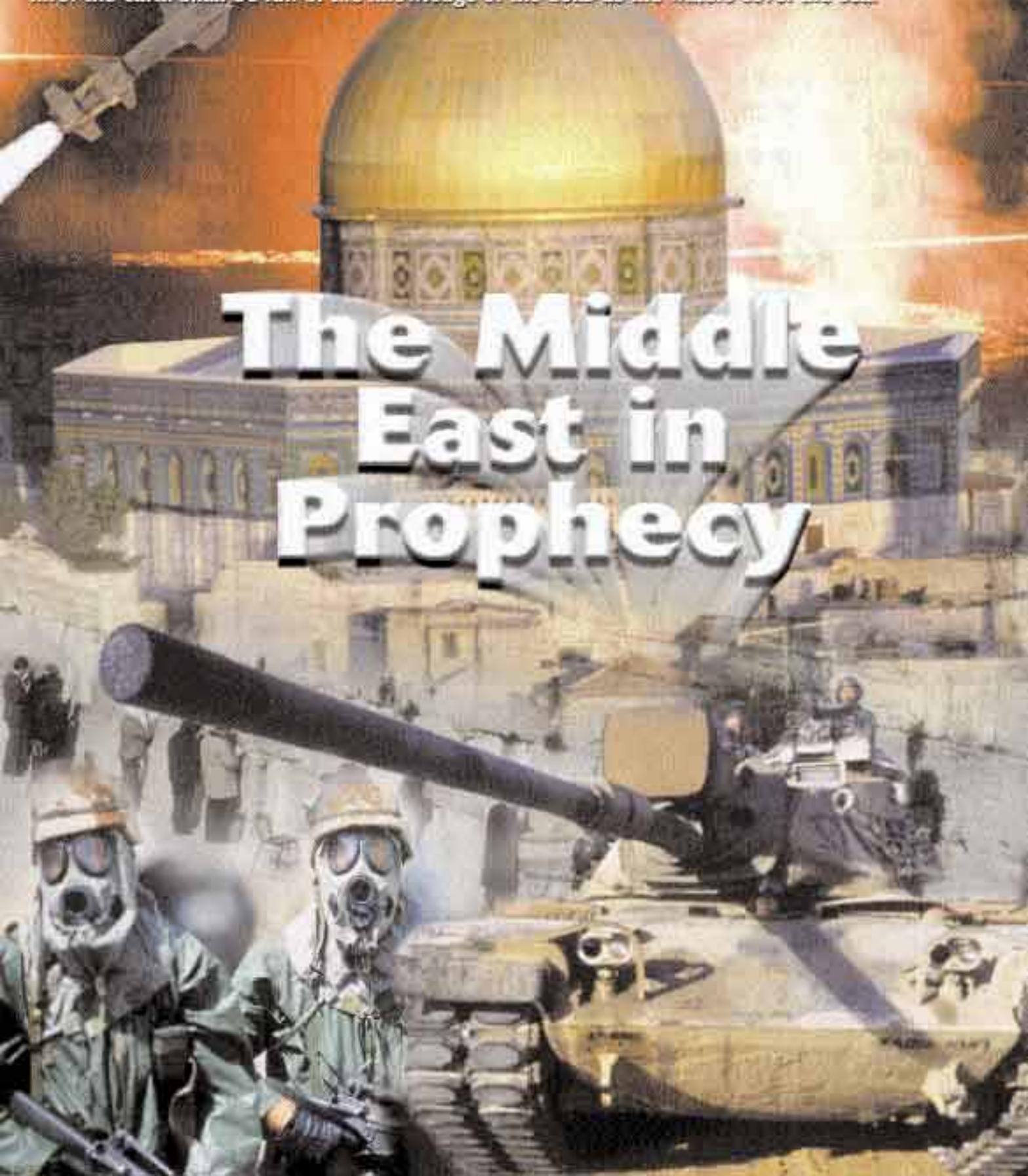


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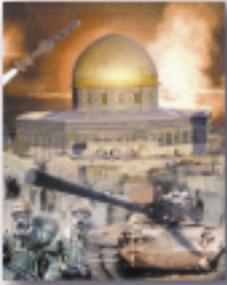
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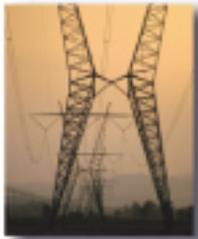
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A Key to POWER

Many people want power. Businessmen and politicians seek the power of wealth and influence. Many young people, especially men, pursue “body building” to seek the power of an impressive physique. People seek power through various means, but are they looking to the *right source*?

A primary way to tap the *ultimate* source of power is to build a close and genuine relationship with our Creator—through zealous personal *study* of His revealed Word, and through fervent PRAYER. This is not a “nicey-nice” solution, but a *vital reality*.

Some will object: “We have prayed ever since we were children. So what is new?”

Let me explain. Growing up in a “mainstream” Protestant church, I had a couple dozen young “buddies” who were also in the mainstream. Yet it became very obvious to me that NONE of us really “knew” God. Oh, we knew *about* God, and many of us prayed brief “bedtime prayers,” or very brief “grace” over meals—which were often *memorized prayers*. But to get down on both knees before God, and talk to Him *in detail* about our needs, hopes and dreams, was foreign to us.

Then, at age 19, I came to a very special college and began to learn about real prayer. Awakening in the men’s dorm at 6:30 a.m. or 7:00 a.m., I found virtually none of my dorm-mates in the bathroom or the showers. “Where were they?” I wondered.

Snooping around our dorm, I found that Ray and Marion usually “disappeared” into the attic each morning to pray. Herman had a special place in the basement, and sometimes used the fire escape as a really private place to pray!

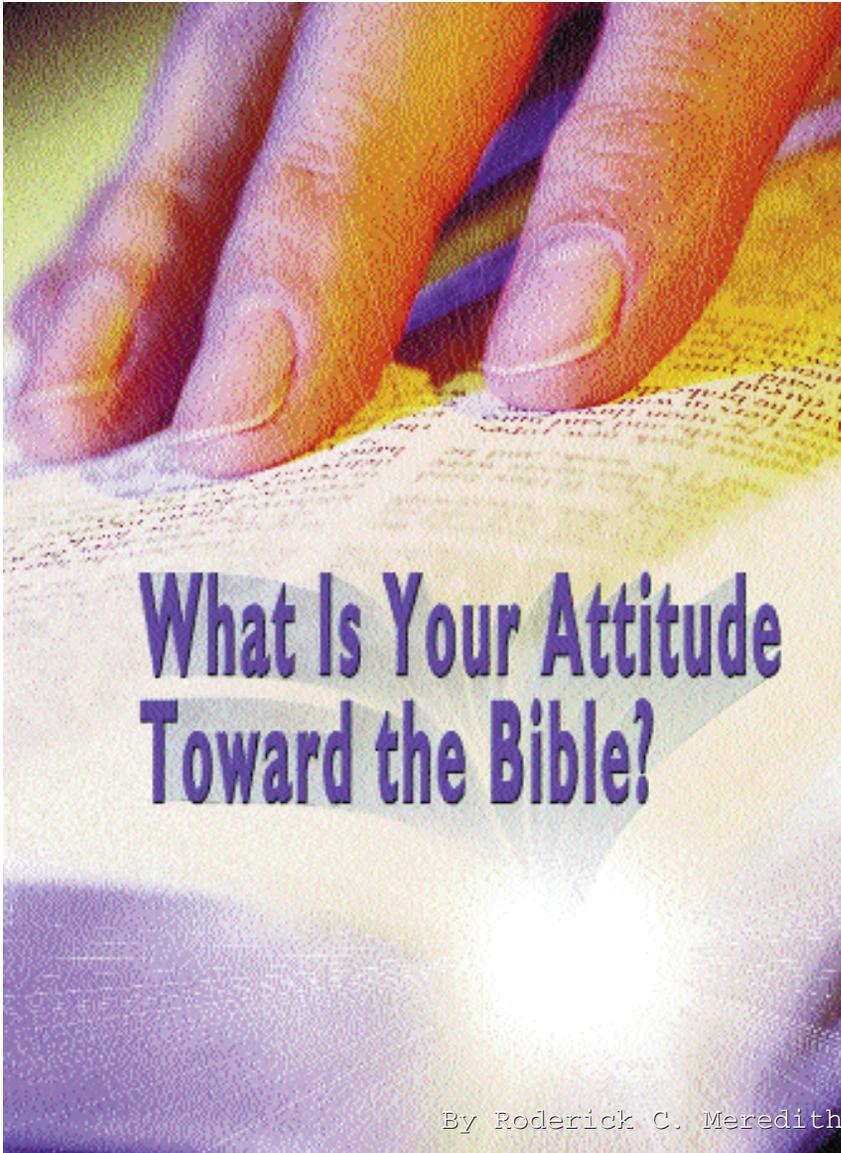
Gradually, I learned that one- or two-minute “quickie” prayers were not the answer. These can be effective to *supplement* one’s prayer life, but the

really close and powerful contact with God comes by spending at least 20 or 30 minutes daily on one’s knees before our Father in Heaven, and by *really studying* the biblical passages on prayer and faith so that we can know *what* to pray for and *how* to pray. We must spend enough time and mental energy truly “communing” with God to get to know Him, pour out our hearts to Him, and actively *surrender* mind, heart and will to Him daily.

The Bible is FILLED with examples of this kind of prayer—and of its efficacy. The Bible shows that Moses went up to the mountain to pray and fast for *40 days* on two different occasions (Deuteronomy 9:9, 18). Of the second occasion, Moses wrote: “And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also. And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time” (Deuteronomy 9:18–20). Each time Moses was not only fasting but *praying fervently* and BESEECHING God for the answer—crying out to Him for long periods of time so that he could truly “commune” with God. Each time, as Moses relates, the *answer came!*

Yet God does not always tell us *when* or *how* the answer to our prayer will come. The Apostle Paul described God’s promise to Abraham that he would be “a father of many nations.” Yet the fulfillment did not come for HUNDREDS of years! And, in fact the final fulfillment of God’s promise

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What Is Your Attitude Toward the Bible?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Millions “profess Christ.” But in poll after poll, these professing Christians freely admit that they do not really study the Bible. In fact, scarcely more than one-third of Americans can even *name* the four Gospels—let alone understand what they say.

What about you?

Most of you are probably professing Christians. But do you *study* the Instruction Manual for all true Christians—the Holy Bible? And what is your *real attitude* toward the Bible? Do you view the Bible as the real *authority* in your life? Do you feel it was *directly inspired* by God, or do you think of it as just a good book with “wise sayings”?

Coming to *understand* and to LIVE the right answer to these questions is a major KEY to attaining eternal life.

Without the Bible as their authority, men and women everywhere feel “free” to make up their *own* rules and religions as they go along. In past generations, some Roman Catholic leaders felt “free” to torture and burn nonconformists. Many Protestant

Puritans felt free to burn those they labeled “witches.” And without the guidance of God’s Word, the Nazis felt free to torture and finally exterminate *millions* of Jews and others they called “undesirables”—even during the lifetimes of many of you reading this article!

And, of course, in a society cut off from the understanding and authority of God’s Word, men and women feel “free” to commit adultery and practice homosexuality, transvestism and even bestiality—doing virtually *anything* that “feels good.” If their sexual “freedom” brings unintended consequences, they do not hesitate to *destroy* the human life growing inside the mother’s womb. They offer clever reasonings and “catch phrases” to make these abominable practices seem correct. They say: “A woman has the right to control her own body.”

Sounds good?

Yes. But what about “controlling” her emotions and her body so that she *does not become pregnant* outside of marriage? And if she becomes pregnant in marriage, it should be done in a “controlled” manner so that she is RESPONSIBLE for the OTHER human life within her body.

What about the countless millions of young people deprived of parents through the tragedy of divorce? Should people feel “free” to divorce for any reason, as so many do today? Jesus Christ clearly said: “But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery” (Matthew 5:32).

I can hear many people saying right now: “I think that is *too strong!* I don’t agree with that!” Or they may say: “Jesus said that 2,000 years ago, so it doesn’t apply today.” *This* is the kind of reasoning even millions of professing Christians use to get around scores of plain and clear biblical teachings.

Again, what is YOUR attitude toward the Bible?

Did Jesus MEAN What He Said?

Jesus Christ, the originator and founder of true Christianity, said: “IF you want to enter into life, KEEP the COMMANDMENTS!” (Matthew 19:17). Even after His death and resurrection—after *everything* that was “nailed to the cross” was nailed there—Christ commanded His disciples: “Go there—

fore and make disciples of all the nations.... teaching them to observe ALL THINGS that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20).

Was the Son of God “misleading” His own disciples with these final instructions? Was He “confused” when He told them to “keep the Commandments” and then went on to *name* some of the Ten Commandments? Did Jesus not realize that Protestant ministers would later say that His Apostle Paul had DONE AWAY with the need to keep the Ten Commandments? *What is going on here?*

The plain Truth is that—under the influence of Satan the Devil (Revelation 12:9)—mankind RESENTS the idea of a real and authoritative GOD. Humanity *does not want a “real”* God who has power and authority over their lives! As the Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “the carnal mind is ENMITY against God; for it is not subject to the LAW of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

Did you catch that? It is the spiritual LAW of God—the Ten Commandments—to which the carnal mind feels resentment or is “hostile” toward—as some translators render this passage of Scripture. The carnal mind resents the idea of a CREATOR GOD who has authority to tell it what to do! Most human beings RESENT the idea of a Higher Power telling them what to do!

Very well known and respected in his day as a writer and philosopher, English author Aldous Huxley admitted this basic hostility against a Higher Power which he and his fellow writers and the “intelligentsia” generally held: “For myself, as, no doubt, for most of my

contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation. The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. *We objected to the morality because it interfered with our SEXUAL FREEDOM...* There was one admirably simple method of confuting these people and at the same time justifying ourselves in our political and erotic revolt: *We could deny that the world had ANY MEANING whatsoever*” (*Ends and Means*, p. 270; emphasis ours).

At least Huxley was honest. He admitted that the intellectuals of his day—just as in our day—do not like the idea of a Higher Power telling them what to do. Acknowledging the God of the Bible would interfere with their philosophical reasonings about fornication, adultery and the various sexual perversions these “thinkers” like to promote.

Do *you*—in your heart of hearts—believe in the real GOD of creation who has the AUTHORITY to tell you what to do? Or do you have a sort of “hip pocket god” to whom you can refer when convenient? Eventually *you must face this question honestly!* For, again, a *correct understanding* of this topic is vital to you ever coming into a genuine relationship with the *true* God—the CREATOR God—who gives you life and breath and who *will give you eternal life IF* you will surrender your life to obey Him and serve Him *in the WAY He tells you to do!*

Perhaps the most basic teaching in ALL of Christianity is Jesus Christ’s instruction: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD of God” (Luke 4:4). If you call yourself “Christian” but do not

accept the *authority* of the inspired Word of God, you may feel free to “make up your own religion” as you go along. Regrettably, this latter approach is precisely what MILLIONS of professing Christians are doing right now!

This attitude is why Jesus Himself warned us: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). And again: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

God Himself tells us through His servant Paul: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Notice that religious doctrine or teaching ought to come from inspired SCRIPTURE—not from the confused and often contradictory reasonings of modern theologians or philosophers, who generally REFUSE to acknowledge the Bible as their sole and SUPREME authority.

REVERENCE for the Bible

In generations past, many men and women at least professed toward the Bible a reverence seldom found today. The publishers of a well-known religious journal, *Banner of Truth*, felt compelled to republish a solemn warning from Bishop J.C. Ryle’s 1890 classic, *Light From Old Times*. Here is that warning:

“While we sleep, an onslaught is being mounted against us, an onslaught which the Protestant

churches of our land were never less ready to sustain. Anglican and Nonconformist leaders alike have thrown away the only weapon that could defend us—the sword of the Spirit, the Infallible Word of God. *The Word of God alone, the grace of God alone, the power of the Spirit alone*, these were the watch cries which prevailed four hundred years ago. They are not the watch cries of our Protestant pulpits today.”

Our generation basically REJECTS this approach to the Bible. This rejection is leading to a degree of religious CHAOS *never experienced before*. On this cynical, rebellious, God-rejecting generation will fall the Great Tribulation which Jesus Christ predicted: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).

So what about YOU?

Are you willing to *prove to yourself* and accept the AUTHORITY of the Bible? This is certainly something you *can do* IF you really want to. Two vital sources of information on this topic are our booklet *The Real God: Proofs and Promises* and our *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. Both will give you very specific information regarding actual PROOF of a real God and of the Holy Bible as His inspired Word.

But you must be willing to face the fact that mainstream Christianity has REJECTED the Bible as its sole authority! One mainline denomination has been described as “an institution in free

fall... with nothing to hold on to... no shared belief, no common assumptions, no agreed bottom line, no accepted definition” of what it means to belong to that church (*The Empty Church*, Reeves, 1996, p. 10). A chaplain in this denomination has declared that he “is not in the business of dispensing dogmatic answers about anything” (Ibid., p. 24). Once you truly understand this FACT and realize how WRONG this rejection of God's Word actually is, then perhaps you will be willing to honestly and conscientiously start facing the issue of REALLY looking to God and the Bible as the Supreme Authority in your life.

With tears in his eyes, the Apostle Paul warned the Ephesian elders about a great falling away which would occur after his death: “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:29–31).

Then, near the end of his life, Paul wrote the evangelist Timothy: “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:1–4).

When ministers and religious leaders quit basing their teachings honestly and directly on the Bible, they have indeed turned aside to “fables”—as Paul warned. IF our American, Canadian and British ministers had been faithfully and forcefully teaching the pure Word of God, then a whole range of modern problems in the family and in society would NEVER have become as serious as they now are. The stability of marriage and the family would be inestimably stronger if people had been taught the absolutely BINDING quality of marriage. The once-again-growing juvenile crime rate would not even begin to be what it is if strong families were the rule throughout our nations. Teenage use of illicit drugs would not even approach its present level, nor would teenage suicide and a host of other problems.

The “Fruit” of REJECTING the Bible

The vast majority of today's priests and ministers scrupulously avoid the subject of homosexuality. Yet IF they would do what the Apostle Paul commanded and “preach the Word,” they would regularly and consistently teach that the ONLY correct use of sex is between a man and woman within the bounds of holy matrimony. They would proclaim God's judgment on this sin—that God made one man and one woman for each other and that His Word labels sexual relations between two men an ABOMINATION. “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22).

Do you really think that modern priests and ministers are somehow “unable” to read, or that they somehow have not read or do not understand the Bible's clear

instruction that homosexuality is sinful and wrong?

For those who believe that only the *New Testament* is the Word of God, the Apostle Paul is also *very specific* regarding homosexuality. Remember, the Bible was *inspired* of God to be the *AUTHORITY* in all of our lives. Here is what Paul said about the arrogant and often intellectual homosexuals of his day: “For this reason God gave them up to *VILE* passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” (Romans 1:26–28).

And in verse 32, Paul summarizes God’s judgment on the sin of homosexuality itself, and on the licentious attitude that tolerates it and ignores “the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of *DEATH*, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” So *if* people are in *any* way interested in doing what the Bible actually says, you would think that they would abhor homosexuality since it is *directly condemned* in both the Old and New Testaments as an “abomination” and as “vile.” Paul states plainly in 1 Corinthians 6:9 that those who practice this sin will not inherit God’s kingdom.

Yet more and more mainstream churches are not only condoning this practice but even

allowing those individuals to be ordained as *MINISTERS* in some cases! Can you imagine a belief or practice more *DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE* everything proclaimed in the Word of God?

So how *DARE* these ministers and churches say they are preaching or teaching “the Word of God”? They say that! And some-



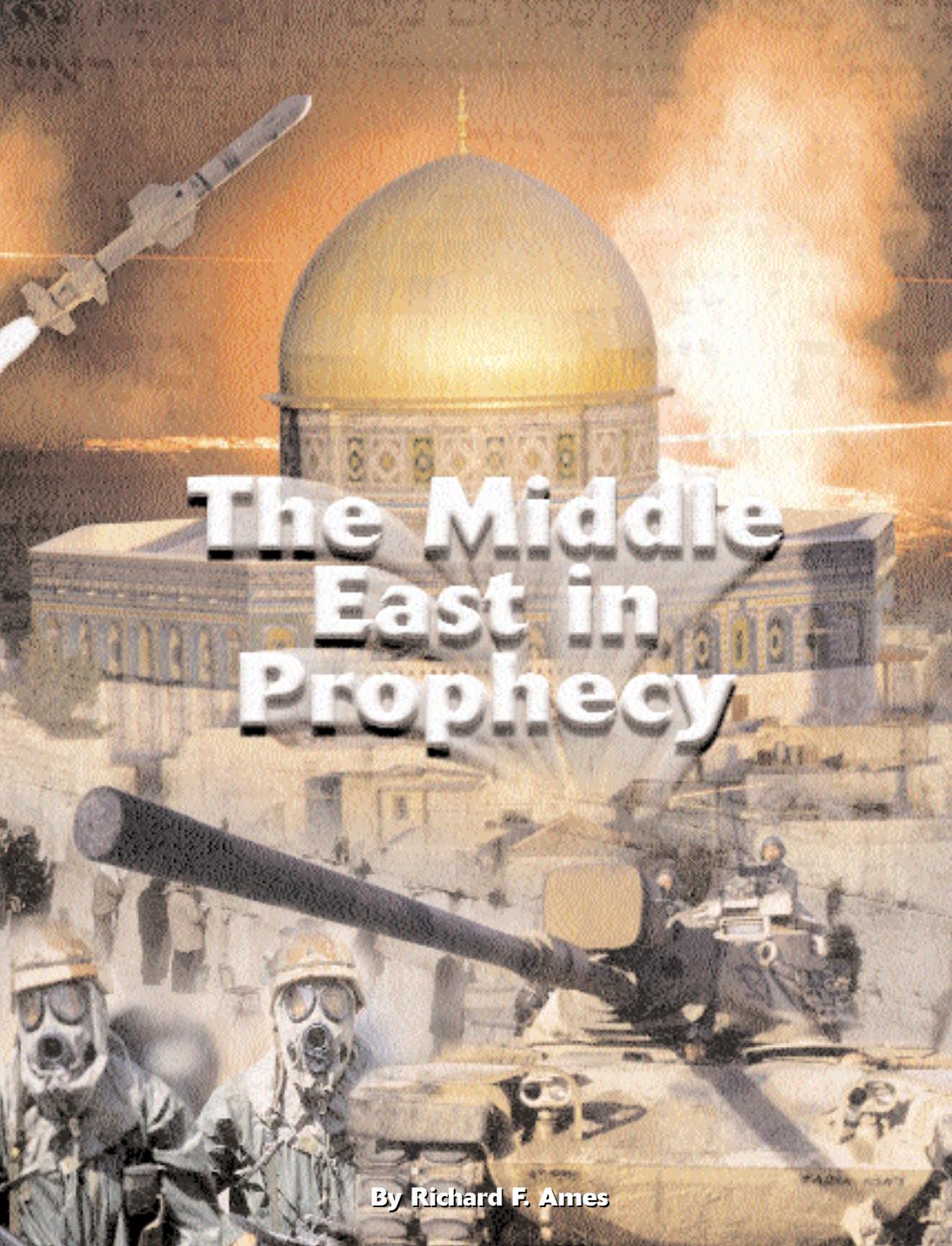
how, because the professing Christians of the western world are mainly biblical illiterates, these false ministers *get away* with it, for most people do *NOT* really study the Bible or in any way understand it. They read little bits and pieces of “inspirational” passages in the Bible—and very little else. They do *NOT* get down on their knees and beseech God for genuine *UNDERSTANDING*, and they do not ask God for the *faith* and *COURAGE* to do what He says *NO MATTER* what the result may be. They have not learned to put their total faith and trust in the God of Creation. He is the *INVISIBLE* God and they do not really know Him or understand Him—even though they call themselves “Christian.”

For those of you whom He is calling, I beseech you in His name to open your minds and hearts to begin to *SEEK* the true God and to be willing to *DO* what He says. For your own sake, and the sake

of *your eternal life*, I hope you will genuinely ask God for understanding and begin to *STUDY* the Bible in a focused and consistent manner.

In this article I have only begun to skim the surface of the scores of *direct contradictions* between “mainstream” Christianity and what the Bible says. These are not “vague” contradictions or *marginal* truths we are talking about; they involve understanding—or *MIS*-understanding—the very *PURPOSE* of life and the *LAWS* of life. May God help you to be willing to *PROVE* to yourself the existence of God and the inspiration of His Word. Learn to *truly study* the articles in this magazine issue by issue. Please request your free copy of our booklet *The Real God: Proofs and Promises*, and enroll in the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course*. If you will *remain* on this course and actually *STUDY* the lessons—*proving* each point, looking up each scripture in the Bible and checking it out—then you will come to a depth of *UNDERSTANDING* in *TRUTH* you have never before attained. All the literature from this Work is absolutely *FREE* upon your request, so please call or write the office nearest you (listed on page 2 of this magazine), or place your order at our Web site, www.tomorrowworld.org.

As our English-speaking nations continue to be *brought down* through the prophetic events specifically described by God and His Word, may He help you to *WAKE UP* and act before it is too late. God’s prophecies are surely moving ahead, and He is giving each of you a distinct *warning* to act now while you have the opportunity to genuinely prove these things to yourself. 



The Middle East in Prophecy

By Richard F. Ames

Jerusalem is the most important city in the world. Scripture shows that the region surrounding it—the Middle East—will eventually explode into world war. Do you know what the Bible teaches about the end-time climax of world events in that region?

With its present uncertainty and turmoil, can we know the final outcome of the Middle East conflict? *We can.* The Bible outlines end-time events leading up to Jesus Christ's return. A Millennium of peace and prosperity is coming, under the rulership of the Messiah. As King of kings, Jesus Christ will rule the earth with justice and righteousness, and all nations on earth will learn a new way of life—the way to peace.

Yet throughout history, human nature has looked to war as the final arbiter of disputes. The Apostle Paul made a profound statement: "The way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Romans 3:17–18).

The Middle East has seen a history of war, from ancient times through the present. More than one million were killed in the Iraq-Iran War from 1980 to 1988. Thousands upon thousands more died in the Persian Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm in 1990–91. In that conflict, Iraqi troops set fire to more than 600 oil wells in Kuwait. The black smoke evoked images of Armageddon. This widespread pollution was called at the time the "world's worst man-made environmental disaster" (*Time Almanac 2000*, p. 605).

Will there be more wars in the Middle East? Sadly, the answer is "yes." Your Bible reveals that there will be even more regional wars in the Middle East, leading to what is commonly called "Armageddon"! Jerusalem will be a focal point of conflict.

Arabs and Israelis have been at war again and again since the modern state of Israel was established [see inset]. Peace has often been proclaimed in the region, but has never been realized. At present, there is little prospect of lasting peace among Middle East nations.

Hopes were high in September 1993 when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed an accord in

Washington, D.C. Two years later, they signed an interim agreement leading to increased Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In October 1998, the Wye River Memorandum provided steps to implement the 1995 interim agreement, looking to a May 1999 target date for a final resolution of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. But no resolution could be found. The July 2000 Camp David summit, called by United States President Bill Clinton, failed to formulate a final peace agreement—underscoring the bitter truth that *both* Israel and the Palestinians consider Jerusalem their exclusive capital, and do not want the other to have unfettered control of this historic city.

Jerusalem is sacred to the three major monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Muslims and Jews have been at odds for more than 1,300 years, since an Arabian trader named Muhammad, 800 miles southeast of Jerusalem, founded the religion of Islam [For more about Islam's role in history and prophecy, please see "Islam in History and Prophecy" on page 26 of this issue].

The Temple Mount is a focus for Muslims and Jews. Islam's Dome of the Rock stands where Solomon's Temple once stood. Jews are not allowed to pray on the Mount itself, so they come to the Western Wall—or "Wailing Wall"—at the base of the Mount to pray. Jews yearn to have a religious presence on the Temple Mount itself.

In September 2000, when he was still opposition leader, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount, inciting Palestinian protesters to begin a new *intifada* of escalating violence against Israeli targets. Since Sharon's visit, more than 500 have been killed—at least 481 Palestinians, 88 Israeli Jews and 13 Israeli Arabs as of late May—in Israeli-Palestinian clashes. In May, Israel used fighter-bombers against Palestinians for the first time since 1967. Arab countries have responded by calling for suspension of relations with Israel until the violence ceases.

What does Bible prophecy say will eventually occur in Jerusalem? Scripture is plain. "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:1–2).

"All the nations" will fight in this conflict, during that period of time known as the Day of the Lord, the year just before Jesus Christ's prophesied return. But what major prophetic events will lead up to this battle in Jerusalem? "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh

ARAB-ISRAELI WARS

May 14, 1948

The Jewish National Council declares the establishment of Israel. War breaks out between the new state and surrounding Arab nations. When the war ends in 1949, Jordan controls the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Egypt controls the Gaza Strip. Israel is established as a nation, but without access to the holy places in Old Jerusalem! David Ben-Gurion becomes Israel's first Prime Minister.

July 1956

In the wake of Egypt's nationalizing the Suez Canal Zone, Israel invades Egypt and takes control of the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Israel later withdraws after the United Nations establishes a security force in these areas.

June 1967

In what came to be called the "Six-Day War," Israel fights the combined forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Israel takes over the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel now has access to its historic holy places, including the Western Wall at the Temple Mount.

October 6, 1973

Known as the "Yom Kippur War" because it began on the Day of Atonement, this war saw Israel repel invasions by Egypt and Syria. Israel, Egypt and Jordan later agree on a United Nations cease-fire.

June 6, 1982

Israeli forces invade Lebanon, and encircle Beirut by June 14. In February 1985, Israeli forces withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon, but maintain a "security zone" in southern Lebanon, which they hold until military units are withdrawn in May 2000.

would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21–22).

All of humanity will then see dramatic and frightening activity in the heavens. Revelation 6:12–14 describes these "heavenly signs" as the "sixth seal." Jesus said: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Matthew 24:29).

We need to be forewarned of these major events. The Great Tribulation is primarily the time of trouble for the U.S. and the British-descended peoples, who are descended from the ancient patriarch Joseph. When he was near death, Jacob blessed two of his grandsons—Joseph's sons Ephraim and Manasseh—and said: "The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; let my name [Jacob, i.e. Israel] be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth" (Genesis 48:16).

The end-time prophecies relating to Jacob, or Israel, generally refer to the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh who were given Jacob's name. Scripture gives an end-time warning about the Great Tribulation. Upon whom does this tribulation fall? "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7). This is a time unique in all of human history—a time "that none is like it."

Watch and Pray

What does the Bible tell us to do? Jesus tells us: "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:36).

What should you watch for in the Middle East? When Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, He gave an

outline of end-time prophecy, with parallel accounts recorded in Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13. We will review here the sequence of events Jesus described in Matthew. Jesus' disciples had asked him about the sign of His coming and the end of the world, or the end of the age. He spoke about religious deception, wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. These trends reveal, in sequence, the meaning of the four horsemen of Revelation, who, toward the end of this age, intensify their dangerous ride. Jesus declares: "All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8).

Religious persecution and martyrdom will follow. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many" (Matthew 24:9–11).

But the Truth will still be preached. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). As

Jesus Christ opens doors for the gospel to expand in coverage and power, you will know the end is drawing near. Do not be asleep to world conditions and the prophetic trends intensifying before your very eyes!

Jesus then warned: "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand) then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains" (Matthew 24:15–16). What is this abomination of desolation?

The Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes issued a decree in 167BC that prohibited further Jewish sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple. "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation" (Daniel 11:31).

In addition to stopping the daily sacrifices, Antiochus erected a statue of Jupiter Olympus in the temple and directed everyone to worship it. This



Middle East violence finds victims of all ages. Mourners chant anti-Israel slogans during the May 8 funeral of 100-day-old Iman Hejjo, killed by Israeli tank fire. Spurred by Hejjo's death, a Palestinian suicide bomber struck the Israeli city of Netanya on May 19, killing five and wounding more than 100.

abomination, also described in Daniel 8, is a type of an end-time event—the end-time sacrifices are cut off 1,290 days before Christ’s return. “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Daniel 12:11). Jesus warns us as Christians to be alert to an end-time abomination of desolation. Just as Antiochus Epiphanes profaned the Temple in 167BC and cut off the sacrifices, so will a profane authority cut off Jewish sacrifices in the future. In fact, the Apostle Paul warns of a great false prophet that will stand in the holy place. “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4).

A false prophet will work great miracles and deceive millions of people. He will cultivate worship toward himself and claim he is divine. Revelation 13:13–14 shows that this great false prophet will work amazing miracles, even calling down fire from heaven, and that he will deceive millions of people around the world! *Do not be deceived* by these signs and wonders! As Scripture exhorts us: “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

The end-time religio-political power dominating Jerusalem will cause the sacrifices to cease. Remember that the Jews have not offered animal sacrifices since 70AD, when the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. In order for the end-time sacrifices to be stopped eventually, they need to begin! When animal sacrifices begin once again in Jerusalem, you will know that the prophecies Jesus spoke about are heading for a climax!

When the abomination of desolation prophesied by Jesus is set up, three prophetic milestones will begin over a period of three and one-half years—the Great Tribulation and the Heavenly Signs, culminating in the year-long Day of the Lord. The last three verses in the book of Daniel show that there will be 1,290 days from the time of the abomination of desolation until Christ’s return, when Daniel will be raised in the first resurrection.

Elsewhere identified as the Beast (Revelation 13:1–10; 17:12–13), this king of the North (meaning generally north of Jerusalem) will invade the Holy Land, according to Daniel’s prophecy. “At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the

king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, [or the Holy Land] and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape” (Daniel 11:40–42).

A 20th century king of the North invaded North Africa during World War II. In contrast, the end-time king of the North will be *provoked* by the king of the South. We have already seen war in the Middle East over the issue of oil. Will there be another Arab oil embargo like that of 1974? When fuel costs began to rise last September, European protests of skyrocketing petroleum prices and shortages were even more vigorous than in the U.S. Europe is far more dependent on Middle East oil than is the U.S., importing more than half of its oil from Arab countries, compared to the U.S which imports roughly 20 percent of its oil from that region. Whatever the provocation, the king of the North will invade the Middle East.

Luke’s account of the Olivet prophecy follows the same general sequence as Matthew’s account. But he adds one important point of information. After religious persecution intensifies, Jesus states: “By your patience possess your souls. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near” (Luke 21:19–20).

Escalating Violence Ahead

What should Christians be watching for in the turmoil of the Middle East? Watch for continuing conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians in the Holy Land. A recent *New York Times* article described the damage done by the escalating violence. “The psychological frontier between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs has become a minefield.... [Many had believed] that the occupation was all that stood in the way of reconciliation, that if Israel dismantled Jewish settlements, withdrew from the territories and permitted a Palestinian state, the conflict would end. That may still be possible, but the worst fighting since 1967 has called the assumption into question” (“A Conflict’s Bedrock,” May 27, 2001).

Because of these trends, watch for increasing demand for international intervention and control, not only in Gaza and the West Bank, but in Jerusalem itself. The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat,

has himself lobbied for a United Nations peacekeeping force in Gaza and the West Bank.

Watch for increasing unity among Arab nations in their stand against Israel. One prophetic Psalm lists those peoples who comprise Arabic and Muslim nations in the Middle East. They are supported by European groups in their strong opposition to Israel. "They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.' For they have consulted together with

The developing European religio-political power will eventually exert controlling influence over the Holy Land. We have seen that the king of the North will ultimately dominate Jerusalem and the Middle East. The book of Revelation also predicts a conflict between Asian forces and the European Beast power, the king of the North (cf. Daniel 11:44; Revelation 9:13–19). Shockingly, upon Christ's return, these armies will combine as the world's armies are "gathered together to make war against Him" (Revelation



The Day of the Lord will bring judgment on the nations. Christ will conquer all the armies opposing Him! He will usher in the Millennium of peace on earth, and teach all nations the way to peace. Then the Arabs and Israelis will be reconciled.

one consent; they form a confederacy against You" (Psalm 83:4–5). Watch for an end-time Arab-Muslim union or confederacy forming against Israel.

Watch the European Union's growing economic, political and military unification. As we saw in Daniel's prophecy, the king of the North will eventually occupy the Holy Land. In November 2000, the European Union chose a German general to head its Rapid Reaction Force, envisioned to project European power to crisis zones over a 2,500-mile area by 2003. "Why should we have to go through NATO?" asked General Jean-Pierre Kelche, France's Chief of Defense Staff, saying that the force would be operational by the end of this year even without NATO's agreement and that "the balance of power needed to be changed" ("EU Force Will Not Need NATO," *London Daily Telegraph*, March 28, 2001). Will these forces eventually play a significant part in the Middle East conflict? Watch the development of Europe's own military forces.

In Israel, watch for the preparation and eventual implementation of animal sacrifices by the Jews in Jerusalem. Many believe a physical temple will also be built, but history and the book of Ezra confirm that sacrifices can be conducted with just an altar at the holy place.

Watch for the increasing consolidation of religious power in Europe, long planned by some. Visiting Austria in 1983, Pope John Paul II appealed for European unity, stating: "Europeans should overcome the menacing international confrontations of states and alliances, and create a new united Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals" (*The Principality and Power of Europe*, Adrian Hilton, p. 36).

19:19). God Almighty says: "For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem" (Zechariah 14:2). 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, which faces Jerusalem on the east..." (Zechariah 14:3–4). Jesus Christ will intervene! He will stop World War III and bring lasting peace to the world!

Also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Kidron Valley (between the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount) widens to the south. Here, God will judge the nations. "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there" (Joel 3:1–2).

The Day of the Lord will bring judgment on the nations. Christ will conquer all the armies opposing Him! He will usher in the Millennium of peace on earth, and teach all nations the way to peace. Then the Arabs and Israelis will be reconciled. "In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria; a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, 'Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance'" (Isaiah 19:23–25).

We all look forward to the world peace and reconciliation that only the Messiah, Jesus Christ, can bring to this earth. In the meantime, Jesus tells us to watch and pray always. Be sure to do so! [TW](#)

Questions & Answers

Q Millions today profess to be “Christians.” How can we know who is a *real* Christian and who is not?

A In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ defined real Christianity. He pointed out certain characteristics that would identify His true followers. He said a *real* Christian would be *hungering* and *thirsting* for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). That righteousness is defined as the keeping of God’s commandments (Psalm 119:172).

One who hungers and thirsts for righteousness is deeply motivated to keep God’s laws, which He gave us in loving concern for our own good. Those who are truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness will be studying God’s Word for true understanding. They will be willing to change when and where they see they have been wrong—admitting their false beliefs, their mistakes and their sins.

The Apostle Paul explained that the *doers* of God’s Law—not those who only hear—are justified before God (Romans 2:13). Paul showed that faith in Christ’s sacrifice brings unmerited pardon of sins, by God’s grace, and that those receiving His grace will keep His law (Romans 3:31) through Christ in them (6:1–23).

Jesus said that not all who acknowledge Him as “Lord” would enter the Kingdom of God, but only those intent on doing the will of His Father (Matthew 7:21). Paul said *obedience* to God is of utmost importance (1 Corinthians 7:19).

In order to enter God’s Kingdom, *doing* is required—not just professing that Christ is our Savior. God is also concerned about our spiritual “works” after baptism. Christ has not “done it all for us,” as so many professing Christians falsely assume.

We must understand that no amount of commandment-keeping can “earn” us eternal life in God’s Kingdom! This is a *free gift* of God. Yet the One who *created us* has a right to lay down certain *conditions* (Matthew 19:16–20; Acts 2:38; 5:32) for receiving that supreme gift. God wants to see if we are willing to *abide* by His conditions throughout our lives. He does not want any rebels in His family!

A real Christian strives to follow Christ by imitating His example and walking with Him (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:5–6). To “walk with God” means to “keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22).

But notice what the Apostle John calls the person who claims to “know” Christ, but will not walk in His ways—who refuses to keep His commandments. “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a *liar*, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4). The *real* Christian *will be keeping* God’s commandments!

True Christians are to be examples to those they meet (Matthew 5:14–16). Men and women of God, who have the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of God’s truth and abundant way of life, have a responsibility to be “lights” in the world. God’s people will be exhibiting the “fruit”—the characteristics—of God’s Holy Spirit in their daily lives (Galatians 5:22–23).

A real Christian has been conquered by God. His carnal, antagonistic attitude toward God (Romans 8:6–8) has been broken. He has come to realize that he has sinned against God, having broken His holy law (1 John 3:4). He has cried out to God and asked His forgiveness of those sins through the sacrifice of Christ, and for a lifting of the death penalty which every sin incurs (Romans 6:23). Then he has obeyed the command to be baptized (Acts 2:38), indicating to God his deep desire to live by every word of God for the rest of his life.

As a result of his repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands of one of God’s true ministers (Acts 8:17; 19:6), he has received the Spirit of the Father and become a Spirit-begotten child of God. One who has not received the Holy Spirit is *not a real Christian* (Romans 8:9–10; Galatians 2:20).

A real Christian is striving, with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, to live by his Savior’s teachings. He is seeking to do God’s will in every aspect of his life, and he is experiencing the happiness and receiving the blessings that come as a result of obeying our Creator!



Legalized Gambling: Economic Boom or Social Bust?

By John H. Ogwyn

Type “gambling” in any Internet search engine. Scores and scores of listings will pop up. You will find casinos across the United States, along with a host of “virtual casinos” that exist solely online. The gambling industry is thriving—and has gone high-tech.

Since the mid-1970s, gambling has been America’s fastest-growing industry. Wagers in the U.S. are currently approaching half a *trillion* dollars annually! In the 20 years from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, gambling revenues increased by an incredible 2,000 percent!

Many communities view the burgeoning gambling industry as an economic savior. State lotteries are hailed as a way to finance underfunded public school systems, while new casinos are lauded as a source of thousands of new jobs. Casinos in many areas have made high-profile contributions to worthy causes. Increasing numbers of citizens in the U.S. and Canada have found these developments encouraging—at least on the surface. Gambling is definitely on the move. But is it a *good* move?

In recent years, legalized gambling has exploded far beyond Las Vegas and Reno. Many think it has now achieved Main Street respectability. Polls show

that since the mid-1990s, an increasing majority of American adults consider casino gambling acceptable for all. Long associated in the public mind with organized crime, gambling’s image is now being rehabilitated as the key to economic development through tourism, in locations as diverse as Davenport, Iowa and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Gambling comes in many guises. Whether in riverboats or land-based casinos, whether one prefers card games, roulette wheels or slot machines, games of chance are available to part men and women of all ages from their money. Traditional modes of gambling, such as horse and dog races, are now joined by such high-tech innovations as video poker machines, which “have multiplied by the thousands in Texas in the two years since operators beat back an anti-gambling crusade by former Governor George W. Bush and repeated attacks from legislators” (*The Dallas Morning News*, April 1, 2001).

Gambling is pervasive in the U.S.; some form of gambling is legal in 48 of the 50 states. Thirty-eight states operate lotteries, and pari-mutuel betting is legal in 42 states. One-third of Indian tribes in the U.S. have gaming operations, according to the National Indian Gaming Association. Even many churches “get in on the act” with bingo nights and lotteries.

What is behind the current surge to legalize more and more forms of gambling after many decades of attempting to suppress it? Why have public attitudes toward gambling shifted in recent years? Is gambling a harmless form of recreation, or does it pose a threat to society? What are the

moral principles involved, and what will happen to a society that permits—and encourages—a thriving gambling industry?

Gambling's Long History

When did gambling originate? The Greeks had a myth in which Zeus seduced Tyche, the goddess of fortune, who bore him a daughter “whose only pleasures lay in inventing games of chance, gloating over the quarrels they caused, and encouraging depressed losers to suicide. Tyche endowed her with houses that had everlasting lamps at their doors to attract passers-by” (Alan Wykes, *Gambling*, p. 35).

Clearly, gambling goes back a long, long time. A tablet found in the Great Pyramid of Cheops near Gizeh, Egypt, related the Egyptian story of how the 365-day year came to be. According to the myth, the year originally had 360 days but, in an ancient dice game held with the moon, five new days were won. While this story tells us nothing about the real origin of the calendar, it *does* tell us that gambling with dice goes back at least 5,000 years!

At Thebes, Egypt, archaeologists have found ivory dice dated to the 16th century BC. Ancient records in India and China detail various games of chance. Clearly, gambling played a prominent role in many ancient cultures. There are even records of ancient legislation aimed at punishing cheaters and charlatans.

Ancient Roman law sought to suppress gambling, making it legal only during the December festival of Saturnalia. Loaded dice have been found beneath volcanic ash in the ruins of Pompeii. Gambling was popular in Europe

through the medieval period, and was widely engaged in by virtually all classes, from kings to peasants. Modern playing card designs date to medieval times.

In American history, gambling played a big part in making the “wild west” wild! Many Western gunfights had their origin at saloon gambling tables. Wherever there was money, professional gamblers soon arrived. The mining camps and boomtowns of the West were places where fortunes were laboriously extracted from the earth, then easily lost in whisky and a “friendly” game of cards.

The riverboats that plied the Mississippi river were also havens for gamblers. Between 1835 and 1860, when Southern planters started home with large bankrolls following the sale of their cotton crops, cardsharps were always on hand to snag the unwary. Before and after the U.S. Civil War, young Easterners heading west to begin a new life often carried large amounts of cash from the sale of their farms and other property back East. This, of course, made these generally inexperienced and gullible young farmers a tempting target for professional gamblers.

By the early 20th century, gambling was outlawed throughout the U.S. In 1910, Nevada became the last state in the Union to make it illegal; then in 1931 Nevada became the first state to reintroduce legalized gambling, to supplement dwindling tax revenues from mining, an industry hit hard by the Depression.

At the height of their influence, Victorian-era moralists had succeeded in suppressing gambling as a social vice, but they had been unable to change the hearts of their fellow citizens. Throughout the “Roaring

Twenties,” gambling was identified with the decadence glamorized by the world of gangsters and “speakeasies.” Gambling took place behind closed doors, in secret. Most citizens, working hard to provide for their families, considered it “not nice.”

Gambling's Role in Modern Society

In 19th century America, Louisiana closed the last state-sponsored lottery in 1892, a holdover from the corrupt Reconstruction period. Seventy-two years passed before another state-sponsored lottery was relaunched in the U.S., this time in New Hampshire in 1964. Since then, state-sponsored lotteries have spread to nearly every state in the Union.

In 1993, gambling overtook baseball as the U.S. national pastime. That year, for the first time, Americans made more trips to casinos (92 million according to a study cited by *U.S. News & World Report*) than to major league baseball parks. Clearly, gambling has gained public acceptance and even respectability to a degree unimaginable only a few years ago.

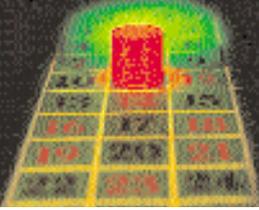
Throughout the 1990s, proponents of gambling made rosy projections about the economic benefits that would come from the growing gambling industry. The October 1993 issue of *American Demographics* predicted that 500,000 new jobs would be created during the 1990s as a direct result of gambling. Gambling is often presented in this way, as an economic panacea for struggling communities.

But is gambling really an economic boon? As illustrated by a *U.S. News & World Report* article

on the subject, experience has shown that communities generally overestimate gambling revenues before startup, and never seem to receive enough to solve the large-scale social problems. And as gambling revenues increase, other revenues generally decrease accordingly. Studies examining the economic effect of gambling have

aters and clothing stores. Professor Goodman cited the example of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Between 1978 (when the casinos first opened) and 1994 (when the study was completed), approximately 100 of the city's 250 restaurants closed their doors. Money spent gambling was money not spent elsewhere.

One frequently overlooked hidden cost involves children and the elderly. According to a recent *Reader's Digest* article: "Today, more kids gamble than are involved with drugs, smoking or drinking" (Mar. 2001, p. 160). While it is illegal for minors to play lotteries, studies show that in states such as Texas and Louisiana



Many casinos run "free" shuttles to retirement homes, conveniently timed to coincide with the arrival of Social Security checks at the beginning of the month, exploiting an often lonely and vulnerable segment of society.

shown that casinos produce short-term economic gains that do not last. In the long term, many other businesses near casinos decline and die, causing a loss of jobs and revenue that the gambling industry cannot offset.

Even the casinos themselves are not as profitable as many imagine. While the first casinos and lotteries to open in a region are generally quite profitable, revenues decline once competitors open their doors in neighboring states. "In Biloxi, Mississippi, for example, slot revenues at first topped about \$207 per machine per day. A year later when competitors moved in, however, the daily win-per-machine figure dipped to \$109" (*USN&WR*, Mar. 14, 1994, p. 46).

This phenomenon is not unique to the United States; *Canadian Business* magazine in its May 1994 issue cited a study indicating that gambling does not increase the economy's discretionary income; it merely shifts it. University of Massachusetts urban-planning professor Robert Goodman concluded that casinos sucked money away from existing businesses as diverse as car dealerships, sports arenas, movie the-

As states grow more dependent on lottery money to fund essential services, they face a dilemma when competition causes gambling revenues to decline. To maintain revenues, they must introduce new gimmicks to attract and hold gamblers. As a result, they promote and encourage lottery spending by those least able to afford it. Studies have consistently shown that lotteries, promising overnight riches, appeal most to the poor and less educated, and to welfare recipients. Lotteries attract a core of frequent players; a study conducted for the National Gambling Impact Study Commission found that "10 percent of lottery players account for 68 percent of lottery sales" (*Reader's Digest*, Mar. 2001, p. 158).

Legalized gambling brings other hidden costs, from beefed-up police needs to the expense of treating those addicted to gambling. A Gallup poll estimated that 5 percent of the population has a serious gambling problem. As casinos multiply, the number of problem gamblers cannot help but increase. Annual losses by gamblers run into billions of dollars—money siphoned off from other areas of the economy.

about one-third of adolescents buy tickets. Additionally, many casinos run "free" shuttles to retirement homes, conveniently timed to coincide with the arrival of Social Security checks at the beginning of the month, exploiting an often lonely and vulnerable segment of society.

Gambling can exert a corrupting influence on government. In the early 1990s, Louisiana's citizens witnessed the sorry spectacle of \$1,000 "campaign contributions" being passed out to state senators on the floor of the legislature. Members of the state House of Representatives were more discreet: they lined up at the door of the Speaker's office to file through and collect their "contributions." Some called this hypocritical, since these legislators had taken an oath to uphold the state constitution, which still called upon them to "suppress gambling" within the state. The lawmakers addressed this apparent conflict of interest by *redefining* lotteries, casino games and betting on horses as "gaming" rather than "gambling." While most politicians lack the brazenness of the Louisiana legislature, U.S. congressional and Presidential

candidates in 1998 received more than \$6 million in contributions from the gambling industry. From 1997 through 1999, the industry spent an additional \$22 million lobbying federal lawmakers. It is no wonder that many politicians are ready to give the gambling industry whatever it wants.

None of these hidden costs of gambling even begin to address the problem of organized crime. The gambling industry and organized crime have had a long-time love affair reaching back to the early 20th century. Many do not understand why the newly legalized gambling industry is so important to crime syndicates; one key reason is the large amounts of cash generated by narcotics and other illegal activities. How can such vast quantities of cash be accounted for? One cannot walk into the bank and make large cash deposits day after day without serious questions being asked. Casinos are an ideal front, as illegal cash can be hidden among a casino's profits, difficult to trace. Legalized gambling, particularly land-based casinos and riverboats, thus plays a vital role fronting for organized crime in America.

Gambling and Morality

Gambling is not just an economic problem; it is also a moral problem. In the past, gambling's immorality was taken for granted by large segments of society, but today even many churchgoers approve of it. What does the growth of the gambling industry really say about our society?

People gamble for different reasons. Some want to gain a lot of money with little effort. Others, especially problem gamblers, seek thrill and excitement through

games of chance, and feel a "high" described as similar to a heroin-induced rush when prolonged tension, awaiting a game's outcome, is released. Many gamblers value this adrenaline-induced state of excitement more than the money they may win. Others claim that gambling is simply a way to pass time—just another form of entertainment—and that they spend no more time and money on gambling than they would devote to some other form of entertainment if they did not gamble.

Can we judge the morality of gambling in its many guises? We can, by using as a source our Creator has given us as His "instruction manual" and revelation to humanity. The Holy Bible gives several principles to help us understand the morality of gambling. Notice that the last of the Ten Commandments prohibits covetousness (Exodus 20:17). We are covetous if we try to acquire what belongs to another without paying a fair price. If everyone obeyed the Tenth Commandment, gambling could not remain a viable industry, as one of its major appeals would vanish.

Is it wrong to seek the mind-numbing thrill and pleasure that some find through gambling? The Bible nowhere condemns pleasure and recreation, but it does warn against skewed priorities. In several of his writings the Apostle Paul stresses the importance of working, being productive, taking care of family and giving to those in need (cf. Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 3:8–11). God put mankind on earth to develop godly character. Standing over slot machines or roulette tables, squandering time and money, a Christian is certainly not helping Jesus Christ live His

life in us through such behavior (cf. Galatians 2:20). That is not how Christ spent His time when He walked the earth 2,000 years ago—and it is not the way He would spend it now!

Paul admonished Titus: "For at one time we ourselves in our folly and obstinacy were all astray. We were slaves to passions and pleasures of every kind. Our days were passed in malice and envy... Those who have come to believe in God should see that they engage in honourable occupations, which are not only honourable in themselves, but also useful to their fellow-men" (Titus 3:3, 8, *NEB*). Gambling is clearly neither honorable nor useful.

Jesus Christ told His followers to seek *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (cf. Matthew 6:33). Whenever any form of pleasure or entertainment becomes such a drain on our time and resources that it interferes with this commitment, our priorities have become distorted and are in serious need of correction.

The legalized gambling industry cannot be the economic savior touted by its supporters. It can only be a "black hole" sucking both financial and human capital from far more worthwhile and productive pursuits. Politicians, wanting to fund programs for which constituents are otherwise unable or unwilling to pay, may think they have found, in gambling, the "goose that lays the golden egg." Yet in turning to gambling, they are "tossing the dice" and wagering the economic and social well-being of their communities. Eventually, the bitter fruits of gambling will show that it is not the glamorous pursuit or financial salvation it is portrayed to be. The moral issue is clear. Gambling is a goose that lays rotten eggs! TW



Decline of the West—WHY?

What is happening to the United States, the British-descended peoples and the modern state of Israel? The British Empire is gone, reduced to a fragmenting island on the edge of a merging Europe. The U.S.—the world's only superpower—is being challenged, defied and denounced by nations around the globe. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are rapidly losing their ability to project power beyond their borders. South Africa is coming apart at the seams. Israel is besieged. Nations once admired and envied are viewed as arrogant, self-indulgent, corrupt and degenerate. Why is this occurring? Bible prophecy *reveals* the answer—and surprising facts about the future!

Promises to Abraham

The U.S., the British-descended peoples and modern Israel are the inheritors of promises God made to Abraham and his seed. Those biblical promises foretold an incredible future. Because Abraham obeyed God, God promised him national greatness and the opportunity to be a blessing to mankind (Genesis 12:1–3). His descendants would be as the sand of the seashore and gain possession of the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:6–7) and the gates of their enemies (Genesis 22:17). Israelite peoples would colonize around the globe and dwell in the choice places of the earth (Genesis 27:28–29; 28:14–15; 32:28). Two of Abraham's descendants would inherit the ultimate promises—Manasseh would become a *great nation* and Ephraim a *great commonwealth of nations* (Genesis 35:9; 48:14–22). Nothing explains better the rise to prominence of the U.S. and Britain than knowing that they are the inheritors of these promises (Genesis 49:22–26)!

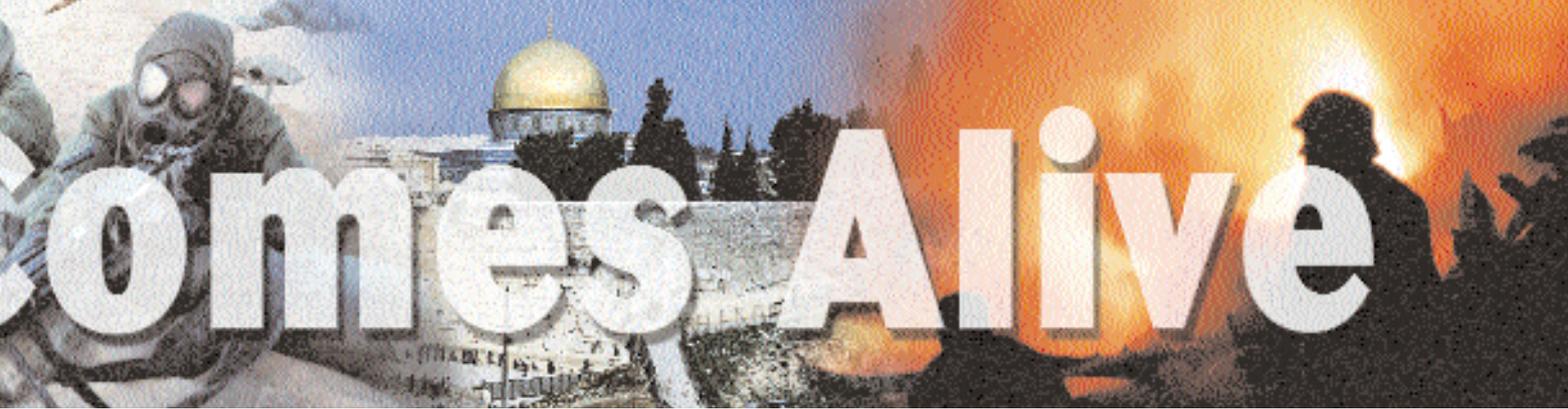
Warnings to Moses

God warned the peoples of the modern Israelite nations: “When you have eaten and are full [inherited the blessings]... *beware* that you *do not forget* the LORD

your God and His commandments... [or] you shall *perish*” (Deuteronomy 8:10–19). God chose and blessed the Israelite people to use them as an example and teach the world about His way of life (Deuteronomy 4:1–8). He promised *blessings* for obedience and *curses* for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28; Leviticus 26). However, Israel's descendants have shown a rebellious nature and a tendency to “do their own thing.” They have not lived up to the agreement they made with their Creator (Exodus 19:5–8). God understood their nature and told Moses to warn: “after my death you will become *utterly corrupt*, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and **evil will befall you in the latter days**, because you *will do evil* in the sight of the LORD, to *provoke* Him to anger” (Deuteronomy 31:29).

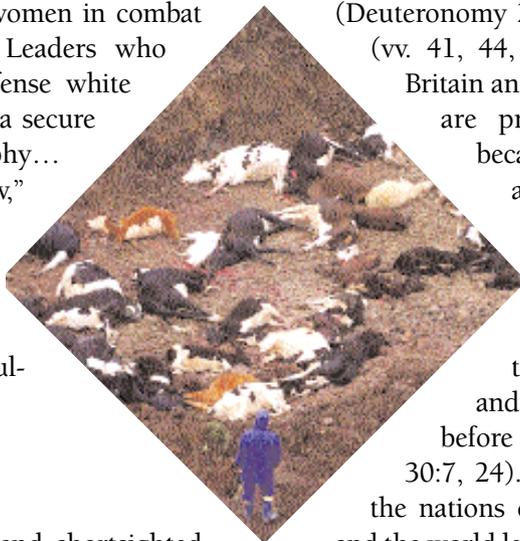
Prophetic Judgments

The prophet Isaiah reveals that Israel's rebellious ways would produce a sick and depraved society where good and evil become transposed—like Sodom and Gomorrah—inviting divine punishment (Isaiah 1:1–20; 5:20). In the U.S., prayer is prohibited in schools while homosexuality is promoted as an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Although the Bible labels homosexuality an “abomination” emanating from a “debased mind” (Leviticus 18:22; Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:26–29), gays parade brazenly in London, San Francisco and Sydney. The U.S. outlaws the display of the Ten Commandments in public places, yet allows open display of violent and sexually explicit material—in spite of biblical prohibitions (Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:18). These are reasons why American schools have become “killing fields,” sexual activity has exploded and American cultural exports are resented in non-Western societies. While God hates divorce because of its devastating effects (Malachi 2:15–17), Israelite nations *are among the world's leaders* in divorces.



Prophecy Comes Alive

Biblical prophets foretold that *dramatic judgments* will fall on rebellious Israelites. Disobedient Israelite peoples will be “cursed... in the country” with “extraordinary plagues” that will take away flocks and cattle, and these peoples will “become an astonishment, a proverb” in the sight of other peoples (Deuteronomy 28:15–19, 37, 58–59; Hosea 4:1–3). The sudden and unexpected outbreaks of “mad cow” and foot and mouth disease in Britain have been described as “horrendous” and “apocalyptic,” and have earned Britain the reputation of “the leper of Europe” (*Time*, Mar. 26, 2001, p. 52). Because Israelite nations have *forgotten* God, He tells them “I will break the pride of your power” and also that “you shall have *no power* to stand before your enemies” (Leviticus 26:19, 37). As the U.S. and Britain face increasing military challenges around the world, budget cutbacks have weakened our defense forces. Gays in the military and women in combat positions have eroded morale. Leaders who assert, as did the Australian defense white paper *Defense 2000*, that we are “a secure country thanks to our geography... chances of attack... remain low,” seem blind to lessons of the past and realities of the future (see also *While America Sleeps*, Kagan & Kagan). Once-powerful Israelite nations are increasingly vulnerable at a *critical* time!



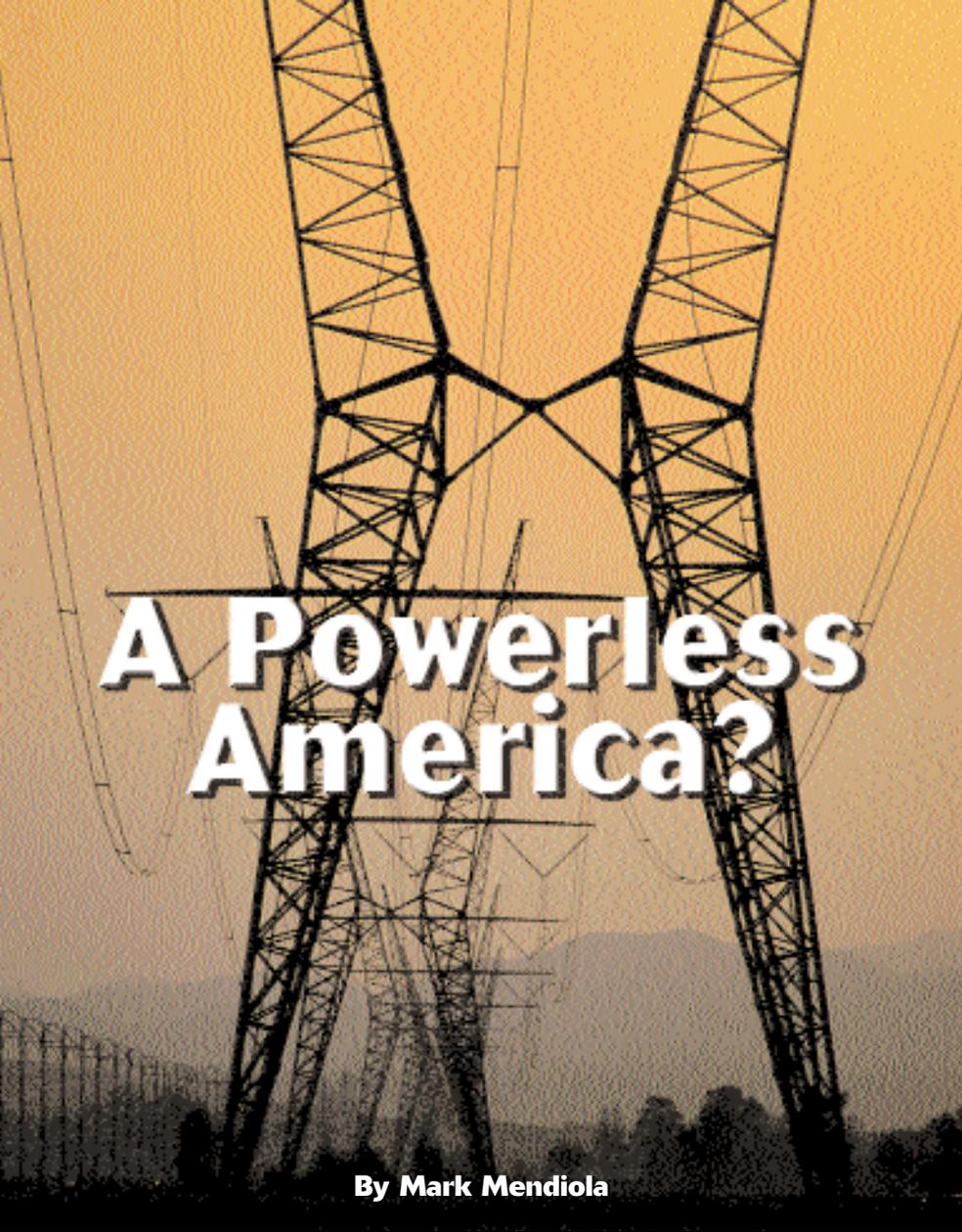
Danger Ahead

Where will these rebellious and shortsighted actions lead? What does the future hold for the U.S., Israel and the British-descended peoples? Judge Robert Bork blames modern liberal ideas promoting abortion, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, the acceptance of violence and disparaging of religious values as contributing to national decline, and he echoes Isaiah (1:10) when he concludes: “Gomorraah is our probable destination” (*Slouching Towards Gomorraah*, Bork, p. 343). Journalist Morris Berman echoes the prophet Hosea (4:6) when he proclaims that the evidence of

our society’s “crumbling” is “overwhelming”—that “the system has *lost its moorings*, and, like ancient Rome, is drifting into an increasingly dysfunctional situation” (*The Twilight of American Culture*, Berman, p. 2). British writer Peter Hitchens laments that, because of the cultural war raging in England, “a great civilization... is *on the edge of extinction*... we have very little time to save it” (*The Abolition of Britain*, p. xi).

While secular analysts see only coincidence or historical inevitability in these momentous events, God states that because “the children of Israel... have *perverted* their way; have *forgotten* the LORD their God... I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you” (Jeremiah 3:21; 18:11). Because of the disobedience of these modern Israelites, “the LORD will make the plague cling to you until you are *destroyed*... and you will be *defeated* before your enemies” (Deuteronomy 28:15–25) and carried into *captivity* (vv. 41, 44, 64–68). The peoples of the U.S., Britain and the modern Jewish nation of Israel are prophesied to “stumble together” because they have “cast off the god” and “are deeply corrupted” (Hosea 5:5; 8:3; 9:9). They will be punished by captivity in foreign nations (Hosea 8:1–8; 9:7). This coming punishment is called the “time of Jacob’s [Israel’s] trouble” and will occur in the “latter days” just before the return of Jesus Christ (Jeremiah 30:7, 24). The returning Messiah will *restore* the nations of Israel, but only after they *repent* and the world learns a powerful lesson—that there is a God who rules in the affairs of men (Ezekiel 39:23–28).

We are living in significant times! These are sobering yet encouraging prophecies that the news media and most theologians do not understand. To learn more about the identity of U.S., Britain and other Israelite nations and their prophesied future, request our free booklet *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?* And keep reading *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, where *prophecy comes alive*. It could change your life! 



A Powerless America?

By Mark Mendiola

This summer threatens to be long, hot and difficult for the United States, as Americans dig deep to pay for steep hikes in the cost of electricity, natural gas and gasoline. Not only is the nation facing its worst energy crisis since the 1970s; 2001 could be the driest year since 1977, when reservoirs dried up and crops were wiped out by a prolonged drought. Simultaneous energy and water shortages jeopardize the faltering U.S. economy's chances for a strong recovery. Bible prophecy indicates that conditions may grow much worse before they improve.

Rolling electricity blackouts, daily power alerts, soaring gasoline and natural gas prices and the largest utility bankruptcy in U.S. history have demonstrated that even wealthy states like California can see their dream of endless prosperity turn into a nightmare.

With the world's sixth-largest economy, California surpasses most nations in total value of goods and services produced. The Golden State's reputation as an ideal environment for living and working, however, has been tarnished this year amid widespread coverage of its pronounced energy crisis. Many experts worry that the energy problems plaguing California—the nation's richest and most populous state—could spread

throughout the West and the rest of the nation as shortages of power and fuel worsen.

Noting this threat to the nation, President George W. Bush on May 17 unveiled his administration's energy policy, citing what he called the "fundamental imbalance between supply and demand" of energy.

"For two decades," Bush said, "the share of the average family budget spent on energy steadily declined. But since 1998, it has skyrocketed by 25 percent, and that's a hardship for every American family. If we fail to act, Americans will face more and more widespread blackouts. If we fail to act, our country will become more reliant on foreign crude oil, putting our national energy security into the hands of foreign nations, some of which do not share our interests. And if we fail to act, our environment will suffer, as government officials struggle to prevent blackouts in the only way possible, by calling on more polluting emergency backup generators."

The President's plan calls for greater reliance on nuclear power generation, creation of a "seamless" national power grid, opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a potential source of oil and gas and providing bigger utility bill subsidies for low-income households ("Bush Energy Plan," *Los Angeles Times*, May 17, 2001)

Democrats from the House of Representatives concur that a problem exists, but oppose the Bush proposal. "Eager to draw a contrast with President Bush, House Democrats are unveiling an energy blueprint that calls for the government to hold down price increases for electric power while sparing environmentally sensitive areas from oil and gas exploration. The plan also includes proposed tax credits of up to \$4,000 for the pur-

chase of energy-efficient homes and cars and additional tax incentives for businesses to invest in energy-efficient technologies or vehicles" (*Reuters*, May 15, 2001).

Will either or both of these plans be implemented? James R. Schlesinger, secretary of energy from 1977 to 1979, observed, "It's easier to make plans than to get them accepted" ("Proposal Is Latest Reaction," *New York Times*, May 17, 2001).

Whatever their proposed solution, virtually all acknowledge that the problem is serious. In March, Vice President Dick Cheney cited estimates that the U.S. will need 1,300 new power plants over the next 20 years—roughly 65 each year—to provide adequate generating capacity. The nation also lacks the infrastructure, such as transmission lines and pipelines, required to deliver sufficient energy. "It's very important we get on with this business of making certain we've got enough energy in the future, or we will find that the problems in California today are in fact national in scope and affect all parts of the country," Cheney said. "This is not something we got into overnight, and we're not going to get out of it overnight."

California faces a power deficit of as much as 6,800 megawatts this summer—enough to light 6.8 million average homes. A megawatt equals a million watts of power. Hydroelectric dams in the Pacific Northwest have in the past provided more than 10 percent of California's electricity. But this year, with low snow pack and minimal river flows, many reservoirs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana will not likely fill, reducing available power.

Reduced supply and higher demand translate into much more

expensive electricity. Federal estimates project that California's electricity costs in 2001 may soar to \$70 billion, up from \$7 billion in 1999 and \$27 billion in 2000. The average wholesale power price was \$228 per megawatt hour in California last February—up from \$30 per megawatt hour a year ago.

By April, the state's two major utilities—Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison—faced approximately \$14.3 billion in debt. On April 6, PG&E, the state's largest utility, declared bankruptcy, saying it owed nearly \$9 billion because state power deregulation laws blocked it from passing along exorbitant wholesale power costs to consumers. Its costs were increasing by more than \$300 million a month.

California's disastrous energy crunch has forced state agencies to spend more than \$50 million per day for emergency power purchases. Governor Gray Davis and other administration officials vowed to push ahead and fund those purchases with a proposed bond issue of \$12 billion to \$14 billion—the largest bond issue in state history.

Steven Kline, PG&E's vice president of governmental relations, warned in March that California and other western states were heading for a power market disaster this summer because of tight electricity supplies. "There is a very good chance that California and possibly other western states are heading for a meltdown where—due to short supplies—the price of power could increase from today's already historically high levels to sustained stratospheric levels for the summer," Kline told a U.S. House of Representatives energy subcommittee.

On April 2, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that utility opera-

tors nationwide were scrambling to shore up their own systems. "The West is bound to suffer the most this summer, experts agree, but it's going to feel long and hot across much of the rest of the country, whether it really is or not. And with the economy already sputtering, the largest power shortage since the Arab oil embargo of 1973 could be nudging the country toward recession."

The newspaper predicted that the ten other mostly rural states in the western electricity grid are also likely to suffer like California this summer. The grid is a vast system of high-voltage lines crisscrossing the region, linking 88 utilities. One expert compared it to a bunch of high-tension rubber bands tied together. States in the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and Northern Plains could also see power disruptions. "You can today see blackouts coming, as big as life, and an energy crisis going into the fall," said Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash.

Reuters reported on March 30 that if the strained North American power grid fails to keep pace with electrical demands, California's severe supply shortage could be repeated elsewhere on the continent. "That's a microcosm of what's really happening around the United States. With the exception of Texas, which appears to be in pretty good shape for both generation and transmission, the rest of the United States has seeds of the same troubles that we see here on the West Coast," said Karl Stahlkopf, vice president of power delivery at the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif.

Even New York City may face blackouts this summer. "New York City already displays some of the early warning signs observed in California in the spring of 2000.

New York's grid operator estimates that this summer demand could outstrip supply by as much as 9 percent, raising the specter of blackouts" ("California Isn't the Only Place," *Wall Street Journal*, April 26, 2001, p. 1). "Possible riots, looting and 'social unrest' in New York City" may occur as a result of blackouts, according to a report released by the office of Governor George Pataki, D-New York ("Blackouts," *New York Post*, May 25, 2001).

Over the last decade, U.S. demand for electricity rose by about 30 percent, but transmission capacity grew by only about 15 percent, Stahlkopf said. In the next decade, electricity use is expected to increase by as much as 25 percent. The North American Electric Reliability Council, however, projects only a 4.2 percent increase in planned transmission additions the next 10 years.

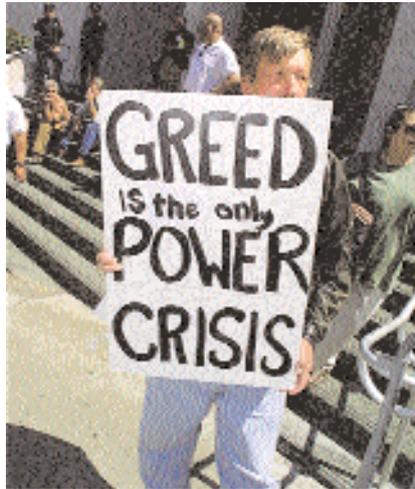
Spencer Abraham, secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, told a Senate committee March 15 that California blackouts this summer cannot be avoided—and could spread throughout the West. "The problem will get worse, and blackouts this summer appear inevitable," he said, adding that he hopes California will not "start a wave of blackouts that go beyond its borders."

Two months after Abraham's testimony, the North American Electric Reliability Council announced that California's blackout-weary consumers would face 30 percent more outages than had been forecast in March. The Council determined that Californians could see as many as 260 hours of rolling blackouts during the sweltering summer months, affecting everything from traffic lights to hospital equipment. Previous estimates forecast about 200 hours of

rotating blackouts ("260 Hours of Summer Blackouts Predicted," *Los Angeles Times*, May 16, 2001).

Other Energy Woes

Electricity shortages are not the only problems contributing to the nation's energy crisis. Speaking to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on March 19, Abraham warned of



threats on other fronts. He said rising energy prices could nudge the U.S. economy into recession. "The nation's last three recessions have all been tied to rising energy prices—and there is strong evidence that the latest crisis is already having a negative effect.... The failure to meet this challenge will threaten our nation's economic prosperity, compromise our national security and literally alter the way we live our lives."

Abraham noted that during two weeks in January, the energy crisis cost Californians an estimated \$2.3 billion in wages, sales and productivity. The National Association of Manufacturers estimates that soaring fuel prices in 1999 and 2000 cost the U.S. economy more than \$115 billion. The Food and Agricultural Policy Institute reports that beleaguered farmers may see their income

drop 20 percent over two years because of higher energy costs.

According to DOE's Energy Information Administration, America's demand for oil is projected to increase by 33 percent, but the U.S. produces 39 percent less oil than it did in 1970—four million fewer barrels a day. Domestic production peaked at 9.4 million barrels a day 30 years ago, but may be down to just 5.1 million barrels a day by 2020. During 1973, at the height of the Arab oil embargo, the U.S. imported 36 percent of its oil from abroad. Today, it imports 54 percent and, if trends continue, imports could rise to 64 percent.

After the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to cut its oil production by one million barrels a day in mid-March, Abraham contacted OPEC officials to tell them lower oil production would not be in the "long-term mutual interests" of the U.S. or OPEC.

Since 1980, the number of U.S. refineries has been cut in half, and there has not been a new refinery built in the U.S. for more than 25 years. "You have a refining industry strained to capacity, leaving us dangerously vulnerable to regional supply disruptions and price spikes," Abraham said. "Refineries are so constrained that when President Clinton made the politically symbolic gesture of releasing 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve last fall, that oil had to be shipped overseas to be refined."

Moving new natural gas supplies to market would require 38,000 additional miles of transmission pipeline and 255,000 miles of distribution lines costing up to \$150 billion, Abraham said.

The U.S. Department of Energy reported this spring that

both crude oil and gasoline stockpiles were as much as 7 percent below recent normal levels, making the U.S. vulnerable to OPEC production cutbacks and raising the possibility of further gasoline price spikes this summer.

Last summer, U.S. gas prices peaked at more than \$2 a gallon in many areas—a figure matched again in April of this year. Gasoline station operators in several regions of the U.S. were warned in early May that summer prices could top \$3 a gallon. “Shell and Chevron dealers in California and Chicago say they have been told by regional company representatives to get ready for the possibility of \$3 a gallon gasoline this summer.... More than 20 service station owners in California and the Chicago area contacted by *USA Today* say they also have been told to expect prices in the \$3 range. The oil company representatives were not specific about which grade of gasoline would be \$3, they say” (“California, Chicago Brace,” *USA Today*, May 7, 2001).

America’s demand for natural gas is projected to rise more rapidly than for oil. The Department of Energy estimates that Americans will consume 62 percent more natural gas in 2020 than will be used this year. More than 90 percent of announced new electric generating plants will be fired by natural gas, but new discoveries in the U.S. have fallen for three straight years, increasing pressure for more imports.

Meanwhile, analysts say consumers are likely to face another year of high natural gas prices. U.S. natural gas inventories slipped to 711 billion cubic feet in March—37 percent below the previous year, and 35 percent below the five-year

average, the American Gas Association reported.

“Storage is headed toward record lows, and we’ll have to inject that much more gas to get inventories back to even a minimum level by next winter,” said Bryan Sanderson of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. “The market is tight, and low storage injections and a hot summer or a cold early winter could all lead to some extreme volatility.”

Natural gas storage operators will be hard-pressed to rebuild stocks to comfortable levels by next heating season, with production expected to increase by only 3 percent this year—not enough for the more than 30,000 megawatts of new gas-fired power generation set to come on line. “While tapering heating demand as winter draws to a close has helped soften the market in recent weeks, analysts said, near record-low gas inventories and lagging production should keep the supply-demand balance fairly tight this year, particularly when air conditioners start cranking this summer, putting a strain on electricity plants that burn natural gas.... ‘We could see some dramatic price spikes if it’s a warmer-than-normal summer,’ said Jay Yannello, senior gas analyst at UBS Warburg in New York” (*Reuters*, March 19, 2001).

Weather Woes

The severity of the nation’s energy crisis this summer and winter will depend in large part on the weather. A hot, dry summer will increase the demand for electricity dramatically as millions of homes and businesses keep their air conditioning units running. A bitterly cold winter will strain depleted natural gas supplies maintaining warmth within buildings.

U.S. meteorologists expect dry hot spells this summer for the Northwest and Southwest, which may exacerbate the energy crisis in California and elsewhere in the West. They forecast hotter-than-normal temperatures for much of the Rocky Mountain region, especially from Phoenix to Salt Lake City, with very dry conditions worsened by historically low reservoir and river levels. Coupled with scarce rainfall and low reservoir levels in the Northwest, that could strain California’s creaking energy supply system, which on hot days can import 20 percent of its power needs from out of state—even from Mexico, according to an April 4 *Reuters* report.

“Essentially, it will be as tight as it ever was. I still see the potential for brownouts and rolling blackouts; I am concerned this will spread to the West. California is just a sign of things to come.... [The Pacific Northwest states] don’t have the water supplies that drive these hydroelectric plants, especially if we get through a prolonged warmer-than-normal spell like we are anticipating,” said meteorologist James Rouiller, predicting that higher temperatures and dry conditions in the Northwest will worsen the drought and lower levels at the region’s large dams (*Reuters*, April 4, 2001).

Lower output in the Pacific Northwest will squeeze California’s supplies of electricity and raise prices, said Ed Krapels, director of Gas and Power Services for Energy Security Analysis Inc. “There is no way to balance the California market without incurring some blackouts as demand goes up to its summer peaks. There just isn’t enough juice,” Krapels told *Reuters* (*Ibid.*).

Conditions are so severe that the Bonneville Power

Administration, PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Co. are buying back, from Northwest farmers, energy used to irrigate crops. That in effect will take thousands of acres of agricultural land out of production.

The Pacific Northwest's reservoir levels were left perilously low after the Bonneville Power Administration was forced to draw them down earlier this year under a federal order requiring suppliers to sell energy to California. The BPA supplies approximately half the electricity for utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana. "We are looking at a hard time of meeting our own requirements this summer.... Hopefully, we will be avoiding blackouts here, but we won't have any power to spare," said BPA spokesman Ed Mosey.

The potential for blackouts in the West is not unprecedented. In the summer of 1996, chain reactions caused two major blackouts that affected millions of consumers in 14 states. Were California's system to collapse, it could hinder transmission capabilities in other states. "A limited blackout could become fairly widespread," said Dick Watson, director of the Northwest Power Planning Council's power division.

Generating capacity in the Northwest grew only 4 percent in the 1990s, but demand grew 24 percent. Estimates show that Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana will be about 3,000 megawatts short of the electricity they need or the equivalent of about a dozen gas-fired power plants. A major drought will cut water supplies about 50 percent of normal this year—potentially catastrophic for a region generating about 16,000 megawatts of hydroelectricity in an average year.

Last March, Governor Gary Locke, D-Wash., declared a

statewide drought emergency. "For anyone who thinks a major drought cannot happen in the Evergreen State, this drought is real and the effects are going to be real," Locke said.

"Everything that could go wrong went wrong. Murphy's in charge here," Alan Mountjoy-Venning, a Washington State University energy expert, told the Associated Press. Acting BPA Chief Steve Wright commented: "We're looking at a drought of near-epic proportions."

Blessings and Curses

Is it merely coincidence that the U.S. is confronting major crises on several fronts that threaten to cause major hardships and suffering? Most experts are reluctant to cite it as a source, but the Holy Bible plainly shows a cause-and-effect reason for what can accurately be described as curses plaguing the nation. Our actions—the choices we make—determine whether we are blessed or cursed.

The Living Creator God who inspired the Bible warns of adverse consequences if we disobey His commandments, but blessings if we are obedient to His spiritual laws.

"If you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you," He says in Leviticus 26:14–16.

God then describes curses that would result—including terrorism, disease outbreaks, farm disasters and defeat by enemies. He also describes a drought that symbolically turns the heavens and earth dry and hard.

"And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit" (Leviticus 26:18–20).

U.S. energy, water and economic crises are worsening as snowpack, spring runoff and reservoir levels dwindle due to drought conditions gripping major regions of the nation. Those setbacks further weaken the nation's power and prestige.

God also warns: "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you" (Deuteronomy 11:16–17).

Breaking God's commandments brings national as well as individual curses on us. The choice is ours. rw

To Learn More...



Are drought and famine, violent storms and devastating earthquakes a VITAL message from God at the end of the age? Please request our

FREE booklet *Who Controls the Weather?* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Letters to the Editor

TOMORROW'S WORLD

The *Tomorrow's World* television program has been a blessing. I have been celebrating Easter for a very long time, but after the inspiring program I saw on Sunday, April 15, 2001, I realize that I need to know more. Don't ever get weary of doing good—you are making a difference. Thank you also for the March-April 2001 issue of your magazine; I find it wonderful and am truly enjoying it.

N. A., Guyana

The *Tomorrow's World* telecasts are great! I especially enjoyed "Secret Rapture or Place of Safety?" My prayer is that you will continue to "cry aloud and spare not." Keep up the good work.

G. M., Montgomery, AL

It is a joy, I must gladly say, to receive your truthful and informative magazine, *Tomorrow's World*. There are many times I have been surprised and intrigued by the topics in your many articles—one can truly feel the Truth through and through, and I read your issues over and over, each Sabbath.

J. B., Johore, Malaysia

Thank you for my subscription to *Tomorrow's World*. I was a *Plain Truth* subscriber for a good many years. Since the death of Mr. Armstrong, I have felt that somewhere the true Gospel must be being preached today. May God bless you all who are involved in this great Work.

H. L., Hempstead, NY

I was very impressed with the January-February 2001 *Tomorrow's World*. The total line-up of articles produced a strong and powerful message,

which one cannot help but feel highlights the shortness of time before these events are presented for all the world to see.

J. W., Independence, MO

I have received the March-April 2001 issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine, and I feel truly blessed to be on your mailing list. My heart was really lifted after reading "Families in Flux" by John Ogwyn. The article touched perfectly on the family structure in America. I enjoy reading the materials you send to me, and I am learning a lot. Thanks a bunch for helping me find my way.

J. T., San Diego, CA

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

I would like to thank you for your excellent publications—especially the *Bible Study Course*. They have helped a great deal in cultivating that much-needed "research attitude" toward the contents of the Bible. My knowledge has been tremendously increased, and I pray that you continue to spread the Word as you have been doing.

S. B., St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

BOOKLET

I have just read your new booklet *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. It was excellent in showing people the true Church—that follows all of God's ways and His government. It also exposed the false reformers of pagan Christianity. I also just finished reading the article "Who Is the Harlot of Revelation 17?" [in the January-February 2001 issue]. It should wake people up who are willing to acknowledge the truth.

K. P., Morrisville, VT

We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to letters@tomorrowsworld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

Islam in History and Prophecy:

Religious roots of Middle East conflict

By William Bowmer

Islam, the faith of more than a billion people and a driving force behind Middle East conflict, is a mystery to many. How did this growing religion first develop, and how will it affect end-time prophetic events? What will be the fate of its adherents? With prophecy speeding up as we approach the end of the age, we need to understand the truth about Islam!

Muslim protesters gather on Israel's West Bank chanting *Allahu akbar* (Arabic for "God is great") as they call for the destruction of the Jewish nation. On the Temple Mount in Jerusalem—revered by both Muslims and Jews—worshipers are killed in Israeli-Palestinian conflicts. In the name of Islam, Muslim militants such as Osama bin-Laden mastermind terrorist attacks against non-Muslims.

Salaam is the Arabic word for "peace." From *salaam* is derived *Islam*—the name of a religion which claims descent from Abraham and has more than a billion adherents around the globe. Yet amid growing Middle East tensions, news reports increasingly associate Islam with violence, rather than peace.

Even so, Islam is gaining popularity in the United States and other British-descended nations. More than 1.5 million Muslims live in Great Britain. The U.S. is home to more Muslims than Methodists, according to the United States Information Agency, which reports that by the year 2010 there will be more Muslims than Jews in the U.S., making Islam the nation's second-largest faith. Islam's growth in

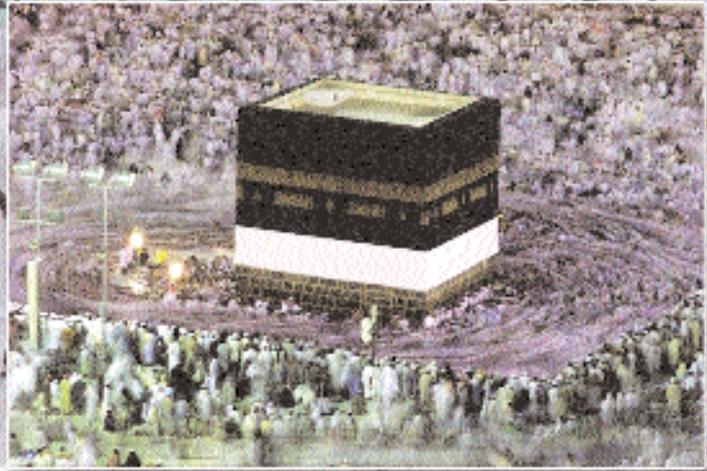
the U.S. has been recent; an April 2001 study coordinated by Hartford Seminary revealed that 87 percent of the country's 1,209 mosques (houses of worship) were founded since 1970, and 20 percent in just the last five years. Of the 7 million American Muslims, only one-eighth are of Arab ancestry; 29 percent are new converts, most of whom come from the African-American community.

Islam is a worldwide phenomenon claiming more than a billion of the earth's six billion human beings as adherents. What will be their destiny? Will pious Muslims go to a heavenly paradise after death, as their religion teaches? Will they burn forever in a fiery Hell, as many non-Muslims believe? Or does God have something else planned for them? How will this religion, which has grown from the deserts of Arabia to the heartland of America, affect prophesied end-time events?

Arabian Roots

Muhammad was born in 570AD in the Arabian city of Mecca. His mother died when he was six years old; he was reared by his uncle, a successful trader with whom, at age 12, he first traveled to Syria. Before Muhammad had reached age 20, he had visited Damascus, Jerusalem, Aleppo and other cities throughout the region; by age 25 he had married Khadija, a wealthy widow 15 years his senior.

Although Jewish traders dominated Mecca's commerce, its religious landscape was dominated by a polytheist temple—the Kaaba—containing a black stone that, according to local traditions, Abraham had



received from the angel Gabriel. Some members of Muhammad's Quraishi tribe believed that Adam and Eve had built the Kaaba; others credited it to Abraham and Ishmael. From his contacts with Jewish traders, Muhammad could understand that the polytheistic worship in the Kaaba would have been unacceptable to Adam and Eve, or to Abraham and Ishmael.

In 610AD, after six months spent meditating in a cave at Mount Hira, Muhammad announced that he had received, through the angel Gabriel, a revelation from God. Soon he was proclaiming a new religion called *Islam* (Arabic for "submission"). Facing opposition, Muhammad fled with his followers to Yathrib (later renamed Medina) in 622AD, where he took control of the city and prepared for his conquest of Mecca in 630AD. Throughout this time, Muhammad claimed an ongoing series of special revelations via the angel Gabriel; after his death in 632AD, these revelations were compiled into the book now called the Quran. Muslims consider this book the inerrant word of God.

Islam is divided into several branches; the two most prominent are the Sunni and Shia, which diverged in a leadership dispute soon after Muhammad's death, but are united in upholding the "Five Pillars" of Islam—prayer, almsgiving, fasting, pilgrimage to Mecca and the basic statement of Muslim faith, that "there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet."

Muslims abstain from alcohol. They have their own laws of clean and unclean meats, and refuse to eat pork, carnivorous animals or flesh sacrificed to idols (though various biblically prohibited foods, such as camel, are considered "clean" in Islamic law). Muslims keep what they consider a "sabbath" day, though theirs is Friday rather than the biblical seventh-day Sabbath.

Most Muslims belong to the Sunni branch, which takes the Quran, supplemented by the Hadiths (sayings of Muhammad) and Shariah (Islamic law), as the guiding force behind Islam. The Shia branch, however, looks also to the office of Imam as spiritual head of the faith. Over the years, the Sunni and Shia have developed slightly different standards of Islamic practice and jurisprudence. Their differences, however, are smaller than those between Roman Catholics and Protestants, and these two Muslim divisions do not consider themselves separate sects.

Nevertheless, Muslim intrareligious quarrels can be fierce. Middle East expert Daniel Pipes offered this analysis: "Islamic schisms start as political quarrels and

only later acquire theological overtones. In particular, the greatest divide between Muslims, that separating Sunnis and Shi'is, has powerful political implications.... more than one-half of Iraq's population adheres to the same Twelver Shi'i version of Islam that prevails in Iran. This engenders deep fears of a Shi'i rebellion in Iraq" ("A Border Adrift," Pipes, *The Iran-Iraq War*, 1983). Muslims in Iran and Iraq fought one another from September 1980 to August 1988 in a war which resulted in nearly a million deaths, more than a million wounded and multiple millions made refugees.

Despite such intrareligious conflict, Scripture tells of a coming Arab-Muslim confederacy. In Psalm 83, King David of ancient Israel reveals that Israel's adversaries will achieve at least a degree of unity in the not-too-distant future. In verses 6–7, David lists by their ancient names the peoples who will join together in an anti-Israel confederacy—Arab and Muslim nations of the Middle East, supported by sympathetic elements in Europe—seeking to wipe Israel from the face of the earth!

Already, some in the Middle East are calling for a "united front" against Israel. Last April, representatives from more than 30 Muslim nations backed a Palestinian call for a continued uprising against not only Israel, but also against Egypt and Jordan, which have peace treaties with Israel. "Muslims are getting united against Israel," Moussa Abu Marzouk, a senior official of the radical Muslim group Hamas, told the Associated Press on April 25. "Our people will not give up the Israeli aggression," Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin confirmed in a May 11 Reuters interview.

This prophesied future development, though, is far removed from the daily lives of most Muslims today, especially those in Western countries. The few Muslims who have engaged in terrorist acts in the U.S., such as the attack on the World Trade Center in 1993, are a distinct minority; many more American Muslims display the American flag proudly on Independence Day, and join in the civic life of a democratic nation.

Influence of Jews and Christians

Mecca and Medina, in Muhammad's day, were cosmopolitan Arabian cities visited by traders from many lands. Traveling with his family of successful traders, Muhammad interacted with Jews and professing Christians—a fact significant for Islam's development.

Muhammad taught that Islam was the religion of Abraham, and that the Jews practiced a corrupted

form of the true religion. Originally, Muhammad taught Muslims to pray facing Jerusalem; only after the Jews rejected Muhammad's message did he change the direction of worship to Mecca.

Many stories in the Quran are similar to those in the Bible, but differ in important details. Most Jews and Christians recall that God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac (cf. Genesis 22), but stopped him at the last minute after Abraham had demonstrated his obedience. A version of this story also occurs in the Quran (Sura 37:90–122), but Muslims believe that *Ishmael*, not Isaac, was offered for sacrifice.

To understand this variation and others like it, we must remember that the Arabs of Muhammad's day understood that they and the Jews were fellow Semitic peoples, descended from Abraham. The Jews came through Sarah's son Isaac, the Arabs through Hagar's son Ishmael. Scripture explains the relationship between these two brothers: "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year" (Genesis 17:20–21). God made His covenant through Isaac's descendants, though Ishmael too was blessed. The Bible tells us of Ishmael's nature and his role in a continuing conflict: "He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren" (Genesis 16:12). The descendants of Isaac and Ishmael are brothers, but these peoples have been party to a bitter rivalry from the first.

"People of The Book"

The Quran calls Jews and Christians "People of the Book"—people to whom God gave Scripture. With this designation comes a measure of respect; Muslims are told (Sura 29:46) to "be courteous when you argue with the People of the Book." Yet the Quran asserts (Sura 5:13) that the Jews tampered with the Book that God gave them—the Old Testament.

By contrast, the Apostle Paul wrote: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). When Paul wrote those words, "Scripture" meant the Old Testament—the books from which Jesus Christ taught. We know that Scripture cannot be broken (cf. John 10:35), so to reject the Old Testament, as Muslims do, is also to reject Jesus Christ.

By the 7th century, many professing Christians had drifted far away from the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. Muhammad encountered many who professed belief in a "Trinity," and many who venerated Jesus' mother Mary as the "mother of God." The Quran attacks these beliefs in a peculiar way, proclaiming a strict monotheism by denouncing the idea that Mary is a member of the Trinity (Sura 5:114–116). Yet not even the Christian denominations that venerate Mary as the "mother of God" have called her a part of the Trinity!

If the Quran were a divinely inspired book, would it attack a belief that did not exist? One might instead suspect that these verses reflect Muhammad's human revulsion at the excessive Marian devotions that had infiltrated Christianity, which he would have seen when meeting traders passing through the very cosmopolitan city of his upbringing.

Muslims revere Jesus as a great prophet, but do not consider Him God. Muhammad taught that Jesus was not crucified, but was taken to heaven—and a substitute appeared to die in His place (Sura 4:157). This is strikingly similar to some Gnostic teachings Muhammad would have encountered in his travels.

The Quran affirms Christ's virgin birth, but in doing so appears to confuse the identities of Miriam, the sister of Moses, and Mary the mother of Jesus. In Sura 19:28, Christ's mother is called the "sister of Aaron"—a phrase which everywhere else in the Quran refers to Miriam. In response, Muslims suggest that "sister of Aaron" is a generic term meaning "virtuous woman" even though such a usage occurs nowhere else in the Quran.

To reconcile the many inconsistencies, Muslims teach that a Gospel account called the *Injil* once existed, corroborating Muslim accounts of Jesus' life, but that this *Injil* has been lost or suppressed. Biblical archaeology, however, makes this claim hard to defend. Manuscripts of the earliest Gospels—containing material that contradicts Muslim teachings—have been found, dated to within decades of Christ's



life, but no similar findings of this hypothetical *Injil* have been documented.

Afterlife and Jihad

In Christ's day, Jews held varying expectations of the afterlife. Some, like the Sadducees, understood that we simply cease to exist at death until God resurrects us to judgment. However, even in Christ's day, many Jews had become influenced by Hellenistic and Eastern concepts of the immortal soul, and believed that all souls continue in an incorporeal form after death, whether in a pleasant Heaven, a shadowy Sheol or a fiery Hell.

By the 7th century, nearly everyone around Muhammad taught some form of the doctrine of the immortal soul. It was this doctrine, rather than the accurate Biblical teaching, that found its way into Islam. According to the Quran, the souls of the righteous will, after death, "delight for ever in what their souls desire" (Sura 21:99). Each will be in "a blissful state in a lofty garden, with clusters of fruit within his reach" (Sura 69:20). The souls of the wicked, however, will be cast into a fiery eternal Hell in which their torments will never end: "The evil doers shall endure for ever the torment of Hell, which will not be assuaged for them; they shall be speechless with despair" (Sura 43:73). Another account: "Those that deny Our revelations We will burn in fire. No sooner will their skins be consumed than We shall give them other skins, so that they may truly taste the scourge" (Sura 4:56).

Muslim theology includes the concept of *jihad*, or struggle, and teaches that those who succeed in *jihad*, and give their lives to it, will be promoted to the highest rewards offered in Heaven. In most circumstances, *jihad* is understood as the struggle to live a righteous life—"overcoming" would be a close synonym. But in the context of war, *jihad* takes on a more foreboding implication. Muslims have come to believe that if they die on the battlefield while spreading Islam, they will assure themselves of a glorious salvation. Many Muslims denounce this militaristic understanding of *jihad*, but it remains a powerful force in the Muslim world, a tool often used by rulers to incite nationalistic passions in their peoples.

Muslims acknowledge that they will not bring about a righteous world by themselves. Particularly in the Shia branch of Islam, a "righteous one" or Mahdi is expected at the end of the age. Some expect Jesus to be that Mahdi; most expect Jesus to return

from heaven after the Mahdi, to judge the nations and destroy false religious teachings.

Yes, Muslims are awaiting Jesus' return! But the Jesus for whom they wait is not the true Jesus Christ of the Bible. A false Christ coming shortly before the return of the real Jesus Christ could use Muslim prophecies to sway hundreds of millions of Muslims into following him (cf. Matthew 24:4–5).

What Is Ahead for Muslims?

In an age when many professing Christians have abandoned the values and practices taught by Christ, devout Muslims may seem in many respects more godly in their conduct than many of today's so-called Christians. Prayer and fasting and almsgiving are integral parts of Muslims' lives. Devout Muslims seek fervently to overcome their sinful natures.

But no matter what their "good works," Muslims face a dilemma. True Christians, accepting Jesus Christ's sacrifice and letting Him live His life in them (Galatians 2:20), can produce good works by yielding to their living Savior. Without Christ, Muslims contend in vain against the flesh. But after Christ returns, today's Muslims will have their true chance to accept the living Jesus Christ as Savior.

Jesus Christ will indeed return—not as Muslims expect, but as the "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16). After He returns, former Muslims will see that the ideals and values they sought to uphold are fulfilled perfectly not by the man-made laws of Islam, but by the God-given law administered by Jesus Christ, when all human beings learn true submission to God's perfect love in that thousand-year period of peace and justice—the "Millennium"—that we call Tomorrow's World. ^[TW]

To Learn More...



The billions of Muslims and other human beings who have never known the true God—who have never been called by God and exposed to true Christianity—are *not* doomed to spend eternity burning in Hell. The Holy Bible reveals God's actual plan for humanity—and it is not what most professing Christians believe. Please request our FREE booklet *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

A KEY TO POWER (continued from page 3)

to Abraham has *not even yet come!* So Paul tells us that God is one “who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist *as though they did*” (Romans 4:17). In this passage, God is letting us know that when He decides to do something, *it is just as good as done*—even though the answer may not come for hundreds of years! NOTHING in the entire universe can stop God’s will from being performed, but HE decides the time and the way.

King David of Israel, whom God called “a man after My own heart,” was a *man of constant prayer*, as we see in the book of Psalms. He constantly *poured out his soul* to God in prayer, in worship, in adoration and in praise. David put his WHOLE HEART into his prayers. This is a vital “key” to successful prayer. We must not just say memorized or “sleepy time” prayers, but *heartfelt prayers* that come pouring right out of our heart with fire and passion!

We must also be *regular and consistent*, praying *every day* of our lives. Even though he was very busy as King of Israel, David stated: “As for me, I will call upon God, and the LORD shall save me. Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:16–17). The King of Israel—busy though he must have been—took time to pray THREE TIMES each day before his God!

The great prophet Daniel did so, too. Notice Daniel 6:10: “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Though threatened with DEATH if he prayed, Daniel *knew* his contact with God was more vital to his preservation than anything else.

Later, Jesus told His disciples (and certainly us today): “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). We are to ask in the “name”—or by the *authority*—of Jesus Christ. We are to ask IN FAITH—knowing that God will do what He has promised—but we are to come to Him through His Son as our Savior and living High Priest (Hebrews 4:15–16).

We are to “feed” on Jesus Christ and the Word of God in order to build the *living faith* we need in order to have answered prayers. God tells us through the Apostle Paul: “So then FAITH comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

So we need regularly to read such passages and promises as Jesus’ statements in Mark 11:23–24: “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but BELIEVES that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, BELIEVE that you receive them, and you will have them.”

We must also believe God when He tells us to OBEY His commandments. As the Apostle John taught: “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:22).

Over months and years of regular study, contemplation, communion with God and *seeing the ANSWER* come again and again—we will KNOW and *know that we know* that God is there and that He will always answer our prayer IF we ask in faith through Jesus Christ, asking—and living—according to God’s will.

As the end of this age swiftly approaches, let us all learn to *fully surrender* our hearts, minds and wills to our Creator. Walking with Him, TALKING with Him in prayer and surrendering to Him, let us ask that His will may be done on earth as in heaven—*especially* in our own lives. Then, if we are in fact “walking with God” we will have increasing FAITH that God is there and that our prayers will be answered. God will then be with us—not only as a feeling, but as a REALITY—to protect, guide, bless and deliver us, as our Father, from all the trials and troubles ahead.



Tomorrow's World

Television and Radio Log

INTERNATIONAL:

—AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: ACE—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am, THUR 8:30 pm
Brisbane: BRIZ—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am
Melbourne: MCTC—Ch 31, TUE 11:00 pm
Perth: CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—GUYANA

Georgetown: NBTV—Ch 9, SUN 10:00 am

—JAMAICA

Kingston: CVM TV—Ch 4, 8 & 9, SUN 7:00 am

—PHILIPPINES

Borongan: Borongan Cable—Ch 17, SAT 3:00 pm
Kidapawan: Mindanao, Kidapawan Cable—Ch 19, SUN 1:00 pm
Naval, Leyte: Naval Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am
Nabunturan: Nabunturan Cable—Ch 7, SUN 9:00 am

—TRINIDAD

Trinidad, Port of Spain: CCN—Ch 6, SAT 3:30 pm

UNITED STATES:

AL, Birmingham: Cable—Ch 4, FRI 4:30 pm
AL, Troy: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 8:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, WED 4:00 pm
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 63 & 73, SAT 3:00 pm; SUN 1:00 pm
CA, Anaheim: Adelfphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
CA, Buena Park: Adelfphia—Ch 55, SUN 5:00 pm
CA, Eureka: Cox—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am
CA, Modesto: AT&T—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
CA, Norwalk: Public Access—Ch 55, THUR 5:00 pm
CA, Oceanside: KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm
CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 75, WED 7:00 pm
CA, San Andreas: MediaOne—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 24 THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Community TV—Ch 29 THUR 5:00 pm
CA, Sonora: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Enfield: Cox—Ch 15, THUR 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
FL, Tampa: Time Warner—Ch 19 & 20, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 8:00 pm
GA, Atlanta: AIB—Cable, THUR 6:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am
GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
HI, Hilo: Na Leo—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
HI, Honolulu: Olelo—Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
HI, Kailua-Kona: Na Leo—Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm

HI, Kauai: Ho'ike—Ch 12, MON 3:30 pm
HI, Lanai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 8:30 pm
HI, Maui: Akaku—Ch 44, WED 8:30 pm
HI, Molokai: Akaku—Ch 3, 12 & 13 WED 8:30 pm
IA, Des Moines: AT&T—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am
IA, Dubuque: TCI of Iowa—Ch 45, THUR 7:30 pm; MON 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am
IA, Waterloo: Cable—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm
ID, Pocatello: Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
IL, Bloomington: AT&T—Ch 10, SUN 11:30 am; WED 7:00 pm
IL, Chicago: WGN—Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)
IL, Peoria: AT&T—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IL, Springfield: TCI—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm
IN, Anderson: Insight—Ch 3, WED 9:30 pm
IN, Lafayette: Insight—Ch 16, TUE 8:30 pm
KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
LA, Monroe: Time Warner—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Baltimore: TCI—Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm, WED 4:00 pm
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 67/58, THUR 6:30 pm
MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm
MN, Roseville: CTV—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am
MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 34, SUN 8:30 pm
MO, Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 6:00 am
MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 11, WED 12:00 am & 4:00 pm
MT, Billings: BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am & 7:30 pm
MT, Butte: BSC—Cable, Daily 7:30 pm & 8:30 pm
MT, Great Falls: BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am
MT, Great Falls: Public Access TV—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm
MT, Helena: BSC—Cable, Daily 9:30 am
MT, Kalispell: BSC—Cable, Daily 5:00 am
MT, Missoula: BSC—Cable, SUN 9:30 am & 9:30 pm; WED 9:30 pm
NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm
ND, Bismarck: CATV—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm
NE, Omaha: KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 71 & 72, SUN 6:30 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Binghamton: Time Warner—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm
NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm
NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am
NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 70, THUR 10:00 pm

NY, Oneonta: Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm
NY, Port Jefferson: TCI—Ch 1/99 MON 9:00 pm
NY, Queens: QPTV—Ch 35, Times Vary
NY, Riverhead: Cablevision—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm
NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 12:30 pm
OK, Tulsa: KTFO—Ch 41 SAT 12:30 am
OR, Portland: MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm
PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI, 5:00 pm
SC, Charleston: Comcast—Ch 2, SUN 8:30 am
TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: TCI—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Fredericksburg: COX—Ch 25, MON 8:00 pm
VT, Barre: Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm
WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm
WA, Seattle: TCI—Ch 29, SAT 7:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: Clark/Vancouver—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am
WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am

RADIO STATIONS:

Argentina Ameghino—94.9 FM, SAT 1:00 pm
Martinique, Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am
Martinique, Radio Campêche—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am
Martinique, Radio St. Pierre—88.7 FM, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am
Mexico, Mexico City, XEEST—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am
Northern Ireland, Portadown, Radio Star—981 AM & 101.2 FM, THUR 9:00 pm
Philippines, Manila, DWBL—1242 kHz AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm
Philippines, Ozamiz City, DXOC—1494 kHz AM, SUN 8:00 am
United Kingdom, Manx Radio—1368 kHz AM, 97.2/103.7 mHz FM SUN 10:00 pm

• Television Superstations

—CANADA (nationwide)

ON, Toronto: VISION—SUN 1:00 am & 6:30 pm (ET & PT)

—NEW ZEALAND (nationwide)

Auckland: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am

—IL, Chicago: WGN—National Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)

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TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS:

WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET

VISION: Canada: SUN 1:00 am & SUN 6:30 pm ET & PT

PRIME TELEVISION: New Zealand, Auckland: SUN 8:30 am

NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

KY, Paducah: *Public Cable*—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm

MD, Westminster: *Adelphia*—Ch 19, TUE 10:30 am, THUR & FRI 10:00 am

NY, Batavia: *Time Warner*—Ch 19, WED 6:30 pm

NY, Delmar: *TV 18*—Ch 18, WED 3:00 pm

NY, Irondequoit: *ICAT*—Ch 15, SUN 7:00 pm, TUE 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

NY, Ithaca: *Pegasys*—Ch 13 & 78, SUN 8:00 pm, TUE 7:00 pm, WED 4:30 pm

NY, Schenectady: *Community TV*—Ch 16, MON 8:30 am

NY, Utica: *Adelphia*—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm

OR, Beaverton: *Community Access*—Ch 51, SAT 12:00 pm & MON 1:30 pm

RI, Providence: *WPXQ*—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 pm

VT, Montpelier: *Adelphia*—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm, WED 3:00 pm

Philippines: Maasin City: *Maasin Cable*—Ch 13, SUN 12:00 pm

Naval, Biliran: *Bilinet Cable*—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am

Ormoc City: *Ormoc Cable*—Ch 3, SAT 12:00 pm

Sogod, Leyte: *Sogod Cable*—Ch 13, SUN 12:00 pm

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