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ARMAGEDDON AND BEYOND



"Goodbye" to England?

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

For decades, I have been warning the British-descended and American peoples that very real *catastrophes* await them if they continue to turn away from the God of the Bible. For *that God*—the only true God—is now beginning to intervene to chasten the American and British-descended peoples. And although the current humiliations are real, they are *only the beginning*.

On a recent trip to the United Kingdom, I was saddened to see how the British people are quietly submitting to the takeover of their once-great nation. Month by month, slowly but surely, it is happening right before their very eyes!

As one example of what is occurring, Britain's prestigious *Daily Telegraph* reported the following in a shocking front-page article dated April 23, 2008:

"England has been wiped off a map of Europe drawn up by Brussels bureaucrats as part of a scheme that the Tories claim threatens to undermine the country's national identity.

The new European plan splits England into three zones that are joined with areas in other countries.

The 'Manche' region covers part of southern England and northern France while the Atlantic region includes western parts of England, Portugal, Spain and Wales. The North Sea region includes eastern England, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and parts of Germany. A copy of the map, which makes no reference to England or Britain, has even renamed the English Channel the 'Channel Sea'. Each zone will have a 'transnational regional assembly', although they will not have extensive powers. However, the zones are regarded as symbolically important by other countries."

Wow!

Britain's *Daily Mail* also reported on that insidious scheme, describing how in this European Union-devised plan, each region will be run by a "managing authority" of unelected officials overseen by a director. **None** will be based in the United Kingdom!

The *Daily Telegraph* reported a concern voiced by Conservative Party spokesman Eric Pickles, "Now the Labour government has been caught red-handed, con-

spiring with European bureaucrats to create a European super-state via the back door."

Confronted by Britons outraged at the proposal, the British government's Foreign Office dismissed Pickles' concerns as "ludicrous" and "scaremongering." A Foreign Office statement insisted, "Repeated efforts to scare people into believing that the EU is somehow going to 'abolish Britain' have been proven false time and again—and this is just another pitiful attempt. These groupings are used to distribute funding to different regions in Europe with similar environmental, transport or tourism interests."

An official with England's Department for Communities and Local Government insisted, "These claims are complete rubbish. This is about working with other member states to help ensure European Regional Development Funding supports projects that will really make a difference to our economy and quality of life—particularly in the most deprived areas."

Are the Labour politicians and government bureaucrats telling the truth? Or *will* a European government try to abolish Britain? What does your Bible say? Many thousands of you know that the British-descended and American peoples are, in fact, the **end-time** remnant of the ancient "House of Israel" which was conquered by Assyria more than two millennia ago, then was taken into national captivity before it supposedly "disappeared."

Many scholars describe those "disappeared" nations as the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel." But, although most historians lost sight of them, they *did not* disappear! Today, the descendants of those nations can be identified clearly as the peoples of northwestern Europe, Britain and the former Commonwealth nations, and the United States. Literally *dozens* of biblical prophecies describe what *has* happened to these peoples, what is now happening, and what will *soon* happen—**unless** they repent and turn wholeheartedly to the God of the Bible.

This truly fascinating history—a genuine "key" to help us understand about 90 percent of end-time prophecy—is explained in our eye-opening booklet, *The United*

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THE TRUTH ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS

By Roderick C. Meredith

Everyone wants to know what happens after death. Preachers offer many different theories about the fate of unsaved children, and of those who never heard the Gospel. But the truth of the matter is in the pages of the Bible—where very few seem to look for it!

What happens to those who die “unsaved”? Are billions of Muslims, Hindus and other non-Christians lost forever?

Most of us have friends or relatives who died without believing in any form of Christianity. Where are they now? And what will be their ultimate fate?

Frankly, mainstream Christianity does not have the answers!

Most preachers give the impression that God is now “trying” to get everyone “saved.” He is pictured almost like a sad hound dog trying to track down and “save” the billions of people who do not believe in any form of Christianity. Most old-fashioned, self-described

“Bible-believing” churches have taught this idea for centuries. The modern “liberal” churches, which do not take the Bible literally, bypass the problem by saying, in effect, that God will save all those whose “heart is right” or who practice their religion (whatever it is!) with “sincerity.”

But will He really do what they expect?

If you want the real answer about what will happen, you need to believe what the Bible—the inspired revelation from the Creator God—actually says. Of course, if you do not believe the Bible, then one per-

son's "idea" or "theory" is about as good as another's. But are you willing to open your mind and believe what the Bible truly says?

Where Do the Dead Go?

The old-fashioned preachers tell people that they immediately go either to heaven or hell when they die. But the Bible says no such thing! Jesus Christ said: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). Further, Jesus also stated: "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven" (John 3:13).

And the Bible makes it exceedingly clear that true Christians who have died are now awaiting the *resurrection* at Christ's Second Coming. 1 Corinthians 15 is called the "resurrection chapter" because it describes this thoroughly! Notice 1 Corinthians 15:21–23: "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."

And Jesus directly stated: "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the *dead* will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the *resurrection* of condemnation" (John 5:25, 28–29).

The above scriptures should make it exceedingly clear that the "dead" are actually *dead*—not floating around in heaven or burning in hell! And that even the dead that "have done good" are awaiting the "resurrection of life" (v. 29). Any other explanation directly contradicts literally

dozens of other plain, clear scriptures. And, as Jesus said, "the Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

But, what about the many *billions* of human beings, made in God's image, who never really had a genuine opportunity to hear about the Christ of the Bible and accept Him as their Savior? Does God have a double standard? Does He have some "other way" to gain eternal life? Or for those billions of human beings, is it simply "tough luck" bestowed by a harsh God who "plays favorites" and gives some people a "chance" while giving others no opportunity whatsoever?

The answer is definitely not what you have been taught by mainstream "Christianity." Yet it is wonderful and meaningful to those who understand. And it is not found in an extra-biblical book or theory cooked up by some self-made prophet. It has been right there in your own Bible all the time. It is the Truth that almost nobody knows!

God Is NOT Trying To Save the World Now!

Your Bible makes it very clear that this is *not* God's world. This is *not* the system or society which the Creator God established. Rather, God has given man 6,000 years—under the sway of Satan—to go his own way, to try out his own ideas, and to learn hard lessons through human suffering. The Apostle Paul wrote: "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has *blinded*, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

Later, the Apostle John was inspired to write: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world"

(Revelation 12:9). Was John correct? Is the "whole world" really *deceived*? Obviously, a truly "deceived" person does not know that he is deceived. Otherwise, he would not be deceived!

Remember Jesus' statement to His disciples: "I will no longer talk much with you, for the *ruler* of this world is coming, and he has *nothing* in Me" (John 14:30). And, as the Apostle John wrote the true Christians of his day: "We know that we are of God, and the *whole world* lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19).

So, if the whole world is "blinded" as Paul wrote, and the whole world is "deceived" as the Apostle John wrote, that certainly explains why untold *billions* of people have never heard the true Gospel! But is a just and fair God going to leave them in the grave or burn them up in an everlasting fire?

Of course not!

Please understand that it is just a matter of *when* God chooses to "call" each individual to genuine knowledge of the Truth and a real opportunity for salvation. All will eventually be called. Notice that when some of the Gentiles were first being called, the Apostle Peter stated: "In truth I perceive that God shows *no partiality*. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" (Acts 10:34–35). And Paul stated: "For there is *no partiality* with God" (Romans 2:11).

That is why Jesus spoke entirely in parables to all but His inner group of disciples: "And He said to them, 'To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that "Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them"'" (Mark 4:11–12). This truth of the

Bible is directly contrary to what most of us were taught in Sunday school or church—that Jesus spoke in parables “so everyone would understand.” In fact, the **exact opposite** is true! Jesus spoke in parables so the general public would not understand! Jesus was not trying to convert the world at that time.

So we see that God is not “trying” to convert the world now—in this age. Otherwise, He would do it! For one of God’s names is *El Shaddai*—God Almighty. So **nothing** could stop the true God from converting the world now—if that were His real intention!

What God Is Accomplishing NOW

The Apostle Peter was inspired to tell us: “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:8–9).

Do you see?

In working out His supreme purpose, God is in “no hurry”! In His time—**not** our time—God wants “all” to come to **repentance**. He indicates that His plan will be accomplished over thousands of years! Again, remember that God is not trying to save the whole world now. Yet He is not condemning those who have been **deceived** by Satan, the “god of this age” whom the Creator God has allowed to influence and rule this world during this present time.

Remember how God “condemned” the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, turning them “into ashes” and “making them an **example** to those who afterward would live ungodly” (2

Peter 2:6). Yet, when you understand, you quickly realize that those perverted people were **blinded** to the Truth and did not know the true God. So how will God eventually deal with those blinded human beings who **never** had a genuine opportunity for salvation?

In Matthew 11, Jesus describes how the cities of His day refused to hear the Truth: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you” (vv. 21–22). Then Jesus made a remarkable statement: “But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you” (v. 24). So there is a “day of judgment” coming in which it will be “more tolerable” for Sodom and Gomorrah than for the cities of Jesus’ time. Jesus here clearly recognizes that those ancient cities were never presented with the Truth. They had **no opportunity** at all!

God inspired the Apostle Paul to state the following about the Gentiles in Ephesus: “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having **no hope** and **without God** in the world” (Ephesians 2:11–12). The absolute truth is that God has “allowed” most people to go their own way for the last 6,000 years under Satan’s influence. The Almighty God has **not even tried** to “save” them. Otherwise, they would be saved! But He has planned a “day of judgment”—not a “day of condemnation”—so that those **billions**

of human beings may have a genuine opportunity for salvation and then be “judged” according to what they do at that time when their eyes are really “opened” to the Truth!

How will they be saved? The Bible is *very clear* in stating that the only way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ! Jesus Himself stated: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber’.... Then Jesus said to them again, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, *I am the door* of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them’” (John 10:1, 7–8). Here Jesus clearly **condemns** any “other way” to eternal life! For God alone can give us everlasting life. He sets the conditions—not misguided human beings who may have sentimental thoughts about false Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, “New Age” theories or any other ideas or theories of men!

The Apostle Peter was inspired to state emphatically: “Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This [Christ] is the ‘**stone** which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:10–12).

The White Throne Judgment

We read earlier that in the prophesied “day of judgment” it will be “more tolerable” for the Sodomites than for the men of Jesus’ day who rejected Him in person. The inspired gospel of Luke adds

details to Matthew's account. In Luke 10:13–14, Jesus Christ said: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be **more tolerable** for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."

The plain indication is that since ancient Tyre, Sidon and Sodom were **not** given a genuine opportunity to learn the Truth, they will

not be held responsible for being blinded. In fact, Jesus stated that He knew they "*would have repented*" (v. 13) if they had seen Jesus' mighty works.

Since God is *no respecter of persons*, you may wonder: when and how will the people of these ancient Gentile cities, and the other **billions** of similarly blinded human beings, be given a genuine opportunity to understand God's purpose in life, and to attain salvation? Does the Bible ever speak of such a time?

Yes, *it does!* The book of Revelation gives the time sequence of prophetic events more clearly than any other book in the Bible. Revelation 19:11–21 describes Christ's return in full glory as King of kings (vv. 14–16). Then, after crushing the armies of the coming European dictator called "the Beast," Christ casts him and the coming false religious leader into the "Lake of Fire" (v. 20).

Then God describes a mighty angel coming down to the earth: "He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent

of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while" (Revelation 20:2–3). Note that these verses also tell us that

Satan has been **deceiving** the nations of this earth!

After Satan is bound, the glorious millennial rule of Christ on the earth begins. Speaking of that time, Revelation 20

shows that the

true saints "lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (v. 4). Then we are told: "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years" (v. 6).

True Christians who have been genuinely "called" by God *understand His purpose*. They know that they are now "in training" to become kings and priests in the coming reign of Christ on Earth—that they will *rule even over angels* (1 Corinthians 6:1–3)! The coming millennial rule of Christ and the saints (Daniel 7:26–27) will be a magnificent opportunity to help, to encourage and to teach the confused multitudes about God's true ways.

But what happens to the untold **billions** of "blinded" people who die before the Millennium—who have never known the true God and His Plan? And realize that this includes *many millions* of professing Christians now living who have never been genuinely converted! It includes *millions*

of young people who never lived long enough to understand, truly repent and grow in grace and in knowledge of God's Truth. It includes *millions* of well-meaning but weak people, with all their problems, who may have called themselves "Christians" but who never truly understood and surrendered to God.

After describing a relatively brief time when Satan is loosed from his prison and, once again, quickly **deceives** a multitude of people (Revelation 20:7–10), God's word begins to tell us about the Great White Throne Judgment period. But look back for a moment at verse 5. Here, inserted as a parenthetical comment after describing the thousand-year rule of the saints, God's word says: "But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished."

The "rest" of the dead? Yes! Those **billions** of people from ages past who were *never* "called" to salvation and, therefore, obviously had *no opportunity* to be in the first resurrection.

Notice Revelation 20:11–12: "Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were **judged** according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

A Time of Genuine UNDERSTANDING

Here we find described perhaps the most **awesome** event in human history, a time when *all* people—the unknown, the famous and the infamous—will truly come to understand why they were born! These formerly dead people are seen



“standing before God”—obviously in a *resurrection*. Then the “books” are opened. The term “books” here is translated from the Greek word *biblion*, which is the same word translated “Bible”—meaning the books of the Bible!

Revelation 20 then describes the opening of another book—the Book of Life. What is this book’s purpose? Paul explains that the saints’ names are written in the “Book of Life” (Philippians 4:3). Revelation 21:27 describes the New Jerusalem as inhabited by “only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

The opportunity for eternal life is at last presented to these multitudes of people “small and great.” They are resurrected back to *physical life* for perhaps a period of 100 years—long enough for a thorough opportunity for them to learn, grow and be tried and tested as to their willingness to live eternal life God’s way (Isaiah 65:20). They will be called and have the opportunity to study and to understand the Bible. Then—and only then—God says that these resurrected people will be “judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:12). Finally, after being given a genuine opportunity to know and to act upon the Truth, these people are judged by how they respond to and obey the teachings of the books of the Bible. As James was inspired to tell us, “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20).

Make no mistake; if these untold billions of formerly **blinded** individuals are merely judged by the works they did in their former lifetimes—many of them as thieves, prostitutes, sexual deviants, dictators and false prophets—then they will all surely **perish** in the Lake of Fire! For in their past lives they did **not** accept the only name given under heaven by which we must be

saved. They did not truly “repent” (Acts 2:38) of their wrong ways and **surrender** their lives to Christ and allow Him—through the Holy Spirit—to fashion and mold them and help them to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

God does not have a double standard! These countless **billions** of individuals deserve to have a **real** opportunity—and to be judged on what they do after they have known the Truth of God! Yet countless theologians and ministers—who themselves are deceived—try to imagine that God will somehow save many of our unrepentant friends and relatives, and multitudes from ages past, even though they never came to real repentance and true surrender to the living Christ. These theologians could not be more wrong!

May God help you, however, to understand the truth about the “unsaved” billions who never had a real opportunity to accept Jesus Christ, and about all the additional billions of people from both the present and past who may only have known about a false Christ (2 Corinthians 11:4), and so never really surrendered to let the Christ of the Bible rule their lives!

The truth is that God is not now “calling” most people to real understanding and salvation. But

unless they knowingly and deliberately reject God (Hebrews 10:26–27), they *will* be given the opportunity to understand—to really repent of their sins and to become truly “converted”—in the Great White Throne Judgment.

In His word, the Eternal God tells us: “‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (Isaiah 55:8–9). Often, God does work out His plans in a way we humans would never do. As we have seen, the Bible makes it very clear that God is not trying desperately to “save” all human beings at this time. Rather—after Christ’s thousand-year reign on the earth during the Millennium—a **magnificent event** will occur, when all who have ever lived and died without understanding God’s purpose and the real Truth will be resurrected and given a **genuine** opportunity to surrender their lives to Christ, and so be qualified to become full sons of God and members of His eternal Kingdom. That is truly Good News to all of us who have loved ones who lived and died without ever truly understanding God and His supreme purpose. ■

Is This the Only Day of Salvation?

Are your loved ones who never heard Christ’s message burning in Hell forever? Are billions who never heard the true Gospel doomed to eternity apart from God? The Bible reveals a truth that few today have understood!

Write for our **FREE** booklet,
Is This the Only Day of Salvation?
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Questions & Answers

Question: Matthew's gospel records that after Jesus' resurrection, "the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised" (Matthew 27:52). Did these people go to heaven? Please explain what happened to these resurrected people.

ANSWER: Throughout the Bible, we find eight other accounts of people coming back to life after they had died (1 Kings 17:17–24; 2 Kings 4:32–37; 13:20–21; Matthew 9:23–26; Luke 7:11–15; John 11:43–44; Acts 9:36–41; 20:9–12). In each of these cases, it is clear that the individuals involved were resurrected back to physical life, meaning that they would have lived out the remainder of their natural, physical lives, and then died as all people do (Hebrews 9:27).

What were the circumstances of the resurrection described in Matthew 27? Notice verse 53: "...and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many." These resurrected saints did not "go to heaven"—they went to Jerusalem, the "holy city," where many saw them.

The other eight resurrections noted above were not resurrections to eternal life; they were resurrections to physical life. Is there any reason to think that this resurrection of the "saints who had fallen asleep" is different?

The Apostle Paul provides the answer in his first letter to the Christians of Corinth. Paul explains that there is a definite order to the resurrections. Jesus Christ has become the "firstfruits"—the first to be resurrected to eternal life—of all those who have died (1 Corinthians 15:20). Then, Paul describes Christians' resurrection to eternal life: "For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:21–23).

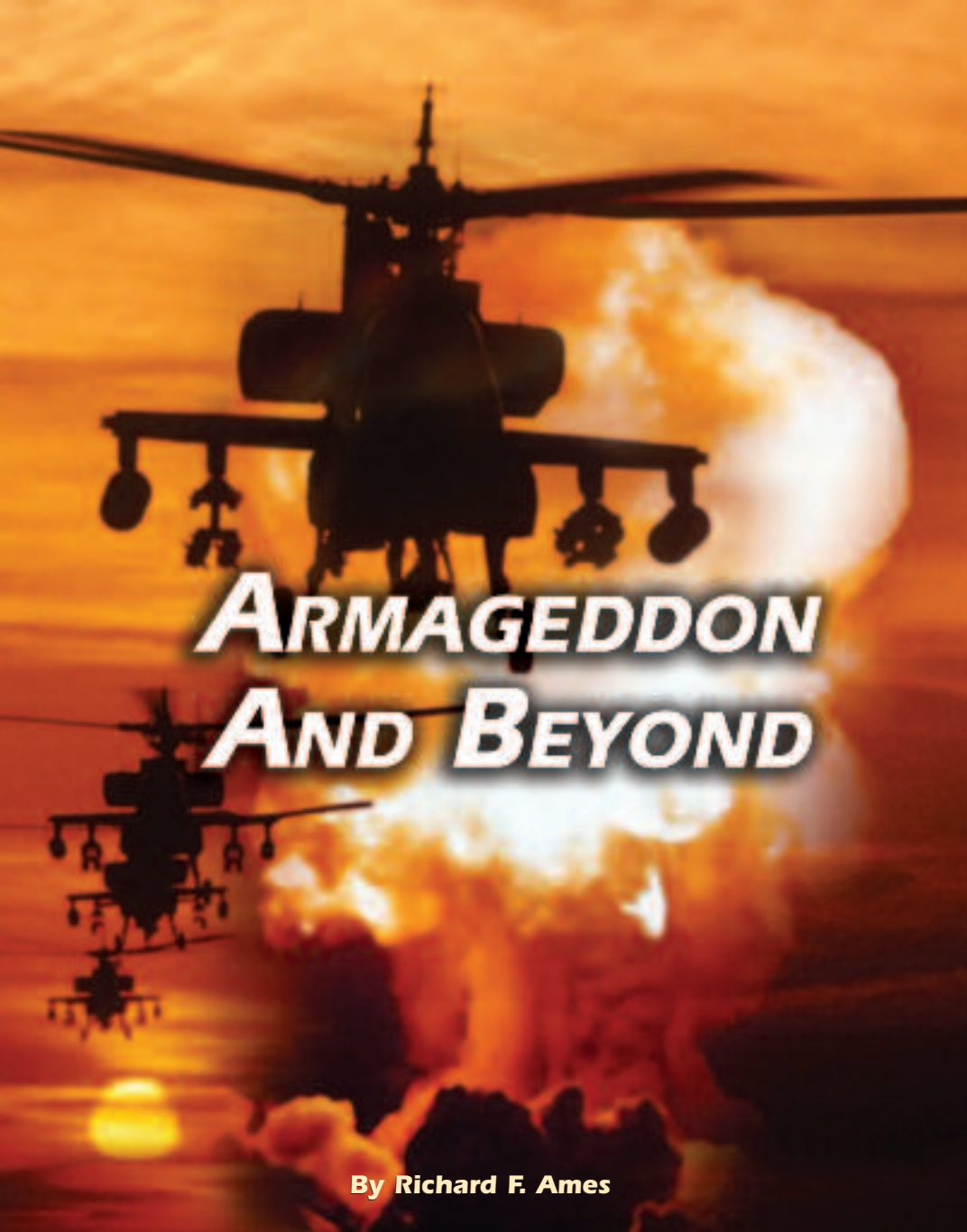
Notice! Christians will be resurrected at Christ's coming! Only then will resurrected mortal beings "put on immortality" (v. 54). God is not the author of confusion, and He cannot

lie, so we can be certain that the resurrected saints of Matthew 27 were not yet resurrected to eternal life. When the "resurrected saints" entered Jerusalem, as described in Matthew 27, Christ's second coming had not occurred, so their resurrection had to have been to physical life!

How can we be sure that these resurrected saints—and indeed all the other resurrections described in Scripture, with the sole exception of Jesus Christ—were resurrected back to mortal life? We know this because Jesus "alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light" (1 Timothy 6:16). Jesus announced, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (John 3:13).

What purpose, then, did this resurrection—and earlier physical resurrections—serve in God's plan? They stood as miraculous evidence of God's great mercy, glory and power. They identified God's true Work, and His true servants. Notice how Lazarus' astonishing resurrection strengthened the faith of those standing nearby. Jesus prayed to the Father, "I thank you that you have heard Me. And I know that you always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that you sent Me" (John 11:41–42).

Similarly, the resurrected saints who entered Jerusalem served as a powerful witness that God was working through His recently resurrected Son. "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will" (John 5:21). These saints lived out their mortal lives as a miraculous testimony of God's awesome power, then they died again. They are now dead in their graves, waiting for Jesus Christ to return, "that they should not be made perfect apart from us" (Hebrews 11:39–40).



World War II, and three times as many people have been killed in wars in the last 90 years than in all the previous 500 combined!

The 20th century saw as many as 50 million people executed under the Communist regime of Mao Zedong. More than 30 million are estimated to have died in Mao's "Great Leap Forward" between 1958 and 1961 alone. More than 20 million were killed in the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. In the Sudan, since 1983, more than 2 million of the Dinka, Nuba and Neur peoples have been systematically murdered, and millions more have been displaced. In the eight-year-long civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 3 million are estimated to have died.

Right now, at least 20 major civil wars or armed conflicts are raging around our world. Iraq's Sunni and Shiite Muslims continue to kill each other, and U.S.-led coalition forces have sustained thousands of casualties. Several nations are working hard to join the "nuclear club"—to possess nuclear weapons—even while the United States and Russia continue to maintain a stockpile of more than 30,000 nuclear warheads between them.

Throughout world history, nations, alliances, and empires have battled one another. Mankind has practiced warfare as a way of life! Have we ever enjoyed decades and centuries of global peace? What is our historic record? Historians Will and Ariel Durant researched that question,

A hundred years ago last month—on June 30, 1908—the mysterious "Tunguska explosion" toppled trees across an 830 square mile region of central Russia. Scientists estimate that the Tunguska explosion released an energy blast a thousand times more powerful than the nuclear bomb that ravaged Hiroshima, Japan, in August 1945.

Most scientists believe the Tunguska event was caused by an exploding meteor falling from space. A few theorize that it was an asteroid or comet colliding with Earth. Some physicists have speculated that it might have been caused by a "black hole" or piece of cosmic anti-matter colliding with our planet.

Shortly after the Tunguska explosion, a few Russian farmers thought it signaled Armageddon; they expected the end of the world would soon come. They were wrong, of course. But Scripture does tell of a time when meteors will fall from the sky, and devastation will spread across planet Earth. What does your Bible really say about "Armageddon"—and what lies beyond?

Mankind does not need to look to space for devastation—it has a long record of creating its own on the earth. There have been more than 250 major wars since

and concluded: “In the last 3,421 years of recorded history only 268 have seen no war” (*The Lessons of History*, p. 81).

Knowing human nature, we can be sure there will be more wars in the future. Jesus Christ confirmed this Himself. When His disciples asked Him what would be the sign of His return, and of the end of the age, He said: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:4–8).

Jesus warned of a conflagration that will envelop the whole world. “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 would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).

If God does not intervene, that time will end in total destruction. Is it possible for mankind to totally destroy itself through war? Before the nuclear age, many would have said, “No.” But now we can understand more clearly than ever the potential consequences of humanity’s immense warring power. The atomic bomb that fell on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945, weighed nearly 9,000 pounds. Today, a “suitcase nuke” weighing less than 300 pounds could deliver even greater devastation across a large city.

Will human beings bring about “Armageddon”? Or will the world’s military powers lay down their weapons and find peace? Scripture fills in the details—and we need to know what it tells us!

What Is “Armageddon”?

Just what is Armageddon? The word Armageddon is a transliteration of the original Hebrew *har megiddo* which means the “hill of Megiddo” or “the mountain of Megiddo.”

Megiddo is located about 55 miles north of Jerusalem in Israel. In ancient times, Megiddo guarded the main trade route between Egypt and Damascus. Megiddo overlooks the largest plain in Israel, which Scripture calls the Valley of Jezreel. The Old Testament records several major battles that took place at Megiddo. In recent history, just 90 years ago—in September 1918—British general Edmund Allenby defeated the armies of the Ottoman Empire in what became known as World War I’s “Battle of Megiddo.”

It is important to realize that the great battle foretold in Scripture does not occur *at* Armageddon. Revelation 16 reveals the actual sequence of events. Armageddon is the *gathering place* where the armies meet before that great final battle (Revelation 16:16). Your Bible does not call that great final battle “Armageddon,” but rather calls it, “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (v. 14).

Would the world’s armies really put our planet at risk of total nuclear cosmocide? Many of you readers may remember that we *have* been in frightening danger, in the not-too-distant past. In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union played nuclear brinkmanship during the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1973, President Nixon placed U.S. military forces on nuclear alert when the Soviet Union threatened to intervene in the Middle East war between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Could this happen again? Scripture says: “Yes!”

Where does this great battle fit in the overall panorama of Bible prophecy? The sixth chapter of Revelation lays out the prophetic outline. Here, the Apostle John describes his vision of the famous four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The horsemen symbolize false

christians and false religion, war and its devastating effects, famines that normally follow on the heels of war, and the pestilences and disease that follow after famine. John wrote: “So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them *over a fourth of the earth*, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:8).

Even the mass killing we have seen since the end of World War II will pale in comparison to the death that will cover the earth at this prophesied time. Billions of human beings will die as war, hunger, and disease engulf the planet.

The Fifth Seal

After the four horsemen, who represent the first four seals, comes a fifth seal, revealing a martyrdom of Christians during a two-and-a-half-year-long period of tribulation (Revelation 6:9–11). After that, we see the sixth seal, known as the heavenly signs. “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:12–14).

Meteors streaking toward earth will bring fear and shock to human beings around the world, making the Tunguska event seem minor by comparison. Massive earthquakes will also shake the earth. These signs introduce the Day of the Lord—the time of God’s wrath and judgment on our unthankful, rebellious world.

Judgment? Yes. Jesus Christ, the Lamb, will be *wrathful*! He will execute God’s righteous judgments. The

Day of the Lord is called “the great day of His wrath!” (Revelation 6:17).

After this, the seventh seal will be opened, consisting of seven trumpet judgments, or plagues, delivered during the year-long Day of the Lord. “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets” (Revelation 8:1–2). The trumpets will sound a warning to sinning humanity! The seventh trumpet will consist of the “seven last plagues” mentioned in Revelation 15:1.

The fifth, sixth and seventh trumpet plagues are called “woes.” The word “woe” is an exclamation of grief. “And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!’” (Revelation 8:13).

Revelation 9 describes the first woe—the fifth trumpet plague. The fifth angel sounds a trumpet that begins a military action lasting for five months. Then comes the second woe—the sixth trumpet plague—an intense military counter-attack pictured by symbols of horses and horsemen.

We read: “One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates’” (Revelation 9:12–14).

At this point in prophecy, an army of 200 million will move west across the Euphrates River to destroy a third of the earth’s population. “So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horse-

men was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed; by the fire and

Armies of the angry kings of the east will move westward, across the Euphrates River. The world’s armies will encounter each other at Megiddo, overlooking the Valley of Jezreel. Scripture describes this gathering as the sixth of the seven last plagues: “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings



“I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets” (Revelation 8:2). The trumpets will sound a warning to sinning humanity!

the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths” (Revelation 9:15–18).

Can you imagine? This is describing world war on an unprecedented scale. This phase of World War III will see the deaths of billions of human beings. As Jesus warned, unless those days would be cut short, no flesh would be saved—all life on earth would be destroyed.

The Seventh Trumpet

After all this, the seventh trumpet will sound. For Christians, the sounding of the seventh trumpet will be good news—because it will announce Jesus Christ’s return, and His establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. We read: “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15).

For Christians, this will be a time of joy. But how will the world react? Scripture tells us: “The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come” (v. 18).

from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Revelation 16:12–14). Then: “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon” (v. 16).

Fallen angels—Satan’s demons—will cause the opposing forces to join together in fighting against Christ at His coming. After gathering at Megiddo, they will move south toward Jerusalem to fight against Christ. Notice: “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).

What the Bible calls the Valley of Jehoshaphat, between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem, is today called the Kidron Valley, extending quite a distance toward the south. It is here, not at

“Armageddon,” where the battle of the great day of God Almighty will take place. *Jehoshaphat*, in Hebrew, means “judgment of the Eternal.” At this climactic battle, God will judge the nations.

Among them, God will judge and punish the European superpower called the “Beast” in the book of Revelation. The armies of this haughty superpower will actually try to fight against Christ at His coming! “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh” (Revelation 19:19–21).

Yes, God will defeat those rebellious nations that choose to fight against the Prince of Peace at His coming! As the Apostle Paul wrote, “The way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:17–18).

Mankind's Warlike Nature

When men turn to war, failing to fear God, what happens? On September 2, 1945, right at the end of World War II, U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur gave a famous speech aboard the USS Missouri, summarizing the historic lesson of war: “Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be the way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some

greater and more equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

Human nature has not changed since MacArthur spoke. Nations have not learned their lessons. As General Robert E. Lee famously observed during the U.S. Civil War, “It is well that war is so terrible—or we would grow too fond of it.” Sadly, the nations of Earth will keep growing so fond of war that mankind will soon face total cosmic death—death of all life on earth—unless God Almighty intervenes to save us. And He will.

But, in the meantime, nations continue to develop weapons of mass destruction. As General MacArthur predicted, Armageddon will soon be at our door.

Beyond Armageddon!

Our nations need to repent of their godless and immoral ways of life. But even if it is too late for your nation, *you* can still repent personally. God can protect you through the dangerous times

ahead. Jesus exhorted His followers: “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). Are you praying for God's Kingdom to come? Are you praying for the return of Jesus Christ—the King of kings—to this earth?

Christ's return will usher in a thousand years of peace and prosperity for the whole world. Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). The millennial prophecies in your Bible reveal a coming world with renewed life, sustainable agriculture, and peace among nations as they all come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship the King. Nations will beat their swords into plowshares. “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

What wonderful news that is! Beyond Armageddon lies the Kingdom of God and lasting world peace. Thank God for the ultimate future He has planned for you and me! We each need to be planning, now, in our own lives, for that future. Be sure you are praying and reading your Bible daily. Be sure you are asking Christ to help you to learn His precepts and to live by them. As you do so, you will be preparing yourself well for Armageddon—and beyond! ■

Armageddon and Beyond

Our world is moving toward prophesied disaster—but there is hope for those who know and live by God's truth!

Write for our *FREE* booklet, *Armageddon and Beyond*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

Prophecy Comes Alive

National Blindness Prophesied!

What happens to nations when their leaders pursue disastrous policies against their own national interest? Popular historian Barbara Tuchman wrote about this phenomenon in her classic 1984 treatise, *The March of Folly*. Today, we see that the United States, Great Britain, France and other nations descended from the tribes of ancient Israel are marching down the dangerous path noted by Tuchman. A few perceptive critics recognize the impending consequences of their nations' blunders, but without the insight of Bible prophecy they fail to understand *why* their nations are blundering.

God prophesied long ago in the Bible that the modern Israelite nations would blindly pursue wrong paths as we approach the end of the age. The Bible also reveals *why* this is happening, through prophecies that are *coming alive* today.

Short-Sighted, Misguided Policies

Tuchman wrote about what she identified as America's self-defeating policies that led up to its mismanagement of the Vietnam War. Since then, the U.S. (often along with Britain and other largely Anglo-Saxon allies) has initiated a series of military actions that have robbed the nation of financial, military and human resources. Wars in the Middle East and Central Asia have caused the U.S. to run up huge trade deficits, and to become financially indebted to nations like China that are potential adversaries. Ironically, money the West sends to China and the Arab nations is often then used by those nations to buy up real estate and other resources in the West. In effect, the Western nations are selling off their assets to foreign owners.

Britain's leaders, in their attempts to pull their nation into the European Union, have traded away much of the British gold reserve to Europe, have given up sovereignty over British fishing waters, and have agreed to allow EU laws and courts to override British laws.

The nations descended from ancient Israel—including the U.S., Britain, Canada, Australia, France, Holland and Scandinavia—have opened their borders to allow a massive influx of immigration that has begun to threat-

en national health care and welfare systems. Unlike earlier generations of immigrants that generally sought to assimilate into their host nations, these more recent immigrants have tended to hold on to their native languages, customs, values and religions—leading to social strain as they assert their “rights” in their new homes, and as they seek to change the very nature of the countries they have entered.

One observer perceptively noted, “In ten years, England will no longer be England.”

Similarly, immigrants to the U.S. border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas often speak openly of a *reconquista* (re-conquest), as they seek to reshape the culture of these states to resemble their native Mexico. Some immigrants even hope for a political realignment. In Europe, violence involving immigrants has already disrupted once-peaceful communities in England, France and Holland—and will surely continue as long as both immigrants and their hosts feel threatened. Even though “multiculturalism” is visibly failing in these nations, misguided politicians continue to promote this self-defeating policy, turning a blind eye to its destructive effects.

For decades, secular social scientists in the Western world have been preaching that religion is irrelevant, and that people need to be “liberated” from the shackles and oppressive restraints of biblical moral values. So-called “progressive” teachers commonly assert that sexual pleasures are to be sought and enjoyed by anyone, anytime, anywhere, with little or no restraint. “Enlightened” thinkers seek to redefine “marriage” as any arrangement acceptable to the parties who seek to be involved.

What is the consequence of such “liberation”? The sobering statistics of broken homes, drug abuse, juvenile crime, sexually transmitted diseases, youth suicide and poverty in single-parent households tell the sad story. Rather than liberate society, a society that has cast off all biblical restraints finds itself undermining its own stability—yet countless modern Western leaders continue to promote these society-destroying ideas. At a time when our nations would benefit from a return to biblical values, the best-seller lists feature books by aggres-



sive atheists who ridicule belief in God and the Bible.

Thankfully, there are a handful of thoughtful people who do realize that certain moral values—which happen to be the Bible-based moral values long embraced by those who practice true biblical religion—can provide a sound foundation for any society that embraces them. But the majority, even in the so-called “Christian” nations, reject those values—and fail to understand that God Himself predicted that this rejection would occur, just before the end of the age!

Ancient Prophetic Warnings

The God of the Bible says He can predict the future and bring it to pass (Isaiah 46:9–10). In dual prophecies, fulfilled initially by ancient Israel but ultimately to be fulfilled by the modern descendants of the twelve ancient tribes of Israel, God warns that “those who lead you cause you to err” (Isaiah 3:12; 9:16).

Regarding Israel’s leaders, God said, “His watchman are blind, they are all ignorant.... they are shepherds who cannot understand” (Isaiah 56:10–11). These prophecies are addressed to a sick and sinful nation, where “strangers devour your land in your presence” (Isaiah 1:3–4, 7)—just as is happening today. God also warned the Israelites of a time when “the alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44)—just as is happening today. God warned that a time would come when the leaders of Israelite nations would “call evil good, and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20), when the prophets would prophesy falsely “and My people love to have it so” (Jeremiah 5:31);

Scripture describes a time when leaders would speak of “Peace, peace!” when there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14). The world’s political leaders today do not know the way to peace (Isaiah 59:8), because they

do not see and do not understand that the Bible reveals the way to peace (Psalm 119:165).

God foresaw a time of difficulties and declining influence for the descendants of ancient Israel, when people would be blinded to the consequences of their own actions (Hosea 7:8–10). They would pursue folly, engaging in policies against their own national interest, much as Tuchman described.

But why are the modern Israelite nations—their leaders and their people—blinded, unable to see their own problems?

The Cause of Blindness

The Scriptures reveal that, “the LORD has poured out on you [Israelite nations]

the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, namely, the seers... for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden” (Isaiah 29:10, 14). The reason why God has allowed this spirit of blindness to descend on the leaders and people of Israelite nations is “because they have ceased obeying the LORD” (Hosea 4:10), “because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law” (Hosea 8:1). God lamented, “I have written for him [Israel] the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing... for Israel has forgotten his Maker” (Hosea 8:12–14). The Apostle Paul warned the Israelites of his day that because they refused to believe God and His word, “God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see” (Romans 11:8). Paul cautions that when people reject God and His ways, He will give them over to a “debased mind”—a mind that does not reason correctly and does not see its error (Romans 1:18–28). Throughout the Bible, prophecies reveal that the modern Israelite nations will need to learn some hard lessons because they have closed their eyes to God and His ways. But even if your nation remains blinded, you individually can open your eyes to act on the truths you are learning. *Will you do so?*

—Douglas S. Winnail



A large iceberg floats in a deep blue sea under a dramatic, fiery orange and red sunset sky. A single bird is seen in flight in the upper right. The iceberg's tip is jagged and prominent, while its base is a flat, rectangular platform. A massive, dark blue shadow of the iceberg is cast onto the water's surface, extending from the base of the iceberg towards the bottom of the frame, visually representing the 'tip of the iceberg' metaphor.

BENEATH THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

By Dexter B. Wakefield

If you own a home, you have probably been well aware of the “sub-prime mortgage crisis” that has shaken the financial industry in recent months. For example, countless borrowers who opted for adjustable-rate mortgages are starting to see their mortgage payments rise—often to levels beyond their ability to pay, leading to financial ruin and often to foreclosure on the family residence.

If you are not a homeowner, or you do not have a variable-rate mortgage, you may think you are not affected by these troubles. But if that is what you think, you are wrong! The sub-prime mortgage crisis has complex consequences throughout the economy, and is actually the symptom of a far more serious problem that represents a far greater risk to the financial system of the United States—and the entire world!

Home mortgage woes are real, and they are serious, but they are only the proverbial “tip of the iceberg.” It is what lurks beneath the visible iceberg that poses a far greater risk.

Unlimited Wealth?

It was not that long ago when millions of eager homebuyers across the United States believed the housing market was a source of unlimited wealth. The house you bought today would be a cash machine tomorrow, from which you could pull equity as its value rose, and rose.

Why did home prices keep rising? The U.S. Federal Reserve propped up the economy in the early years of this decade by increasing the money supply. Much of this increase was absorbed by the real estate market, making home ownership more desirable. As a result, the growing demand for homes caused prices to rise. Lenders began to take

for granted the assumption that housing prices would continue to rise, and that as a result they could make loans to people with very little equity (money of their own invested in the home), or with poor credit histories. The assumption was that even if a mortgage-holder defaulted, the lender's investment would be protected by the increasing value of the real estate.

A mortgage is considered “sub-prime” if it is made to a borrower with a weak credit history, or if it is not well-secured by the underlying value of the real estate. There are only so many borrowers with secure, high-paying jobs and a 20 percent down-payment on a home, who are seeking a loan worth no more than two or three times their annual household income. Those “prime” loans formed a smaller and smaller proportion of the market when the “housing boom” took off, and lenders felt they could get away with making loans to people who might pay just 3 percent (or less) of a home's value as a down-payment, and who might be taking out a loan worth five or six times their annual household income.

With so much money to be made, mortgage brokers began approving loans to people who clearly could not afford them, trusting that the increase in real estate value would be enough to ensure profitability. Even if a homeowner could not pay the mortgage when an adjustable rate loan payment doubled or tripled, the lender could still recover its loan from the increased value of the home.

Of course, with so much riding on the assumption that housing prices will increase, a downturn in the economy—and thus in the housing market—spells trouble. If a loan was made for 90 percent or even 97 percent of a home's value, even a relatively small drop in property values can leave the borrower

“upside down” on the loan—owing more than the house is worth. And once a home is worth less than its home loan, there is far less incentive for the borrower to keep paying. Add to that the pinch of an increased mortgage payment when an adjustable-rate mortgage changes to reflect current interest rates, and this is a recipe for disaster.

Borrowers with weak credit histories—the very ones to whom so many sub-prime loans were made—are typically the first to default on home loans. Consider a borrower who took out a \$300,000 mortgage on a home, contributing just \$10,000 as a down payment and paying \$1,500 per month on an adjustable rate mortgage. If the home's value drops just 4 percent, and the monthly payment jumps to \$2,500 per month, many borrowers may be reluctant to pay. Add to that the sad fact that in a weakened economy, homeowners who lose their jobs may be unable to pay, and you can see how the numbers of home foreclosures can skyrocket.

When homeowners default on a mortgage, they are not the only ones who suffer. The investors whose money funded the mortgage can lose their investment if the defaulted amount is greater than the value of the home against which the mortgage was taken.

“Who cares about the wealthy investors?” some may say. “The real problem is the homeowner.” Well, in our modern economy, many homeowners are also pension-holders or investors, whose retirement income may depend on mutual funds heavily invested in home mortgages.

Typically, after a mortgage broker generates a home loan, it is quickly sold to another investor and it becomes pooled with other mortgages into financial instruments valued at tens of millions of dollars or more. These pooled mortgages are

then used to secure bond issues or other financial instruments which are then sold to investors as mortgage-backed securities. A homeowner only knows the name of the servicer to which he sends the monthly mortgage payment, but that payment may ultimately be received by a wide range of investors who have acquired a stake in that mortgage. A home mortgage can find itself the subject of complex financial instruments designed for sophisticated investors; there are even some cases where investors contract to receive only the cash flow that results from *late fees* on mortgages, hoping to profit from a downturn in the economy.

The situation becomes more complex when some investors use borrowed funds to invest in other people's mortgage borrowing. This creates the potential for a cascading disaster. When the credit-worthiness of pooled mortgages declines as a result of sub-prime loans going into default, lenders may demand repayment of their loans. With no ready market for the now-devalued pooled loans, what can the investor repay with?

When much of an asset's value was based on the perception that it was a sound investment, its value can drop speedily in a time of financial crisis. Much as a homeowner may be left "upside down" on a home mortgage, institutional investors may be left holding financial instruments worth less than they can possibly sell those instruments for. Assets that cannot readily be sold are said to be "illiquid." As investments' value drops, the resulting liquidity crisis can cause even major financial institutions to fail, and could provoke a chain of "cascading failures" in which one failure brings another institution down.

In such an environment, it is no surprise that Wall Street in the past

year has seen some big losses and real scares. Recall what happened earlier this year to the well-established Wall Street firm Bear Stearns, which sought and received emergency funding backed by the U.S.



government, so that its former rival firm J.P. Morgan Chase & Co would be willing to step in and purchase the firm, averting a major financial crisis. How successful was this intervention? As the *Wall Street Journal* reported, "While the move signaled that the Fed was trying to move aggressively to prevent Bear's crisis from spreading to the broader economy, it seemed to do little to soothe fears" ("Fed Races to Rescue Bear Stearns," March 15, 2008).

Even Europe has felt the sting of these U.S. problems. The largest bank in Switzerland, UBS, has announced it is taking \$38.29 billion in losses on its subprime-related assets. Other major financial institutions taking large losses include Merrill Lynch (\$25.09 billion), Citigroup (\$21.65 billion), AIG (\$17.20 billion), Morgan Stanley (\$13.12 billion), Deutsche Bank (\$7.35 billion) and Royal Bank of Scotland (\$6.00 billion). Clearly, the subprime mortgage meltdown has delivered a major shock to the world's banking system.

The Rest of the Iceberg

Much media attention has been focused on subprime mortgage

loans. Few seem to realize that a similar phenomenon has been underway in a much larger arena—the huge business loan portfolios held by commercial banks, both large and small. These banks' core business is making loans to other businesses—for equipment, inventories, receivables, lines of credit and many other needs. Loans in this sector can range from tens of thousands of dollars, up to hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars.

The same easy money that led to so many subprime mortgage loans also caused bank deposits to increase. As banks had more money on hand, they felt increased pressure to make more loans to businesses. Just as in the home mortgage industry, commercial bankers felt they had to make ever-more-risky loans in order to remain competitive. As loan volumes increased, banks' loan portfolios were put at greater risk. When a borrower defaults on a commercial loan, the bank pays for that loss out of its own capital base—which often amounts to about 5 percent of its total assets. Although banks are required to carry reserves to accommodate losses, a rapid rise in loan defaults can quickly overwhelm a bank's reserves and capital.

The volume of U.S. banks' business loans dwarfs the volume of subprime home loans—putting that vital sector of the economy at grave risk of a meltdown far more severe than has already been seen in the subprime mortgage industry. The U.S. Federal Reserve has been flooding the economy with liquidity in an attempt to offset the problem, but many observers doubt whether this is the right medicine for the ailing business economy. As the U.S. economy declines, an unknown volume of "subprime" business loans will default, and will need to be either restructured or repaid. But repaid with what?

This huge risk exposure in commercial bank loan portfolios is causing panic among many bankers, regulators and financial analysts. No one knows the full extent of the risk, yet if enough commercial loans begin to default during a recession, this could bring about a much-feared cascading of failures among interdependent financial institutions. Analysts are already predicting how many banks will fail in various regions of the U.S.—and the number of projected failures is growing. Banks can be hurt financially even if loans do not go into default; when existing loans are assessed as more risky than before, a bank may be forced to curtail its lending severely.

Analysts are attempting to gauge the risk banks are facing—to determine the size of the iceberg that is lurking in the banking industry, below the visible surface of the U.S. economy. Moody's Investors Service projects that in 2008, the corporate default rate will grow fivefold or more from 2007's already-record lows—up to 5.3 percent, from less than 1 percent in 2007. Moody's estimates that roughly \$48 billion in highly risky "speculative-grade" corporate bank loans will mature by 2010, the majority occurring next year and the year after.

The total volume of all bank business loans maturing in the next couple of years is much greater than the \$48 billion Moody's cites in speculative-grade loans. A recession can convert even high-quality business loans to speculative-grade.

Signs from the Stock Market

By looking at the stock market, we can gain some insight into how investors view the nation's banks. Investors, by determining what they are willing to pay for a stock,

are in effect predicting and taking into consideration changes in profits, losses and asset values of publicly traded corporations. When a bank's stock price declines, this can reflect investors' opinion of the bank's underlying security, determined in significant part by the risk of its loans.

What is the stock market telling us about several major national and regional banks? Stock in Wachovia Bank, one of the nation's largest and most successful banks, was trading at 59.85 per share in April 2006. By March 2008, it had dropped to less than half that value, trading below \$26 per share. Wachovia's earnings per share have dropped from \$4.61 per share in 2006, to nearly zero (3 cents per share) in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Many regional banks are not faring much better. BankAtlantic is a regional bank doing business in Florida. In July 2005 its stock was trading for \$18.85 per share; by June 2008 it had plummeted to less than \$1.80 per share. Clearly, the credit crisis is putting institutions at risk throughout the U.S. banking system.

Recent moves by the Federal Reserve Bank show panic at the highest levels. The Federal Discount Rate exerts a major influence on the U.S. money supply, and short-term interest rates tend to rise or fall along with it. The Federal Reserve has slashed the rate from 6.25 percent a year ago, down to 2.25 percent as of June 2008. The governors of the Federal Reserve are using easy access to money as medicine for the ailing banking industry, because this is one of the very few tools it can use to try to help. But there is a saying, "When all you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail." Some analysts wisely observe that it was the Fed's "easy money" policies of 2002–03

that planted the seeds of the subprime mortgage mess in the first place!

As sobering as it may be, the subprime mortgage mess may be only the first in a series of major shocks to affect the U.S. and European banking systems. A recession of any significant length and severity could easily cause commercial real estate loans to go sour, followed by an unknown volume of business loans. The risk of systemic failure—of defaults in one sector of the economy leading to a "cascade" of defaults throughout other sectors—is giving many experts cause for grave concern.

A Unique Perspective

We can study the economy to understand the immediate causes and consequences of economic troubles in our nations. But there is a source we can consult to understand the "big picture" and put it in a context unknown to most financial analysts. Bible prophecy provides a unique perspective on world events, revealing the "future history" of the U.S. economy—as well as that of Europe.

If we understand why the U.S. became so wealthy, we should be able to understand how it can remain wealthy—and what can cause it to lose its wealth.

Certainly the U.S. has plentiful natural resources, but so do many other nations. When settlers arrived in Virginia and Massachusetts in the early 17th century, they found little more than wilderness. But when immigrants arrived at New York's Ellis Island in the waning years of the 19th century, they saw the Statue of Liberty in the harbor, tall buildings across the city, roads, houses, apartments, offices and factories providing jobs. Where did all that wealth come from? Most economists today would answer that it

came from millions of hours of labor, as Americans worked productively to add utility and value to their economy.

Indeed, the U.S. economic system has produced a standard of living and a vibrant economy that has long been the envy of the world. But the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gives us the true explanation for national wealth—an explanation that has long since been forgotten by most:

“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it

is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall

perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 8:11–20).

Yes, God’s blessing is essential for the success of the productive process of any nation. He gives a nation the power to get wealth. Yet many in the U.S. have broadly rejected the traditional values that once provided the nation’s strength. God warned long ago that “the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God

is giving you to possess as an inheritance—*only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today. For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you*” (Deuteronomy 15:4–6).

The U.S. once had the wealth to be a lender to other nations, but is now the world’s biggest debtor. Yet God also says He can reverse a nation’s fortunes, blessing or cursing in accord with the nation’s obedience or disobedience. “Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 11:26–28).

Thankfully, each of us can change course individually, and can repent before God of our own sins. Have you done so? The American ship of state is speeding along, disregarding God, and the tip of an iceberg has been sighted. Below the surface looms the rest of the iceberg. Will America change course before it is too late? ■



In April 2008, Royal Bank of Scotland announced the sale of 12 billion new shares, seeking to raise funds to restore its capital base in the wake of investments gone sour.

The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy

The decline of the United States and the British-descended nations was foretold long ago in your Bible. If you understand who Israel is today, you can understand Bible prophecies you have never understood before!

Write for our **FREE** booklet, **The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy**, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site **www.tomorrowworld.org**.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I love your magazine! My husband has been receiving it for quite a while. I am sorry to say I never paid much attention to it. But the cover of the May-June 2008 issue really caught my attention. I started reading it, and just couldn't put it down till I had read nearly all of it. Finally, writings on end-times that make sense! I have read other articles on end times, but they never seemed to be anything I could relate to, much less understand. I can't wait until I receive the booklets I ordered.

M. K., Bloomsburg, PA

I just wanted to say that over the years I have marveled over the insight and knowledge you have projected via your television broadcast and your wonderful magazine and booklets. Your booklet, *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality* is fantastic, and challenges so many of the corrupt ideas that are circulating in the world today regarding our future on earth. Many thanks for the knowledge and inspiration; you have provided a good path for my feet to follow.

M. D., Holywell, Clwyd, United Kingdom

I thank you for providing me with my *Tomorrow's World* subscription, and all the booklets over the many years. These have been the real backbone in providing me with answers and sanity in this totally disturbed world. I read a few pages every night. The messages are written very articulately and well thought out. The more I read, the clearer everything becomes. Your great works play an indispensable part of my life. Thank you so much, and please continue your tremendous effort.

J. O., Quebec City, QC, Canada

Thank you for the article "What Should the Church Be Doing?" (March-April 2008). It has been very encouraging to see those who have never lost sight of what the true Church of God should be doing right up to the end!

S. H., Maryville, TN

I just read the article, "Does God Guide World Affairs?" in the May-June 2008 issue of *Tomorrow's World*. I just have one correction to make—the D-Day invasion was on June 6, 1944, not July, as stated in your article. Otherwise, the article (as far as I can tell) is flawless! I have always been a great student of history, and it has always amazed me to see the hand of God in world affairs—especially, as your article points out, in the emergence of U.S. and British prominence. It is sad to see my nation sinking deeper into sin and abandoning God's laws and desires. Sad to say, I realize that at times I have contributed to this decline as well, but I have changed different areas of my life to correct this (your booklet, *The Ten Commandments*, was really helpful in this). Please continue your great work!

M. M., Abbotstown, PA

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind words, and for reading carefully enough to catch our incorrect date. We regret the error.

I have read so much over the past ten years, and until I found your www.tomorrowsworld.org Web site I was so confused. I now understand that people have followed preachers like sheep, and have not read the Bible. I was also one who did not read the Bible and find out the real truth for myself. I am so glad that I have the opportunity now to correct my thinking, and do what God really wants. It is all so different than what I grew up with. Thank you for your material; I love it!

V. M., Austin, MN

Thank you very much for the very informative booklets that I recently received from you. They are a definite help in my understanding of Bible scriptures, and would be an absolute blessing to anyone who would take the time to request them. *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* is a real eye-opener; I am sharing mine with any of my family members I can persuade to read it.

R. B., Kinston, NC

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.



THE BIG DRY

By Rod McNair

Is Australia's "drought of the century" easing? What does the future hold for the parched continent "down under"?

Australia suffers worst drought in 1,000 years..." "Drought tightens grip on Australia..." "Australia's epic drought: The situation is grim..." These headlines grabbed the world's attention in 2006 and 2007, as Australians suffered under the weight of one of the most severe droughts on record. Thankfully, the year 2008 began with much-needed precipitation. But is the increased rainfall a sign of more good things to come? Or was it just a brief respite? Is the "Big Dry," as the drought of the last six years has been called, part of a normal climatic cycle, or are the weather patterns of Australia changing?

"Murray-Darling drought may be permanent," was the May 9, 2008 headline on a *Sydney News-Herald* story. "There is no end in sight to the drought," the article warned. And "it could become worse next year."

The Murray-Darling Basin covers much of eastern Australia, stretching from southern Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria and into South Australia. For the first time in recorded history, the water level of some lakes in the region has plunged to below sea level. Even after "good summer rains," the National Climate Centre at Australia's Bureau of Meteorology reports the rains "barely made a dent" in the drought.

Australians are no strangers to drought. In fact, Australia is the world's driest inhabited continent. Naturalist Charles Darwin wrote of the link he observed between Australia's dry temperatures and the resulting fires during his visit in January 1836: "In the whole country I scarcely saw a place without

the marks of fire; whether these had been more or less recent—whether the stumps were more or less black, was the greatest change, which varied the uniformity, so wearisome to the traveller's eye" (*Voyage of the Beagle*, p. 324).

In her 1911 anthology, *The Closed Door*, Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar summed up the harsh but endearing climate of her beloved Australia in her famous poem, "My Country": "I love a sun-burnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains. I love her far horizons, I love her jewel-sea, her beauty and her terror—the wide brown land for me!"

Drought: A Way of Life

Australians have come to expect drought as a way of life. Typically, three years out of every ten bring decreased rainfall and parched conditions. This regular cycle is also punctuated by occasional droughts of greater severity. Drought is so common in Australia that some experts suggest removing the word "drought" from any discussion about Australian climate, preferring to think of the swings of precipitation and temperature as *normal fluctuations* instead of unusual and unexpected events. This approach is reflected in Australian government policy; authors Linda Botterill and Melanie Fisher point out that learning to live with drought means essentially learning what it "means to be Australian" (*Beyond Drought: People, Policy, and Perspectives*, p. ix).

Why does Australia's climate vary so widely? One major factor is the regular patterns of the Southern

Oscillation—a climate pattern that varies between El Niño climate events in which the warming ocean brings higher temperatures and less rain, and La Niña climate events in which the cooling ocean brings storms and increased rainfall, particularly to eastern Australia.

Is the "Big Dry" Different?

With such a history of drought, have Australia's recent drought conditions been any different? Yes, they have. As the Australian Bureau of Statistics noted, the 2002–2003 drought was in some ways unique and unusually severe for two reasons—it was accompanied by record high average maximum temperatures, and it affected virtually the entire continent (*Yearbook Australia 2006*, "Australia's Climate"). Drought conditions were persisting through the 2006–2007 growing season, when the Murray-Darling River Basin, which produces 40 percent of Australia's agricultural output, was at its driest in 116 years. Writing in *Science News*, reporter Emily Sohn noted, "The Australian continent has experienced dry spells since ancient times, but the length and severity of the current crisis have surprised even the most weathered climate experts" ("The Big Dry," October 27, 2007).

Even after welcome rains in December 2007, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology reported that "the worst of the long-term deficiencies are likely to remain for some time" ("Drought Statement," January 7, 2008).

Scientists agree that climate change in Australia is occurring faster than expected, and some are

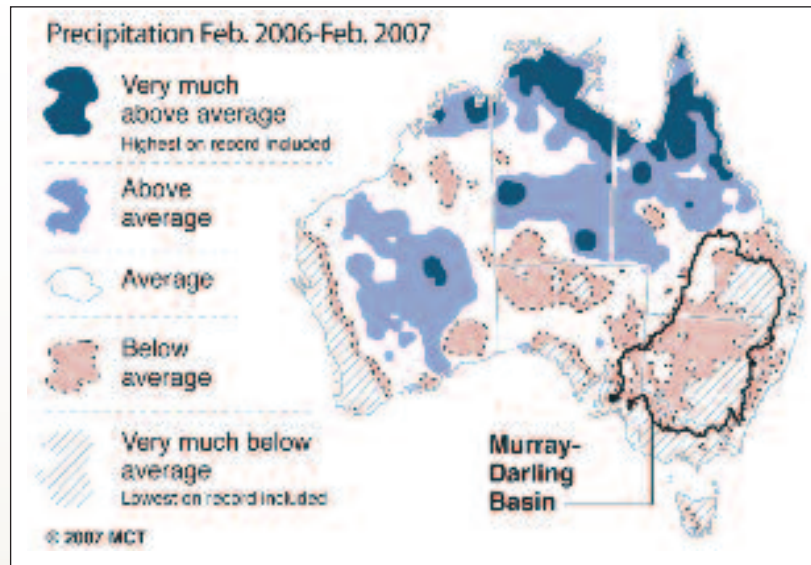
warning that global climate changes—including warmer temperatures in Australia—are here to stay. Such change, they say, will bring more lasting drought conditions. As the Australian Bureau of Statistics noted: “Temperatures in Australia were relatively stable from 1910 until 1950, and since then have followed an increasing trend, with an overall increase during 1910 to 2004 of approximately 0.7°C... Over Australia the observed warming has accelerated in recent years, and the late-20th century warming has been largely attributed to the enhanced greenhouse effect. (Yearbook Australia 2006, “Australia’s Climate”).

Writing in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, reporter Richard Macey observed, “It may be time to stop describing south-eastern Australia as gripped by drought and instead accept the extreme dry as permanent” (“This drought may never break,” January 4, 2008).

Why Climate Change?

If Australia is in fact warming, and drought conditions are on the increase, why is this happening? One factor most people overlook when weather patterns change is that *there is a God who intervenes in world events*. The Bible reveals that God uses the weather to accomplish His will on earth. Whether the Big Dry intensifies or fades, Scripture makes it clear that God blesses those who serve Him with “rain in its season” (Leviticus 26:4), and that He uses the weather to scatter His enemies by His power (Job 38:22–23).

God made a covenant with ancient Israel, vowing to bless the nation with good weather if the people obeyed Him. Conversely, He warned that He would make their “heavens like iron” and their “earth as bronze” if they did not obey Him



(Leviticus 26:19). Yet Israel rebelled. God warned them again and again to amend their ways. Finally, He said, “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities” (Amos 3:2).

What would that punishment be? “I blasted you with blight [drought] and mildew [excessive precipitation]... Yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD” (Amos 4:9). In spite of God’s warnings and *patient admonitions*, Israel did not turn faithfully back to Him. Eventually, God allowed the northern ten tribes of Israel to be taken captive by the Assyrian empire.

What happened to those tribes that had rejected God? They did not vanish! During His time on the earth, Jesus Christ said He knew where the “lost sheep of Israel”—the so-called “lost ten tribes”—actually were (Matthew 10:6). The historian Josephus wrote of an

“immense multitude” of Israelites “beyond the Euphrates” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 11, Chapter 5).

Students of history and Scripture can today trace the migrations of the ten “lost” tribes, and can document their journey north and west to the British Isles and northwestern Europe. The peoples descending from Joseph’s sons Ephraim and Manasseh settled in the British Isles, and many later migrated to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the United States.

In the past, God used weather to work with ancient Israel. Would He similarly use the weather today to bless—or curse—His people? Certainly, God sends the sunshine and rain on “the evil” as well as “the good,” out of His bountiful mercy (Matthew 5:45). Yet the book of Revelation reveals that a time will come when God will use the weather more directly in dealing with rebellious human beings.

Jesus Christ prophesied that before His return, there would come a time of famine, and of death through hunger (Revelation 6:5–8). This time, He said, would lead into a great tribulation, also known as the “fifth seal” (v. 9). Scripture shows that this “fifth seal” will be a terrible calamity coming specifically upon the house of Jacob (Jeremiah 30:7)—which, in addition to the nation of Israel in the Middle East, today includes the nations of Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, South Africa, Canada and the U.S.

This time of tribulation is prophesied to be a time of unparalleled suffering such as the world has never known (Matthew 24:21). Scripture reveals that tens of millions of the descendants of ancient Israel will perish. Addressing the whole house of Israel at this future time, the prophet Ezekiel warned: “One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst” (Ezekiel 5:12).

Ezekiel plainly warned of major droughts that would affect the modern descendants of ancient Israel: “When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread” (v. 16).

The prophesied judgments on Israel will come as a result of their sins. But God will also use plagues to judge the nations of the whole world for their sins, and for following the prophesied “Beast power.” Scripture shows that a time will come when two of God’s faithful servants will, for three-and-a-half years, be given supernatural power “to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy” (Revelation 11:6). Clearly, in the years just ahead of us, God will use the tools of *drought and scarcity of food* to teach modern Israel—and all human beings—important lessons of obedience toward Him.

Jesus Christ foretold that, before the calamities at the end of

this age, during times of societal tumult and warfare, extreme weather patterns would begin to increase: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:6–8).

Why Punish Modern Israel?

Does God have a reason for punishing modern Israel—including the nations of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Great Britain, Canada and the U.S.? Moses prophesied that God would bless

Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers” (Genesis 49:22–26).

Scripture elsewhere echoes the same blessings for Joseph: “And of Joseph he said: ‘Blessed of the LORD is his land, with the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath, with the precious fruits of the sun, with the precious produce of the months, with the best things of the ancient mountains, with the precious things of the everlasting hills, with the precious things of the earth and its fullness, and the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush’” (Deuteronomy 33:13–16).

Have the modern nations descending from ancient Israel been blessed as these verses suggest? Although Australia only possesses about 7 percent arable land (compared to about 19 percent in the U.S.), its land is richly blessed with natural resources. Australia ranks first in the world in wool production, and second in production of lead, zinc, nickel and gold—ahead of the U.S. in all these areas. Australia is the world’s third-largest coal producer, behind only China and the U.S., and it is sixth in wheat production. Australia ranks third in the world on the “human development index” established by the United Nations

Development Program, which rates countries based on citizens’ life expectancy, adult literacy, years of schooling, and personal income (*Pocket World in Figures*, 2006 Edition, pp. 30, 48, 50–53).

Yet, in spite of so many blessings, Australia is beset with social problems just like the rest of the modern Israelite nations. A 1990 report by the Australian Institute of



Pejar Dam (pictured above), near Goulburn, New South Wales, fell to just 3 percent of capacity in May 2007.

Joseph’s descendants (including Ephraim and Manasseh) with the choicest places on earth. Notice: “Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well... by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of

(Continued on page 29)

Tomorrow's Youth

The Glamorization of Alcohol

I am sure you have seen them. Young, good-looking, happy men and women with great bodies and perfect teeth—stretched out in their bathing suits on the beach, or relaxing in their after-work clothes at a local tavern. No matter the setting, the message is always the same—these people know how to have a good time!

Who wouldn't want their lives to be like this? It is an appealing image, one that marketing experts have honed into an extremely seductive message. All you need to do is drink our beer (or wine cooler, or mixed drink, or wine, etc.) and this could be you with your extraordinarily attractive friends leading the "good" life!

Wait a minute! Is this an accurate portrayal that tells the whole story? Or could this be a *glamorized* view of the use of alcohol? As a young person faced with making important choices based on images such as these, it is important for you to discern what is going on.

Buying in to Glamor?

People have used alcohol for thousands of years. Although it has its medicinal purposes, the main reason for its continued popularity is the relaxing effect it has on those who drink it. Even the Bible observes that wine "makes glad the heart of man" (Psalm 104:15).

A newer phenomenon is the glamorization of alcohol. In our modern media age, we are saturated by images and messages designed to influence our attitudes about alcohol. Today's advertisers not only want to sell us their products; they want to sell us a "lifestyle" based on an idealized image of what our lives will be like if we use their products. How effective would a wine advertisement be if it showed a lonely buyer taking a bottle home, to drink alone while watching television?

But there is another kind of "advertising" that glamorizes alcohol—the attitudes of our families and friends. Do the people around us think of drinking as a necessary part of any successful family gathering or social event? Do our friends associate alcohol with fun and excitement—maybe even as a necessary ingredient for fun and excitement in our lives? Without our realizing it, we may be falling victim to the glamorization of alcohol—the unrealistic portrayal of its role in a happy and successful life.

If we cannot trust the media's depiction of alcohol use, and our friends and families may be too reliant on alcohol for their idea of "excitement," where *can* we go to gain the right attitude about alcohol? If you are reading this magazine, you know that we believe the Bible reveals God's mind on almost any subject—including the use of alcohol.



A Balanced Approach

Some may be surprised to learn that the Bible does *not* condemn the use of alcohol. Throughout God's word, we find many examples showing that alcohol can be a blessing if used properly in the right setting. For example, Jesus Christ's first recorded miracle was turning water into wine at a wedding He attended (John 2:1–10). The Apostle Paul instructed the young evangelist Timothy to "use a little wine" for health reasons (1 Timothy 5:23). The Bible even lists wine as one of the blessings God has given mankind to enjoy (Psalm 104:15).

However, the Bible also *strongly condemns* the *abuse* of alcohol. Indeed, entire sections of Scripture describe the dangers and consequences—even the stupidity—of drunkenness (Proverbs 20:1; 21:17; 23:20–21, 29–35; Isaiah 5:11–12, 22).

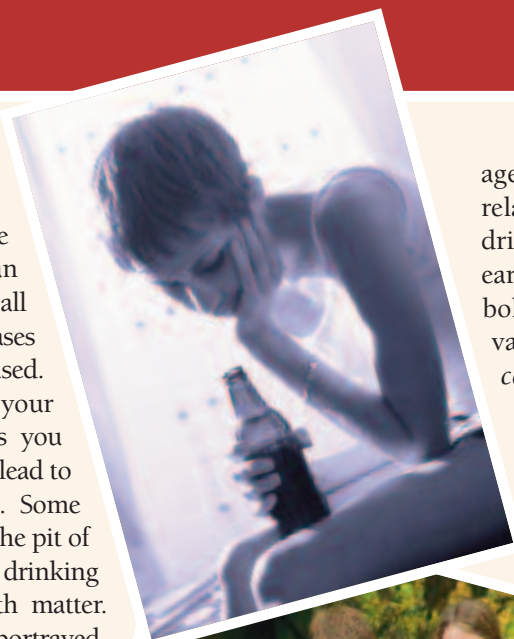
When we put together everything the Bible says on the subject, it becomes obvious that alcohol is meant for our benefit, but only when enjoyed responsibly and in moderation. We should not assume that since "the Bible says it is okay to drink," we can abuse alcohol. Scripture makes it clear that we should not become controlled by alcohol (1 Corinthians 6:12); if it has power over us, we are not using it properly. We should never feel compelled to drink. Remember, just because something is allowable does not make it necessary (Galatians 5:13). If we find ourselves feeling that no social occasion is complete without alcohol, and that we cannot really have a good time unless there are drinks to be had, we can be sure we are being influenced not by God's word, but by the marketers and advertisers who seek to glamorize the use of alcohol.

The Sad Reality

Though responsible use of alcohol can enhance our lives, we all know of too many cases where alcohol is misused. Perhaps even among your own family and friends you have seen alcohol abuse lead to heartbreaking problems. Some drinkers even sink into the pit of alcoholism, where their drinking becomes a life-and-death matter. This tragic reality is not portrayed in those slick advertisements showing beautiful people sharing good times.

You may be thinking, “Oh, here we go again, another ‘gloom-and-doom’ article. Lighten up, dude! I just want to have some fun with my friends.” Really? What may seem like harmless fun can have serious consequences for underage drinkers. A recent report by the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (*Youth Exposure to Alcohol Advertising on Television and in National Magazines, 2001 to 2006*; December 19, 2007) brings out the following statistics:

- Alcohol use is the number-one drug problem among youth. More students in grades 8, 10 and 12 drink alcohol than smoke cigarettes or use illegal drugs. “Alcohol use remains extremely widespread among today’s teenagers. Nearly three quarters of students (72 percent) have consumed alcohol (more than just a few sips) by the end of high school; and about two fifths (39 percent) have done so by 8th grade.... Nearly a fifth (18 percent) of the 8th graders in 2007 report having been drunk at least once in their life” (*Overview of Key Findings, 2007*, NIH Publication 08-6418, p. 9).
- Binge drinking among young people remains a major problem, despite significant efforts to reduce youth access to alcohol. In 2006, 7.2 million youth under age 21 reported binge drinking (defined as consuming five or more drinks within two hours) within the past month.
- The earlier young people start drinking, the worse the consequences. People who start drinking before



age 15 are *five times* more likely to suffer alcohol-related problems than those who wait until 21 to drink. Those who drink heavily in adolescence and early adulthood are more likely to develop a metabolic profile that puts them at greater risk of cardiovascular problems later in life, *whether or not they continue drinking*.

The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that approximately 5,000 Americans under age 21 die each year from alcohol-related injuries involving underage drinking. Another report, by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, found that “research also shows that early initiation of alcohol use is associated with higher likelihood of involvement in violent behaviors, suicide attempts, unprotected sexual intercourse, and multiple sex partners.” (*Quantity and Frequency of Alcohol Use Among Underage Drinkers*, March 31, 2008).

As the Bible revealed long ago, there is a right way and a wrong way to use alcohol. Modern society encourages alcohol abuse when it shows young people a glamorized image of alcohol consumption, hoping to instill at an early age wrong attitudes, which will develop into bad habits that will last for a drinker’s whole life. As the above statistics show, this leads to dangerous consequences.

Think About It!

Marketers do not want you to *think* about your attitude toward alcohol. They want you to *accept* the popular images they offer—to take for granted that when you drink, you are participating in a world of glamour and fun, where drinking makes you more popular and fun to be around. But you are smarter than that. You can recognize that your view of alcohol has been shaped by many influences around you—some of which do not have your best interest at heart.

Remember, it is up to you how you use your mind and your life. The choices you make about alcohol will greatly affect your future and the people you love. It is up to you to rise above the influences around you, and to lay a solid foundation of responsibility and maturity that will serve you well for the rest of your life.

—Phil Sena

Rooting for Defeat?

If you have been reading *Tomorrow's World* magazine for a while, you know that we proclaim openly what the Bible prophesies for the last days—hard times ahead for nations that do not “get their act together” before Jesus Christ’s return.

We certainly want Christ to return, and we know that these prophecies of hard times—harder than any nation has seen before—must come to pass before His return. But does this mean we are rooting for our nations to suffer?

No, it does not!

Does it seem troubling that banks in the U.S. have felt it necessary to accept billions of dollars from foreign investors—even potentially hostile foreign investors—in order to stay afloat? Yes. Does it seem frightening that American sources of such capital were apparently nowhere to be found, and that the nation would be in even worse shape if it were not for such massive capital investments from outside its border? Yes. Does the nation’s incredible dependence on other nations—its lack of control of its own destiny—add to the foreboding sense of a soon-coming prophesied time when the modern Israelite nations will be abandoned by their “lovers” and will become the “tail” and not the “head” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44)? Yes.

But does this mean that we want the nation to fall? No!

Does it seem that the U.S. military is losing respect around the world? Yes. America’s opponents have discovered how easy it is for nationless guerillas, and terrorists with improvised weapons, to thwart the will of a “superpower.” Does it seem that the “pride of our power” is being broken before our eyes (Leviticus 26:19)? Yes. But does this mean that we want to see the U.S. fail to bring peace to Iraq, or to fend off Iran’s aggression? Not at all.

Ideally, I—and all the other writers at *Tomorrow's World*—want America to repent. We want America to seek the God who gave the nation all it has—while the nation still has it. We want

America to go to God and ask to learn His paths and His ways.

If that does not happen, we still want America to be strong enough that it can be a supportive place for the Work of God, where the proclamation of the true Gospel can go on in a powerful way.

Yes, we at *Tomorrow's World* want Christ to return very soon—even though this means a Tribulation beforehand, and times of unprecedented suffering for the Jewish state of Israel and for the modern nations descended from the “lost” ten tribes of ancient Israel, including the U.S. and Great

Britain. But while we understand the prophesied need for that suffering, we will not be like Jonah—who, in spite of preaching repentance to the Ninevites, actually hoped they would not repent. Rather, we strive to preach a message of hope—that those who repent, whether individuals or entire nations, can begin to reap God’s blessings.

If the dollar should rally, the economy should flourish or peace be found in Iraq, we should take the time to thank God for His mercy, and for the reminder this provides that He “is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish

but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Even if our nations do not repent, we can and should repent individually. And we should pray for our nations, asking God to give them the wisdom to obey Him, so they can experience the blessings He intends for them. We know it is only because of the obedience and faithfulness of our father Abraham that our nations have received such blessings in the past, and we should thank God for signs of repentance when we see them, just as we also sigh and cry at the abominations around us (Ezekiel 9:4). The stakes are high, and if we do not repent, individually and nationally, we need to understand the consequences. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, “I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

—Wallace G. Smith



The Big Dry

(Continued from page 25)

Criminology unhappily concluded that Australia's crime rate is in some respects very high compared with other similar nations. "Australia is ranked third highest of the fourteen countries [studied] in terms of overall victimization... In assaults involving force, in the less serious types of sexual incidents, in burglary and in motor vehicle thefts, Australia ranked highest of all the countries surveyed" (*A Comparison of Crime in Australia and Other Countries*, p. 2).

The modern Israelite nations also rank high in addictive behavior such as pornography. In terms of revenue derived from pornography, the U.S. ranks third in the world, Australia fourth, the United Kingdom fifth, and Canada seventh. Australia actually outranks the U.S. in per capita revenue from pornography, by more than double.

Certainly, if God used drought and other calamities to punish ancient Israel for its sins, modern Israel cannot claim to be any less deserving of His correction.

Pray for Rain

In April 2007, when rain was urgently and desperately needed to save crops in the vital Murray-Darling basin, Prime Minister John Howard encouraged Australians to pray for rain. He said, "It is a grim situation, and there is no point in pretending to Australia otherwise. We must all hope and pray there is rain."

Will we pray for rain? Then will we give thanks when it comes? More importantly, will we acknowledge our sins—then repent and turn from them? Scripture records King Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple: "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned

against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance" (2 Chronicles 6:26–27).

As with droughts before it, the Big Dry has in one way or another touched the lives of all Australians. Farmers and ranchers have faced especially difficult challenges. Businesses have suffered. The routines of ordinary daily life have changed, as individuals have adapted to stringent water conservation regulations by not watering their lawns, not washing their cars, taking shorter showers and being diligent to collect rainwater. Droughts are times when everyone makes the necessary changes to meet the challenge and survive.

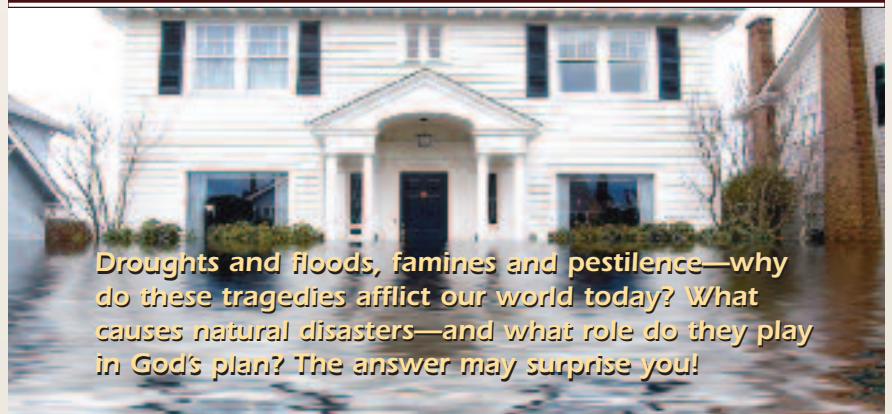
But will we make the more important spiritual changes in response to these climatic challenges? Do we see the "handwriting on the wall"? Do we want God's personal care and comfort for us and our family during coming times of stress and duress? Where

will we turn, when the prophesied tribulations come?

Our only ultimate answer is to turn to God, our Creator and Maker. "Thus says the LORD: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. *For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit*'" (Jeremiah 17:5–8).

God blessed the nations of Joseph—and continues to bless them abundantly. But our time is running out, unless we turn from our sins, and turn towards Almighty God *with all of our heart*. This is the challenge, and the warning, Jesus Christ is giving to the nations of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.—and, yes, to the entire world! *Will you heed it?* ■

Who Controls the Weather?



Droughts and floods, famines and pestilence—why do these tragedies afflict our world today? What causes natural disasters—and what role do they play in God's plan? The answer may surprise you!

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

"Goodbye" to England?
(Continued from page 2)

States and Great Britain in Prophecy. You really do need to carefully read this vital booklet! If you do not yet have a copy, write or call our regional office nearest to you (listed at the bottom of this page), or go online to www.tomorrowsworld.org, and request a free copy of this powerful and most meaningful booklet. It really will open your eyes to what is now beginning to happen.

Many biblical prophecies predict what is starting to happen to the U.S. and the British-descended peoples. The entire book of Hosea, in fact, is a dual prophecy—describing what was to happen to those nations in ancient times, and what is about to happen to them today, during the prophesied “time of the end.” As the *United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* explains, the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of Britain are the descendants of the tribe of Ephraim—one of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes.”

Please understand. The tribe of Ephraim is not “Jewish”—and the Bible makes a *clear distinction* between the “House of Israel” and the “House of Judah (2 Kings 14:12–14).” So, *what does* God’s inspired word say will happen to these British-descended people of modern Ephraim?

“Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned. Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it; yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, yet he does not know it. And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, but they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek Him for all this” (Hosea 7:8–10).

New European Union regulations are encouraging millions of immigrants to enter Britain, particularly from the formerly Communist nations of Eastern Europe. Waves of immigrants, whether Roman Catholic or Muslim, are changing the long-standing character of neighborhoods—sometimes even of whole towns and villages. During my trip to Britain earlier this year, I was struck by the number of articles in the British press lamenting the nation’s loss of its British character. Is it any wonder that many native Britons become so upset when confronted by EU plans that ignore the national boundaries of Britain, when they see that the EU bureaucrats prefer instead to divide the nation’s citizenry into

various “regions” along with other nations, without regard for Britain’s national character and history?

Is Britain destined to be swallowed up into Europe? God Almighty says: “Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the Gentiles like a vessel in which is no pleasure. For they have gone up to Assyria, like a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers. Yes, though they have hired among the nations, now I will gather them; and they shall sorrow a little, because of the burden of the king of princes” (Hosea 8:8–10). The British part of the modern “House of Israel” is on the verge of being “swallowed up.” Perhaps Britain’s misguided leaders think that they will gain economic advantages through various treaties and alliances with “hired lovers.” Little do they realize the predicted “sorrow” this will bring!

What *should* our friends and loved ones in Britain do? God’s word says, “Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, they have become for him altars for sinning. I have written for him the great things of My law, but they were considered a strange thing” (Hosea 8:11–12). Those comparatively few Britons who truly fear God should tremble at Hosea’s words, and should wholeheartedly *return* to the God of the Bible, begin to honor Him and begin to obey the “great” things of His Law!

As the end-time servants of the living God, we in this Work are now **warning** our beloved friends in Britain to “wake up” and to realize what is starting to happen! For, slowly but surely, over the next several years, the once-great British nation will be brought down—*unless* it undergoes a national repentance that is *genuine*. As we have warned in the past, Britain may eventually opt out—or be *put out*—of the EU. Even so, as God’s word makes clear, the *coming takeover* of Britain by a ten-nation confederation—which your Bible describes as the “Beast”—is absolutely certain unless there is *real* repentance!

Though Britain’s *Daily Telegraph* wrote, “Say Goodbye to England,” God’s word reveals the good news that the British people *will* be brought back from captivity, and will learn to “seek” the Lord their God when Christ’s Kingdom is established in the “latter days” (Hosea 3:5). God speed that day!



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TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION

INTERNATIONAL:

—AUSTRALIA

NSW, Sydney: TVS—Ch 31, SUN 6:00 am
QLD, Brisbane: Briz 31—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am
SA, Adelaide: Access—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am
VIC, Melbourne: MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 7:00 & 11:30 pm
WA, Perth: Access 31—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

—BARBADOS

St. Michael: CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

—JAMAICA

Kingston: TVJ—Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 7:00 am

—NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide: PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:00 am

—PHILIPPINES

Naga City: PBN—Ch 5, SUN 8:00 am

Naval: Bilinet Cable—Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am

—SOUTH AFRICA

Randburg: CSN—SUN 5:30 pm

—TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

—UNITED KINGDOM AND NW EUROPE

United Kingdom: WORD Network-SKY-TV—Ch 771, FRI 6:30 am

The Gospel Channel: Sky—Ch 770, FRI 4:00 pm, MON 7:00 pm

—EUROPE, NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST:

Europe, North Africa, Middle East: Hotbird 6 FRI 6:30 am UTC

UNITED STATES:

AK, Anchorage: GCI—Ch 18, SAT 10:00 pm
AL, Birmingham: Bright House—Ch 4, TUE 2:30 pm
AL, Troy/Montgomery: WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: KNWA—Ch 51, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
AR, Fort Smith: KFTA—Ch 24, SUN 6:30 am
AR, Little Rock: KASN—Ch 38, SUN 9:30 am
AZ, Lake Havasu City: KLHD—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am
AZ, Phoenix: KAZT—Multi, SUN 11:30 am
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73/98, SAT 12:30 pm; SUN 7:00 pm
CA, Chatsworth: Time Warner—Ch 34, SUN 9:00 pm
CA, Eureka: Sudden Link Cable—Ch 12, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
CA, Glendora: Time Warner—Ch 3/99, TUE 7:00 pm
CA, Modesto: Community Media—Ch 8, TUE 5:00 pm; FRI 1:30 pm
CA, North Orange County: Time Warner—Ch 95/97/98 SUN 3:30 pm
CA, Redding: KCAC—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am
CA, Sacramento: RCCV—Ch 20/96, MON 5:30 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm
CA, San Diego: Cox Media—Ch 4, SUN 8:30 am
CA, San Diego: Time Warner—Ch 19, SUN 6:00 pm
CA, San Francisco: Access—Multi, TUE 8:00 pm
CA, San Jose: Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm
CA, Sonoma: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Davie: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:00 am
FL, Ft. Lauderdale: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 8:30 am
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 10:00 am
FL, Hialeah/Coral Gables: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 pm
FL, Jacksonville: WTEV—Ch 47, SUN 7:00 am
FL, Key West: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 8:30 am
FL, Margate/Sunrise/Plantation: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:00 pm
FL, Miramar: Comcast—Ch 198/76 SUN 7:30 am
FL, North Dade: Comcast—Ch 19, SUN 7:30 am
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am
FL, Panama City: GBN—Multi, THUR 8:30 pm; FRI 1:30 pm; SAT 10:00 pm; SUN 1:30 am, MON 11:00 am, TUE 7:30 pm, WED 4:00 am
FL, Pompano: Comcast—Ch 76, SUN 7:30 pm
FL, South Broward: Comcast—Ch 79, SUN 8:00 am
FL, Tallahassee: WTWC—Ch 40, SUN 7:30 am
FL, Tampa: WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am
GA, Atlanta: PTV—Ch 24, TUE 4:30 pm
GA, Atlanta: WATC—Multi—SUN 9:30 am
GA, Macon: Cox Cable—Ch 18, FRI 2:00 pm, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am
GA, Savannah: Comcast—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am
IA, Davenport: Mediacom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm, WED 8:30 am
IA, Des Moines: Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am
IA, Dubuque: MediaCom—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm
ID, Boise: TTVV—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 pm; MON 11:30 am
IL, Chicago: WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am
IL, Moline: MediaCom—Ch 19, MON 4:30 pm
IL, Peoria: Insight, Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
IL, Springfield: Insight—Ch 4, TUE 10:00 pm
IN, Bloomington: CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm

IN, Fort Wayne: Comcast—Ch 57, SUN 3:00 pm
KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
KS, Salina: Community TV—Ch 21, MON & TUE 8:55 pm, WED 6:00 pm, THUR 6:00 am, FRI 9:30 pm, SAT 2:30 am
LA, Latonia: PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am
KY, Lexington: Ch 14, Check Local Listing
KY, Lexington: WUPX—Ch 67, THUR 1:30 pm
KY, Louisville: WBNA—Ch 21, SUN 5:30 pm
LA, Baton Rouge: KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 8:00 am
LA, Lafayette: KLWB—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am
LA, New Orleans: WHNO—Ch 20, SUN 8:30 am
LA, Shreveport: KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am
MA, Boston: WBXP—Ch 68, WED 7:00 am
MA, Cambridge: CCTV—Ch 22, FRI 11:00 am; SUN 3:00 pm, WED 9:00 am
MA, Everett: Community TV—Ch 3, TUE 1:00 pm
MA, Malden: Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MA, North Adams: NBCCT—Ch 15, WED 8:00 pm
MD, Baltimore: Community Media—Ch 75, SUN 9:00 am
MD, Rockville: Community TV—Ch 19, SAT 5:30 pm
MD, Westminster: Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am
ME, Auburn: GFIV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm
ME, Brunswick: Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am
ME, Detroit: Comcast—Multi, SUN 7:30 am
MI, Kalamazoo: CACTV—Ch 9, 20-22, 95, SUN 11:30 am; MON, WED, FRI 5:00 pm
MI, Portage: Access—Ch 19, 20, THU 10:30 am, TUE 2:00 pm
MI, Saginaw: Charter Media—Ch 16, THUR 2:00 pm
MI, Traverse City: TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm
MN, Bird Island: BICC—Ch 7, MON 6:30 pm, WED 6:30 pm
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm
MN, Hutchinson: HCIN—Ch 10, FRI 4:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm
MN, Minneapolis: Metro Cable—Ch 6, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 8:30 am
MN, Minneapolis: MTN—Ch 75, 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: CIV—Ch 21, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm
MN, St. Paul: SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm
MO, Joplin: KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am
MO, Kansas City: KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am
MO, Kansas City: Time Warner—Ch 4, SUN 10:00 pm
MO, Springfield: KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm
MO, St. Louis: WRBU—Ch 46, SUN 7:30 am
MS, Jackson: Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm
MS, Jackson: WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am
NC, Burlington: Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm
NC, Charlotte: WAXN—Ch 64, SUN 7:00 am
NC, Charlotte: WHKY—Ch 14/19, MON 7:30 pm
NC, Greensboro: GCTV—Ch 8, SAT 7:30 am; SUN 10:30 pm
NC, Wilmington: Time Warner—Ch 4, MON 10:00 pm
NH, Hanover: CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm; MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm
NJ, Audubon: Comcast—Ch 2, WED 6:30 pm
NJ, Cape May: Comcast—Ch 9, SUN 11:00 am
NJ, East Windsor: Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 76, FRI 7:00 pm
NJ, Trenton: Comcast—Ch 16, MON 11:00 pm
NJ, Union: Comcast—Ch 27/81/93, SAT 5:00 pm; SUN 6:00 pm
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 6:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: Cable One—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm
NY, Carson City: SNCAT—Ch 10, SUN 6:00 pm
NY, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 16, SAT 4:30 am & 4:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am & 4:30 pm
NY, Reno/Sparks: SNCAT—Ch 30/16, FRI 6:30 am
NY, Albany/Troy: Time Warner—Ch 18, THUR 5:00 pm
NY, Amsterdam: Public Access—Ch 16, TUE 6:00 pm
NY, Batavia: Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm
NY, Binghamton: Time Warner—Ch 4, FRI 5:00 pm
NY, Brookhaven: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am
NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 35/68, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Canandaigua: FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:00 am
NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am
NY, Fairport: FACT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Glens Falls: Time Warner—Ch 18, FRI, MON-WED 8:00 pm
NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 5:00 am
NY, Irondequoit: ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm
NY, Manhattan: MNN—Ch 57/85, SAT 7:00 pm
NY, New York: WRNN—Ch 62, SAT 11:30 pm
NY, Niagara Falls: Community TV—Ch 20, MON 6:00 am
NY, Oneida: Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
NY, Oneonta: Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm
NY, Queens: OPTV—Ch 34/35, SAT 3:30 pm; TUE 9:30 pm
NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SAT 6:30 am; SUN 11:30 am
NY, Rockland County: Cablevision—Ch 76, MON 8:00 am
NY, West Seneca: Adelphia—Ch 20, TUE 11:35 pm
NY, Staten Island: CIV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm

NY, Syracuse: Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Utica: Time Warner—Ch 99, MON 9:00 pm
NY, Wappingers Falls: Cablevision—Ch 21, FRI 10:00 pm
NY, Watertown: Time Warner—Ch 99, SUN 10:00 am & 6:00 pm; MON 7:00 pm; TUE 7:00 pm
NY, Webster: WCA—Ch 12, SUN 9:00 am
NY, Woodbury: Cablevision—Ch 115, SUN 10:30 am
OH, Centerville: MVCC—Ch 23, FRI 2:30 pm
OH, Cincinnati: Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, TUE 1:00 pm; THUR 8:30 am; SUN 7:00 pm
OH, Dayton: DSTV—Ch 12, FRI 9:00 AM; SUN 11:00 am
OH, Fairborn: CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm
OK, Tulsa: KMYT—Ch 41, SUN 6:00 am
OR, Ashland: RVTY—Ch 15/31/95, SUN 10:00 pm
OR, Oregon City: WFTV—Ch 23, FRI 4:00 pm; SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am; WED 4:00 pm
OR, Portland: MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm
PA, Allentown/Bethlehem: TV2—Ch 50, FRI 4:30 pm
PA, Johnstown: Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, SUN 8:30 am
PA, Lehightown: BRCTV—Ch 13, SUN 8:30 am
PA, Reading: BCTV—Ch 13/19, THUR 11:00 pm
PA, Sayre: Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm
PA, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre: FOX56 & WOLF—Multi Channels, THUR 5:00 am; SAT 5:00 am
RI, Providence: WPXQ—Ch 69, MON 11:30 am
TN, Chattanooga: WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am
TN, Knoxville: WVLR—Ch 48, SUN 7:30 am
TN, La Follette: WLAF—Ch 12, WED 6:00 pm
TN, Memphis: WPTV—Ch 24, SAT 6:30 am
TN, Nashville: WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Austin: Community Access—Ch 11, WED 7:00 pm
TX, Bryan: KYLE—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am
TX, Dallas: iMedia Network—Ch 99/74, SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am
TX, Lufkin: KTRF—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Midland: KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm
TX, Tyler: KLTU—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am
TX, Waco: KWYT—Ch 44, SUN 7:00 am
VA, Charlottesville: Adelphia—Ch 13, MON 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm
VA, Fairfax: FPA—Ch 10, MON 12:00 pm
VA, Norfolk: WSKY—Ch 4, SUN 9:00 am
VA, Roanoke: WRDL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am
VA, Virginia Beach: Cox—Ch 99 & 51, SAT 8:30 am
VT, Bennington: CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 am; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm
VT, Burlington: Community Access—Ch 15, THUR 11:30 am & FRI 12:00 PM
VT, Montpelier: Community Access—Ch 15, SUN 9:30 am
VT, Richmond: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 6:00 am, 9:00 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 1:00 pm
VT, Springfield: SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm
WA, Everett: Comcast—Ch 77, WED 4:30 pm
WA, Kennewick: Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: FVTV—Ch 11, SUN 8:30 am, TUE 10:30 am, WED 12:00 pm
WI, Wausau: Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am
WV, Charleston: WLPX—Ch 29, TUE 7:00 am
WY, Casper: KTWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am
WY, Cheyenne: KLWY—Ch 27, SUN 10:00 am

■ Nationwide Cable

WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET

WORD—FRI 1:30 am ET

BET—MON 3:00 am ET & PT

■ DirecTV

WGN—CH 307, SUN 6:00 am ET

WORD—CH 373, FRI 1:30 am ET

■ Canada

VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am;

MON—FRI 3:00 am ET

ON, Toronto: *The Christian Channel*—Cable,

SUN 4:00 pm ET, WED 12:00 ET

TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION

WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET

WORD: FRI 1:30 am ET

VISION, Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; MON 1:30 am ET; MON-FRI 3:00 am ET

BET: MON 3:00 am ET & PT

NEW U.S.A. TELEVISION STATIONS:

FL, Pensacola: *WJTC*—CH 44, THUR 6:30 am

KS, Parsons: *Parson's Cable TV*—CH 21, WED 7:00 pm

MN, Cloquet: *Mediacom Cable*—CH 7, FRI 9:00 am, WED 5:00 pm

WA, Bellingham: *KVOS*—CH 12, SUN 7:30 am

NEW CANADA TELEVISION STATIONS:

BC, Vancouver: *CHNU*—CH 11, SUN 5:00 pm, TUE 4:00 am

MB, Manitoba: *CIIT*—CH 11, SUN 5:00 pm, TUE 4:00 am

TOMORROW'S WORLD TELECAST



The Truth About Divine Healing

Airs July 31–August 6

God can heal you! Do you know how?

Where Are the Assyrians Today?

Airs August 7–13

What vital role does Assyria play in end-time prophecy?

2008 and Prophecy

Airs August 14–20

Learn what your Bible reveals about the times just ahead!

The Prophetic Day of the Lord

Airs August 21–27

Do you understand end-time prophecy? You can!