

TOMORROW'S WORLD

July-August 2020 | TomorrowsWorld.org

THE PERFECT STORM

How did 2020 go wrong?
And why?



“Nothing Like a Good Pandemic!”

A curious thing happened at our *Tomorrow's World* offices here in Charlotte, North Carolina, and in our local Living Church of God congregation. It all began because we had a higher than usual number of young adults planning weddings for early spring and summer.

Each member of these couples is much like others who want to share their lives with another. Many brides shop for that “just-right” dress. They plan what the bridesmaids will wear and choose flowers to decorate the venue. Meals are often part of the reception, and bands are sometimes hired for a dance. As the price increases, the bride’s father in some instances may identify with the character Steve Martin played in the movie *Father of the Bride*, though in the case of modern marriages, the bride and groom sometimes contribute their own funds to the occasion. Weddings these days are often expensive events.

But then something unexpected happened: pandemic restrictions and lockdowns. Forced to decide between an expensive, “dream” wedding that would need to be postponed until who-knows-when, and a simpler ceremony that could be performed now, one couple after another chose the simple ceremony with the minister and a handful of witnesses—no expensive dress, no elaborate reception, no expensive meal and band, and minimal flowers. Even the honeymoon was within driving distance, if any travel was possible at all.

This was not the wedding they had planned! But it certainly made memories and some of these couples may have saved enough for a down payment on a future home. There will no doubt be a reception at some later date, though probably not as elaborate or expensive as the wedding would have been.

Reality Is Back in Fashion

My Uncle George once told me, “There is nothing like a good depression to bring people back to reality.” This surprised me when I was younger, and I wondered what my atheist uncle considered “reality.” What did he value? It was obvious his values and mine were not the same. Nevertheless, I think I know what he meant by his comment and I’m convinced he

was right. He had survived the Great Depression and World War II, and understood—as King Solomon did (Ecclesiastes 7:2)—that there are events that strip away the superficialities of life and help us to see what is truly important. COVID-19 is just such an event. So, to paraphrase my uncle, “There is nothing like a good pandemic to bring us back to reality.”

Perhaps that is why Bible sales increased when this crisis set in. People privately ask themselves, “Will I get sick? Will I survive? Will this be how I die?” Yes, people begin wondering about the big questions. “What is the purpose of life? And when I die, will I live again?” These questions come to the minds of many. (If you have been contemplating your mortality in recent months, why not explore the

topic with our booklet *What Happens When You Die?*

The answer is both sobering and encouraging.)

I am not suggesting that weddings are no big deal—we read in the Bible of marriage celebrations lasting several days. But marriage today is rarely what it was intended to be.



Too many couples have everything in the wrong order: They move in together, maybe even have children, and then, possibly, get married. Weddings today are divorced from marriage and have become one-day opportunities for couples to have their “day in the sun.” As the institution of marriage has been increasingly devalued, many weddings themselves have lost their connection to the sanctity of marriage and marital privileges.

Few today put real thought into what marriage truly means. Many consider it merely some cultural

How Your Subscription Has Been Paid

Tomorrow's World has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ's true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged and may be tax-deductible.

tradition where the bride gets to “Say yes to the dress!” How many times have you heard someone sneeringly say that marriage is no more than a piece of paper? With such disrespect for the institution of marriage itself, it is no surprise that so many people couple and de-couple at will and that many marriages don’t last.

I enjoy talking to people about my wife’s parents and their wedding—to say it was merely “simple” would be an understatement. They showed up unexpectedly at the minister’s home at supper time and waited while the man and his wife finished eating. Just the four of them were present as the two “tied the knot.” There were only two wedding pictures: She stood by a tree and he took her picture with a box camera, and then they traded places as she returned the favor. That was long before selfies, where they could have stood by the tree together!

Despite this humble beginning, they stayed married for 72 years and raised two beautiful daughters. Did they have their struggles? Yes, just as most couples do. But they understood commitment and responsibility. How different from the elaborate and expensive events we see today, after which the husband and wife remain “faithful” so long as they can get along without too much difficulty—or until one jumps into bed with someone else.

For many of the weddings we have seen recently in our office and congregation, the couples faced the choice between getting married earlier or waiting to have an elaborate ceremony much later, so they chose the former.

This does not mean, of course, that a couple would be wrong for waiting so that more family and friends could be present. Not at all. But one thing is clear in all of this: How simple or how elaborate the wedding and reception may be has nothing to do with how long the marriage will last. Understanding God’s purpose for marriage and the willingness to commit to one another and work through difficult times are *far* more important. And the size of one’s wedding is not a very reliable indicator of the depth of one’s commitment.

Marriage Really Matters!

Even though few understand the God-given purposes behind marriage, study after study shows that *mar-*

riage matters. Although many marriages fail, statistically, marriage wins out over cohabitation every time. However, saving oneself for marriage is not the trend today.

A November 6, 2019, Pew Research Center study reported that the number of cohabiting adults in the U.S. continues to rise, and that it is now more common for those of ages 18 to 44 to have cohabited sometime during their lives than for them to have been married. This is not surprising, as 69 percent of Americans believe living together before marriage is acceptable and an additional 16 percent say it is acceptable as long as the couple plans to marry. Only 14 percent find sleeping together prior to marriage unacceptable. In other words, only 14 percent subscribe to biblical values (e.g., 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 5:3). It is hard to believe the situation is any better in other Western countries.

Nevertheless, marriage benefits the couple, the family, and society. Detailing those bountiful benefits is beyond the scope of my message here, though I will mention just one example: Pew Research also reported that the same study showed that “married adults express higher levels of relationship satisfaction and trust in their partner than do those who are cohabiting” (“Key findings on marriage and cohabitation in the U.S.,” *PewResearch.org*). For those who understand the purpose of marriage, this is no surprise at all.

Yes, there is nothing like a good depression or pandemic to bring people back to reality—but has society declined so far that people have no idea what is real and what is not? When it comes to marriage, most people never consider its God-given purposes. In fact, they do not consider that God has anything *at all* to do with marriage, beyond having a beautiful “church” wedding. If you would like to discover more about this subject, please contact our office nearest you and request a copy of *God’s Plan for Happy Marriage*. As with all of our materials, the booklet is free of charge.



5 Who Changed the Sabbath to Sunday?

The Bible describes the seventh-day Sabbath as a sacred day of rest. So, why do most professing Christians worship on Sunday?

12 Misguided Education and the Demise of the West

Modern education in Western civilization is seen as a largely secular pursuit. But it didn't start that way. How did it change?

16 The Mayflower: Ship That Launched an Empire

Four hundred years ago, the Mayflower set sail to its destiny in a new land! Its voyage changed the world in ways few recognize.

18 A Perfect Storm

The year 2020 has seen a startling convergence of multiple, life-altering events—a perfect storm that is changing the world.

26 Should We Kiss Dating Hello?

A biblical view of child development can help us teach our children about healthy dating that will lay a foundation for their future.

9 “If My people would humble themselves...”

10 Staying Connected in Isolation

25 A Lesson from My Dog

30 Just What Is a Virus?

29 Questions and Answers

32 NewsWatch

34 Letters to the Editor

35 Television Log

Circulation: 339,000

Knowledge or Confusion?

Misguided education is devastating the West

-12-



To request free literature or correspond with the editors, contact the Regional Office nearest you or write to
Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org.

United States

PO Box 3810
Charlotte, NC 28227-8010
Phone: +1 (704) 844-1970

Australasia

GPO Box 772
Canberra City, ACT 2601, Australia
Phone: +61 8 8383 6266

Canada

PO Box 409
Mississauga, ON L5M 0P6
Phone: +1 (905) 814-1094

New Zealand

PO Box 2767
Shortland Street
Auckland 1140
Phone: +64 9-268 8985

Philippines

PO Box 492
Araneta Center Post Office
1135 Quezon City, Metro Manila
Phone: +63 2 8573-7594

South Africa

Private Bag X3016
Harrismith, FS, 9880
Phone: +27 58 622 1424

United Kingdom

Box 111
43 Berkeley Square
London, W1J 5FJ
Phone: +44 844 800 9322

We respect your privacy: We do not rent, trade, or sell our mailing list. If you do not want to receive this magazine, email us or contact the Regional Office nearest you.



Who Changed the Sabbath to Sunday?

Your Bible shows plainly that Jesus Christ observed the seventh-day Sabbath. So did His first followers. Yet today, the vast majority of those calling themselves “Christian” worship on Sundays and do nothing to keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy. How did this change occur? And what should you do about it?

By **Richard F. Ames**

The religions of the world set aside a variety of holidays or holy days. Muslims worship on Friday. Jews around the world have worshipped for millennia on the Sabbath, the day beginning at sunset every Friday evening and continuing until sunset on Saturday.

Jesus Christ observed the seventh-day Sabbath. Most professing Christians meet for Sunday church services, proclaiming theirs as the true day for worship. So, which day should Christians keep holy—the first of the week, or the seventh?

Throughout history, various civilizations have recorded their days in weeks of different lengths, such as four days or ten. Even history demonstrates that, among these varieties, the seven-day week is very ancient. Records going back to ancient Babylon describe the observance of the seven-day cycle. The Jewish people have preserved a calendar with a seven-day week and have not lost track of the cycle over millennia. Even when Pope Gregory XIII revised the calendar in 1582, he did not change this cycle. The seventh-day Sabbath today is the same seventh day observed by Jesus and the first-century Christian Church.

Perhaps as a child you learned the Ten Commandments. The Fourth Commandment gives us this very plain instruction: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:8). Yet most professing Christians observe Sunday, even though first-century Christians observed the same seventh-day Sabbath that Jesus observed!

So, why do most people who call themselves “Christians” ignore the seventh-day Sabbath and instead hallow Sunday, the first day of the week? What happened to the example of Jesus and of the first-century Christians? The Apostle Paul urged Christians to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)—and he observed the seventh-day Sabbath throughout his life, keeping it from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, in imitation of his Savior, who preached in the synagogues on the Sabbath (Luke 4:16).

The Apostle Paul preached on the Sabbath to both Jews and Gentiles in the Antioch synagogue. Remember that this occurred **years** after Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. Surely, if Christians were supposed to keep Sunday, these Gentiles would

have met with Paul the very next day, Sunday. But notice: “So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them *the next Sabbath*” (Acts 13:42).

Not Sunday!

Indeed, what happened? “On the *next Sabbath* almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God” (v. 44). Paul met with Gentiles not on Sunday, but on the day first-century Christians observed: the seventh-day Sabbath.

So, **who** changed the Sabbath to Sunday? What happened to the Fourth Commandment, which states that God’s people should keep the seventh day holy? This is a vital question for all professing Christians!

Eight “First Days”

“But isn’t ‘Sunday’ in the New Testament?” some will wonder. You may be surprised to learn that if you look for it in your New Testament, you will not find “Sunday” mentioned even once! What you will find are eight references to “the first day of the week.”

Six of those references describe the day after Jesus’ resurrection, as we will discuss later. But what about the other two? Surely these must depict or command Sunday worship, right? Let’s look at both.

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2). Was this some kind of “passing the plate” at a church service? No! Much as in Romans 15, Paul here is asking the Corinthians to gather supplies for needy brethren. He is not asking them to worship, but to do the physical work of gathering goods for those in need in Jerusalem. This was not activity fit for a day of rest; it was active, physical service on the part of the Galatian brethren.

Next, let us consider this verse: “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight” (Acts 20:7). First, we notice that Paul’s message ended around midnight on the first day of the week. This means that it began on what we would call Saturday. And how did Paul and his companions continue after their meeting? Some did the hard labor of rowing (vv. 13–14), while Paul walked for hours—not what one would call a “Sabbath rest.” Clearly, this is not an example of the first day of the week being treated as a Sabbath.

What about John 20? “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’” (v. 19). Notice the context; Jesus had been crucified just days before, and the disciples did not yet understand that He was risen (cf. Mark 16:14; Luke 24:37–41). They were hiding together, fearing the Jews who had crucified their Savior. When Jesus appeared to these disciples on the first day of the week, He was not barging into a worship service! Indeed, as we shall see, He had risen from the dead on the day before—the seventh day!

What About the Resurrection?

When did Sunday replace the seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest for professing Christians? The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, on the topic of “Sunday,” explains: “Tertullian... is the first writer who expressly mentions the Sunday rest: ‘We, however (just as tradition has taught us), on the day of the Lord’s Resurrection ought to guard not only against kneeling, but every posture and office of solicitude; deferring even our businesses lest we give any place to the devil’” (vol. XIV, p. 335). Tertullian did not write this until 202 AD, more than 170 years **after** the beginning of the New Testament Church!

But is Sunday the day of the Lord’s resurrection, as Tertullian said? No! When Mary Magdalene came to Jesus’ tomb on Sunday morning, she found it **already empty**. We read, “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him’” (John 20:1–2).

Notice that Mary arrived at the tomb while it was still dark outside! The sun had not yet risen on Sunday morning, and Jesus was **not there!** Jesus was not resurrected at sunrise—rather, by the time the sun had risen Sunday morning, He was *already gone* and the tomb was already empty. Remember, He had promised that He would rise exactly three days and three nights after His burial, fulfilling the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:40). Jesus was buried shortly before sunset on a

Preparation Day preceding an annual Holy Day (John 19:31), so we know that He rose shortly before sunset three days later. Mary found the tomb empty on Sunday morning because Jesus rose from the dead shortly before sunset on the day before, on Saturday.

As we can see, the idea of basing Sunday worship on Christ's resurrection comes not from the Bible, but from faulty human traditions. Rather, Jesus emphasized the sign of Jonah as the sign of His being the Messiah: "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39–40).

If Jesus rose from the dead on Saturday afternoon, He was put in the grave on Wednesday afternoon. The "Good Friday" tradition is nowhere found in your Bible. Jesus did as He promised, spending three days and

Just a few years later, the Roman church also passed a startling decree in the Council of Laodicea, declaring, "Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday, but shall work on that day; but the Lord's day they shall especially honour, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they are found Judaizing [keeping the seventh-day Sabbath], they shall be shut out from Christ" (*A History of the Councils of the Church*, vol. 2, p. 316). In other words, Christian Sabbath-keepers were declared heretics.

But on what authority did the Roman church make this change? The noted Catholic theologian, James Cardinal Gibbons, wrote this bold statement: "But you may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." That's a quote from Gibbons' *The Faith of Our Fathers*, first published in 1876 (p. 97, 1917).

In other words, Cardinal Gibbons is saying that if the Bible is your authority, you have **no** basis for observing Sunday. The Scriptures, as he states, "enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify."

What Gibbons and other Catholic authorities state is that the authority of the Catholic church, **not** the New

Testament Scriptures, changed observance in the Christian world from Saturday to Sunday—an event that did not occur until the Council of Laodicea, in the middle of the fourth century.

What an amazing admission! And yet Gibbons is not alone. Our free booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* documents similar admissions from Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and other religious leaders, all agreeing that the Bible nowhere authorizes Sunday as a "new" Sabbath day.

But does this even matter? Can't we just worship on any day?

Christ made His answer on this question very clear. Scripture records that He gave a very strong warning about observing traditions that conflict with the commandments of God. Many churches have

BUT IS SUNDAY THE DAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION, AS TERTULLIAN SAID? NO! WHEN MARY MAGDALENE CAME TO JESUS' TOMB ON SUNDAY MORNING, SHE FOUND IT ALREADY EMPTY

three nights—not two nights and a day as the Good Friday tradition would require—in the grave. You can read more about the three days and three nights, and the timing and meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection, in our inspiring, free booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *Easter: The Untold Story*.

The first-century Christian Church worshipped on the seventh day of the week, which we now call Saturday. But when Roman Emperor Constantine, a pagan sun-worshipper, enforced his own version of Christianity in his empire, he **mandated** Sunday worship. He gave the following edict in 321 AD: "Let all magistrates and people of the city... rest on the venerable day of the Sun" (*The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, "Roman Legislation for Sunday," vol. XI, p. 147).

followed that wrong pathway, as did the Pharisees of Jesus' day. Concerning such practices, Jesus warned, "In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men.... All too well you **reject the commandment of God**, that you may keep **your tradition**" (Mark 7:7-9).

That's a warning I hope all of **us** will heed. Jesus said He is Lord of the Sabbath. He observed the Sabbath regularly, and He did **not** break God's law, as some theologians claim. As He said, "I have kept My Father's commandments" (John 15:10). So, should you follow the example of Jesus Christ and the instructions of your Bible? Or should you oppose them and follow the traditions of men?

When Was the Seventh-Day Sabbath Established?

We've seen that the early New Testament Church observed the seventh-day Sabbath. But **when** was the seventh-day Sabbath established? At the time of Moses on Mt. Sinai? No! It was established much earlier, at the foundation of this world. "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:1-3). Yes, God established the seventh-day Sabbath at the foundation of this world, long before the time of Moses.

Notice what Jesus said: "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The Founder of Christianity did not say, "The Sabbath was made for the Jewish people." The Sabbath was made for man, for **all** humanity, for every human being on earth.

Jesus made an amazing claim. Did He say He was Lord over *Sunday*—that Sunday was the Lord's day? *No, He did not.* He said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also *Lord of the Sabbath*" (Mark 2:27-28). If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, what day is the Lord's day? Sunday? Think about it! The Sabbath is the Lord's Day—Jesus Himself said so. We read that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"

(Hebrews 13:8). He is still, right now, Lord of the Sabbath. The Scriptures admonish us to follow His example and that of the apostles. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). The Apostle Peter exhorted us to follow Christ's example: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). Yes, Jesus and the apostles kept the seventh-day Sabbath holy, and God expects us to follow their example.

The "Rest" of the Story

There is much more New Testament evidence regarding Sabbath observance. For instance, the Sabbath pictures the Millennial rest and is a memorial of God's rest at creation. We read, "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9). The original Greek word for "rest" here is *sabbatismos*, which means "a Sabbath-keeping." Both the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New International Version* translate verse 9 as "a Sabbath rest." Yes, there remains a **Sabbath** rest for the people of God, even to this day!

Notice this important statement: "For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His" (Hebrews 4:10). The context here is both of symbolic and literal rest. The Greek word *katapausis* is the second of the two basic words translated "rest" in this section. But notice what God says of those who have **now** entered into His **rest**—that is, those who are converted, those who are willing to follow Christ *now*. If we, as converted Christians, are to cease from our works just as God did from His, we simply need to ask one question: **How** did God cease from His works? Scripture gives us the answer: "For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works'" (Hebrews 4:4).

The scholarly *Anchor Bible Dictionary* affirms the responsibility of New Testament Christians to observe the Sabbath. It states, "**Physical** sabbath-keeping on the part of the New Covenant believer as affirmed by 'sabbath rest' epitomizes cessation from 'works' (4:10) in commemoration of God's rest at cre-

SABBATH TO SUNDAY? CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

“IF MY PEOPLE WOULD HUMBLE THEMSELVES...”

In a world where humility is on the decline, we need it more than ever.

“It’s humbling.” The owner of a small business was relating to me his feelings about the rapidly unfolding COVID-19 crisis. We had just met, striking up a conversation while waiting for our appointments. He told me he had around 70 employees in his manufacturing company and he was scrambling to keep ahead of events. This was in the early days of the virus’ impact across the United States, and lockdowns were not yet in place. This worried businessman was struggling to digest a barrage of national, state, and local guidelines affecting how his business would be able to operate in the new pandemic conditions. He was

**REQUEST YOUR
FREE BOOKLET**

**What Is a
True Christian?**



writing and rewriting company policies, making sure that his company would be in compliance with a raft

of new regulations, all while grappling with the challenge of keeping his employees safe and protected. His business was not one of those deemed “essential,” and very few of his employees could telecommute, so the future was troubling to him.

Through it all, I was struck by his comment: “It’s humbling.” As much as I felt concerned for this man’s situation, I couldn’t help but be impressed by his attitude. He was truly sobered. He was expressing his response in a way that demonstrated his deep and profound recognition that he didn’t have all the answers—and that he would need to seek help beyond himself.

A Rare Attitude

We don’t hear much about humility these days. We don’t applaud the humble; we praise the arrogant. All too often, we fall in line with the society around us, pumping into our children the message that being sure of ourselves and self-confident is the real key to success in life. One radical slice of society has even adopted the word “pride” as its calling card, as though arrogance and audacity are qualities to be admired.

When King Solomon dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem, he prayed that God would intervene for His people when they faced calamity. God’s response to Solomon may be one of the most beautiful and en-

couraging passages in the whole Bible, promising that “if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chron-

icles 7:14). Do we approach God with humility when we cry out for help?

Jesus Christ taught us the value of humility. “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12). Our Savior was the perfect example of humility, even to His death. “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8). Humility is not just some sentimental nicety or way of speaking; it is a way of life.

And God notices. The Apostle James quoted one of Solo-

mon’s proverbs, reminding us, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6; cf. 1 Peter 5:5; Proverbs 3:34).

Humility is one of the foundational virtues of the converted Christian (Colossians 3:12; Titus 3:2). It shapes the way we see ourselves and our place in the universe. It must be at the heart of our relationship with our Creator—especially in times of distress. Whether you are a business owner responsible for the livelihoods of many employees, a parent responsible for the safety and growth of your children, or a worker struggling to make ends meet in a time of economic chaos, you have your share of God-given responsibilities. Yet the most important responsibility of all is to acknowledge, “I must do my part, but it is God who is in charge, whom I must love and obey.”

Now, more than ever, is the time for humility.

—Rod McNair

Oh Canada!

Staying Connected in Isolation



Many of us have recently experienced a much higher level of physical isolation than we had ever known before, and for a prolonged period, as government lockdowns during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic affected as much as one-third of the global population. However, those who live in the remote corners of the earth may have noticed little difference. In areas where the population is thinly spread, people may be separated and “socially distanced” from friends, neighbors, and extended family members much of the time.

This magazine has subscribers in remote parts of the world, including some in regions north of the Arctic circle. In this issue, we’d like to shine a light on the life of one of our subscribers living in such a region.

A Remote Subscriber’s Perspective

Gjoa Haven is a small town of fewer than 1,200 Inuit in the northern Territory of Nunavut. It is within the Arctic Circle, closer to the North Pole (less than 1,500 miles/2,400 km) than it is to the Canadian capital city of Ottawa. The town sees an average annual daily temperature of just 6.1° Fahrenheit (-14.4° Celsius). To put that into a clearer, icy perspective, the average annual *rainfall* in Gjoa Haven is just 3 inches (7.8 cm), while its average annual *snowfall* is 51 inches (130 cm)!

The local language is *Inuktitut* and the Inuit call this place *Uqsuqtuuq*, meaning “lots of fat,” because of the many sea mammals in the region. The English name for the community reflects its historical role in Roald Amundsen’s discovery of the Northwest Passage (see “Gjoa Haven, Nunavut,” in the November-December 2017 issue of *Tomorrow’s World*). *Gjoa* was the name



Isolated cabin with komatik (Inuit sled), near Arviat, Nunavut, Canada

of Amundsen’s ship, and the men on that expedition spent two winters in this region, interacting with and learning from the local Inuit population.

Adam Hatkaitok was born and raised in Gjoa Haven and has been reading and studying *Tomorrow’s World* materials for a number of years. We interviewed him about life in such an isolated region and how he came across our publication.

Tomorrow’s World (TW): What was it like to grow up in Gjoa Haven?

Adam Hatkaitok (AH): Well, the first answer I can give you is “pretty cold,” but it is okay. We can cope with the isolation. Living up north for so long, the cold becomes kind of fun, as in playing out in the snow when you’re growing up. Most schoolwork is basically the same as any other place in Canada, although right now schools are closed because of COVID-19.

TW: Do you feel isolated from the rest of the world or does the distance not affect you?

AH: As a community, we all know one another so well, so we are connected together. But are we isolated apart from the world? Yeah, we have a huge sense of that. Most people, when they are travelling for medical reasons, take that as excitement, with gladness.

TW: Even if they have something medically wrong with them, they are still excited to travel out of the community for a little while?

AH: Oh yeah, for sure!

TW: Has the response to COVID-19 affected you or your community? Is being isolated a benefit during this crisis?

AH: For the first time in Nunavut history, people are ordering groceries online. Nunavut is one of the last places in the world that does not have any cases of COVID-19.

TW: If you have no cases in the town and are closed off to outsiders, why should anything have to change?

AH: They want to keep COVID-19 out of the Nunavut Territory because we have no hospitals or doctors in most communities—we have nurses and local health clinics. If it does impact Nunavut, it is going to have a very negative impact on our communities because there are a lot of people with respiratory illnesses.

TW: How has your community changed since you were young? Or are things still the same?

AH: There have been minor changes. Well, the drug activity now—children under the age of twelve are getting into cannabis. Some children don't attend school. That is probably one of the biggest problems, along with a general lack of respect going around the community, which has become serious.

TW: Why do you think that is happening?

AH: I can only point out social media. Everyone here nowadays is hooked to the Internet, rap music, and stuff like that. Back in my day, I was permitted to listen to the music I liked, but I was to never, ever follow their examples. Even movies and TV shows—we were permitted to watch these but never to follow their examples. But nowadays I guess the problem is global. We see a lot of youth watching and listening to this

stuff and they, in some cases, apply it to themselves. The youth are still pretty respectful to their elders. Only so much is tolerated before they have to listen to what their elders say. When the parents, or even grandparents, realize the youth are behaving harshly to one another, then they will sit down and have a talk with them and [the youth] will heed their advice.

TW: How long have you been a subscriber to *Tomorrow's World* and how did you first hear about us?

AH: Well, it kind of started when I was a little kid. I was listening to the radio and I heard this guy that went by the name of Herbert W. Armstrong, and he was saying something about a coming kingdom. They would play these reruns on local radio—like, for example, how they play music and interviews from years past. Then [in 2010], I saw Roderick C. Meredith on VisionTV, and that's how I started paying attention. I had no idea of the connection until doing more study into the *Tomorrow's World* program. Everything from online material, booklets, the magazine—that's when I realized that Mr. Meredith had worked closely with Mr. Armstrong.

TW: If you could send a message to *Tomorrow's World* subscribers during this COVID-19 crisis, what would you say?

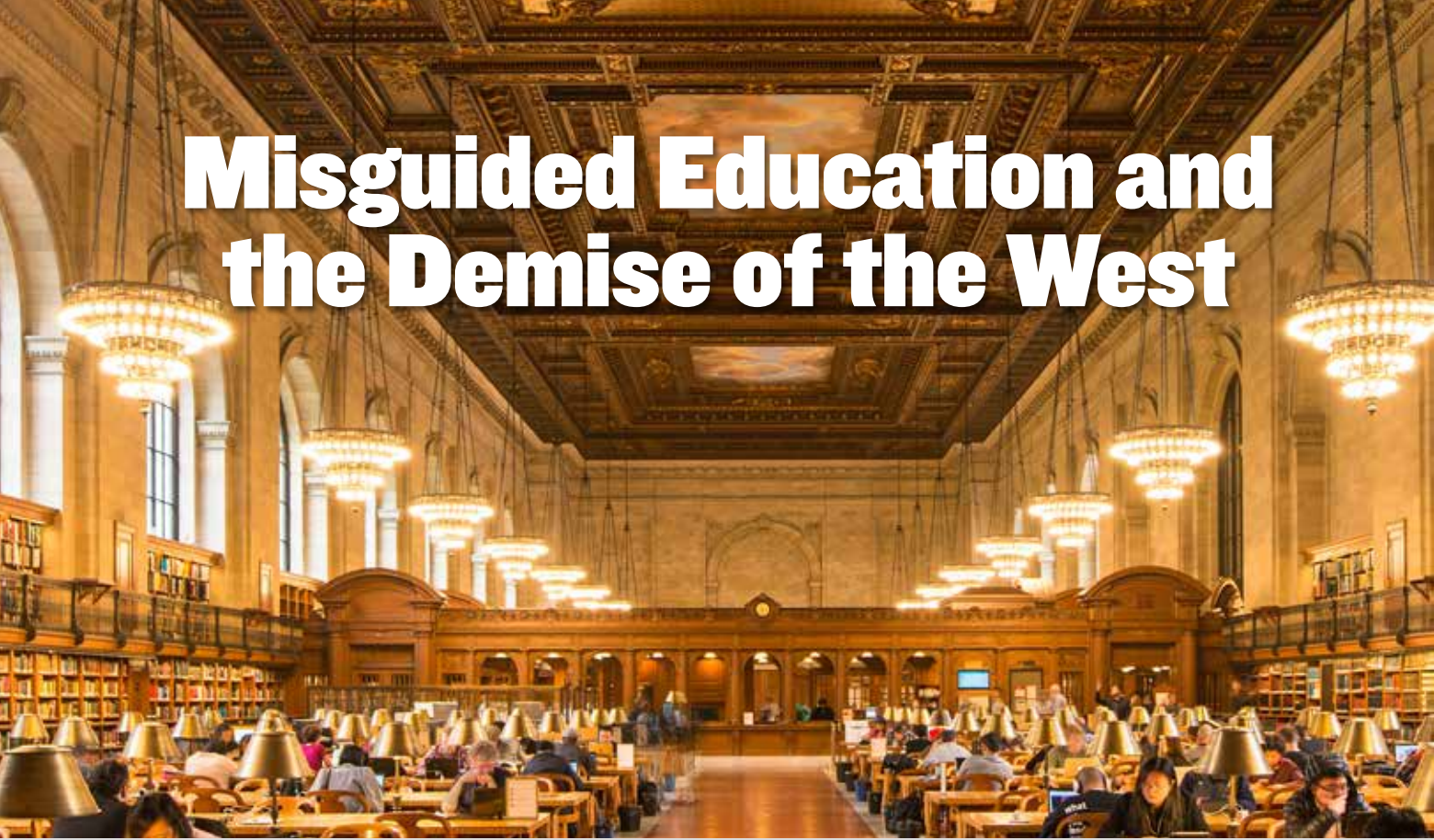
AH: Well, I've lived in isolation for so many years that I can definitely say that we're adaptable. We can adapt. It seems like a long time, but I live in isolation and still have my sanity pretty well. For those that are enduring these hard times, I can say that, in some ways, it can be a blessing because, for example, you can get to relate more with your family.

A Continuing Mission

Our thanks to Mr. Hatkaiok for spending his time with us and for sharing with our readers his interesting perspective!

Herbert W. Armstrong, our predecessor in this Work, broadcast over radio from the early 1930s, then expanded to television before his death in 1986, reaching the far corners of the globe with the Plain Truth magazine. We are continuing that Work through this publication and other Tomorrow's World media as we preach and teach about the coming Kingdom of God. This is the Good News, the message Jesus Christ commissioned His Church to spread to all nations of the world until His return.

—Jonathan Riley



Misguided Education and the Demise of the West

By **Douglas S. Winnail**

The Western nations are drowning in a rising tide of social pathologies—violent crime, increasing incivility, political corruption, unsustainable debt, widespread drug abuse, depression, and suicide. People are feeling a loss of purpose and of religious belief, as the society around them shows a growing animosity toward the historical accomplishments of Western civilization.

The West—once seen by millions around the world as a beacon of civilization and prosperity—is now widely seen as a culture in decline and a society gone rotten. Even millions of pampered Westerners are coming to despise and reject their own cultural heritage.

Why is this happening *today*? And where are these disturbing trends leading?

Many scholars point to alarming parallels between the decline of ancient civilizations and what is occurring in our modern Western world. Social critic Russell Kirk observed that “the analogy between the decadence of ancient civilization and the decadence of our own culture is striking and dreadfully true” (*When Nations Die: America on the Brink*, p. xi). Au-

thor and researcher Jim Nelson Black illustrates this sobering parallel by listing ten warning signs of a culture in crisis, including increasing lawlessness, loss of economic discipline, weakening of traditions and cultural foundations, rising immorality, decay of religious belief, decline in the quality of education, and the devaluing of human life (p. ix).

While many recognize the symptoms of cultural decline, few today understand the historical forces that have contributed to our modern social dilemmas and where these sobering trends are leading. Even fewer realize that Bible prophecies have long foretold that these events would erupt in the nations of the West at a certain point in time—and for specific reasons. The Bible not only reveals the *prophetic significance* of this surging tide of social pathologies and where they are leading, but also reveals the coming solutions to this turbulent period—solutions that will bring hope for the world.

As we will see, education and educators have played a vital role in shaping and reshaping the values and perspectives of people in the West—both fostering its rise and now feeding its decline. We will see that novel, *purposefully engineered* innovations have changed the whole direction of Western civilization.

You need to understand what is happening to the world you live in and how these issues will dramatically impact your future.

The Vital Role of Education

Why focus on education? Are teachers more influential than powerful politicians, eloquent preachers, Hollywood personalities, or ambitious military leaders? In fact, teachers and education have played a vital and widely acknowledged role in transmitting knowledge and determining the character of individuals, as well as the culture of civilizations.

Nearly 3,000 years ago, King Solomon wrote, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Many observers outside of the Bible agree. Around 400 BC, the Greek philosopher Plato observed, “The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life.” The Renaissance philosopher Erasmus stated, “The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.” Even filmmaker George Lucas has commented, “Teachers are the most powerful individuals in our society.”

The Founding Fathers of the American nation, like so many others who made major contributions to what became Western civilization, understood the importance of education in determining the characteristics and values of a culture—but so have enemies of Western civilization who want to use teachers and education *as weapons to radically change the focus and direction* of that culture. To grasp the significance of what is happening today, it is important to understand the history and the influence of education in America and the West.

Early Education in the West and America

Education in ancient Greece and Rome was essentially in the hands of pagan philosophers and focused on rhetoric and literature—primarily for select young men of privileged classes. Free and mandatory, tax-supported, public education for all children—girls as well as boys—began with Protestant reformers in Europe and was later adopted in the New England colonies. In the very late 1700s, efforts to teach poor children (who typically worked twelve hours a day, six days a week in mines, factories, and on farms), began to increase—aiming to teach them to read and write

so they could read the Bible and improve their lives. Schools for the deaf and the blind, hospitals, and institutional care for the poor were Western developments reflecting Jesus’ teachings in the New Testament to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36–40).

History reveals that the leaders in early Western educational institutions were “ardent believers” in many biblical values and that “students were inculcated with these values” as a fundamental part of their education (Alvin J. Schmidt, *How Christianity Changed the World*, p. 181). With this as a starting place, the progress of education in America mirrors the ways in which educational philosophies changed over the centuries throughout the Western world.

The Bible and Judeo-Christian values played a major role in the development of educational institutions in the early American colonies. This is most evident among the Puritans who settled in New England seeking the freedom to practice their faith. They brought with them a strong commitment to education—and an English translation of the Bible that they used extensively. Within a decade after arriving in the North American wilderness, they established Harvard College in 1636. Each student at Harvard was told that

the maine end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottome, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, Let every one seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seeke it of him (Prov. 2:3) (“Shield and ‘Veritas’ History,” HCS.Harvard.edu, original spelling and scripture references retained).

This is hardly surprising, since at least 130 of the first generation of Massachusetts Bay colonists had been trained in a university, and 35 had graduated from a college in Cambridge, England, dedicated to training Protestant ministers (Arthur M. Cohen, *The Shaping of American Higher Education*, p. 17).

Students at Harvard were required to pray privately, read the Scriptures twice a day, study diligently, and respect parents, magistrates, and tutors. They were taught to avoid profanity, lies, and foolish behavior. The College of William and Mary in Vir-

ginia (founded in 1693) and Yale (founded in 1701) also sought to provide an educated ministry for the colonies, and issued similar guidelines that students should “Live Religious, Godly and Blameless Lives according to the Rules of God’s Word, diligently Reading the holy Scriptures the Fountain of Light and Truth” (Edwin S. Gaustad and Mark A. Noll, *A Documentary History of Religion in America to 1877*, pp. 176–181).

Even though the influence of the secular Enlightenment had begun to lessen emphasis on the Bible as a source of divine revelation by the mid-1700s (*The Shaping of American Higher Education*, p. 12), these original sentiments concerning God’s word—and many of the principles in it—still in many ways shaped and guided the minds of early leaders of the young United States of America.

The Puritan commitment to education was based on a desire that every child should be able to read the Bible and absorb its contents. Thus, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, every community of at least 50 families was required to employ a teacher, and every community of 100 or more families was required to establish a grammar school. The main focus “in colonial reading and writing instruction was religious and moral,” and this was based on the belief that a “good society could be achieved only through obedience to the word of God” (Joel H. Spring, *The American School, 1642–1993*, pp. 8, 10). As for American higher education, nearly every college established prior to the Revolutionary War was founded by a Protestant denomination, and churches established more than 90 percent of all colleges and universities founded in America up until the Civil War. Some have noted that “American Christian education was the foundation of our nation’s great growth, progress and success” (Stephen McDowell and Mark Beliles, *Liberating the Nations*, p. 100).

It was a Presbyterian minister who created the most influential series of textbooks that formed the background of America’s public school system in the nineteenth century. William McGuffey (1800–1873) created the McGuffey Readers, which incorporated personalities, stories, and concepts from the Bible to teach spelling, vocabulary, reading, and public speaking while instilling biblical moral values in the younger generation. McGuffey believed that religion and morality were inseparable, and that public schools were “the proper place for religious and moral instruction”

(John Westerhoff, *McGuffey and His Readers*, pp. 24, 51). The more than 120 million copies of McGuffey Readers sold between 1836 and 1960 provided a unifying frame of reference and value system for generations of American children. Along with the Bible, McGuffey’s Readers “represent the most significant force in framing our national morals and tastes” (p. 15)—and they are still used today. Regrettably, later editions of the McGuffey Readers became more secular to accommodate America’s shifting tastes in education.

A Radical Turn in a New Direction

With each new wave of immigration to the United States, from varied lands and with different religious backgrounds, pressures were felt to “soften” the doctrinal content of public school curricula. Yet there remained a demand for emphasis on basic “Christian” values of honesty, kindness, thrift, industry, and respect for authority—values which formed the basis of what became known as America’s “civil religion.”

However, beginning in the 1850s, several powerful factors emerged to challenge the role of Bible-centered education in America and the Western world. Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, cast doubts on the credibility of the Bible, the validity of Judeo-Christian moral principles, and the role of God as the Creator—foundational principles that had long been taught in European and American schools. Also, as the influence of the Enlightenment of the 1700s began to grow and expand, increasing numbers of progressive educators began to believe that human reason and the discoveries of science, unfettered by religious “superstition,” would benefit society far more than biblical truths and values.

Another factor that altered the direction of American education was the influence of John Dewey, widely considered the “father” of progressive education. Working around the turn of the twentieth century, Dewey rejected his childhood Calvinist faith and placed his hope in science, evolution, psychology, and utopian socialist fantasies widely circulated by intellectuals of his day. Dewey developed his educational philosophy around the idea that human reason and behavioral psychology could mold students who would live together in harmony as good socialists—which he believed was a “morally superior” way of life. He “viewed higher education’s main task not as lead-



ing students toward the pursuit of truth, which he saw as a shifting construct... but toward ‘socialization’ in order that they might be recruited into the intellectual movement to ‘change the world’” (George Roche, *The Fall of the Ivory Tower*, p. 188). As a secular humanist, Dewey rejected the idea of a biblical God and universal moral absolutes of right and wrong. He focused on feelings and experience, and downplayed the importance of reading, writing, and the facts of history.

Filled with a “vision” for civilization, John Dewey and his socialist colleagues developed a long-range plan “to radically change America by imposing their utopian vision of a collectivist society” using students as the means to their idealistic end (Samuel Blumenfeld, *Crimes of the Educators*, p. 1). The novel and fanciful ideas of Dewey and his disciples have influenced progressive American and Western educators for the last 150 years—and continue to influence them today.

A third factor that has influenced educators brought with it a distinctly anti-American and anti-Western element. In the 1930s, a group of German Marxist intellectuals from Frankfurt’s Institute for Social Research fled Germany when the Nazis came to power. These theorists, whose ideas came to be known as the “Frankfurt School,” found homes in liberal American universities, where they devised what some now call “cultural Marxism”—a strategy for creating a cultural revolution to undermine Western capitalism and “outmoded” biblical values and bringing about a utopian socialist society. These theorists believed (and still believe) that Karl Marx’s anticipated proletarian revolution failed in the West because of entrenched Christian values of family and morals, individual freedoms, and private property.

To bring about their cultural revolution, these “cultural Marxists” would have to begin a “long march through the institutions,” in the words of one activist, capturing the culture by gaining control of education, the media, the courts—and ultimately the political system. In the minds of many members of this movement, this would require undermining and eliminating the influence of the Bible and Christianity, breaking up the family, upending traditional gender roles for men and women, and discrediting foundational elements of Western history and civilization in the name of multiculturalism—the idea that all cultures are of equal value and that no culture is superior (least of all, Western culture). New values of *tolerance and diversity* would be introduced, insisting on the acceptance of long-condemned sexual behaviors as normal and even desirable.

In this new world, saying anything negative about another culture is strongly discouraged as “insensitive” or “bigoted”—with the exception of Judeo-Christian cultural concepts, which can be criticized freely (Alvin Schmidt, *The Menace of Multiculturalism*, p. 3). These insidious ideas have permeated educational institutions in America and the West after being absorbed by student radicals of the 1960s—radicals who are now teachers, administrators, judges, media writers, actors, film producers, and politicians.

Today, the deadly fruits of this “progressive” approach to education are on display all across America and in other Western nations. Freedom of speech—even freedom of thought—has given way to continual policing of academic speech to root out “trigger words” and “microaggressions” without regard for the truth of what is spoken. Ideas that do not advance the anti-Western cultural agenda are ridiculed and even suppressed.

The results have been chilling. “Western universities have become places of personal fear and intellectual terror,” noted European observer Giulio Meotti. “If you dissent, educators, political leaders, the media and the mob will try to destroy you” (“Europe’s New Academic Fascism,” *GatestoneInstitute.org*, February 23, 2020). This is happening right now in America and other nations of the West that once taught respect for authority and cherished the value of freedom of speech.

MISGUIDED EDUCATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

The Mayflower: Ship That Launched an Empire



It was July 1620, and 65 passengers watched as their captain ordered the moorings to be released and their ship drifted into the running tidal current of the Thames River. Their tiny little wooden merchant ship, the *Mayflower*, was setting sail for the New World, its passengers fleeing persecution from England's established church. These adventurers, whom we today call the Pilgrims, sailed with the hope of planting a new colony, free from religious oppression, where they could worship God according to their understanding of Scripture. They were a tight-knit group, calling one another "saints" and others "strangers."

Their first port of call was Southampton, on the south coast of England, where they had planned to rendezvous with a ship carrying another 40 passengers from Leiden, in Holland. Problems with that ship, however, forced those 40 travellers to board the *Mayflower*, which set out alone across the Atlantic. Together, 102 passengers and 30 crew members spent 66 days confined on a ship barely 90 feet long, battered by westerly winds and strong ocean currents. Though they aimed for Virginia, the ship reached land much farther north, at what became Plymouth, Massachusetts.

The story of the *Mayflower*, which began 400 years ago this July, has become an iconic tale of American history. But might it have a greater underlying significance than meets the eye? Why have Britain and America dominated world history so powerfully in the modern era? Did God intend it to be so? Many see the rise of Britain and America as a mystery. How can that mystery be explained? What part does the Bible and Bible prophecy play in providing the answers?

Celebration or Condemnation?

Plans for an anniversary celebration of this event have been prepared involving four principal participants: The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Wampanoag Nation of Native Americans. The latter two have made materials available at their *Plymouth400inc.org* website, and the Netherlands' commemoration is online at *Mayflower400Leiden.com*. In the UK, however, the *Mayflower400uk.org* website has stirred opposition from the National Educational Union, alleging that the Mayflower 400 organization is glorifying colonial land-grabs and slavery. Educators have called for a boycott of the anniversary and the removal of web-based learning materials.

Given this controversy, we should not be surprised if the UK sees little if any substantive coverage of this anniversary of the Pilgrims' voyage. Interestingly, though, if we dig a little deeper, we can see that the fundamental discomfort with this event comes down to a failure to understand a vital mystery regarding the English-speaking world.

Not First, Perhaps Foremost

Plymouth was not the first permanent European colony in the Americas. Jamestown, to the south, had been established 13 years earlier in 1607. The Pilgrims' colony, however, became a touchstone because of the reasons behind their migration, which went far deeper than mere commerce. Their Mayflower Compact established a provisional form of government based on their understanding of the Bible. These ideals would help shape a nation yet to be born.

The Pilgrims' success had far-reaching impact. Other settlements followed the one at Plymouth, eventually leading to the establishment of the 13 colonies that would become the United States of America. But this was not the end of British colonial expansion, which saw another burst of activity nearly two centuries later. Australia was settled by Britain in 1788. The Cape Colony, part of today's South Africa, was taken over from the Dutch in 1795 to protect the route to India from Napoleonic predation. Subsequently, New Zealand was added to British colonial territory in 1840.

Australia, the Cape Colony, and New Zealand have been called "settler colonies" much as was seen in the "Westward Ho!" exploration and expansion of Canada and the United States. The same can be said of the Plymouth colony settled from the UK. But was this just colonial land-grabbing? History and Scripture reveal something else entirely.

In 2009, historian James Belich, of Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, published a fascinating book, *Replenishing the Earth: The Settler Revolution and the Rise of Anglo World, 1783-1939*. He sought to understand the remarkable growth and prosperity of the English-speaking nations, including the westward development of the United States.

Belich wrote that he sought to understand this development as history—not as the mystery so many present (p. 5). He challenges Marxist theories of colonialism and debunks ideas that warfare and disease epidemics were chief causes of expansion. Not simply exploiters or oppressors, the settlers of "Anglo World" unlocked the inherent wealth of the earth and provided abundance for humanity. He points out, for instance,

that the settlers at Plymouth had very friendly relationships with indigenous people for many years. Their help and cooperation enabled the success of the colonial experiment.

Interestingly, Belich notes that the English were slow starters in the colonial sphere. The Spanish had their first colony more than a century before the English tried to settle in Jamestown. But he notes that by 1900, some 300 years later, English-speakers were the winners of the colonial adventure (p. 27). To Belich, the American and French Revolutions—together with the rapid industrialization of Britain to sustain its opposition to the Napoleonic regime in Europe—were the major catalysts of settler growth (p. 555). Food was needed for industrialized work force and raw materials for industry itself. Belich also dutifully acknowledges the role of stable legal institutions as aiding that economic growth (p. 554).

Mystery Lifted!

Yet there is a mystery that Belich does not fully understand or address. He notes the time gap between the emergence of the Anglo-Saxon peoples in Europe in the fifth century and the dominance of those peoples in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (p. 5). These dates are too far removed to really interest him. In fact, he might be surprised to learn what *Tomorrow's World* readers already know, that a longer time period is involved—some 2,520 years, in fact. This same history should dispel the mystery that prevents opponents from appreciating the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower*.

Awareness of the meaning of biblical prophecies dispels the mystery. Details of the reason for this time span and the basis of the mystery that has surrounded the impact of the English-speaking peoples are laid out in our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. Read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org, or request a free printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine. There is an all-powerful and surprising factor we should be aware of. The Puritans who sailed to Plymouth four centuries ago because of their desire for religious freedom would be amazed to learn how influential their pilgrimage was to the development of the United States and our modern world.

—Peter G. Nathan





A Perfect Storm

How the perfect storm arrived in 2020 and why we're not ready for the one to come!

By **Gerald E. Weston**

Many of you have seen *The Perfect Storm*, a movie released in 2000 depicting the convergence of severe weather factors along the northeast coast of North America in 1991 that caused more than \$200 million in damage and drove waves to a record high of 30.7 meters (about 101 feet) off the coast of Nova Scotia. Today, the term “perfect storm” has entered mainstream vocabulary, used to describe a dynamic convergence of events that together bring consequences far greater than what would be caused by the individual events themselves.

Another term we hear these days is “black swan.” As *Investopedia.com* explains, the term is used to describe “an unpredictable event that is beyond what is normally expected of a situation and has potentially severe consequences. Black swan events are characterized by their extreme rarity, their severe impact, and the widespread insistence they were obvious in hindsight.”

The year 2020 has seen the convergence of multiple perfect storms and a rather remarkable black swan. Consider the following.

A Perfect Storm Rips the European Union

We here at *Tomorrow's World* have long predicted—contrary to pundits and conventional wisdom—that the United Kingdom would eventually leave the European Union. Did we know this because we were smarter? Certainly not. We understood this based on Bible prophecy. For the same reason, we foresaw the collapse of the Iron Curtain—it had to happen for prophecy to be fulfilled. Like Brexit, it happened quite quickly—over a few months with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Each event shocked the world but did not shock those who understood the Bible.

The European Union did not foresee Brexit. It did not believe that the Brits would do it! Even many in the UK failed to see it coming. David Cameron fulfilled his campaign promise to call for a referendum on whether to leave or remain in the European Union. It was a gamble he thought he could win.

I was in Brussels on June 23, 2016, the day of the vote, and it looked as though his gamble would pay off. Two of the most prominent leaders of the “Leave” faction, the ever-outspoken Nigel Farage and the flamboyant Boris Johnson, conceded on television that evening that, though they had made a good run of it, they were going to come up short. But the next morning, to the surprise of everyone, we learned that the British had done what no one thought they would ever do: They had voted to leave.

Brexit has shaken the European Union to its core. Only those who understand Bible prophecy were not shocked. Surprised, yes, but not shocked—even when you expect something to happen, it can sometimes be a surprise when it actually does. Our booklets *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* and *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?* give the basis for this expectation.

Now that the British have left, who else might leave—especially with so much dissatisfaction among the citizenry of country after country? Non-binding referendums and polls indicate the citizens of a growing number of EU countries would prefer to leave.

Enter the black swan. If Europeans did not see Brexit coming, they were even more oblivious to the coming of COVID-19, even though many voices—including our own here at *Tomorrow's World*—have warned that a disruptive disease outbreak was not a matter of *if* but of *when*. And if Brexit was pulling the continent apart, this microscopic enemy all but shattered it, as panic set in and it became “every man for himself.”

The *Financial Times* quoted Emmanuel Macron as calling the situation in Europe “a moment of truth.” After an April 17, 2020 interview with the French President, the paper reported that “the EU will cease to exist as a political project if it fails to help countries devastated by the coronavirus. Mr. Macron also hit out at the hypocrisy of northern member states who reap the benefits of the bloc but fail to share its ‘burdens’.... the French president said there was ‘no choice’ but to set up a fund that ‘could issue common debt with a common guarantee’ to finance member states according to their needs rather than the size of their economies.” He then added this chilling warning: “If we can’t do this today, I tell you the populists will win—today, tomorrow, the day after, in Italy, in Spain, perhaps in France and elsewhere” (Mehreen Kahn, “Brussels scuffles with car industry over green targets,” *The Financial Times*, April 17, 2020).

How successful leaders will be in holding the EU together remains to be seen, but Bible prophecy indicates that ten “kings,” leaders, or nations will give their power over to a charismatic leader called “the beast” at the end of this age (Revelation 17:12–13). So, we can expect in the near future some kind of realignment in Europe, whether as a result of this crisis or another yet to come.

A Perfect Storm Converges on Australia

Anyone paying attention to the news understands that Australia has had more than its share of bad news the last year or two. Australians are no strangers to droughts, fires, and floods, and are a hardy bunch. But recently they have suffered tragedy upon tragedy. First, there was the seven-year drought in northern Queensland. Then, when the rains finally came in late January 2019, they kept coming. Initial estimates indicated the February flooding killed half a million cattle, but later estimates raised the number to around 600,000. Wild animal populations were also devastated.

This was not a good start to 2019, but it would not be the only disaster for the year. In much of Australia, it was the hottest and driest year on record and one of their worst fire seasons. New South Wales and Queensland were hit especially hard, but no territory escaped the ravaging bush fires that covered an area



the size of the U.S. state of Pennsylvania before dying out in February 2020. An estimated one billion wild animals perished in a devastating blow to kangaroo and koala populations, dealing serious damage to Australia’s diverse and unique collection of wildlife.

Then, when it appeared things could not get any worse, the COVID-19 black swan landed in “the land down under.” Leaders of any number of countries are praying at this time for God’s mercy, but Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison has done so openly. This is a start, but while we hope the best for his nation, if there is not a true turning to God and away from immoral behaviors in Australia and other nations, worse plagues will be our lot.

A Perfect Pest Storms into Africa

Africa always seems to have a rough time of it, and 2019 was an especially difficult year, as many countries on the continent were suffering from both droughts *and* floods. Unusually wet weather in the Horn of Africa produced a bumper crop, but along with it came desert locusts. As the *Globe and Mail* reported in January, “Locusts of almost biblical proportions are the latest threat to impoverished farmers who have been pushed to the brink by recent climate-related disasters.” The report went on to say, “A single locust can travel 150 kilometres [93 miles] and eat its own weight in food each day, about two grams. A small swarm of 40 to 80 million locusts, covering a square kilometre, can consume as much food as 35,000 people in a day. The biggest swarm in northeastern Kenya covers an area of 60 kilometres by 40 kilometres—three times as big as Toronto—and could hold as many as 190 billion locusts, consuming as much food daily as 90 million people” (“Locust

swarms in Kenya worst in 70 years and still growing,” *TheGlobeAndMail.com*, January 28, 2020).

That was in January. Now, “A second wave of desert locusts is threatening east Africa with estimates that it will be 20 times worse [than] the plague that descended two months ago” (“Second wave of locusts in East Africa said to be 20 times worse,” *The Guardian*, April 13, 2020).

Noting that the desert locust is considered “the most destructive migratory pest in the world,” the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported, “The Desert Locust upsurge continues to remain alarming, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, where it poses an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods. In the six East African countries worst affected or at risk of locusts—Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania—around 20 million people are already experiencing acute food insecurity, and a further 15 million in Yemen, which is also being affected by the pest” (“FAO continues to fight desert locust upsurge in East Africa and Yemen despite COVID-19 constraints,” *UN.org*, April 14, 2020).

And it’s not just Africa that is threatened. According to *Business Insider*, desert locusts are “found

ENTER THE BLACK SWAN. IF EUROPEANS DID NOT SEE BREXIT COMING, THEY WERE EVEN MORE OBLIVIOUS TO THE COMING OF COVID-19

in around 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, and can swarm through one-fifth of the landmass on Earth” (“Swarms of locusts forced Somalia to declare a national emergency. Skin-crawling photos show how menacing their plagues can be,” February 28, 2020). Swarms are already moving from the Horn of Africa into the Middle East as far as Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan.

But this perfect locust storm is “on steroids,” because the black swan of global pandemic hampers ef-

forts to control the plague: “Kenyan officials have said coronavirus crackdowns have slowed efforts to fight the infestation, as crossing borders has become harder and pesticide deliveries are held up. Aerial spraying is the only effective means of controlling locusts but there have been complaints that the pesticides are affecting livestock” (*The Guardian*, April 13, 2020).

And according to *Weather.com*, “The setbacks are being exacerbated by the global actions taken to curb the spread of COVID-19. Experts can no longer travel to in-country meetings to train locals to combat the locust threat” (“Unbelievably Large Swarm of Locusts Threatens Middle East,” March 18, 2020).

Furthermore, “Uganda’s agriculture minister said authorities are unable to import enough pesticides from Japan, citing disruptions to international cargo shipments” (“New, larger wave of locusts threatens millions in Africa,” *APNews.com*, April 10, 2020).

And, yes, conditions can get worse—and they have. Since I began writing this article, flooding rains have come to East Africa during the month of May. Our *Tomorrow’s World* representative in Kenya reported to us on these developments:

Countries in East Africa are suffering a “triple blow” of locusts, COVID-19, and flooding. There are nearly 300,000,000 people being affected by these events. Floods have destroyed whatever crops the locusts did not eat. Prolonged rainfall has caused the worst floods ever experienced in some areas. Lake Victoria has risen by more than two meters (more than six feet) and rivers have become raging torrents. Many thousands of people are displaced, a number have drowned, some families have been buried alive by mudslides, and hundreds of sheep, goats, and cows have been swept away. Several bridges have also been taken out by the flood waters, paralyzing transportation. Meanwhile, the heavy rainfall and warm temperatures are ideal for locusts to breed, so even more damage is expected from them.

The Perfect Spring Storm

Spring is about flowers, and growers and hothouses across the globe geared up on a grand scale for

spring in the Northern Hemisphere. But from San Francisco, to South America, to the Netherlands, the flower industry collapsed overnight. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported in March, “More than \$1 million worth of flowers was destroyed at the San Francisco Flower Mart last week as it prepared to close. Farmers are watching their livelihood wither on the vine” (“Flower industry hit hard as coronavirus pandemic dries up business,” *SFChronicle.com*, March 30, 2020).

California’s entire \$360 million cut-flower industry has wilted. Growers had already been struggling, working on razor-thin profit margins due to overseas competition, and for many, COVID-19 is the shop-closer. “There probably won’t be a grand reopening for Lompoc-based Ocean View Flowers, which produced 40 million stems only two years ago. Its produce-growing parent company, Santa Barbara Farms, closed the flower operation permanently, according to company and industry sources” (“Coronavirus hit California’s cut-flower industry at the worst time,” *LATimes.com*, April 4, 2020). I find this sad on a personal level, as I worked summers during high school in Lompoc’s flower fields. Lompoc is a small, sleepy, out-of-the-way city with residents of modest means. Most people have never heard of it, much less can pronounce its name properly (it’s LOM-poke). “This is our busiest and most profitable time of the year,” Mellano [a third-generation grower and wholesaler] said. ‘So, it’s absolutely the worst time for something like this to happen.’”

Similar stories are happening elsewhere, all for the same reason. Two countries hit especially hard by the convergence of these two “storms” (locust plagues and the arrival of COVID-19) are Kenya and Ethiopia. They are also Africa’s leading flower-growers and, between them, they employ 500,000 workers. The flower industry adds \$1 billion to the Kenyan economy each year and accounts for a quarter of Ethiopia’s export earnings. The pandemic compounded the effects of the locust plagues devastating both countries. Roses are a specialty in Kenya and plants deteriorate unless they are watered, fertilized, pruned, and otherwise looked after. Growers are squeezed between lost income and what it costs to preserve their future. “This is also the period with the most important days for the flower industry like

Valentine’s Day, International Women’s Day, Mother’s Day,’ van Schie [of Royal FloraHolland Co.] said. ‘The crisis which we are now facing couldn’t have come at a worse moment than this’” (“East African Flower Industry Wilts as Sales to Europe Dry Up,” *VOANews.com*, April 17, 2020).

The Perfect Oil Storm

Oil prices have always gone up and down. Many of us can still remember the gasoline price wars of the 1950s, when major chain stations lowered their prices below the profit level from time to time to drive the independent stations out of business. Consumers loved these “gas wars,” as they meant cheap gas, at least for a time.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in 1960 by four Middle Eastern states and Venezuela. It has since grown to include many more countries, most of which are in the Middle East and Africa. Few people paid much attention to OPEC until October 1973, when the Arab members of OPEC imposed an embargo against nations supporting Israel against its Arab neighbors during the Yom Kippur War. Prices soared, gas was rationed, and lower speed limits were imposed across the United States. The days of cheap oil were over—at least for several decades. Even though the embargo ended in March 1974, prices rose from 25 cents a gallon in parts of the U.S. to \$1.50 and more before the decade ended.

There was a time when the United States, the world’s largest user of gasoline, seemed likely to remain at the mercy of Middle Eastern oil producers. But then came fracking—a technique originally used for extracting natural gas from oil shale and later found to be cost-effective for extracting the oil as well. This prompted the development of oil shale deposits in North Dakota, Oklahoma, and numerous other states. Within a short few years, the United States became a net exporter of oil, and prices began to stabilize, even to fall. This also meant that there was another competitor in the market. Other oil-producing countries would love to see frackers go out of business.

Becoming energy independent should be good news, at least for the United States, if not for other oil-producing areas of the world. But then the corona-

virus black swan replaced “black gold” as the industry’s concern. Planes stopped flying. People stopped driving. Major oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia, seeing revenues evaporating, engaged in an oil war, driving down prices so low that for a short time on April 20, oil futures went negative—meaning *you would be paid to take it off their hands!*

Notice how *Forbes* describes the effect of negative oil futures: “One contract of oil futures buys 1000 barrels of oil, so what a negative price of \$-40 means is that one could theoretically receive the rights to 1000 barrels of oil and at the same time receive a payment of \$40,000. Converting this to gallons, one could receive approximately 42,000 gallons of crude oil and get paid \$40,000 in addition to the oil! Think about that—for each gallon of crude oil you could get the crude oil and also get a dollar, [Before you get too excited, here is the caveat:] only if you could officially store it somewhere” (“Negative Price Of Oil Is Telling Us That Something Else Will Break Next,” *Forbes.com* April 21, 2020).

In an April 23, 2020 newsletter, financial expert Dr. Martin Weiss put it this way: “Oil producers had to pay \$40.32 per barrel just to get buyers to take it off their hands. Oil was instantly reduced to pure, toxic junk—stuff that even garbage collectors wouldn’t carry away without a huge tip.”

The Question We Must Ask

The above are examples of what is occurring in every nation and in thousands of sectors within economies across the globe. This is a pivotal time in modern history. It will no doubt be some time, even years—long after this pandemic becomes history—before the full effect will be known.

In multiple ways, perfect storms and a black swan converged and descended upon the whole world in March 2020. But one question remains: If God is a loving God, why would He allow so much suffering? And despite the many theologians who are throwing up their hands and struggling for answers, there is a very clear explanation. Our world has entered a time of great rebellion against our Creator.

Humanity as a whole has *never* respected the One who made us—rather, the vast majority of mankind

has collectively thumbed its nose in His face. Many deny His existence—and mock those who do believe in Him. And sadly, even many who profess to know Him do *not* actually know Him, for, as we are told by the Apostle John, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3–4). John goes on to tell us what sin is (3:4) and that God’s commandments *are not* burdensome (5:3).

Up to a point, God leaves us alone to “do our own thing,” allowing the natural consequences of our decisions to correct us (Jeremiah 2:19). But biblical history also shows that when a people sinks to a certain level of immorality and rebellion against God and His laws, He *will* step in. We have the example of the Noachian Flood: “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5). We have the example of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). And we know that God did not allow Abraham’s descendants to replace the pagan peoples of the Promised Land until generations later, “for the iniquity of the Amorites is *not yet complete*” (Genesis 15:16). God’s patience should not be confused with His permission.

Considering such arrogance against our Creator, we should not be surprised when the next perfect storm and black swan combination arrives. He has given us a warning shot across our bow. This is not the end—things are going to get much worse before we learn our lesson. Be assured that unless we repent and change, greater calamities are in our future.

However, a time is coming when the One we crucified will save us from our rebellious insanity and set up His Kingdom here on the earth (Daniel 2:44; Zechariah 14:9, 16–19). That is an amazing statement of fact, and many reading this article probably find it hard to believe. But it is the message Jesus brought. If you have not done so already, please order our free booklet *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* Amidst all the bad news, this is the good news, and the reason we pray, “Thy Kingdom come!” ^{TW}

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs The Almighty is active in current events. You need to see for yourself! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



In addition to the direct attack on Judeo-Christian morality, almost any reference to the importance of American history or the benefits of Western civilization is met with howls of derision in classrooms and by the media. Radical activist professors become successful writing distorted histories that ignore the accomplishments of Western cultures and focus disproportionately on narratives of oppression, exploitation, and extermination. Some of these books have obtained a wide circulation in schools and have soured millions of young people on their own cultural heritage. The amazing irony of our times is that while radical progressive educators are busy demonizing the accomplishments and benefits of Western civilization and the biblical elements in its foundations, many non-Westerners are praising its contributions toward the betterment of humanity (for example, see *The Book that Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization* by Indian scholar Vishal Mangalwadi).


A State of Degradation Long Ago Foretold

Tragically, many students today—and many adults who are products of this misguided educational system—do not see how they have been conditioned to despise and ignore the one source that warned against what is happening in the modern Western world. That same source also reveals *where* these dramatic changes are leading and *what* lies beyond this turbulent period. That unique source is the Bible.

More than 3,000 years ago, God inspired Moses to warn the Israelites that they would be blessed for obedience to the laws of God, but would suffer serious consequences—including national captivity—if they disobeyed and rejected Him (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 4 and 28). Moses even stated, “For I know that after my death you will become *utterly corrupt*, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And *evil will befall you in the latter days*, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands” (Deuteronomy 31:29). In the centuries that followed, despite the continued warnings of biblical prophets,

the Israelites did turn away from God and His ways, and history records that they suffered the very consequences about which they had been warned.

Many biblical scholars recognize that these prophecies have application *beyond* the days of ancient Israel and that their ultimate fulfillment will be in the “last days.” Among the reasons for Israel’s turn from God was their willingness to follow *misguided leaders*—kings, priests, and teachers who promoted lies and false ideas that led people away from God and His word. This is plainly stated in the Scriptures, where God warns the people, “Those who lead you cause you to err” (Isaiah 3:12), and notes that their culture had become so warped that it called good “evil” and evil “good” (5:20). Sadly, we are watching these prophecies being fulfilled in the modern Israelite nations of the West today. (See our booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* for more details about identifying these nations in prophecy.)

The bad news for the nations of the West is that their increasingly godless philosophies and way of life will take them through a period of serious trials and tragedies in the years just ahead. However, the *good news*—the *real Gospel* that few today hear, understand, or believe—is that Jesus Christ will return to this earth and not only bless the Israelite peoples (Isaiah 11:11–13), but also establish the Kingdom of God, which will bring peace and prosperity to *all* mankind (Isaiah 9:6–7). At that time, there will be a “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:19–21) as the word of God spreads from Jerusalem around the globe (Isaiah 2:2–4). This global reeducation effort will be conducted by teachers who will show the world the right way to live—based on the biblical principles in God’s inspired word (Isaiah 30:20–21). The book that provided much of the foundation for Western civilization—although mocked and rejected today by progressive educators (Hosea 8:12)—will become the foundation for all societies and cultures in the coming Kingdom of God. This is something that you can prepare for and be a part of—if you can see through the fog created by today’s misguided educators and discern the truths they seek to hide. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

God’s Church Through the Ages The first-century Church can be found throughout history, but only if you know where to look! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



A LESSON FROM MY DOG

Sometimes, we need to listen to our four-legged friends.

There are times when I think my dog may be smarter than I am. I am sure that most dog owners feel this way at some point, and I certainly felt that way one evening when she helped teach me a valuable life lesson.

The last thing I do before going to bed every evening is take my dog, Nola, out to the backyard. Sometimes I forget to turn on one of the outside lights, which leaves half of my yard in the dark. I've lived in my current home for more than 15 years, so I know the yard very well and I don't think much about what I can or can't see. Also, I usually carry a small flashlight to help me keep an eye on the perimeter, as foxes and coyotes have occasionally been seen in our area.

Typically, when Nola needs to do her business, she bolts off the deck. But when I forget to turn on the light, she hesitates at the stairs—making a tentative move down the first step before climbing back up. After watching her do this dance a few times, I understood that she cannot see the bottom of the stairs when it is dark outside. So, to help her, I shine my light on the steps. With her path well-lit, she will happily trot down. Even so, I thought at first that this was silly of her. We both have been up and down these steps thousands of times, so she obviously knows what's at the bottom, whether or not she can see it.

My Dog Knew Better

However, on this particular evening, the sky seemed especially clear and bright, and I was stargazing as we traipsed down the stairs. This time, however, I had forgotten my flashlight, so Nola hesitated, as expected. Then, I misjudged my last step. I fell to the ground, rolling my ankle in my flip-flop. I wasn't seriously injured, but I felt awfully foolish, and my ankle

hurt—a lot! As I hopped around, grumbling to myself and rubbing my ankle, Nola was watching me as if I had lost my mind.

Suddenly, Psalm 119:105 came thundering into my thoughts: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Later, another scripture came to mind: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

That evening, I realized that, at least for a moment, my dog had been smarter than her owner. Nola had waited for her path to be lit, and had waited for my instructions, so she wouldn't be harmed. I, on the other hand, had blindly and foolishly trusted my instincts and my “own understanding” of the situation—then quickly learned how that works out as I stumbled in the darkness.

When we look around the world, we see most of our society leaning on its own understanding and walking in spiritual darkness—and we see how it is working out for them! By contrast, when we obey God's word and follow His commandments, our paths are well-lit and clearly marked, and we can walk through life with clearly defined boundaries and expectations. When we know that we are doing right in our obedience to God and His law, we are safe and secure.

Just think of how much better this world would be if everyone chose to walk in the well-lit path of righteousness—no more crime, no more hatred and hostility, and no more spiritual confusion. We'd all be on the same well-lit path.

My dog was smarter than her owner, because she knows where her security lies and she always seeks out the lighted path. The Bible illuminates for us a well-lit path of practical, applicable wisdom, often written in beautiful yet simple verse. If you are seeking wisdom, you need to learn more about this ultimate book of knowledge. As you learn, keep reading *Tomorrow's World* for more insights. We offer plenty of free resources to aid you in your studies.

—Lawrence Taylor





Should We Kiss Dating Hello?

Many parents look for good, practical guidance that can help us steer our children through their formative years. In particular, how should we help our children lay the groundwork for a successful, happy marriage?

For around 20 years, the best-seller *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* by Joshua Harris offered hope for parents. Harris's teachings and philosophy struck a chord with millions of young people and spawned an entire movement. Yet, ironically enough, Harris himself changed his viewpoint in 2018, left that movement, and divorced his wife a year later—the woman he had found and courted by following his own book's principles.

We will be on more solid ground if we look not to movements or fads in dating, but instead to guiding principles that will not stand or fall based on a popular author or speaker.

Harris' books contain some principles along those lines, while other principles in the books were the inventions of human imagination—however well-intended those inventions may have been. And whatever good principles may have been present in his books have been given a bad name by his later choices.

Are there *any* biblically sound dating principles for young people as they approach adulthood?

Yes, *there are*. And they don't involve kissing dating goodbye. Rather, they require getting dating *right* by understanding how our children are designed by their Creator to develop into adults.

So, Just What Is a Date?

Let's start with definitions. Though the world has corrupted the word, a "date" in this context is simply

a scheduled social occasion in which individuals of the opposite sex meet to enjoy each other's company. It could include just one guy and one girl, or it could be a "double date" with two couples. It could even be a "group date" with several people. A date could be a conversation over coffee, a walk in a park, or something more adventurous, like an afternoon at the local rock-climbing gym. It can be as personal as a candle-lit dinner for two, or as impersonal as a beach outing for a dozen.

Since "a date" could include a spectrum of activities and involve different numbers of people, *what do we teach our children about dating?* They will want to date—and that's not a bad thing! A desire to spend time with the opposite sex is natural and good, designed by God. Proverbs 30 poetically describes this natural attraction: "There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: the way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; *and the way of a man with a maid*" (vv. 18-19, *King James Version*).

Still, considering the wide variety of ideas and understandings that exist on the topic, what are some sound principles we can use as parents to help our children move into "group dating," on to one-on-one dating, and eventually into seriously seeking someone to commit to as husband or wife? One vital answer involves understanding three basic stages in a child's development.

Stages for Learning, Not Exclusivity

The first we might call the *child stage*—often lasting until somewhere around age 12 or 13. During this pe-

riod, children depend upon parents for their well-being. God's word says, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child" (Proverbs 22:15), and in this stage children are physically and emotionally immature. At this age, they are naturally oriented more toward their parents than their peers, just as they should be. In small ways, they are just starting to learn about responsibility, and "going on a date" should not yet be even a consideration.

The second stage we might loosely call the **adolescent years**, since, for many, this often lasts from age 13 to 18, though levels of maturity vary from child to child. During these years, our children practice limited independence but are still reliant on their parents for their physical well-being. Especially during the early teen years, *group activities* help foster the learning of some important lessons and skills our children will need later in life.

Parents who insist that their teenagers avoid forming exclusive relationships are doing them a great service and helping to guard them from crossing important physical and emotional boundaries.

During this stage, young people become more peer-oriented, learning about commitment and the development of personal relationships. They are learning how courtesy and friendliness foster good friendships with both girls and guys. Wise parents will coach and encourage them to get to know and interact with many different young people of both sexes. Parents who guide their teens away from the practice of being exclusive in their relationships, with both girls and guys, train them in the godly principle of treating everyone with respect, not just those who impress them or those whom they wish to impress (cf. Acts 10:34).

While teens grow more and more *physically* mature, their *emotional* maturity is still very different from what it will be in adulthood. During their teens, their hormones begin to change them and energize their attraction to the opposite sex. For a young man, the passages in the Bible that warn him to control his desire for a young woman (e.g., Proverbs 6:25; Matthew 5:28) become very meaningful, as he begins to look at young ladies in a very different light than

when he was a child. Yet, while those in this stage can practice managing responsibility and good decision-making, generally they are still not ready to make permanent commitments like marriage.

Parents who insist that their teenagers avoid forming *exclusive relationships* are doing them a great service and helping to guard them from crossing important physical and emotional boundaries. But they are also helping them to develop the skills for building many different friendships and giving them the freedom to discover and learn about traits and characteristics that they will, in time, hope to find in a mate.

However, a "date" need not imply an exclusive relationship. In the latter years of this second stage, our older teens may be responsible enough to properly

**REQUEST YOUR
FREE BOOKLET**

**Successful Parenting:
God's Way**



enjoy a double date or even a one-on-one date, under the right circumstances. Of course, maturity, not

just age, is the measure. For those who are ready, such dating can be part of their training experience, giving them the chance to practice courtesy, politeness, and respect. Guys can practice a little "date leadership," and girls can practice the skill of letting a young man take the lead.

The important thing is to remember that, even as older teens, our children are often still in a stage where they are not prepared to wisely make lifelong commitments. They are often not financially, educationally, or even emotionally prepared to commit to marriage (cf. Proverbs 24:27). So, dates in this stage, whether as a group or one-on-one, are not the time to practice being exclusive.

A Foundation for Their Future

With those stages successfully navigated, our children are far better prepared than they would otherwise be to cross into the third stage, **young adulthood**—a stage with its own characteristics, opportunities to learn and grow, and, perhaps, the blessing of a mate. And that, ultimately, is what God designed us to desire: a counterpart, a complement, and committed companionship (Genesis 2:24). Right dating—dating that is appropriate to each stage of a young life—helps to lay the groundwork for a lifelong partnership.

—Jonathan McNair

ation ([Hebrews] 4:4 = Gen 2:2) and manifests faith in the salvation provided by Christ” (vol. 5, p. 856). That’s quite a plain statement! Yes, the Scriptures affirm that new-covenant Christians are to “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,” as the fourth commandment states (Exodus 20:8).

The bottom-line question is: **Who** or **what** is your authority? Is it the Bible? Or some church and religion **apart from** the Bible?

As we’ve seen, some religious leaders, including both Roman Catholic and Protestant, claim tradition or church administration **apart from the Bible** as their reason for keeping Sunday rather than the Sabbath. For example, consider this statement from prominent Anglican minister Isaac Williams in 1847: “[A]nd where are we told in Scripture that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are no where commanded to keep the first day.... The reason why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, **not** because the **Bible**, but because the **Church**, has enjoined it” (*Plain Sermons, by Contributors to the Tracts for the Times*, vol. IX, Sermon CCCIV, pp. 267, 269, emphasis added).

These are surprising admissions. Again, you can read even more in our free, informative booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

We’ve seen that the original Christian Church observed the seventh-day Sabbath, following the example of Jesus Christ and the apostles. It was Emperor Constantine in 321 AD who proclaimed the day of the sun as **the** day of worship for the Roman Empire. The fourth-century AD Catholic Council of Laodicea affirmed Sunday worship and declared Christian Sabbath-keepers heretics. Even to this day, Christian Sabbath-keepers are persecuted in many countries around the world.

Who Did It?

So, who changed the Sabbath to Sunday? The answer is “No one!” *Man cannot change what God has decreed!*


Through the One who became Jesus Christ, God Almighty established the Sabbath at the foundation

of the world for **all** human beings. God “created all things through Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 3:9), and Christ, to this day, is Lord of the Sabbath, as it tells us in Mark 2:28. Remember, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Yes, even today, true Christians follow the example of Christ, His apostles, and the Church of the New Testament in observing the seventh-day Sabbath.

If you are a longtime student of *Tomorrow’s World* and would like to worship with other Christian Sabbath-keepers, we invite you to counsel with one of our representatives. Just contact the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or contact us at TomorrowsWorld.org.

Dear readers, we are living in the time of the end prophesied in your Bible. We look forward to the coming Kingdom of God, ruled by the Prince of Peace—the Messiah, Jesus Christ. As King of kings and Lord of lords, He will teach, govern, guide, and serve all nations. So, one last question: When Christ establishes His world-ruling Kingdom on Earth, on what day will all nations worship?

Notice God’s proclamation: “‘For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,’ says the LORD, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,’ says the LORD” (Isaiah 66:22–23).

If you are alive at that time, will you obey your Lord and Savior and worship Him on the seventh day, along with all other people on earth? Do you even now worship the Savior as Lord of the Sabbath? Give these questions some thought, and prayerfully decide to worship God in spirit and in truth, as it tells us in John 4:24. We look forward to the day when all peoples and nations around the world will worship Christ the King. The Messiah will establish world peace, world government, true education, and the biblical way of truth, love, and life. All nations will observe the true weekly Sabbath and the biblical Holy Days! What a wonderful, peaceful, and prosperous world it will be! 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath? Which day has God set apart as holy? You need to prove the truth for yourself! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



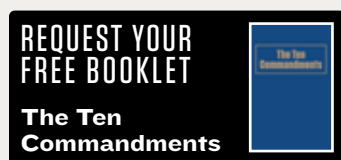
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Can God Be Jealous?

Question: In Exodus 20:5, God states that He is a jealous God, but in Galatians 5:20, jealousies are mentioned among the sinful works of the flesh. Is this a contradiction?

Answer: God cannot sin, nor can He be tempted with evil (James 1:13; 1 John 3:5). The “jealousy” mentioned in Exodus 20 refers, in this case, not to a sin, but to a quality of God’s righteousness. We are told to “worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is *Jealous*, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14). “Jealous” is not only an *attribute* of God, but also one of His *names*, describing His character.

When describing God, the Bible uses this term in the context of His laws against idolatry (cf. Deuteronomy 4:23–24; 5:8–9; 6:14–15). Idolatry is a breach of the covenant God made with Israel—a cov-



enant that promised the nation great prosperity and a role as God’s special people. Shortly before giv-

ing the Ten Commandments, God explained, “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:5–6).

In giving the Ten Commandments, God then said, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage” (Exodus 20:2). In making this statement, He is describing His unique relationship with Israel—a relationship they shared with no other “god.” They were not brought out of Egypt by the Canaanite “gods” Ba’al or any of the “deities” of Egyptian mythology. They were brought out by “the LORD.”

The all-capitalized name “LORD” appearing in many English translations of the Bible indicates the presence of the unique Hebrew name for God: *YHVH*, which means “the Eternal, the Immutable One, He Who WAS, and IS, and IS TO COME” (*The Companion Bible*, appendix 4, section II). In making clear to Israel that it was specifically “the LORD your

God,” He highlighted that their faithfulness and worship is owed to *Him alone* in this covenant He was establishing with them—a covenant relationship pictured by human marriage (Jeremiah 3:14, 20; cf. Ephesians 5:31–32). From God’s perspective, idolatry is *spiritual adultery*. As a husband or wife must be lovingly faithful to his or her spouse and may be understandably jealous when confronted with actual infidelity, God requires the same faithfulness from His people. He expects us to love Him as He loves us (1 John 4:19; Matthew 22:37–38).

On the other hand, there is a sinful envy and hatred toward one’s neighbor that is fueled by covetousness and called *jealousies* in the *New King James Version*. That state of mind is one of the works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:20. God neither envies anyone nor covets anything. After all, He is the Creator of all things and has absolute authority over all His creation: “To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing” (Isaiah 40:25–26). Indeed, before God, the nations “are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless” (v. 17). So, it should not surprise us that God commands, “You shall have no other gods before Me” and insists that we neither attempt to make pictures of God, nor direct our worship toward any idols, pictures, or religious objects (Exodus 20:3–6)—which divert or dilute the worship we owe directly to God, alone.

The meaning, therefore, is plain. Divine jealousy describes God’s greatness as the one and only true God and Creator—His absolute power to save, His tender mercies, His watchful care, His eternal love, and His zeal to keep His promises. He alone possesses the absolute right of worship—exclusively. Anyone who desires a covenant relationship with Him must recognize that He tolerates no competitors. God’s “jealousy” indicates His unique divine right and godly justice, *not* the sinful feelings of covetousness, envy, or competition that human beings sometimes experience.



THE Works OF HIS HANDS

Just What Is a Virus?

C OVID-19 has made viruses front-page news on a daily basis, but how many of us understand what they actually *are*? Is a virus alive or not? How do viruses work? How do they fit into the scheme of God's creation?

Although it is clear that the Almighty has not yet revealed to us every detail about His marvelous creation (cf. Proverbs 25:2), we can nevertheless understand a great deal about these microscopic menaces that have generated such gigantic news. While the details of their origin remain mysterious, their current role in our world is all too painfully clear. And yet, they may hint at something more.

Let's take a closer look.

What Is a Virus?

Are viruses "alive"? It depends on how we define "life." Viruses do not generally satisfy all of the criteria most biologists use to determine whether something is alive, though the point is debated in some quarters.

Bacteria—microscopic, one-celled organisms—clearly possess attributes associated with living things. For instance, they can fully metabolize food sources for energy, and they can reproduce themselves. Viruses, however, cannot fully accomplish either of these tasks, and require the machinery of a host cell both to provide energy for their machinery to work and to build more viruses.

It is in accomplishing this second task—using our cells to reproduce themselves—that viruses become such a source of misery for us.

In one way, the success of viruses is a tribute to the ingenious design of life's "operating system" and the power of the programming language represented

by life's genetic code. Just as human computer languages—say, C++ or Java—can be used to accomplish many different tasks, so too can the genetic code expressed in DNA and RNA molecules accomplish many purposes. (See "The Miracle of DNA" in our May-June 2013 issue for more details.) Much like their computer namesakes, viruses carry new bits of code that "reprogram" a cell to become a virus-making factory.

The basic structure of most viruses is straightforward: a protein shell of some sort, called a *capsid*, and strands of DNA or RNA contained within the capsid. Though the structure may be straightforward, there is a vast amount of variety in the virus world. Some viruses are simple, like the coronavirus that causes COVID-19—its structure is simply a sphere surrounded by protein "spikes" that give the virus its name (*corona* is Latin for "crown"). The "spikes" attach to receptors on certain cells in our body, giving the virus access to the interior of those cells.

Viruses can also have a more complex structure. For example, bacteriophages—viruses that infect bacteria—could easily be mistaken for spiders on an alien planet, with spindly "legs" and a protein casing that looks like a stalk holding up a large "head."

Regardless of the structure, the function of each virus is essentially the same: *Gain access to the inner workings of the host cell and insert new programming to create more viruses.*

That new programming tells the cell's machinery to begin relentlessly creating copies of the virus—a process that often causes the cell to burst and release new copies of the virus, ready to infect additional cells. Before its death, one single cell can be used by some viruses to produce *tens of thousands* of new viruses.

Our immune systems are designed to combat these invaders by capturing and destroying the viruses directly, or by destroying the cells they have “commandeered.” (More information about our remarkable immune system can be read in our March-April 2018 article “The War Beneath Your Skin,” available online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.) Yet, the battle between viruses and our immune systems can sometimes cause a lot of collateral damage, and, in some cases, the most harmful effects of an infection can come from the side effects of that battle.

Where Do They Come From?

New strains of viruses can arise in many ways. If a host is infected with more than one kind of virus, those viruses’ genes can “mix and match” to create a brand-new virus. The bodies of pigs, in particular, are optimal biological environments for virus-mixing, and the H1N1 “swine flu” strain that caused a pandemic in 2009 is believed to have been caused by such swapping among human, bird, and pig viruses.

That’s how viruses *mutate*. But there is a deeper mystery: Where did viruses *originally* come from? Scientists are at a loss on the question. Viruses defy most biologists’ attempts to easily or comfortably account for their origins within the neo-Darwinian theory of evolution. Some see viruses’ simplicity as evidence they must have evolved before cells, while others point to the “chicken and the egg” problem this represents: If viruses cannot reproduce *without* cells, how could they exist *before* cells?

In fact, even for those who recognize that the origin of our world is found in an omnipotent Creator, vi-

rus remain a mystery. It would not be reasonable to believe that God would create viruses solely to cause harm—after all, before He rested from His creative acts, He declared the creation “very good” (Genesis 1:31). But there are several explanations that would be very consistent with God’s word. For instance, in and of itself, viruses’ ability to inject genetic material is not harmful. In fact, many medical researchers are exploring viruses as tools to deliver *helpful* genetic information into patients requiring gene therapy. It is possible that virus-like mechanisms and structures may have originally served a maintenance or repair role in life’s design. Yet this is only speculation. Much we do not know of the world will one day be revealed, but, for now, we only “know in part” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

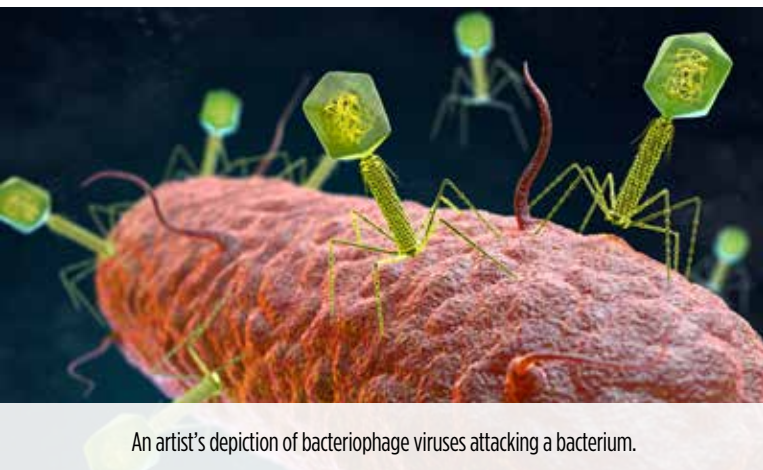
Cursed, But Not Forever!

Regardless of what good viruses *could* have served in the wonderful natural order God created, the curse our first parents brought upon the world with their sin had an impact on *all* of creation. As God explained to Adam and Eve, the sin-stained world would not be a pleasant one for them. The ground would not simply yield food for them to eat, but also “thorns and thistles” (Genesis 3:18), as it became a hostile environment suffering under “the bondage of corruption” (Romans 8:20–22)—a world, in the famous words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “red in tooth and claw.”

Whatever beneficial purpose viruses could have served in the natural order, they seem to serve that beneficial purpose no longer—at least not without great cost. But the world will not always be filled with pain and suffering. God tells us through the ancient words of the prophet Isaiah that a better time is coming. Predators and prey will no longer be at odds, but will graze peacefully together, and the creation itself will be transformed to experience the peace that now escapes it (Isaiah 11:6–8). Of this time, the Eternal One declares, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (v. 9).

The day *is* coming when infectious waves of virus-borne diseases will yield to the spread of something far more powerful: healing and hope from the throne of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:1–3). May God speed that day!

—Wallace G. Smith



An artist's depiction of bacteriophage viruses attacking a bacterium.

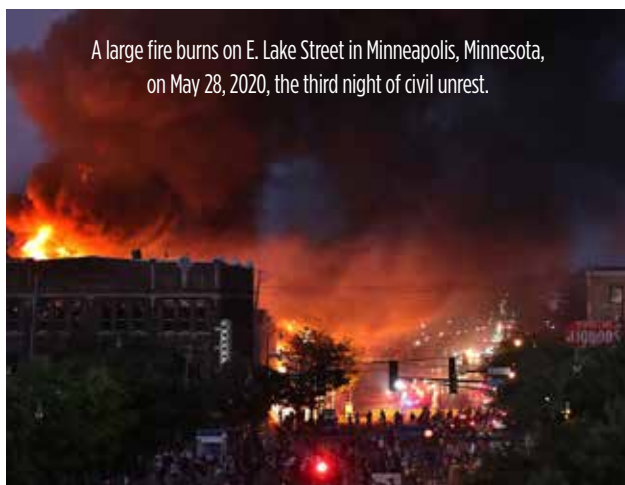
Major U.S. Cities in Chaos

The *New York Times* headline of June 2, 2020, spoke volumes: “As Chaos Spreads, Trump Vows to ‘End It Now.’” As this issue of *Tomorrow’s World* magazine was going to press, the United States erupted in chaos as rioting filled the streets of New York City, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Dallas, and other major metropolitan areas, including Washington, D.C.

In late May, protests had been planned in multiple U.S. cities, prompted by the death of Mr. George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota—a death widely

in little more than increasing the level of turmoil and lawlessness. As this issue was being prepared for circulation, U.S. President Donald Trump expressed his intent to use active-duty military forces to address the growing chaos—a move that encouraged some yet disturbed others.

This terrible event provides yet one more example of a devastating combination of multiple circumstances to create a “perfect storm.” As explained in our cover story this issue, Bible prophecy plainly states that more such storms are coming. Will this nationwide trauma encourage Americans to turn to God?



A large fire burns on E. Lake Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 28, 2020, the third night of civil unrest.

attributed to the actions of the officers themselves and documented on video. But what may have begun as peaceful protests quickly descended into ransacking of stores, fires, violent mobs, and destruction of property. At the time of this writing, casualties continue to grow among both civilians and law enforcement, with many rioters seemingly interested

Or will things only become worse? Read our article on page 18 to get a larger view of the collection of “perfect storms” currently raging across the globe. You can also follow our new “TW Updates” videos on our YouTube channel or our website, where we provide updated Bible-based commentary on current events such as these.

“Madness” Behind Civil Unrest?

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres recently shared a sobering view of our world, stating that “a wind of madness is sweeping the globe” (“Wind of Madness’ Is Sweeping Earth, U.N. Secretary-General

provides an enlightening contrast: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan” (Proverbs 29:2). A righteous leader is one who follows the laws of God (Psalm 119:172). While this is not a popular message today,



Says,” *NPR.org*, February 4, 2020). Guterres observed that “cascading challenges” and “vicious circles” currently characterize the state of the world, putting peace and stability at risk. He noted that much of the civil unrest seen around the globe stems from frustrated people who want their leaders to “answer their anxieties with effective action.”

The Apostle Paul foretold that in the last days people would be “unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:3–4). As we look around the globe, the “perilous times” prophesied by the Apostle Paul are coming into view, described well by Guterres. However, the Bible

it reveals what is missing in our modern world and points to the only way that true peace and happiness will come.

COVID-19 Shattering European Unity?

The “European Experiment” is in serious trouble. Old divides that have plagued the continent for centuries are reemerging. When EU leaders met in March to hammer out a unified financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they could not agree on a number of major issues—of special concern to Italy and Spain, two of the EU’s weaker members financially and also two of those most affected by the coronavirus. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte of Italy commented that if Europeans cannot agree, nations “will have to write off Europe and ‘everyone

will do their own thing” (“Divided Europe agrees on \$590 billion in coronavirus funds,” *Fortune*, April 10, 2020).

Significantly, these events in Europe hearken back to ancient Bible prophecies. Daniel warned that, at the end of the age, ten kings or nations will come together yet still be divided like “iron and clay” (Daniel 2:41–43). We appear to be watching this “iron and clay” mixture reemerge in Europe today. There will ultimately be a brief union of ten rulers under one leader known in prophecy as the “beast” (see Revelation 17)—a group most likely led by the nation of Germany.

Are Marketers Hacking Your Mind?



At the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, author and Hebrew University professor Yuval Noah Harari gave global leaders a dire warning: “There is a lot of talk of hacking computers, smart-phones, computers, emails, bank accounts, but the really big thing is hacking human beings.... If you have enough data about me and enough computer power and biological knowledge, you can hack my

body, my brain, my life” (“The human mind is in danger of being hacked,” *Jerusalem Post*, January 22, 2020). The idea is that, with enough data about a person, it could be possible to know more about a person than they are aware of themselves, to paraphrase Harari.

In a digital world where increasing amounts of personal information are stored on Internet-connected computer servers, Harari’s vision of the future is far more realistic than one might think. What most do not realize is that one “enemy” already has access to all of this data and monitors us every second of our lives. This enemy is an expert on human behavior and wants to destroy the lives of every human being made in the image of God. This nemesis of humanity is Satan the devil, the deceiver of mankind (Revelation 12:9), the covert ruler of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and the “spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2).

While the actions of human beings against other human beings are worrisome, our true enemy is not physical, but a spirit being (Ephesians 6:10–12).

Poison in Your Drinking Water?

Researchers at 44 sites in 31 states and Washington, D.C. recently found dangerous levels of perfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in the water supply (“US drinking water contamination with ‘forever chemicals’ far worse

than scientists thought,” *The Guardian*, January 22, 2020). Called “forever chemicals”

God created the soil and rock to be fantastic filtration systems, designed to filter out



because they do not break down in the environment, they are found in products such as Teflon and Scotchgard, as well as firefighting foam, and some have been linked to “cancers, liver damage, low birth weight and other health problems.” New research suggests that a 2018 estimate of the number of people contaminated by PFAS—110 million—was probably far too low.

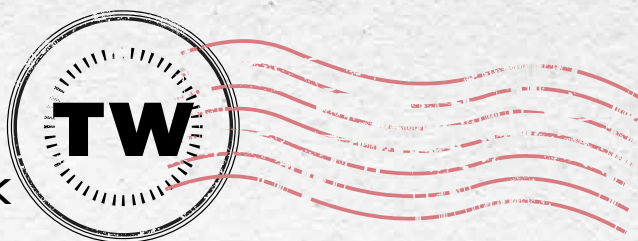
Of the 44 U.S. cities tested in the U.S., only Meridian, Mississippi had no detectable PFAS in tap water, and only Seattle, Washington, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, had contamination at levels less than 1 part per trillion.

naturally occurring microorganisms and other dangerous substances. However, man-made chemicals such as PFAS are often not naturally occurring substances and are frequently too small to be caught by creation’s natural filtration system. It is interesting that Bible prophecies warn about the quality of water at the end of the age. God warned ancient and modern Israel that because of their sins, “I will make them eat bitter food and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land” (Jeremiah 23:15, *New International Version*).



LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



First, I would like to thank you for your real concern for the salvation of people. And second, for providing free materials for our spiritual development. God bless your mission. I wish and pray that Brazil would awaken to seek God and His mercy. God bless you all.

—Subscriber in Brazil

Thank you for the mailings, booklets, and the DVD. Your insights are fascinating, and your scripture knowledge is deep. We are in our mid-seventies, our church dissolved around 2007, and we see the end approaching. It's good to have your voice. Now with the new virus from China, even our savings are dissolving. But your ministry helps.

—Subscriber in Nevada

I just wanted to say thank you for offering your booklets for free. They have been a godsend to me and my path with God! They have broken things down and explained things in a way that can be understood. My favorite booklet thus far has been *John 3:16—Hidden Truths of the Golden Verse*. You are all a blessing to those of us who can't afford expensive resources. So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you! God bless!

—Subscriber in Kansas

Several months ago, I was led to your site and to the Living Church of God via YouTube. I have now joined a local congregation and words cannot express the joy and blessing this has been to me. When I began praying (Psalm 25) that God would lead me on His path and teach me His truth, I was led to you. And I thank you with all my heart.

—Subscriber in Georgia

Editor's Note: We are delighted to hear from you! If any other readers are interested in contacting a representative from a local congregation of the Living Church of God, sponsor of the Tomorrow's World magazine and

television program, you can contact any of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this issue, or you can visit our website at TomorrowsWorld.org and click on "Find a Congregation" on our homepage.

I just got my first *Bible Study Course* lesson in the mail today, and it is amazing! I just wanted to say thank you so very much! You have no idea how much this means to me. Thank you!

—Subscriber in North Carolina

Thanks for the insights on this issue of fears and some of the consequences due to lack of experience and knowledge. I am not sure what to do with legalized and institutionalized sources of fear all over the world today and was totally distressed. I felt a deep sadness probably the way God feels. Wherever you go and whatever media you are watching and listening, fear-mongering is the pattern of the day.

—Online reader in Norway

Editor's Note: This reader's comment refers to one of our online commentaries, "What Are You Afraid Of?" The comment below concerns another. These commentaries are published regularly on our website, and can be received every week in an email, as well. Just visit TomorrowsWorld.org and click on the image highlighting our weekly email subscriptions.

I just read, with much interest, your online commentary "Is the Shroud of Turin Authentic?" Thank you so much for clearing up my understanding of this subject! I used to believe in the authenticity of the shroud. But I no longer am convinced, thanks to the clear and simple biblical references you noted in the article! Keep up the good and so very important work you do!

—Co-worker in Canada

Editor in Chief	Gerald E. Weston
Editorial Director	Richard F. Ames
Executive Editor	Wallace G. Smith
Managing Editor	John Robinson
Regional Editors	Robert Tyler (Australasia) Stuart Wachowicz (Canada) Peter Nathan (Europe)
Editorial Assistants	William L. Williams Thomas J. White
Asst. Copy Editors	Sandy Davis Linda Ehman Genie Ogwyn
Circulation Manager	Joshua Penman
Digital Subscriptions	Jason Talbott
Business Manager	Dexter B. Wakefield

Image(s) used under license from Shutterstock.com unless otherwise noted.

P. 17 RogerMechan / Shutterstock.com
P. 32 Justin Berken / Shutterstock.com
P. 32 freejournalist / Shutterstock.com
P. 33 Hans Pennink / Shutterstock.com

Tomorrow's World is published bimonthly by the Living Church of God™, 2301 Crown Centre Drive, Charlotte, NC 28227. ©2020 Living Church of God. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomorrow's World, P.O. Box 3810, Charlotte, NC 28227-8010.

Tomorrow's World is protected through trademark registration in the United States, and by international treaties. Trademark registration pending in other countries. The symbol ®, appearing herein, does not indicate trademark registration in countries where it is not yet registered or protected by treaty.

All scripture references are from the *New King James Version*

(©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the regional addresses listed at the front of this magazine, or send email to: Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

TOMORROW'S WORLD

P.O. Box 3810 • Charlotte, NC 28227-8010

Electronic Service Requested



TOMORROW'S WORLD

TomorrowsWorld.org

UPCOMING TELECASTS

The Origin of Satan the Devil

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

July 9-15

The Seven Laws of Success

Success is not an accident. These seven vital principles can transform your life!

July 16-22

Cold War Secrets Revealed!

Many are totally unaware of how close we came to Armageddon. The truth can now be told!

July 23-29

The End of America

Bible prophecy is clear: America's future is dire. You need to know the reasons why.

July 30-August 5

Just What Is the Day of the Lord?

The Day of the Lord represents the climax of history! Do you understand what lies ahead?

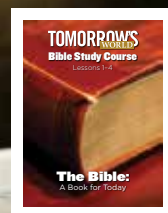
August 6-12

Jeremiah's Amazing Commission Fulfilled!

The words of this ancient prophet were meant for us today! This program explains why!

August 13-19

Schedule subject to change



BIBLE STUDY COURSE

Learn exciting and inspiring truths from your Bible. **Absolutely Free!**

Order online at **TWBibleCourse.org**
or from the **Regional Office** nearest you!
Take it in print or online.

Watch us
on
CW Plus

Nationwide

Sundays 8:00 a.m. E.T.
and Mondays 2:00 a.m. E.T.

Find your local station on page 35 of this magazine.

