

March-April 2001 Volume 3, Issue 2

Inside



Cover Story

Is Abortion Murder?

Courts around the world are expanding so-called "abortion rights" even while medical technology is letting premature babies be saved at ever-younger ages. Many do not realize that the process of begettal and birth parallels a vital spiritual truth essential for a Christian's development!



Feature Article





Are happy and intact families the result of good luck, or of something more? While society debates and redefines the very definition of "family," you can look to God for the truths that will help you have a happy family!



Are You Walking in the Footsteps of Christ?24 Jesus Christ lived as a carpenter, teaching not just with his words but by his actions. He was a *physically active* individual. What lessons can we learn from the example of His activity? How can we truly *walk* in His footsteps?

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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

America at the Crossroads?

America now appears to be at a major crossroads in its history. Unless our peoples deeply repent before God, the fabulous blessings bestowed on America and the British-descended peoples will soon come to an end!

A number of us in this Work of God have taught for many years that the Great Tribulation predicted by Jesus Christ would fall primarily on the British-descended and American peoples. For, as our booklet *What's Ahead for America and Britain?* proves, *we* are the descendants of the so called "lost ten tribes" of Israel. Both the blessings for the house of Jacob—and the prophesied PUNISHMENTS—are due *our* peoples. The awesome "birthright" promises were given to us— NOT to the Jewish people (see 1 Chronicles 5:2).

But now, as our nations have turned away from God and from His laws, the God of heaven has definitely indicated that He will need to give us loving CORRECTION in order to bring us back to Him. God warned our forefathers that if our peoples turned aside and began to "act corruptly" and to "do evil" in God's sight, then He would intervene to SHAKE us to our senses (Deuteronomy 4:22–25).

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you" (vv. 26–27). God said that we would be left "few" in number and would become completely idolatrous until we were truly humbled and began to "seek" Him with all of our hearts (vv. 28–29).

And *when* would all of this take place? "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the LATTER DAYS, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice" (v. 30).

We are certainly now in these "latter days"! We are now capable of DESTROYING all human life on this planet as Jesus predicted in Matthew 24. We are now *extremely corrupt* just as the Apostle Paul predicted for the latter days in 2 Timothy 3:1: "But know this, that in the LAST DAYS perilous times will come." And so a number of factors seem to be coming together to bring about the final humbling and chastening of our peoples. In a "dual" prophecy applicable before Israel's first captivity and now again at the time of the end, God stated: "And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the PRIDE of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze" (Leviticus 26:18–19).

America and Britain still have poweralthough the British Empire is no more and America's power is already beginning to fade. But as the "little" wars in the Middle East drag on, the seething hatred of millions of Muslims in that part of the world will intensify. Almost to a man, they are now beginning to side with the Palestinians against the Jews in Israel. And America especially-as the primary benefactor and "protector" of the Jews-is looked upon with increasing contempt. In the Middle East, there have recently been many riots and public demonstrations against America. The American flag has been publicly burned and spat upon numerous times. And terrorists are now threatening major actions right here in American cities!

Will *you* or your loved ones become targets? Another *major* threat to our national strength and prestige was revealed in America's post-election uncertainty last year. Other nations, often with weak democracies or no democracy at all, made fun of the confused and bitter process by which our new President was selected. Seeing America's fumbling attempts at practicing

Should You TITHE?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Did you know that the Creator has a financial LAW that is applicable to true Christians today? And that Almighty God will BLESS those who are willing to obey this law in faith?

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hat does the word "tithe" mean? Is the law of tithing in force *today*? Did *Jesus Christ* Himself indicate that we should tithe?

The answers to these and other related questions are important to understand, especially since the United States, Canada, Britain and Australia will soon be PUNISHED for carelessly disobeying the law of tithing-and many other laws of God. We have been physically blessed above all peoples on earth because of a promise God made to Abraham millennia ago. But now the British Empire is no more. Even its prestige in the Commonwealth is fading. And, as you will observe over the next several years, America's national "pride" and prestige will plummet.

Although America is still the world's most powerful nation, it is also the world's greatest DEBTOR. We owe other nations far more than *any* nation has ever owed in human history. And, although its debt is smaller than ours in dollar amounts, Canada's debt is bigger *in proportion* to its population!

The time will soon come for all of us to "pay the piper"! Many respected economists have been warning for years about this growing problem. As the *San Diego Union-Tribune* stated on November 22, 2000: "Many private economists say the deficit may have reached a level that could pose a risk to the overall economy if foreigners, who have been eager to sell their products and hold dollar-denominated investments, suddenly decide to dump their U.S. holdings. That could send stock and bond prices plunging.

'The inevitable question raised by huge and growing trade deficits is whether this situation represents a train wreck waiting to happen,' said Ken Mayland, economist with Clear View Economics in Pepper Pike, Ohio."

An economic train wreck "waiting to happen"?

WHY?

Because our peoples—individually and collectively—have FORSAKEN God and His laws, He is beginning to withdraw His blessings from us. *That* is the actual reason we are the world's "greatest debtor." That is the reason increasing millions of Americans and Canadians are seeking relief from mounting personal debts by declaring bankruptcy.

Yet even in the traumatic years preceding the Great Tribulation, God will protect and bless those who *serve Him* and truly OBEY His laws—including the law of tithing.

What *is* a tithe? The word "tithe" is simply an old English word meaning "tenth." It refers to the giving of a "tenth" of one's income to God or for other charitable purposes. And Almighty God directs that this tenth be given *to Him*—to His true ministers to do *His* Work—not just to be handed out anywhere.

The *law of tithing* simply means that the Great God who made us—who gave us our life, our talents, our minds, the strength with which we work and the very land and materials which we employ in our work—requires us to *pay* Him the *first tenth* of our increase or income.

As far as the direct matter of *tithing* is concerned, God does not consider that we are "giving" anything—but are PAYING our Creator a very nominal amount which He requires as our Maker, our Sustainer, our Landlord, our Protector and our God!

Nevertheless, the Almighty promises: "Honor the LORD with

your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9–10).

Yes, if you are faithful in *obeying God* and paying Him the *first tenth*—or "tithe"—of your income—He will BLESS your life in many physical and material ways. He has PROMISED—and *God never breaks His Word*!

In Malachi 3, speaking to modern-day Jacob or *Israel* (v. 6), God declares: "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In TITHES and OFFERINGS." God here indicts our modern English-speaking people for ROBBING our very Creator and His work today! No wonder there is so little true religion left on earth today! *No wonder* there is so much confusion and deceit going about in the name of Christianity!

remember And that the American and British descended peoples definitely are the descendants of the so-called lost 10 tribes of Israel. So in a dual sense God is speaking directly to us in Malachi's prophecy. If you do not yet understand our prophetic identity, call or write for our eye-opening booklet; What's Ahead for America and Britain? This booklet will PROVE to you who we are in Bible prophecy! It will be sent absolutely FREE upon your request.

God continues in Malachi: "You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."

Then God PROMISES *in His Word:* "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and *try Me now in this*,' says the LORD of host, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it" (vv. 8–10).

Here is a blistering CHAL-LENGE from Almighty God!

God says he will bless you if you begin *tithing*—*AS He commands*—through *faith* in Him and in His Word. Literally *hundreds* of case histories may be cited to show that God certainly *does bless* the tither even in *material* ways. He may not always do so *immediately*. You may have to obey Him and exercise *faith* for awhile. But as you *serve* Him, *obey* Him and *trust* Him, God WILL keep His part of the bargain.

What the Bible Actually SAYS

In spite of the obvious BLESS-INGS that come to those who *obey* God's tithing law, some still have arguments or questions. Was the idea of tithing an invention of *Moses*? Was it "done away" by Jesus? Was it just for the *physical* nation of Israel—a form of taxation for both church and state?

Long before the "law of Moses" was ever codified, Abraham—the father of the faithful—was faithfully paying TITHES to God! We read in Genesis 14:17–20 how Abraham honored God's High Priest Melchizedek after God had delivered his enemies into his hand, "And he gave him a TITHE of all."

Later, Jacob promised to serve the God of Abraham and stated: "Of all that You give me I will surely give a TENTH to You" (Genesis 28:22).

Still later, when God *temporarily* instituted the Levitical priesthood, He directed that the tithe be paid to *them* during that time as *His human representatives*: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's. It is holy to the LORD.... And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30, 32).

Now notice Numbers 18:21: "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the TITHES in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting."

Since God's ministry during this time was a *physical* ministry—of offering sacrifices and oblations—and since the Levites were *fulfilling* this ministry *as their work*, God's TITHE went to them as *His representatives* and *servants*.

New Testament Instructions on Tithing

In the New Testament, God inspired the Apostle Paul to show that the law of tithing is now *altered* or *changed* so that the tithes are *once again* to be paid to God's *spiritual* priesthood—as that of Melchizedek to whom Abraham paid tithes. This account is found in the seventh chapter of Hebrews.

Paul describes how Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (v. 2). Next, he describes how GREAT Melchizedek's priesthood must have been (vv. 3–4). Then Paul shows that the Levites *themselves*—through their ancestor Abraham—paid tithes to Melchizedek, obviously a GREATER priest in view of this fact.

In verses 11–12, Paul shows that the Levitical priesthood was only temporary and *never brought perfection*. Therefore, once again the *spiritual priesthood* of Melchizedek has been *re-instituted* through Christ and the tithing law is again CHANGED so that God's tithes revert as before to the spiritual priests—the true ministers of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul was writing to Jewish Christians who understood at least the letter of God's Law and had no "argument" about the FACT of the tithing law. While his main emphasis is the greatness of Christ's spiritual ministry, nevertheless, it is important to realize that throughout the above New Testament passage Paul definitely speaks of tithing as a LAW! And he shows that it is a law, which has existed since antiquity, from the days of Melchizedek-and STILL EXISTS-although now changed so that the tithes revert once again to God's spiritual ministers who are doing His work today!

So anyone who *fails to tithe* is breaking an important LAW of the Creator God! This is one reason for so many *personal* and *financial* CURSES on our land today!

Jesus Christ Personally Taught Tithing

Not fully understanding that Jesus Christ is the "Word" of God—the One who *inspired* the Old Testament—not realizing that the laws of God are fully listed ONLY in the Old Testament and simply *spiritually magnified* and *explained* in the New Testament, some will still insist: "We want some DIRECT statements by Christ which show that He approved the tithing law!"

All right—you shall have them! Will you then BELIEVE? Will you OBEY?

In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, who often made a selfrighteous display of strictly keeping some of the smaller points of God's Law, Jesus said: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. *These you ought to have done* [these weightier matters], without leaving the others [carefully tithing] undone" (Matthew 23:23).

Is that clear enough? Jesus said that spiritual qualities such as *mercy* and *faith* ought to be put ahead of carefully and strictly paying tithes on every little plant that might grow in your garden—*especially* when that strictness leads to self-righteousness. But Christ said "NOT to leave the other undone"—NOT to fail to pay your full tithes as God has commanded!

In Luke 11:42, this *same command* is repeated in a similar manner—inspired to be placed here also by God's Holy Spirit!

Man would like to regard God's tithing law as of *least* importance. But speaking of even the smaller points of God's Law, Jesus stated: "Whoever therefore breaks one of the *least* of these commandments, and TEACHES men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19).

How plain! If we are looking for an argument, we will always find one. But if we are willing to *"hunger and thirst"* for righteousness, to obey even the smaller points of God's Law, we will be BLESSED for so doing.

Do YOUR PART Fully

Yes, Jesus Christ *taught tithing!* And, as we have seen, He commanded His Apostles to teach the nations "ALL things that I have commanded you." He then promised: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

So, if we would have God's *blessing* and live the abundant life, which Jesus Christ promised, we should *pay God's tithe faithfully* and also do all the other things that Jesus taught.

Among these other teachings, relating to our job and success, Jesus said: "Let your light so



Heavy personal debt and financial disaster are the results of breaking financial laws. God says if you are faithful in obeying His financial law—tithing—He will bless your life in many ways. ©PhotoDisc Image

shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The true Christian, then, is to be an EXAMPLE to others in all that he says or does.

The Living Christ inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "Bondservants [or workers], obey in all things your masters [bosses or supervisors] according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as menpleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, *as to the Lord* and not to men" (Colossians 3:22–23).

Christ's Word here instructs you to put your *whole heart* into your work at ALL timeswhether the boss is around or not! You are told to do this *sincerely* and *earnestly* as if you were working for *God Himself*. For, in fact, *you are*! The true Christian life is a life "calling"—or vocation in the fullest sense of the term.

Be ZEALOUS in Your Work

In His Word, God states: "He who deals with a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes one rich" (Proverbs 10:4). Are you really DILIGENT in your work?

Again, God states: "Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase" (Proverbs 13:11). Many people today earn their living in what might be termed "marginal" occupations such as gambling, selling people things they do not need or taking unnecessary profits as a middleman. But God says that the basis of permanent wealth and His blessing will be given to a man who labors—really *produces* and *accomplishes* something worthwhile!

Now notice Proverbs 13:18: "Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored." In this proverb, God advises you to *heed the instructions* of those over you in your work or in any situation in life. Learn to do the job, *as your boss wants it done!* Learn to *listen carefully*—to THINK—to keep GROWING in knowledge and ability on the job!

A very important principle for daily living is brought out in Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established." When a big decision comes up involving your business or farm—or selling your house or changing jobs—learn to get advice from *many quarters!* Learn to weigh this advice *carefully* and *objectively*—asking *God's guidance* and *wisdom*.

Finally, God commands: "Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread" (Proverbs 20:13). Learn to get up early, to work diligently and to PRODUCE in your job or business!

Then obey God's financial law of tithing—recognizing that all the strength and ability with which you produce in your line of work, all the materials you use, all the food you eat and air you breathe in order to gain strength—all this comes from God who only asks that you pay Him ONE-TENTH of what you produce in return!

Where Should You Send GOD'S Tithes?

It is vitally important that you send God's tithe to His *true* representatives! Somewhere on earth today are true ministers of God. As the end of this age approaches, they will be carrying out Christ's commission with increasing POWER. They will make plain the Good News of the soon-coming *Kingdom* or *Government of God*.

Without fear or favor they will explain the LAWS of that Kingdom. They will make plain and clear the *dozens* of prophecies referring to this end-time. Through God's Spirit they alone can be *definite* and *specific* about the tremendous events soon to occur on this earth!

Jesus spoke prophetically of the great worldwide Work His

true ministers would carry out in this last age: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a *witness* to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

You had better check up and PROVE to yourself that the *Tomorrow's World* broadcast and magazine are fulfilling Christ's commission! If this is not yet clear to you, then just keep an open mind and let the fruits PROVE to you where Almighty God is really working!

Check up and see where the Truth of the Bible is being made PLAIN and CLEAR. Determine positively for yourself (Acts 17:11) where the real Good News of the Kingdom of God (Tomorrow's World) is being preached! (Matthew 24:14). Find out who is warning the world of the specific, major prophesied events now beginning to affect your life! And most importantly for you personally, find that Work which shows how you can escape being destroyed during those same prophesied events. Look for the Work God is using today to bring the answers for your tomorrow!

For this is *your* life—your ONLY life! If you will take the trouble to *prove* it with an *open mind*, you CAN know where God is working!

God's *true* ministers are carrying on His Work. They represent Him—and as *God's* representatives, it is to *them* that you should pay your tithes and cheerfully give your offerings. God then directs them to use His money for His Work. This dying world desperately NEEDS to be reached with God's full *Truth*. It needs the *understanding* of the purpose for human existence, the great living LAWS of life, the DEFINITE prophesied events soon to occur in our time and the MEANING of all these things!

Be DILIGENT in Serving the Living God!

Once you have made your decision to tithe, be sure you send your tithes to God's representatives who will be doing *His* Work and preaching *His* message! Just as God commands you to be *diligent* in serving your human bosses, how much more ZEALOUS should you be in obeying your very Maker in this financial law?

Do not get to thinking you cannot afford to pay tithes. You cannot afford not to!

God often works through human instruments. He will work through you if you will yield to Him and put His Kingdom FIRST in your life. As we have seen, the law of tithing was a part of *Christ's Gospel.* As such, it must be proclaimed to the world—and to you—as a witness.

Ask God for wisdom, faith and strength of purpose to obey Him in this financial *law*. It will cause you to put God *first*. It will force you to *budget*—to *plan*—to *organize* your affairs perhaps more than ever before. It will lead you to *exercise* FAITH in your Creator to back up His laws and His promises.

But God *cannot* lie. So you will find that it is very much "possible" for you to tithe! And if you act in *love* and *faith*—the physical and spiritual blessings that come will be just as REAL as God Himself is real.

Also, as we have seen, you will be following the direct New Testament teaching of Jesus Christ who said NOT to leave the "other [tithing] undone"! (Matthew 23:23). Our Father in heaven wants all of us to be generous and wholehearted in our tithes and in our offerings. For He inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a CHEERFUL giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Remember the Great God whom we serve is "able" to give you the "breaks"—to bless you so that you have an "abundance" for every good work (v. 8). Yes, tithing involves FAITH that God is there, that He will *back up* His inspired Word, that He will DO what He has said He will do.

So as the clouds darken on the world horizon and nations experience more physical and financial problems of every sort, it is very important that you have the Creator GOD on your side. Even though He may not make you wealthy, He has always promised to take care of you if you serve and obey Him. He will make sure that you always have enough to get by. When others are starving or in horrible difficulty, the God of the Bible absolutely promises His faithful servants: "I will NEVER leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

So for your *own good*, TRUST God to back up His promises! Pay the Creator of heaven and earth the "tithes" you owe Him—plus generous offerings—and see Him become more "real" in your life as you truly serve and obey Him.



I have read that God will not hear sinners' prayers. Since all have sinned and come short of God's glory, how is it possible for God to hear anyone's prayers?

The sobering truth is that sin—the breaking of God's holy and righteous law—does cut humanity off from God! Indeed, ever since Adam and Eve, all *have* sinned, falling short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). The prophet Isaiah records, "Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2; John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9). How, then, can God hear us? Notice the prophet Isaiah's answer:

"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6–7).

To be heard in prayer, one *must seek* God by turning away from sin. Sin is the breaking of God's spiritual laws: The Ten Commandments (1 John 3:4). Because the carnal mind is not subject to God's holy and righteous laws, Christians often experience an inner struggle (Romans 8:7). The Apostle Paul describes this struggle by exclaiming "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:24). The answer is "through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (v. 25).

When we repent, we turn 180 degrees and face toward God. With repentance comes a repugnance toward sin and a heart-rending change of mind. By God's mercy, repentant individuals see their helplessness and inescapable need for faith in Jesus Christ. That faith in Christ and His shed blood purges the conscience from dead works (Hebrews 9:11–14), opening us to direct contact with the Father.

"Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:19–22).

Genuine repentance means *total surrender* to Jesus Christ—repenting of thoughts as well as deeds! One must truly accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, Lord, Master and soon-coming King. One must make His will, not our own, our life's priority. One must seek His ways and His thoughts, and serve others rather than seeking "to serve" ourselves.

God *does* hear the prayers of those who truly *seek* Him, *repent* of their sins and turn His way! Those who rebel, ignore God and never change will simply *not* be heard! Their sins are a barrier and cut them off from God. But a truly repentant attitude moves God to hear (Psalm 34:17). God states, "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2). If in humbleness of mind and repentance we "draw near to God," He will draw near to us (James 4:7-8). Miracles of divine intervention will take place. We will receive answers to prayer. Why? Notice the inspired answer: "Whatever, we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1 John 3:22).

Do Christians still sin—*even after conversion*? Yes! "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Yet God looks at the heart to see the intent. Before conversion, the heart is hardened in deception and rebellion against God. After conversion, most Christians sin out of weakness or neglect. Yet sensitivity to sin, and the resulting guilt, moves the growing Christian to cry out to God for forgiveness and strength to overcome. Many scriptures explain that conversion *is* a growth process—that we must "*grow* in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

But does this sin *after* conversion cut us off from God as before? All sin that has not been repented of does hinder our prayers from being answered (1 Peter 3:7). However, "If we confess our sins, He [Jesus Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). As we repent of sin and yield to God, our prayers can and will be heard!

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The Day of the Lord

By Richard F. Ames

ore than 30 Bible prophecies signal the great event called the Day of the Lord. Is it a day of judgment—or just a day of the week? What significance will it have in the flow of Bible prophecy, and how will it affect your life in these end-times? You need to know!

A major prophetic event looms on the horizon. The great prophets of the Bible—Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel—wrote about it. The socalled Minor Prophets—Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah and Malachi—also emphasized this event. Even the Apostles Peter and Paul wrote about it. It is called the Day of the Lord. But just what is it? And how does it fit into the framework of Bible prophecy?

The book of Joel contains a prophecy for our generation: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand: a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations" (Joel 2:1–2).

Trumpets sound alarms-to announce major battles or, as described here, an invading army! We read of terrible destruction-a scorchedearth policy—as the Day of the Lord commences, leaving the land desolate. "A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; the land is like the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them" (Joel 2:3).

We read that, in addition to total destruction on the land, humanity will see incredible disruption of the heavens. "The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark, and the stars diminish their brightness. The LORD gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it?" (Joel 2:10-11).

Almighty God will intervene in human affairs in a dramatic way. There will be major wars during this time when God executes judgment on the nations. And not only will military weapons bring destruction; there will also be vast ecological devastation. "What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; and what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten" (Joel 1:4).

Even in our modern times, locust invasions are not unheard of. Australia's Plague Locust Commission estimated last year that locusts would cause more than \$500 million Australian dollars in damage to grain, vegetables, vineyards and other crops (*London Daily Telegraph*, September 17, 2000). China last year experienced its worst locust plague in 25 years, with more than 13 million acres of crops and grassland destroyed—scientists found more than 5,000 locusts per square yard in badly affected areas of Tianjin, near Beijing (*London Daily Telegraph*, July 12, 2000).

Serious though these may be, the future insect plagues that some nations experience will make today's seem minor by comparison. When God brings punishments upon rebellious nations, He will call upon them to humble themselves and repent! Of course, you and I need not wait until then: "Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty" (Joel 1:14–15).

God's word tells us to "cry unto the LORD!" As conditions worsen, we all need to pray and cry out to God—and make sure we are on God's side! God promises protection for His people—to be "a shelter" for them: "The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain" (Joel 3:16–17).

Yes, the Lord—the Savior—will rule the earth from Jerusalem! That is the Good News that Jesus preached, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. We pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" We look forward to tomorrow's world—the world to come! Our hope is in the Savior and His coming rulership over all the nations!

So we can see that the Day of the Lord is the time of God's judgment on the nations. It is the time when Almighty God will begin to intervene more directly and powerfully in mankind's affairs.

A Day of the Week?

In the Book of Revelation, also called the Apocalypse, the Apostle John wrote: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet" (Revelation 1:10).

John was speaking not of a day of the week (as some commentators wrongly believe), but of the major prophetic period described in the rest of Revelation as the Day of the Lord. John was not referring to Sunday as the Lord's Day. If John were doing so, he would have referred to Sunday as "the first day" of the week as he did in the Gospel of John. Jesus Himself said He was Lord of the Sabbath—and He was not speaking of Sunday! The expression "Lord's Day" here in Revelation plainly refers to the theme of the whole book, the prophetic Day of the Lord, culminating in the return of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords!

In Revelation 5, we read of a scroll sealed with seven seals. Jesus, the Revelator, opens those seals, as described in Revelation 6. The first four seals are known as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The first horse (the white horse) and its rider represent false religions—false Christs.

The second seal reveals a horseman (riding a red horse) with the power to take peace from the earth. The third seal presents a rider (on a black horse) representing the scarcity of food and resulting famine. The fourth seal shows a rider (on a pale horse) with the power to bring destruction to one-fourth of the earth.

This description parallels the events Jesus outlined in His Olivet Prophecy: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7).

Even today, we must face the threat of widespread pestilence as a military weapon. The United Nations inspection team, UNSCOM, has dealt with the dangers of chemical and biological weapons of destruction produced in Iraq. As recently as last November, Western intelligence reports indicated that Iraq's Saddam Hussein held 610 tons of "precursor chemicals" for the production of the lethal nerve gas VX—enough to kill every man, woman and child on the face of the earth (*London Daily Telegraph*, November 19, 2000).

The dangers of pestilence, disease and death are very real as we near the climax of this age! But the 21st century is adding greater technologies for mass destruction. Bill Joy, co-founder and chief scientist of the pioneering minicomputer firm Sun Microsystems, has delivered a stirring warning about the dangers mankind now faces, warning that a new The Bible gives us plenty of warning concerning the moral state of the world and the resulting punishment if we, as human beings made in the image of

God, do not repent of

our violence and evil

ways. The book of

Revelation informs us of

the major events to

occur, including the rise

of a world superpower, called in your Bible, the

Beast. To learn more

about this prophesied

Beast, write for your free

copy of our booklet The

the Day of the Lord is

the time of Almighty

We have seen that

Beast of Revelation.

realm of 21st century technologies—genetics, nanotechnology and robotics are so powerful that they can spawn whole new classes of accidents and abuses.

In his article entitled, "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us," Mr. Joy sounded the alarm against genetic engineering. He wrote, "The USDA has already approved about 50 genetically engineered crops for unlimited release; more than half of the world's soybeans and a third of its corn now contain genes spliced in from other forms of life. While there are many



Consumers are growing wary of genetically-engineered foods. Some demonstrators seek an outright ban; others seek full testing and accurate labeling.

important issues here, my own major concern with genetic engineering is narrower: that it gives the power—whether militarily, accidentally, or in a deliberate terrorist act—to create a White Plague" (*Wired Magazine*, April 2000, pp. 238–262).

The trumpet plagues described in the book of Revelation are waiting for us on the horizon. And we are laying the foundation for our own destruction. Mr. Joy stated, "We should have learned a lesson from the making of the first atomic bomb and the resulting arms race. We didn't do well then, and the parallels to our current situation are troubling."

As Jesus said: "Unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

Mr. Joy's shocking appraisal of 21st century technology agrees with Jesus' prediction. Joy observed, "I think it is no exaggeration to say we are on the cusp of the further perfection of extreme evil, an evil whose possibility spreads well beyond that which weapons of mass destruction bequeathed to the nation-states, on to a surprising and terrible empowerment of extreme individuals." Think about that warning as you read through the book of Revelation.

Mr. Joy also quoted from Carl Sagan's 1994 book, *Pale Blue Dot*, "This is the first moment in the history of our planet when any species, by its own voluntary actions, has become a danger to itself—as well as to vast numbers of others." God's powerful intervention in world affairs. God will judge rebellious nations, even letting the nations themselves destroy one another in world conflict. We saw from the book of Joel that God will use the elements of nature, even great locust plagues, to destroy vast areas of vegetation. And God calls on all human beings to repent and seek Him.

An Intensified Ride

Critics say there has always been war, famine, and pestilence. But we will see the four horsemen of the apocalypse intensify their ride with increasing global impact as time goes on. These four horsemen are revealed as Christ opens the first four seals. What happens when Christ opens the fifth seal? "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" (Revelation 6:9).

Here we read of the martyrdom of the saints true Christians. In the first century, the Emperor Nero violently persecuted Christians and put them to death. This fifth seal also predicts a major endtime persecution of God's people. Then Jesus opens the sixth seal, revealing the heavenly signs that will shock people all over the earth.

John wrote: "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place" (Revelation 6:12–14).

Not only will asteroids and meteorites frighten people, but massive earthquakes will also shake the earth. As the Apostle John saw in vision, "every mountain and island was moved out of its place." Almighty God will get the attention of rebellious humanity through these earthquakes and heavenly

signs. The Creator God tells us, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven" (Hebrews 12:26).

Obviously it would be better for all of us to repent and humble ourselves before God now, rather than having to be shaken for our rejection of the Creator and His way of life! Yes, the great men of the earth will flee in terror. The Apostle John recorded their fearful response when they said to the mountains and rocks: "Fall on us and hide us from the face of

Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:16–17).

To use the vernacular, God will "get our attention!" The heavenly signs will terrify people. The great leaders of the earth will be frightened.

The heavenly signs introduce the Day of the Lord, the time of God's wrath and judgment on an unthankful, rebellious world. Jesus Christ, the Lamb, will be wrathful. He will execute God's righteous judgments. The Day of the Lord is called here, in Revelation 6:16–17, "the great Day of His wrath!"

A Day for a Year

Just how long is this Day of the Lamb's wrath? As many Bible students know, prophecy often uses a day to indicate a year. The Day of the Lord, in one sense, is the year preceding the return of Christ! Isaiah made this plain. "For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion" (Isaiah 34:8).

The environmental and political problems symbolized by the four horsemen of the Apocalypse will continue to intensify. There will be wholesale religious persecution as revealed through the fifth seal of Revelation. The sixth seal, the heavenly signs, will awaken the world to the beginning of the Day of the Lord, the seventh seal!

The seventh seal lasts approximately one year and consists of seven trumpet plagues. As John described: "When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets" (Revelation 8:1–2). The trumpets give us warning—they announce seven

plagues or judgments!

Notice in Revelation 8 that, as the first four angels sound their trumpets, there is great ecological devastation all over the earth. There are earthquakes; vast areas of vegetation are burned up; a third of all sea life dies; water sources are poisoned. The heavens are darkened.

The last three trumpet plagues are called woes. The word "woe" is an exclamation of grief! "And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the

midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!'" (Revelation 8:13).

Revelation 9 describes the first woe, or the fifth trumpet plague. This "plague" is a devastating military action lasting for five months. The second woe, the sixth trumpet plague, pictures an intense military counter-attack from the east, by a 200 million man army that will kill one-third of the world's population. This phase of World War III will kill billions of people! Yes, Jesus said that unless those days were shortened no flesh would be saved—otherwise, all life on earth would be destroyed (Matthew 24:22).

Next we hear the sound of the seventh trumpet. For Christians, the sounding of the seventh trumpet is good news, because it announces the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth and the return of Jesus Christ. We all need to be preparing for that time! "Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15). What wonderful news!

Continued on page 28



clashes with Israeli soldiers. Resurgent fighting has shattered Middle East

peacemaking efforts. ©Presslink Images



he Supreme Court refused to recognize them as legal "persons." From that point on they had no rights or protection under the Constitution. They were considered "sub-human... only a rough copy of the human being ... morally and mentally lower than any animal." They were likened to "parasites" that could be "evacuated." Where did these ideas originate? In Nazi Germany, for these statements were used to justify the killing of millions of Jews before and during World War II.

In 1936, the German Supreme Court made that ruling in respect to Jews. The other statements are excerpted from Hitler's Mein Kampf and other official Nazi publications. Not until Roe v. Wade in 1973 did the United States Supreme Court rule that unborn babies were not legal "persons" and therefore had no rights or protection under the U.S. Constitution. Abortionists claimed that what was aborted was simply protoplasmic mass-subhuman. Feminist leader Gloria Steinem stated that a woman has the right to abort a fetus "just as she

has a right to remove any parasitic growth from her body" (CNN interview, September 9, 1981). Noted abortionist Dr. Edward Allred, when asked by a reporter what happens in an abortion, remarked "the contents are evacuated." These are eerie parallels—which should never be forgotten—to the Holocaust of a former generation.

The Bible warns us that "in the last days, perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves [very selfish and self-centered]... disobedient to parents... unloving... without self-control... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3:1–4). These attitudes often lead to illicit sex and unwanted babies. The overwhelming majority of all abortions (at least 95 percent) are done as a means of birth control because the baby is unwanted. Some reason that having a baby inhibits their career potential. Others do not want to be burdened with "dependents." They reason that they would not be able to buy things they might otherwise want, or enjoy entertainment or travel as much. Basically, many opt to exchange children for the material goods and physical pleasures of this world (cf. 1 John 2:15–16)! Since the 1973 Supreme Court ruling, some 30 to 40 million abortions have occurred in the United States-and they continue at well over one million per year! Tens of millions occur annually throughout the rest of the world. But do these abortions really constitute murder? When does life begin? Is the Bible silent on abortion?

Physical Evidence of Life

Through sonograms (pictures taken by means of ultrasonic waves), in-womb cameras and other medical devices, unborn children have been observed to sleep, awake, smile, frown, grimace, hiccup, suck thumbs, wiggle fingers and toes, kick and practice breathing by inhaling and exhaling amniotic fluid. Unborn children respond to voices, sounds and movement; their heart rates speed up when they are agitated and they writhe when they feel pain. Notice the following measurable developments of a fetus:

- Three weeks old—the heart pumps blood through its own bloodstream.
- Five weeks old—nose, cheeks and fingers are visible.
- Six weeks old—nervous system begins to function and kidneys, stomach and liver start working.
- Seven weeks old—brain waves are measurable.
- Ten weeks old—the fetus has basically everything found in newborns.
- Twelve weeks old—completely formed unique fingerprints will not change.

Perhaps the most stunning characteristic of human life is that such factors as a person's gender, eye color and shoe size are determined by the genetic code contained in the 46 human chromosomes (Jerome Lejeune, M.D., *The Human Life Bill*, volume 1, p. 8). These chromosomes exist in every cell of an unborn child and every person begins as a separate single cell. That person has never existed before and will never exist again (Ibid.). Nothing unusual occurs at birth to make an unborn baby human. It is the same baby, whether inside or outside the womb!

Picture a hospital. In one room sits a woman about midway through her pregnancy. She does not want her baby and has decided to have an abortion. She reasons that the fetus is not a viable human being anyway, so that fetus is killed. In another room down the hall, a mother is also midterm—but she is having problems with her pregnancy. She desperately wants the child but it will have to be delivered prematurely if it is to survive. (Babies can now be delivered and saved at 21 to 22 weeks old and some even younger than 20 weeks after fertilization)! This latter baby survives and grows to be a healthy human being. Why is the baby in one room considered human, while the baby in the other room is not considered a viable human being? Who is kidding whom? The only difference is that one is wanted and the other is not!

Biblical Evidence of Life

The Bible plainly states that "the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Leviticus 17:11). One of the very first observable actions of a fetus (around three weeks old) is the heart pumping blood in its own bloodstream. The Bible also reveals that there is a *spirit* which resides in man (Job 32:8, Zechariah 12:1). Physically, the human brain is very similar to the animal brain. Yet man has far more intellect, imagination, emotion and creative abilities than any animal. It is this spirit component added to the brain of man, which we call *mind*, that gives human beings transcendent knowledge and dominion over animals (cf. Genesis 1:26).

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11). The spirit in man is given to us in the womb! And, the Spirit of God works with human beings even in the womb.

Scripture reveals that God sometimes chose individuals, *while they were yet in the womb*, for specific jobs He had in mind. For example, He told Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified [set apart] you; and I ordained you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). Likewise, the prophet Isaiah (see Isaiah 49:1) was set apart for his calling while yet in his mother's womb.

It should come as no surprise then, that God refers to the unborn as children! Notice two important examples. When Rebekah (Isaac's wife) conceived "the children struggled together within her... And the LORD said to her: 'Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body..." (Genesis 25:22–23). Speaking of Jacob, God reveals that "he took his *brother* by the heel in the womb" (Hosea 12:3). When Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, heard Mary's voice, "the babe leaped in her [Elizabeth's] womb" (Luke 1:41). In the New Testament the same Greek word is used interchangeably for a "babe" in the womb or a "child."

The laws God gave to the nation of Israel included laws dealing with unborn children. For example, in Exodus 21:22–23 God decreed: "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that

she gives birth prematurely, yet no lasting harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye"-in other words, even if a premature birth resulted in no harm, the perpetrator would still owe compensation and damages because of the inconvenience and hardship imposed on the parents. But if there was harm done to either the mother or child, then the punishment was commensurate with the harm done—including the loss of one's life for taking a life.

A Deeper Understanding

Still, some insist that human life does not begin until "the breath of life" takes place. The classic scripture quoted is Genesis 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Also quoted are passages such as 1 Kings 17:17–24 and Ezekiel 37:9–10. On the one hand, we have shown clearly that human life is in the blood and that the spirit in man—which accounts for the difference between animal life and human life—is given in the womb. On the other hand, the Bible clearly speaks of the "*breath* of life." Is there a contradiction?

A clearer understanding requires some background. Often, the spiritual things of God can be understood by the physical creation (cf. Romans 1:20) and vice-versa! If we have spiritual understanding, we can gain insights into the hard questions of this physical life—such as when human life begins. The

Parallels Between Physical Birth and Spiritual Birth

	<u>Physical Process</u>	<u>Spiritual Process</u>
Begettal	Ovum fertilized by male sperm cell.	Christian impregnated by the Father's Holy Spirit.

Just as the physical life of the father is imparted by the sperm cell to the ovum, a spiritual begettal imparts the presence (but not the ultimate reality) of immortal life from the very spirit body of God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Though not yet born, true Christians thus become children of God!

Gestation	Nourished and protected by	Nourished and protected by	
	human mother.	the Church.	

As the unborn child is nourished in the womb of its mother until it is ready to be born, so are begotten Christians nourished by the Church of God (Ephesians 4:12–13) until full grown, mature (Matthew 5:48) and ready to be born as beings composed of spirit.

Birth Umbilical cord is cut and the	Resurrection to immortality
"breath of life" imparts self-	severs all ties to this physical
contained life. Life began at	life and the Holy Spirit
begettal but now becomes	imparts self-contained
independent.	immortal life!

At the time of physical birth, the child is delivered from the protective womb of its mother into this physical world, and upon receiving the "breath of life" becomes an independent self-contained human life rather than a dependent life. When born of the Spirit, a child of God is delivered from the Church into God's Family and is transformed into a spirit being with a glorious spiritual body (Philippians 3:21) with self-contained immortal life, now fully composed of spirit (1 Corinthians 15:53–54).

physical often mirrors the spiritual because God created it all (cf. Colossians 1:16).

We know that human reproduction began with the first human, Adam. Even Eve was created from Adam. Likewise, spiritual reproduction began with Jesus Christ, who is referred to as the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). How did it begin with Jesus Christ?

Jesus was literally begotten of God the Father, through the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that imparted life to an ovum in the womb of the virgin, Mary (Luke 1:31-35). Jesus, therefore, became the only begotten Son of God in the sense that He was, and is the only human being begotten by the Holy Spirit in a woman's womb! As a result, He had God's Holy Spirit in full measure (John 3:34). After He was born physically, He lived and died a literal death. But He was born again! He experienced a second birth-this time spiritual-through a resurrection from the dead. Thus He became the first born Son of God, composed entirely of spirit (Romans 1:4; 8:29)!

It is vital that we understand what it means to be "born again" in order to comprehend more fully the parallels between physical birth and spiritual birth. Physical Christians, no matter how "converted," are not yet born again as Christ was! "That which is born of the flesh is flesh. and that which is born of [out of] the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). You are not "born again" if you are still physical! Since we cannot inherit the kingdom of God until we are born again (John 3:3), we will not inherit that kingdom until the time of **our** resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:52). That will

occur at the last trumpet, at the Second Coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). Clearly, by His resurrection, Christ became the firstborn and paved the way for all other Christians who will be resurrected and "born again" at the last trumpet. Now, how does this fit in with the concept of the "breath of life?"

A fetus is a begotten life, not yet born, just as we may be *begotten* of the Holy Spirit while we are yet physical. Upon true repentance and baptism, God sends us a "down payment" or "deposit" of His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 5:5, NIV). We then become *begotten* sons of God because we have been impregnated with His very nature, and He now lives in us through the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:4; Galatians 2:20). In this begotten state, God considers us His very children and heirs of His kingdom (Romans 8:16-17), but not yet inheritors. We actually inherit the kingdom at His Second Coming when we are born again, through the Spirit that was given to us at begettal. It is at the resurrection that we shall be *born* sons of God. Then we will have immortal life inherent within ourselves. Now notice what the "breath of life" pictures: when the begotten fetus is born, the "breath of life" empowers not a new life, but a self-sustaining life—life inherent within itself. Therefore, begotten Christians are now called the children of God, even though we have not vet been born into our final spiritual, immortal bodies at the resurrection (cf. 1 John 3:2).

God never aborts a spiritually begotten life (Philippians 1:6). Likewise, God has not given man the prerogative to abort a human life-whether born or not! The spiritual life begins with a begettal of God's Holy Spirit, and grows as the Church feeds itdependent upon the Church for nourishment and protection until it is ultimately transformed into self-contained, independent immortal life when it is actually born of God! Likewise, physical life begins at conception when the father's sperm cell begets life to the mother's ovum. The fetus is dependent upon the mother's womb to nourish and protect it until it can be delivered into selfcontained, independent life upon taking its first breath of life! Anyone who takes away the life of an unborn child before it can realize its full potential is guilty, before the Supreme Court of heaven, of premeditated murder!

When the Creator said "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26), He determined to start a Family! Through the begettal of the Holy Spirit, true Christians begin a new life leading ultimately to spiritual birth in the very Family of God, as very SONS of God (Romans 8:9–14; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52). God created the amazing process of human begettal and birth as a TYPE of the spiritual process in order to illustrate, in physical terms, man's ultimate destiny! Man is made in the very image and likeness of His Creator and, whether life is physical or spiritual, life begins at conception! In tomorrow's world, LIFE will be celebrated, revered and highly honored. For a more thorough explanation of man's AWESOME potential, please ask for our exciting free booklet Your Ultimate Destiny. You have never read anything like it!



Jerusalem's Sobering Future!

During the 20th century, trouble spots erupted all around the globe. Yet as a new millennium begins, world attention is focusing on the Middle East—especially Jerusalem and the Temple Mount! This is no surprise to anyone familiar with Bible prophecy. Dozens of prophecies indicate that Jerusalem will dominate news headlines *just prior* to Jesus Christ's return and the end of this age. Bible prophecy not only reveals the sobering details of Jerusalem's future, but also the *true significance* of events now unfolding in this city sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

A City: Dominated, Divided, Devastated

In recent years endless political negotiations have been launched, and prayers said, in pursuit of Middle East peace. Yet success has eluded every effort-just as the Bible predicted! The prophet Zechariah wrote, more than 2,500 years ago, that "it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy [burdensome] stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away [attempt to lift it, or burden themselves with it] will be cut to pieces [injured]" (Zechariah 12:3). For nearly a century, Jerusalem has fulfilled this prophecy. Britain, Israel and the United States have all tried—and failed—to bring peace to this troubled city and region. Now the Europeans, the Russians, the Pope and even the United Nations want to try to solve this age-old problem. According to Bible prophecy, all who try will fail-until Christ returns!

Zechariah recorded another end-time prophecy. "Behold, the day of the LORD is coming... I will gather *all the nations* to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. *Half of the city* shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:1–2). This prophecy appears to be on the verge of fulfillment. Jerusalem was devastated by the Babylonians around 600BC and by the Romans in 70AD. Later the Arabs, and then the Ottoman Turks, controlled the city. However, the end-time conquest and devastation will come at the hands of "all the nations." This might be a league of Arab nations, a European army or a UN force. In previous sieges the *entire* city was conquered and laid waste, but in the last days *only half* the city will be conquered. This could well be the *Jewish half*, if the other half—East Jerusalem—becomes the capital of a Palestinian state—an expressed desire of the Palestine Liberation Organization! Conditions are developing in Jerusalem that could see these prophecies fulfilled in the near future.

Jeremiah records another prophetic warning to the people of Jerusalem, "I will hand them over to trouble, to *all the kingdoms of the earth*" (Jeremiah 15:4). Jerusalem has been dominated by individual nations at different times, but never *all* the kingdoms of the earth. However, if UN peacekeepers enter the picture, this prophecy will be fullfilled in a remarkable way. The UN represents 185 nations all around the world, and a Palenstinian request that UN forces come into Jerusalem is under serious discussion today! The Bible also reveals that Jerusalem's future devastation will come *suddenly* at the hands of a *multitude* of nations (Jeremiah 6:26; 15:8; Isaiah 29:5; 30:13).

Jesus Christ revealed an even greater significance of these Old Testament prophecies. When asked by His disciples, "what will be the sign of Your [second] coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3), Jesus said, "when you see Jerusalem *surrounded by armies*, then know that its *desolation* is near" (Luke 21:20). He went on to say "Jerusalem will be *trampled by the Gentiles* until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled" (Luke 21:24). The Bible indicates this end-time Gentile domination of Jerusalem will last 42 months—threeand-a-half years (see Revelation 11:2; Ezekiel 30:3). The *current call* for UN forces to intervene in Jerusalem could be a *prelude* to the prophesied time of Gentile domination. The intention to place Jerusalem under an



international administration has been part of the UN agenda since 1948. That this idea is gaining credence today, in conjunction with numerous other prophesied end-time events, should alert us to the *real significance* of the times in which we live (see Matthew 16:3; 24:32–34)!

Trouble on the Temple Mount

The Temple Mount is a *focal point* of religious interest in Jerusalem for three major religions. Once the site of Solomon's temple and the Herodian temple of Christ's time, Jews are now forbidden to worship on the Temple Mount, which is now occupied by Islam's Dome of the Rock! The Temple Mount has been called "the most volatile spot on the face of the earth." Bible prophecy indicates that significant events will occur on the Temple Mount just before Jesus Christ's return. These events will be a *warning*—for those who have eyes to see—that the end of this present age is near!

Biblical prophecies describe two prominent individuals who will appear on the world stage in the end times (see Revelation 20:10). One is a powerful and persuasive political figure called the Beast (see Revelation 13:1–10; 17:12–13). The other is a highly influential religious figure known as the False Prophet or man of sin (see Revelation 13:11–18: 2 Thessalonians 2). The Bible reveals that they will focus their attention on Jerusalem-and on the Temple Mount in particular. These two Satan-inspired leaders will orchestrate two distinct events mentioned in Scripture. The daily sacrifices will be stopped, and the sanctuary will be defiled (see Daniel 8:11–13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 13). These two actions will take place in Jerusalem just before Christ's return (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14). However, before the daily sacrifices can be stopped, they must begin! And before a sanctuary can be defiled, it must be established!

Plans are well underway in Jerusalem that may lead to the fulfillment of these ancient prophecies.

Since 1967, Jewish scholars have been studying the location of previous temples on the Temple Mount, selecting and training priests and preparing the vessels necessary to reinstitute the daily sacrifices. All that is needed is a place to establish a sanctuary, and permission to begin the sacrifices—which the Bible indicates *will happen* just before the end of this present age!

Daniel writes of a coming leader who will deceitfully enter into a covenant (Daniel 11:31-32) with the Jewish people-a covenant which appears to include the resumption of sacrifices and the construction, or establishment of a sanctuary (Daniel 9:26-27), perhaps in exchange for ceding East Jerusalem to the Palestinians. This agreement, however, will be abruptly broken after three years (Ibid.)-probably in an effort to enforce religious uniformity. The sanctuary will then be defiled in some way (Ibid.). Antiochus Epiphanes' actions in 168BC appear to be a prototype of end-time events. Antiochus attempted to exterminate the Jewish religion by placing a pagan idol in the temple and offering swine blood on the altar. Scripture describes the coming Beast and False Prophet being involved in similar actions. The False Prophet is described as one who actively opposes biblical religion and "sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4). These long-foretold activities will take place in Jerusalem just before Christ's Second Coming. Millions-unaware of the true significance of these events-will be deceived. However, this deception will end. Jerusalem will be liberated and peace will finally be established when Jesus Christ returns to establish the kingdom of God (Zechariah 12:7-9; 14:3-11).

You can avoid being misled by these momentous events if you understand what the Bible clearly reveals about the end times. Study your Bible, watch world events, write for our free booklet *The Beast of Revelation* and keep reading *Tomorrow's World*, where you will see *prophecy come alive!*



he rules of the family underwent a radical rewrite during the 20th century. At the dawn of the 21st century, law, religion and popular culture view the family far differently than they did just 100 years ago. Does this represent progress—or something else entirely?

Little girls look longingly at the bride in her beautiful dress, and dream of the time when they too will be married. Teenage boys whose interests have turned to the opposite sex wonder what it will be like to be married. While it is common to think about marriage and "living happily ever after," no one dreams of the day when they will be able to have their first divorce. Yet how many marriages are truly happy? Almost half of those marrying in the United States today can expect to become divorced eventually. Many others live in relationships that are marred by frustration and acrimony.

Are happy, intact families simply the result of good luck? Can we even be sure what a normal family is supposed to look like? The truth is that during the course of the 20th century we did not simply trade one definition of family for another. Rather, we have emerged with families in a state of flux. There are even differing definitions of what *constitutes* a family, not just what will produce family happiness.

In the last century, family law changed greatly throughout the United States. A century ago, the law defined the husband as the head of household. Divorce was not only a social scandal, it could only be obtained with great difficulty, under narrow grounds in most states. It would represent a virtual kiss of death for the career of any public figure. Couples who lived together before marriage were deemed to be "living in sin."

Even just 50 years ago, out-of-wedlock pregnancy was a scandal of great proportion. Today, illegitimate births have become so common that little social stigma remains in most communities. As for discussions of so-called "gay" marriage, this would have been

unthinkable at the dawn of the previous century. Homosexuality was simply not discussed in any sort of public venue. It was considered too shameful. Adultery and sodomy were crimes in virtually every state.

The family—the most basic and fundamental unit of society—has, over the last century, been thrown into a state of flux. Roles that were once considered set are now viewed as fluid. It is not that new definitions have consistently replaced the old ones; rather, consensus has broken down completely regarding what is right and normal. Guided by the changes in public attitudes and behavior, Western society's mores have lost the rigidity of a century ago.

How and why has this come about? What have been the consequences for individuals and, indeed, for society as a whole? Is there a solution to this entire dilemma? Reliable answers are found in a much-overlooked source. Read on to find them!

What Happened to the Family—And Why?

The Western world long ago cast off the idea of moral and spiritual absolutes. After all, if there is no God, who is to say what is lawful? If man simply invented marriage somewhere in the process of evolution, then surely he can re-invent it and redefine it as he goes along. Who is to say that one definition of the family is superior to any other? Indeed, different societies have many varied customs and practices regarding marriage and family. From the Arabian concepts of patriarchy and polygamy, to Central African practices of polyandry and matrilineal descent, there are a wide variety of definitions of what constitutes a "normal" family.

The biblical definition of the family—based upon one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4–5)—long shaped Western attitudes. Marriage was the fountainhead of the family. Laws and customs developed around this fundamental concept; even the concept of private property finds its roots

in marriage, as property is acquired, held and passed on by inheritance through the family. Rearing children and equipping them for adult life was deemed to be the fundamental purpose of the family unit.

Would-be utopians have long recognized that the family stands in the way of their cherished social transformations. Intact families generate a loyalty greater than any other human institutions, and they pass attitudes and outlooks on to their offspring. Almost 2,500 years ago, in his classic work, The Republic, the Greek philosopher Plato recognized this impediment to the "perfect" society. His dream of an all-powerful communistic state ruled by Philosopher-Kings could only become reality with the abolition of the family. Plato envisioned a society in which wives and children would be shared. The state, rather than the family, would be responsible for the education and rearing of children.

Following the 1917 revolution, the Soviet Union's communist government sought to implement a similar approach in the "workers' paradise." Yet what Lenin and Stalin were unable to implement by force and coercion, Western social schemers are on the verge of accomplishing. A combination of feminist rhetoric, materialistic encouragement to "have it all" and government-financed day care aimed at younger and younger children has created a situation unimaginable at the dawn of the last century. Increasingly, children are becoming wards of the state-their outlook shaped far more by the agenda of the Left than by the values of their own families.

Syndicated columnist and family psychologist John

Rosemond put it succinctly in a March 15, 1993 column in the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate: "For the past 30 years, the American family has been 'changing,' or so the media inform us. The subliminal impression created is that some natural, inexorable evolutionary process is behind the steady increase in one-parent and two income-earner families. Further, that the only problem is the failure of society and government to make sufficiently rapid and effective adjustments to this new set of circumstances. Here is the truth: For more than a generation, the American family has been in a steady state of decline, precipitated by social experiments and forces which are fundamentally at odds with a general state of family health."

The state of flux in which the modern family finds itself is a reflection of decline and deterioration in a society that has lost its way. While social theorists and utopian schemers have pursued an agenda in the Western world for well over a century, there are reasons why that agenda has gained such a foothold.

Note the warnings of the ancient biblical prophet Ezekiel. Taken into Babylonian captivity in 596BC along with many other Jews, Ezekiel obeyed God's command to record a message for the House of Israel. Remember that the ten-tribe House of Israel had been taken into Assyrian captivity well over a century earlier, and had been a separate and distinct nation from Judah for two centuries prior to that. This message was meant not for his own day, but for the end-times!

Ezekiel 22 indicts three facets of the House of Israel—the priests,

the princes and the prophets. The priests—the leaders of organized religion—have not taught the people the difference between what is holy and what is not. They have violated God's law and ignored His

Sabbaths. They have failed the nation by their false teaching (v. 26).

The princes those at the helm of political and financial power—are indicted for their greed and selfishness. They are compared to ravening wolves, always hungry for gain without regard for those whom they are supposed to lead (v. 27).

What does the Bible say about the prophets? The term

comes from the Hebrew word nibba and refers to those who proclaim or announce a message. In our modern world this would describe the media, those who are opinion molders of society. False prophets include both the secular media (the overwhelming majority) as well as the religious media. The modern prophets in the Israelitish nations are indicted for their propaganda, which obscures the true nature of their nations' problems (v. 28). In Ezekiel 13:10 the message concerning these media-prophets is that they have seduced God's people with a false message of peace. Ultimately the false foundation of everything that they have built up will be uncovered and revealed by the Almighty (Ezekiel 13:14).

But what of the people who inhabit the modern nations of Israel? Ezekiel 14:3–5 tells us that the idols people have set up in their hearts have estranged them from their Creator and His ways! God's message to the people is to repent and to turn back to Him.

> Families are in flux because our nations' leaders have all failed to carry out their responsibilities honestly. Yet as God inspired Jeremiah to observe, "...My people love to have it so" (Jeremiah 5:31). Men and women have been seduced into abdicating their Godappointed roles through the allure of a self-centered and materialistic lifestyle—perhaps

the chief idol set up in the hearts of men and women throughout our Western nations.

When career becomes a

higher priority than family,

everyone suffers. As Godcentered family values give

way to selfish materialism.

children are wounded by

their absent parents' neglect.

As the constraints of traditional morality have broken down, the number of illegitimate births has skyrocketed. Young people, urged on by the media, are encouraged to experiment sexually and to view restraints upon any sexual activity outside of marriage as hopelessly unrealistic and out of date. The reality is that the overwhelming majority of single parent families are mired in poverty. Because of that, increasing pressure has been generated for the government to step in and do something.

With the breakdown of traditional morality has come the denigration of the traditional feminine role of wife and mother. Young girls are told that they can become anything that they wish to be. The implicit message is that they should aspire to traditionally male roles because these have value, while traditional female roles are seen as demeaning. Feminist rhetoric, coupled with the materialistic pull not only "to have it all" but also to have it right now, has produced devastating results for families. If Mom and Dad are both busily pursuing individual careers, then whom, pray tell, is taking care of the kids? Many women have become terribly stressed trying to juggle career and motherhood, and, as a result, society has seen the multiplication of "latchkey kids" and cries for more government programs to provide day care for children.

Families are in flux as the 21st century begins. Without a clear sense of definition, government will expand to fill the ensuing vacuum—and will increasingly usurp traditional family roles. The consequences—both to individuals and to society as a whole—will be devastating.

Values That Produce Families NOT in Flux

Many politicians pay lip service to family values. However, if we wish to move from empty rhetoric to practical solutions, we must examine exactly *which* values produce an intact and nurturing family. There is only one reliable source for such an examination—the Creator's instruction book, the Holy Bible.

Just what should be valued? Firstly, the God-assigned roles for male and female should be deeply valued and appreciated. Secondly,

Continued on page 29

TOMORROW'S WORLD

I must say that I am stirred up after reading "What Is Hidden by the Holidays?" (in the November-December 2000 *Tomorrow's World*). My family will no longer be keeping pagan holidays. I find your magazine wonderfu!!

J. W., New Haven, MI

Thanks for the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and all of the other literature that you have sent me. I find all this material very informative and educational. Moreover, all that you teach can be PROVED by studying Scripture and history. One question that I am repeatedly asked by mainstream Christians is "If we are so wrong about these things, then why does God allow healings in our Church?"

R. M., Dundalk, ON, Canada

Dear R.M.: "Healings" occur not just in different professing Christian denominations, but among members of practically all religious faiths. Yet this does not prove the truth of those faiths any more than it validates one denomination over another. We know that many socalled "healings" are frankly psychosomatic, and that even demons can perform "signs" at times (Revelation 16:14). But we also know that God provides many of His blessings to the good and the evil alike (Matthew 5:45). Note, for example, that the beggar God healed through Peter in Acts 3:6 had expressed no faith in Christ before his healing. Since Christ and the Apostles healed people according to their faith (cf. Mark 5:34), we should not be surprised if He sometimes honors the faith of sincere individuals who act according to their honest understanding. We should remember that God is working with all of humanity, who will eventually have the opportunity to hear the true Gospel and be saved. If God determines that the healing of someone not yet called will teach a needed lesson in the future, we should be happy for the one healed. Still, this does not give anyone a license to sin and expect God to hear and answer their prayers (see Questions and Answers, page 9).

I really am blessed to receive your magazine. I enjoy it so much, and have really begun to understand my purpose for existence. I'm not perfect, but pray to God every day to help me grow spiritually and to teach me what I need to learn and to help me walk in the footsteps of Christ. Thank God for your teachings and very helpful way.

C. B., Atlantic Beach, FL

I was encouraged to see your program on the air this past week. I wasn't sure if anyone was continuing to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom since the demise of the WCG and the *Plain Truth* magazine. When I came across your program *Tomorrow's World*, I was happy to see that the true Gospel was still being taught.

D. A. Los Angeles, CA

I needed that November issue of *Tomorrow's World*. That was one of the best written articles on the holidays, and how Satan has tricked this country and a big portion of the church on how Christmas came about. Don't ever get weary of doing good—you are making a difference.

P. R., San Diego, CA

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

I personally want to thank you ever so gratefully for the *Bible Study Course*. I am finding it good for the mind and soul while I am learning a great deal. I am even watching the mail, looking forward to receiving the next lesson, as I want to keep learning more.

M. A., Vancouver, BC, Canada

Editor's Note: Have you remembered to send in the test that came with Lesson Four? Some have stopped receiving the Bible Study Course after Lesson Four, because they have not returned the test that came with that lesson. It is NOT too late to return your Lesson Four test and begin receiving more lessons!

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

Are You Walking in the Footsteps of Christ?

By Douglas S. Winnail

esus Christ issued an invitation and a challenge to His disciples to "follow in His footsteps." A major aspect of His message was that "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Yet for countless millions of people, Christian and non-Christian alike, this physical life is filled with problems and diseases many of which a "Christ-like lifestyle" would almost totally prevent!

Down through the centuries, theological arguments over Jesus' teachings have split Christianity into hundreds of sects and denominations. Wars have been fought over the fine points of biblical doctrines. However, the clear, practical, powerful implications of Jesus' physical lifestyle are seldom mentioned as important. While His spiritual teachings are promoted and debated, His physical example is largely ignored.

How Jesus Lived

Have you ever wondered why Jesus, as the Son of God, came to this earth as a *carpenter* instead of an exalted, pampered monarch, or

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why He did not come as a learned scholar in a famous school in Greece or Rome? Or why not as a cloistered monk in a remote monastery where He could devote his life to quiet study and meditation, or as an altar boy in a large church in Jerusalem or Rome? Have you ever wondered why Jesus spent His youth in the hill country of Galilee instead of in a Jerusalem synagogue?

Growing up as a carpenter (Mark 6:3), Jesus spent many hours sawing, smoothing planks, drilling holes and fashioning joints with a hammer and chisel. As a builder "in a land of little wood," Jesus probably also worked with stone (*Everyday Life in Bible Times*, 1967, p. 330). This kind of labor in an age without power tools required a considerable expenditure of energy. Have you ever shaken hands with a carpenter or builder? Jesus was undoubtedly a strong, well-muscled person with a powerful grip.

In order to move about the hill country of Galilee, Jesus *walked*. To make the customary three trips to Jerusalem each year to keep the Holy Days (Passover, Pentecost and the fall fes-

tivals—Leviticus 23; Luke 2:41–42), Jesus would have walked about 150 miles round-trip on each occasion. Just to keep the Holy Days, Jesus would have walked in excess of 450 miles each year. When you consider that He probably walked a mile or more a day during the rest of the year, it is not hard to see that Jesus could have easily walked more than 1,000 miles every year!

The Jesus Christ who emerges from the pages of the Bible, and who left us the example that we should follow His steps (1 Peter 2:21), was a *physically active* individual. But why would the Savior of mankind choose such an active lifestyle? After all, many down through the ages have felt that a Christlike life was one of study, prayer, meditation and contemplation. Where was Jesus coming from mentally and spiritually? What principles determined His physical behavior?

Jesus' Mental Perspective

The principles that formed Christ's perspective on life are found in Scripture. Jesus stated, "I have kept My Father's commandments" and He taught that we should do the same (John 15:10). He fully understood that the purpose of the commandments was to promote human well being. After all, Moses had written more than 1,400 years earlier, "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments... *that it may go well with you...* that you *may prolong your days*" (Deuteronomy 4:40; cf. 5:29).

Scripture states that Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). Sin is defined as the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4, KJV). Jesus knew from the Bible that obedience to the laws of God would produce health and long life, and prevent the development of disease (Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 28:2–4). As the Son of God, with an intimate knowledge of the Creation, Jesus understood that the human body, like the universe, was designed to operate by physical laws. Violating these laws would bring physical problems—including disease and premature death.

Jesus lived a physically active life *as an example* for us to follow. He knew intuitively what modern science has only recently confirmed through thousands of studies—that exercise is a *bodily need* and that non-exercisers are actually transgressing the physical laws God established. The lifestyle *chosen* by the Savior of humanity was not an arbitrary or accidental decision. But why did He live that way?

The Benefits of Activity

Several motives for being physically active are immediately apparent. To practice the obedience He preached, Jesus had to give His physical body the exercise it needed to function healthily. This let Him be a positive, productive role model for all those with whom He came in contact. It gave Him physical stamina, and helped Him maintain the mental sharpness needed to carry out a three-and-a-half year ministry in the face of persecution.

Jesus intended His disciples to be "lights to the world." But first, they would have to personally experience the results (spiritually and physically) of the way of life He advocated by His example and teachings (Matthew 5:14). He knew that the validity of His teachings would be in the "fruits," or results experienced by those who chose to follow Him. For most people, under normal circumstances, good health and physical fitness can be a by-product of leading the Christian lifestyle.

Modern research shows that the benefits of physical activity are extremely important to every age group. Physically active children and adolescents have increased muscular strength, better coordination, more self-confidence and better school performance (*Tufts University Diet & Nutrition Newsletter*, Oct. 1991). They are also less likely to be overweight or engage in destructive behaviors like smoking and substance abuse (*Journal of School Health*, Dec. 1995). Physically active adults have a much lower risk of developing many diseases. They enjoy stronger immune systems, fewer colds and sick days, lower blood pressure, a more positive mental outlook and faster healing of injuries. Their life is *truly* more abundant!

Senior citizens who begin to exercise or remain physically active reduce their risk of osteoporosis, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer. They experience less depression and have less need for expensive medical care. Their life expectancy increases and their overall quality of life improves (*Geriatrics*, May 1993). Physical activity increases muscular strength and coordination, which enables older individuals to walk faster and climb stairs better. It also reduces the fear of falls and broken bones, which enhances a feeling of independence (*Tufts University Diet & Nutrition Newsletter*, Sept. 1994). Physical activity appears to slow down the normal aging process. Even *disabled* *individuals* confined to beds or wheelchairs feel better if they are involved in an exercise program.

One of the most intriguing aspects of physical activity is its effect on the brain. People who have a physically active lifestyle are observed to be more mentally stable, handle stress more effectively, exhibit better mental skills (creativity, memory, math, organization and logical reasoning) and are less prone to depression. This appears to be related to more oxygen getting to the brain as the result of exercise, faster transmission of nerve impulses, and the release of endorphins (moodelevating, pain-killing chemicals produced naturally in the brain), which cause the brain to relax naturally (Health, Mar. 1983; An Invitation to Health, 1992, pp. 172–174).



tion, mental abilities and a feeling of independence that *could be retained* if they engaged in regular physical activity (*Tufts Newsletter*, Sept. 1994).

Children are, perhaps, the most unfortunate victims of our physically inactive society. Since the 1960s, children have gotten heavier as fitness levels have declined. Estimates suggest that 20 to 30 percent are overweight, nearly one half do not get enough exercise to develop healthy hearts and lungs, and over 90 percent have at least one major risk factor for heart disease (*An Invitation to Health*, 1992, p. 155). Television viewing, video games and poor parental examples—all of which are linked to inactivity—appear to be primary contributing factors (*New Scientist*, Apr. 23, 1994).

This regrettable picture is hardly the "abundant life" that Jesus envisioned for humanity. However, it is the "fruit" of failing to "follow in the footsteps" of the Savior of mankind. We are definitely reaping what we are sowing (Galatians 6:7).

Changing Direction

The closing years of the 20th century witnessed a major effort to curb this epidemic of inactivity. More and more people are walking, running, swimming, cycling and enrolling in exercise classes. Corporations are developing health promotion programs for employees. Some have even proposed that the United States government produce warning labels (similar to those found on alcohol and tobacco products) stating, "The Surgeon General has determined that the lack of physical activity is detrimental to your health" (USA Today, Feb. 5, 1996). The goal of all this effort is to *foster a change* in established attitudes, habits and behaviors in order to gain the benefits that regular physical activity will bring.

In biblical terms, this change of direction is called *repentance*. This was, and is, a major aspect of Christ's message (Mark 1:14–15; Luke 13:1–5). Peter urged a crowd of some 3,000 to "repent" and "be saved from this perverse [turning away from the evidence of what is good] generation" (Acts 2:38, 40). Although Peter was speaking in spiritual terms—of spiritual repentance—the physical ramifications of his challenge, as we have seen in this article, could also apply.

However, *real repentance*—real change—involves more than just a momentary twinge of conscience

Couch Potatoes Pay the Price

While most of the professing Christian world has chosen to reject Christ's example of keeping God's Sabbath and the Holy Days (Luke 4:16; John 7:8–10), most people in the industrialized Western nations have also chosen *not to follow* Jesus' physically active lifestyle. Estimates suggest that 80 to 90 percent of people in these countries do not get adequate amounts of physical activity and that 25 percent or more live essentially sedentary lives (*Time*, Oct. 7, 1983).

In America, unfit employees cost businesses more than \$100 billion per year in preventable health care costs. Inactive men and women have a death rate from all causes four or five times higher than their more active counterparts. A recent study found that men who exercised only once a week were seven times more likely to die suddenly than those who exercised at least five times a week (*The Arizona Republic*, Nov. 9, 2000). Lack of regular physical activity is a *major reason* why cardiovascular diseases and diabetes are leading causes of death in developed countries.

Inactive individuals tend to have higher blood pressure, be more obese and are more prone to diabetes and the effects of osteoporosis. Hip fractures hospitalize more than 200,000 elderly people each year in America, resulting in nearly seven billion dollars in health care costs (*Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, June 12, 1990). Elderly people who do not exercise *lose* muscle mass and strength, neuromuscular coordinaand a hope to do better. The biblical term *repent* (Greek *metanoeo*) means to turn with sorrow from a past course of action that was detrimental and sinful (breaking God's laws), and thoroughly amending your ways! It involves not only changing your mind, but also changing your actions—by developing *new* attitudes, perspectives, habits and behaviors (see Romans 6:4–6). If we seriously desire to walk in *all* the footsteps of Jesus Christ, and to experience the abundant life of which He spoke, most of us will have to *change* how we think, what we believe and how we live our daily lives—including our *physical* lifestyle!

The Path to Follow

But changing attitudes and habits is not an easy task! Established thoughts and behaviors *resist* being altered! However, change is easier when we clearly

see the dangers of continuing old habits, understand the benefits we can gain by adopting new behaviors and learn what actions are needed to replace our old behaviors. This gives us a clear path we can follow.

Basic motives are also important if lasting change is going to occur. While we may exercise to improve our physical health, appearance and skills, these are only physical reasons. The sad fact is that

many more people *know* they should exercise than actually do! We need a more powerful motivation in order to achieve lasting changes. This is where religious values come in. When religious reasons are coupled with physical reasons, real change is more likely to occur, because we act on our *core beliefs* what is right or wrong, good or evil—what glorifies God and what does not!

Jesus knew this! He understood how the human mind works. It is no accident that Jesus instructed His disciples to "follow" in His footsteps and to "walk" as He walked. Jesus knew the positive results that would come by following His physical example. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit... therefore *glorify God in your body* and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). It is our *responsibility* as Christians to *take care* of the body God has given us. This can become a powerful motivating factor!



In a letter to Timothy, Paul further states that while spiritual growth is most important, "bodily exercise profits a little [for a little while in this life]" (see 1 Timothy 4:8). This is exactly what modern science understands about the benefits of physical exercise-its benefits are important, but they are temporary and do not last long! For optimal results, physical activity must occur regularly-once a month or once a year just does not work! This requires discipline. Again, Paul comments that anyone who desires to walk in the footsteps of Christ must discipline his mind and body in order to achieve the rewards Jesus promised (1 Corinthians 9:24–27; Hebrews 12:11). Exercise benefits the body in this life. The discipline required to exercise becomes part of our character that will last for eternity! Real Christianity is not a spectator sport! It is an active and challenging way of life that involves

growing and changing, overcoming old attitudes and habits and replacing detrimental behaviors with new ones which the Bible calls *overcoming* (see Revelation 2:26; 3:12). Overcoming is just as important in the physical realm as it is in the spiritual! It is also the basis for our future reward in the kingdom of God (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

The *good news* about developing a more physically active

lifestyle is that almost any amount of regular activity is better than none! If you cannot start with 30 minutes a day, then try *ten minutes three times a day*. Instead of a coffee break, take a short walk—out the door, down the hall, down the stairs, around the building, back up the stairs and back into your office. You will feel refreshed; you will burn off calories and strengthen your heart, lungs, bones and muscles. Exercise with a friend, or with your pet, or make it a family affair—talk over the day as you walk together. Let your children and grandchildren see your example. Invite them to go along—show them the path to follow! Regular physical activity will change your life—how you feel, how you think and how you look!

Jesus Christ came to this earth to *point the way* to a more abundant life—not only now in this physical life—but also in the future kingdom of God (see John 10:10). Jesus' mission at His First Coming was to call and train a small core of disciples (John 17:6–19). By following His example, His disciples would develop an understanding of the practical applications and benefits of His teachings. Eventually they would reach the point where they "trembled at God's Word" (Isaiah 66:2)—where they understood and deeply valued Scripture. As they learned to live this new way of life, they would grow towards the perfection (the spiritual maturity) that God desires eventually for all mankind (Genesis 17:1; Matthew 5:48).

Those who come to understand the value of living according to God's physical and spiritual laws will, in the future, be able to share this life-saving knowledge with all humanity. As teachers in the coming kingdom of God, they will show the right way to live (see Isaiah 30:20–21). The saints—future sons and daughters of God, who will reign on this earth with Jesus Christ (Revelation 5:10)—will show millions of human beings, previously confused and deceived, how to walk in the

THE DAY OF THE LORD (continued from page 13)

But the seventh trumpet is also called the third woe! Why? Because it will also signal the final seven plagues. This will be an intense fulfillment of the day of God's wrath. "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete" (Revelation 15:1).

You can read the description of these plagues in Revelation 16. They include plagues of painful sores on those who have worshiped the Beast power and its image. They include even greater poisoning of rivers and seas to the extent that "every living creature in the sea died" (Revelation 16:3). The sun will become hotter—resulting in extreme heat waves tormenting those who will not repent of their sins (vv. 8-9)!

A Victorious Ending!

Finally, when Christ returns to this earth, He will judge and

conquer all His enemies. These are the enemies of peace. These are the enemies of Christ—and these powerful armies are influenced by fallen angels or demons (cf. Revelation 16:14).

This year-long period called the Day of the Lord ends with the announcement that Christ is taking over all the kingdoms and governments of this world! That is the good news we all look forward to hearing!

Jesus Christ will be victorious over the world's armies! They will foolishly choose to fight Him at His coming, but God Himself, the King of kings, will prevent humanity from destroying itself! Jesus Christ will save the world from destruction and will bring our planet peace and restoration for a thousand years! We all look forward to hearing that seventh trumpet sound, because it will announce the coming Kingdom of God on earth.

In one sense the Day of the Lord is the year preceding the return of Christ. In another sense, it continues on through the millennium and on out to eternity.

footsteps of Jesus Christ and live a more abundant life! These individuals will be effective teachers because they first learned how to live that way themselves.

Regular physical activity was an important part of Jesus Christ's lifestyle. It is absolutely necessary for our bodies to function properly and be a "temple" of God's Spirit. The physical and spiritual laws of God are part of the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). Walking in the footsteps of Christ brings real benefits. That is part of the gospel—the good news that Jesus Christ brought to this earth by His example as well as His teachings! You can prepare for a meaningful role and an exciting future in the coming kingdom of God if you *begin now* to walk in the footsteps of Christ—both physically and spiritually! As you begin your walk, you may want to request our free publication *Your Ultimate Destiny*, which explains this exciting future in more detail.

> The Apostle Peter described it this way: "But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:10–13).

> Peter exhorted Christians to be in a spiritual state of readiness. We must be alert to the Day of the Lord, a sobering period of judgment on the nations. Beyond that lies tomorrow's world, a wonderful millennium with beauty, prosperity and restoration under the rulership of Christ. May God speed that day! And may you and I be ready for it!

FAMILIES IN FLUX (continued from page 22)

the institution of marriage itself must also be valued. Described in Scripture as a union designed by the Creator to be exclusive and permanent, marriage in contemporary society is increasingly redefined or treated as irrelevant. Thirdly, children must be valued as God's gift to the family. Upholding these values and valuing the spiritual above the material, the family unit can find stability.

In the beginning of the world as we know it, the Creator God said "Let Us make man in Our image" (Genesis 1:26). The Creator formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into His nostrils the breath of life. Then, noting that the man was alone, the Eternal God said that He would make a helper exactly compatible for the man. Causing a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, God took from him a rib and made the first woman. In this way the woman came from his own body and was intimately connected with him (Genesis 2:18-23). Man and woman were created as joint heirs of salvation, and have the potential to be born into the Family of God as real sons and daughters (1 Peter 3:7; 2 Corinthians 6:18).

From the beginning, the Creator assigned roles to His creation (Genesis 2:15, 18). After sin entered the world, those roles would be harder to fulfill and every aspect of life would be touched with sorrow. Recognizing this, both men and women must go to their Creator for help in overcoming the obstacles and difficulties involved in carrying out their roles. Adam was assigned to work hard and provide a living for his family, while Eve was to be his helper. Her body was designed to carry and bear children. The Apostle Paul addressed this when he encouraged young women to marry, have children and manage their households (1 Timothy 5:14).

God inspired the prophet Malachi to record that the God of Israel hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). He reminded God's people in his day that marriage was a covenant relationship and that God served as a witness to the covenant. Why was a permanent holy union between one man and one woman so important? The answer is given in Malachi 2:15 where we are told that God is seeking a godly seed. The Creator is concerned about the coming generation. The ability of our children to achieve their human potential is greatly helped by coming from a loyal, intact family.

Children, the psalmist tells us, are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3). If we value them as such, then we will expend great energy and effort to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. While physical needs are certainly important, even more vital are spiritual needs. Many contemporary parents rush around to provide material things while neglecting to nourish the spiritual hunger that lies at the core of every human being.

"Marriage is honorable," the Apostle Paul tells us (Hebrews 13:4). Preserving and cherishing what Scripture describes as a sacred relationship protects the integrity of the family unit. The Bible expects those who are older to teach these values by their words and deeds to others who are younger and just beginning to establish their families (Titus 2:3–5).

Husbands are to lead their families, and to love their wives with a sacrificial love like that of Christ for the Church (Ephesians 5:25). Men are to dwell with their wives understanding that they are more fragile and easily hurt and therefore they should show them special courtesy and consideration (1 Peter 3:7). A wife is admonished to show respect and deference to her husband's office, and to yield to his leadership (Ephesians 5:22–24).

Proverbs 31 describes the virtuous woman, whose husband's heart safely trusts in her because she will do him good and not evil all her life (vv. 11–12). Her husband never needs to worry about betrayal or humiliation at her hands. He can open up and share his innermost thoughts and dreams, and know that they are safe with her. (For more on this important subject, write for our free booklet, *Build a JOYOUS Marriage*).

So many in the Western world are sacrificing their children on the altar of materialism. Refusing to become ensnared in this acquisitiveness will set the stage for building a family far different from contemporary models. What does it take to do this? Fundamentally it takes faith. Faith that God is right and that the roles He established are right and good. Faith that God's way works when we properly apply it. Faith that what has value to God is of far greater worth than all of the alternatives touted in contemporary society.

Are families in flux? Yours does not have to be—if you embrace the eternal values that come straight from the Creator!

AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS? (continued from page 3)

"democracy," they are also—bit by bit—beginning to lose the profound respect for America and its institutions which many of them held in the aftermath of World War II.

Truly, the "pride" of America's power is being broken around the world.

And IF this situation leads to political gridlock in Washington, D.C.—as many feel it will—America's prestige and power will sink even lower. As Senator John McCain said: "The likely scenario is gridlock. The other scenario is that members of both parties figure out that the American people are fed up. They don't get it—why we can't work together on issues that are important to them and their families."

Additionally, as this issue's lead article explains, America's record-shattering national debt has now reached a point where many top economists are concerned that it could lead to DISASTER. Note this quote:

"The inevitable question raised by huge and growing trade deficits is whether this situation represents a train wreck waiting to happen,' said Ken Mayland, economist with Clear View Economics in Pepper Pike, Ohio" (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, November 22, 2000).

Many other prophetic situations are right now coming to the fore, including the revival of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe, foreshadowed by the fledgling European Union. But in *this* brief message, I want to focus *all* of your minds on the fact that America and our Israelitish allies are at a major crossroads. The clouds on the world horizon are getting darker. Truly, apart from a genuine, heartfelt REPENTANCE on the part of our English-speaking nations, we may be turning the last corner before the prophesied Great Tribulation strikes within the next several years.

As we have seen, when we have finally hit bottom, God prophetically instructs our peoples: "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you SEEK Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the LATTER DAYS, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice" (Deuteronomy 4:29–30).

In the coming months and years, you will prob-

ably begin to hear and read more and more about America's national malaise. Our SINS will undoubtedly continue to increase, and God's judgments will begin to fall on us—and on our peoples in Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The confusion of this current presidential election has already led to hard feelings between our nation's liberals and conservatives. Will the increasing lack of respect for our leaders' authority result in protests, riots and a breakdown in the peace and civility that America and most of the English-speaking nations have enjoyed for so many years?

Will our trade deficit loom even larger and lead to a plummeting dollar and financial difficulties for the United States and for our major corporations? Will the European Union rush in to fill the void of American power and begin to *replace the United States* as the major power influencing events in the Middle East and around the world?

If we still do not repent, will our weather turn really ugly—with alternating massive floods and droughts, leading to crop losses and eventual food shortages? Will the prophesied *disease epidemics* begin to occur? Will immense *earthquakes* strike America, Canada and Britain?

My friends, all these things and more will begin to change EVERYTHING around you IF there is not a national and individual *repentance before God* and a willingness to obey *His* laws and follow *His* ways instead of the modernism and sheer paganism that is so often substituted for genuine Christianity.

If you are willing to listen to the words of your Creator, then *read carefully* and *check up in your Bible* on the powerful articles appearing each month in this magazine. And put forth the effort to call or write us *today* and enroll in the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. This outstanding course will *really* help you to understand and prove to yourself God's TRUTH, if you are willing to *study* it with an open mind.

We in this Work are God's "Watchmen" (Ezekiel 33). As many of you already know, we are not part of the "mainstream." We will tell you what is *really* beginning to happen on the world scene, and what *you* should do about it. God in His mercy has given us genuine *understanding*. Let us share that understanding with *you*, before it is too late.



Television Superstation Tomorrow's World Spanish Radio TY/Radio Log

International

AUSTRALIA

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

-GUYANA

Georgetown: NBTV-Ch 9, SUN 10:00 am

-JAMAICA

Kingston: CVM TV-Ch 4, 8 & 9, SUN 6:00 am

United States

- AL, Birmingham: Cable-Ch 4, FRI 4:30 pm AL, Troy: *WRJM*–Ch 67, SUN 8:30 am AR, Fayetteville: *Access TV*–Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm
- AR, Little Rock: Comcast -- Ch 18, FRI 9:30 am
- AR, Little Rock: KASN -- Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am
- AZ, Phoenix: Access-Ch 22, SUN 11:30 am
- AZ, Prescott: Cable-Ch13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
- AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 73, SAT 5:00 pm; SUN 11:30 am CA, Anaheim: Adelphia—Ch 3, WED 6:00 pm
- CA, Buena Park: Comcast-Ch 55, THUR 7:30 pm
- CA, Eureka: Cox-Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm
- CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner-Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am
- CA, Modesto: Cable One-Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm
- CA, Norwalk: *Public Access*—Ch 55, THUR 5:00 pm CA, Oceanside: *KOCT*—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm CA, Riverbank: *SONIC*—Ch 9, WED 6:00 pm

- CA, Sacramento: RCCTV-Ch 75, WED 7:00 pm
- CA, San Andreas: MediaOne-Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm
- CA, San Diego: Cox-Ch 18 & 24 THUR 6:00 pm
- CA, San Francisco: Community TV-Ch 29 THUR 5:00 pm
- CA, Sonora: TCCCA–Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm CA, Turlock: Marcus–Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
- CT, Enfield: Cox-Ch 15, WED 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
- CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media-Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
- FL, Gainesville: Cox-Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
- FL, Ocala: Cox-Ch 19, SUN 10:00 am
- FL, Tampa: Time Warner-Ch 19 & 20, SAT 8:00 pm; SUN 8:00 pm
- GA, Macon: Cox Cable-Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm
- HI, Hilo: Na Leo-Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
- HI, Honolulu: Olelo-Ch 52, THUR 2:00 pm
- HI, Kailua-Kona: Na Leo-Ch 14, TUE 10:30 pm; FRI 9:30 pm
- HI, Kauai: Ho'ike-Ch 12, MON 3:30 pm
- HI, Lanai: Akaku–Ch 3, 12 & 13, WED 8:30 pm
- HI, Maui: Akaku-Ch 44, WED 8:30 pm
- HI, Molokai: Akaku-Ch 3, 12 & 13 WED 8:30 pm
- IA, Des Moines: AT&T—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am IA, Dubuque: TCI of Iowa—Ch 45, THUR 7:30 pm; FRI 1:30 pm;
- MON 3:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm
- IA, Waterloo: *Cable*—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm ID, Pocatello: *Vision*—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm
- IL, Bloomington: AT&T-Ch 10, SUN 11:30 am; WED 7:00 pm
- IL, Chicago: WGN-Cable, SUN 6:00 am (ET)
- IL, Peoria: AT&T-Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm
- IL, Springfield: TCI-Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm
- IN, Bloomington: Insight-Ch 53, WED 7:00 pm
- IN, Anderson: *Insight*—Ch 3, WED 9:30 pm IN, Kokomo: *Insight*—Ch 16, WED 10:30 pm IN, Lafayette: *Insight*—Ch 16, TUE 9:30 pm

- KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm KS, Parsons: Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm

-MEXICO

Mexico City: Cambio-1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

Δ -PHILIPPINES

Borongan: Borongan Cable-Ch 17, SAT 3:00 pm Kidapawan: Mindanao, Kidapawan Cable-FRI 7:30 pm Naval, Leyte: Naval Cable-Ch 11, SUN 9:00 am Hinabangan, Samar: Omerez-Ch 7, SUN 9:00 am

- CANADA (nationwide) ON, Toronto: Vision-SUN 6:30 pm (ET & PT) — NEW ZEALAND (nationwide)
- Auckland: Prime Television—SUN 8:30 am
- LA, Monroe: Time Warner-Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm MA, Cambridge: CCTV-CH 22, TUE 4:00 pm MA, Malden: Access TV-CH 3, SUN 11:00 am MD, Baltimore: TCI-Ch 5, SUN 4:00 pm, WED 4:00 pm MN, Duluth: Public Access-Ch 24, SAT 7:00 pm; SUN 7:00 pm MN, Minneapolis: NW Community-Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm MN, Roseville: CTV-Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 3:30 & 11:30 am MO, Kansas City: *KCWE*–Ch 29, SUN 6:00 am MO, Springfield: *KSPR*–Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am MO, St. Louis: Double Helix-Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm MS, Jackson: Time Warner-Ch 11, WED 12:00 am & 4:00 pm ND, Bismarck: CATV-Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm NE, Omaha: KPTM-Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am NH, Hanover: CATV-Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am NM, Albuquerque: CCC27-Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm NM, Rio Rancho: CABLE ONE-Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm NV, Carson City: Access TV-Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm NV, Gardnerville: Community Access-Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm NV, Reno/Sparks: *SNCT*–Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm NY, Binghamton: *Time Warner*–Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm NY, Brooklyn: *BCAT*–Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner-Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision-Ch 70, THUR 10:30 pm NY, Irondequoit: ICAT-Ch 15, No set time NY, New York: Bronxnet-Ch 70, THUR 5:30 am & 11:00 pm NY, Oneonta: Time Warner-Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm NY. Port Jefferson: TC/--Ch 1/99 MON 9:00 pm NY, Queens: QPTV-Ch 35, Time Varies NY, Riverhead: Cablevision-Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm NY, Rochester: Community TV-Ch 15, SUN 10:00 am OR, Portland: MCTV-CH 11, SUN 12:30 pm PA, Sayre: Time Warner-Ch 18, MON-FRI, 5:00 pm SC, Charleston: Comcast-Ch 2, SUN 6:30 pm TX, Austin: *Community Access*—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm TX, Corpus Christi: *TCI*—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am TX, Dallas: Community Television-Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am TX, Temple: *KPLE*—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm VA, Chesterfield: Comcast-Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm VA, Richmond: AT&T-Ch 7, SUN 9:00 pm VT, Barre: Ch 7, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 11:00 pm WA, Kennewick: Charter-Ch 13, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm WA, Seattle: TCI-Ch 29, SAT 12:00 pm WA, Vancouver: Clark/Vancouver-Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am WI, Wausau: Charter-Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am

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

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TELEVISION SUPERSTATIONS: WGN: SUN 6:00 am ET VISION: Canada: SUN 6:30 pm ET & PT PRIME TELEVISION: New Zealand, Auckland: SUN 8:30 am

New Television Station:

MT, Great Falls: Public Access TV—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm

Radio Stations:

Trinidad & Tobago, TBC, Port of Spain—730 kHz AM, THUR 5:30 pm United Kingdom, Manx Radio—1368 kHz AM, 89/97.2/103.7 mHz FM SUN 10:00 pm Mexico, Mexico City, Cambio—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon Barbados, Barbados, CBC—900 kHz AM, MON 8:00 pm Philippines, Manila, DWBL—1242 kHz AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm Philippines, Ozamiz City, DXSY—1242 kHz AM, SUN 8:00 am Martinique, Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am Martinique, Radio Campêche—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am Martinique, Radio St. Pierre—88.7 FM, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am South Africa, Gauteng Province, Radio Punt—1322 AM, THUR Times vary South Africa, Western Cape, Radio Tygerburg—104 FM, THUR 7:30 pm

New Radio Station:

Northern Ireland, Portadown, Radio Star—981 AM, THUR 9:00 pm