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Tomorrow's World

...For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Reality of Christ's Coming Kingdom



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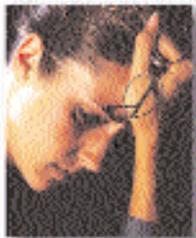
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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

Do You Ever “Seek” God?

Most people in the United States and Canada have some kind of religion. Increasingly, as polls have shown, millions are breaking away from the mainstream churches and are “inventing” their *own religion*. They adapt bits and pieces of various religious teachings and traditions that seem to fit their needs or desires, and end up with an eclectic mix of ideas.

Americans, especially, are constantly encouraged: “Go to the church of *your choice!*”

The implied message is that one religion is just as good as another, so your “choice” is valid *no matter what* that choice might be. So vast numbers of Westerners are now dabbling in eastern religions, or adapting some Muslim beliefs and practices or getting into the “New Age” movement.

IF the Bible is not really inspired by the Creator, and IF there *is* no real personal God with direct instructions for us, then all this religious “dabbling” might not be a serious problem. But *is* there a real God who is the Father of all true Christians? *Is* the Bible the inspired revelation from our Creator to tell mankind its real purpose—and how to attain that great purpose?

If so, we had better quit wandering around aimlessly and had better LISTEN to what the Creator tells us in His inspired Word! The Bible clearly reveals Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and as the “Word” or Spokesman from the beginning—the One through whom the world was created (John 1:1–18). Speaking in the first person, Jesus Christ tells us, “I am the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

According to the above statement, you can *only* come to God through Jesus Christ. And Jesus Himself warned His “would be” follow-

ers: “But WHY do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

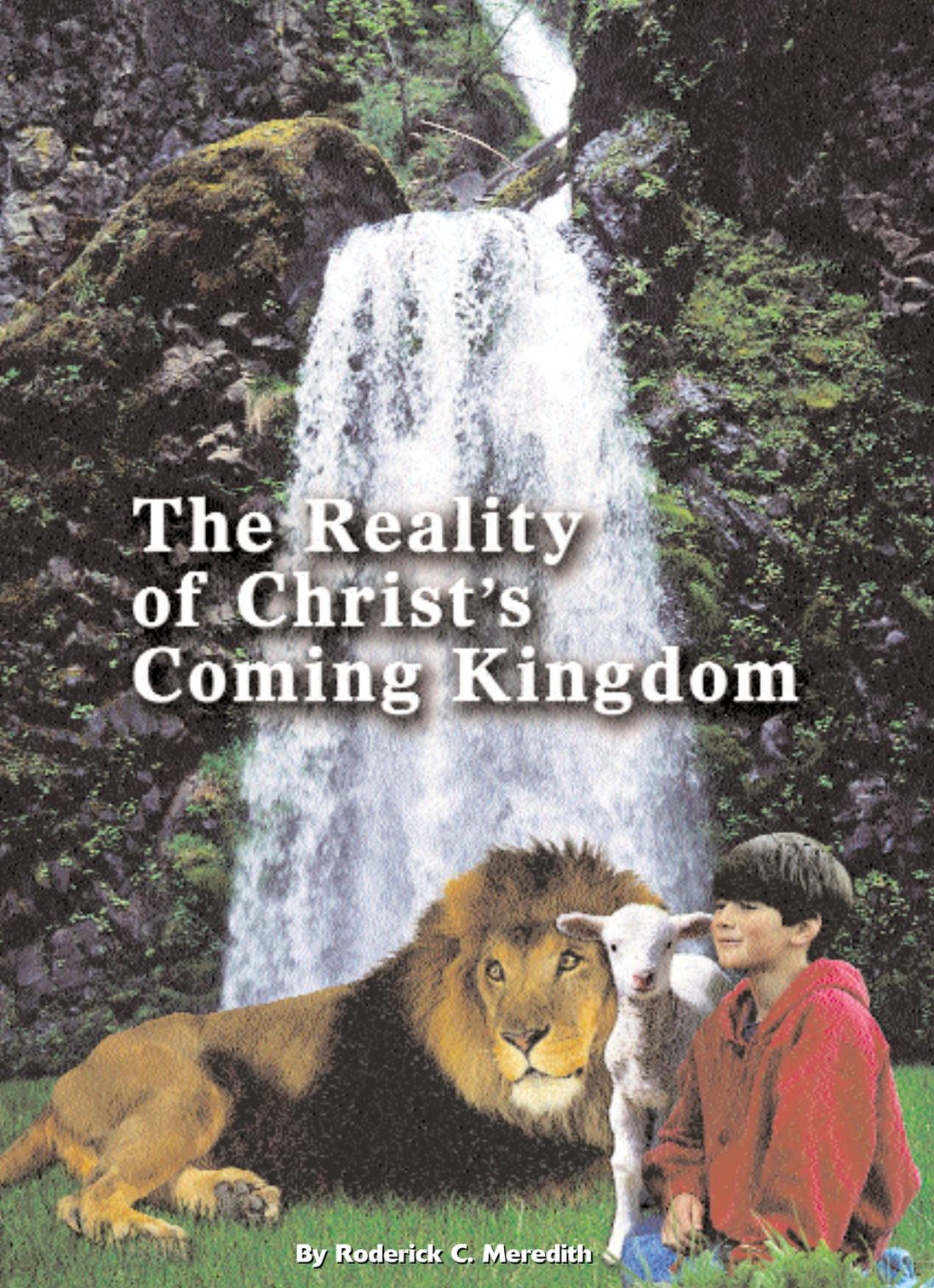
“But,” many exclaim, “I am all mixed up! With all the religious confusion out there, I don’t know what to say or what to believe about God. But, yes, I *do believe* the Bible was inspired by God.”

That is at least a good starting point. If you believe the Bible is God’s “Instruction Manual” to mankind—meant to show us what to believe and how to live—then you should really *study* this inspired book just as you would study a textbook, for instance, to learn a language. You should read and *study* through the entire Bible, chapter by chapter, just as you would a college history text that you needed to understand in order to pass a final exam. To help your study, *why not* also purchase an exhaustive concordance, and carefully go through the Bible, subject by subject, as you might with a medical textbook?

And you should honestly SEEK God and His Truth with *all your heart!* Many people profess an “interest” in God, but they just drift through life without ever truly “seeking” Him and without ever really PROVING to themselves that He exists—that the Bible *is* His inspired Word and that they need to DO what God’s inspired Word tells them to do. *Yet these are absolutely the MOST IMPORTANT matters in life!*

God tells us of the time in the “latter days” when our peoples will have been in a great national captivity, and will finally *repent* in their humbled condition: “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 dis-

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The Reality of Christ's Coming Kingdom

By Roderick C. Meredith

Millions of professing Christians have been told that they will “float off to heaven” with NOTHING to do but just sit for eternity staring at the face of God.

What does the *Bible* say?

It is vital to realize that the Bible is the ONLY sure guide to what is *really going to happen* in the future. Various human prophets and prognosticators have all kinds of ideas and guesses—most of them WRONG. The inspired revelation of God tells us—*often in detail*—what is going to happen. The Holy Bible alone reveals not only the future, but the great PURPOSE being worked out here on Earth.

The Apostle Peter was inspired to tell us: “We have also a more SURE WORD of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts” (2 Peter 1:19, KJV). He then stated, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21, KJV). So God, through the Holy Spirit, *directly inspired* the prophecies of the Bible.

The Word of God makes it very clear that Jesus Christ—now seated at God’s right hand—will come back to RULE the nations of *this earth* as King of kings: “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). We are told in Colossians 3:1–4 to think and meditate on what GOD is doing: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.” As these verses state, do you want to appear with Christ in GLORY when He returns? If so, you and I need to BELIEVE what God tells us in His inspired Word. We need to be willing to DO what God commands us to do. For if we continue to believe the lies and misrepresentations of mainstream Christianity about “going to heaven,” and if we act on their deceptive teachings about the entire WAY of salvation, then we will simply be “missing” when Christ comes to set up His Government on this earth!

Picture the REALITY of Christ’s Government!

God’s inspired revelation tells us that He will “send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20–21). The entire Bible tells us that God will “restore” His Government, His Laws and His way of life to this entire earth.

We are told in 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” In our mind’s eye we

should picture the GLORY of Christ’s return as King of kings—the great shout of the archangels’ voice announcing the arrival of Earth’s sovereign Ruler, and the mighty blast of the Last Trumpet! When Christ’s returns, the above verse says that we will be “with the Lord.” So where will that be?

The inspired “prayer of the saints” in Revelation 5:9–10 says very clearly that Christ has made the true saints “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth”—NOT up in heaven! Revelation 20:6 describes the reward of God’s true saints, to join Christ’s ruling Kingdom in the first resurrection: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

Speaking in the first person, Jesus Christ tells us: “And he who OVERCOMES, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). Those true Christians who overcome themselves, the world and Satan will be given AWESOME responsibilities under Jesus Christ in ruling the nations and in straightening out the wretched problems of this world’s society. Will we rule directly under Jesus Christ? Or does the living Christ already have a PLAN in mind—an entire governmental structure which He and the Father will use in Tomorrow’s World?

The prophet Abraham is called the “father” of the faithful

(Romans 4:1, 11–12, 16). He, along with Isaac and Jacob, will be in top positions—perhaps similar to cabinet ministers or key advisers—in Christ’s coming government (Matthew 8:11). Other outstanding servants of God from ancient times will also be in top positions. In the “vision” of the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 17:1–9), both Moses and Elijah were shown to be key figures in that coming kingdom.

God described King David of ancient Israel as “a man after My own heart, who will DO all My will” (Acts 13:22). What will David do in Christ’s world-ruling Government? Many scriptures give the answer! Hosea tells us, in a prophecy for the “latter days,” that: “the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:4–5).

And God tells us that after the ten-tribed “House of Israel”—along with the Jewish people—all return from their coming captivity: “‘it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them’” (Jeremiah 30:8–9). Ezekiel 34:23–24 and Ezekiel 37:24–25 describe David as the coming King over the tribes of Israel—with the Jews and Israelites finally reunited as one nation again (vv. 19–22). There

will be NO MORE “anti-Semitism” when all the tribes of Israel finally realize that they are truly brothers!

Serving directly under King David, ruling each individual tribe or *nation* of Israel, will be the 12 Apostles. Jesus Himself promised them: “So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’” (Matthew 19:28).

The True “Saints” Given RULERSHIP

If you and I truly *surrender to God*, and Christ uses us in His coming government, what might we be doing? In the inspired parable of the pounds (or “minas” as the *New King James Version* translates this measure of money), the *faithful* servants of God were given RULE over cities in Christ’s government: “Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, *have authority over TEN cities*” (Luke 19:11–19).

“BUT,” some of the liberal scholars will exclaim, “this was just a parable. You surely don’t think Jesus was predicting actual rulership over real cities here on Earth, do you?”

YES! *I certainly do!*

For even the Apostle Paul—NOT speaking in parables—clearly stated: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things

that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

You see, my friends, for nearly 2,000 years various scholars, monks, bishops and theologians have desperately tried to “water down” the consistent teaching of Scripture that a literal GOVERNMENT will be set up *on this earth* under the direct rulership of Christ and the resurrected saints! Yet the early Christians all understood and believed this inspired truth. Writing of the beliefs of the early church, renowned historian Edward Gibbon writes in his monumental work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*:

“The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labour and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection.”

Back in the book of Daniel, Almighty God revealed that at the time of the end, “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:27). So, as we have seen, Peter stated that God has spoken of Christ’s coming rule over the earth and the “times of restoration of all things” by the mouth of ALL His holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:21).

We have also seen that Christ and the Father have a specific GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE planned, with definite responsibilities outlined for Abraham, Moses, David, the Apostles and other true saints of God. We, the “ordinary” saints—IF we will yield to let Christ rule our lives—will also be given positions of responsibility ruling individual cities or perhaps minor departments in Christ’s government—ruling from the new world capital in Jerusalem. What an EXCITING life we have just ahead of us in Christ’s soon-coming Kingdom!

Christ’s GLORIOUS Kingdom

In Zechariah 14:1–4, God’s word gives us a detailed description of Christ’s return and the early years of His Kingdom: “Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the

city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.” Then God reveals in verse 9: “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.” So Christ and the saints will be *on the earth*—NOT up in heaven!

Immediately after Christ’s return, He will *punish* all the nations which fought against Jerusalem (vv. 12–13). Then “the

up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain” (vv. 16–17).

The world’s professing Christians have been taught that GOD’S Sabbaths and Festivals are “Jewish”—and so ought not to be observed. The Living Christ is going to SHAKE these people by literally cutting off their water and finally sending

Days—God’s Master Plan if you would like to learn more about this vital subject.

It may now be difficult for us to imagine the *thrill* and the JOY of untold thousands of people from all over the world coming to Jerusalem to keep God’s Festivals. For they will know that Christ the King will literally *be there in person*—not only in Spirit. They will come up to rejoice in God’s blessings in Tomorrow’s World and to WORSHIP the King of kings!

As the author of beauty and good music, God guided King



Various scholars, monks, bishops and theologians have desperately tried to “water down” the consistent teaching of Scripture that a literal GOVERNMENT will be set up *on this earth* under the direct rulership of Christ and the resurrected saints!

WEALTH of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance” (v. 14). So, as we shall soon see, God will bless the physical peoples of Israel and Judah with awesome WEALTH when they have repented and have been brought to the land of Israel after their national captivity.

What then?

Most mainstream Christians have heard NOTHING about what God next reveals, because they have never been taught about the Sabbath and the religious festivals God gave for ALL of mankind through all ages. Notice what happens next after Christ’s return: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go

“plagues” on them if they stubbornly refuse to come up and “KEEP the Feast of Tabernacles” (v. 18).

Egyptians, Chinese, Americans—ALL are going to learn to keep this inspiring Festival of God (and ALL of God’s Festivals!) which pictures the millennial rule of Christ and the resulting great “fall harvest” of souls when God’s truth will permeate the earth. When God first gave these Feasts to ancient Israel, the fall festival was called the “Feast of Ingathering” (Exodus 23:16). Jesus and the Apostles kept this festival (John 7:1–14) and *all* of God’s Festivals. Soon, God will require the whole world to KEEP these Festivals which picture His great PLAN. Please write for our very informative booklet entitled, *The Holy*

David and King Solomon and others to organize magnificent choirs to sing praise to God at special occasions (1 Chronicles 15:16; 2 Chronicles 5:13–14). Can you imagine the awesome music that will accompany the Festivals of God and the worship of the Living Christ at Jerusalem? Can you imagine the magnificent processions of dignitaries, and of men and women from all walks of life, streaming into the Holy City—THRILLED with the opportunity to see and to directly worship their Creator? Many will bring with them beautiful gifts for Christ the King. Nearly all will bring with them precious things with which to WORSHIP the “Lord of Hosts” who will be sitting *in person* on His throne in Jerusalem!

Since Jesus Christ is “*the same* yesterday, today and for-

ever” (Hebrews 13:8), there will undoubtedly be many occasions during His 1,000-year rule like the one cited above. The hundreds of singers and musicians were in perfect unison singing, praising and worshiping God, when “the House of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the GLORY of the LORD filled the house of God”!

Obedience Brings BLESSINGS

The prophet Isaiah tells us: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the LAW, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:2–3).

God’s great Spiritual LAW—the Ten Commandments—will be the basis for Christ’s rule in Tomorrow’s World. Through the teaching and guidance of Christ and His resurrected saints, the whole world will learn HOW to love and worship God and *how* to genuinely love and care for their neighbors. God’s Word describes that time: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Isaiah was inspired to describe the scene when thousands of Israelites will be brought back from slavery and even many of their children restored to them: “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with JOY; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you” (Isaiah 60:4–5). Then notice the physical BLESSINGS which will be poured out on regathered Israel and Judah: “Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you. The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in My wrath I struck you, but in My favor I have had mercy on you. Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that *men may bring to you the WEALTH of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession*” (Isaiah 60:9–11).

It will be as when God restored to Job “double” what He had taken from him (Job 42:10). Truly, the spoiled and arrogant peoples of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel are today found among the American and British-descended peoples and the *peace-loving* nations of northwestern Europe. Be sure to request and *study* our FREE

booklet entitled *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?* if you do not yet understand this basic truth.

Unless an unprecedented national REPENTANCE occurs, our peoples are to be humbled, chastened and *taken into national* SLAVERY! Then, when we have begun to “learn our lesson,” God will bring our peoples back to the land of Israel and BLESS them in a truly awesome manner.

Then, as we have seen, the LAW will go forth from Jerusalem. The entire world will learn God’s true WAYS—and PEACE and JOY will at last permeate the entire earth! Finally, the “new covenant” will be understood and *practiced* by both the “House of Israel AND the House of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31). For God says: “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My LAW in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (v. 33).

When Satan is banished at the beginning of Christ’s rule (Revelation 20:1–3), people will quickly get over their hostility to God and His great Spiritual LAW. There will then be outward PEACE over the entire earth. And an “inner peace”—the “peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7), will descend on most of mankind in a manner never before experienced in all human history.

God’s ways are GOOD. The blessings of Christ’s soon-coming glorious Kingdom will truly be MAGNIFICENT. *God speed that day!* 

Questions Answers

Q A popular television program features angels who appear as people. Does God really send His righteous angels to Earth to provide special help for human beings?

A Although God does not use His angels exactly as depicted in the television program, they are nevertheless assigned specific tasks.

God's purpose for His angels is revealed in Hebrews 1:7, 14: "And of the angels he says: Who makes his angels... ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation." We are further told that God's spirit-led children are the "heirs of God" (Romans 8:16–17; Galatians 3:26–29; 4:6–7).

The righteous angels of God are His created, spirit servants. Messengers and representatives in the administration of God's universe-ruling government, the angels He sends to Earth are commissioned to minister to and serve His spiritual heirs.

To illustrate the function of many of God's angels today, we might consider the situation of a young child born of wealthy parents. While still a child, he may be under the care of a nanny or other servants his parents employ. The caretakers are older, further advanced in knowledge and experience and much more developed physically and mentally. But they will not attain the status or wealth the young child will inherit from his parents when a mature adult. Therefore, the *servants* (or caregivers) who are older and more mature are only *servants* "ministering" to the young "heir." Likewise, God's angels are *servants* "ministering" to His *spiritual* "heirs" today.

Spirit-led Christians are protected by powerful angels who are in contact with the Father in heaven (Matthew 18:10; Acts 12:11; 2 Peter 2:11). God's angels stay close to His people to protect them from accidents, calamities, plagues and other evils (Psalm 34:7; 91:1–12).

Psalm 91:11 assures us, "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."

God's ministering angels are assigned to help His spiritual heirs along the road to eternal life—which includes protection from the Devil and his demons.

Angels are invisible to human eyes, but when they do manifest themselves they look like ordinary people. The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 13:2 that angels sometimes travel incognito on God's business, usually not revealing their true identity. When the One who later became Jesus Christ visited Abraham shortly before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, two angels accompanied Him, appearing like ordinary men (Genesis 18:1–33; 19:1–24). Angels appeared to the Apostles and many of the prophets.

The prophet Elisha knew that God protects His people and fights their enemies. When confronted by an enemy army, he knew God's angelic servants were present, ready to fight if necessary. But his servant was afraid. "Do not fear," Elisha told him, "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16).

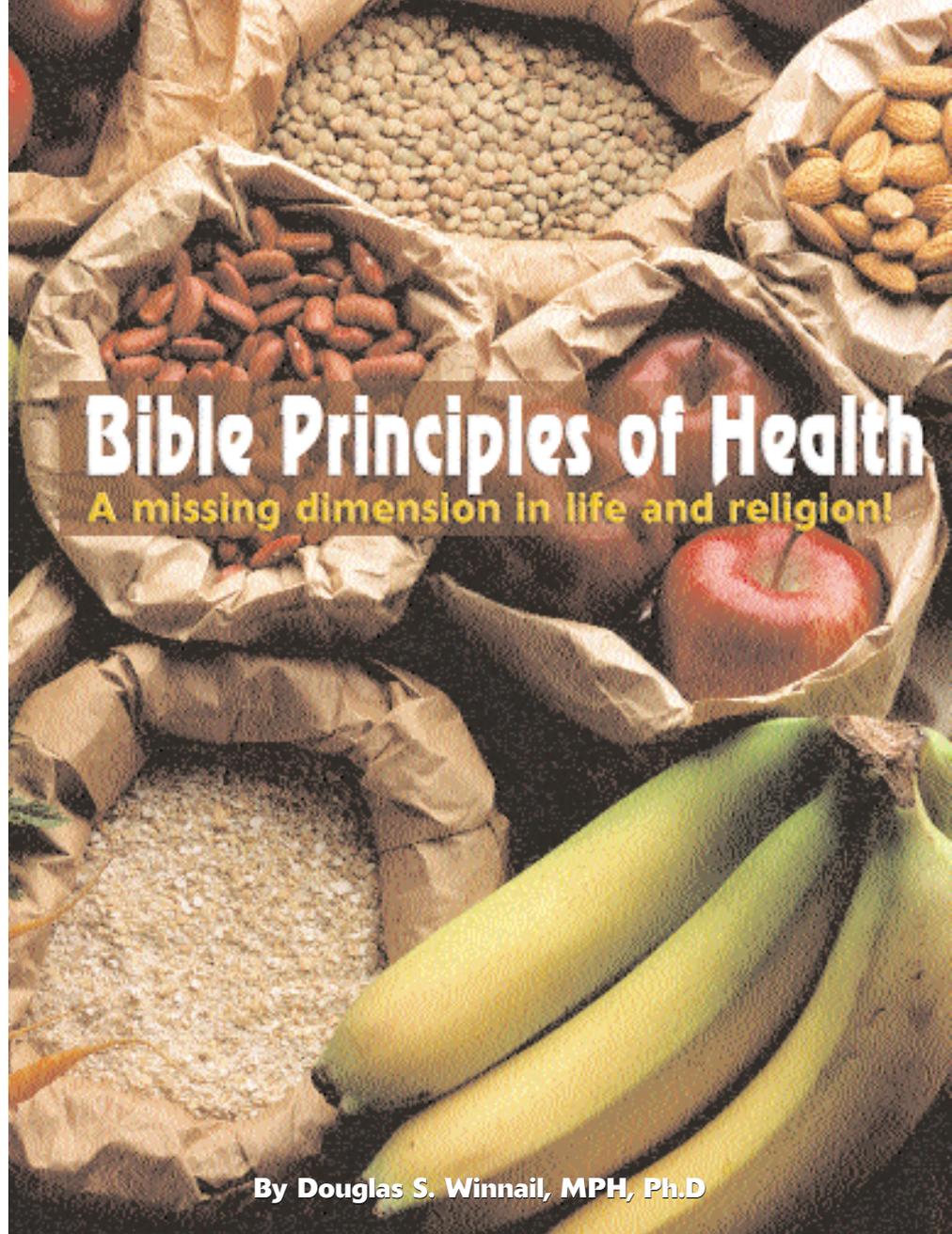
Then, in a most dramatic and awe-inspiring display of power, God revealed to Elisha's servant the kind of protection He was providing. God *opened his eyes* to give him insight into the spirit world. Utterly astonished, the servant saw God's spirit army upon the mountain, ready to spring into action. Awestruck, he also saw chariots of fire surrounding Elisha and himself! (vv. 15–17).

How grateful we should be to God for sending His powerful, holy and righteous angels to assist and watch over those he has called to be His spirit-begotten children—His spiritual heirs soon to be born into the universe-ruling family of God!

What are your views about health? How were they formed? Have they changed over the years? For centuries, staying healthy was a *means* to an end—to survive, earn a living, raise a family or accomplish a noble goal. Today the quest for health has become an *end in itself*—find the ideal diet or the ultimate exercise and create the perfect body! For many today, our health and our body have become our *modern gods*!

In pursuit of bodily perfection we search endlessly for the latest health secrets. We spend enormous amounts of money on adjustments, injections, prescriptions and procedures—even on personal trainers! We listen to gurus. We look for the special nutrient. We seek the magical cure! In the coming year, Americans will spend more than a trillion dollars on health care and billions on supplements and alternative medical treatments—yet Americans are hardly the healthiest people in the world. More than 60 percent are overweight, more than 30 percent are obese, millions suffer from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and other maladies. Millions take drugs for mental disorders. The story is similar in other developed nations. For many, the modern, all-consuming quest for health is an expensive, never-ending search for a “holy grail” which often fails to produce the health and peace of mind most people desire.

But we need to ask “why?” Is there a *missing dimension* in our lives today regarding our quest for health? The Western world has developed a *distorted* perspective about health because we have *lost the compass* designed to give us balance in this vital area. We



By Douglas S. Winnail, MPH, Ph.D

are swept from one extreme to another—from drugs to herbs, from surgery to massaging energy flows—because we have lost track of basic guidelines provided by our Creator in the *operating manual* for human beings—the Bible. While the false god of health has replaced the God of the Bible, most people today do not realize that the *real God*—the Creator of the Universe and Designer of the human body—is very concerned about human health. Dozens of verses in the Bible are devoted to the subject. While some combine health and religion and become *fanatics*, the biblical principles of health are important—remarkably balanced—and practical!

The Bible is not a textbook about health or nutrition. Yet, in the Scriptures, God provides fundamental principles to guide our personal choices in ways that *promote* health and *prevent* disease. In ancient Israel it was the job of the *priests and Levites*—not physicians, health gurus or legislators—to provide basic health instruction and to set the direction for national health policy. As we examine a number of biblical health principles, we will discover how simple, yet up-to-date, this information is—even

though it was recorded thousands of years ago! God revealed fundamental truths in the Bible that medical science has taken thousands of years to confirm. Regrettably, many theologians do not understand the value of the health principles recorded in the Scriptures—and as a result they have *failed* to perform an important God-given function!

Clean and Unclean Meats

Probably the best known and *least understood* biblical health laws deal with clean and unclean meats (see Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14). These are often referred to as “Jewish” food laws because they are still followed by Orthodox Jews; yet Muslims and others also observe similar food restrictions. Many theologians assert that these biblical guidelines were *not* given for health reasons, but were merely cultic practices designed to separate ancient Israelites from other peoples. Others teach that these instructions were for people living under the Old Covenant and that Christians, who are under a New Covenant, are free to eat whatever they want. Some argue that biblical dietary restrictions are silly, old fashioned and merely limit human freedoms and pleasures!

These widely accepted ideas are based on *ignorance*. Most theologians have little or no training in biology, ecology, microbiology, parasitology, epidemiology or public health, yet knowledge of these fields reveals the *wisdom* behind the laws about clean and unclean foods. Many unclean animals are scavengers (e.g. snails, crabs, lobsters and gulls)—their ecological role is to devour dead plants or animals. Other unclean animals are filter feeders (e.g. clams and oysters)—their ecological role is to purify water in lakes, streams and estuaries. Other unclean animals are predators (e.g. lions, snakes and alligators)—their ecological role is to manage the size and health of other animal populations. There are very *important ecological reasons* why unclean animals that God created are not to serve as food for human beings. God *designed* them for another purpose!

However, there are also *important health reasons* behind these dietary restrictions. Many unclean animals carry parasites that cause serious diseases in humans. Pigs, bears, squirrels and raccoons carry trichinosis and other diseases. Scavengers such as crabs and crayfish can transmit lung and liver flukes. Human populations that consume these creatures on a regular basis often have high rates of parasitic infections. Filter feeding organisms, such as clams and oys-

ters, may contain high concentrations of toxic heavy metals, pathogenic bacteria and viruses—making them dangerous for human consumption. When you eat these creatures, you are actually eating organisms God created to be nature’s “clean-up crew.” Would you eat the contents of your vacuum cleaner bag or your garbage disposal? Hardly! Yet many gourmet dishes are served in *blissful ignorance* of the risks involved.

Far from being outdated Old Covenant practices, the biblical laws concerning clean and unclean meats were inspired by a God who created all things for a purpose—a God concerned about promoting health and preventing disease! Avoiding unclean meats is a fundamental step in *preventing major parasitic diseases* that afflict millions of people around the world. When we violate these basic principles, we do so to our own detriment! Regrettably, modern theologians do not understand the value of these powerful public health principles—nor do many professing Christians! For more information on this subject, write for our free reprint article: *Do You Really Want to Eat That?*

Biblical Dietary Laws

The Bible contains other important instructions which medical science has only recently come to understand. Moses was inspired to record that blood and fat, even of clean animals, were not to be consumed as human food (Leviticus 3:17; 7:23–26; Genesis 9:4), yet in some cultures eating blood sausage, eating “fatback” and mixing blood and milk are common practices. The blood of animals can contain bacteria and viruses that transmit disease. This important biblical prohibition was designed to *prevent the spread of disease*.

The prohibition against consuming visible fat is equally important—especially as it relates to our modern diet. One of the most significant discoveries from epidemiological studies conducted in the last 50 years has been the link between high fat diets and heart disease, stroke and various types of cancer. These are the *leading causes of death* in countries where large amounts of fatty foods—such as hamburgers, French fries, triple thick milkshakes, ice cream and heavy salad dressings—are consumed. Many common foods—bacon, hot dogs, cheese and spreads—can be more than 50 percent fat. High fat diets are high calorie diets that contribute to weight problems in our society today. Medical science has learned that fat consumption is dangerous—yet God revealed this to Moses thousands of years ago! It is a

tragedy that this biblical information has been ignored for so long.

In Genesis we read that God gave mankind fruits, vegetables and grains for food—in addition to clean meats (Genesis 1:29; 2:16; 9:3). Fruits, vegetables and whole grains contain fiber and other complex carbohydrates. The value of these nutritional substances has only been realized in recent decades. Fiber, once thought to be useless, adds bulk to the intestinal contents and plays a vital role in protecting the body from colon cancer and other chronic diseases. Complex carbohydrates are also an *important part* of a healthy diet, as they reduce cholesterol levels, which helps prevent heart disease and strokes.

Another serious problem with Western diets is the high consumption of *refined* carbohydrates. Refined flour and sugar have been stripped of vital nutrients. Populations that consume large amounts of refined carbohydrates experience higher rates of diabetes and other related problems. Yet the Bible *cautions against* this type of eating. Solomon was inspired to record: “It is not good to eat much honey” (see Proverbs 25:16 and 27). Even though honey is a “natural” substance, it is “refined” in a sense by the bees that make it. Pollen gathered from many flowers is concentrated into honey. The biblical principle is to use *refined* carbohydrates *sparingly*, yet because of the soaring consumption of soft drinks (more than 50 gallons per person each year in the United States), pastries, candies, and pre-sweetened foods, many people ingest more than 100 pounds of refined sugars a year—again to their detriment!

When these biblical instructions are viewed objectively, they agree with nutritional advice based on the latest research: reduce intake of fats, increase use of complex carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and whole grains), limit consumption of meat and refined carbohydrates (see the *Food Guide Pyramid* published by United States governmental agencies). This is not surprising because *truth does not change!* God revealed fundamental truths about human nutrition thousands of years ago for the benefit of mankind—and He entrusted that information to **religious leaders** who were to teach others. It is sobering to realize that most human suffering could be prevented if we would simply follow God’s instructions!

The Bible also deals with controversial health issues. Some believe it is wrong for human beings to eat meat. Pagan Greek philosophers and many in the East promoted vegetarian ideas in the ancient world.

Some argue that because Scripture does not specifically mention that God gave Adam and Eve meat to eat, it should not be eaten. But this overlooks the fact that God—the author of laws about clean and unclean meats—said, “these are the animals which you *may eat*” (Deuteronomy 14:4). Also overlooked is the meal Abraham served to two angelic beings and the one who became the Jesus Christ of the New Testament (Genesis 18:3). That meal included cakes, *meat*, *butter* and *milk* (Genesis 18:6–8). Jesus Christ served fish to His disciples (John 21:9–13). Paul cautions New Testament Christians not to be caught up in vegetarian ideas (Romans 14:2; 1 Timothy 4:3). The Bible was written to help us stay *balanced* in the midst of ideas that lead to dietary extremes.



Alcohol and Drug Abuse

For many religious people, alcohol is a “red flag”—the devil’s brew! While the Bible *clearly condemns* drunkenness and the abuse of alcohol (Proverbs 20:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11), the Scriptures *condone* its use for a variety of purposes (Deuteronomy 14:26; Matthew 26:29). Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding (John 2:1–11). Paul recommended the use of alcohol for promoting health. He told Timothy “use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities” (1 Timothy 5:23). The key is moderation (Philippians 4:5, KJV). Moderate amounts of alcohol produce relaxation, raise HDL levels, reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and increase stomach acids, aiding digestion in the elderly. The Bible provides important guidelines for the use of alcohol, requiring personal decisions that develop individual character!

While tobacco and recreational drugs are not mentioned in the Scriptures, *principles* governing the use of such substances are clearly stated in the Bible. Paul writes, “your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that “if anyone defiles the temple of God [the body], God will destroy him” (1 Corinthians 3:17). The Bible plainly states that we are not to damage our bodies—which drug abuse (whether the drug is legal or not) plainly does. These biblical principles are *preventive* in nature, and anyone with common sense can see this. To give into cravings for alcohol, tobacco or drugs is a form of idolatry and lust—violating several of the Ten Commandments. Biblical health principles are

not intended to limit human pleasure, but are designed to ensure that those pleasures will be positive and enjoyable experiences.

Exercise, Too!

Throughout history, many have been led to believe that Christians should ideally lead a quiet, sedentary, monastic life of prayer, study and meditation. Yet Jesus Christ came to this earth not as a cloistered monk, but as a carpenter in an age without power tools! He chose fisherman like Peter, Andrew, James and John, who did not have diesel-powered winches to haul in their nets! When Jesus called His disciples to “follow” Him (Matthew 4:19), this included *walking* hundreds of miles a year. These examples are important because this *physically active lifestyle* kept them healthy and provided stamina for completing their mission (For more information on this important subject see, “Are you Walking in the Footsteps of Christ?,” *Tomorrow’s World*, March–April 2001).

The Apostle Paul advised that, while our primary focus should be on spiritual things, “bodily exercise profits a little [for a little while]” (1 Timothy 4:8). This is exactly what modern research has shown. Exercise must occur on a *regular* basis—because its benefits are only temporary! However, these benefits are *vital*—reducing cholesterol levels, blood pressure and stress, and preventing diabetes, heart disease and a host of other problems.

A Spiritual Dimension

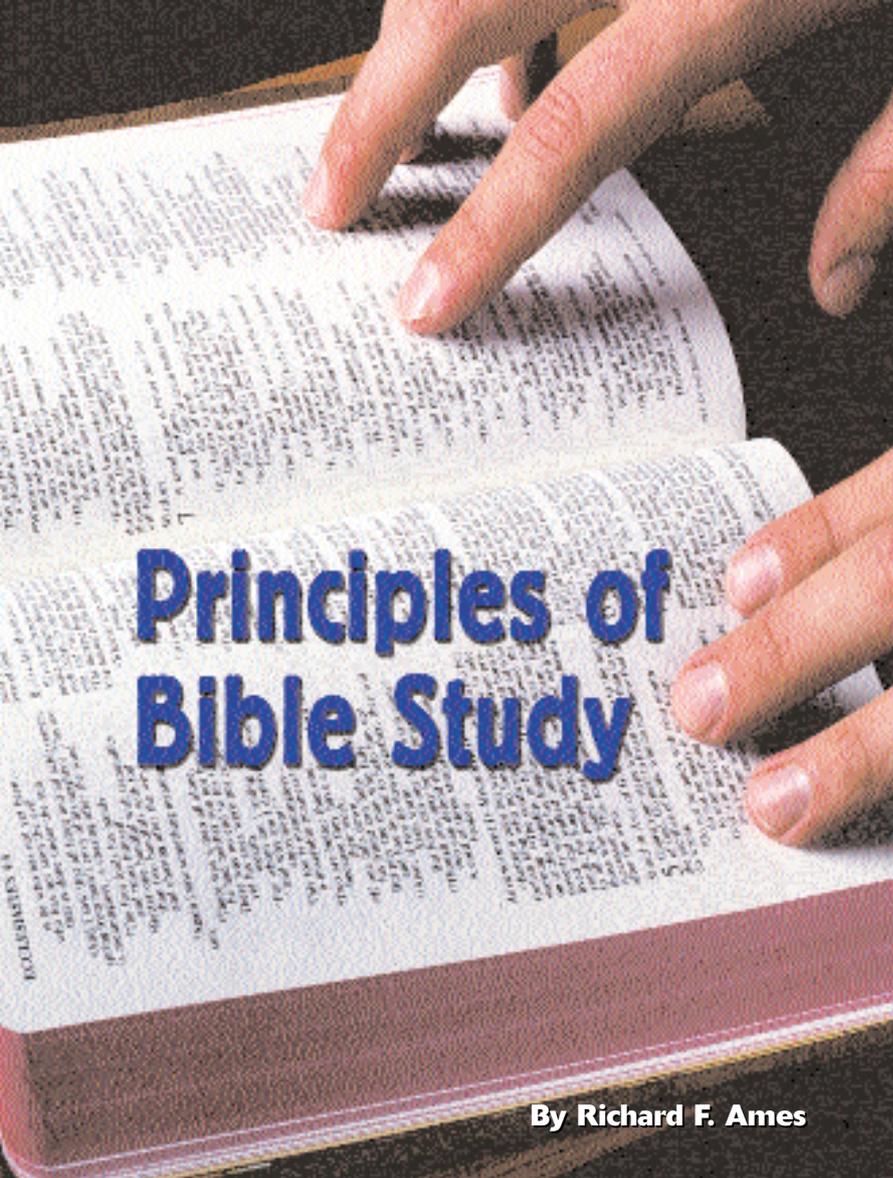
One of the most interesting developments in health education has been the recognition of what is called “spiritual health.” This area of study acknowledges the vital role that *beliefs and values* play in influencing behavior and health. Individuals who believe in God, attend church regularly and hold strong moral convictions are less likely to smoke, abuse alcohol or drugs or engage in promiscuous sexual activities. While our liberal society calls these “normal human freedoms,” health professionals call them *high risk* behaviors. The Bible labels such actions *sins*—to be avoided! Biblical prohibitions against gluttony, lethargy, drunkenness and sexual promiscuity—as well as biblical dietary guidelines—are *important* and fall within public health guidelines for healthful living. Biblical principles of health offer a *striking contrast* to the misguided values of our liberal—“if it feels good do it”—society! When these

values are taught by the family, and reinforced by churches and schools, individuals are more likely to develop positive behaviors that promote health and prevent disease. **Personal religious beliefs are a powerful influence on behavior.** That is *why* God placed in the Bible important instructions about health—for religious leaders to teach!

However, there is more in the Bible than a list of “dos and don’ts” regarding health. While many today have lost sight of God’s instructions, and have made health an *end in itself*, the Bible provides more profound reasons for our life choices. From Scripture we learn that we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), that we will be *held accountable* for our actions and that we should “glorify God in our bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:20). Yet our bodies were not made to last forever (Psalm 39:5; James 4:14). Our real challenge is to learn to think like God, develop Godly character (Philippians 2:5) and show love for others (John 15:17). This life is merely a *training ground* for an incredible future (1 Corinthians 9:24–27). If we learn to follow God’s instructions, and properly care for what God has given us, we will receive a *reward* which includes reigning with Jesus Christ when He returns to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth (Revelation 5:10). That is the gospel (Mark 1:14–15)!

The saints who rule with Christ will function as *teachers* (Isaiah 30:20–21) who explain the laws of God—including these important biblical health principles—to all mankind (Isaiah 2:2–4). Because of their efforts, “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9), and health conditions *will improve dramatically* around the world (see Isaiah 35:5–7; Jeremiah 30:17). There are *powerful reasons* for learning to live by the biblical principles inspired by our Creator—to prepare for the opportunity to change the course of human history, to eliminate the plague of disease and to promote a way of life that leads not only to physical, mental and spiritual health, but to eternal life! The saints who rule with Christ will *restore a missing dimension* in life and religion—because they first developed an informed and balanced perspective on health, and they learned the value of following God’s instructions in their own lives.

Do not be deceived! Health principles are an *important part* of biblical religion. They are fundamental keys—revealed by our Creator—to *promote* health and *prevent* disease. When properly understood, explained and applied, these principles will become an incredible blessing for all of mankind. ✠



Principles of Bible Study

By Richard F. Ames

Year after year, the Bible is the world's best-selling book! Chances are you have one on your coffee table—or stored away in a closet somewhere. But how many actually read the Bible? You could be missing out on the most exciting, mind-expanding knowledge and wisdom the world has ever known! Can you really understand the Bible?

More than 100 million Bibles are distributed in whole or in part each year around the world. But how many people actually *read* the Bible? And how many really understand it? Can *you* understand the Bible? Yes, you *can*! This article will share seven principles of Bible study that can help you deepen your knowledge of God and your relationship with Him.

According to a Gallup poll, 59 percent of Americans read the Bible at least occasionally. While that might seem impressive, readership of the Bible has actually declined from 73 percent in the 1980s (“Six in Ten Americans Read Bible at Least Occasionally,” *Gallup News Service*, October 20, 2000).

Studies have found a paradox concerning our Bible knowledge. “Overall, 60 percent of all adults agree that ‘the Bible is

totally accurate in all that it teaches.’ Yet people’s knowledge of the content actually taught in the Bible leaves much to be desired” (“Americans’ Bible Knowledge Is in the Ballpark, But Often Off Base,” *Barna Research Online*, July 12, 2000).

We might expect religious people to have at least some acquaintance with the Gospels—the first four books of the New Testament. But a September 1997 study by the Princeton Religious Research Center showed that 63 percent of Americans could not name all four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Author Gary M. Burge pointed out that one-third of incoming freshmen at a religiously based college “could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names” (“The Greatest Story Never Read,” *Christianity Today*, August 9, 1999, p. 45). Burge went on to emphasize the Bible’s importance for discerning truth from error. “To disregard this resource—to neglect the Bible—is to remove the chief authority on which our faith is built. We are left vulnerable, unable to check the teachings of those who invite us to follow, incapable of charting a true course past siren voices calling from treacherous islands such as TV programs, popular books, and enchanting prophecies displayed on colorful Web sites. I am amazed at the number of times mature Christians have come to me bearing ideas discovered in some spiritual flea market, ideas about the Spirit or prayer or eschatology or prosperity that flatly contradict the plain teaching of the Bible.”

He is right! We need the trunk of the tree—the sound, foundational truths of Scripture! None of us should be way out on the twigs of the tree, blown about by “every wind of doctrine”—as the Apostle Paul warned in Ephesians 4:14. The solution to the problem is obvious—one must *read the book*! When was the last time you opened your Bible? According to the above Gallup poll, 41 percent of Americans say that they rarely or never read the Bible. Only 16 percent say that they read the Bible every day. We all should read the Bible *every day*.

Bible truths and Bible knowledge contribute to sound mindedness—and the world *desperately* needs men, women and children of wholesome character and sound mental health!

How can you reap the treasures contained in the Bible? Speaking of true knowledge, the Bible states: “If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:4–6).

How can we unlock the treasures kept in this wonderful book? Let us examine seven basic principles that should help you better understand your Bible, and grasp more clearly the amazing plan the Creator God has for all humanity—how you can have joy and happiness in this life and for all eternity.

Principle 1—The Bible Is a Complete Book

Many cannot truly understand the Bible because they throw out 77 percent of it. They ignore, reject or even despise the first 39 books of the Bible called the Old Testament. When Jesus quoted scripture, *it was from the Old Testament*. You may recall that in His tremendous spiritual battle with Satan the devil, Jesus said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’” (Luke 4:4). Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3! You and I, like Jesus Christ, must learn to live by *every word* of God, if we are to be happy in this life and throughout eternity!

Writing to the young evangelist Timothy, the Apostle Paul spoke of the genuine faith that was in

him, and also in his mother and grandmother. Paul encouraged Timothy that “from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). Timothy had been taught the Scriptures from childhood—but what were those Scriptures? They were what we today call the 39 books of our “Old Testament.” The New Testament was not complete when Timothy was a child. So the Apostle Paul plainly stated that Timothy had understood salvation through faith by reading the Old Testament and accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior!

Yes, the Bible is a complete book! And just as we must not reject any part of Scripture, neither must we add to it our own ideas, as do some who call themselves prophets or even claim that their message is a hidden part of Scripture itself! God gave a sobering warning: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18–19).

Even Jesus Christ’s two “great commandments” had first been taught under His inspiration in the Old Testament. The first great commandment—to love God with all our heart, soul and strength—was given in Deuteronomy 6:5. And the second great commandment—to love your neighbor as yourself—quoted Leviticus 19:18. These key New Testament teachings came from Old Testament

scriptures! These are commandments of God.

So you cannot understand the truth of God and the plan of God unless you study the *whole* Bible as the Word of God. As Paul wrote to Timothy, “*All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Or as the NIV translation accurately renders it, “All Scripture is God-breathed.”

Principle 2—The Bible Is Always Relevant

Many believe that since the Bible was completed approximately 1,900 years ago, it cannot be relevant for us today. But as we have demonstrated in article after article in this magazine, not only is the Bible relevant for today, but its prophecies reveal the near future as well as humanity’s incredible destiny. Through it we learn the good news that the earth will not be destroyed by man’s evils, because Jesus Christ will return to save humanity from itself. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is *always* relevant. Jesus said, “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).

Not only have biblical accounts of history been proven accurate again and again, and its prophecies sure, but the Bible’s practical advice remains as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. Human nature has not changed! The book of Proverbs gives sound principles of human conduct, and the Psalms speak to human emotions, with every bit

of the effectiveness today as when they were first written! Every word of God has some application in our lives today.

Whether or not we have actually considered the Bible relevant enough to read, most of us own at least one copy. Barna Research Online reported that in 1993, “among households which own a Bible, the typical count is three Bibles per household,” and that “almost every household in America (92 percent) owns at least one copy of the Christian Bible. This includes most homes in which the adults are not practicing Christians as well as the home of hundreds of thousands of atheists.”

If there are any atheists reading this article, I challenge you to open your Bible and simply read it! I expect you will be amazed at the plain, solid, principles and precepts of successful living that you will find. Just start reading the book of Matthew and the other three witnesses (Mark, Luke and John). Read their eyewitness testimony and evidence with an open mind! And for those households with three Bibles or more, encourage every member of your family to read the Bible. It can profoundly change your life for the better, as you immerse yourself in its history, eternal truths and practical advice!

Principle 3—The Bible Interprets the Bible

This is an extremely important principle, though rarely understood. More than 25 percent of the Bible is prophecy—and it is often expressed using symbolic language. The books of Daniel and Revelation contain much symbolic language. How can you understand it?

Look at one example in the first chapter of Revelation. “He had

in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:16). But how should we understand this description of the glorified Messiah, the Son of Man, standing amidst seven lampstands, holding seven stars? What do these images symbolize? We need not guess; the Bible itself explains the meaning just four verses later. “The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches” (Revelation 1:20). In Bible symbolism, stars are angels—and lampstands are churches. If a symbolic word is not clear, look elsewhere in the Bible for its meaning. This leads us to the next principle.

Principle 4—Study All the Scriptures on One Topic

Ministers and religious teachers who fail to do this often end up teaching false and misleading doctrines. For example, some teach falsely that God’s grace does away with a Christian’s obligation to obey the Ten Commandments and the moral precepts of God’s law. Yet when we read all the scriptures on this topic, the truth is plain.

Grace is God’s gift through Jesus Christ. After genuine repentance, and faith toward Christ’s sacrifice, God forgives us of sin. He extends unearned, unmerited forgiveness, favor and pardon. That is God’s grace. But can one then live a life of rampant sin and blatantly disobey one’s Savior? Not at all! Jesus said plainly: “But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). Jesus then

went on to mention several of the Ten Commandments. The Bible *does not* contradict itself. God’s grace does not grant permission to transgress God’s law. The Apostle Jude warned of false teachers who would “change the grace of our God into a license for immorality” (NIV). As the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* states, “Paul clarified that God’s grace brings liberty *from sin* and not liberty *to sin*” (“Antinomianism,” Vol. 1, p. 263). Romans 6:1–2 also makes this point.

As another example, some take Ephesians 2:15 as an excuse to abolish God’s Ten Commandments and the moral law. But actually this verse is speaking of “dogma”—in this case man-made laws that caused division between Jew and Gentile. Remember the principle of studying *all the references* on one topic. If we read Ephesians 2:15 apart from the rest of the Bible, we could come to a wrong conclusion.

Note this comment from the *NIV Study Bible* (emphasis ours): “Since Mt. 5:17 and Ro. 3:31 teach that *God’s moral standard* expressed in the OT law *is not changed* by the coming of Christ, what is abolished here is probably the effect of the specific ‘commandments and regulations’ in separating Jews from Gentiles, whose nonobservance of the Jewish law renders them ritually unclean.” This comment and its approach are consistent with Principle 1 discussed above—that the Bible is a *complete* book. Study the scriptures in *both* the Old and New Testaments of your Bible.

Principle 5—Understand the Context

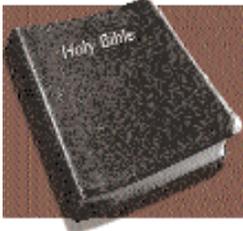
Read all the scriptures around any particular verse you are studying. For example, some cite

Acts 15, the Jerusalem conference, as evidence for abolishing the Ten Commandments. Notice the decision pronounced by the Apostle James: “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things

“Historical exegesis is fast becoming a lost art in the pulpit. Rather than explaining the historical setting of the passage, texts become springboards for devotional reflection. Biblical passages are taken out of context as the preacher searches for those stories that evoke the responses or attitudes

things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). If we do what Jesus Christ said, we can have a good understanding. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments” (Psalm 111:10)

The Bible is a treasure book of spiritual truth and knowledge.



Some teach falsely that God’s grace does away with a Christian’s obligation to obey the Ten Commandments and the moral precepts of God’s law. Yet when we read all the scriptures on this topic, the truth is plain.

polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood” (Acts 15:19–20).

But what does this prohibition mean in context? When the Apostles specified these four prohibitions, were the Gentiles freed to sin in other ways? Were they freed to transgress the commandments that say “you shall not kill?” or “you shall not have other gods before the true God”? Of course not! The Apostles in no way abrogated the moral law of God. To understand the Jerusalem conference, we need to read these verses in context. What were the Apostles deciding at the conference? Scripture explains: “And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved’” (Acts 15:1). The issue was circumcision. The conference determined that Gentiles need not be circumcised to be saved. Later the Apostle Paul wrote to the Gentiles in Corinth: “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (1 Corinthians 7:19).

As Gary Burge wrote in his *Christianity Today* article,

desired” (Burge, p. 45). We must not make that mistake when we study the Bible!

Principle 6— Prove All Things

Teachers and ministers may preach many wonderful-sounding doctrines, but we must not blindly accept what we are told. Scripture instructs us to check for ourselves. “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Or as the *King James Version* puts it, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” The Bereans were commended for their positive and investigative attitude in reading the scriptures. “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

One way to test, or prove, the Bible is to practice its principles and precepts. Jesus emphasized that one must *live* by the Bible, by “every word of God.” He asked those who would seek to be His followers: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the

But one must seek out its nuggets of knowledge. You can enrich your life immeasurably, *if* you rely on this revealed instruction book given by God Almighty to human beings made in His own image. Many have proved, from its effect on their own lives, that the Bible is the written Word of God. As Abraham Lincoln once stated, “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book” (*Halley’s Bible Handbook*, p. 18).

Principle 7—Pray for Understanding

God is the great Educator. And Jesus Christ is the Master Teacher. The Bible is divine revelation to all humanity, and it emphasizes that we need a teachable attitude. The New Testament book of Acts reminds us that ancient King David was a man after God’s own heart (cf. Acts 13:22). Notice David’s teachable attitude in praying for understanding. “Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and

Continued on page 29



Are We Living in the Last Days?

Are we approaching the “end of the age” spoken of in the Bible? Is Jesus Christ about to return? Christ’s first disciples thought He would return in their lifetimes. Later, some looked to 1000AD and then 2000AD in expectation of His return. Many modern theologians say that Jesus Christ could return *tonight*—or perhaps in *100 or 1,000 years*, if He comes at all. Most scholars have *no idea* regarding the end-times and Jesus Christ’s return. Is the “end of the age” just religious fiction? Bible prophecies *coming alive* today offer a sobering perspective on modern world conditions.

Escalating End-Time Events

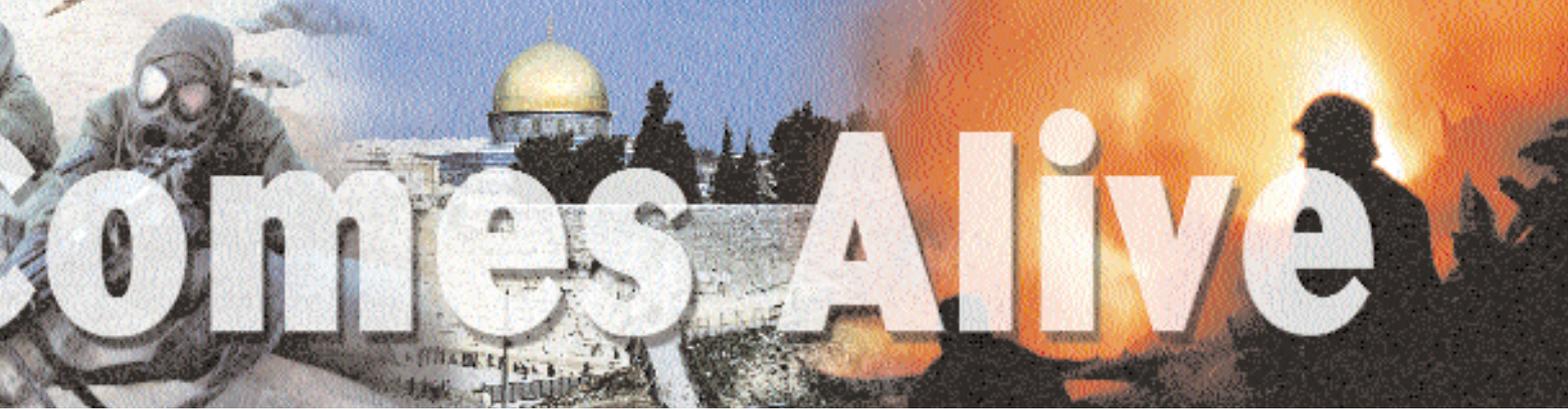
The Bible plainly states that Jesus Christ will come again (Matthew 24:3, 30, 37, 44). When asked by His disciples: “What will be the *sign* of your coming, and of the *end of the age*?” (Matthew 24:3), Jesus mentioned four major signs: widespread religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, famines and pestilences (disease epidemics) and earthquakes (Matthew 24:4–7). These events correspond directly to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse (see Revelation 6). But Jesus said that these *escalating events* are merely “the *beginning* of sorrows” (Matthew 24:8), and that His disciples should remain “watchful” so they can *recognize* and *announce* that His return is imminent!

Critics dismiss Jesus’ predictions by insisting these events have *always* been with us. Yet we can recognize that Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Muslims and Hindus *disagree* on many major issues—so all religions *cannot* be right. Many people are obviously deceived. But while religious confusion and deception are not new, the Bible explains that in the *last days* a prominent religious figure will *deceive millions* by doing miracles and promoting *lies* in place of biblical truth (2 Thessalonians 2:3–12; Revelation 13:11–14). Modern mass media will surely aid the activities of

this False Prophet. The stage is set. The fulfillment of these prophecies could be just ahead!

Jesus predicted that the *end of the age* would be marked by “wars and rumors of wars” (Matthew 24:6). Wars have been with us for millennia, yet the 20th century was the *first time in history* when the *entire world* went to war—in *two world wars*! Jesus also foretold that “nation would rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” picturing *global unrest* (Matthew 24:7). “Kingdom” here refers to an empire, or political entity. “Nation” (*ethnos*) can mean nation, tribe, race or social group. In recent decades, *ethnic strife*—over religion, race, gender and moral choice—has spread around the world! A Harvard University international relations expert has observed that “in the emerging era, clashes of civilizations are the *greatest threat* to world peace” (*The Clash of Civilizations*, Huntington, 1996, p. 321). What Jesus said would happen at the end of the age is happening *today*!

Unprecedented environmental conditions are also raising serious concerns. Global warming trends are disrupting weather patterns around the world, producing *record-breaking* droughts, fires, storms and floods. Famines exist on several continents. The hottest years *ever recorded* have occurred in this past decade (for more on this phenomenon, please request our free booklet *Who Controls the Weather?*). Earthquake activity is growing *more dangerous* as people crowd into built-up urban areas. Incurable diseases such as AIDS are causing worldwide devastation. Old diseases (such as tuberculosis, cholera and malaria) are returning with a vengeance, as bacteria become *resistant* to antibiotics! Medical experts warn that rapid international travel and deteriorating social, political and sanitary conditions in many parts of the world have created the potential for *widespread disease epidemics*. Jesus’ predictions about the last days *accurately describe* world conditions *today*!



The Apostle Paul recorded additional details about the end of the age. He wrote, “in the last days *perilous times* will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents... brutal... *lovers of pleasures* rather than lovers of God... having a *form of godliness* [a superficial religion]” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). This accurately describes the affluent, amoral, increasingly violent culture that has spread around the world since the end of World War II and the social upheaval of the 1960s.

The Apostle Peter added yet another dimension. He wrote that “*scoffers* will come in the last days... saying, ‘where is the promise of His coming?’” (2 Peter 3:3–5). Peter revealed that skepticism and *willful ignorance* about important biblical teachings will characterize the end of the age. This is the situation today in the so-called Christian nations. In addition to admitting homosexuals and women to the ministry, the Archbishop of Canterbury recently told 70 million Anglicans that we *cannot be sure* Jesus was resurrected—casting doubt on the *central tenet* of Christianity (Reuters, August 2, 1999). Again, Bible prophecy is shockingly relevant to our *modern era!*

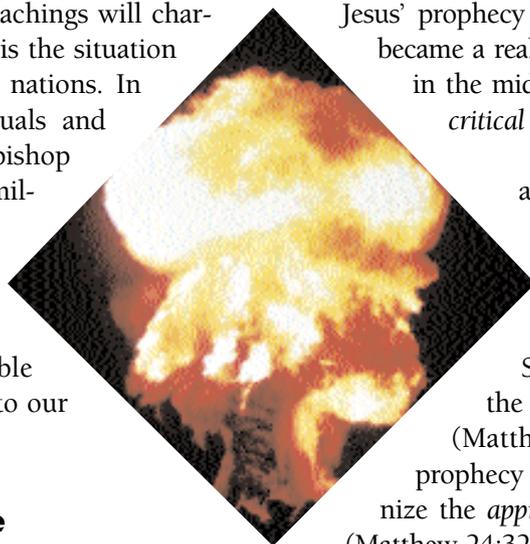
Jerusalem and Cosmocide

Bible prophecies indicate that just before Christ’s return, Jerusalem will become the *focus of international attention*. Jesus spoke of a coming *desecration* of the holy place [the Temple Mount—see Matthew 24:15] and that Jerusalem would be *surrounded by armies* and *taken over by Gentiles* (Luke 21:20–24). After languishing in relative insignificance during centuries of Arab and Turkish control, Jerusalem—and the Temple Mount—have become major flashpoints in the tension-filled Middle East. As the 21st century dawns, prominent voices want to turn control of Jerusalem over to the United Nations or the Vatican, hoping to bring peace to this strife-torn

region. Jesus said this would occur just before His return—and it is happening *today!*

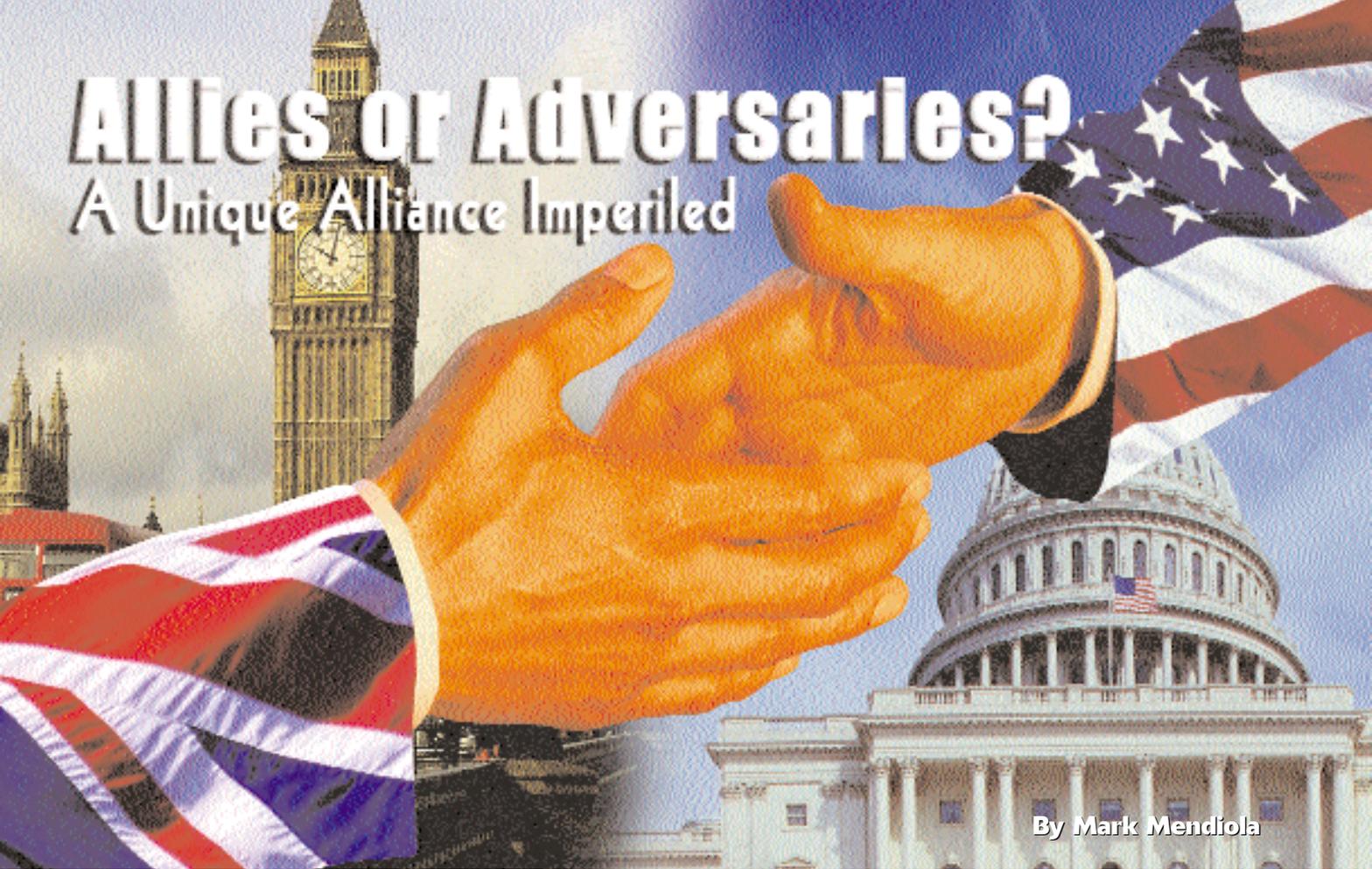
But is this *convergence* of prophesied events *just a coincidence*? Can we *really know* if we are nearing the end of the age? Again, the Bible explains. Referring to escalating troubles in the last days, Jesus said that “unless those days were shortened, *no flesh would be saved*” (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20). Jesus stated that, just before His second coming, it would be possible to destroy all life on this earth. This was *not possible* before the development of nuclear weapons in the 1940s and 1950s. Scientists speculate that if these terrible weapons were used in an all-out war, a “nuclear winter” would blanket the earth and *erase all life*. With stockpiles of nuclear weapons and terrorist activity around the globe, Jesus’ prophecy of *cosmocide* is no exaggeration. It became a reality *for the first time in human history* in the middle of the 20th century! This was a *critical prophetic benchmark*.

When we compare Bible prophecies about the end of the age with world conditions during the *last half of the 20th century*, the evidence strongly suggests that we *are* living in the last days! While Scripture states that we cannot know the “day and hour” of Christ’s return (Matthew 24:36), the details of Bible prophecy indicate that God *wanted us* to recognize the *approximate time* of the second coming (Matthew 24:32–35). This is why Jesus told His disciples to “watch” world events so we would not be taken by surprise. The world, however, will *not* end when Christ returns! At His second coming, Jesus Christ and the saints will establish the kingdom of God on this earth (Revelation 11:15–18; Daniel 7:27). This *major turning point in history*—a focal point of the gospel (Mark 1:14–15) long ago foretold by biblical prophets—will mark the beginning of a new age of peace and prosperity. To learn more about specific end-time Bible prophecies, please request our free booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*, and continue reading *Tomorrow’s World*, where prophecy *comes alive!* TW



Allies or Adversaries?

A Unique Alliance Imperiled



By Mark Mendiola

Despite waging wars against each other in 1776 and 1812, the United States and Britain have long enjoyed a “special relationship.”

The alliance forged between the United States and British Commonwealth during two world wars prevented brutal tyrannies from conquering the world. Yet British leaders are today at a crucial juncture, as they decide between subjugating their nation’s sovereignty to an increasingly powerful European Union or maintaining close trans-Atlantic ties with the United States. Could the frayed Anglo-American alliance unravel? Bible prophecy shows that traumatic times are ahead for the British and American nations in the 21st century.

No one would have imagined that a tax dispute between the British Empire and 13 American colonies would escalate into a full-scale Revolutionary War. Who would have dreamed that a vastly outnumbered and outgunned confederation of disorganized colonists would defeat the most powerful empire on the earth—and consequently lay the groundwork for what would become the mightiest and wealthiest single nation ever to stride across the world stage?

Yet that is exactly what occurred after American leaders issued the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, boldly defying Great Britain’s rule. The war that ensued swept the American and British peoples into one of the most dramatic historic events ever and a major fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Americans were called reluctant revolutionaries. Many fully intended to remain British subjects despite their disagreements with London, but the colonists were caught in a current that carried them to a conclusion beyond their control.

“It was known that the resources of Great Britain were, in a manner, inexhaustible, that her fleets covered the ocean and that her troops had harvested laurels in every quarter of the globe. Not then organized as a nation, or known as a people upon the earth, we had no preparation. Money, the nerve of war, was wanting. The sword was to be forged on

the anvil of necessity,” George Washington wrote years later (*Liberty! The American Revolution*, Thomas Fleming, 1997, p. 133).

Through a series of obvious miracles and decisive victories, Americans were able to defeat the red-coated British troops, overcoming incredible odds and predictions of imminent defeat. Following British General Charles Cornwallis’ surrender at Yorktown, Va., in October 1781, British regimental bands appropriately played the tune—“The World Turned Upside Down.” Indeed, it was!

Despite what British officials considered brazen armed rebellion against royal authority, the two nations since developed a fraternal closeness unparalleled in history. That affinity has flared to prominence during times of crisis, when, invariably, Britain and the United States have come to each other’s defense like brothers.

Following the British Parliament’s 1766 repeal of the loathed Stamp Act, Boston preacher Jonathan Mayhew predicted that Americans might come to the aid of their mother country. His pronouncement has proven remarkably prophetic. He concluded that freedom was a great blessing from God. “And who knows, our liberties being thus established, but that on some future occasion, when the kingdoms of the earth are moved and roughly dashed against another... we, or our posterity, may even have the great felicity and honor to ‘save much people alive,’ and keep Britain herself from ruin!” Mayhew stated (*The Light and the Glory*, Peter Marshall and David Manuel, 1977, p. 265).

The British and American peoples have shared historic roots, common values and the

English language, making contacts between Britons and Americans expeditious at military, diplomatic, political and personal levels. It has been a mutually beneficial relationship.

“The Founding Fathers were British, citizens of British America, who inherited attitudes that left their mark on every aspect of American society,” David Dimbleby and David Reynolds wrote in the introduction of their 1988 book, *An Ocean Apart*. “In this century they have been natural allies in the fight against the threat of Prussian militarism, fascist dictatorship and communist revolution—bound together by a common belief in liberal, capitalist democracy.”

Winston Churchill—himself half American and half Briton—noted in “The Great Democracies” (a volume of his series *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*) the unparalleled expansion of the English-speaking peoples after Napoleon’s 1815 defeat at Waterloo, which left Britain in unchallenged dominion over much of the earth. “The break between Britain and America made by the American Revolution was neither complete nor final. Intercourse continued and grew across the Atlantic. While America devoted her energies to the settlement of half of the North American continent, Britain began to occupy and develop many vacant portions of the globe. The Royal Navy maintained an impartial rule over the oceans which shielded both communities from the rivalry and interference of the Old World,” Churchill wrote in its preface. “The colonisation of Australia and New Zealand, and the acquisition of South Africa in the decline of Holland, created the

new and wider British Empire still based upon sea power and comprising a fifth of the human race, over which Queen Victoria, in the longest reign of British history, presided.”

Biblical Origins

The extraordinary surge of the United States and British Commonwealth to economic and military global preeminence during the 1800s and 1900s can be explained by understanding their ancestral origins. It is no coincidence that these people exploded on the world scene in the 1800s, following the Revolutionary War. The Bible makes plain that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:25, 32).

Referring to the concluded “contest with Britain,” Benjamin Franklin stated: “All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a super-intending Providence in our favor.... Have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?... The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?”

The Bible shows that the greatness of the American and British nations stems back to promises God made to the ancient patriarch Abraham—promises which He undeniably has kept in our modern time! God pronounced to Abraham: “In blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the

seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed My voice” (Genesis 22:17–18). That same blessing was promised to Abraham’s son Isaac (Genesis 24:60; 26:3–5) and his grandson Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel (Genesis 28:13–14; 32:28). The blessing was later transferred to Joseph, Abraham’s great-grandson (Genesis 48:3–4).

Genesis 48, describing Jacob’s blessing on Joseph’s sons Ephraim and Manasseh, explains the split between the United States and Britain. Jacob claimed Ephraim and Manasseh as if they were his own sons (Genesis 48:5), and crossed his arms when he laid his hands on his grandsons to bless them; much like the crossbar design on the British flag, the Union Jack. “Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.” Despite Joseph’s protests, Jacob refused to remove his right hand from Ephraim’s head and put it on Manasseh’s head. “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations.’ So he blessed them that day, saying, ‘By you Israel will bless, saying, ‘May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!’ And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh” (Genesis 48:16–20).

The United States and Britain have fulfilled remarkably God’s promise that Ephraim would develop into a multitude (a com-

pany, group or commonwealth) of nations, and Manasseh into a great superpower. History confirms unmistakably this incredible fulfillment. Collectively, the United States and Britain are modern Israel, and have been a blessing to people of all races, backgrounds and nationalities, as God promised, helping maintain peace, prosperity and civility throughout the world.

Chronologically, the British Empire reached its zenith before the United States achieved its ascendancy, but just as the sun has set on that once-proud empire, the United States is now in decline, giving way to an empire forming on the European continent. At the height of their greatness, the British Commonwealth and the United States ensured their power and prestige by controlling the most strategic gateways in the world, such as the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, the Bering Strait, the Cape of Good Hope and the Strait of Malacca. But their control of these and other key economic and military “choke points” has begun to pass to other nations.

Britain’s decline, from the most powerful nation in the world to a small offshore European island, was as swift as the rise of the United States. “It is remarkable that power has passed from one great nation to another in such a short time without a shot being fired in anger, still less a major war being fought between them.... The world has been torn apart by war twice in this [20th] century. On each occasion, Britain has been among the first to enter the fray. In each conflict at the point of exhaustion, she has been saved by the United States, and each time, although undefeated, Britain’s power has

diminished and her economy weakened. The United States, on the other hand, emerged from both wars much stronger” (Dimpleby and Reynolds, pp. xi–xii).

A Friend in Need

Perhaps no friendship more epitomized the deep kinship Britain and the United States established during the 20th century than the “Grand Alliance” British Prime Minister Churchill and U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt formed during World War II.

In his *Memoirs of the Second World War*, Churchill described his first meeting with Roosevelt off the Newfoundland coast of Canada in August 1941, four months before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States officially entered the war. Despite official U.S. neutrality, the summit resulted in Churchill embracing Roosevelt’s proposal for an “Atlantic Charter” committed to crushing aggression and maintaining global peace.

A religious service aboard the H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* during that summit “was felt by us all to be a deeply moving expression of the unity of faith of our two peoples, and none who took part in it will forget the spectacle presented that sunlit morning on the crowded quarterdeck—the symbolism of the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes draped side by side on the pulpit; the American and British chaplains sharing in the reading of the prayers; the highest naval, military and air officers of Britain and the United States grouped in one body behind the President and me; the close-packed ranks of British and American sailors, completely intermingled, sharing the same books and joining fervently

together in the prayers and hymns familiar to both,” Churchill wrote. “Nearly half those who sang were soon to die.”

Anglo-American ties were also strengthened during the 1980s when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Ronald Reagan held office. Thatcher was the first foreign head of government invited to visit the United States after Reagan was inaugurated in January 1981, and was his last official guest before he left office in January 1989. During the 1980s, under the strong leadership of Reagan and Thatcher, the United States and Britain maintained a united front that led to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe in 1989 and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Just as the United States backed Britain in the Falklands War against Argentina in 1982, Britain was one of the United States’ staunchest allies during the Persian Gulf War of 1991. Thatcher’s successor, John Major, worked closely with Reagan’s successor, George Bush, to repel Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. When the two nations have been in close alliance, they have been like lions among the beasts of the forest, and their enemies have been cut off—to paraphrase the Old Testament prophet Micah (Micah 5:8–9). Their alliance, however, is jeopardized by ominous events on the European continent.

At a Crossroads

Since King Henry VIII’s split with the Roman Catholic Church in the 1530s, the British defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 and the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, British-descended

nations have been bastions of Protestantism, most directly challenging Catholic religious supremacy throughout Europe and the western world.

Just as the 20th century has been called the American century, the 19th century was the British



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (second from left) meets with leaders of other EU countries at last October’s Biarritz summit. As Britain’s EU ties are strengthened, historic ties with the United States are being questioned.

century. As we enter the 21st century, the international dominance of those primarily Protestant peoples is being challenged by a resurgent Roman Catholic Europe, which for centuries has been at odds with British and American interests.

In recent years, the Catholic Church has reasserted her traditionally powerful influence in international affairs through the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, whom author Adrian Hilton describes as “the most political Pope of modern times.” In his 1997 book, *The Principality and Power of Europe*, Hilton describes how the United Kingdom’s membership in the European Union is fraught with danger.

“It is in the movement towards federalism of the Common Market... that the Pope may see the greatest possibility for an increase in Catholic political power since the fall of Napoleon...” Hilton writes (p. 18). “If European feder-

alism triumphs, the EC indeed will be an empire. It will lack an emperor: but it will have the Pope.”

By contrast, Queen Elizabeth II swore at her 1953 coronation “to govern the peoples of the United Kingdom according to their laws and customs” and “to maintain the Protestant Reformed religion established by law.” Hilton points out these pledges are being negated by Britain’s deeper integration with the European Union. Relations between the Vatican and London have become increasingly close in recent decades.

“In a continent in which 61 million claim a Protestant heritage and 199 million profess to be Roman Catholics, it is simply not possible to maintain Protestantism by democratic

law. The Protestant constitution of the United Kingdom has long been a strong defence against Rome’s desires for the ‘evangelisation’ of Britain... The Vatican recognises that the defeat of Protestantism here would weaken it throughout all Europe, and this has been its aim since the Reformation. All of the direct military assaults on Britain from the Spanish Armada to World War II were manifest failures, but the modern tactics of encirclement and erosion are bearing fruit,” Hilton writes (pp. 48–49).

“The more the Church of England is perceived as a failure, the greater the opportunity will be for the Church of Rome to proceed with its ‘evangelisation’ and absorb Britain into a Catholic Europe” (p. 52). In his new book, *The Abolition of Britain*, author Peter Hitchens sharply criticizes British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s attempts to undermine the United Kingdom’s traditional

underpinnings and her close alliance with the U.S. in favor of greater integration with the European Union. "For Britain, as she has been all these centuries, is far too big and powerful to be swallowed whole into the bland blend of the new multicultural Euroland" (Hitchens, p. 299).

When Blair became Britain's Prime Minister on May 1, 1997, it was the start of a new era, Hitchens wrote, and if his Labour Party wins an upcoming general election, "Britain will take her place as a full member of the European Superstate, yielding one of the great pillars of sovereignty to a foreign power... These changes, once made, will be irreversible by any democratic process now in existence. They will mark the end of a period of national history stretching back at least to the time of Henry VIII and the Reformation, and much longer by some calculations.... The end of the Cold War, and the apparent success of the European Union in the short term, has also made a European connection more attractive and the U.S. relationship less urgent" (pp. 313–314).

Thatcher has exchanged sharp words with Blair over the direction Britain should take. She favors maintaining a close relationship with the U.S., while he supports a pro-European course. Baroness Thatcher denounced Blair's decision to commit troops to a European rapid deployment force apart from the U.S.-dominated North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which has maintained peace in Europe for more than 50 years. She called it "monumental folly." Last November, on the 10th anniversary of her resignation as Prime Minister, she said NATO should remain the key

to European security. "I prefer NATO, and I prefer the great alliance between Britain, Europe and America. It is that which is of great benefit to the world. We lost a lot of people on the continent defending the liberty of our country and the countries of others, and we must never forget."

William Hague, leader of Britain's Conservative Party, said the Blair government's decision to commit 18 warships, 72 combat aircraft and 12,500 troops to the European rapid deployment force, independent of Washington, had nothing to do with national defense, but "everything to do with going with the flow in Europe and building a European superstate." Hague promised that a Conservative government would pull British troops out of the new European force if the Tories were voted into power.

The European Union hopes to have 60,000 ground troops ready for deployment by 2003. British troops would account for about 20 percent of that force and would bear the EU's 12-star insignia on their uniforms and vehicles. Ultimately, the force would have at its disposal more than 100,000 troops and some 400 aircraft and 100 ships ready to respond to crises. It would be dominated by Germany, whose militaristic past has thrust it into armed conflict with Britain and the United States in two devastating world wars.

A Tough Choice

Meanwhile, European defense budgets have started to increase, with total spending approaching \$200 billion annually. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said at a Munich, Germany conference in early February that plans for a

European defense force could undermine NATO and provoke a dangerous rift between America and its allies. He told delegates that he was "a little worried" by proposals for the 60,000-strong European rapid deployment force, *WorldNetDaily* reported.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, in the first Washington visit by a European foreign secretary since President George W. Bush's inauguration, asked the President not to press Blair for a commitment to a controversial national missile defense system, for fear it would create a crisis within NATO and isolate Blair within the European Union.

"Sometime this year, British Prime Minister Tony Blair may have to make a decision that could signal the beginning of a rough ride for European-U.S. relations," *Chicago Tribune* Foreign Correspondent Ray Moseley wrote on Jan. 13. To make the nuclear missile defense shield effective, the U.S. would need to upgrade radar sites in Britain. "Britain prides itself on being America's most dependable ally, so Blair is likely to go along with Bush. If so, that would not endear him to other European leaders, especially the Germans, who see the nuclear shield as highly destabilizing and likely to lead to an international arms race," Moseley wrote. "If he says no, he may risk Britain's close and in some ways privileged relationship with the U.S."

The future of that historic fraternal relationship—that "grand alliance"—will be tested to the extreme in the years ahead. To learn more about what the future holds for the American and British nations, please request our free booklet: *What's Ahead for America and Britain?* 

Letters to the Editor

TOMORROW'S WORLD

Your article on "The Harlot of Revelation 17" was AWESOME! Thank you for your courage.

M. W., Sunland, CA

Thank you for the excellent article "Is Abortion Murder?" in the March-April 2001 issue of *Tomorrow's World*. Of all the articles I have read by religious authors, yours is the best by far, for showing that there is life in the blood, there is a spirit in the human and there is a dual principle of spiritual and physical birth.

J. J., Beach Park, IL

I recently had the misfortune to stumble across one of your articles. I have studied the occult since I was five and I have been an active Wiccan since I was 16. All in all, I'm a normal, happy teen, who just happens to have a different religion. I do not worship Satan or any form of evil! No true pagan would! All we say is that perhaps God is a bit different from what the Bible says. We are a peaceful, understanding, nature-loving, and tolerant religion. All we ask is freedom to practice our beliefs and understanding. I don't hate you, though your misguided attempt to shove your ideas down people's throats is what makes the world the sad place it is today. I pity you. You people are worse than any plague or disaster that could come along, because you had the ability to stop yourselves.

K. G., via the Internet

Dear K.G.: *Jesus Christ taught His followers to love God, and to love others as themselves. But sometimes that "love" may require His people to deliver an unpleasant message. Scripture teaches plainly that most people in this age are blinded to*

the truth, and that they unwittingly worship the "god of this age"—Satan (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). Yet while you consider God's people "worse than a plague," God's people love you as a future child of God, whom God will call when He wills—most likely at the Great White Throne Judgment. John 6:65 shows that only God can call someone to the Truth. No Christian, however zealous, can push his religion on another. And we know that God calls very few in this age. Jesus told His followers to carry out the Great Commission—to preach the Gospel as a warning to the world, and to feed the flock He calls. God's servants must preach the truth, which may sometimes hurt, but they must do so with love for all. To learn more about the loving attitude that Christians have toward those of other faiths, please write for our free booklet, Is This the Only Day of Salvation?

BIBLE STUDY COURSE

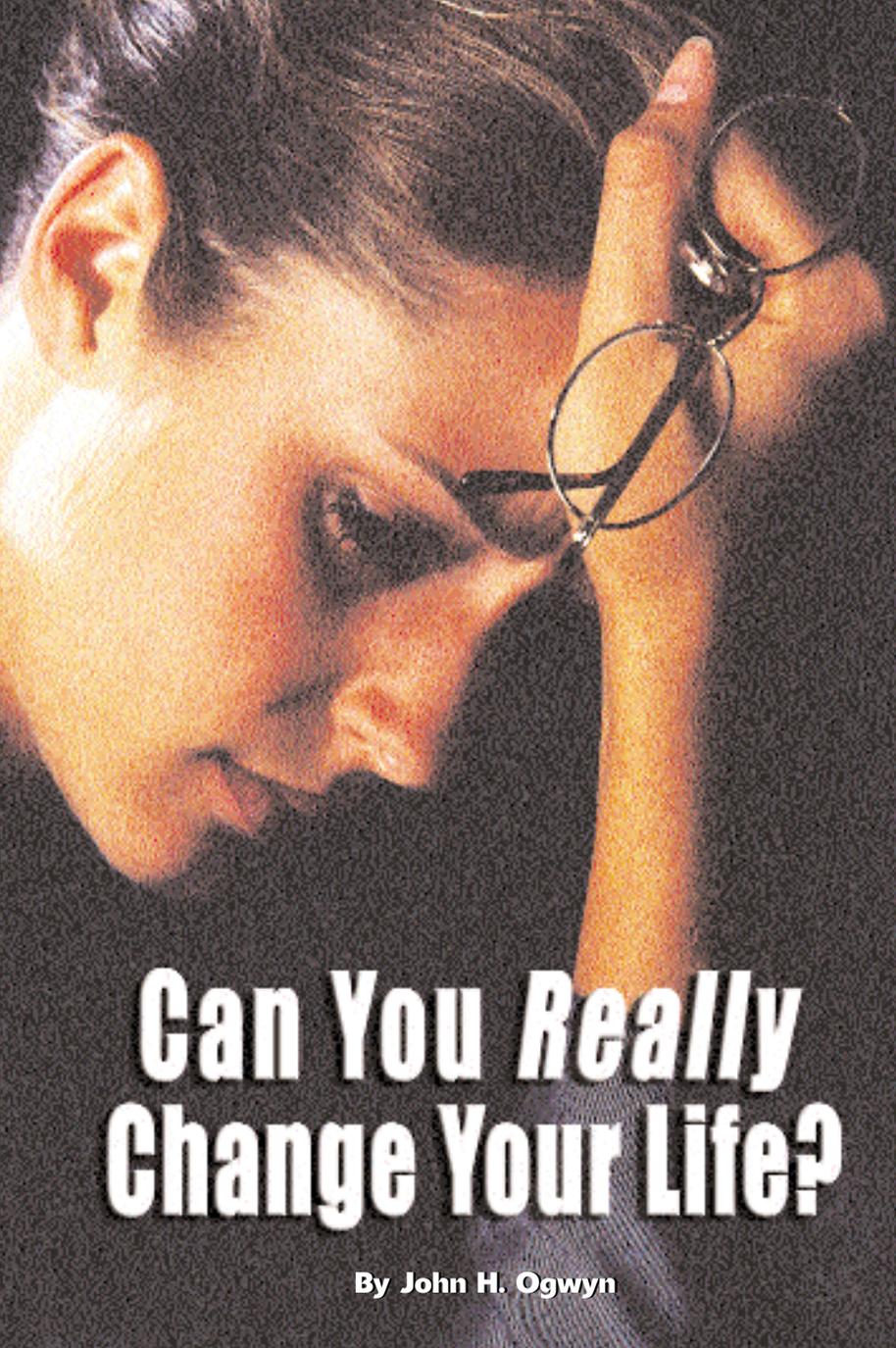
I find your *Bible Study Course* very inspiring, for clarity of expression and trueness of the text, for topics discussed and counsel given. Your *Bible Study Course* has opened my spiritual eyes to understanding God's Plan, and helped me to understand the future events that will concern mankind. May Jesus Christ and the love of God be with you!

A.G., Paris, France

I have been in God's Church close to 25 years. I have heard many sermons on the material covered in the first four *Bible Study Course* lessons. I have performed personal research and many personal Bible studies on that material; still, I found the first four lessons very interesting and fruitful. We should all pray for all God's people to study this course.

N. B., Wilson, LA

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.



Can You Really Change Your Life?

By John H. Ogwyn

“Did you ever wish—even for a second—that God had not shown you the truth, because you felt like you could never live up to His high standard? Because you felt like you were not going to make it?”

These words were written by a Christian in agony. He had been a drug addict since age 11. He saw the truth of God's great plan and purpose. He believed it! But when he looked at himself, and at his many weaknesses and problems, he felt overwhelmed. Was real change simply an impossible dream?

What about you? Maybe drug or alcohol abuse is not your particular problem. Yet this world is filled with people who have broken lives, broken marriages, broken families and broken dreams. They find life overwhelming and do not know how to make it any different. They are not where they are because they want to be there, but rather because they do not know how to be somewhere else.

Mainstream Christianity does not have the answers. “Just give your heart to the Lord,” the preachers say. Many sincere people have walked down the proverbial sawdust trail at revival meetings and evangelistic campaigns, only to find a few days later that the “new” religion has worn off and they are really no different than they were a little earlier, except that one more hope has gone.

There is a multi-billion dollar industry directed at people who want to change what they are and how they feel. There are psychiatrists and psychologists. There are books and diets that guarantee to make a new person out of you, not to mention cosmetics, hair transplants, toupees and even plastic surgery—all supposed to give you self-confidence and change your self-image.

Of course our western world, and America in particular, is a pill-oriented culture. Whether it is children who wriggle and squirm and do not pay attention in class, or adults who feel “stressed” about problems of the job or problems in their families, drugs are proffered as the answer. The fact that abortion is the most common surgical procedure in America, and that Valium is the most commonly prescribed drug, ought to tell us something. The changes many people seek are changes in the effects they are experiencing in life—while ignoring the actual causes of those effects!

Recognizing the Need for Changed Lives

In 1935 two men, given up by most who knew them as hopeless alcoholics, met in an Akron, Ohio hotel room. Known to millions as Bill W. and Dr. Bob, they began a fellowship known as Alcoholics Anonymous, and shared with other alcoholics 12 steps that have dramatically improved hundreds of thousands of lives. In the more than 65 years since that first meeting, similar programs have proliferated, as many seek desper-

ately to change their lives and to stop letting alcohol and drug abuse mask life's problems.

An entire "self help" industry has grown, offering books and videos with varying techniques and approaches. Some are directed at those who suffer from phobias or who have been scarred by abuse—many are aimed at people who simply want to be more effective in achieving their goals. Some take a purely secular psychological approach, while others present themselves as "Christian psychologists."

What is the common thread? Simply put, millions recognize the need for change in their lives. They feel unfulfilled and dissatisfied with what they are and with where they are headed. For all of the multi-million dollar industries that are derived from man's frustration with himself, what is the result? Our world is ever more crazy-making, and our people are ever more frustrated.

The First Vital Key to Change

The Bible records many stories of dramatic change in individuals' lives. But how were they able to make such total about-faces in their lives? Can you make changes of equal magnitude in your own life? Most people overlook two vital keys, and even those who acknowledge them generally misunderstand what they really involve.

Acts 2 records the beginnings of the New Testament Church. The Apostle Peter preached a powerful and inspired sermon to thousands who were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the day of Pentecost. For many that heard him, their former smug self-confidence quickly evaporated. They were seized with a deep sense of personal shame and guilt. "What shall we do?" they humbly asked. Deeply believing the truth of Peter's message, they wanted to know what they should do next! "Repent and be baptized," Peter told them. Those were the necessary steps for receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit was the gift that God offered them to empower and transform their very lives. And He offers the same gift to us today!

Faith and repentance are simple words with profound meaning. Understanding the message contained in these two words holds the key to really changing our lives.

Before repentance must come faith. The kind of faith we are talking about is living and real. It produces a state of mind that wants to make an about face and turn to God. This faith is a confidence in

God and His promises and it results in action! "Faith without works is dead," the Apostle James wrote in James 2:17. To really believe and trust God makes it possible for us to absolutely, unconditionally surrender to Him.

Before we can trust God, we must realize our utter powerlessness to save and deliver ourselves. If we are not truly convinced of our own powerlessness, we will cling to illusions of self-sufficiency. If we do, we will continue struggling to solve our own problems our own way. Real change requires far more than willpower and self-discipline. It is not simply a matter of "trying harder." Human willpower may help a person to make certain external changes in behavior, but it does not begin to address the root cause of our problems.

Before turning to God, we must first be convinced of our need to do so. Before the Creator revealed Himself to the ancient Israelites as their deliverer, He first let them languish for years in Egyptian slavery. Unable to extricate themselves, their condition became increasingly hopeless. But in the depths of their despair they called out to God—and He heard them! (Exodus 2:23–24). He will hear you, too!

Faith in ourselves, and in human tactics and efforts, must be replaced with faith in the Divine Creator (Hebrews 11:6). God is both willing and able to deliver us and to transform our lives! He is the Creator who created the universe with its myriad galaxies. He created this earth and all of the life upon it. He designed and made mankind in His own image with the potential of being born into His very family. Can you trust the very One who gives you life and breath?

Hebrews 11:13 makes plain that men and women of faith did certain things! Understanding what they did can help us understand life-changing faith. We are told that they saw the promises "afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (KJV). Likewise, we must see and understand the promises that God makes, become convinced of their value and reality, and then embrace them. To embrace is to hold dear and precious. If we do not value and cherish what God offers, we simply will not hold on and endure through life's ups and downs. Because the men and women of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 held dear what God promised, they showed by words and actions that they were not part of this world. They

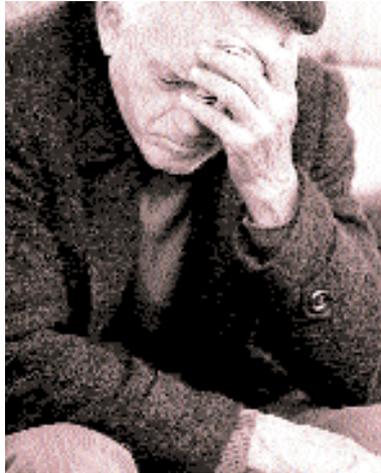
were simply strangers passing through in search of something far greater beyond.

While the Creator God has revealed Himself to mankind in a variety of ways over time, His ultimate self-revelation was in the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Make no mistake about it; Jesus of Nazareth was not simply a prophet or a good man! He was the uniquely begotten Son of God (John 3:16). He was Immanuel, which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). He was the One who had existed in the beginning with the Father and was the very instrument of creation itself (John 1:1–3). At the appointed time He was made flesh and born of a virgin so that He might be our Savior. He brought the message of the New Covenant from the Father, the good news of the Kingdom of God. This message concerns the establishment of God’s Kingdom on this earth and how we human beings might actually come to inherit and possess that Kingdom for eternity. It is a message of how God’s laws can be written in our hearts and minds, of how His very nature can be imparted to us and we can be transformed from the inside out. It is a message about redemption, becoming reconciled to God and having the penalty of our sins blotted out. Jesus Christ not only died to pay the death penalty in our stead; He also rose from the dead after three days and three nights in the grave to become our High Priest and intercessor with the Father. He will soon return to this earth as its King and ruler.

To really change your life, the starting point is to accept that you cannot—but God can! If you accept the message that Jesus Christ brought, and believe and act on it from the innermost depths of your being, He will intervene to change the whole direction of your life!

The Bible makes plain that Satan the devil is the “god of this age” and directs the course or pattern of this society and age (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). We cannot fit in with this world and fit in with God at the same time (James 4:4). In order to fit in with and cultivate the acceptance and approval of this world, a person must be in harmony with the values of this age. John summed up the values of this world as appealing to “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). This age and

its corrupt, decadent value system are going to pass away, but there is a new world coming, based upon eternal values. That new world, God’s wonderful world tomorrow, will be permanent. If we really believe that, then we will want to turn to God with all of our hearts and learn how to dwell in harmony with Him forever. Living faith produces action, and genuine repentance is one of the first actions it produces.



Real repentance is more than simply being sorry or having regrets. It is a conscious decision to turn to God. It prompts change and an about-face in life!

Godly Sorrow Leads to Repentance

Many people equate repentance with being sorry. But real repentance is not simply “being sorry,” nor is it the equivalent of the penance practiced by some religions. The concept of penance is that certain good actions can atone for previous bad ones. If real repentance is not equated with remorse, regret or even acts of penance, then what is it?

There are several words rendered “repent” in the Bible. The Hebrew term generally used in the Old Testament is *shub*, which means “to turn.” In its meaning, the word goes “beyond contrition and sorrow to a conscious decision of turning to God” (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, p. 909). In the New Testament there are two Greek words used to describe repentance. One is *epistrepho*, which means “to convert, to change, to turn to or against” (*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, p. 1095). The other is *metanoia*, which literally means a “change of mind.” Real repentance is not simply a feeling or an emotion, nor a mere act of contrition or atonement. It prompts an about face in life!

Before we can repent, we must know what sin actually is, and we must be absolutely convinced that God is right and that we are wrong. The Bible defines sin for us by telling us in 1 John 3:4: “To commit sin is to break God’s law: sin, in fact, is lawlessness” (NEB). God’s law defines sin. Which law? The great spiritual law (Romans 7:14) summed up in the Ten Commandments! Paul explained in Romans 7:7 that he would have had no way of knowing that lust was a sin except that the law, the Tenth Commandment, said, “You shall not covet.”

Repentance involves a mindset of unconditional surrender to God of our life and our will. We must come to God acknowledging our sin with no excus-

es, and recognizing our utter lack of self-sufficiency to transform ourselves. If we admit our powerlessness to change ourselves on our own, then believe and trust in God's power to do so through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice, and humbly ask Him to take over our lives, we are on the way! We must then continue to search our lives and be willing to confess our sins and shortcomings as we discover them.

Of course we will never really turn from something wrong unless we have learned to hate it. We must change the objects of our affections. We must come to hate the evil and to love the good. God's law, and His instructions, give us the means to distinguish good from bad. After all, we are not born knowing right from wrong! God is the One who defines that difference—and His word is the only true source for really knowing which is which (Psalm 119:9–11).

Remember that being sorry and being repentant are two different attitudes. In fact, the Bible shows that there are actually two very different kinds of "being sorry"—worldly sorrow and Godly sorrow. Paul explains in 2 Corinthians 7:10 that worldly sorrow produces death. Worldly sorrow is the kind of regret and remorse that can fill a person with despair and hopelessness. It can even lead one to become suicidal. This kind of regret for past actions and their consequences is not what real repentance is all about.

Godly sorrow does not lead to despair. Rather, it serves as the impetus for surrender and change.

Genuine repentance involves turning from the way of sin to the way of righteousness. It involves a heartfelt, unconditional surrender of our life and of our will to the Great God. Once we have come to that point, the Apostle Peter makes plain in Acts 2:38 that we are to be baptized. God promises that after proper baptism, we will receive the wonderful gift of His Holy Spirit. It is that Spirit which renews our mind and heart and enables us to share in God's very nature.

Can you really change your life? With your own power you cannot! But the good news is that God can and will if you truly want Him to. Faith and repentance, followed by baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, are what open the door to real change in our lives—change not only in how we feel and in what we do, but, most importantly, change in what we are! This is what leads to our being "conformed to the image of His Son, that He [Christ] might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8:29).

For more information on this vital subject, please call or write for our free booklet: *Should You Be Baptized?* And if you would like to counsel more deeply on the subject of repentance and baptism, please feel free to ask for a visit from one of our ministers. If you call or write to the Regional Office address nearest you (listed on page two of this magazine), we will put you in contact with someone who can help you discover for yourself, that with God's help, you can change your life! 

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY *(continued from page 17)*

teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day" (Psalm 25:4–5).

Pray for understanding as you read and study your Bible. Pray for guidance. God blesses those who respect the scriptures, who reverence His holy Word. "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).

The Bible is the most important book in the world. If you have neglected reading the Bible, now is the time to make a change. Those who neglect the Bible are

missing out on the most exciting and mind-expanding information the world has ever known! Not only can your life be enriched with understanding and inspired living, but you can even understand the future and your incredible human potential and destiny! I urge you to find your Bible, wherever it may be stored away. Begin reading in the book of Matthew. If your attitude is right, you will be greatly blessed and your life will be changed. As Jesus said, "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). And if you want to deepen your understanding, write for your free subscription to the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study*

Course. There is a subscription card in this magazine, and if the card is already gone you may write to one of our regional offices (on page 2) or request a subscription online from our Web site: www.tomorrowsworld.org.

The Bible is not only a book for today, but it is also the book of the future. As Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:33). Thank God, that He has shared with us the truth and purpose of life. Keep studying your Bible and you will continue to learn amazing truths about your Savior and His plans for your life and your future in tomorrow's world—and in eternity! 

DO YOU EVER “SEEK” GOD? (continued from page 3)

truss, 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).

Are you willing to begin to genuinely “seek” God *before* this coming Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21–22) falls on our people? Are you willing to put forth the physical and intellectual energy to really STUDY God’s Word in a systematic way, to PRAY to your Creator for real *understanding* and to FAST before God—even as the Apostle Paul did when he was being “shaken” out of his former way of life? (Acts 9:9).

In his very informative and helpful autobiography, Herbert W. Armstrong described an excellent approach to fasting which will be of great value to anyone who will use it:

“There was no more time to lose. I *had* to find the answer. I knew of only one way. *Fasting* and prayer! It was the last-ditch resort. I didn’t know how one ought to fast and pray—I had never done it before. But when Jesus’ disciples were unable to cast out a demon, Jesus said such a result came only by fasting and prayer. So I began to fast.

The fasting was begun on a Sabbath morning. That morning I ate no breakfast. Not knowing *how* one ought to go about fasting and prayer, I first prayed and asked God to show me the way—to open my understanding. Then, since God speaks to us through His written Word, I began to search the Bible for instruction about fasting. For one hour with the aid of a concordance I studied passages of Scripture on the subject of fasting and praying, much of the time on my knees.

Then for one hour I sat in thought and contemplation. I turned over in my mind the scriptures I had read. I reflected on my own life in recent months. I tried to compare it with God’s way, as revealed in the Scriptures. Then I spent the next hour in talking to God—in prayer.

And so I decided to continue in this order—one hour in Scripture study, one in contemplation, and one in prayer. I did not once ask God to heal my wife—as yet. I had been doing that for weeks, without result. I was fasting and praying, not for the purpose of bringing pressure on God to force Him to obey my will and give what was asked—but to find out *what was wrong with me!* I realized we did not need to nag at God. NEVER fast as a means of inducing God to answer!” (Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong, Volume II, pp. 391–392)

Frankly, *every single one* of us needs to go through a similar process of honestly “seeking” God and His will for our lives. If we truly want to have a significant position of service in Christ’s soon-coming Kingdom, we should start NOW to do *our part* to “seek” God, to come to really “know” God and to do *His will*.

We must all listen carefully to Jesus’ powerful warning to those who, by preaching in Christ’s name and performing their “do good” activities, *think* they are serving God—while *refusing* to obey God’s Law: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I NEVER knew you; depart from Me, you who practice LAWLESSNESS!’” (Matthew 7:21–23).

God grant that many of you will stop “wandering” through life, and that you will SEEK God and His will with ZEAL and with ENERGY. If you are not yet enrolled, be sure to call us or write us and request your FREE enrollment in the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* right now. IF you will really *study* this course along with your Bible—and *remain on this course of study*—it will be a tremendous tool to help you *understand* the END-time prophecies of the Bible, the great PLAN God is working down here on earth and the WAY by which you may enter eternal life and the Kingdom of God.



Tomorrow's World

• Television Superstation

△ Spanish Radio

TV/Radio Log

International

—AUSTRALIA

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

—GUYANA

Georgetown: *NBTV*—Ch 9, SUN 10:00 am

—JAMAICA

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

—MEXICO

△ Mexico City: *Cambio*—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

—PHILIPPINES

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

—CANADA (nationwide)

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

—NEW ZEALAND (nationwide)

● **Auckland: *Prime Television*—SUN 8:30 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, WED 2:30 am
AZ, Prescott: *Cable*—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am
AZ, Tucson: *Access*—Ch 63 & 73, SAT 3:00 pm; SUN 1:00 pm
CA, Anaheim: *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, 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, Sonoma: *TCCCA*—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm
CA, Turlock: *Marcus*—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm
CT, Enfield: *Cox*—Ch 15, THUR 2:30 pm & 7:00 pm
CT, Naugatuck: *Tele-Media*—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm
FL, Gainesville: *Cox*—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm
FL, Ocala: *Cox*—Ch 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: *TCL of Iowa*—Ch 45, THUR 7:30 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: *TCL*—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm
IN, Anderson: *Insight*—Ch 3, WED 9:30 pm
IN, Lafayette: *Insight*—Ch 16, TUE 9:30 pm
KS, Chanute: *Cablevision*—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm
LA, Monroe: *Time Warner*—Ch 49, WED 10:00 pm
MA, Cambridge: *CCTV*—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm

MA, Malden: *Access TV*—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am
MD, Baltimore: *TCL*—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
MT, Great Falls: *Public Access TV*—Ch 7, TUE 6:00 pm; FRI 6:00 pm
ND, Bismarck: *CATV*—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm
NE, Omaha: *KPTM*—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am
NH, Hanover: *CATV*—Ch 6, SUN 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm; MON 5:00 am & 11:00 am
NJ, Oakland: *Cablevision*—Ch 71 & 72, SUN 6:30 pm
NM, Albuquerque: *CCC27*—Ch 27, SUN 9:30 pm
NM, Rio Rancho: *CABLE ONE*—Ch 51, THUR, 7:00 pm
NV, Carson City: *Access TV*—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm
NV, Gardnerville: *Community Access*—Ch 26, SAT 3:00 am & 3:00 pm; SUN 3:00 am & 3:00 pm
NV, Reno/Sparks: *SNCT*—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm
NY, Binghamton: *Time Warner*—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm
NY, Brooklyn: *BCAT*—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm
NY, Elmira & Corning: *Time Warner*—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am
NY, Hauppauge: *Cablevision*—Ch 70, THUR 10:30 pm
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: *TCL*—Ch 1/99 MON 9:00 pm
NY, Queens: *QPTV*—Ch 35, Times Vary
NY, Riverhead: *Cablevision*—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm
NY, Rochester: *Community TV*—Ch 15, 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 8:30 am
TX, Austin: *Community Access*—Ch 11, MON 5:30 pm
TX, Corpus Christi: *TCL*—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
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: *TCL*—Ch 29, SAT 7:00 pm
WA, Vancouver: *Clark/Vancouver*—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am
WI, Wausau: *Charter*—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am

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

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

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

New Television Stations:

GA, Atlanta: *AIB*—Cable, THUR 6:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am

MT, Billings: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 9:30 am & 7:30 pm

MT, Missoula: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 9:30 am & 8:30 pm

MT, Butte: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 7:30 pm

MT, Great Falls: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 9:30 am

MT, Helena: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 9:30 am

MT, Kalispell: *BSC*—Cable, Daily 5:00 am

MN, Minneapolis: *MTN*—Ch 67/58, THUR 6:30 pm

MN, St. Paul: *SPNN*—Ch 34, SUN 8:30 pm

NC, Wilmington: *TIME WARNER*—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm

OK, Tulsa: *KTFO*—Ch 41 SAT 12:30 am

VA, Fredericksburg: *COX*—Ch 25, MON 8:00 pm

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

Radio Stations:

Martinique, *Radio Banlieue-Relax*—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am

Martinique, *Radio Campêche*—98.3 & 101.6 FM, TUE 8:00 am; SAT 8:00 am

Martinique, *Radio St. Pierre*—88.7 FM, SAT 8:00 am; SUN 8:00 am

Mexico, Mexico City, *Cambio*—1440 AM, SUN 12:00 noon

Northern Ireland, Portadown, *Radio Star*—98.1 AM & 101.2 FM, THUR 9:00 pm

Philippines, Manila, *DWBL*—1242 kHz AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm

Philippines, Ozamiz City, *DXSY*—1242 kHz 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

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