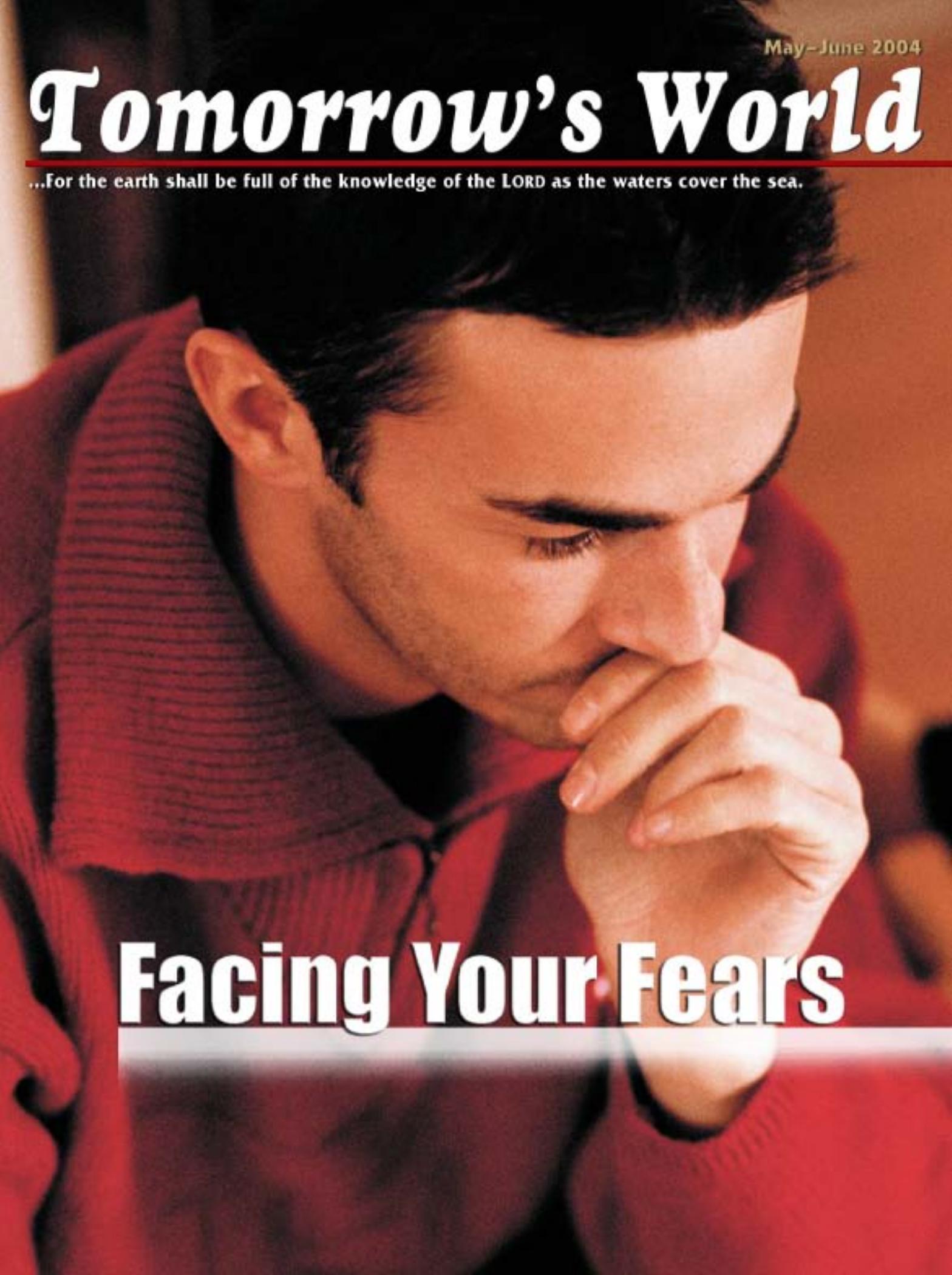


May-June 2004

Tomorrow's World

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

A close-up photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a red ribbed sweater. He is looking down and to the right, with his right hand resting against his chin in a contemplative or thoughtful pose. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in similar red clothing.

Facing Your Fears

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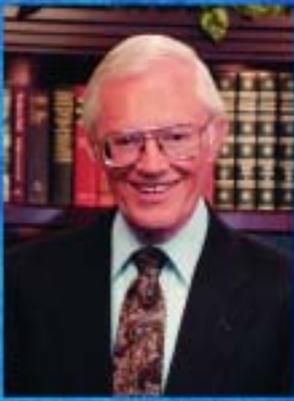
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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief

"Vile Passions"

Once in a while, it is imperative for decent men and women to be truly "up in arms" about something vital. Now is the time for all such people to lift up their voices to God and ask for help.

Why?

There are *many* terrible sins besetting the British-descended and American peoples. But one of the most awful and most fundamental sins today is that our peoples are beginning to embrace something they would not have even dreamed of 20 or 30 years ago—*same-sex marriage*! This sin strikes at the very heart of all decent human society. It defines the kind of people we are and will become. It strikes at the core of all our civilized values.

United States Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist spoke out very plainly on this issue. He stated: "Marriage is very simple: a union between one man and one woman, not two men or three men or four men, or one man, or one woman, or two women, three women, or three women and three men. It's not that. It's one man, one woman. It's what the law of the land is."

Yet many of the professing-Christian churches in the United States are quietly "going along" with this movement toward same-sex marriage! On August 5, 2003, the U.S. Episcopal Church confirmed the establishment of "gay unions" and ordained its first homosexual bishop. Quite a number of major denominations are "struggling" with this issue—seemingly unable to come out strongly one way or the other. And the American Baptist Union, Reform Judaism and the Unitarian Universalists all permit the ordination of homosexual clergy and bless same-sex unions in some form.

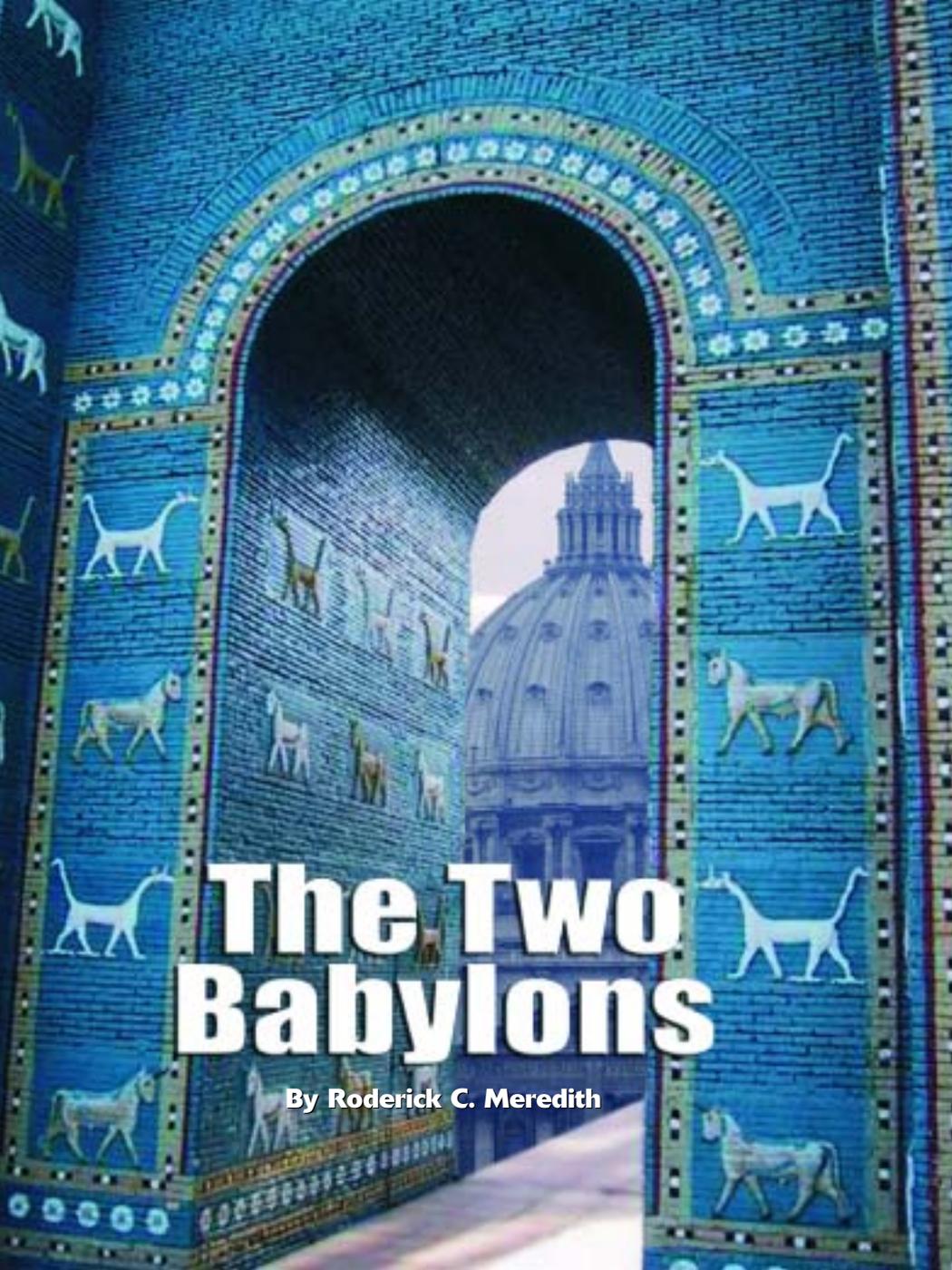
Is *this* supposed to be "Christian"? Where does the *Bible* fit in all of this? What *does* the inspired word of God have to say about these practices? Describing the foolish and wretched

ideas of pagan philosophers, the Apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to **vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Romans 1:24–27).

What is the "penalty" of the sin of sexual perversion? When the AIDS epidemic was just beginning, one of the nations leading newspapers editorialized that this horrible epidemic would be one of the "easiest" to stop if the homosexuals would just cease from their promiscuous ways. But of course they **did not do so!** And now **millions** of lives have been lost, and millions more are enduring agonizing pain and suffering. Much of the continent of Africa is being *devastated* because of AIDS!

Of course, AIDS is just one of the *many* penalties of homosexuality. Others include a much higher incidence of venereal disease, a much higher degree of frustration and emptiness resulting in a high rate of suicide, and a total lack of the kind of committed love, stability and genuine family relationships involved in a true Christian marriage. Speaking of family, there would of course be *no real families* and *no children* if everyone followed the example of the homosexuals. A very real Satan the Devil would have *obliterated* the existence of mankind on this earth!

Continued on page 30



The Two Babylons

By Roderick C. Meredith

Does *The Da Vinci Code* help explain how Christianity was hijacked? The real TRUTH of the matter may astonish you!

For months, Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* has been at or near the top of the best-seller lists. Millions have been enthralled by this fascinating novel. A film based on the book is sure to follow in due time.

What is so unusual about this book?

Apart from being fast-paced and well-written, *The Da Vinci Code* stretches the minds of its readers. Though cast in

the form of a novel—and containing fictions and errors of which a Christian should be skeptical—it can spur a reader to realize that a *lot more* is under the surface of our religious ideas and practices than usually meets the eye. There are three principal characters in *The Da Vinci Code*: Sophie Neveu—a gifted French cryptologist; Robert Langdon—a Harvard symbologist; and Leigh Teabing—a former British Royal Historian.

Let us listen in on their conversation about the origins of what the world today calls “Christianity”—

“Historians still marvel at the brilliance with which Constantine converted the sun-worshipping pagans to Christianity. By fusing pagan symbols, dates, and rituals into the growing Christian tradition, he created a kind of hybrid religion that was acceptable to both parties.’

‘Transmogrification,’ Langdon said. ‘The vestiges of pagan religion in Christian symbology are undeniable. Egyptian sun disks became the halos of Catholic saints. Pictograms of Isis nursing her miraculously conceived son Horus became the blueprint for our modern images of the Virgin Mary nursing Baby Jesus. And virtually all the elements of the Catholic ritual—the miter, the altar, the doxology, and the communion, the act of ‘God-eating’—were taken directly from earlier pagan mystery religions.’

Teabing groaned. ‘Don’t get a symbologist started on Christian icons. Nothing in

Christianity is original. The pre-Christian God Mithras—called *the Son of God* and *the Light of the World*—was born on December 25, died, was buried in a rock tomb, and then resurrected in three days. By the way, December 25 is also the birthday of Osiris, Adonis, and Dionysus. The newborn Krishna was presented with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Even Christianity's weekly holy day was stolen from the pagans.'

'What do you mean?'

'Originally,' Langdon said, 'Christianity honored the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, but Constantine shifted it to coincide with the pagan's veneration day of the sun.' He paused, grinning. 'To this day, most churchgoers attend services on Sunday morning with no idea that they are there on account of the pagan sun god's weekly tribute—*Sunday*.'" (*The Da Vinci Code*, pp. 232–233).

The Historical TRUTH

"But that is all fiction!" you might say. "Where did this crazy author get all these strange ideas? I am sure that *my* religion is based completely upon the Bible!"

Please, my friends, *do not be too sure!*

The Bible itself tells us: "Prove all things. Hold fast that which is true" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV). The actual *truth* is—and I do challenge you to **prove it**—that *this part* of Dan Brown's book is based on solid **fact**. For historian after historian acknowledges that the original Christianity of Jesus and the Apostles was dramatically **changed** within a few centuries after Jesus' death! As regular readers of *Tomorrow's World*

should know by now, we have cited quote after quote from respected "mainstream" historians and theologians attesting to this well-known truth. As noted historian Will Durant wrote:

"Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it. The Greek mind, dying, came to a transmigrated life in the theology and liturgy of the Church; the Greek language, having reigned for centuries over philosophy, became the vehicle of Christian literature and ritual; the Greek mysteries passed down into the impressive mystery of the Mass. Other pagan cultures contributed to the syncretist result. From Egypt came the ideas of a divine trinity... and a personal immortality of reward and punishment; from Egypt the adoration of the Mother and Child, and the mystic theosophy that made Neoplatonism and Gnosticism, and obscured the Christian creed; there, too, Christian monasticism would find its exemplars and its source. From Phrygia came the worship of the Great Mother; from Syria the resurrection drama of Adonis; from Thrace, perhaps, the cult of Dionysus, the dying and saving god.... The Mithraic ritual so closely resembled the eucharistic sacrifice of the Mass that Christian fathers charged the Devil with inventing these similarities to mislead frail minds. Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient pagan world.... [The Eucharist] was a conception long sanctified by time; the pagan mind needed no schooling to receive it; by embodying the 'mystery of the Mass,' Christianity became the last and greatest of the mystery religions" (*The Story of*

Civilization, Vol. 5, Durant, pp. 595, 599).

Paul Johnson, the highly respected historian, is among many who openly acknowledge that the biblical *seventh-day Sabbath* observed by Christ and the original Apostles was changed: "Many Christians did not make a clear distinction between this sun-cult and their own. They referred to Christ 'driving his chariot across the sky,' they held their services on Sunday, knelt towards the East and had their nativity-feast on 25 December, the birthday of the sun at the winter solstice. During the later pagan revival under the Emperor Julian, many Christians found it easy to apostatize because of this confusion; the Bishop of Troy told Julian he had always prayed secretly to the sun. Constantine never abandoned sun-worship and kept the sun on his coins. *He made Sunday into a day of rest*" (*A History of Christianity*, Johnson, 1976, pp. 67–69, Emphasis ours).

What happened after Constantine? The widely read mainstream religious author Jesse Lyman Hurlbut explains: "The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and of worship. About 405AD images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as memorials, then in succession revered, adored, and worshiped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana; the Lord's Supper became a sacrifice in place of a memorial; and the elder

evolved from a preacher into a priest.... The church and the state became one when Christianity was adopted as the religion of the empire, and out of the unnatural union arose two evils, one in the eastern, the other in the western provinces. In the east the state dominated the church until it lost all energy and uplifting life. In the west ["Rome," Ed.] as we shall see, the church gradually usurped power over the state, and the result was not *Christianity* but a more or less corrupt *hierarchy* controlling the nations of Europe, making the church mainly a political machine" (*The Story of the Christian Church*, pp. 79–80).

A Modern "Babylon" Created

So where does all this lead? Did the leaders of the Protestant Reformation really bring the professing Christian church "back on track" to the "faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)—back to the true Christianity of Jesus and the original Apostles? Although undoubtedly sincere, the Protestant reformers carried over most of the anti-law, anti-obedience attitudes they had come to adopt in their rebellion against "Mother Rome." Yet, like Rome, they were still involved in a paganized system of false doctrines, wrong Holy Days, and false concepts of God, which God Himself describes in Revelation 17:4–5: "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead

a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

With this form of "Christianity" as the state religion, masses of former pagans "converted." Many did so out of convenience rather than conviction, and kept their old beliefs privately. Others came to the new syncretistic faith uneducated in its beliefs, and able to receive only the most basic instruction.

"Babylon" is a symbol of confusion. The formation of the Roman Catholic Church and then the later appearance of dozens of "daughter" churches has certainly brought about a spiritual malaise of conflicting denominations, doctrines, creeds and practices—all supposedly "Christian." Yet none of them corresponds remotely to the Christianity that the original Apostles and the early Church of God followed for decades after the death of Jesus of Nazareth. They *all* have retained dozens of pagan ideas, and practices, that would have been utterly foreign to the early Church!

Back in the 1940s, noted author Alexander Hislop wrote his landmark book, *The Two Babylons*. Although it appears that Hislop remained a Protestant until his death, he carefully pointed out—with *much historical documentation*—that the modern Roman Catholic Church is a continuation of the ancient Babylonish mystery system, and that its religious festivals and most of its practices were drawn directly from the Babylonian religion and its priesthood. Hislop *partially* makes the connection with the "daughter" churches

that have come out of Rome. But he was evidently blinded to the full meaning of what has happened to modern "Christianity."

Near the beginning of his book, Hislop lays out the basic thesis that he goes on to document in full:

"It has been known all along that Popery was baptized Paganism; but God is now making it manifest, that the Paganism which Rome has baptized is, in all its essential elements, *the very Paganism* which prevailed in the ancient literal Babylon, when Jehovah opened before Cyrus the two-leaved gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron.... Her judgment is now evidently hastening on; and just as it approaches, the Providence of God, conspiring with the Word of God, by light pouring in from all quarters, makes it more and more evident that Rome is in very deed the Babylon of the Apocalypse; that the essential character of her system, the grand objects of her worship, her festivals, her doctrine and discipline, her rites and ceremonies, her priesthood and their orders, have all been derived from ancient Babylon; and, finally, that the Pope himself is truly and properly the lineal representative of Belshazzar. In the warfare that has been waged against the domineering pretensions of Rome, it has too often been counted enough merely to meet and set aside her presumptuous boast, that she is the mother and mistress of all churches—the one Catholic Church, out of whose pale there is no salvation. If ever there was excuse for such a mode of dealing with her, that excuse will hold no longer. If the position I have laid down can be main-

tained, she must be stripped of the name of a Christian Church altogether; for if it was a Church of Christ that was convened on that night, when the pontiff-king of Babylon, in the midst of his thousand lords, 'praised the gods of gold, and of silver, and of wood, and of stone' (Daniel 5:4), then the Church of Rome is entitled to the name of a Christian Church; but not otherwise. This to some, no doubt, will appear a very startling position; but it is

Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the *heathen*, at that precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on

possible, find and read the book, *The Two Babylons*, and prove to themselves that modern "churchianity" is simply a continuation of the old Babylonian religion, with the name "Christian" stamped on the outside!

What Lies Just Ahead

All of this information is **not** just a philosophical argument against genuinely pagan practices—important as that may be.

Meeting paganism half-way "was very early developed," Hislop writes! Yet God clearly told our ancestors: "Learn not the way of the heathen..."

one which it is the object of this work to establish; and let the reader judge for himself, whether I do not bring ample evidence to substantiate my position" (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 2–3).

Later Hislop describes how the Catholic "confessional" was borrowed from paganism, giving the priests greater authority over the lay members of the church. He explains that the pagan festivals of Christmas and Easter were introduced into "Christianity" centuries **after** Christ revealed the full Truth to his Apostles. "Indeed," Hislop writes, "it is admitted by the most learned and candid writers of all parties that the day of our Lord's birth cannot be determined, and that *within the Christian Church* no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of *till the third* century, and that not till the *fourth* century was far advanced did it gain much observance. How, then, did the Romish Church fix on December the 25th as Christmas-day? Why, thus:

the part of Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early developed" (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 92–93).

Indeed.

Meeting paganism half-way "was very early developed," Hislop writes! Yet God clearly told our ancestors: "Learn **not** the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people *are* vain: for *one* cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:2–4, *KJV*). Yet modern day churchgoers persist in doing *just that*—and then have the audacity to stamp the name "Christian" on the outside of this package of **pagan** beliefs and practices! Those genuinely interested in the basic history of this relationship between ancient Babylon and modern professing Christianity should, if

The understanding of this matter can also *help protect* sincere and zealous Christians—if *they will take action*—from the coming "Holocaust" described in the Bible as the Great Tribulation! Brilliant author Adrian Hilton describes the background of what is *right now* underway:

"Jesus had said his kingdom was not of this worldly order, and talked much of the world and the Church being at odds until his return. It was not until Constantine began a process of syncretism that Christians began to understand the nature of the beast which was evolving. The Saturday Jewish Sabbath was replaced by Constantine's edict forbidding work on 'the venerable day of the sun' [Sunday], and the celebration of the Passover was declared illegal—on pain of death. It was replaced by 'Easter', celebrated on a Sunday and inherited from a Babylonian cult to the goddess Ishtar. The Roman pseudo-Christianity caused many faithful believers to flee into the

mountains of Europe and Asia Minor to escape persecution and death, and there they continued, away from the world's view, as the true church of Christ. The majority of Christians, however, were awed by the universal influence of the new unity. There was one Empire under the one Emperor, leading one Church under one God. Many believers began to wonder if they had not misunderstood the concept of the kingdom of God—it might have been the Church itself, or even the christianised Empire. Thus the fateful union of Church and State was ratified—a union that was to shape the evolution of Europe for centuries to come” (*The Principality and Power of Europe*, pp. 23–24).

Later, Hilton continues:

“Just as crucial to the federalizing process is the erosion of the achievements of the Reformation. Even some prominent Evangelical Christian leaders have presented this momentous move of God as one of the greatest tragedies that ever happened to the Church, and state that Protestants ‘destroyed the unity of Christendom’. They fail to mention the true nature of the Papal system of religion, the depths of spiritual darkness in which it keeps its followers, and its diametric opposition to true biblical Christianity. Unity, it seems, is more important than truth. The concept of Christendom, however unbiblical its practice, appears to matter more than the national boundaries set between one principality and another, regardless of the liberties those boundaries defend.

While visiting Austria in 1983, the Pope spoke out against the ‘national and artificial borders’ all over Europe. He added:

‘Europeans should overcome the menacing international confrontations of states and alliances, and create a new united Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.’

In 1988, he continued this theme when he addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg; an occasion at which many asked why a perceived spiritual leader was addressing the issues of *political* unity. The *Sunday Telegraph*, in 1991, summed up the Pope’s plans for the ‘evangelisation’ of Europe. It stated:

‘He is calmly preparing to assume the mantle which he solemnly believes to be his Divine Right—that of new Holy Roman Emperor, reigning from the Urals to the Atlantic.’” (pp. 36–37).

A “New” Holy Roman Empire?

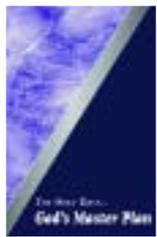
As Britain’s *Sunday Telegraph* reported, the Pope wants to “reign” over a new Holy Roman Empire. However, the key question is: will it *really* be “holy”? Or will it actually be a revival of an ancient, pagan, *Babylonian* church-state system that God condemns?

In a prophecy for *our time*, the prophet Isaiah described a modern virgin “daughter” of the

ancient Babylon, who would profane her own people (Isaiah 47:1–9). God clearly describes this modern Babylon as “the lady of kingdoms” (v. 5). Then God states: “And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’ so that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them. ‘Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, who say in your heart, “I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children”; but these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments’” (vv. 7–9).

Notice how some of these *exact statements* are used against the *modern* Babylon that will *fight Christ at His Second Coming!* “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and

To Learn More...



True Christians follow the example set by Jesus Christ and the Apostles, and observe the biblical days of worship that God instituted, rather than man-made counterfeits taken from false religion.

Please request our **FREE** booklet, ***The Holy Days: God's Master Plan***, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site www.tomorrowworld.org.

famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her” (Revelation 18:7–8).

This is the soon-coming church-state system in Europe, which will eventually turn on the American and British-descended peoples and bring about the Great Tribulation! It will be a *revival* of ancient Babylon—with its priestly castes, its pagan rituals and doctrines and its *complete disregard* for the commands of God. It will be a clever *counterfeit* of true Christianity. To millions, though, it will *seem* like the real thing!

Why?

Because the vast majority of professing Christians do not generally *study* the Bible. They do not really dig in and try to “prove” all things as God commands. Therefore, even many evangelical Christians—and their ministers—will eventually be caught up in the euphoria of this powerful Babylonish system! For it will be part of the “ecumenical movement.” It will seem like “the thing to do.”

Please remember Jesus’ own words: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13–14).

The Jesus Christ of your Bible also gave this powerful warning: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the king-

dom 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,



The European Parliament building, in Strasbourg, France. Scripture shows that a religio-political force centered in a resurgent Europe will play a key role in end-time prophecy. ©TW Image.

you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:21–23).

The beautiful pageantry, the music, the pomp and ceremony and the intimidating power of this coming Babylonian system will be very impressive. But only those who genuinely **do** the will of God and who *keep His commandments—all ten of them*—will be in Christ’s soon-coming Kingdom. “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who **keep** the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

At the very end of His inspired word, our Creator tells us plainly: “Blessed are those who **do His commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idol-

aters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Revelation 22:14–15). The religious sorcery and idolatry of the Babylonian system will be enticing to many millions. For the *vast majority* will go that way. But the above passage warns about *anyone* who “loves and practices a lie.”

The teachings of modern “Babylon” are filled with a series of lies, misunderstandings and pagan practices.

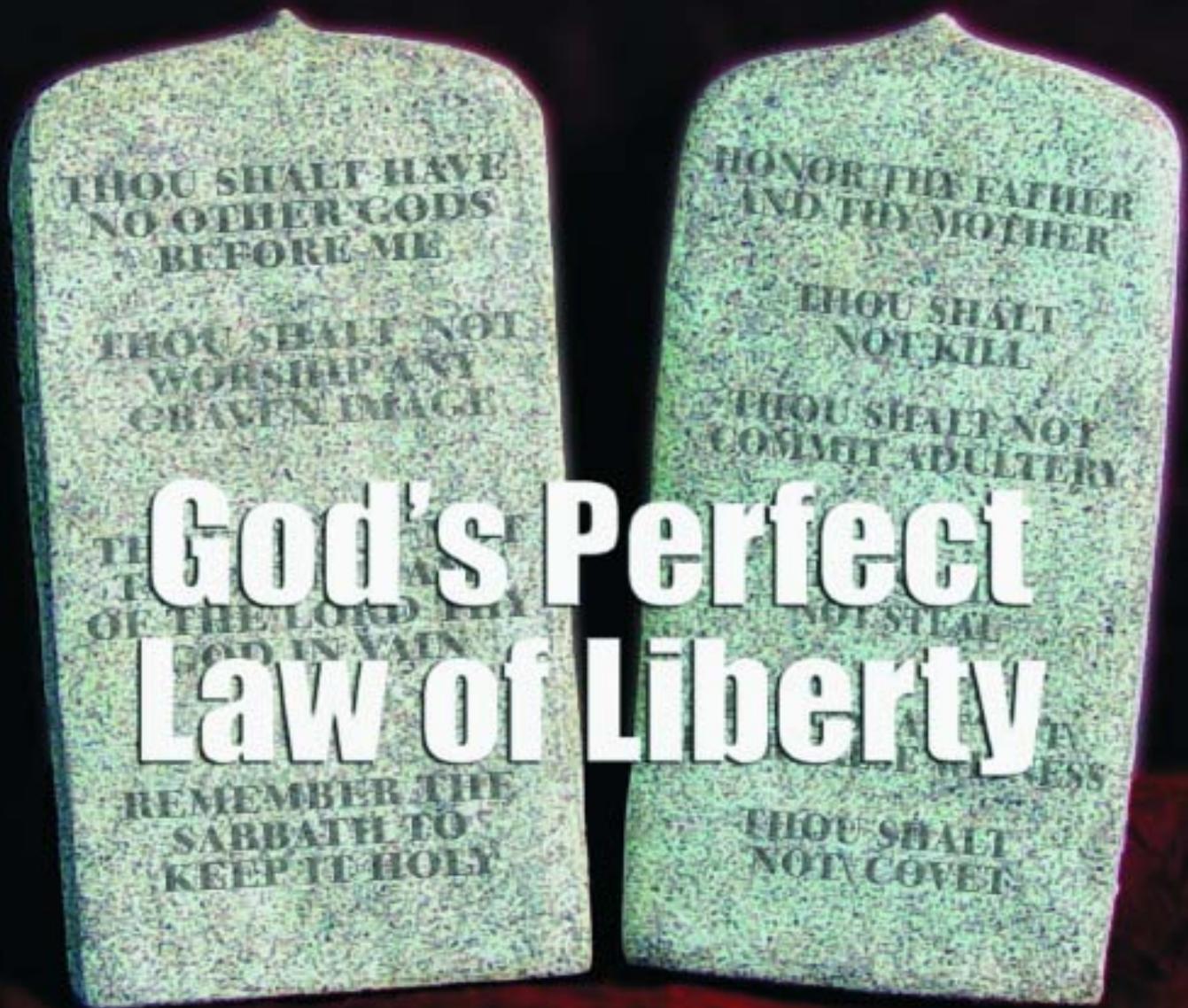
Yet God’s word describes the temporary **wealth and power** of this system: “For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who

were slain on the earth” (Revelation 18:23–24). And how will it **end**? “Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore’” (v. 21).

God warns: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!” (v. 2). Then God commands: “And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (v. 4).

In this magazine, and on the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast, we will

Continued on page 29



By Mark Mendiola

It is no coincidence that as more people utterly reject adherence to moral and ethical absolutes, many democratic nations find their governments in crisis. Only when government is based on God's perfect law of liberty can it endure. Only when citizens are virtuous and law-abiding can freedom prevail. A perfect world government that ensures liberties for all mankind will be established in tomorrow's world—but how it will come about may surprise you.

In 1947, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill made a statement that has been quoted so often it has almost become a cliché, yet it still rings true: “Many forms of government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. *No one pretends that democracy is perfect* or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government—except for all the others that have been tried from time to time.”

United States Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said: “Our nation was founded as an experiment in *human liberty*. Its institutions reflect the

belief of our founders that men had their origin and destiny in God; that they were endowed by Him with inalienable rights and had duties prescribed by *moral law*, and that human institutions ought primarily to help men develop their God-given possibilities.”

As American, Canadian and British people stray further from the supreme moral law of the Ten Commandments, we are seeing that experiment in democracy come to the end of its rope, and unravel in tatters. As citizens reject the virtues prescribed by that perfect law of liberty, government rots from the inside out.

For government to succeed, it must be based on God's holy and righteous law. If it is not firmly grounded on that bedrock of righteousness, it will collapse in ignominious ruin! Originally, the U.S. government was founded on much of that law, but modern Americans are breaking it with wholesale impunity.

Horace Greeley, an American journalist of the 1800s, said: "*Liberty cannot be established without morality, nor morality without faith. It is impossible to enslave, mentally or socially, a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.*"

John Adams, second President of the U.S., said: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other." On March 6, 1799, Adams called for a national day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer, quoting Proverbs 14:34 (KJV): "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." The Bible states that all of God's commandments are righteousness, and that sin is lawlessness (Psalm 119:172; 1 John 3:4). As the U.S. and other Western nations reject God's commandments and embrace an immoral, hedonistic lifestyle, they become more of a reproach to other countries, and lose the precious gift of liberty.

We are witnessing U.S. federal deficit spending spiraling out of control. Current Bush Administration plans are to increase the national debt by \$1 trillion in the next two years, and \$2.75 trillion within a decade. Undisciplined spending threatens an entire economic system upon which the world depends.

One of the greatest inherent weaknesses of democratic governments is the sad fact that the electoral process is designed so that politicians spend prodigious sums of money to please their constituents and be re-elected. Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian who toured the fledgling United States in the early 1800s, predicted: "The American republic will endure until politicians realize they can bribe the people with their own money."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the U.S., warned: "I place economy among the first and most important *virtues*, and public debt as the greatest of dangers. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt." Jefferson also stated: "There does not exist an engine so corruptive of the government and so demoralizing of the nation as a public debt. It will bring on us more ruin at home than all the enemies abroad."

The liberties democratic nations have enjoyed have been a wonderful blessing from the Creator God. Yet citizens also bear a responsibility in upholding high moral, ethical and spiritual standards. For government to succeed, people must be *virtuous* and law-abiding.

Patrick Henry, famous for proclaiming "Give me liberty or give me death" during the U.S. Revolutionary War, also said: "No free government or *the blessings of liberty* can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and *virtue*, and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."

President Theodore Roosevelt was even more blunt: "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity and hardihood—the *virtues* that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life."

Alexander Hamilton, the first U.S. Treasury Secretary, stated that "*natural liberty is a gift of the beneficent Creator*, to the whole human race; and that *civil liberty* is founded in that."

Lyrics of the song, "America the Beautiful," include "America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self control, *thy liberty in law.*" The nation's laws, based on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, help ensure freedoms. Its liberty is confirmed in law. Without law and morality, there cannot be liberty.

Cecil B. De Mille, who directed the classic movie *The Ten Commandments*, said: "The Ten Commandments are the charter and guide of human liberty, for *there can be no liberty without the law.*"

Even modern U.S. Presidents have credited God with blessing the U.S. with liberties. At the conclusion of his January 2003 State of the Union address, George W. Bush said: "The liberty we prize is not America's gift to the world. It is God's gift to humanity." More than 40 years earlier, in his inaugural address, John F. Kennedy stated: "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the Hand of God."

Alexander Tytler, who wrote *The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic* in 1776, observed that the average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years. He described their life cycles as going from bondage, to *spiritual faith*, to great courage, to *liberty*, to abundance, to selfishness, to complacency, to apathy, to dependency—and back to bondage.

Tytler wrote: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until a majority of voters discover that they can vote themselves

largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy followed by a dictatorship.”

The earliest U.S. leaders stressed the need for virtues, an emphasis that is ridiculed in today's society. They knew that for a government to endure, high moral standards had to be the norm. Virtues are paramount for government to succeed. Nothing better summarizes godly virtues than the Ten Commandments.

In August 2003, much media attention was focused on a controversial Ten Commandments monument in Alabama, after a federal judge ordered that the 5,000-pound granite monument be removed from that state's judicial building. It was a tragic day when the Ten Commandments were banned from public display.

The Founding Fathers based U.S. laws on the Ten Commandments: the greatest, most sacred law ever given to mankind, the very law on which Judeo-Christian principles and civil laws have been based in the western world for centuries. James Madison, fourth U.S. President, is considered the father of the U.S. Constitution. He said: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

Referring to the Ten Commandments, Abraham Lincoln said: “It seems to me that nothing short of infinite wisdom could by any possibility have devised and given to man this excellent and perfect moral code. It is suited to man in all conditions of life, and includes all the duties they owe to their Creator, to themselves and to their fellow man.”

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of a federal judge's order to remove the Ten Commandments. Meanwhile, representations of Moses and the Ten Commandments are featured in the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington. A marble portrait of Moses is displayed over the main entrance to the U.S. House of Representatives.

God commanded ancient Israel to display His Ten Commandments prominently. It is truly a sad commentary that the United States, the leading nation of the western world, is suffering a constitutional crisis over whether the Ten Commandments can even be shown in public. Obeying the Ten Commandments would ensure U.S. greatness as a nation. To shatter the Ten Commandments is to destroy the nation.

Notice what Moses, whom even many secular authorities acknowledge as a great law-giver, commanded the Israelites: “Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them.... Therefore be careful to observe them; for *this is your wisdom and your understanding* in the sight of the peoples

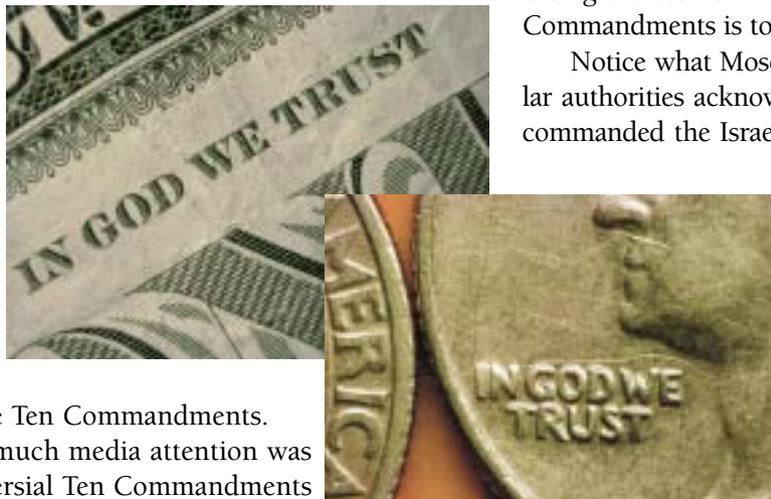
who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘*Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*’ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has *such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law*, which I set before you this day. Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And *teach them to your children and your grandchildren*” (Deuteronomy 4:5–9).

God is not near to the nation as it tramples His righteous commandments, statutes and judgments. To the contrary, He is becoming further removed.

There is an organized movement whose goal is to completely remove all references to God and Judeo-Christian religion from public places in the United States, including “In God We Trust” from U.S. coins and currency. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether “under God” should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that voluntary prayer could not be allowed in the nation's public schools. In 1963, it ruled that the Bible could not be read in classrooms, either. In 1980, it ruled that the Ten Commandments could not be posted in public schools or taught to children in classrooms.

Notice what God said after He gave His holy, just and sacred commandments to Israel: “Oh, that they



had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, *that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*" (Deuteronomy 5:29).

It is no coincidence, as God's commandments are repudiated, that violence and disaster are breaking out across the land. Nations suffer when they attempt to purge any reference to God or His Ten Commandments from society. The prophet Hosea makes this plain: "Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away.... My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you... *Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they increased, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.... So I will punish them for their ways, and reward them for their deeds... because they have ceased obeying the LORD*" (Hosea 4:1-3, 6-7, 9-10).

In his 1789 inaugural address, President George Washington stated: "The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained." In his farewell address, Washington stressed religion and morality are essential for government. "True religion affords to government its surest support," he also said.

Both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years to the day after they had signed the Declaration of Independence.

In a letter to Jefferson, Adams wrote: "Have you ever found in history one single example of a nation thoroughly corrupted that was afterwards restored to a virtue?... And *without virtue, there can be no political liberty...* Will you tell me how to prevent riches from becoming the effects of temperance and industry? Will you tell me how to prevent luxury from producing effeminacy, intoxication, extravagance, vice and folly?"

How prophetic! Adams knew the United States was destined to be wealthy, but he feared luxury would

thoroughly corrupt the nation. Revisionist historians have questioned Jefferson's religious faith. Yet he wrote in 1781: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." He stated on another occasion: "Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

The Apostle James has much to say about God's law of liberty. Many claim that God's law is oppressive—a curse and bondage. James, to the contrary, says that it is a wonderful blessing. "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, *this one will be blessed* in what he does" (James 1:25). James says that we are to study God's law and live by it. If we continue in it, we will be blessed. He is plainly discussing the Ten Commandments.

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well.... For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, 'Do not commit adultery,' also said, 'Do not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery, but you

do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:8, 10-12).

The Apostle Paul plainly links God's law with liberty and love. He wrote in Romans 8:2: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." He said in 2 Corinthians 3:17 "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

He wrote: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.... For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:1, 13-14).

The very thrust of Jesus Christ's core gospel message was government. Christ plainly showed that the Kingdom of God will be solidly founded on God's righteous commandments.

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away,



The United States was founded by individuals who looked to God as the ultimate lawgiver. Today, many want to erase all mention of God from law and public discourse.

one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in *the kingdom of heaven*; but *whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 5:17–19).

In the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ will “proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1). His government will be based on God’s law. His government and law will be tightly intertwined and will not unravel, unlike democracies and other forms of government during the past thousands of years.

“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” (Isaiah 2:2).

Mountains and hills symbolize nations. As Revelation 11:15 shows, the governments of this world will become the kingdoms of Jesus Christ, who shall reign forever and ever!

“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 2:3).

The Bible shows that God’s saints will rule over nations, and will reign on earth as kings and priests (Revelation 5:10). It also shows that they will be keeping and enforcing God’s law as world rulers for the benefit of all.

Before the Kingdom of God is established on earth, we will see the collapse of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and other democratic nations as they spurn God’s law. During the Great Tribulation, a ruthless resurrection of the Roman Empire will enslave these people who have rejected God’s law of liberty.

Jesus Christ, however, will smash this godless system that has enslaved millions of people for thousands of years. His government will never be

destroyed and will last forever, unlike mankind’s futile attempts at government the past 6,000 years.

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a *kingdom which shall never be destroyed*; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall *break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms*, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

The prophet Daniel repeats this: “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is *an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away*.... But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.... 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 dominion, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Daniel 7:14, 18, 27).

On the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is engraved: “...and proclaim liberty throughout all the land,” (Leviticus 25:10), referring to the trumpet blown in ancient Israel the start of jubilee every 50th year, when slaves were liberated and debts forgiven.

The Liberty Bell was cast to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pennsylvania’s founding in 1701. The colony’s leaders declared 1751 a “year of jubilee.” It is appropriate that the Liberty Bell is in Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love,” where U.S. founding documents—the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution—were drafted. Indeed, as the Bible plainly shows, law, liberty and love are inseparable.

Jesus Christ’s return will signal the liberation of mankind in the Kingdom of God, which will be established on God’s law of liberty emanating from Zion!

Mankind must learn the painful lesson that trying to govern itself apart from God’s guidelines is an exercise in futility. When the Kingdom of God is established on earth, everyone will enjoy freedom and express love by keeping His commandments. At that time, God’s perfect government will be founded solidly upon God’s perfect law of liberty! ☐

To Learn More...



The decline of the English-speaking nations was foretold long ago in Scripture. After centuries of squandering God’s promised blessings, these nations are stumbling as the “pride of their power” begins to be broken. You need to know what this means for *your* future!

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

Questions & Answers

Q Does the Bible's statement that "there is a spirit in man" (Job 32:8, 18) refer to God's Holy Spirit, or to an "immortal soul" within human beings?

A The answer is—*neither!* Nevertheless, there is a "spirit" in all human beings (Zechariah 12:1). Most professing Christians believe that this spirit is an "immortal soul" that lives in us and leaves at death. In fact, this idea came *not* from the Bible, but from ancient Egyptians; it came to us through the Greeks, who first popularized the concept through the writings of Plato.

Jesus, by contrast, explained that a "soul" (Greek *soma*, Hebrew *nephesh*, referring to *physical* life and not a spirit essence) *can be destroyed* (Matthew 10:28)! Ezekiel said that "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). So we see that the "soul" is *not* indestructible. At his creation, man

became "a living soul" (Genesis 2:7, KJV). Man does not *have* a soul. Man *is* a "soul." What, then, is this "spirit" that is in every human being—and what is its purpose?

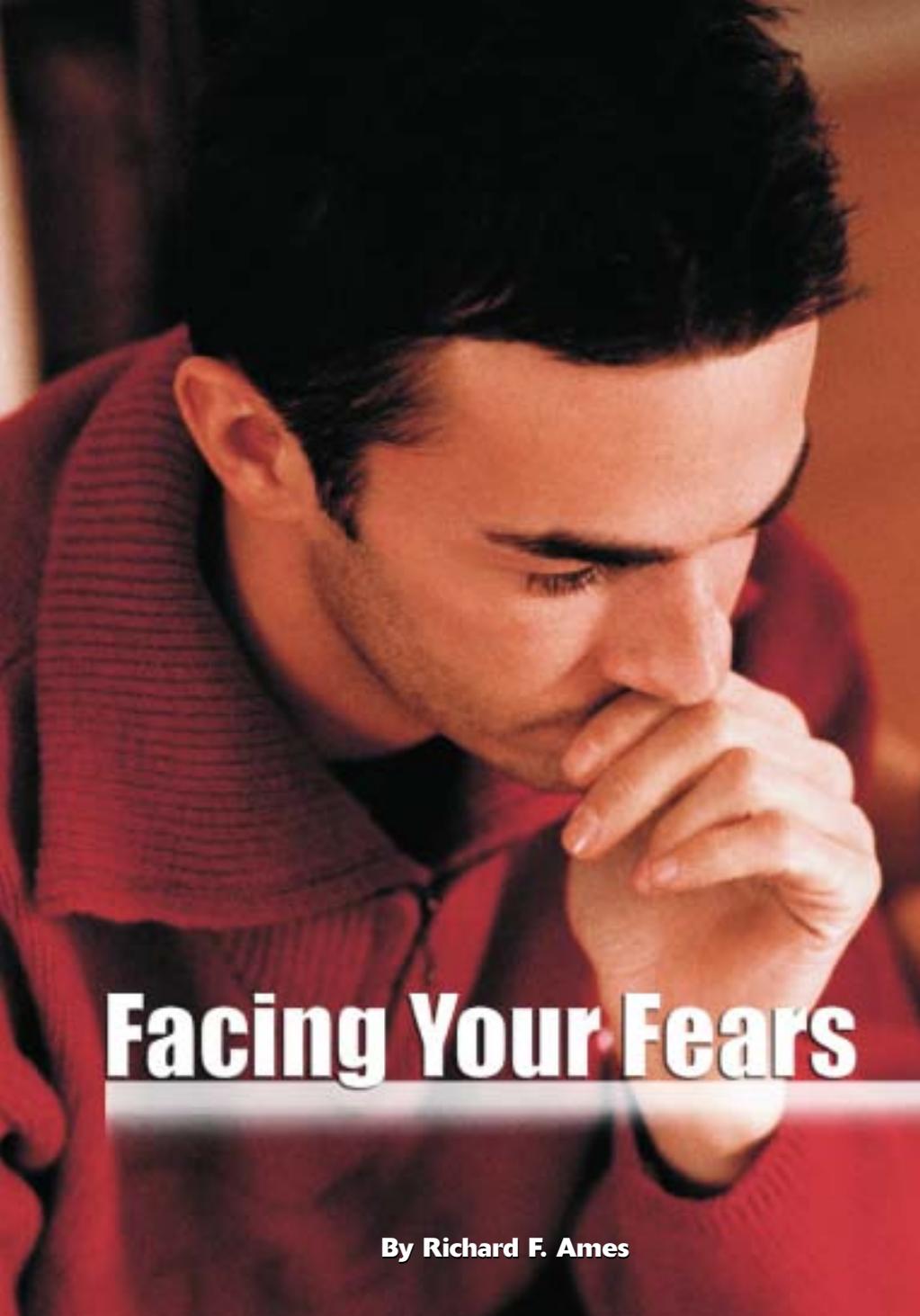
When God created Adam and Eve, he gave them the breath of life, and also placed a *nonphysical* element, the human spirit, in their brains. Animals cannot know the things of man: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?" (1 Corinthians 2:11). This *spirit* essence, combined with the physical brain, makes possible the human intellect—mankind's ability to think, reason, plan and create. God did not give these abilities to animals; they rely entirely on instinct.

Similarly, just as no animal can know the things of mankind, no human being can properly understand the spiritually revealed things of God without *another spiritual element*. The Bible reveals that mankind was created to need *another* spirit—the Holy Spirit of God—which

works with the human spirit in the mind. With God's Holy Spirit, we can then understand the spiritual dimension, including the "deep things of God" (vv. 9–12). "Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Through God's plan of salvation, we can receive the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 2:38; John 7:38–39), which is *added* to our human spirit. We are spiritually "begotten" of God when we receive the Holy Spirit. God is creating a Family (Ephesians 3:14–15; 1 John 3:1–3). The human spirit in man and the Holy Spirit of God *join* to make a *spirit-begotten* child of God (1 Peter 1:3; Romans 8:14–17), just as the male sperm cell and the female ovum join to make a begotten (but not yet ready for birth) human being. We then grow spiritually throughout our lives, until we are born again at the resurrection and join the God family as divine beings composed wholly of spirit.

Correction: The Q&A in the January-February 2004 issue incorrectly stated that the word "they" was a *NKJV* translator's "interpretation" in Revelation 20:10. The pronoun "they" *is* in fact present in the Greek text of Revelation, but refers to the devil and his angels (cf. Revelation 20:7; 12:9; Matthew 25:41)—*not* to the beast and false prophet. The placement of Greek pronouns with regard to their antecedents can sometimes be problematic when striving to render an accurate translation. We apologize for the error.



Facing Your Fears

By Richard F. Ames

Do you lack the courage and peace of mind to cope in today's world? The Bible contains vital keys that can help!

Do you have fears and anxieties? We all experience personal challenges. Many of us sometimes wonder how we can cope in our modern world of constant economic, social and environmental stress. The pressures of daily life may even be challenging our emotional stability, leaving us paralyzed with fear. The good news is that you *can* face your fears. There are vital biblical keys to faith and peace of mind. In this article,

we will explore seven strategies for facing your fears.

The *first key* is to *know the future, and be ready for it*. The Bible gives us an outline of the future. It reveals God's wonderful purpose and plan. God gave humans the privilege of choice: to choose right from wrong; to choose the abnormal from the normal; to choose His revealed way of life that brings peace, or to choose the way of evil and war. In the end, the Bible reveals, we will have glorious world peace and prosperity! That good news of mankind's ultimate destiny can give us perspective, and hope for the future. We have a choice! As God told Israel: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

The world has most often chosen the way of death. So we must face the realities of the carnal, selfish and evil world in which we live, and take appropriate action. What action? Note this advice from the book of Proverbs: "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3). This principle is so important that wise King Solomon repeated it in Proverbs 27:12.

Knowing the future, and being ready for it, will help you face your fears. Jesus told us to *understand* prophetic events (Matthew 24:15). In Luke 21, He described signs that would precede His com-

ing, and He delivered this admonition: “So you also, when you see these things happening, *know* that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Luke 21:31–33). Jesus said that we should be alert to prophetic events so that we will *know* that the kingdom of God is near. He did not say, “so that we can *guess* that the kingdom of God is near.”

Jesus goes on to explain how we can face our fears by understanding what will come: “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (vv. 34–36).

Where the NKJV talks of the “cares” of this life, the NIV translates this as the “anxieties” of life. The NRSV translates this as “worries.” As we remain aware of world events, not just as terrible tragedies but as signs of Christ’s soon return, we can overcome our worries and face our fears.

The February 2002 issue of *Psychology Today* magazine proclaimed, on its cover: “Conquering Fear: Are We Too Afraid?” It featured an article titled “Fear Not.” Authors Brad Schmidt and Jeffrey Winters wrote: “Americans have been very jittery lately. As we cautiously open our mail, terror is ever

present.... On September 11, terrorists did more than destroy buildings; they scarred the American psyche. The details are telling: Pharmacists report an increased demand for anti-anxiety drugs... and some HMOs have seen a 25 percent increase in calls” (pp. 46, 48). Author Ray Monsour Scurfield, in his article “The Normal Abnormal,” gave this strategy for coping: “Balance: *Keep up with current events yet pay attention to yourself*” (p. 50).

Yes, we need to be alert to fulfilled prophecy around us. Fast-moving events should not cause us to be overwhelmed with fear; we should look forward to the ultimate fulfillment of prophecy: Jesus Christ’s return to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth.

A *second key* to facing your fears is to *know your priorities*. What is your greatest priority in life? Is it just to survive? Notice what Jesus said: “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it...” (Mark 8:35). Jesus pointed out that we need to seek a greater priority than just preserving our physical lives. His next comments show us what that priority should be. He said that “whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” (vv. 35–36).

The Creator God has planned a wonderful future for you beyond this fearful world. He wants you in His kingdom, which will soon come to this earth. How important a priority is that kingdom to you? Remember what Jesus said, and mark this verse in your Bible: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

Jesus Christ tells us that the greatest priority in life is to seek the kingdom of God. Christ will return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish His kingdom here on earth. You and I need to be there in that Kingdom! Seeking that kingdom should be our topmost goal and priority. In his *Psychology Today* article, Scurfield gave this advice: “Reassess priorities: Dedicate attention to what is most important” (p. 50). Where do we go to find “what is most important”? We search the Scriptures. We go to the Bible, the Word of God!

Once you have committed yourself to seeking first the kingdom of God, your fears cannot overwhelm you. As Jesus said of those who seek His kingdom: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (v. 34).

Fears sometimes come about because of our own sinful thoughts and actions. When we sin, and know we have sinned, we feel guilty. We fear that something terrible will happen to us; and, lo and behold, it does happen! So a *third key* to facing your fears is to *repent of your sins*.

Yes, we need to acknowledge our fears, our worries *and our sins*! If we genuinely repent of our sins, God will forgive us. We can be free of the anxieties and worry associated with guilt! We can have peace of mind, confident in God’s promise that “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

It takes courage to confess our sins before God. But when we take responsibility for our own actions, and we repent of our

sins, God will give us peace. To “repent” is not just to say that we are sorry. Real repentance means to change our conduct and our way of thinking. It means to turn around and go the other way. It means to acknowledge our sins before God, and ask His forgiveness.

When you repent, you must accept Christ’s sacrifice to pay for your sins, and be willing to obey God’s righteous law. Can you obey God’s law? Yes, you can—through the Holy Spirit in you, which you receive at baptism. As a Christian, you may not succeed in obeying God’s law perfectly, but you will live a pattern of obedience, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and will know that you can go to Christ, in repentance, when you stumble.

When the Apostle Peter preached repentance on the first Day of Pentecost, what did he tell the people to do? To repent **and be baptized** (Acts 2:38). Baptism is our demonstration of faith in Christ’s sacrifice. If you are repentant, and sincerely desire to make a change in your life, you may be considering baptism. Or perhaps you were previously baptized, but you now realize that you had not truly repented at the time of baptism. If so, please contact the regional office nearest you, as listed on page 2 of this magazine. We will be happy to put you in touch with a true minister of Jesus Christ, who will counsel you about this vital key to living a Christian life and facing your fears.

A **fourth key** to facing your fears is to **pray about everything that worries you**. Sometimes, your fears come true. As the patriarch Job observed: “For the thing I greatly feared has come

upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me” (Job 3:25). How do you cope with fears and worries? Through prayer, you can face your fears with God’s help! This was the Apostle Paul’s strategy; he wrote: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). In other words, share your worries, your fears, and your concerns with God in prayer! Pray about everything that worries you! Share your intimate thoughts with God; He knows them anyway, and wants to help you if you will come to Him in prayer.

Exactly how should you pray? Notice that Paul says to pray “with thanksgiving.” You can thank God for all your blessings. Thank Him for the very privilege of asking for His intervention, and for victory over your fears. Are you overwhelmed with fears, aware of everything that has gone wrong in your life? The author of the old nineteenth century hymn had it right when he wrote:

“When upon life’s billows
you are tempest tossed,

When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what
the Lord has done.”

When you count your blessings—when you thank God for all the blessings you have experienced and will experience in your life—there is a wonderful result, as Paul describes: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (v. 7).

Yes, you **can** have peace of mind—the very peace of God. But God expects that you will take action. He expects you to request His help, and to express your faith in God’s willingness to help, by thanking Him as you share your fears with Him.

A **fifth key** to facing your fears is to **exercise faith**. Hebrews

We can trust in God to give us peace and the Apostles, we can

11 is often called the “faith chapter.” It lists heroes and heroines of faith. What is faith? “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is an assurance—a confidence.

Abraham had faith. Though very old, he believed God’s promise that he would become a father of many nations. “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness’” (Romans 4:20–22).

In other words, God was real to Abraham. He knew that God was **more than able** to fulfill His promises. Have you ever asked the question: “What has God promised me?” If you have faith, you can read the Bible and find hundreds of promises that God can fulfill for you, if you believe and obey Him.

Are you afraid that you will not have enough to eat, or clothes to wear? Are your worries mostly about your physical needs? Notice how Jesus corrected His listeners who were fearful

about their physical needs being met: “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into

your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12–13).

Yes, God requires that we *both* love Him and fear Him. Both qualities go hand in hand! If you read through the books of Psalms

needs genuine, humble Christians who revere the true God. We need to follow the example of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. He had a godly fear (Isaiah 11:2). He taught us: “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in

Give us His faith, His power and His strength. When we follow the example of Christ we face our fears—and overcome them.

the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:28–30).

We *can* trust in God to give us His faith, His power and His strength. When we follow the example of Christ and the Apostles, we can face our fears—and overcome them. As Paul wrote: “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

A *sixth* key to facing your fears is to *fear God*. Can you really face your fears by having fear? Many mistakenly call the “fear of God” primitive. But the biblical fear of God is a deep *reverence* and *respect* for the Creator. It is an *awe* at God’s majesty and greatness. It is a response to the reality of God. *When you choose to fear God, you will not fear man.*

The fear of God and the love of God are *not* mutually exclusive. Many wrongly think that you can have one *or* the other. That is *not* what your Bible says. Notice: “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to love him, to serve the LORD

and Proverbs, you will be *amazed* at the blessings and benefits of a godly fear! For example: “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge” (Proverbs 14:26). True fearlessness (“strong confidence”) comes from God.

Our world is not at peace today because so few people have a godly fear. The Apostle Paul, quoting Isaiah, makes that very plain: “Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:15–18).

How many people have you known who are arrogant and have no godly fear? Our world

hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:28–31).

A godly fear—reverence for the true God—gives us peace and confidence. We can know that God values us, and that He wants only the best for us—and that we can have the best if we obey Him.

Faith is an antidote to fear! Seeking first the important things in life will help you grow in faith! As you grow in faith, you will see that God is able to accomplish far more than human beings know or

Continued on page 29

To Learn More...



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Famine Ahead: The Third Horseman

Warnings about famine may sound absurd to affluent overfed nations in Western Europe, North America and other parts of the world, where *obesity* is a growing problem! However, large segments of the human family experience *daily* hunger and starvation as agonizing facts of life. Remarkably, many religious leaders talk about love, peace and tolerance, yet *ignore* ancient prophecies about *literal events* that are *coming alive* today!

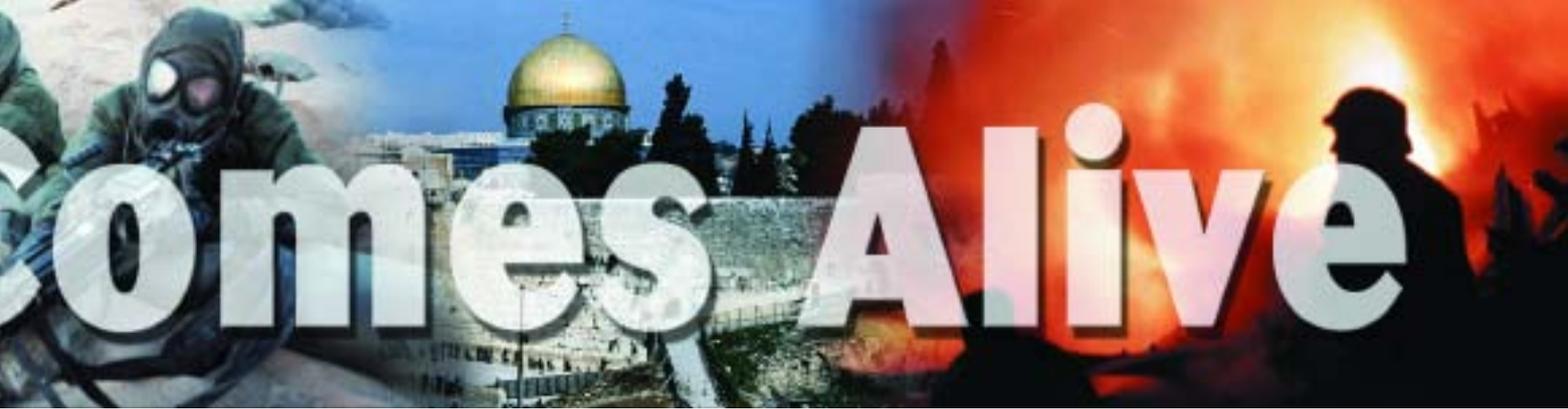
Jesus warned that one of the *prominent signs* that would precede His Second Coming would be *increasingly severe famines on a global scale* (Matthew 24:3–8; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11). He used the symbol of the Third Horseman of the Apocalypse—a rider on a black horse carrying scales (balances)—to depict an era of famines that would mark the end of this age (Revelation 6:5–8). These prophecies reveal that, before Christ returns, warfare, widespread famines, disease epidemics and a string of natural disasters will bring death to one quarter of the earth.

To modern ears, this sounds like morbid science fiction or the scare tactics of an alarmist. This is a subject that trendy, “feel-good Christianity” does not like to talk about. But actual global conditions show that the world is beginning to resemble what the Bible has long predicted. According to the World Health Organization, *one third of the world’s population is starving* and another third is malnourished. Only one third is considered well fed. Each year, *millions die* from starvation—including 100 million children in the 1990s alone. Every minute, 23 children die of malnutrition and preventable diseases. Drought-induced famines threaten the lives of 15 million people in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Eritrea) and in Mauritania (in northwest Africa). In nations of southern Africa, 14 million struggle to get enough food. These are facts of life today!

Though most of the world’s *current* famine-induced suffering affects developing countries in Africa and Southeast Asia, Bible prophecies indicate that a *similar situation will develop* in more affluent Western countries. Long ago, God told the *rebellious house of Israel* that “one third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one third shall fall by the sword [war] all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds” (Ezekiel 5:12). The lack of rain and ensuing drought will be major factors contributing to this dire situation (Leviticus 26:19–20; Deuteronomy 28:23–24).

A lack of rain, and widespread drought, are *not the only causes* of modern famines. Severe or erratic weather, related to climate shifts like El Niño or La Niña, can bring heavy rains, freezes and tornadoes that damage crops and produce food shortages. Wars that drive farmers off the land reduce food production, disrupt distribution systems and destroy stored food. Political opponents are often deprived access to food supplies. In some African nations, the forced takeover of farms has crippled food production, and erased jobs and income for buying food. Structural changes foisted on debtor nations by the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund also generate famine conditions in segments of society. Nations that are “encouraged” to grow cash crops for exports, instead of raising food, often become unable to feed themselves. The displacement of rural subsistence farmers by large corporations also sends many into poverty and starvation.

The costs of environmental deterioration and destruction will eventually have to be paid—and the bills are coming due! Fish stocks in the world’s oceans are in serious decline, devastated by modern factory fishing techniques. Plagues such as mad cow disease have seriously damaged Britain’s beef industry, and threaten other countries.



Misguided government policies, amplified by drought, have caused devastating famines in the past and continue to do so today. British, Dutch and French colonial policies contributed to the deaths of millions in Ireland, Africa and South Asia (see *Floods, Famines, and Emperors*, Fagan; also *Late Victorian Holocausts*, Davis). More than 12 million died of starvation during Russia's disastrous experiments with collectivism and centralized planning in the 1920s and 1930s—which included Stalin deliberately withholding food from the Ukraine to eliminate political opponents (see *Russia Under the Bolshevik Regime*, Pipes; also *The Harvest of Sorrow*, Conquest). An estimated 30 million starved in famines during China's "Great Leap Forward" in the late 1950s for some of the same reasons. Today, the European Union wants central control of Europe's food supplies—agriculture, fisheries, food processing and distribution—a policy that could have sobering consequences.

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses prophesied that if they *obeyed* the laws of God they would be blessed with "rain in due season" and abundant crops, but if they *ignored* the laws of God, He would "break the pride of your power" by making "your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze" so that "your land shall not yield its produce" and disease epidemics would afflict their flocks and herds (Leviticus 26:14–22). God also warned that *because of disobedience* "you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" and that God would "cut off your supply of bread" (Leviticus 26:16, 26). God later warned the Israelites that in addition to crop damage by drought and insects, "you shall be oppressed and plundered" and your flocks and herds will be "violently taken away from you" and "given to your enemies... a nation whom you have not known

shall eat the fruit of your land... you shall be *driven mad* because of the sight which your eyes see" (Deuteronomy 28:23–42).

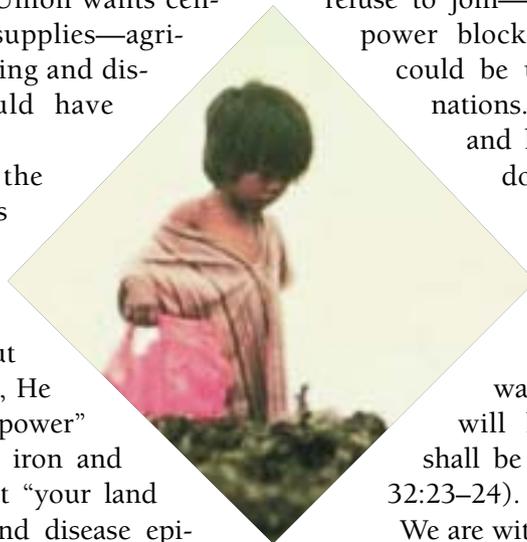
What God foretold is *happening today* to Britain, and to other modern descendants of Israel in Europe and Africa. In the 1970s, in order to join the Common Market, Britain's political leaders *signed away control* over the richest fishing grounds in the world, just off its shores. In recent years, the British have watched helplessly as EU regulations destroyed the fishing fleets of Scotland, England and Ireland while fleets of other EU nations decimated once abundant fish stocks. Productive farms in southern African countries have been forcefully taken away from owners who have been murdered or fled the country. If Britain and other modern Israelite nations refuse to join—or decide to leave—the emerging power block in Europe, present regulations could be used to *strangle* and *starve* these nations. The controls are already in place, and history records that this has been done before, which brings to mind

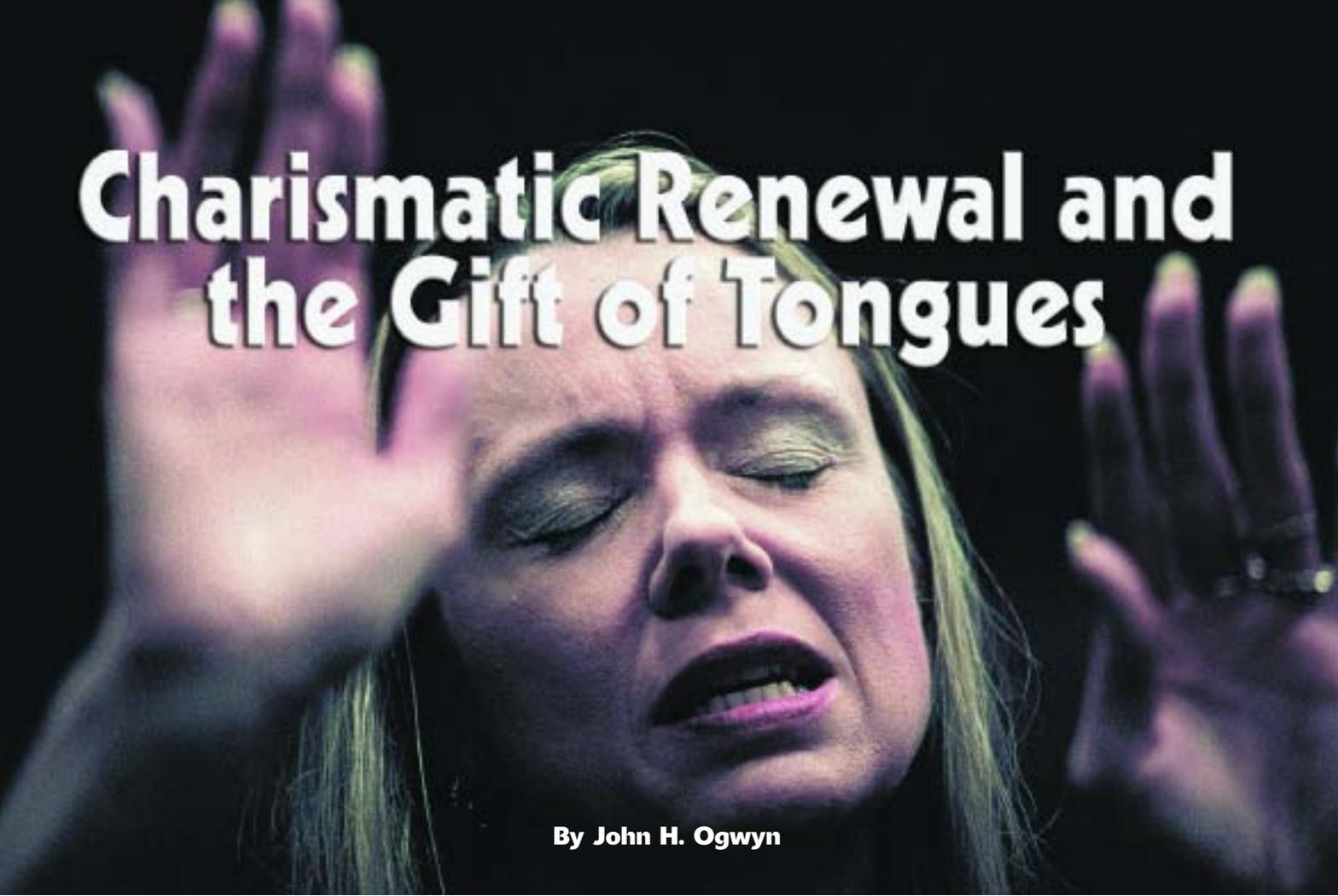
Ezekiel's prophetic warning: "I will send against them the terrible arrows of famine... and cut off your supply of food"

(Ezekiel 5:14–17). God has warned his rebellious children: "I will heap disasters on them... they shall be *wasted by hunger*" (Deuteronomy 32:23–24).

We are witnessing the beginnings of a time of crisis. The modern Israelite nations have largely *rejected* the laws of God, and have jumped on a moral "toboggan slide" to decay, setting a bad example for the world. Bible prophecy indicates that God is about to correct us in an unprecedented manner, using devastating weather-related events and politically motivated schemes by foreign nations. This will bring some of the most destructive famines the world has ever seen, as these end-time prophecies *come alive!*

—Douglas S. Winnail





Charismatic Renewal and the Gift of Tongues

By John H. Ogwyn

What is charismatic renewal? Does it involve “speaking in tongues”? What about the “speaking in tongues” practiced by the Church in the first century? Those who have espoused charismatic renewal in our modern day have claimed that they were simply seeking to restore “Apostolic Christianity.” Does the modern “tongues” movement *really* represent the practices of the early Church?

Once a curiosity found mainly in widely ridiculed Pentecostal churches, speaking in tongues has now gone mainstream! Several years ago, even *Newsweek* magazine—normally noted for its hard-hitting coverage of secular news—published a major feature on “charismatic renewal.” What was at one time a phenomenon confined to a narrow niche in the professing-Christian world is now spreading across the entire denominational spectrum.

Charismatic renewal has become the world’s fastest growing religious movement. It is no longer only “Pentecostals” who speak in tongues. Nowadays, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans and even Catholics have all gotten into the act.

Many claim that charismatic renewal is the harbinger of a spiritual revival in America and much of the rest of the world. Is this truly what is on the horizon in the years immediately ahead? Our secular, materialistic society has certainly *not* been able to provide satisfying answers to life’s really big questions, so many people are trying to fill the void in their lives—the spiritual “empty spot.” Does the modern tongues movement hold the key to satisfying the spiritual hunger felt by so many?

Today we are certainly living in a wilderness of religious confusion. How can we know what is real and what is

true? Does the charismatic renewal movement now sweeping America truly represent a latter-day outpouring of God's Spirit? Will it supply the answers people are seeking?

If not, then what exactly *does* it portend?

What Is Charismatic Renewal?

The English word "charismatic" is derived from the Greek word *charisma*, meaning "gift." Various forms of this word are used frequently in the Greek New Testament and, in addition to the word "gift," are often translated as "grace" or "favor." Most often the reference is to the freely bestowed gifts that God offers His people. Charismatic renewal is used to refer to a revival or renewal of spiritual gifts in the modern-day Christian Church. Many professing Christians regard manifestations such as speaking in tongues as part of a renewal of the biblical gifts mentioned in the New Testament.

To begin, we need to understand the origin of the modern-day tongues movement. What is now sweeping across denominational lines had its beginnings with the Pentecostal movement in the early part of the 20th century. On January 1, 1901, Agnes Ozman, a young woman attending Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas, claimed to have received a special "baptism of the spirit" and to have been given the gift of tongues.

Shortly afterward, others at the college began to report similar experiences and, motivated by a newfound zeal, sought to evangelize, beginning in Missouri and

Texas. "One of their converts was William J. Seymour.... In 1906 in the Apostolic Faith Gospel Mission on Azusa Street [in Los Angeles], Seymour was used to launch the real beginnings of modern Pentecostalism" (*The Dictionary of Bible and Religion*, p. 797). The 1906 Azusa Street Revival is reckoned as the origin of the modern Pentecostal movement. Groups such as the Assemblies of God, United Pentecostal Church, International Church of the Four-Square Gospel, and Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) all had their origins in this movement.

For much of the 20th century, outsiders derisively described people involved in the Pentecostal movement as "Holy Rollers." Pentecostal services were generally characterized by an emotionally charged atmosphere, generated by the styles of both the music and the preaching. Emotional "testimonies," along with "faith healing" and "speaking in tongues," all played an important part in the services. Because many Pentecostals lacked formal education, and often came from lower socioeconomic levels, members of other denominations typically looked down on them.

But through tent revivalists such as Aimee Semple McPherson, A. A. Allen and Oral Roberts, growing attention was given to the charismatic movement in the first 50 years of its existence. During the 1960s, the charismatic movement began a crossover from the various Pentecostal groups into mainline Protestantism. In the last 25 years or so, its popularity has skyrocketed.

Speaking in Tongues

The focal point of the Pentecostal movement (and now of the entire charismatic movement) is its emphasis on speaking in tongues, or "glossalalia"—a term derived from the Greek words for "tongue" and "speaking." But just what does the Bible mean when it mentions speaking in tongues? Is it identical to what happens in the modern charismatic movement?

The Greek word for tongue, *glossa*, is used primarily in three ways according to the *Arndt-Gingrich Greek-English Lexicon*. In one case it simply means the tongue, the organ of speech. In another it refers to a language. The third usage refers to a phenomenon found in pagan Hellenistic religion with the broken speech patterns of people in religious ecstasy (p. 161).

Speaking in tongues played a little-known role in ancient pagan religion. The concept of ecstatic speech, unintelligible to the hearers, was well known in ancient Greece. The shrine of Apollo at Delphi, a short distance from the city of Corinth, was the site of the most famous oracle of the ancient world. The priestess of Apollo would work herself into a religious frenzy and then fall down to the ground, often in a sort of convulsive fit, and come under the "possession of the god." While in this state she would babble unintelligible words (the language of the gods) that were written down and "interpreted" by the priests. Similar events happened at other oracles throughout the Mediterranean world.

Ecstatic speech in the ancient world, however, was not limited

to priestesses at the oracles. When the Eastern mystery religions spread westward into the Hellenistic world, they also incorporated the phenomenon of ecstatic speech. It was deemed to be communion with the gods. Thus, the use of frenzied, unintelligible speech, called by the ancient Greeks “speaking in tongues,” was well-known in the first century.

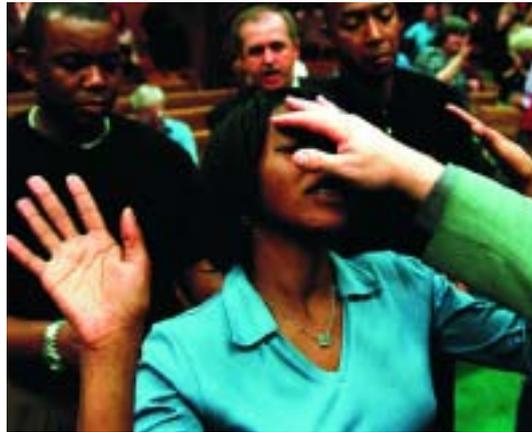
But is this at all akin to what the Bible describes? The most detailed account of speaking in tongues as a gift of God is given in Acts 2. There are several points that should be noted.

First, the phenomenon was manifested suddenly (v. 2). The words that began to pour from the mouths of the Apostles were not the result of an emotionally charged meeting. They were not working themselves up through frenzied music or the repetition of certain religious phrases. This was a miracle of God that came about *instantly*. Second, there is no mention of any of the Apostles falling to the floor “under the power,” or of any of the other excesses that so often characterize modern Pentecostal meetings.

The emphasis given in Acts 2 is not one of putting on a show. Rather, it is one of delivering an important message. There were miraculous signs accompanying the message to authenticate it.

An important key that must be noted in Acts 2:4–12 is that the Apostles were *not* using so-called ecstatic speech. Instead, they were speaking in *known languages* that members of their audience clearly understood. This was the time of Pentecost, the second of the three annual pilgrim Festivals given by God to

the ancient Israelites. There were Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem from all over the known world for this occasion—Jews who each spoke the language of his homeland.



Christians must not confuse the ecstatic “highs” of human emotion with the working of God’s Holy Spirit. ©2004 KRT Photo.

It was not long before increasing numbers recognized their own native language (v. 8)—though initially some, who did not understand the particular language they were hearing, supposed the Apostles to be drunk (v. 13). Since this was a time before electronic amplification and public address systems, it is reasonable to suppose that the Apostles stood at some distance apart and faced in different directions, all preaching the same message but in different languages—languages known to the listeners, but *unknown* to the Apostles themselves! Those who understood a particular Apostle began to gather closer to him to hear what he had to say. Acts 2:14–42 emphasizes the *content* of Peter’s speech. He was not repeating the same catch-phrases over and over. Rather, he was relaying a vitally important message.

Of course, the mechanics of this special Pentecost meeting

may have happened a little differently than the description just given—the Bible does not give a precise account. But this much is indisputable—Peter and the other Apostles were speaking in **foreign languages** that were *intelligible* to their listeners. Thus, the gift of tongues was a tool of evangelism.

Clearly God’s true gift of tongues differs vastly from what masquerades as that gift today. It is not uncommon for a hyper-excited, worked-up Pentecostal to sway, moan, “dance in the Spirit,” laugh hysterically or shout out in unintelligible speech, or even meaningless guttural gibbering. How very different from the biblical example!

Baptism of the Spirit

Is being baptized with the Spirit something separate from initial conversion? Those in the charismatic movement would generally say that it is.

But what does the Bible really teach? In Acts 1:5, the Apostles were told that though they had earlier been baptized with water, they would shortly be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In verse 8, Christ equated this with receiving the Holy Spirit and being empowered to carry out the task of preaching the Gospel that He had set before them. They had not received the Spirit at the time they were baptized because the Holy Spirit was *not available* to them until after Christ returned to the Father (John 7:39; 16:7). In Acts 2:4, we read that on the Feast of Pentecost they were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit.

Clearly, it is receiving the Holy Spirit that truly makes us converted Christians (Romans 8:9). How, then, *do* we receive the Holy Spirit? Peter explained in his sermon on Pentecost, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). In Acts 5:32, Peter emphasized that God gives His Spirit to only those who *obey* Him. And having the Holy Spirit within us is what makes us a true Christian—God’s begotten child (Romans 8:16).

However, every spiritual manifestation is not necessarily from God. The Apostle John exhorted his readers, “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). What, then, is the true evidence of the Holy Spirit? God’s Spirit is only offered to those who believe the Gospel message that Jesus brought, and have truly repented as a result. They have unconditionally surrendered their lives to their Creator and have, therefore, begun to obey Him.

Next, there is fruit that the Holy Spirit bears in our lives. This fruit is described in Galatians 5:22–23 as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In other words, the Holy Spirit changes our lives and fills us with God’s love, which enables us to obey His holy and righteous law—showing evidence of His very nature within us (Romans 5:5; 13:10).

The initial bestowal of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was accompanied by miraculous signs. In addition, there are at least two other occasions record-

ed in the book of Acts where miraculous signs, including the gift of tongues or languages, were given.

Several years after that first New Testament Pentecost, we read of Peter going to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile soldier who had been seeking God. After preaching the Gospel to the members of his household, Peter and those with him were astonished to see the Holy Spirit come upon these Gentiles and grant them the miraculous gift of speaking in other languages (Acts 10:44–47). Peter and his companions understood that these Gentiles were magnifying God (v. 46). It took this miracle from God to convince Peter and the other Church leaders that God would accept physically uncircumcised Gentiles as well as Jews (11:17).

In Acts 19, we have an account of individuals who had years earlier been baptized by John the Baptist and who now considered themselves to be disciples of Christ. When the Apostle Paul talked with them, it became clear that they had not fully understood the Gospel and knew nothing about the Holy Spirit. Thus, they had never been truly converted.

So Paul baptized them again—this time in the name of Jesus Christ—and then laid hands on them so that they would receive God’s Spirit (v. 5). In this instance also, the Spirit came with miraculous manifestations, clearly showing the distinction between the baptism that John offered and that offered by Christ.

There is no statement in the Bible that receiving God’s Spirit is commonly accompanied by some miraculous display. In fact, God’s

Word says that, in general, “tongues are for a sign, *not* to those who believe but to *unbelievers*” (1 Corinthians 14:22). So we should not *normally* expect to see such a manifestation among believers. However, in the specific instances just mentioned, and most likely at the time of the initial conversion of some in Samaria as well (Acts 8:14–18), there *was* miraculous evidence of God’s Spirit. All these events were definite “firsts”—and God acted in a special way in order to make clear His involvement and blessing with these never-before-seen phenomena.

Spiritual Gifts

This is not to say that miracles were limited to the first century. Just as the Spirit of God is the Spirit of love and of a sound mind, it is also the Spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7). The Greek word translated as “power” is *dunamis*, a term generally meaning miracle-working power. God offers us His Spirit to transform our nature and to fill us with His love. His Spirit also imparts a soundness and balance of judgment in applying the principles of His Word to everyday life. But in addition to all of this, God’s Spirit is the power or agency through which He works in miraculous ways. It is the means by which the Almighty imparts gifts to His people. Spiritual gifts are good. Paul discussed the wide variety of such gifts available (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:6–11) and taught that we should *desire* them (14:1).

But he also made it plain that the Corinthians had greatly *misunderstood* spiritual gifts, especially the gift of tongues, just like

many today. This was because of their pagan background (12:1–2). Having grown up only a few miles from the Delphic Oracle, many Corinthians confused the miraculous gift of languages given by God on Pentecost and other occasions with the sort of “speaking in tongues” they had heard about

undoubtedly occur again in the end time.

However, from what we have seen, it should be clear that the “speaking in tongues” commonly practiced today in the charismatic movement—with its incoherent babbling often accompanied by uncontrollable shrieks and spasms—is most certainly *not*

right fraudulent act, some form of mental illness or simply a frenzy of human emotion.

True miracles, however, are not brought about by human emotion. They are, rather, the result of God supernaturally working through His true servants—those who genuinely obey Him and are yielded to His

True miracles, however, are not brought about by human emotion. They are, rather, the result of God supernaturally working through His true servants—those who genuinely obey Him and are yielded to His will.

all their lives. So, also, do many today.

Paul emphasized in 1 Corinthians 14 that the gifts God gives are for edifying or strengthening the Church. He encouraged his readers to seek God’s gifts for the purpose of *servicing others*—not for self-aggrandizement. As for tongues or languages, Paul explained that it was better to speak just a few words that were understandable and helpful, rather than ten thousand words in a language no one could understand (v. 19). For unless the content is helpful and instructive, words in and of themselves lack benefit to the hearers (v. 6, 9).

A prophecy in Joel 2:28–32 foretells an end-time outpouring of God’s Spirit in a miraculous way. Peter quoted this scripture and applied it to the miracle that occurred on the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection from the dead. It is apparent upon close scrutiny, however, that a much greater fulfillment of this prophecy is for the time just prior to the Day of the Lord (v. 31). Thus, many of the miraculous outpourings of God’s Spirit that happened in the first century will

from God. “For,” as Paul says in his discussion on tongues, “God is not the author of confusion” (1 Corinthians 14:33). Indeed, we may rightly discern that most of the “speaking in tongues” that goes on today has a *different* author—either demonic spirits or simply human imagination. For just as demons were involved in the pagan Greek religion of long ago with its babbling oracles (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:20), so also are they involved in false religion today (for a more detailed exposition of this subject, please write for our free booklet, *What Is a True Christian?*). If the author of individuals’ ecstatic speech is the human mind, it is either an out-

will. As mentioned at the outset, in the spiritual confusion of modern religion, many today recognize a great void in their lives. Without real understanding of God’s ultimate purpose and plan, they are accepting a counterfeit of *true* spirituality. They are *pursuing a feeling*—and are therefore setting themselves up to be deceived by the end-time *false* miracles of which Christ warned (Matthew 24:24). We should seek *God* and His *ways*—not feelings.

If we do so with all our heart and continue to genuinely walk with Him, the *true* miracles will certainly follow in God’s own time. 

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Letters to the Editor

Words cannot express how much I enjoy your magazine. I am so excited each time I receive it in my mailbox. I can't stress enough how important it is that people read your magazine. I have learned so much about what is happening in the world and what to expect in the future. Keep up your wonderful works of God through your magazine. I can hardly wait for my next issue.

I. R., Irvington, AL

Tomorrow's World magazine, and the booklets you have sent, are a blessing to me. I used to be frightened to hear about the current world events such as the crisis in the Middle East, along with the many other worldly happenings. I'm no longer frightened about such things. I now have an inner peace. After reading *Tomorrow's World* and the booklets, and following up with the scriptures from the Bible, I now understand the true gospel of Jesus Christ more and more every day.

G. W., Channelview, TX

As a viewer of your telecast, I think your magazine is absolutely inspiring. I would just like to say your program is reaching even into the dark and shut out areas of society.

T. C., Clallam Bay, WA

I want to thank you for the very inspired literature. All of the articles from cover to cover just get better and better. The new booklet, *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled*, is another masterpiece as well. An old friend read your "Armageddon" issue [July-August 2000] at a doctor's office, and later

started subscribing, then he later turned me on to your magazines. Thank God for that issue, and for the one responsible for putting that magazine in that doctor's office.

D. W., Tuscaloosa, AL

I am continually amazed by the wisdom and power of the contents of the articles in the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. The article titled "America the Beautiful," by Charles Bryce, in the January-February 2004 issue, is brief and to the point, yet all-inclusive in describing our present state of being here in America. Too many of us do not realize how much the ways of the world have permeated our lives. Let's pray that God will show us what we need to change, and then do it!

N. D., Spokane, WA

I have been receiving literature from you for quite some time, and found it interesting and I agreed with most of it. I was, however, shocked at the latest booklet I received, to read what you said about the pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Now I believe you are completely mixed up. I am very open to all religions. I believe they are all like bicycle wheels. God is in the middle, and all the spokes are the religions leading to God, even if people are not receiving the absolute correct teachings. I do believe that the Roman Catholic Church is the one which teaches the most truth. No matter what you say about the people in the church, I know that holy water, the Mass and the rosary are the most powerful things on this earth against evil.

M. K., Galway, Ireland

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.

Rivers of Living Water?

Ever since Percival Lowell claimed to have found mysterious “canals” on Mars a century ago, scientists have wondered: “Is there water on Mars?” For some, the presence of water is a pragmatic question; astronauts could more easily mount a mission to a water-rich planet than to one dry and desolate. Most observers, however, are interested in water as a vital ingredient for past—



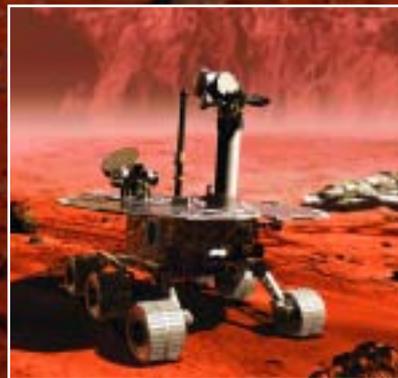
or present—life on Mars. Last year, the United States launched an \$820 million mission sending two “rovers”—Spirit and Opportunity—to the Martian surface. Spirit’s safe landing last January 3 pleased NASA scientists, but it was Opportunity that provided the most remarkable data shortly after its January 24 landing, indicating that it landed near the now-dry bed of an ancient salty sea, and that water was once widely present on Mars—a finding later reinforced by the Spirit rover.

“Liquid water once drenched the surface” where Opportunity landed, said NASA associate administrator Ed Weiler. “Moreover, this area would have been a good habitable environment.”

We remember scientists’ excitement in 1996 when an Antarctic meteorite was said to contain evidence of Martian life. After careful review, most

came to doubt that too-hasty hypothesis. The Mars rovers’ findings will undergo similar scrutiny in the months ahead. Even so, evidence of water has fueled many astrobiologists’ speculations about how life might have arisen on Mars, and what this could mean about life on Earth. Some scientists suggest that life could have come to Mars from Earth, after volcanic matter was carried there through

space. Other scientists theorize that life may have originated on Mars and traveled through space to Earth. What does Scripture say? The Bible does not tell us whether or not there is—or has been—life on Mars. It tells us that Earth was formed in its present state after a devastation that had left it “without form and void” (Genesis 1:2). It tells us that among all the species, only human beings have been created with a “spirit in man” that sets them



apart (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11; see also *Questions & Answers* on page 15 of this issue). Although scientists have found that human beings and chimpanzees share 98.5 percent of the same DNA gene sequences, and bottle-nosed

dolphins exceed mankind in average brain size, the “spirit in man” gives human beings capacity far beyond all other species. And it is to mankind alone that God gives His Holy Spirit, in preparation for an amazing future as full members of His family.

What is that amazing future? The Bible reveals that today’s human beings will in the future inherit the whole universe, and indeed “all things” (Hebrews 2:8; Revelation 21:7). So it is no wonder that mankind today looks to Mars. We are destined for the universe. But while scientists look to Mars’ past and wonder about the present, Christians look to Mars’ future, and know that they will be a part of it.

How can we be part of that future? Not by looking for water in Mars’ past, or even its present, however fascinating this may be. As Christians, we seek “living water.” As Jesus Christ said: “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38). Just as we require

water to sustain physical life, we require “living water”—God’s Holy Spirit—to sustain spiritual life. Nourished by that living water, today’s true Christians are joyously preparing for Tomorrow’s World!

—William Bowmer

FACING YOUR FEARS (continued from page 19)

can even imagine. As Paul wrote: “Now to Him who is able to do *exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think*, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20–21).

God wants us to be close to Him; He wants us to share with Him our worries, fears, and concerns. And He wants us to ask Him for help! Be bold. Ask God to help you as He has promised, “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.”

Have faith in God’s promises, and you can face your fears. The “faith chapter”—Hebrews 11—reminds us: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The key here is to *diligently seek Him*. You seek Him by praying to Him every day. You seek Him by reading your Bible every day. Remember that “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

A *seventh key* to facing your fears—the most vital key for a converted Christian—is to *ask God for the Holy Spirit*. God’s Holy Spirit is the spirit of love and of power. He gives us that gift after we repent and are baptized. As we read earlier, the Apostle Peter spoke to thousands on the Day of Pentecost,

when the New Testament Church began. “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is God’s gift. After baptism, the minister lays hands on the head of the one baptized, and claims that gift. The evangelist Timothy, to whom Paul wrote, received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of Paul’s hands: “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (2 Timothy 1:6).

The Holy Spirit is not the Spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind (v. 7). As the Apostle John wrote: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). God will give you the gift of His love that casts out fear. That is the gift of divine love through the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, the converted Christian will experience for himself what Paul meant when he wrote: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7). May God inspire you to face your fears, and live the life of confidence, faith and obedience that He desires for you, as you prepare for your place in His soon-coming kingdom, in Tomorrow’s World. 

THE TWO BABYLONS (continued from page 9)

continue to explain the prophetic events now unfolding to bring about the revival of Babylon—and of the coming Kingdom of God. *Our message will not be popular!* We will be harassed, vilified and persecuted for bring-

ing you the **plain truth** about what is *really* happening in world affairs.

May God help *you* to **act** on this message while you have the opportunity. May God help *you* to start **proving** to yourself what the Bible really says, and to find out about—and **fulfill**—the genuine **purpose** for your life.

“He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:7–8). 

To Learn More...



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“VILE PASSIONS” **(continued from page 3)**

Articulating a view held by many “liberal” religionists, former Presidential candidate Howard Dean explained that “his decision as governor to sign the bill legalizing civil unions for gays in Vermont was influenced by his Christian views, as he waded deeper into the growing political, religious and cultural debate over homosexuality and the Bible’s view of it” (*Washington Post*, January 8, 2004). His view stands in contrast to those “more conservative Christians who take a more literal approach and point to scripture in the New and Old Testaments that they believe forbids homosexuality. For instance, Leviticus 18:22, according to the *King James Version* of the Bible, says: ‘Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is an abomination’” (*ibid.*).

It is amazing that the author of that *Washington Post* article—just like most liberal writers in the media—states that conservative Christians point to scriptures which “they believe” forbid homosexuality.

“They believe”!

How much plainer could God’s word be than calling this practice an “abomination” in the very scripture the author cites? How much plainer could the Apostle Paul be in describing these perversions as “vile passions” (Romans 1:26)? Or by concluding this scriptural passage by stating that “those who practice such things are deserving of death” (v. 32)?

Is the inspired passage in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 really that difficult to decipher? “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor *homosexuals*, nor *sodomites*, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

The Bible is a revelation of the *mind of God*—the mind of the Supreme Being who made us male and female and stated that one man and one woman were to become “one flesh” in marriage (Genesis 2:24). In the past, when our Creator has seen a growing acceptance of the vile practices that our society increasingly calls “normal,” He has intervened decisively. The word of God describes what happened in one case: “As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to

these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an **example**, suffering the vengeance of **eternal fire**” (Jude v. 7).

If we in the U.S. are to continue as a nation, may God help us to **wake up** and to **resist** this push toward homosexual marriage! If our liberal courts contrive to force this issue upon us, may God give our leaders and our people the intestinal fortitude to stand up and say “enough”!

As quoted in *World* magazine (January 10, 2004), social commentator Cal Thomas stated: “If conservative groups fail to rally around marriage as a core value of our society and nation, there will be little left for them to stand on when activist groups try to remove the few remaining foundational principles of our nation. And they will try.”

The Eternal God commands His faithful ministers: “**Cry aloud**, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their **sins**. Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching God” (Isaiah 58:1–2). Yes, millions of Americans attend liberal churches where the ministers are usually “too nice” to comment on the growing rottenness in our society. Churchgoers themselves usually want to “kid” themselves that they are seeking to learn God’s ways. Yet they would be *offended* if a minister really did “lift up his voice like a **trumpet**” and show them their sins! The Apostle Paul described these people as “having a *form of godliness*, but denying its **power**” (2 Timothy 3:5). He then commanded: “*From such people turn away!*”

May God help each of you, individually—and may He help our nation—to see where these perverted ideas and practices are leading, and to **repent** before the darkness falls.



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