

PERFECT GOVERNMENT

It is coming... and it is coming soon!

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DNA What makes
you you?

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**IMPROVE
YOUR MARRIAGE!**

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

May-June 2013 | TomorrowsWorld.org

Francis I THE FINAL POPE? What do history, prophecy and Scripture reveal?



PROPHECY AND THE DECLINE OF THE WESTERN NATIONS

Editor in Chief Roderick C. Meredith live online | June 30, 3:30 PM EDT

Register online:

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We Press Toward the Goal

Today, my friends, most of you realize that the majority of people have virtually *no fear* or profound *respect* for the God of the Bible! They seem not to care about what His inspired word says—about abortion, same-sex marriage, sex outside of marriage or practically anything else! Yet the God of the Bible tells us, “For I am the LORD, *I do not* change” (Malachi 3:6). As Almighty God severely punished ancient Israel, so He **will** *punish us* unless our peoples truly repent and turn to Him!

Yet, how shall they know to repent if they are not warned (Romans 10:14)? That is the very reason for this Work. God is using us to **warn** the world of God’s coming intervention in human affairs, and show them the way to escape God’s wrath in the years just ahead. God commands His true servants, “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).

The Creator God commands His true ministers to “cry aloud!” How many actually have the courage and commitment to *do this? Very few, indeed!*

So it was in Jesus’ day. For the Apostle John tells us: “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43).

Doing the Work

My friends, we at *Tomorrow’s World* are doing the Work of Almighty God at the end of an age. We really do “tell it like it is.” And we really do understand biblical prophecy and are constantly proclaiming the **truth**

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about what lies just ahead *for your very life*. The God who gives us life and breath proclaims in His inspired



word: “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” (Amos 3:6–8).

To blow the trumpet and proclaim this message, for more than 75 years, the modern revival of the Work of God has been announced by this magazine and its predecessors. I, personally, have been active *full-time* in the Work for 61 years as of this summer.

From Mimeographs to Microchips

When Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, who ordained me as an evangelist in 1952, began his ministry more than 75 years ago, he typed his magazine articles with an old manual typewriter, and he drew charts by hand with a ruler and a pen or pencil. He “printed” his first magazines by hand using a mimeograph machine. But when radio and then television became available, Mr. Armstrong saw the potential of modern technology and used it as best he could to preach the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Today, we have at our disposal a vast amount of computing power that goes into the design and printing of this magazine. Even right here in our offices, one of the “computer experts” on our staff tells me that the computers we use to publish this magazine are at least 30 times more powerful than when we published our first *Tomorrow’s World* magazine 14 years ago. As God makes possible, we want to use the best of technology, in a right way, to proclaim the Truth in a way that will reach increasing millions of people as the end of this age approaches.

I know that for most of you reading this, the “message” is what is important. One man on our account-

ing staff likes to say that he would read our magazines even if they were printed “on a brown paper bag.” In a way, he is absolutely correct. For if we do not have the right message, no amount of computer power can make up for what is missing. And you will see that the message in our pages has not changed, despite the new format and design. The writers are the same as before, and the columns are the same. However, we want this magazine to continue to “look and feel” like the best magazines of our day, keeping our design fresh and contemporary and attractive to as many readers as possible, so they will “take notice” of the warning message we proclaim. So, while we do not sell the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, and we never will, we want it to look every bit as professional, in its own way, as other quality magazines you might read, such as *The Economist* or *Newsweek*.

Speaking of *Newsweek*, some of you may recall that, after nearly 80 years of publication, *Newsweek* last December went to an “all-digital” format and stopped publishing a print edition. As a paid subscription magazine, relying on paid advertising and subscriber fees, *Newsweek’s* publishers could not afford to continue printing their magazine. This is yet another way in which *Tomorrow’s World* is “different.” For we practice the “way of give” of which Jesus Christ spoke in Matthew 10:8. We are deeply grateful to those who choose



to donate to support this Work, but we do not require donations from those who receive this magazine. Thankfully, we know that God inspires His people to give as they are able, and He shows by example that the way of give is truly a way of life that works!

That way of life is also exemplified by hard-working members of our staff who put this magazine together. Although I do not often mention in this column the names of the people who work so hard to make this magazine what it is, I was pleased in January to mention our writer Dexter Wakefield because of his excellent article in the previous issue (“Unnatural Disasters,” November-December 2012). This issue, I would like to take a moment to personally thank two members of our Editorial staff. First, I will mention the longest-serving member of our Editorial team, Donna Prejean. When we started *Tomorrow’s World*

magazine 14 years ago, Mrs. Prejean had basically no other help in designing and laying out each issue. Over the years, she has worked tirelessly to improve the magazine in many ways, while at the same time preparing our booklets and several other ongoing publications. I deeply appreciate her loyal

...we want to use the best of technology, to proclaim the Truth in a way that will reach increasing millions of people...

and faithful service to this Work, and look forward to God’s continuing blessings on all she does for this Work’s publications. Next, I will mention our newest Editorial employee, John Robinson. Mr. Robinson has spearheaded the redesign of this magazine, and I know he will work hard to ensure its continuing excellence, and to encourage and help our other Editorial staff members to do the same. Each of these two loyal and valued workers is a key part of our team “behind the scenes.”

Prophecy Marches On!

As a side-note, I notice that, the last time we embarked on a redesign of this magazine (for our May-June 2005 issue), Pope Benedict XVI was elected just a few days after the redesigned issue went to press. This year, while we were preparing this redesigned May-June 2013 issue, Pope Francis I was elected. One of our editors has joked that, if we decide to redesign the magazine again in a few years, whoever is then the Pope ought to become very nervous! Seriously, though, we should all be watching world events, as Christ commands (Matthew 25:13). Will Francis I be the final Pope before Christ returns? We do not yet know, but—because we do know the history and the end-time prophetic sequence—there is much we can know about this man and his office (see Dr. Douglas S. Winnail’s article on page 10). My friends, I hope that you will follow Christ’s command to “watch”—so you will be ready when the time comes. The world around us is changing, but Christ’s command—and our mission—remains the same as ever!

5 Perfect Government Coming Soon!

Can you imagine a world with no war, poverty, crime or corruption? That world is coming sooner than you may think!

10 Francis I: The Final Pope?

Many are asking, "Is the new Pope really the successor of the Apostle Peter?" Will he be the last? What do history and Scripture tell us?

16 Improve Your Marriage!

If you are planning for marriage, are you thoroughly prepared? If you are already married, how are you doing with your commitment?

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*"...the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing, with
everlasting joy on their heads."
(Isaiah 35:10)*



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Perfect Government COMING Soon!

As nations turn away further and further from the God of the Bible, the basic foundations of our entire society are beginning to crumble. But there is good news! A perfect government, ruled by the returning Jesus Christ, will soon bring peace and prosperity to our planet!

By Roderick C. Meredith

Those who understand Bible prophecy can recognize that our present society is near its *end*. We really are in the “last days” the Apostle Paul described nearly 2,000 years ago, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

Marriage is being redefined. Disrespect for God, for parents, for teachers, civil leaders—and even for the value of human life itself—is increasing. Truly, the “chickens are coming home to roost” as our society rushes further down the moral toboggan slide into depravity. As we see governments all over this earth begin to crumble, becoming corrupt and perverted in more and more ways, it should become obvious that **if** Almighty God is going to send Jesus back to this earth, it had better be *pretty soon*!

So, what is ahead? With so many examples around us of corrupt rule over the nations, some may find it hard to believe that God Himself inspired His prophet, Isaiah, to describe a coming Ruler who will rule with **love** and “with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked” (Isaiah 11:4).

What will be the universal atmosphere over *the entire earth* at the time this government is set up? “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). The “knowledge of the LORD”—the understanding of God’s *entire way of life*—will permeate the earth. For, a little earlier, God inspired Isaiah to state, “For out of Zion shall go forth the **law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:3–4).

A REAL World Government!

Are you aware that the Bible gives a *detailed description* of the soon-coming Government of God? It is very “real” in God’s mind. And it had better become that way in *your mind* if you plan to be there!

Notice the description of what will happen right before Christ returns: “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15). Is this just some abstract idea or allegory? No! Your Bible reveals a whole *system of government* under Jesus Christ. For instance, the prophet Hosea was inspired to tell us what would happen to the twelve tribes of ancient Israel after they were driven into captivity: “For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel

shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:4–5).

Yes, your Bible tells us specifically that King David of ancient Israel will be resurrected and given back his former job—as *king* over the whole nation of Israel in the “latter days.”

Why King David? Because he was, overall, the most capable and righteous king Israel ever had. He was often used as the “benchmark” by which other kings were judged. Often, historical books of the Bible will record that a king was righteous “as was his father David.”

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**The Ten
Commandments**



Also, God is quoted even in the New Testament as saying, “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will *do all My will*” (Acts 13:22).

With David’s vast experience and total dedication in administering God’s laws and way of life, *he* has been chosen directly by God to be over all of the tribes of Israel: Judah, Ephraim, Manasseh, Zebulon, Naphtali, etc. These tribes—as thousands of you readers know—are now comprised of the modern English-speaking nations of the United States and British Commonwealth—plus the peace-loving nations of northwestern Europe (e.g. France, Holland, the Netherlands, etc.).

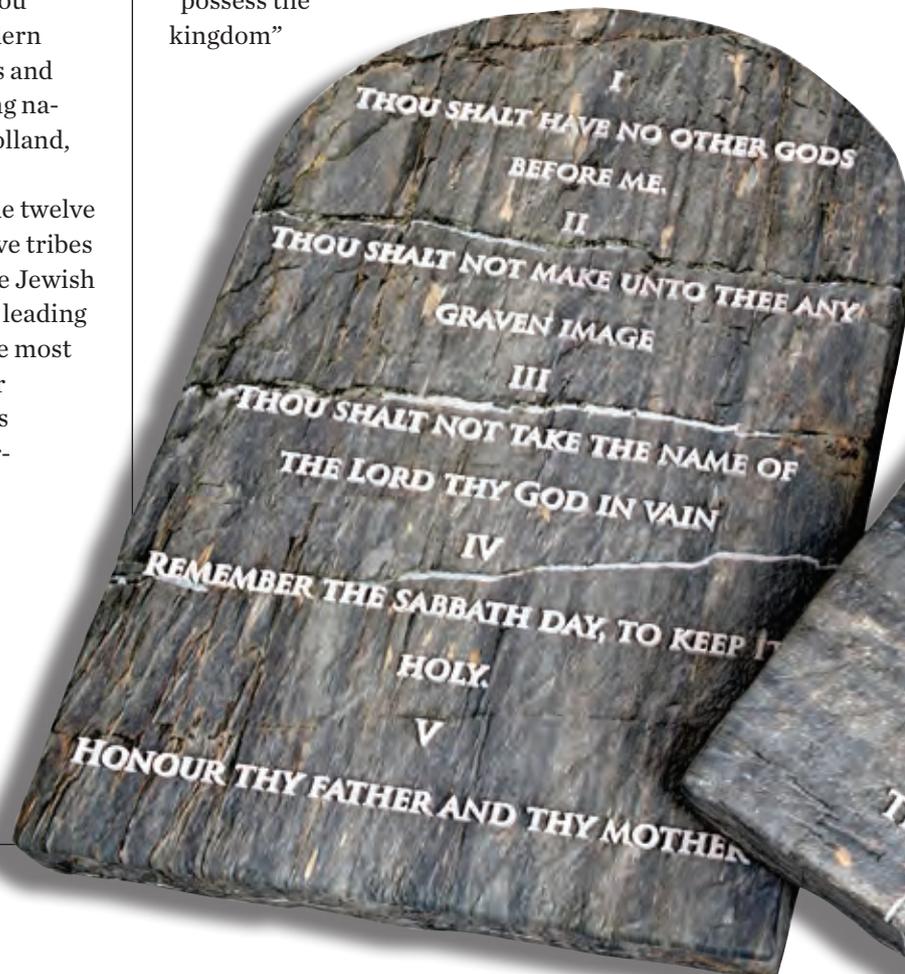
Also, Jesus Christ Himself has appointed the twelve original apostles to *directly* rule over the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:29–30). Ancient Judah—the Jewish people—may be put under Peter, who was the leading apostle for many years. Ephraim—perhaps the most materially successful tribe—may be put under James, or perhaps John. Manasseh, Ephraim’s brother nation, may be put under John or Bartholomew or Andrew. Do you get the picture? These governments will be **real**—and they will soon be actively administering a genuine government here *on this earth* (Revelation 5:9–10).

Throughout the entire earth, with a vastly increasing population because of happy and growing families and *no war*, there will be *thousands* of cities and municipalities to be governed by the other

saints of God—under the Twelve Apostles or other Spirit-being kings and priests. **All** the *Gentile nations* of the earth—including Germany (modern Assyria) and Russia (modern Gog or Magog)—will be administered by Spirit rulers, perhaps under the direction of Daniel, just as the Israelitish nations will be governed overall under David. We may surmise that Daniel may be the ruler over the various Gentile nations, since God used him to rule over the greatest Gentile empire in the earth’s history—the “head of gold” that is described in Daniel 2:38. But even though we can only “surmise” some of the specific details, we can be sure of the “big picture”—as this *outline of organization* is **given** directly in the Bible! And it **will** be set up this way within the lifetimes of many of you!

Our Magnificent Opportunity!

Under the Twelve Apostles—then resurrected to rule over the nations overall—who will rule over the various individual cities and other governmental structures in Christ’s coming government? The many other resurrected *true saints* of God! For God’s word specifically explains that it is the saints’ reward to “possess the kingdom”



(Daniel 7:22). The prophet Daniel goes on to explain that, as this present age comes to its end, “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (v. 27).

Yes, the **genuine** saints of God—those who have *fully surrendered* their lives to God *to do His will* as King David did—*will* rule over the nations of this world under Christ, and under David or Daniel or

saints who in this age *understood* and *obeyed* the Bible and *kept God’s commandments*. They will have truly *known* God and **walked with** Him. As the beloved Apostle John explains, near the very end of the New Testament: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3–4).

My friends, millions today may know *about* God and believe in their own personal concept of God. But you, as someone reading the truths presented

in this magazine, may in fact be one of the relatively few now being called **to know**—and to *become deeply acquainted* with—the true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. Those whom God calls do not just know “about” him. If you accept God’s calling, you will come to **know**

Him and internalize His very character,

by having Him *living His life in you* through the Holy Spirit. How will you know that you really know Him? As John wrote, “We know Him, **if** we keep His commandments.”

TOMORROW’S RULERS WILL BE RESURRECTED SAINTS WHO UNDERSTOOD AND OBEYED THE BIBLE AND KEPT GOD’S COMMANDMENTS.

other great leaders who may be placed over them in Christ’s coming government. So, what are some identifying characteristics of these saints who will rule? The Bible explains who these true saints are: “Here is the patience of the saints; *here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*” (Revelation 14:12). Yes, these Millennial rulers will be resurrected

What Is Your Actual GOAL?

Jesus Christ commanded, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). Throughout the Bible, God’s **righteousness** is described as His **commandments**. So, if you seek God’s righteousness—the very *nature* of God implanted within you through the Holy Spirit—you will be following Christ’s direct

teaching as your actual goal in life. You will seek above all else His coming government—His Kingdom—and prepare for *your part* in that coming government. All of your thoughts and actions will be directed toward achieving *that wonderful goal*—the very **purpose** for which God created you in the first place!

The Apostle Paul clearly explains that the **purpose** for the true saints is to **rule** or to **judge** the whole world! He was inspired to write, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge an-

GOVERNMENT CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



h Canada!



THE KNOWLEDGE DEFICIT



Professor Judith Adler, of Memorial University of Newfoundland, had grown concerned that many of her students might be lacking an awareness of geography that would enable them to comprehend course issues about global cultural traditions. She gave her students a quiz consisting of a blank map of the world, with instructions to indicate where places and features such as Africa, Europe, Great Britain and the Atlantic Ocean were. To her surprise, many students lacked even the most rudimentary geographic awareness. Some did not know where the Atlantic Ocean was, even though they could see it from their university (“Lost without a map” *The National Post*, January 13, 2013).

Canadians were horrified. How could it be that high school graduates could complete their schooling yet have such a knowledge deficit? But this was not the first sign of trouble in the nation’s schools. In September 2007, *MacLean’s Magazine* reported on a study titled “Literacy Matters: A Call to Action,” released by TD Bank Financial Group. Here is what the study found:

“The Canadian economy could enjoy a \$32-billion boost if literacy rates were improved by only one percent... It represents an extraordinary drain on our economy....

70 percent of Canada’s economic output is now services, not goods... ‘Almost everything we deal with now requires high levels of knowledge,’ said Alexander. ‘Knowledge is now the competitive advantage.’

‘What is really disappointing is that there has not been any significant improvement in literacy since the 1970’s,’ said Alexander. The report noted that four in 10 high school youth have insufficient read-

ing skills... We need to make sure that every single person that gets a high school diploma is literate.”

Taxpayers assume that their dollars are funding an education system that ensures the upcoming generation is gaining basic knowledge and skills. Yet the evidence indicates this assumption is a *fantasy!* The moral deficit is real, as well, but here we will focus on the knowledge deficit. How can such a wealthy nation, with such a well-funded education system and a tradition of scholarship, produce such poor results?

From Success to Failure

In the early years of the 20th century, with less money to spend, Canadian schools educated large numbers of poor students, many of whom achieved great success, both academically and financially. Yet in the 21st century, despite the billions of dollars invested in computer technology as a student aid, no quantified studies connect these expenses to actual improvement in student achievement!

What has changed? Especially since World War II, so-called “progressive education” has gained a foothold in North American teacher-training programs. Writer Andrew Nikiforuk describes the impetus for this:

“The American philosopher John Dewey is the modern father of this form of pedagogy, although its roots go back to the eighteenth century French essayist Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Dewey... reacted to the extreme formalism and rigidity of schools in the 1890s and demanded that things should be done differently. Dewey, who was also rebelling against his own strict religious upbringing, believed schools should ‘adjust’ children... He viewed schools as instruments for social change... Deploring the

traditional emphasis on reading and math, he called for 'learning by doing'" (*If Learning Is So Natural, Why Am I Going to School?*, p. 34).

"Doing" is important, but modern educational techniques often emphasize it over "knowing." The concept of teacher-as-expert, passing along vital information to young minds, is deliberately undermined. Instead of ensuring that Canada's young people gain the knowledge to strengthen their nation's capacity to create wealth and develop culture, "Child-Centred Learning" is one of the banners under which this knowledge deficit is promoted as a benefit rather than a terrible loss to society.

Advocates of the "whole language" teaching technique de-emphasize or even reject the teaching of formal rules

Despite billions of dollars spent on computer technology as a student aid, no studies connect these expenses to improvement in student achievement!

of phonics, the code on which reading is based. As a result, formal spelling instruction has largely been dropped as a requirement in most Canadian schools. Given the absence of the phonetic code, combined with students' inability to spell, should we be surprised that

many—especially those who might experience a bit more difficulty—do not learn to read?

This knowledge deficit creates another industry: helping students "recover" the literacy they could easily have been given with explicit instruction. The new definitions of "literacy" refer not just to reading, but include viewing or listening. This means World Wrestling Foundation television programs are considered "texts" alongside the written works of Longfellow and Shakespeare!

What consequence does all of this have? Brain expert Dr. Steven Pinker, Director of the Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, raises concerns over modern approaches in the classroom:

"The ascendant philosophy of mathematical education in the United States [and Canada] is constructivism... Children must actively construct mathematical knowledge for themselves in a social enterprise.... The teacher provides the materials and the social milieu but does not lecture or guide

the discussion. Drill and practice, the routes to automaticity, are called 'mechanistic,' and seen as detrimental to understanding...

The better curricula explicitly point out connections across ways of knowing... Mastery of mathematics is deeply satisfying, but it is a reward for hard work that is not itself always pleasurable. Without the esteem for hard-won mathematical skills that is common in other cultures, the mastery is unlikely to blossom. Sadly, the same story is being played out in...reading instruction. In... 'whole language,' the insight that language is a naturally developing human instinct has been garbled into the evolutionarily improbable claim that reading is a naturally developing human instinct. Old-fashioned practice at connecting letters to sounds is replaced by immersion in a text rich social environment, and children don't learn to read" (*How the Mind Works*, pp. 341-342).

Path to Ignorance

Unbeknownst to many parents, and even perhaps to most elected officials who fund and supervise school systems, modern Canadian education is on a path that will increasingly render Canadian youth unable to compete on a global scale with students in Asia and other parts of the world. When students educated in other nations come to Canada, their multilingual ability and superior knowledge will see them rise higher and higher, while those born in Canada will fall lower and lower (Deuteronomy 28:43).

Another vital aspect of all this is that, as the knowledge of reading declines, familiarity with the Bible will become

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less and less common. Students lacking basic awareness of history and geography as well as literacy will be unable

to comprehend the simplest messages from Scripture. Parents, as much as possible, should strive to augment their children's education by helping them become familiar with history, geography and good literature.

Scripture calls Satan the "ruler of this world" and the "god of this age" (John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:4). He is a deceiver and makes every effort to keep mankind ignorant of its own best interests. Do not let him make you and your family victims of the "knowledge deficit!"

—Stuart Wachowicz

FRANCIS I: THE FINAL POPE?

AS THE WORLD'S EYES FALL ON THE FORMER JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO, SOME WONDER IF HE WAS PROPHESED TO BE THE LAST ROMAN CATHOLIC PONTIFF BEFORE JESUS CHRIST RETURNS. OTHERS, HOWEVER, ASK A MORE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: "IS HE REALLY THE SUCCESSOR OF THE APOSTLE PETER?"

By Douglas S. Winnail

Bergoglio's choice of papal name—Francis I—was striking enough. It reminds us of the medieval Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan religious order. That "Francis" was known for his itinerant preaching, simple lifestyle—and his stated mission to "repair" the Roman church. But it is not this association with Assisi, or his training as a Jesuit, that gives Pope Francis his presumed authority. Rather, it is his supposed heritage as the successor of the Apostle Peter, whom Roman Catholics consider the first bishop of Rome.

But was Francis' papacy predicted hundreds of years in advance? Some have pointed to the mysterious "Prophecy of St. Malachy"—allegedly the work of a twelfth-century monk, though it first appeared in 1590 and is now widely considered a forgery—as evidence that Francis was predicted to be the final pope before Christ returns. The "prophecy" contains a list of more than a hundred brief mottoes, said to describe more than a hundred popes, beginning with Celestine II (who served in the office from 1143–44). Counting forward, the prophecy would tie the next-to-last motto on the list to the now-retired Benedict XVI.

So, must Francis I be the final pope? Even supporters of the prophecy acknowledge that the answer is "No." The *Catholic Encyclopedia* states: "It has been noticed concerning Petrus Romanus, who according to Malachy's list is to be the last pope, that the prophecy does not say that no popes will intervene between him and his predecessor designated *Gloria olivae*. It merely says that he is to be the last, so that we may

suppose as many popes as we please before 'Peter the Roman'" (Article: "Prophecy").

If Francis I need not be the **final** pope, what can we learn about his connection to the **first** bishop of Rome? The assumption of papal primacy based on apostolic succession from Peter has been standard Roman Catholic teaching for centuries. It rests on a particular interpretation of one key passage of Scripture, in which Jesus stated, "you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven" (Matthew 16:18–19).

However, in the original Greek text, we should notice that Jesus' statement is actually a play on words. The Greek word for "Peter" is *petros* (meaning a small stone), and the Greek word for "rock" is *petra* (meaning a huge rock or mountain). The Bible clearly shows that Jesus Christ is the "Rock" upon which the Church was founded (see 1 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 2:4–8; see also Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16). Jesus was referring to Himself and His teachings as the *petra* on which the Church was to be founded, and acknowledging Peter (a *petros*) as one of the foundation stones. This agrees with other scriptures that show the Church was **not** founded upon Peter **alone**, but was "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20).

Peter in Rome?

Upon closer examination, even the supposed early evidence of Peter living, working and dying as a martyr in Rome is *unconvincing*. The Book of Acts is silent about where Peter went after he was released from



prison in Jerusalem around 33AD—it merely says he “went to another place” (Acts 12:17). According to Scripture, Paul confronted Peter in Antioch over the issue of circumcision ca. 45AD (Galatians 2:11–16), and Peter appears in Jerusalem for a conference around 49–50AD (Acts 15:6–7). Yet, according to Catholic tradition, Peter by that time had already been the bishop of Rome for several years! The suggestion that Peter’s salutation from “Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13) meant that he wrote the book in Rome ca. 60–64AD—is **merely a supposition**. In fact, the first cryptic scriptural reference to Rome as “Babylon” is found in Revelation 17:5, written some 30 years later! It is interesting that Catholic scholars want Peter’s reference to “Babylon” to indicate Rome, to validate the idea that he labored in Rome—yet they **shun** any suggested link between Rome and the woman referred to as “Mystery, Babylon the Great” in Revelation 17:5. This is **not being consistent** with Scripture!

Even the alleged location of Peter’s grave—supposedly under the altar in St. Peter’s Cathedral in

Rome—is highly questionable. Although Pope Pius XII announced in 1950 that Peter’s relics had been found, bone analysis by scholars invalidated his claim (*TIME*, January 1, 1951). Pope Paul VI made a similar assertion in 1968, yet many scholars remain unconvinced. A more recent text states that, “since all reliable information about the place of Peter’s execution and burial is lacking, the possibilities concerning it continue to remain as so many open questions” (*History of the Church*, Jedin, p. 118). Nothing has been **proved** about either the death or burial of Peter in Rome—**it all rests on dubious traditions!**

Developing a Dogma

So, if there is no historical proof that Peter was ever in Rome, that he founded a church there, or even that he died there, **how** and **why** did the idea of papal primacy based on succession from Peter develop? Two informative books by noted Roman Catholic scholars (*Saints & Sinners* by Dr. Eamon Duffy of Cambridge University and *The Catholic Church* by Dr. Hans Küng of the University of Tübingen) acknowledge that nothing in the New Testament links Peter with Rome. The Bible reveals that the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans, and Paul fails to even mention Peter in the greetings he conveys to more than 20 brethren in Rome (Romans 16). When Paul came to Rome ca. 64AD, he found that the Jewish leaders there had not heard of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Acts 28:17–24). If Peter had been the bishop of Rome for 25 years by that time, would Christ’s message really have been unknown there?

The idea that Peter was in Rome is a second-century AD notion that grew in prominence in the **fourth century AD**, after Constantine made his version of Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. Scholars Duffy and Küng demonstrate how bishops of Rome strove to gain preeminence over other churches through their claims and schemes. Irenaeus of Lyon compiled a list that purportedly traced the leaders of the Roman Church back to Peter and Paul. However, as Küng points out, “Bishops of the Catholic Church (like those of the Anglican and Orthodox Churches) are fond of calling themselves ‘successors of the apostles’... [yet]... It cannot be verified that the bishops are ‘successors of the apostles’ in the direct and exclusive sense... the earliest list of bishops [com-

piled by Irenaeus]... is a **second century forgery**" (Küng, pp. 30–31).

Toward the end of the second century AD, Bishop Victor of Rome tried to force the churches of Asia Minor to keep the Roman Easter instead of the Passover, but his efforts were resisted by leaders there who traced their observance of the Passover to the teachings and example of the Apostle John. Around 250AD, a bishop of Rome named Stephen claimed supremacy over other churches in a dispute over which had the

the Council of Chalcedon (451AD), Leo's supporters declared, "Peter had spoken through Leo" (Duffy, p. 45), yet the council rebuffed Leo's expansive claims of supremacy and gave Rome and Constantinople **equal status** (Küng, pp. 64–65).

Doctrines from Paganism

When we actually compare Roman Catholic teachings with Scripture, glaring discrepancies become obvious. The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ, the Apostles

and the early Church all observed the seventh-day Sabbath and the biblical Holy Days (see Luke 4:16; John 7:8–10; Acts 17:2; 1 Corinthians 5:7–8). However, the Roman church, beginning around the time of Constantine, appropriated Sunday worship,

Easter, Christmas and a host of "saints' days" from paganism—though there is no biblical precedent or command to do this, and Scripture actually **warns against** adopting pagan practices (see Deuteronomy 12:29–32; Jeremiah 10:2).

Scripture shows that the early Church taught that the Kingdom of God would be established on this earth at Jesus Christ's return. Yet the Roman church has taught that **it** is the Kingdom, and has rejected as heresy the true biblical teaching that Christ would literally return to rule on the earth. The Roman church teaches that Mary, Jesus' mother, remained a perpetual virgin, yet Scripture clearly shows that she had other children after Jesus (Mark 3:31–32; Luke 8:19–21). Even though Peter and other apostles were married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5), the Roman church has established a

THE IDEA THAT PETER WAS IN ROME GREW IN PROMINENCE IN THE FOURTH CENTURY, AFTER CONSTANTINE MADE HIS CHRISTIANITY THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

better tradition, but the other churches **resisted** his claim (Küng, p. 49). A bishop of Rome named Damasus (ca. 380AD), described as a "ruthless power broker," used the saying about Peter as the "rock" to bolster his claims for power. He also spoke of his "apostolic seat" as if no other church mattered, and he constructed monuments to martyrs to enhance the position of the Roman church (Duffy, pp. 37–39).

It is important to remember that although all of these bishops of Rome are called "Popes" today, the first to actually claim that exclusive title was Siricius (ca. 390AD). By 450AD, Leo the Great was "hammering home" the supposed link between Rome and the papacy, even likening the founding of the Roman church by Peter and Paul to the founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus (Duffy, pp. 43–44). At



“discipline” of priestly celibacy, despite Scripture’s plain instruction that the forbidding of marriage is a Satan-inspired idea (1 Timothy 4:1–3). It is also interesting to note that in contrast to the long-standing Roman Catholic custom of kneeling to kiss the ring of a bishop or pope, the Apostle Peter **refused** such homage (Acts 10:25–26). These are just a few of many examples of how the Roman church has **departed** from apostolic teaching!

For more than 1,500 years, ambitious individuals have sought to use the Roman Catholic bishopric of Rome to advance their claims of universal authority, using social, political, theological, legal—and even military—pressure, along with deception and forgery, to achieve their goals. These clever and sometimes unscrupulous men have **departed** from the doctrines of the early Church. However, even many Catholic scholars recognize the falsehood of Rome’s claims. As Küng plainly states, “The claims that they made may have had **no biblical and theological foundation**, but over the centuries these [claims] entered church law as accepted facts. Thus to many people today, both inside and outside the Catholic Church, what the Roman bishops of the fourth and fifth centuries attributed to themselves in a growing awareness of their power seems to be what is originally Catholic” (Küng, p. 50). Thus we see that the claims of papal primacy based on apostolic succession from Peter do not rest on solid evidence, but on **dogma**—ideas stated with authority, but lacking in real historical evidence! In the last analysis, these claims rest not on history or Scripture, but on **dubious human traditions!**

Prophetic Significance

Just how do these sobering facts of history relate to us today? Francis I may present himself as a reformer,

MALACHY’S PROPHECY



De labore solis
John Paul II?



Gloria olivæ
Benedict XVI?



Petrus Romanus

dedicated to the repair of a church in crisis. Yet a close examination reveals, as we have seen, that the very foundation of Francis’ church is built on calculated assumptions and the perpetuation of false teachings.

This should be no surprise to students of Scripture. The Apostle Paul warned that religious leaders would depart from the true Church and use false and misleading teachings to gain followers (Acts 20:29–37). Paul also warned that, at the end of the age, many people would “turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:1–4). Paul further warned that just before the return of Jesus Christ, a powerful and influential religious leader would do miracles that would **delude** many people into believing **lies**—because they would not remember or love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12). This false religious leader will be in league with a powerful political leader who will gain control of a revived Roman Empire that will arise in Europe (see Revelation 13; Revelation 17; Daniel 2).

It is too early to gauge the extent of Francis’ likely influence on end-time events. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005, some rashly assumed that he would be the final pope before the return of Jesus Christ. They were wrong. Remember,

John Paul I served for only 33 days in 1978, the “year of three popes.” Francis’ papacy may be brief, setting the stage for a more charismatic successor—or it may be lengthy and full of drama. What we do know is that, based on the clear record of history and Scripture, Francis’ claim to be the successor of Peter and the modern holder of Christ’s authority is an overreach based on human traditions, not on the word of God. Christians must be on guard and not be deceived by false claims, especially as the end of the age approaches and religious deceptions increase. TM

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

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THIS IS London CALLING



HORSEMEAT NIGHTMARE

Did you hear the joke about the beef burger that went into the pub to ask for a pint? “I can’t hear you,” complains the bartender. “Sorry” replies the burger, clutching his throat. “I’m a little horse.”

An amusing quip, perhaps, but a nightmare for many unsuspecting consumers in the United Kingdom and across Europe earlier this year. They woke up to the shocking realization that many of their trusty beef burgers were *actually made from horse*. And that was certainly *no joke!*

It was not just beef burgers. Lasagna, meatballs, shepherd’s pie and other ready-made meals were also found to contain varying percentages of horsemeat. It transpired that almost anyone could have inadvertently eaten *le cheval*.

Some did not see what the fuss was about. After all, why worry about a little horsemeat, when thousands of consumers across Europe—in France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and beyond—eat tons of it each year as part of their regular diet? British consumers, however—like Poles and many other Europeans—by and large do not eat horsemeat—and neither do they like being taken for a ride.

Officials quickly leapt in to reassure the public that this lapse presented no health risk, and was simply a matter of labeling. Others, however, were far less charitable, framing the issue as one of *trust*. If you cannot rely on supermarket food labels to tell you the truth, how can you trust them at all? If packagers are putting horsemeat in with our beef, what else might they be adding that we might not—yet—know about?

Shocked supermarkets and politicians quickly took the bit between their teeth, racing into action to resolve the horsemeat scandal. Thousands of meat products from one end of the food chain to the other were removed from sale and trashed. Supermarket shelves,

schools, hospitals, social services and almost anyone with a catering company or processed food contract were purged of suspicious items.

At the same time, hapless supermarkets blamed the food-processing and packaging companies. These in turn blamed the meat storage suppliers, who blamed the abattoirs where the animals were slaughtered. And so, Britain blamed the French, who blamed the Romanians, who claimed they were innocent. Some called the UK Environment Minister incompetent for his handling of the crisis, forgetting that “competence” for the food industry had been transferred a decade earlier to Brussels and the European Union.

Lessons To Be Learned

One obvious lesson of the horsemeat scandal has been that EU regulation and oversight had been so weakened that the food supply sector was left wide open to fraud. Despite warnings issued by critics over the past two years, no tests for horsemeat had been conducted in

Despite warnings issued by critics over the past two years, no tests for horsemeat had been conducted in the United Kingdom for more than a **DECADE!**

the UK for more than a decade. Fearing a loss of credibility, as well as the political and potential health fallout, the EU and member governments moved swiftly to reassure the public and deal with the problem, the nub of which is simple.

Usually, if a beef product contains meat from another source—say, for example, pork—

the label will tell you so, because the pork was added intentionally. The problem with the horsemeat was that it was *not supposed to be there*. So, how did it find its

way into the packaged or processed items? Why did protective regulations prove ineffective? Where, in the ever more convoluted, globalized food chain on which modern food suppliers rely, did processes go awry? And, panic aside, how serious and widespread was the problem?

Thankfully, the overwhelming majority of items tested for horse DNA were found free from contamination. Only about 1 percent of the thousands



of tested products have been found to be affected. However, some products claiming to be beef were found to be more than 60 percent—some were 100 percent—horsemeat. And the addition of the horsemeat, though not as common as some initially feared, appeared clearly to be deliberate action by some unscrupulous packagers in Eastern Europe.

What lessons can we learn from all of this? Aside from appreciating the many dreadful puns trotted out by commentators, we can see a serious side to the matter. The horsemeat scandal presents us with a *cautionary tale of human nature* in action. Human beings, unless they are operating within adequate restraints and regulations, will tend to cut corners to their own advantage. And, as long as consumers demand cheaper food, there will always be those willing to cut corners to satisfy that craving.

Certainly a degree of skepticism about mass-produced, cheap convenience foods—where the manufacturers may be especially tempted to cut corners to maximize profits—would not go amiss.

Most health authorities would agree that we should purchase the highest quality food we can afford, and that as much as possible we should select fresh and unprocessed foods over heavily processed alternatives. When eating processed foods, in particular, we should be very careful to read the food labels—and ask others if we are not sure about the ingredients.

Biblical Guidance

It should be no surprise that the Bible also gives us some significant guidance about the food we consume—advice that should really make us think, as we put its words into practice, becoming more discerning about what we put into our mouths.

In Leviticus 11:1-23 and Deuteronomy 14:3-20, God lists foods to be avoided by anyone wanting to follow His revealed pattern of living. These chapters tell us that we should avoid eating the meat of animals that do not chew the cud and do not have cloven hoofs. That means no horsemeat in our diet! Nor should we eat pig, rabbit, camel, cat or dog.

God differentiates between the “clean” and the “unclean” for several reasons. One is that He wants those who follow Him to be different from the world around them (see Leviticus 11:44-47; Deuteronomy 14:2). And since He wants good things for His people, it should be no surprise that following His food laws is good for our health! And, no, these are not outmoded Old Testament laws; consider Matthew 5:17-19 in this regard. It is a measure of how far this world has drifted away from God that we think these instructions are no longer relevant for today and that it is OK to eat virtually everything. But we should learn that it is *not* OK.

In the meantime, as Britain comes to grips with the horsemeat scandal and measures are introduced

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**Do You
Really Want
To Eat That?**

that will prevent such a crisis being repeated, trust may slowly return. And, when it does, there may come a time when the cry of “*Where’s the beef?*” can categorically be answered honestly—and not with a sly *whinny* or *grunt* that

might indicate the presence of something rather less wholesome!

—John Meakin

IMPROVE *Your Marriage!*

Jesus Christ said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If you are married, your spouse is your closest neighbor! If you are already married, are you fulfilling Christ’s command? If you are planning for marriage, do you have the right goals and expectations?

By Richard F. Ames

When a man and a woman make the commitment to become husband and wife, there is often a joyous gathering to celebrate the establishment of the new family. A wedding is a joyous occasion, often accompanied with music, flowers, family and friends. Marriage is one of the most important events in a person’s life. A formal, public commitment begins a lifetime together, and the bride and groom may even say traditional words such as, “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.”

Are we living up to that promise, individually or nationally? Consider that in 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 6.8 marriages in the United States for every thousand people—down from 9.8 per thousand in 2001—yet there were also 3.6 divorces per thousand, meaning that for every 1.8 marriages there was one divorce! Canada mirrors the U.S. trend, with Statistics Canada reporting last year that 43.1 percent of Canadian marriages are expected to end in divorce—up from 39.3 percent a decade ago.

What about you? Despite national trends, **you** can apply strategies for a successful marriage. There truly are proven, biblical strategies for maintaining a successful marriage. It may not be easy, but the effort you make can lead to great rewards and a loving relationship.

Avoid the “50-50” Mistake

The old saying, “Marriage is a 50–50 proposition,” is **totally wrong!** True love is giving without expecting anything in return. When two people both give **100 percent**, you have a strong bond, a strong overlap that is going to guarantee flexibility and the ability to cope with

crises and problems. But accepting the 50–50 proposition guarantees a built-in weak link in your relationship!

Does this seem too difficult? Consider this verse, which is foundational to happy relationships and the character that we need for all eternity: “And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35). Or, as the *Moffatt* translation puts it, “It is happier to **give** than to **get**.”

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time! Some years ago, when I was very active in sports, I tended to shortchange my wife in spending time together. I still remember the time when I determined to give my time to her in some special activity that would please her. She wanted to go canoeing—that was not my favorite activity, but we went canoeing on an East Texas lake on a Sunday afternoon surrounded by pine trees, blue skies, water fowl, and peace! What I considered a sacrifice of my time, led to an improved relationship—my wife enjoyed the activity and appreciated my effort. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

God’s way of life is a **giving way**—the mature approach to life and marriage. The Bible also instructs husbands and wives to give to one another sexually. In the first century, the Apostle Paul gave this instruction to Gentile converts to Christianity, who were living in the sexually immoral city of Corinth: “Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together



again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control” (1 Corinthians 7:2–5).

Are you willing to follow this instruction? Do you express affection to your husband or wife? Simple hugs and kisses when you leave for work, and when you return, are **important**. A German insurance company issued a report a few years ago, concluding that men who kiss their wives every day are less prone to accidents, and are generally more successful financially than men who do not kiss their wives every day. So I made sure to kiss my wife every morning before leaving for work. One day I forgot, and backed my car into a tree. Needless to say, I make sure I kiss her every morning!

Commenting on the problem of selfishness, Dr. John A. Schindler wrote, “The only person capable of true affection is the person who can forget himself and his own immediate interest while he places the welfare and interest of someone else foremost. When both husband and wife can do that, they will have no domestic nor sexual trouble” (*How to Live 365 Days a Year*, p. 142).

How many husbands and wives actually practice that principle? And how many **Christian** husbands and wives actually practice that principle?

Put Your Spouse First

Do you really value your spouse? Notice God’s instruction: “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others** better than himself” (Philippians 2:3).

Yes, you need to esteem—to value—your spouse **better** than yourself. Treasure your mate as a potential child of God. Look for and appreciate the positive values you find in each other! And, if you have been abusing your spouse, physically or verbally, **you need to repent!** You need to humble yourself before God and ask His forgiveness, and you need to apologize to your mate! I know it is sometimes difficult to say, “I’m sorry.” But an apology can go a long way in healing and restoring a relationship!

How do you demonstrate honor and respect to your husband or wife? There are many ways, such as giving special gifts, listening carefully, expressing thanks and using common courtesies in your words and the tone of your voice.

How patient are you? Patience is a way of expressing love, as we learn from 1 Corinthians 13, often called the “love chapter.” We read: “Love is patient;

love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends” (1 Corinthians 13:4–8, *NRSV*). Read that chapter. Pray that God will give you the ability to live by those qualities and grow in those qualities.

You can improve your marriage by listening, by understanding, and by giving space to one another.

THE SAYING, “MARRIAGE IS A 50–50 PROPOSITION,” IS TOTALLY WRONG! WHEN HUSBAND AND WIFE BOTH GIVE 100 PERCENT, YOU HAVE A STRONG BOND!

You can improve your marriage by honoring and respecting your spouse! Notice this vital instruction God gives to husbands: “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Peter 3:7).

God instructs the husband to **honor** his wife. Keep in mind that you are “heirs together of the grace of life.” Understand that every human being on earth has the potential of being born into the divine family of God as a glorified, immortal child of God. The Apostle Paul reminded us of God’s plan for us: “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).

Set a Positive Example

The Apostle Peter gave instructions for Christians to set a good example even to their non-Christian mates: “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear” (1 Peter 3:1–2).

Remember, you cannot change another person against his or her will, but you can change yourself!

We all have God-given responsibilities in our marriage and family. God tells husbands: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church

and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). Are you, as a husband, fulfilling your responsibility? Some husbands and wives place great emphasis on judging their mate’s conduct, to excuse their own lack of faithful service. Remember, we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, as it tells us in Romans 14:10. Be sure you are fulfilling your own God-given responsibility as a husband or wife!

The book of Titus outlines biblical responsibilities for Christian women, explaining that the older wom-

en should teach and “admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4). Are you

wives and mothers who are reading this article fulfilling your God-given responsibilities? If you are, you will be a positive example to your husband. God will bless your efforts, if you acknowledge Him in your marriage, and if you ask Jesus Christ to live His life in you. With God’s help, strive to be the best husband or the best wife you can be.

Loving Communication

How often do couples “tune one another out” in their conversations? Effective communication means effective listening as well as speaking. We should listen for understanding—try to understand the other person’s point of view. Try to understand the other person’s feelings and needs! Demonstrate respect by giving your full attention.

The Apostle Paul gives us a fundamental principle in communicating effectively. “But speaking the truth in love, [we] may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Some people speak the truth in hate. But Christians who are maturing in Christ will care about how their words affect those who listen to them.

When you talk with your husband or your wife, do you demonstrate concern and care? Do you communicate respect? Certainly we need to be patient with one another. “Charity suffereth long, and is kind.” (1 Corinthians 13:4, *KJV*) The *NIV* states it this way:

MARRIAGE CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is there more to the Day of Pentecost than most realize?

Question: I have read in your magazine about the Day of Pentecost, but it seems different from what my church observes. What is Pentecost, and what should it mean to Christians?

Answer: Pentecost, like a number of other significant statutes and observances in the Bible, is neither universally accepted nor uniformly observed by professing Christians today. Some observe their version of Pentecost on a variety of different days; others either ignore it or acknowledge it as a date but with no special observance.

Pentecost is one of seven annual Holy Days described in your Bible, and its observance is clearly recorded in both the Old and New Testaments. It is a

Pentecost was the day Moses received the Ten Commandments.

day on which “no customary work” is to be done, and God’s people are to gather together in convocations to worship (Leviticus 23:21).

The festival was called the Feast of Weeks in the Old Testament. From the Greek language of the New Testament it took on the name “Pentecost”—from the Greek word meaning “count 50.” Pentecost was the day on which Moses received the Ten Commandments for the tribes of Israel, and Judaism to this day observe what it calls *Shavuot* (Hebrew for “Weeks”) as a memorial to that event.

The meaning of the word *Pentecost* is itself an indication of how the Bible instructs us to observe the Holy Day. Leviticus 23:15 states that, in order to determine the date of the festival, 50 days were to be counted from the date of the “wave sheaf” offering, which occurs on the Sunday that falls during the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6–11). Since day 1 of the 50-day-inclusive count is always the first day of the week, so too is Pentecost—day 50 in that count. On the Julian calendar, it falls on a date somewhere in mid-May to mid-June each year. In 2013, Pentecost begins at sunset on May 18 and continues until sunset on May 19.

Most observant Jews today fix Pentecost to the sixth day of the Hebrew month known as Sivan, 50 days after the first Day of Unleavened Bread. Thus they do not need to perform the biblical “count” to find the date of the Holy Day, and Sivan 6 can fall on days of the week other than Sunday. Today, most branches of Judaism follow the Sivan 6 custom, though the Karaites retain the practice of counting to the biblically mandated Sunday Pentecost.

Those who strictly follow the biblical instruction to “count 50” from the Sunday of the wave sheaf offering, however, will always observe Pentecost on a Sunday, on a date ranging from Sivan 5 through Sivan 11.

Pentecost was the day on which the New Testament Church was founded (see Acts 2), and signified the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17–19)—which was the spiritual fulfillment of the Israelites’ Feast of Weeks. Just as God called a physical nation—Israel—to be His examples to the ancient world (Deuteronomy 4:6; Deuteronomy 7:6–8; Isaiah 49:6), He founded a Church of spiritual “firstfruits” to become His “lights” to the world and a holy priesthood (Romans 8:22–24; Romans 8:29; James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9–10) through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The next annual Holy Day after Pentecost is called the Feast of Trumpets, and is observed on Tishri 1 on the Hebrew calendar (September or October on

the Julian calendar), picturing the resurrection of all the firstfruits—which will occur at the biblically described “seventh trumpet” (Revelation 11:15). Some mistakenly associate Pentecost—which in fact pictures the *gathering* of the firstfruits, not their resurrection—with this later biblical milestone.

Just as Scripture shows Jesus Christ and His followers keeping Passover (Matthew 26:17; Mark 14:12; Luke 22:8), the Days of Unleavened Bread (Matthew 26:17; Acts 20:6), the Day of Atonement (Acts 27:9), and the Feast of Tabernacles or Feast of Booths (John 7; Acts 18:21), they also observed Pentecost (Acts 2:1; 1 Corinthians 16:8). Today, Pentecost retains its importance for Christians as an important milestone in God’s annual cycle of Holy Days.



THE Works OF HIS HANDS

The Miracle of DNA

What if we could travel through the *microscopic* world and enter the amazing environment of a single, solitary, minuscule human cell—just one of the *trillions* in your body? What an *amazing* world of wonder we would encounter! There, within this infinitesimally small and elegantly ordered domain, we would see complicated molecular machinery busily carrying out the functions that make our lives on earth possible! Traveling to the heart of the cell—its nucleus—we would find the “brains” of this invisible, unfathomably small world: an incredibly thin, unbelievably long strand of atoms that form a molecule, the existence of which is truly a miracle.

That miracle molecule is *deoxyribonucleic acid*—more commonly known as *DNA*—and it represents a technological feat of divine design and engineering that is truly a wonder to behold! God declared that each living creature reproduces “according to its kind” (Genesis 1:21-25), so that children resemble their parents, and it is through this invisible molecular agent of DNA that God breathes life at His command. DNA is, quite literally, the blueprint of all life on earth.

Design Discovered

Biologist James Watson and physicist Francis Crick shared a Nobel Prize in 1962 for discovering the structure of DNA, and what they discovered was simply amazing! Far from being a jumbled arrangement of atoms, DNA possesses an elegant and clearly well-designed structure.

The shape of DNA resembles a spiraling ladder—a shape known as a *double helix*. The two “legs” of the ladder are composed of sugars and phosphates, and the “rungs” or “steps” of the ladder are called *base*

pairs. The sequence of these base pairs is what gives DNA its remarkable capacity for containing and communicating vast amounts of information: the physical blueprint that makes you *you!*

Just four biological compounds—adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G) and thymine (T)—combine in pairs to form the base pair “rungs” of DNA molecules. These molecules in nearly every cell of our bodies contain these base pairs in *special and unique sequences* that encode the many instructions directing our cells to build the complicated network of molecular machinery that makes our bodies what they are.

Life's Blueprint Encoded

The information encoded in the long strands of the DNA molecule enables our bodies to assemble all the proteins needed for various functions, just like a computer reads its instructions from a hard drive. Indeed, the DNA molecular code, formed by specific sequences composed of the A, C, G and T bases, acts very much like the specific sequences of binary computer code composed of the digits 0 and 1.

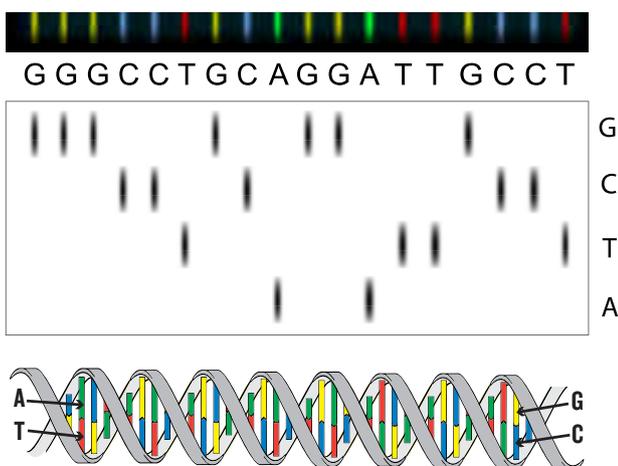
For instance, in computers that use the ASCII binary code to represent text, the sequence 010001000110000101100100 would encode the English word “Dad.” Similarly, in a strand of DNA the sequence CAGAAGCCA tells the cellular machinery to produce the amino acid chain *glutamine-lysine-proline*. Just as 0s and 1s combine to contain and communicate the information that runs every modern computer in existence, it is these strings of four simple chemical bases—A, C, G and T—that contain and communicate the very blueprint for every living organism on earth!

Furthermore, DNA is a high-tech information storage device *par excellence*. Science is only now beginning to truly comprehend the vast capabilities of God's design in this elegantly crafted molecule—a capacity that *far exceeds* anything mankind has invented! Some recent, fascinating experiments have helped to illustrate the remarkable capacity of this amazing invention of Almighty God.

In the September 2012 issue of the journal *Science*, molecular geneticist George Church and his colleagues reported that they were able to encode a copy of Church's book *Regenesis* in a strand of DNA, then to successfully decode it to retrieve the original text, just as one could do with a computer's hard drive. As they wrote in the abstract of their groundbreaking paper, "DNA is among the most dense and stable information media known."

Another similar experiment made this even more dramatically clear. The prestigious journal *Nature* reported in January 2013 that a team of scientists encoded all 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets, the original scientific paper by Francis Crick and James Watson about the structure of DNA, a color photograph of the European Bioinformatics Institute in England and an audio excerpt of Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech in a tiny bit of DNA. They then mailed the DNA—in a vial with no special packaging—from the United States to Germany, where colleagues were able to successfully decode the contents back into their original text, visual and audio formats.

The scientists suggest that their technique "could eventually be scaled up to create a storage capacity far beyond all the digital information stored globally today"



("DNA Data Storage: 100 Million Hours of HD Video in Every Cup," *Phys.org*). That amount of information would be approximately *one zettabyte*—a staggering *one million million gigabytes*! In fact, they claim that the amount of DNA that would fit in a standard coffee cup would be enough to store 100 million hours of high-definition video. That is enough high-definition video to play continuously—24 hours a day, every single day—for more than *10,000 years*. All in a single coffee cup.

Dare To Deny a Designer?

For those who do not believe in an Almighty God who created life, and who designed it for His own wonderful purposes, the existence of this remarkable molecule is quite a hurdle to clear! Scientists exploring the origin of life but failing to consider a Divine Designer find themselves facing the proverbial "chicken and egg" dilemma, since the proteins used to read the DNA code are, themselves, created *using* the DNA code! The detailed information in DNA *cannot* be read without complex, specialized proteins, designed for the task of decoding it. Yet the complex, specialized proteins *cannot* be created without the detailed instructions stored within DNA!

Many biochemists are pouring passionate effort into creating a mythical and mysterious "creation without God" story in the laboratory, seeking to discover a plausible scenario in which information-carrying molecules can assemble themselves randomly and begin reproducing themselves. Yet, despite all their efforts so far, they have failed. Just as a complex computer program demands a programmer who must have written it, the presence of the absolutely remarkable information-rich DNA molecule at the very foundation of *every living creature* on earth cries out to all who are willing to hear that **life requires design**, and design *must* come from a supremely intelligent Designer!

With every cell reading the programs encoded in our DNA—like a hundred trillion computers reading a hundred trillion hard drives, every second of every day of our lives—our very bodies *demand* that we believe in a Creator! As science reveals more and more wonders of the human body and of life on earth, we can lift our voices to God alongside King David of Israel, saying, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14)!

—Wallace Smith

FORGOTTEN SYMBOLS

A pointed reminder of human stubbornness

What do Mecca, Jerusalem and Vatican City share with London, Paris, New York City, and Washington, D.C.? In these cities, and in others around the globe, sometimes in the most incongruous locations, we often find great obelisks. Some are actual relics from ancient Egypt—where the design originated—while others are modern interpretations of this ancient theme.

Where else is this obelisk design or something very similar to it, often found? Think of the many Protestant church buildings with their soaring steeples, or the minaret towering above a Muslim mosque. Many great Roman cathedrals prominently display these ancient architectural features.

Is the similarity among these obelisks, spires and towers just a remarkable coincidence? Or is there a meaning—a reason—behind their common designs?

Ancient Egyptians worshiped many gods, including a sun god—and the obelisk was an important symbol in that worship. The Egyptians, like many other ancient pagan peoples, ascribed mysterious power to symbols, particularly those picturing fertility, abundant crops or healing. These customs spread to other cultures and remain widespread, even in our present day, where the obelisk and other similar spires have become a familiar icon not only of professing Christianity, but also of secret societies such as the Freemasons.

“Well, what difference does it make?” you may ask. “Those old meanings and associations have long been forgotten. They are just nice architectural features, which can be beautiful.”

These are natural reactions, but what does God say about the matter? Interestingly, if we look into the Bible, we find that the way we worship and honor God the Father makes a great deal of difference to Him. A quick search for the phrase “sacred

pillars” in the *New King James Version* Bible reveals at least 15 references, each associated with instructions to remove or destroy those symbols of pagan worship.

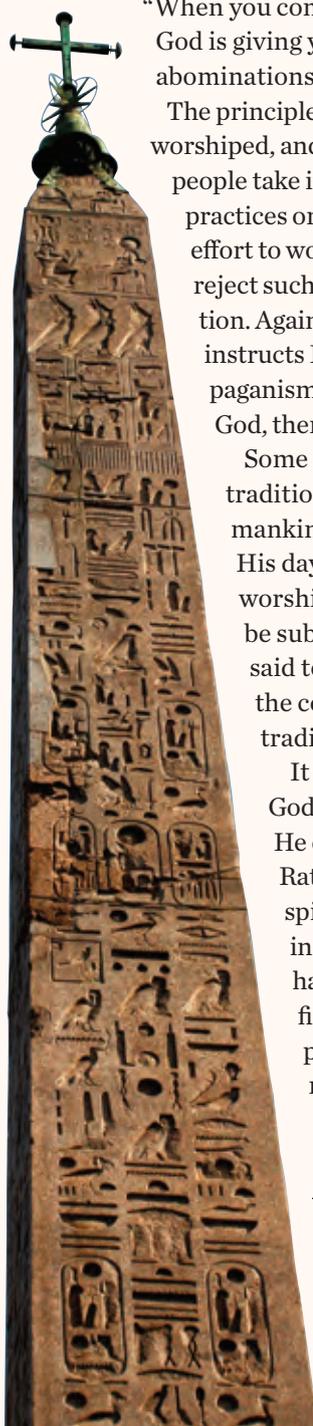
The basis for this instruction is found in the Second Commandment, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them” (Exodus 20:4–5). Further, in His instruction to the nation of Israel, God said, “When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations” (Deuteronomy 18:9).

The principle is clear. God chooses how He is to be worshiped, and He does not find it acceptable when His people take it upon themselves to use the methods, practices or symbols of false, pagan religions in an effort to worship Him. In fact, not only does He reject such worship; He considers it an abomination. Again and again, throughout Scripture, God instructs His people to remove these symbols of paganism (Deuteronomy 7:5). In the worship of God, there is no room for pagan tradition.

Some may say, “But these are beautiful traditions!” Yes, perhaps they are beautiful to mankind. But Jesus Christ let the people of His day know—very plainly—that in the true worship of the true God, “tradition” cannot be substituted for truth. “He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?’” (Matthew 15:3).

It can certainly be enjoyable to worship God in a building of beauty and quality. But He does not require the use of fine buildings. Rather, He insists on being worshiped in spirit and truth (John 4:24). True worship in modest surroundings, even in rented halls, does please Him, in a way that the finest man-made traditions taken from pagan worship never will. We should never forget this in our worship of the one true God.

—J. Davy Crockett, III



“Love is patient, love is kind.” Be conscious always to speak the truth in love!

In our fast-paced lives, husbands and wives may be going in different directions and hardly have time to speak to one another.

Some studies have shown that many couples average less than 20 minutes a week in conversation! Authors Leonard and Natalie Zunin suggested the “four-minute rule” as a way to capitalize on the brief time you may have together. They point out that the success or failure of a marriage “can depend on what happens between a husband and wife during just eight minutes of the day: four in the morning upon awakening, and four when you are reunited after the working day” (*Contact: The First Four Minutes*, p. 133).

The Zunins correctly point out that your language, attitude, or expression at the beginning of the day can affect your whole relationship. Learn to express a positive, loving attitude for the first four minutes you are together at the beginning of the day. If you make this effort, you can avoid an accidental argument or an unnecessary grudge that will last all day. And pay particular attention when you get together at the end of the day. Even if you are tired, a positive word of encouragement or appreciation, a hug or a kiss can make a big difference in your relationship for the whole evening.

Pray Together

Many of you reading this article may be married to an unbeliever. If so, you may not be able to pray **with** your spouse—but you can pray **for** your spouse, and for your successful marriage! As mentioned earlier, you can be a Christian example to your mate. Scripture gives this instruction to wives who have non-Christian husbands. “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives” (1 Peter 3:1). Your loving, giving, Christian example can go a long way toward positively influencing your mate. Notice the emphasis is on your conduct, **not** on trying to argue your mate into your religion!



Of course, if both you and your spouse pray, you can pray together. When my wife and I pray together, I normally begin the prayer, then after a short while nudge my wife. She will then pray, and when she is done I will conclude our prayer together. It is just amazing how intimate and personal thoughts come out in our shared prayers. In that way, we are sharing with one another, and with our God.

One of my wife’s favorite expressions is, “Let’s pray about that.” I appreciate her willingness to involve God in our marriage and in our life together. We all need to acknowledge God and our Savior in every aspect of our lives. Scripture exhorts us: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in **all your ways** acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

A marriage requires work, effort and continual nourishment to be successful. It means giving all you can in following your God-given responsibilities as a husband or as a wife. There will be obstacles, differences, and even conflicts. But with God’s help, you **can** improve your marriage!

Ask God to help you apply these principles in your own life. Remember, you cannot force your spouse to change—you can only change yourself. But your example of love and service can be a tremendous influence on your mate. And remember, you cannot do it on your own. You need the help of your Savior in your own life. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). May God bless you, your marriage and your family as you strive to live by His word! 

MAY WE SUGGEST?

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Sowing Your Wild Oats?

Do you ever wonder if you are “missing out”? You know what I mean. You have grown up with parents who would not let you go out and party. They have always insisted on knowing where you were, and are not “okay” with you coming in at all hours of the night. They want to know who your friends are. They make you share your Facebook password with them and do not believe in “computer privacy” for kids. Maybe they even home-school you!

If you are a young person reading this magazine, you are more likely than most to fit this profile. Your parents may sometimes be accused of “sheltering” you from what most teenagers today would call “real life”—and that accusation may be accurate! Because of their shelter, you may not have experienced some of the teenage “rites of passage” that many today consider normal, such as getting drunk and having sex.

Maybe you have even met an adult who has said to you, “You mean you haven’t kissed a girl? What’s wrong with you?” Or, “You haven’t held hands with a guy? You are really deprived!” Maybe you have met an adult or two who has even told you, “You’d better sow your wild oats while you’re young, or you’ll regret that you missed your chance later.”

Under Pressure?

With so many pressures to fit in and do what society says is normal, it can be easy for a young person to think, “My parents may mean well, but are they making me miss out on experiences I really ought to be having?”

This can be hard to handle, even when you know God exists, and you basically want to live His way of life, and you do not want to be a “pop culture zombie” following mindlessly the superficial people around you. Deep down inside, you know that what today’s society considers “normal” is not necessarily right with God—or right for you.

But, still, the temptations are there. Should you really “sow your wild oats” while you can? Surely that is part of what being a “normal” teenager is all about—right?

Wrong! It does not have to be that way. In fact, it should not be.

Consider a parable related by Jesus Christ—who, by the way, knew what it was like to be a teen. He told of a father who had two sons. One “sowed his wild oats” and

There is no “free pass” when it comes to cause and effect!

sought to experience all the extremes life had to offer, living his life with abandon. But when the fun came to an end, how did this prodigal son come to feel? We read that he would “gladly have filled his stomach

with the pods that the swine ate.” The party was over for him, and his life was miserable (Luke 15:11-32).

Cause and Effect

There is a saying: “If you sow wild oats for six days, pray for crop failure on day seven.” No matter how attractive the idea of “experiencing real life” may seem for a while, those experiences bring permanent consequences—the “crops” that spring from what is sown. The Bible puts it very simply: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

The reality is that there is no “free pass” when it comes to cause and effect. Wise King Solomon knew this when he wrote, “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment” (Ecclesiastes 11:9). Even in our youth, the actions we choose will affect us for the rest of our lives. Our teen and young adult years are filled with potentially life-changing decisions.

For example, when young people become involved in drinking alcohol—which many consider a normal “rite of passage” for teens—they are taking a first major step toward injury or even death. Motor vehicle crashes, often caused or worsened by alcohol consumption, are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control reports: “Young people ages 15–24 represent only 14 percent of the U.S. population. However, they account for 30 percent (\$19 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among males and 28 percent (\$7 billion) of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among females.” (“Teen Drivers: Fact Sheet,” October 2, 2012).

What about “hooking up” in sexual encounters with your friends? Is it a harmless “rite of passage”?

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Certainly it is common among today's teens. The Centers for Disease Control reported in a 2011 study that 47.4 percent of teens had engaged in sexual intercourse, 33.7 percent had done so in the past three months, and 5.3 percent reported having sex with four or more people during their teen years (“Sexual Risk Behavior:

HIV, STD, & Teen Pregnancy Prevention,” July 24, 2012).

That same CDC report describes the millions of cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) contracted each year. The report states that, “nearly half of the 19 million new STDs each year are among young people aged 15–24 years” (*ibid.*). Other statistics point out that, each year, one in four U.S. teens contracts an STD



or other sexually transmitted infection, and that by 2025 as many as 40 percent of all men and half of all women could be carrying one or more STDs.

Sow Good Seeds

How did our culture come to this point? By trivializing intimate contact between guys and girls. By removing standards that define appropriate contact. By winking at “sowing wild oats” that may seem fun at the time but that bring a lifetime of heartache and regret.

So, do not let anyone tell you that when you strive to obey God's law you are “missing out.” Instead, make the effort to sow good seeds for your future. Solomon wrote, “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother, for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck” (Proverbs 1:8–9).

As Solomon wrote, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11). Make sure that the seeds you sow are godly ones that will produce good fruit. Even if you have sown a few wild oats in the past, you can turn your life around. It is never too late—or too early—to start doing what is right.

—Jonathan McNair

gels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

The Apostle John tells us, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’—as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). John described the inspired “Song of the Saints” in this way: “And they sang a new

Yes, the early Christians *understood* God’s purpose, and why He is calling some out of this present society into His Church: to prepare for “*Tomorrow’s World*”!

True Christians must learn to *obey* and *live by* God’s laws and ways **now**, as they prepare to **teach** and **train** others to live the way of **peace** during the soon-coming Millennium—when the Kingdom of God, the very **government** of God, will hold sway over this earth! We must prepare by learning to make

wise judgments, using the capabilities God has given us. As Jesus Christ clearly revealed in the “parable of the minas,” those who *use their talents* and

THE DOWNTRODDEN AND THE POOR WILL CRY FOR JOY WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES BACK TO THIS EARTH AND BRINGS GENUINE PEACE OF MIND.

song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth’” (Revelation 5:9–10).

Yes, the *true* saints of God—those who truly “overcome” their human nature, the temptations of the world, and the lies of Satan the Devil—will have the opportunity to serve as kings and priests. And notice: they will reign “on the **earth**”—**not** lounge around in heaven with nothing to do!

What Was the Message Of the Original Christians?

Historian Edward Gibbon reminds us, in the 15th chapter of *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, that early Christians believed in God’s coming *world government*: “The ancient and popular doctrine of the **millennium** was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed as six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labor and contention which was now almost elapsed would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a *thousand years*; and that Christ, with a triumphant band of the saints and the elect that escaped death; or who had been miraculously revived, would *reign upon earth* until the time appointed for the last and general resurrection.”

strengths—as they overcome sin and obey God—will be given actual **authority** over cities. For Jesus told the man who had gained ten minas with his mina: “‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, *have authority over ten cities.*’ And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ Likewise he said to him, ‘You also be **over five cities**’” (Luke 19:16–19).

What will life be like under God’s government? The Bible clearly tells us, describing the time of Jesus Christ’s rule on the earth, “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert” (Isaiah 35:5–6). And then, “No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and *the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads.* They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (vv. 9–10).

Frankly, my friends, most of you who are reading this article are among the most blessed on this troubled earth at this time! For when we continually read about the degree of hunger and starvation now affect-

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ing **millions** of human beings all over the world, and when we read about the increasing **torture** and **rape** affecting so many innocent people, we have to cry out, “Thy Kingdom come!” We live in a world where the scourge of war has created whole generations of soldiers whose arms or legs have been blown off, eyes blinded, ears missing, and emotions scarred for life because of what they have seen in combat. And the Bible tells us that wars and violence will increase in the years leading up to Christ’s return.

After the returning Jesus Christ puts down a massive worldwide rebellion, He will usher in a time of no war! There will be peace on the earth! No one will need to fear attack by vicious wildlife. Those who are maimed, blind or deaf will be healed. An atmosphere of love and *blessings* will be everywhere, as the people who are “ransomed” from the suffering near the end of this age will be overwhelmed with joy. Right now, this may not seem important to many who have just “gone along” and not experienced the great suffering in our world. But by the time Christ’s very real Kingdom is set up here on the earth, it will mean *very much* to countless millions of suffering human beings! And **if** you and I **understand** the Bible and truly *give ourselves* in obedience to service to God, we will have

the wonderful opportunity to help, to teach and to bring **joy** to countless millions of human beings all over this earth!

Describing the soon-coming reign of the Messiah, Psalm 72 tells us: “Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son. He will judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice. The mountains will bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth. In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more” (vv. 1–7). Then God tells us, “Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, and will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight” (vv. 11–14).

Truly, the downtrodden and the poor will cry for **joy** when the Messiah comes back to this earth and brings genuine peace of mind and lasting blessings such as our world has never known before. And **we—if** we prepare to be a part of it—will have the opportunity to bring about this everlasting joy that God plans for the entire world.

This is the coming “perfect government” that God Himself has planned, and which He *will bring about!* Some will rebel against it. We can even reject it individually. But it **will** happen, because the Creator and Ruler of the universe promised it, and has a plan to bring it about. May God help all of us understand and prepare to have *our part* in this perfect world government that will soon come to the earth. May you heed God’s advice not just to “hear” the truth of Almighty God, but to **act** on it, and so fulfill your Creator’s *purpose* for your very life! 

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WATCH AND WARN

Discerning God's Appointed

Earlier this year, the world watched as Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio—now Francis I—was elected as the leader of his church and its 1.2 billion adherents. Many wondered about the election process, and have asked themselves the question, “How does God show His will about who should lead His people?”

If God has called you to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God and Savior of the world—you no doubt have the same question. How can we identify those whom God has set apart as His servants in His ministry today?

Notice that Jesus Christ *appointed* the Twelve Apostles (Mark 3:14). In turn, the apostles *appointed* elders to minister to the brethren (Acts 14:23). Even for specific tasks, appointment rather than election is the biblical pattern; notice that Christ *appointed* 70 disciples for a special ministerial task (Luke 10:1).

But also notice, sadly, that there are *false* teachers who misguide their followers to their mutual peril (Acts 20:29; 1 Timothy 1:5–7; 2 Peter 2:1–2)! So we must be careful to follow those whom God has truly appointed, and to follow—imitate—them as they follow Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Biblical Examples

Born to Israelite slaves, Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter and reared in the Egyptian court. God called Moses at the burning bush, and commissioned him to free Israel from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 2–4). Scripture says there was none more humble than Moses (Numbers 12:3)—so, how did he become Israel's leader? He did not politick for the job, nor was he balloted into

the position. God *appointed him* in a powerful and unmistakable way.

Young David, who would become King of Israel, was considered so unimportant as the youngest of Jesse's eight sons that he was not even brought to see Samuel at first. Yet God plainly *told* Samuel to anoint David to serve as king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:12–13). David was not voted into office, and it is significant that he did not seek to hurry his appointment by attempting to usurp Saul or stage a coup. Instead, he waited until God removed Saul by death in battle.

The example of Jehu, an army officer during the reigns of Ahab and Jeroboam, is equally instructive. Jehu was anointed to become king (1 Kings 19:16–17). Scripture shows that God commissioned Elijah and then Elisha to anoint Jehu as Israel's king. Was this appointment the result of politicking? Or was it haphazard—something the prophets did not know they were doing? Of course not!

Note also that this anointing was for a specific purpose; it was not, for example, a general anointing for healing (see James 5:13–15) that Jehu chose to construe as a divine appointment to office. Rather, God gave His prophet a clear instruction, which was carried out under authority, and was even confirmed by specific and momentous prophecies intended to validate the anointing—that Ahab's house would perish and dogs would eat Jezebel on the ground of Jezreel (2 Kings 9:1–10). When God appoints a servant, His decision is clear!

God's Pattern

God repeats this pattern throughout the Old and New Testaments. In the New Testament, we read



Cardinals on balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica.

of Jesus specifically and publicly selecting Peter (just as He did the other apostles). There was no self-willed campaigning for ordination, no rebellion against a previous leader, no balloting and no politicking for the job. His authority flowed from proper ordination to a specific office, not from assuming a coveted title. Similarly, the risen Jesus Christ specifically selected and appointed Saul, whom He struck down while on the road to Damascus, then trained for three years to serve as one of His apostles (Galatians 1:15–18).

Scripture tells us that people can only come to Christ if the Father calls them (John 6:44). Those whom God calls, He requires to spiritually *come out* of this world, which has been deceived by Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4). Every Christian is being called to enter a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), to become a literal son of God—a Spirit Being and member of the God Family—at Christ's return.

Some whom God calls, He also appoints to distinct offices of service—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Interestingly, since the first generation of Christians, God has not called any prophets to serve in any administrative capacity in His Church. Prophets are always found under the direction of some higher human authority even as they deliver God's message (1 Corinthians 12).

As we have seen, God makes His calling to office clear, both by the process of appointment and by the fruits of that appointment. Those whom God has **not** appointed but who desire an appointment should keep in mind this warning by the Apostle James: "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment" (James 3:1). How will God's appointed ministers be judged? By their love for God, their love for His people and their love for His law—their example of teaching the entire way of life that Christ taught (Matthew 28:20).

Those God has appointed speak according to the entire Bible—*not* according to their opinion or comfortable tradition. The Bible explains that those who do *not* teach according to all the law and all the testimony—the entire word of God from Genesis to Revelation—do not have the "light" of Christ in them (Isaiah 8:20; John 1:1–8). These false teachers will even be *accursed* for attempting to add to, or take away from, God's sacred word (Revelation 22:18–19).

Faithful ministers of God are committed to the "Great Commission"—to proclaim to the world the "good news" of the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 24:11–14).

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Has God called you to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God and Savior of the world? If so, repent, rejoice and thank God for your calling. And thank God for those whom He has appointed to teach and guide His Church, to bring the spiritual body into the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:13).

—Wyatt Ciesielka

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks so much for your programming and literature. I enjoy learning more about God, Jesus and the Bible. I learn something new each time I watch or read your information. I also like how you use the Bible to teach us and show us.

S.R., Weyers Cave, VA

Your “Questions and Answers” segment about the validity of the symbol of the cross as a representation of Christians was a real eye-opener. I appreciate your article outlining the historical connection of the symbol of the cross with the Christian church. As was explained in the article, God forbids bowing down to any idol. I certainly enjoy reading the *Tomorrow's World* magazine for the articles that are published. They are genuine and true to God's word.

P.F., San Antonio, TX

I wanted to thank everyone at *Tomorrow's World* because ever since I ordered the first booklet my life hasn't been the same. Studying the material I receive from you, there is no doubt in my mind I'm headed down the right path. The Bible is so much fun when you can understand it, and with the help of all the *Tomorrow's World* literature that is sent to me I know now I am understanding the way it is. I don't just take your word, I look it up and read it for myself and ask God for understanding. I appreciate the hard work that *Tomorrow's World* puts in to help people like me.

B.M., Dayton, TX

I have just completed your *Bible Study Course* and I want to let your readers know how marvelous it is. It is very easy to follow and extremely informative.

Even though I have done a lot of Bible study over the years, I learned a lot of significant things that I had not come across before. I would recommend it to everyone, no matter how much they already know.

S.F., Wellington, New Zealand

A note to thank you for my *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I enjoy reading and learning from it. I find that it is a big help to me as I was wondering why so many bad things are going on with people worldwide. It is all in such a big mess. I hope you are well and keep up this good work you are doing for God and all mankind for as long as you are able. I am 80 years old and still learning the good and true meaning of the Bible truths.

I.G., Cessnock, NSW, Australia

I am grateful to you for sending me *Who or What Is the Antichrist?, Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs*, the January-February edition of the magazine, and the DVD entitled *The Apostles' Prophetic Journeys*. These have opened my understanding. I am hoping to receive more of your booklets.

J.P., Polcenigo, Pordenone, Italy

Really appreciate your efforts! Thanks for giving me this honor to give me a chance to read your books. Really thankful to you!

F.A., Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

Thank you very much for all the help you have given me for the past few years. I have just turned 94 years and through your booklets have a better understanding of the Bible.

E.V., Gatineau, QC, Canada

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Capital Cities & QLD TV4ME 74 SU 7:30 a.m.
SA 7:00 a.m. AET
COUNTRY VIC & NSW TV4 64 SU 7:30 a.m.
SA 7:00 a.m. AET

BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 9:30 a.m.

CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SU 4:00 a.m.
SU 5:30 p.m.
MO 1:30 a.m.
TU 4:30 a.m.
MO-FR 3:00 a.m.

LOCAL STATIONS (All times local)

BC
Vancouver JOY TV 10 SU 1:30 a.m.
SU 5:00 p.m.
Victoria CHEK SU 8:00 a.m.

MB
Winnipeg JOY TV 11 SU-FR 10:00 a.m.
SU-FR 10:00 p.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Angel One SU 8:00 p.m.
FR 8:30 a.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.

BET TU 6:30 a.m.

CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.

ION Television WE 6:30 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WGN SU 6:00 p.m.

THE WORD Network SU 7:30 a.m.
TU 1:00 a.m.

LOCAL STATIONS (All times local)

AK Anchorage KIMO SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 6:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WTVY SU 7:00 a.m.
Gadsden WPXH WE 5:30 a.m.
Montgomery WBMM SU 7:00 a.m.
Opelika WLGA SU 7:00 a.m.

AR Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.
Jonesboro KJOS SU 7:00 a.m.
Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Phoenix KASW SU 7:30 a.m.
Tolleson KPPX WE 5:30 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KUVU SU 8:00 a.m.
Fresno KFRE SU 7:30 a.m.
Monterey KION SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KESQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Redding KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide Prime TV SU 8:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Port of Spain CNC3-TV SU 7:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

Believe-TV Sky TV 593 SU 10:00 p.m.
Gospel Sky TV 588 MO 7:00 p.m.
WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WED 6:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 FRI 3:00 p.m.
Sky TV 590 SAT 12:00 a.m.

Sacramento KSPX WE 6:30 a.m.
San Jose KKPX WE 6:30 a.m.

CO Denver KPXC WE 4:30 a.m.
Grand Junction KJCT SU 7:00 a.m.

CT New Haven WZME WE 11:00 p.m.
New London WHPX WE 6:30 a.m.

DE Wilmington WPPX WE 6:30 a.m.

FL Bradenton WXPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Lake Worth WPXP WE 6:30 a.m.
Melbourne WOPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Miami WPXM WE 6:30 a.m.
Gainesville WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.
Panama City WJHG SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WBSK SU 8:00 a.m.
Augusta WAGT SU 8:00 a.m.
Brunswick WPXC WE 6:30 a.m.
Columbus WLGA SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon WBMM SU 8:00 a.m.
Rome WPXA WE 6:30 a.m.

HI Kailua-Kona KLEI WE 12:30 a.m.
Kaneohe KPXO WE 12:30 a.m.

IA Cedar Rapids KPXR WE 5:30 a.m.
Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.
Newton KFPX WE 5:30 a.m.
Ottumwa KWOT SU 7:00 a.m.

ID Boise KNIN SU 6:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KPIF SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Bloomington WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Chicago WCPX WE 5:30 a.m.
Chicago WGN SU 5:00 a.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.

IN Bloomington WIPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Fort Wayne WPTA SU 8:00 a.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Morehead WUPX WE 6:30 a.m.

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Baton Rouge WGMB SU 9:00 a.m.
Lafayette KLWB SU 7:00 a.m.
Lake Charles WBLC SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
New Orleans WPXL WE 5:30 a.m.

MA Boston WBPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Vineyard Haven WDPX WE 6:30 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Ann Arbor WPXD WE 6:30 a.m.
Battle Creek WZPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Lansing WLJA SU 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Duluth KDLH SU 7:00 a.m.
Mankato KWYE SU 7:00 a.m.
Rochester KTTC SU 8:00 a.m.
St Cloud KPXM WE 5:30 a.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KPXE WE 5:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
Kirksville KWOT SU 7:00 a.m.
Springfield KRBK SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Louis WRBU SU 9:00 a.m.

MS Biloxi WBGP SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBI SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWD SU 7:00 a.m.
Hattiesburg WBH SU 7:00 a.m.
Meridian WTOK SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Bozeman KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 6:00 a.m.
Glendive KWZB SU 6:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV SU 6:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF SU 6:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 6:00 a.m.

NC Burlington WGPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Charlotte WAXN SU 7:00 a.m.
Fayetteville WFPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Greenville WEPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Greenville WNCT SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.
Jacksonville WPXU WE 6:30 a.m.
Rocky Mount WRPX WE 6:30 a.m.

ND Bismarck KWMK SU 7:00 a.m.
Fargo WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.

NE Lincoln KCWL SU 7:00 a.m.
North Platte KWPL SU 7:00 a.m.

NH Concord WPXG WE 6:30 a.m.
SU 6:30 a.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany WCWN SU 8:00 a.m.
Amsterdam WYPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Batavia WYPJ WE 6:30 a.m.
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
New York WPXN WE 6:30 a.m.
Syracuse WSPX WE 6:30 a.m.

OH Akron WVPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Lima WBOH SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Oklahoma City KOPX WE 5:30 a.m.
Okmulgee KTPX WE 5:30 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford CW11 SU 8:00 a.m.

Salem KPXG WE 6:30 a.m.

PA Erie WBEP SU 8:00 a.m.
Scranton WQPX WE 6:30 a.m.

RI Block Island WPXQ WE 6:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

SD Rapid City KWBH SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Cookeville WNPX WE 5:30 a.m.
Jellico WPKX WE 6:30 a.m.
Knoxville WBXX SU 7:30 a.m.
La Follete WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WPXX WE 5:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 8:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Arlington KPXD WE 5:30 a.m.
Austin KNVA SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KBTB SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Conroe KPXB WE 5:30 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS SU 7:00 a.m.
Dallas KTXD SU 8:00 a.m.
Harlingen KSEF SU 7:00 a.m.
Houston KPXB SU 9:30 a.m.
Laredo KGNS SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.
Midland KWWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KLTV SU 6:30 a.m.
Uvalde KPXL WE 5:30 a.m.

UT Provo KUPX WE 5:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
Manassas WPXW WE 6:30 a.m.
Norfolk WPXV WE 6:30 a.m.
Roanoke WPXR WE 6:30 a.m.

WA Bellevue KWPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Spokane KGFX WE 6:30 a.m.

WI Antigo WTPX WE 5:30 a.m.
Eau Claire WXOW SU 7:00 a.m.
Kenosha WPXE WE 5:30 a.m.
La Crosse WQOW SU 7:00 a.m.
Superior KDHL SU 7:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA SU 8:00 a.m.
Charleston WLPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Clarksburg WVPX SU 8:00 a.m.
Martinsburg WWPX WE 6:30 a.m.
Parkersburg WCVW SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KTWO SU 10:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KLVY SU 11:00 a.m.
Riverton KGWC SU 7:00 a.m.
Scottsbluff KGWN SU 6:00 a.m.

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Armageddon Is Coming Soon!

Are you ready for the prophesied end-time battle known as "Armageddon"?

Airs May 9-15

What Happens After Death?

Will you go to heaven? To hell? To oblivion? How can you be sure? You need to know!

Airs May 16-22

Your Glorious Destiny Beyond Death

What will Christians be doing for all eternity? The answer will encourage and inspire you!

Airs May 23-29

Exposing the Devil's Deceptions!

Satan is a liar, but through God's word you do not need to be deceived!

Airs May 30-June 5

The Soon-Coming Great Tribulation

Your Bible warns of terrible trials ahead. Will you be ready when they come?

Airs June 6-12

Persevere in Prayer

Are you doing all you can to get answers to your prayers? What else should you be doing?

Airs June 13-19

Would You Recognize the Antichrist?

This mysterious figure will deceive countless millions. Will he deceive you?

Airs June 20-26

Schedule subject to change

PROPHECY AND THE DECLINE OF THE WESTERN NATIONS

How can you and your loved ones prepare for the troubles that your Bible warns will come upon the American and British-descended peoples before Jesus Christ returns?

PRESENTED BY
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Roderick C. Meredith

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L I V E O N L I N E !

