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TOMORROW'S WORLD

May-June 2017 | TomorrowsWorld.org



**Why Kids Go
WRONG**

Live the Way!

Longtime readers of *Tomorrow's World* have read and become familiar with these "Personals" from Editor in Chief, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith. Sadly, Dr. Meredith, who is nearly 87 years old, has been diagnosed with an advanced stage of cancer, and his days appear to be very limited. It grieves me to inform you of this, as I have known Dr. Meredith since I first took his Freshman Bible class at Ambassador College in 1965. He has asked me, his designated successor to his office, to write this issue's Personal and relieve him of that task.

Change is never easy, but it is an important part of life. One thing you can be certain of is that while our personalities may vary, the same basic truths that you are familiar with in *Tomorrow's World* will remain. All of us here at *Tomorrow's World* are deeply committed to what we often refer to as *the Truth*. We recognize that the true Gospel of Jesus Christ was being corrupted as early as the first century, not long after Christianity began. For, as Jude tells us, "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

The "faith which was once for all delivered" is not the faith of the Protestant reformers, as Dr. Meredith's thesis on the Protestant Reformation makes plain. You will find his second installment of this thesis beginning on page 5. If you are a new subscriber to this magazine, you can find his first installment in the previous issue, available on our website at TomorrowsWorld.org or from one of our addresses listed on page 4.

Reports out of the Middle East, North Africa, and other scattered places in the world tell of beheadings and killings of professing Christians. It takes great courage in some locales to profess the name of Christ! One can only admire individuals who put it all on the line when faced with such dire consequences, and one must wonder, "Do I have such courage?" It's easy to think we do, but there is a test you can take right now that will answer that question.

Will You Embrace "the Way"?

Luke is the recognized author of the book of Acts. He describes Christianity as *the Way* several times (e.g., Acts 18:25, 26; 19:9, 23; et al.). In other words, Christianity is a *Way* of life! Even the translators capitalize *Way* five of these seven times, recognizing the importance of this word as used in this context. Yes, Christianity is a **Way of life!** And to **live** that **Way of life** requires **courage!** It requires courage not only where people are being beheaded for professing the name of Christ, but also in *safe zones* such as your living room,

where you may be reading this. **Why?**

As brought out in Dr. Meredith's article on the Protestant Reformation, Christianity as we know it today is **not** the Christianity of Jesus Christ and the first-century Apostles—a fact that is not disputed



by knowledgeable scholars! Jesus and His Apostles worshiped on a different day and kept different Holy Days. They preached a different gospel, holding out a very different reward for the saved and punishment for the wicked. While preaching God's forgiveness of sin through faith in the blood of Christ, they did not neglect to teach the definition of sin, the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). To do away with the law of God is to do away with sin and the need for forgiveness (Romans 7:7)! No matter where they lived, adversaries would speak all manner of rumors against them falsely (Matthew 5:11; John 15:18–21), and the first-century Christians preached a much stronger

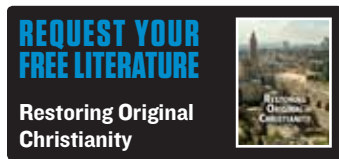
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requirement and commitment to Christ than is generally understood.

It is no wonder that Jesus sternly warns us in Luke 14:26: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate [that is, love less by comparison] his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” Now those are strong words indeed! Read and meditate on what they mean for you!

Jesus did not come to bring peace during this age, as many people believe. “Do not think that I came to



bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:34–37).

Knowing versus Living

Knowing the truth and living it are not the same. John is known as the “Apostle of love,” yet he tells us the truth is a way of life that must be practiced: “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” (1 John 1:6). He continues in the next chapter, making it perfectly clear what it is that we are to practice: “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).

The New Bible Commentary Revised comments the following regarding these verses:

3 Next comes a test by which men can know whether, in spite of their failures, they are in right relationship with God, and walking in fellowship with Him. The test is whether they *keep his commandments*. It is impossible for men who really know God to be unaffected in their daily

living by this knowledge... For John the knowledge of God is not some mystic vision or intellectual insight. It is shown *if we keep his commandments*. Obedience is not a spectacular virtue, but it is at the basis of all true Christian service. **4** The man who claims to have this knowledge but *disobeys his commandments*, John says forthrightly, *is a liar*. He underlines this with the addition, *the truth is not in him*.

Courage must be practiced. Many fear what their friends, neighbors and family will think and do if they step out and actually **live** the **Way** of true

Many fear what their friends, neighbors and family will think and do if they step out and actually live the Way

Christianity. They would rather continue living comfortably by doctrines and traditions handed down to them. To them, courage is what it takes to profess Christ in a far-away Muslim nation, not something needed where one actually lives in a more supposedly enlightened location. But in the end, it comes down to this: Are you going to admit and

accept the truth of Scripture? Are you going to obey God? Or are you going to continue following man-made traditions whose origins come from paganism and Greek philosophy?

Putting Off a Decision *Is* a Decision

In reality, we all have this choice to make. And remember, not making a decision **is**, itself, a decision! If **you** are among the courageous few and are interested in learning more about others who have already chosen to get back to “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints,” don’t hesitate to contact us at your regional office, listed on page 4, or online. Our representatives will be more than happy to visit you in your home or at some other convenient location of your choice. We will only call on you if you request it, and we won’t harass you with unwanted follow-up visits. But we would be pleased to meet you!

Rich E. Weston

5 **Setting the Stage for Revolution**

This special series on the truth behind the Protestant Reformation continues! In this installment we see many of the motivations—including political and financial—for religious revolution.

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The Truth Behind *The Protestant Reformation*

PART 2

Setting the Stage for Revolution

The causes of the Protestant Reformation are not understood by many—and not at all what many think!

By **Roderick C. Meredith**

The first installment in this series revealed the startling fact that a *radical change* came over nominal “Christianity” soon after the days of the original Apostles. *Pagan* ceremonies, customs, and traditions were quickly accepted into the professing Christian Church.

We learned of the *corruption* and *debauchery* of the Catholic Church during the Middle or “Dark” Ages. We learned how men like Wycliffe, Huss and Savonarola were *unable* to purge this wickedness from *within* the organized church of their day. Many *paid with their lives!*

Now let us consider the real factors that caused men to *revolt* against the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Again, let us ask ourselves these

questions: Was this a sincere, Spirit-motivated return to the “faith once delivered to the saints”?

Immediate Causes of the Reformation

Many modern Protestants have assumed that the Reformation was purely a *religious* movement. They see visions of multitudes of sincere men throughout Germany and Europe wholeheartedly seeking a return to Apostolic faith and practice.

But this is not an accurate picture.

It is an historical fact that there were many selfish and materialistic reasons why the Reformation took place when and how it did. Many of them were entirely divorced from a purely religious motive.

There is no doubt that political, intellectual and financial considerations played a prominent part in bringing about the Reformation of the sixteenth century. A rising sense of nationalism caused men to feel

that, as Germans, Frenchmen or Englishmen, they had common interests against all foreigners, even the pope himself.

As the cities of Europe grew in size and influence, the increased education, wealth, and political influence of the middle class prepared them to play a decisive role in the coming upheaval. They began to grow restive under the constant ecclesiastical interference in temporal affairs (Walker, Reginald F. *An Outline History of the Catholic Church*, Newman Press, 1944. p. 289).

Coupled with this national feeling, the growth of absolutism had made the various rulers feel more independent of the See of Rome, and they often attempted to secure unfettered control of ecclesiastical appointments within their realms. This was the beginning of a tendency that later culminated in state-controlled churches in many lands. The marked friendship

Acting in concert with all these forces was that remarkable movement known as the Renaissance, or the awakening of Europe to a new interest in science, literature and art. It was a movement that brought the change from medieval to modern ideals, culture and methods of thought.

If we are to understand the reformation that followed, we must first examine the interplay and action of each of these factors that played such an important part in its direction and final outcome.

Political and Financial Causes for Reform

As we have seen, papal power reached its height under Hildebrand (1073–1085), who, even more than his predecessors, aimed at the complete subordination of the “Holy Roman Empire” to the Roman church. The prosecution of this enterprise caused a protracted struggle for power between the papacy and the empire. In this

struggle, the popes had great advantages over the emperors—whose actual dominions were far from equivalent to the area dominated by the church. One very effective support was found in the disposition of the German princes themselves to put checks upon the power of the emperors. And in the crusades the popes had the opportunity to direct the religious enthusiasm of

the common people in all nations (Fisher, George P. *The Reformation*, Scribner, 1873. p. 26–28).

Eventually, the papacy was triumphant in this struggle and the penitent Emperor, Henry IV, was forced to humble himself before Pope Hildebrand in order to retain the allegiance of his subjects. Thus, we behold the spectacle of the *church ruling over the state*, and dictating its will to kings and emperors.

Indeed, the church had long dominated the empire to some extent, but never so completely. “In the eighteen years (1198–1216) in which Innocent III reigned, the papal institution shone forth in full splendor. The enforcement of celibacy had placed the entire body of the clergy in a closer relation to the sovereign pontiff. The Vicar of Peter had become the Vicar of God and of Christ... The king was to the Pope as the moon to the sun—a lower luminary shining with borrowed light” (Fisher, p. 29–30).

THE POPES WERE MAKING THEMSELVES OUT TO BE GOD ON EARTH. THEY TAUGHT THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS SETTING UP HIS MILLENNIAL REIGN ON EARTH THROUGH THEM.

between the popes and the kings of France during the Avignon period gave rise to a general suspicion of papal motives in other nations. This scandal was heightened by the increase in papal taxation during this period, when “the removal of the papacy to Avignon largely cut off the revenues from the papal estates in Italy without diminishing the luxury or expensiveness of the papal court” (Walker, p. 292, 296).

Many complaints were voiced, not only by individuals, but by the most powerful kings and by whole nations, against the imperious domination of the popes, the frauds, violence, avarice and injustice of Rome. The insolence and tyranny of papal legates, along with the crimes, ignorance and moral depravity of priests and monks, made men everywhere wish for a reformation of the church “in its head and members” (Mosheim, John L. *Institutes of Ecclesiastical History*, Volume 3. p. 24).

Thus we see that the popes were making themselves out to be *God on earth*. They taught that Jesus Christ was setting up His millennial reign on earth *through them*.

However, before this papal power could long be exercised, it became evident that there were **new forces** rising in Europe to challenge its supremacy. In



many lands, the patriotism of the people was resulting in an unwillingness to submit to foreign domination

over their own national churches, and a reluctance to pay “Peter’s pence” for the construction of magnificent cathedrals in Rome (Hurlbut, Jesse L. *The Story of the Christian Church*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1970, p. 118).

Abuse of Religious Office

In the exercise of its political and financial power, the Catholic Church was riding for a fall. The popes seemed to have an insatiable craving for money. This wealth was not only used to further their quest of voluptuous and easy living, but to purchase *friends* and *power*. The Roman pontiffs were able to extract this money from their unwary subjects by various means concealed under the appearance of religion.

John Mosheim describes this abuse of power: “Among these artifices, what were called indul-

gences—that is, liberty to buy off the punishments of their sins by contributing money to pious uses—held a distinguished place. And to these, recourse was had as often as the papal treasury became exhausted, to the immense injury of the public interests. Under some plausible, but for the most part false pretext, the ignorant and timorous people were beguiled with the prospect of great advantage by the hawkers of indulgences, who were in general base and profligate characters” (Mosheim, p. 88).

These scandals provided a very adequate reason in the eyes of many German princes, for instance, to throw off the papal yoke—whether by “reform” or revolt—in order to free themselves from papal taxation and interference, and to seize the wealth of the churches and monasteries. Luther’s later attack on the papal financial policy and taxation instantly made him a champion of the German middle class and, indirectly, of all his countrymen, who had long harbored feelings of resentment toward the crafty and easy-living Italians.

In England, relatively the same situation prevailed. King Henry VIII had squandered most of the royal treasury inherited from his more astute father. At the same time, there was growing discontent among the nobles in particular with regard to excessive papal taxation, and the abundant wealth of the monastic orders would be prize pickings if the papal authority were cast off. It is significant that one of Henry’s first actions after having himself recognized as the “supreme head of the Church and clergy of England” was to order the *confiscation* of the wealth of the church, particularly that of the monastic orders.

Through royal negligence and extravagance, there arose a class of sharers in the monastic loot whose vested interests lay in continued separation from the Church of Rome. This faction was a powerful guarantee against any later movements for reconciliation with the papacy (Walker, p. 56).

In view of these many temptations, and the nationalistic tendency already underway, it should have been the primary interest of the popes to reconcile the political and financial objections of the various nations. But such was *not* the case.

While the papacy should have been doing everything possible to avoid aggravating the peoples of Europe with its ruthless financial policy, it did just the opposite. Popes often used the wealth they



Pope Boniface VIII (1294–1303), satirized in Dante’s *Divine Comedy*

received from indulgences and the sale of church offices to enrich their own relatives or to strengthen the states of the Roman Church.

Fisher describes the wretched character of some of these popes: “Innocent VIII, besides advancing the fortunes of seven illegitimate children, and waging two wars with Naples, received an annual tribute from the Sultan for detaining his brother and rival in prison, instead of sending him to lead a force against the Turks, the enemies of Christendom. Alexander VI, whose wickedness brings to mind the dark days of the Papacy in the tenth century, occupied himself in building up a principality for his favorite son, that monster of depravity, Caesar Borgia, and in amassing treasures, by base and cruel means, for the support of the licentious Roman Court. He is said to have died of the poison which he caused to be prepared for a rich cardinal, who bribed the head cook to set it before the Pope himself” (Fisher, p. 44–45).

Thus, it is evident that when the reformers began their pleas for a break with the papal authority, the



wide response was often not so much from sincere religious motives as from the practical and natural desire of many to appropriate to themselves the political and financial rewards hitherto withheld or controlled by the Roman church.

The Renaissance

Another important factor in preparing the way for the Reformation was the revival of learning, literature and art called the Renaissance. The leaders of this movement were not usually priests or monks, but laymen. It opened as a literary movement and was not yet openly antireligious, but only skeptical and inquiring. It was greatly aided by the invention of printing in 1455, by Gutenberg. For the first time, books could now be disseminated by the thousands, and it is significant that the first book printed was the Bible.

The Renaissance stimulated patriotism and served to inspire the production of a national literature. It encouraged independence in thought and national policies, and led to the development of the modern European nationalistic concepts as we know them. As strong national governments arose, this naturally



Firenze (Florence), Italy, regarded as the birthplace of the Renaissance

tended to curb the authority of what had been regarded as the universal church. The influence of the pope and clergy became more and more limited to the religious sphere, and the diplomatic policy of each nation pursued a more independent course.

Increased interest in the pagan classics exerted a marked influence upon the educated classes, and caused them to break with medieval scholasticism, and, in many cases, with all serious concern with religion as such.

The medieval ideals had been otherworldly and encouraged self-abnegation. The Renaissance introduced humanism and the expression of the inherent tendencies in man. The attitude of ascetic seclusion gave way to the search for full enjoyment of all the world can offer.

A rational search into the history and literature of the past subjected many documents of the church to critical examination. A school of historical criticism was started by Lorenzo Valla (1405–1457), who exposed the falsity of the Donation of Constantine and denied the Apostolic origin of the Apostle’s Creed. All this inquiry and revival of human interests served to undermine the authority and influence of the Catholic Church.

For about two generations before the Protestant Reformation, the popes themselves tried to enter into the spirit of the Renaissance, and the popes of that time were marked by culture rather than religious faith. This naturally resulted in the papal court

becoming even more worldly, and brought about an increased demand for a reformation of the church.

“One very beneficial result of the Renaissance was the revived interest in the study of Hebrew and Greek. This promoted a better understanding of the Bible on which the great reformatory work of Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin was based. Without this preparation their work would not have been possible” (Qualben, Lars P. *History of the Christian Church*, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2008, p. 199).

Perhaps the most outstanding Renaissance scholar was Desiderius Erasmus, who had been accused of “laying the egg that Luther hatched.” He studied in several different European nations. Although he was primarily a Roman Catholic, his provocative satires of the clerical abuses of his time and his appeal to return to the simplicity of original Christianity had a profound effect on the educated

point of view. They helped release the minds of men from medieval traditionalism, and began an era of independent scholarship and thinking centered around the desires and needs of man.

With the rise of nationalism, the invention of printing and increased distribution of knowledge, this intellectual movement would have eventually brought about tremendous changes in medieval Catholicism and in the freedom of the individual, even had there been no Luther, Zwingli or Calvin. So when the Reformation did begin, it was helped to success by forces that were purely intellectual and often irreligious in nature.

Religious Abuses Calling for Reform

The details of the degenerate morals and ecclesiastical corruption in the period immediately preceding the Reformation are so well-known that they need only

brief summarization and analysis here.

However, a vitally important question arises—one that is usually overlooked or pushed aside. That is the fundamental question of *whether* the paganized, radically changed and corrupted religio-political machine dominating the nations of Europe, called the Roman Catholic

Church, was in actual fact the rightful and legitimate successor of the original Apostolic Church—the *one true Church* Jesus Christ said He would build.

For, as we shall later see, the Protestant churches, as a whole, base their claim of historic unity with the Apostolic Church upon their direct descendancy from the Roman Catholic Church, their “mother” church.

Was this church the Church Jesus built? Were its leaders and its members filled with, and led by the *Spirit of God*? This is a vital point, for as the Apostle Paul states: “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, *he is not His*” (Romans 8:9).

We can do no better than draw our conclusions from the statements of recognized historians in this field. A direct comparison is made by Plummer: “And as soon as the revival of letters caused the contents of the New Testament and the teaching of the Fathers to be known, it was seen that what passed for Christianity at the close of the fifteenth century was scarcely recognizable as such, when placed side

PROTESTANT REFORMATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

THE HUMANISTS HELPED PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE REFORMATION. THEY DISCREDITED MUCH OF THE CATHOLIC THEOLOGY.

classes of his time, and, through them, reached the masses of Europe’s people.

Erasmus was convinced that the Roman system was filled with superstition and corruption. Yet he had no wish to break with Catholicism. He looked upon it, sentimentally, as the “mother” of society and the arts. And he was too intellectual to sympathize with the Lutheran revolt, the brutal excesses of which repelled him.

“Hence neither side in the struggle that opened in the latter part of his life understood him, and his memory has been condemned by polemic writers, Protestant and Catholic. His own thought was that education, return to the sources of Christian truth, and flagellation of ignorance and immorality by merciless satire would bring the church to purity. To this end he labored” (Walker, p. 329).

Thus, we find that the humanists helped prepare the way for the Reformation. They discredited much of the Catholic theology. They encouraged men to study the Bible and early church writers from a new

h Canada!

Boys: The Latest Victims of the New Left



In an article in *The Province* (June 12, 2014) entitled "The Guys Crisis: Boys are falling badly behind the girls at school," author Paul Luke states, "By high school, girls' grade point average outshines that of boys. In Canada, women make up almost 60 percent of university students." He explains the phenomenon by suggesting that for too long the needs of girls were overlooked in school and now that things are more equitable, girls outshine boys in learning. But is this really the case?

Recently Dr. Jim Dueck, author and former Assistant Deputy Minister of Education for the province of Alberta, and former head of Accountability and Student Assessment, performed a revealing analysis on current practices in student assessment. The results were not only remarkable but very disturbing, exposing what might well be an institutional suppression of the performance of male students.

Dr. Dueck based his analysis on the results of Provincial Diploma Examinations, written by all twelfth-grade students in core subject areas. These standardized examinations are used to determine entrance qualifications to post-secondary programs. Historically, the examinations make up 50 percent of the students' final mark, with the other 50 percent being assigned by the course instructor.

Given the examinations are carefully designed to measure the students' understanding of the curriculum, there should be relatively little variation between the teacher-assigned mark and the mark received on the provincial examination. However, as classroom instructional standards have declined due to significant increases in "progressive" or "discovery learning"

strategies and less focus on direct instruction, it has been noted that the teacher-assigned marks have been disproportionately higher than the exam mark. This is generally referred to as "mark inflation."

Dr. Dueck took the analysis a step further and writes, "While grade inflation is a serious problem because taxpayers are not receiving the level of education they believe was purchased, they are also unaware that males' marks are inflated significantly less. Research now shows this *discrimination against males* is evident across North America and Europe" ("Males: The Hidden Underclass," parentchoice.ca).

His analysis of the June 2016 examination results demonstrates that the mark inflation rate for girls was consistently higher in English, Math, Biology, Physics and Social Studies (History). In lower stream (non-university entrance) courses, the teacher-given results showed even a greater propensity to favour females. Yet the results on the provincially-administered examination had males scoring equal to or higher on five out of six subjects.

Dr. Dueck adds, "This advantage translates into more scholarships and placements in prestigious universities, and explains why 11 Canadian universities now have a *female population of more than 66%*" (*ibid.*).

Regrettably, as Dr. Dueck points out, the tendency to inflate the educational results of female students seems endemic across Canada, the United States and western Europe. The result, of course, is the significant and potentially catastrophic loss of academic participation of males in the future. This not only will have massive economic consequences, but will also be extremely destabilizing from a social perspective.

Social “Reconstruction,” or Social Destruction?

Over the past four decades there has been a steady shift in Canadian and American schools from a direct instruction model, where teachers taught a rich knowledge-based curriculum, to *discovery learning* or *constructivist* models of teaching. These newer methods can be reasonably well-correlated to declining educational standards across North America.

This change is an outgrowth of the influence of the “New Left” movement of the 50s and 60s. Radical activists, who arose in North America and western Europe, gave birth to many of the violent protests of the 1960s, and influenced later groups with varied interests in the realm of social change in society. Restructuring education was a key vehicle in delivering social revolution. Values of the previous generation, traditional roles, the place of religion, and the histories and literature that told those stories had to be suppressed, with new values and different role models promoted to reshape the opinions of society. The long-disgraced philosophy of “constructivism” was reactivated to *disconnect* future generations of students from their cultural roots.

The *inquiry-based model* is designed upon *constructivist* learning theory. This means that a student is presented with a problem and then draws upon his or her own experience to devise a solution or discover a truth or relationship that will help the student understand a situation or fact. This method can work well with advanced students who have already acquired firm foundations. But many well-known researchers express grave concerns because the method disregards what has become understood by cognitive scientists regarding



how the human brain learns. Without a pre-existing base line of knowledge on which to evaluate new information, discovery learning does not work. The approach

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defies common sense.

The general public is unaware of how radical this change in education has been and how it will

further disadvantage students—particularly male students, whose learning style needs a foundation of facts.

There is a growing body of research that serves to attribute the apparent advantage females enjoy in the public school system to their more compliant and passive behavior in the classroom (Faculty of Education, Rhodes University: *Gender Differences in Conformity*). Males are more likely to exhibit skepticism about subject matter and to challenge their instruction. This behavioral difference, essential to scholarship, appears to be the source of negative discrimination in modern schools. As Dr. Dueck points out, “Researchers attribute this female advantage to their more compliant behavior in the classroom. At issue is whether the knowledge of calculus, for example, should be conflated with classroom behavior?” He wonders when governments will “come to understand their responsibility in this mess and reduce classroom teachers’ ability to hamper males from competing on a level playing field” (*ibid.*).

A “New” Way of Doing Things?

Perhaps it is time for parents and all interested parties in society to realize they have become the unwitting victims of the ideological coercion of the “New Left.” Perhaps people should seek to return to the cultural values that created a strong, well-educated and stable society, in which the potential of young men and young women is developed outside of the framework of a system designed to suppress the potential of boys.

In this context, we should be mindful of a prophecy that was given as a warning to the end-time descendants of Israel: “As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths” (Isaiah 3:12).

We can look forward to a time also prophesied to come when all people will be treated with equity and fairness, in a society designed for happiness.

—Stuart Wachowicz



By **Gerald E. Weston**

Well-meaning and loving parents struggle, wondering why their children take a wrong path. Some are riddled with guilt, feeling that they have failed. Others fail to admit that it might be something they did wrong, blaming peer pressure, the schools, or their kids' falling into the wrong crowd. No right-minded person can discount peer pressure and the influence of today's secular education. These present significant challenges for any parent, but why is it that some parents are more successful in raising their children than others? Does it come down to luck? A roll of the dice?

Why do kids go astray? Are there factors that can improve one's chances of raising happy, well-behaved children who grow up to be productive citizens? Are there mistakes that can be avoided?

Over my 45 years in the ministry, 25 of which I worked at summer camps, I have known and worked with many teens and families. I've known teens who were guilty of nearly everything: armed robbery, breaking and entering, shoplifting, both male and female prostitution, purse snatching, and more out-of-wedlock pregnancies than I can count. Why? In this first of a two-part series, we will look at five reasons why children go astray.

Cause Number 1: Hypocrisy

There is nothing greater than hypocrisy that will cause a child to disrespect his parents and their values. When we teach one way, but live another, children pick up on this. They are masters at spotting hypocrisy in others, while being masters of hypocrisy themselves. How many parents say, "Don't do as I do, do as I say"? Parents who threaten to "wash your mouth out with soap if I hear you use that word

again,” but let that same word come out of their own mouths, will cause their children to lose respect for them. Teaching a child to display good sportsmanship will not work when the father displays poor sportsmanship on the court, in the stands, or watching the game on television. Children must know that their parents are consistent both in what they say and what they do. To do otherwise sends the message that you don’t truly believe what you say.

No parent is going to live perfectly, but our prime example and way of life must be aligned as closely as possible with what we teach. It is important to understand that there is a difference between a rare parental mistake and a hypocritical life. Everyone will cut us some slack, even our children, when they recognize we did something out-of-character. In other words, those around us know that we normally don’t do certain things, but “lost it” temporarily. Or, to put it another way, one can be guilty of a hypocritical action, but not be a hypocrite in character.

Children must be convinced that their parents, in spite of their imperfections, are genuine—that what they teach is what they truly believe. Sometimes an apology, rather than a justification, from a parent who commits an out-of-character act, will go a long way to building a bond between parent and child.

A consistent non-hypocritical life *begins early*. I remember seeing a sitcom where the father was reminiscing with his long-time friends about what they did before they were married. A bit later, the father noticed his son sitting dejectedly outside. When he asked what was wrong, his son replied something like this: “You always tell me not to get drunk, race cars, etc., but then you and your friends talk about how much fun you had doing those things.” Point made! Our past sins sometimes come back to bite us when we least expect.

Cause Number 2: Lack of Wisdom

Parents must possess and exercise reasonable common sense and wisdom if they want their children to respect and imitate them. A biblical proverb tells us: “As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool” (Proverbs 26:1). No parent can keep up completely with a rapidly changing world, yet to successfully rear children, we must recognize what we don’t know and educate ourselves on critical subjects when necessary.

In the 1960s, the Beatles and other rock groups introduced a drug culture from which our Western world has never recovered. Many parents told their teens that if they smoked marijuana they would become addicted and all kinds of bad things would happen. The facts did not always match the warnings. Not everyone becomes addicted, nor did they all die. Parents were correct in warning their teens not to touch the stuff. They knew instinctively that there **were** dangers, but sometimes their warnings were not given with proper knowledge and understanding.

Marijuana today is much stronger than it was in the 60s, and for some, it *is* addictive. One can argue whether it is psychologically or physiologically addictive, but I personally have known those who tried it and gave it up as well as those who truly **were** addicted to it. The point is, that if our children see that we don’t know what we are talking about, they will lose respect for us. It is far better to admit what we don’t



know and then help them research the subject than to try to pull the proverbial wool over their eyes. And

parents must guard against acting foolishly in public or private.

Cause Number 3: Unfairness

How often do we hear kids exclaim, “That’s not fair”? Well, most of the time it *is* fair, but it is important for kids to *know* you are fair in your dealings with them. This does not mean that fairness equals equality. John Wooden of UCLA was one of the greatest, perhaps **the** greatest basketball coach of all time. His teams won ten national championships in twelve years and in his book, *They Call Me Coach*, he made this insightful comment: “I don’t treat my players equally, I treat them fairly.”

When you allow your daughter to drive the car at age 16 and don’t give the same privilege to your son, you will likely hear the complaint, “That’s not fair!” Rather than dismiss his protest, it is important to explain why you have made that decision. “Your sister has proven herself to be responsible. When you prove you can act responsibly, you will also be given the keys to the family car.” The fact is that we cannot set arbitrary dates for our children unrelated to their

maturity and character, but it is important that they hear why we make certain decisions. This will not stop their protests, but it is important to state the case as to why our decisions are fair. There is no need to “prove it to them,” as this is often not possible, but deep down inside they may recognize the truth.

At the same time, we must not always dismiss their cries about fairness. I remember a family with two children. The younger one could get away with just about anything, but the older one could seemingly do nothing right. She understood that she was not being treated fairly and the damage done was tragic. It is good to be introspective when we hear, “That’s not fair!” Stop and think. Maybe it isn’t fair, and *if* that is the case, make a course correction. A parent must not be duped or intimidated by such complaints, but must be introspective, wise and, yes, *fair*.

Cause Number 4: Lack of Exposure

We really don’t need to be told the importance of spending time with our children, whether toddlers or teens. This must be a top priority. How easy it is to

become occupied with other pursuits. Selfishness is a sign of our times. Many couples choose not to have children simply because children will cramp their freedom and fun. Others have children but live the childless lifestyle.

I’m reminded of the time when my wife babysat a neighbor’s toddler. Sometimes, when the mother came home from work to pick her up, the little girl would cry, not wanting to go home. This should have been a warning to the parent, as most toddlers want to spend time with their mothers—even clinging to them. When a small child is more attached to a different adult—or as the child grows older, to his peers—than he is to his parents, this is a danger sign. Small children can try our patience with their “whining” and their constant questions about how everything works in their little universe, but time with them is important. The old argument pitting the “quality of time spent” against the “amount of time spent” is a foolish one. Both are needed.

Several decades ago, the popular Harry Chapin song “Cat’s in the Cradle” carried a powerful



message. It begins with a boy who comes into the world and whose dad is too busy “with planes

WHEN A SMALL CHILD IS MORE ATTACHED TO A DIFFERENT ADULT THAN HE IS TO HIS PARENTS, THIS IS A DANGER SIGN.

to catch and bills to pay”—which meant the boy “learned to walk while I was away.” Verse two has the ten-year old wanting to play catch with a ball, but Dad replies, “Not today, I got a lot to do.” “That’s ok,” the son replies as he walks away thinking, “I’m gonna be like him, yeah. You know I’m gonna be like him.” Each verse of the song is followed by variations of the same refrain as the song progresses:

And the cat’s in the cradle and the silver spoon,

Little boy blue and the man in the moon,

*“When you coming home, Dad?”
“I don’t know when*

*But we’ll get together then.
You know we’ll have a good time then.”*

But “then” never comes. It is not until the son comes home from college that the dad has finally found time for his son, but by that time his son has his own agenda and has no time for Dad. Only after he is retired does he realize his son has grown up just like him—too busy to spend time with his family. How often we hear, “They grow up so fast! Where has all the time gone?” Time lost can never be recovered, and decent well-meaning parents sometimes get too busy to spend precious time with their children until it is too late.


We understand that teens want to spend time with other teens. This is normal, but have you ever noticed that some teens only want to spend that time away from their own homes? When your chil-

dren want to spend more time with others than with you, the antidote is not to give in, but to increase your exposure with your children. You take them fishing. You take them shopping at the mall. You play games with them and take them to their favorite fast-food joint. And you find a project, such as a garden or sport, to work with them together. Even if they don’t appreciate it at the time, the time will come when they will.

Cause Number 5: Lack of Instruction

The book of Deuteronomy instructs parents on how to teach God’s commandments to their children. “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deuteronomy 6:7–9).

Teaching must be diligent. Sometimes formal and sometimes casual, it must be relentless, and it must be appropriate to the occasion. I’m reminded of a story a dear friend told me one day. When he was about six years old, he was in a restaurant with his father having something to drink. His father took a five-cent coin out of his pocket and stood it on its edge. He then looked at his son and asked, “Who does this belong to?” And his son replied, “You, Daddy.” The father then asked his son: if he took it without his father’s permission, what would that make him? “A thief!” the son replied. The father then gave some powerful advice: “Son, when you take something that belongs to someone else, whether it is a thousand dollars or five cents, that makes you a thief.” And the man remembered the lesson the rest of his life. He benefitted from having a father committed to actively teaching his son.

In part two of this article, we will explore five more causes for children going astray. In the meantime, if you have not read our publication, *Successful Parenting: God’s Way*, please call, write or visit our website for your own free copy. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

Successful Parenting: God’s Way God provides us the instructions we need to help rear healthy children in a difficult world! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



Brexit—A Messy Divorce?



On June 23, 2016, the UK voted in a referendum on the stark question, “Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union, or leave the European Union?” The shocking result, by 52 percent to 48 percent, was in favor of leaving. So began an unprecedented national convulsion of historic (and even “hysteric”) proportions, as a protracted and tortuous process of disentanglement began.

It’s a bit like a divorce. Once it is clear a marriage is over, then comes the painful process of negotiating the terms of the divorce. Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty states that a member country that wishes to leave the EU must officially inform the European Council, from which date negotiations can begin, and should be concluded within a two-year time frame. Article 50 was formally invoked by Britain at the end of March 2017 following extensive parliamentary debate and a successful vote in favour of officially launching Brexit. “Divorce” proceedings then began in earnest, with every prospect of being difficult and challenging.

This raises a monumental question: Can Britain survive and thrive outside the EU, or does this painful and complex “divorce” herald the death knell of a once-great nation? Will it be a self-destructive meltdown inflicting irreparable harm for generations to come? For a clear and forthright answer, you can read about Prime Minister Theresa May’s grand vision of a new “Global Britain” articulated by twelve simple objectives in her Brexit Speech of January 17, 2017.

Whether or not this successful future can be realised depends on surmounting four major hurdles. Let’s call them *blessings*, because Britain cannot

continue to prosper without these *blessings* on the nation’s efforts.

The People’s Blessing

While just over half of the UK is delighted to be leaving the EU, a little under half is not, and would go to almost any lengths to reverse that decision. But Mrs. May’s government is unequivocal: Britain has spoken and its express will must stand! *Britain is leaving the EU!* Britain intends to negotiate an entirely new status as a sovereign nation trading with the EU. Will the nation grant its collective blessing on this positive future?

Britain is a democracy in which the will of the people is expressed through Parliament. What Parliament says, goes! Britain decided that Parliament must give its permission to initiate Brexit negotiations. Parliament insisted on staying informed throughout the progress of negotiations and will have a say in giving its blessing—or otherwise—on the final result, whenever that happens in 2018 or 2019. This is expected to be a challenging and hard-fought process with numerous opportunities to frustrate or even derail the overall journey towards separation. Will Parliament finally give its blessing to the Brexit process?

North of the border, the ruling Scottish nationalists are set on calling their own (second) referendum about leaving the UK sometime during the next two years. Their intent is to frustrate the Brexit negotiations and use them as a pretext to leave the UK. Such a move could therefore lead to the breakup of the United Kingdom. Time will tell whether the Scots will give their blessing to Brexit.

The Blessing of Europe

We should never underestimate the strength of will that the EU's leadership brings to their vision of "ever closer union." This year sees the EU celebrating 60 years of progress towards this goal. But while some ask whether Britain can survive outside the EU, others ask whether the EU can survive without Britain. Popular movements in France, Holland, Italy and even Germany would follow Britain's example if only they could. By the time the elections in all these countries are concluded, we shall more clearly see the state of the EU.

Consequently, the EU is in no mood to be nice. Some would like to see Britain punished for "messing things up," yet such a move could threaten the survival of the Union in its current form. Britain has also warned that "no deal" would be preferable to a "bad deal." So which will it be? Will the EU spoil the Brexit "party" and effectively withhold its blessing? Or will wiser counsels prevail, leading to an amicable and accommodating "divorce" in both parties' best interests? And we should remember that the final say on the Brexit negotiations must be a unanimous blessing of all other 27 EU member countries. That's a big "ask" to say the least!

The World's Blessing

Lying at the heart of Brexit is the conviction that Britain can go it alone as "Global Britain," re-inventing itself on the world scene as the great trading nation that it once was. Britain has a global mentality in its DNA, and considerable past "form" and experience defending



Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

democracy, freedom and trade. Britain lies at the heart of the 52-nation Commonwealth, and sits at the top table of the United Nations.

Once the Brexit process is complete, bilateral trade deals beckon with most other nations, large and small. U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated America will place Britain at the head of the queue in quickly putting into place an effective trade deal. On the global trade front, the future after Brexit looks rosy. It seems that most of the world's trading nations are ready to grant their blessing to a new Global Britain.

God's Blessing

It's tempting to think that God doesn't care too much either way about Brexit. But this is not the case. Compelling evidence suggests that Britain has been (along with America) the recipient of God's remarkable birthright blessings to Abraham through his grandson (Jacob/Israel) and his great-grandson Joseph (Genesis 48:13-22). Jacob was the "apple of God's eye" (Deuteronomy 32:9-10). This suggests that God cares deeply about the progress of Britain.

Throughout the Scriptures, God warned Israel not to forget Him or depart from His laws. It is the same today. We should never underestimate the importance of God's blessings on the world scene, nor what happens when those blessings are withdrawn.

Brexit takes place against a background of profoundly deteriorating world affairs. Humankind is living right at the end of its allotted time. The prophesied time of "Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7) is set within the context of remarkable end-time events (30:24) that include the return of Jesus Christ to rule the earth (33:15-16), and the resurrection of David to be the king (30:9) of a newly united nation of Israel (30:3; 31:27-28), with whom God will initiate a **new** covenant relationship (31:31-34).

Will Brexit, despite the best of intentions, yet become derailed and overtaken by unforeseen developments, as the world becomes progressively engulfed by end-time events?

We wish Britain well. But don't forget the vital dimension of God's blessing and the context of fulfillment of end-time prophecies. You can read a lot more about this context by writing for our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

—John Meakin

A composite image featuring a deep space background with a dense field of stars and a prominent blue nebula. In the foreground, the Earth's horizon is visible, showing a sunset or sunrise with a bright orange glow reflecting on the clouds. Two celestial bodies, a small reddish planet and a large grey planet, are positioned in the mid-ground.

**Final frontier
or last stand?**

Will Space Be the Ultimate Battleground?

Will mankind venture beyond Earth to find new possibilities and opportunities? Or will national and international conflicts expand into the space above us? Will military ambitions produce dangers in the heavens? Will there be space wars ahead? You need to know!

By **Richard F. Ames**

Most of us on earth can look up into the heavens and see the moon. It is astonishing to think that twelve human beings have actually walked on its surface! Will human beings someday colonize the moon? Will astronauts venture all the way to the planet Mars?

Since President John F. Kennedy, most American presidents have made space travel, and the nation's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a priority. In the 1970s, after the Moon landings, orbital projects like the International Space Station and the Space Shuttle gained prominence. While he was on the campaign trail, U.S. President Donald Trump told Florida voters, "I will free NASA from the restriction of serving primarily as a logistical agency for low Earth-orbit activities.... We will instead refocus on space exploration. Under a Trump administration, Florida and America will lead the way into the stars" (*Orlando Sentinel*, October 25, 2016).

The U.S. is not alone in its space interests. In October of 2016, millions were saddened when the European Space Agency's Schiaparelli probe was lost during its descent to the surface of Mars. As *CNN* reported, "ESA's Director General, Jan Wörner, said Schiaparelli's primary role was to test whether they could successfully land a probe on Mars. 'Recording the data during the descent was part of that, and it is

important we can learn what happened, in order to prepare for the future'" (October 20, 2016).

We human beings have always been fascinated by the heavens, and certainly we should be. As the Psalmist wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). But as our interests draw us increasingly into space, will the heavens remain peaceful? Will mankind be able to resist taking his penchant for conflict into the realm above our planet? And what does Bible prophecy have to say about future conflicts in the heavens?

Growing Interests and Ambitions

Mankind's desire for space exploration and achievement seems to grow with each passing decade. As President Trump expressed last year during his campaign, many see space exploration as having benefits right here on earth.

"Space exploration has given so much to America, including tremendous pride in our scientific and engineering prowess. A strong space program will encourage our children to seek STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math] educational outcomes and will bring millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in investment to this country. The cascading effects of a vibrant space program are legion and can have a positive,



constructive impact on the pride and direction of this country. Observation from space and exploring beyond our own space neighborhood should be priorities. We should also seek global partners, because space is not the sole property of America. All humankind benefits from reaching into the stars” (sciencedebate.org/20answers).

What will we find in space as we continue to reach toward the stars? For decades, popular culture has imagined space aliens discovering Earth’s space travelers. Sometimes those aliens are thought benevolent and friendly. Sometimes, however, the aliens are just as violent and warlike as human beings.

Do aliens exist? University of Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking thinks so, and he thinks we should be careful. As reported by *The Times*, he opined that the existence of alien life beyond earth should be considered a virtual certainty, and that we should be *avoiding* any contact with them, saying, “If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn’t turn out very well for the Native Americans” (“Don’t talk to aliens, warns Stephen Hawking,” April 25, 2010).

While Dr. Hawking’s speculations sound more like fiction than good science, efforts to expand mankind’s presence into space continue to be driven by aims both practical and political.

Modern nations have desired to control space. From the time Americans and the rest of the world could see the Russian satellite, Sputnik, orbiting the earth overhead in October 1957, the space race was on. President Kennedy galvanized scientists and industry to put a man on the moon before the end of the 1960’s. In 1984, President George W. Bush envisioned a return to the moon to establish a base for an eventual manned mission to Mars. In 2010, President Obama set a goal for astronauts to land on an asteroid, and in 2016 President Trump reiterated support for America’s goals to reach beyond Earth to Mars.

Even now, space scientists are preparing for new and daring space projects. On January 19, 2017, six scientists entered a 1,200 square-foot geodesic dome in Hawaii to simulate life on Mars. According to an Associated Press report in January 2017, the four men and two women “will have no physical contact with the outside world and will work with a 20-minute delay in communications with their support crew, or the time it would take for an email to reach Earth from Mars. The NASA-funded project will study the psychological difficulties associated with living in isolated and confined conditions for an extended period... The University of Hawaii operates the dome, called Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation, or HI-SEAS, and NASA has dedicated more than \$2 million to the various stages of the project.”

Human beings are very serious in their determination to venture into space, despite our physical lim-

itations. That reality has led others to consider space settlements closer to planet Earth. One magazine devoted to space exploration, *adAstra*, cites the high cost of space settlements exposed to dangerous space radiation. “People have been dreaming about space settlement for decades, but these dreams have not come to fruition. Why? Because building traditional space settlement designs is extraordinarily difficult. Fortunately, there is a much easier way” (“A Radically Easier Market-Driven Path to Space Settlement,” by Al Globus, p. 26). The article continues: “It is our incredibly good luck that there is a region of space, very close to Earth, where radiation levels are much lower than at the usual suspects. This is low Earth orbit (LEO) directly over the equator (or ELEO). Earth’s magnetic field protects the region from all but a small fraction of space radiation.”

The article cites a market-driven approach where tourists will pay for the expense. Some space tourists have, in fact, paid as much as \$20 million to visit the ISS, the International Space Station. These space visionaries expect that as these low-orbiting settlements become more popular over time, more space tourists will pay for much of the expense. They expect that more luxurious and sophisticated settlements will become a reality. The article concludes: “The next step, of course, is to send groups of settlements to Alpha Proxima and start the billion-year project of greening our galaxy.”

Humans Take Their Natures with Them

Many are excited about the concept of developing human settlements in space. But will there be peace and tranquility in space for such development? In 1962, President Kennedy insightfully asked “whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new, terrifying theater of war.” After all, if humanity cannot achieve lasting world peace among the nations on Earth, what makes us think that we can achieve lasting peace among the nations in space?

While visionaries dream of space settlements, there is real danger of war in space. The United States, China, Russia and other nations are preparing for eventual war in space. What will result from future space wars?

Your Bible gives the answer. Your Bible reveals a future World War III. Many refer to it as the battle of

Armageddon. Will the next world war expand beyond our atmosphere? Will nations fight with powerful and exotic weapons in space?

In 2016, *SpaceNews Magazine* asked then-candidate Donald Trump, “What would be your priorities for the U.S. government’s military space program?” He answered, “We should concentrate on making sure that we enhance combat lethality and increase situational awareness, and expand our intelligence capabilities. We must also guarantee our early warning capabilities remain strong, as well as our ability to communicate and navigate in war and peace” (October 16, 2016).

“Combat lethality”? Does that mean war in space is ahead? Some in Europe and Russia think so. As Britain’s newspaper *The Sun* reported,

“Viktor Baranet, a Russian military analyst, told Sputnik News that both nations are secretly working to boost their space war capabilities and other nations were likely to follow their lead. He said: ‘The US is running on all cylinders developing space weapons.’ Baranet claimed Russia wanted peace in the heavens, but was being baited by American hawkishness. ‘I think that if Washington keeps ignoring Russia’s calls for the demilitarisation of space, the so-called “combat cosmonautics” would become reality,’ he added. ‘Mankind will have to decide whether to militarise space or not’” (October 27, 2016).

Has that decision been made? Indeed, it has! In July of 2016, the U.S. Air Force Space Command released an outline of its plans for what it calls the “Space Mission Force.” What will this force do? From the report: “Our space forces must demonstrate their ability to react to a thinking adversary and operate as warfighters in this environment... If we do not adopt this transformation quickly, we will lose our competitive advantage in space and jeopardize our ability to successfully confront adversaries in all domains” (*SpaceNews.com*, July 20, 2016).

More than ten years ago, China demonstrated its space capabilities by firing a guided missile into

space to destroy a weather satellite. This event raised U.S. concerns about the vulnerability of its own space satellites.

And the technology of warfare is certainly advancing! Closer to earth, weaponized drones are being considered as the next trend in military hardware. In January 2017, *New Scientist* reported on the US Army's efforts to produce a missile that could carry "a swarm of weaponized drones over a target area." As the article notes, "While there has been much concern about 'killer robots', such technologies are not specifically regulated by international law." Is it possible that the space above our atmosphere could become a "new, terrifying theater of war," in which advanced and even artificially intelligent technologies may be unleashed?

The Bible Prophecies War in Heaven!

Interestingly, your Bible clearly does reveal that there will be a dramatic future war in space—but a conflict *far more powerful* than any currently being devised or planned for by the presidents and generals of planet Earth!

Satan the devil will attack God's throne in heaven! This will be a battle between God's angelic army and Satan's demonic army. Revelation 12:7 describes this conflict plainly: "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought..." Who will win that battle? "...but they [Satan and the fallen angels] did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (vv. 8–9).

This event will signal an end-time sequence of events leading up to the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Satan will lose that war in heaven. He will be so angry that he will direct his wrath toward physical human beings here on Earth. How will you know that a great space war has taken place? The heavenly message continues in Revelation 12:12 with its grave warning: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Dangerous times are ahead! Even the world's scientists, today, recognize this! On January 26, 2017, the



Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved its famous Doomsday Clock thirty seconds closer to midnight, symbolizing the increasing danger of global nuclear devastation. As the *New York Times* reported that same day, at two-and-a-half minutes this is "the closest the clock had been to midnight since 1953, the year after the United States and the Soviet Union conducted competing tests of the hydrogen bomb."

All of our readers need to understand: you will need to trust God for protection during the dangerous times ahead! During the time of Satan's wrath, during the Great Tribulation Jesus spoke about in Matthew 24:21–22, Satan attacks the main body of God's church. But God protects the woman, or the church, in the wilderness (Revelation 12:13–16). Satan then attacks the *remnant* of God's church—true Christians who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (v. 17). Note that well! True Christians have the testimony of Jesus Christ, and they keep the commandments of God. Those who are faithful will be in the first resurrection to meet Christ in the air at the last trumpet, as described in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4.

An "Alien" Invasion?

Earlier, we noted the fears of some, such as Stephen Hawking, concerning an invasion from space. When

Christ returns, not everyone will accept Him as their Savior at first. Some will fear Him as an alien invader, come to take away their power.

Can you imagine a combination of all the nations' military power being unleashed against Jesus Christ as He descends from heaven? That is exactly what the Apostle John describes in Revelation 19:19! "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army." The combined

cosmic event. (Consider requesting our free booklet *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled*, which explains these prophecies in detail.)

After War in Space, a World at Peace!

Christ will conquer *all* nations that oppose Him. We saw that Revelation 19 describes the armies of the nations of the world gathered together to make war on the returning Messiah. What happens to these human armies and the spiritual forces behind them?

"Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled

with their flesh" (vv. 20–21).

The victorious King of kings will set up His government to rule all nations. The Kingdom of God will rule planet Earth with justice and equity. That's the good news in which we rejoice!

Who will win the space race? The encouraging answer is: Jesus Christ will win the space race! He has all power in the universe. As it tells us in Hebrews 1:3, Christ upholds "all things by the word of His power." Or as the Moffatt translation states it, He "sustains the universe by his word of power."

We should look forward to the ultimate future of peace on earth, peace in space, and peace in the heavens. Revelation 21 reveals that the New Jerusalem will come to earth from heaven. The Apostle John describes the setting in verse 1: "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." It will not take 50 generations of human effort, nor a "billion-year project of greening our galaxy" as envisioned by space scientists. God Almighty will ensure a glorious future for the heavens and the earth. May God help you to prepare for that awesome destiny. ^[TW]

CAN YOU IMAGINE A COMBINATION OF ALL THE NATIONS' MILITARY POWER BEING UNLEASHED AGAINST JESUS CHRIST AS HE DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN?

armies of rebellious nations will fight against Christ as He returns from heaven!

How will Christ respond? We are told in Revelation 19: "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (vv. 11, 14–16).

Jesus Christ will win that battle, conquering all the nations and devastating the armies that oppose Him. Thank God that Satan will have only a short time to cause great tribulation before he is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. You can read about that judgment in Revelation 20:1–3. But you need to watch and pray, and understand the prophesied space war that lies ahead, as well as the sequence of prophetic events surrounding that

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled! This ancient book of prophecy describes amazing details of the years just ahead of us! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.





Trade War!

Jesus Christ warns those of us living in these end times that we should expect to hear of “wars and rumors of wars” and that “nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:6-7). And, it seems, there are many kinds of war! Hot war, cold war, guerrilla war, cyber war... even holy war. Mankind invents many ways to engage in conflict, and Bible prophecy assures us that powerful wars between nations are, indeed, ahead of us. One type of warfare you will be hearing about more and more in the coming months is *trade war*. Trade wars have been around for centuries, and *one may be coming soon to an economy near you!*

What is a “Trade War”?

Sometimes a particular country will put up economic or regulatory trade barriers to imports from another country in order to discourage that nation’s exports and provide an advantage to its own industries. A government may calculate that by reducing imports from the other country, it will protect its own industries and labor. But then the country that the trade barriers harm may retaliate by restricting what it imports from the offending country. A tit-for-tat competition can begin, with each side retaliating in an escalating trade confrontation. When two or more states begin to restrict each other’s imports and exports through tariffs or other trade barriers, the outcome is called a *trade war*.

Trade wars can begin a number of ways. When imports from one country begin to supplant another country’s domestic production, a government can come under pressure from its industry and labor groups to protect them from the foreign competition. The reasons

can vary. Sometimes it is justified, due to the unfair trade practices by another nation. Or a country may have a severe balance of payments deficit with other countries and must restrict imports in order to avoid national insolvency. But often, protectionism is the result of one side’s desire to benefit at the expense of another. Greed can be a big motivator, both for businessmen and for politicians.

What Are the Weapons in a Trade War?

One of the simplest ways countries restrict imports from other countries is to place *tariffs*—a kind of tax—on imports from other nations. Tariffs make the imports more expensive and reduce the demand for the foreign products. This makes the products produced *within* the country more competitive and profitable—and, regrettably, more expensive for consumers.

Another weapon is *regulation*. A country can add regulatory requirements to imports that raise their prices or prevent their import altogether.

Sometimes a country will engage in *currency manipulation* to make its exports more attractive and imports less attractive. President Donald Trump has accused China of debasing the value of the Chinese yuan to make its exports more competitive to foreign markets, particularly that of the U.S. China, of course, denies the charge, and a former commerce minister of China said in early March 2017, “I’m seriously preparing for a trade war” (“Are U.S. and China Headed for ‘Hot War’ over Trade?”, *Wall Street Journal*, March 8, 2017). This is worrisome talk between great nations—in its own way, just one more “rumor of war” in our own headlines.

Another common weapon in trade wars is the use of *import quotas*, in which a country puts a quota on the

amount of certain products that can be imported from another country. For instance, the U.S. has quotas on the amount of sugar that can be imported, and it provides sugar producers in the U.S. significant protection from low-cost foreign competition. However, the quotas increase sugar prices for U.S. consumers.

Government subsidies can be a weapon in trade relations, because subsidized industries in one country can dump their products at below cost in another country, thereby creating an unfair trade advantage.

To a degree, some trade barriers are commonly accepted among countries, and they do not necessarily result in retaliation leading to trade war.

What is an Example of a Trade War?

One of the best known—and most harmful—trade wars resulted from the Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930. *CNN Money* described what happened. “In 1930, Congress slapped tariffs on all countries that shipped goods to America in an effort to shield U.S. workers. It was called the Smoot-Hawley Act, named after two Republican Congressmen, Reed Smoot and Willis Hawley. And it is widely accepted that it made the Great Depression worse than it would have been... European countries, such as Spain, Italy and Switzerland, retaliated with tariffs of their own, and a trade war began... In total, the volume of U.S. imports fell 40% in the two years following Smoot-Hawley, which became law in June 1930” (Gillespie, Patrick, “Remember Smoot-Hawley: America’s last trade war worsened the Great Depression,” *money.cnn.com*, July 7, 2016).

Legislation intended to help American workers ended up *reducing* production and jobs in the U.S., instead.



Willis Hawley and Reed Smoot, authors of the Smoot-Hawley Act of 1930

Trade war, like all war, has many victims, and the ones impacted the most are often the least able to bear it.

Trade wars can have winners and losers. But often, *all* sides lose, as participating countries suffer lower economic activity and employment.

How Can Governments Avoid Them for Now?

For the time being, trade agreements between countries are very helpful in avoiding trade wars. Governments negotiate agreements on what trade practices are fair and what trade barriers should be removed. To do this, each country participating in the agreement must give the other countries access to its domestic market on terms that are acceptable to their own constituencies at home. That can be a difficult process, but if done properly, it increases economic activity in each country involved.

The Bible has an even better explanation for the problem of trade war and how to solve it. The Apostle James wrote, “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. *You fight and war.* Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures” (James 4:1-3).

Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Philippi. “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). That would certainly produce a favorable change in trade relations everywhere if nations obeyed it—but that is not likely to happen in today’s world.

There is bad news and good news about this situation. The bad news is that human nature has not changed, and prophecy speaks of conflicts between nations getting far worse before they ever get better (Revelation 6:3-4). The good news is that the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, is returning to set up a righteous government, and He will prevent all wars among nations in the future. That is *the good news—the gospel—of the Kingdom of God*. The prophet, Isaiah, recorded what Christ will do. “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 2:4). We can expect that promise will include trade war as well.

—Dexter Wakefield

MEDITATIONS ON A WATER FOUNTAIN

God is not a respecter of persons

In 1954, as I entered the county courthouse in the small Southern town where I grew up, it was a special day for me, because at age 14, I was going to take my license exam to obtain a driving permit. While I waited my turn, I walked around the old building with its high ceilings and creaking floors. This was the time of the racially segregated South. In an alcove, I saw two identical water fountains, side by side. A sign over one said “White only.” The other one said, “Colored.” It hit me that I was in a building where justice before the law was supposed to be administered equally, yet before me was a stark example of an obvious distinction for people—based on race—in something as basic as a drinking fountain. My awareness of the great unjust divide was sharpened that day.

Then, in May of 1955, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a landmark case, which made racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. There was no great uproar in my small town, but a realization that big changes were coming gripped the population on both sides of the divide. In time, great upheavals occurred, beginning with the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in September 1957. President Eisenhower called out the National Guard to ensure the peace and to accomplish the admittance of nine black students.

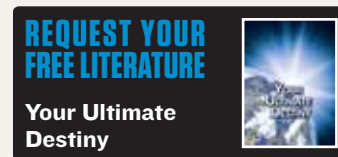
Happily, those days of forced segregation are behind us as a state and a nation. While there is still room for improvement, much progress has been made in education, employment opportunity, sports and politics. Sadly, there is still much racial tension extant in the U.S. today.

As we think about discrimination in dealing with our fellow human beings, there are specific instructions in the Bible that would have prevented it



from ever occurring in the first place. Anciently, as Moses led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, this instruction was given: “One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you” (Exodus 12:49). No room for discrimination there.

Later, in the book of Leviticus, the instruction was repeated. “You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country...” (Leviticus 24:22). This is a recurring theme, because the book of Numbers states, “One law and one custom shall be for



you and for the stranger who dwells with you” (Numbers 15:16).

It is not just the Old Testament that makes

this plain, because Jesus explained it in answering a challenging question: “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall **love your neighbor as yourself**” (Matthew 22:36–39).

At the well in Samaria, Jesus asked a woman for a drink of water. “Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ **For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans**” (John 4:9). Jesus told her: “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him **a fountain of water** springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:13–14).

There is only one water fountain at the old courthouse now. As a country and a culture, we have learned a lot and made great progress in race relations. We have much more to do, yet the “living waters” that Jesus offered the woman at the well are available to everyone if they are willing to walk in the Way of life that the Messiah proclaimed.

Enjoying those “living waters” begins with the truths of the Bible—taught to you in the programs and literature offered by *Tomorrow’s World*, always free of charge.

—J. D. Crockett III

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I would like to request the *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course*. My family and I keep the Sabbath and Feast Days, and we are desperately trying to find a suitable church to join in our area and would like a pastor to be sent to us.

Reader from South Africa

Note from the Editor: *We are delighted by your interest! A map of our congregational areas and contact information for local ministers and representatives can be found on our website LCG.org where you can click on the "Congregations" link. You can also write to one of the regional addresses listed in this magazine.*

You really have a wonderful magazine. Your recent article about Martin Luther really was excellent. I especially liked your historical timeline! Your pictures in this article were also quite excellent. I Studied at a very good seminary, so I appreciate the very good spiritual teaching of your magazine. Mr. Roderick Meredith is an excellent bible teacher.

It is funny, the older I get I think that we are always in a spiritual reformation where many people need to get back to the simple and very powerful teachings of the Bible! It really is a very dynamic and relevant book! Thanks for all that you all do over there to spread God's word!

Reader in Arizona

Very interesting and informative article ("Signal Hill," *Tomorrow's World*, March-April 2017) about one of mankind's best uses of God's creation. As great and necessary as Marconi's work was, you might

have mentioned the Canadian Reggie Fessenden's contribution: the first two-way radiotelegraphic communication across the Atlantic Ocean (1906, only five years later). I look forward to more of your "500 years of the Protestant Reformation" series. Already very interesting [regarding] the predecessors and the politics of that age.

Reader in Florida

"Should Christians Keep Christmas?" (November-December 2016) is one of the better articles I've read in *Tomorrow's World* in many years. Being a Muslim I only believe in "Oneness" of God, which means God does not have a son nor a next of kin for that matter.

However, I totally agree with the author that Christmas is based on pagan traditions, symbols and days. And, yet I see ministers, parsons, pastors and clerics in churches wearing tiaras and other pagan attires, preaching but not practicing what the Bible says. Surely, they all must have read Jeremiah 10:2, "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles"—meaning God does not want His people worshiping Him using pagan ways.

Comment from the Internet

Note from the Editor: *Thank you for your comments and observations. It is true, the devil has made the "Christianity" of this world a counterfeit of the true Christianity of the Bible. You may wish to request our free booklet Satan's Counterfeit Christianity for more. Also, we hope you will study more about the identity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. You might start with our article "Who Was the God of the Old Testament?" (in our January-February 2009 issue).*

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by side with what we know of Christianity at the close of the Apostolic Age” (Plummer, Alfred. *The Continental Reformation in Germany, France and Switzerland from the Birth of Luther to the Death of Calvin*. Scribner, 1912. p. 11).

A picturesque and comprehensive description of this state of things as it affected the daily lives of the people is given by the noted historian D’Aubigne: “Let us now see what was the state of the Church previous to the Reformation. The nations of Christendom no longer looked to a holy and living God for the free gift of eternal life. To obtain it, they were obligated to have recourse to all the means that a superstitious, fearful, and alarmed imagination could devise. Heaven was filled with saints and mediators, whose duty it was to solicit this mercy. Earth was filled with pious works, sacrifices, observances, and ceremonies, by which it was to be obtained” (D’Aubigne, Jean H. M., *History of the Reformation*, R. Carter, 1850. p. 17).

Christ was depicted as a *stern judge*, prepared to condemn anyone who did not invoke the intercession of the saints or resort to the papal indulgences.

Many intercessors appeared in Christ’s place. First was the Virgin Mary, like the Diana of paganism, and then the saints—whose numbers were continually augmented by the popes.

Religious pilgrimages were prescribed as a penance for sin. There were almost as many religious resorts for pilgrims as there were mountains, forests and valleys. On these pilgrimages, the people brought to the priests money and anything that had any value—fowls, ducks, geese, wax, straw, butter and cheese.

D’Aubigne continues: “The bishops no longer preached, but they consecrated priests, bells, monks, churches, chapels, images, books, and cemeteries; and all this brought in a large revenue. Bones, arms, and feet were preserved in gold and silver boxes; they were given out during mass for the faithful to kiss, and this too was a source of great profit. All these people maintained that the pope, ‘sitting as God in the temple of God,’ could not err, and they would not suffer any contradiction” (*ibid.*).

It is related that in the very church where Luther preached at Wittenberg, was shown a supposed fragment of Noah’s ark, a piece of wood from the cradle

of Jesus, some hair from the beard of St. Christopher, and nineteen thousand other relics.

These religious relics were hawked about the countryside and sold to the faithful for the spiritual merits they were supposed to bestow. The wandering salesmen paid a percentage of their profits to the original owners of the relics. “The kingdom of heaven had disappeared, and in its place a market of abominations had been opened upon earth” (*ibid.*).

The Debauched Clergy

If the members of this professing Christendom may be partially excused—as many historians try to do, because of the prevailing ignorance and lack of right spiritual guidance—none of these excuses carry any weight when applied to the higher clergy and to the popes themselves. For these men had every advantage of education and knowledge, *if* they had rightly desired to apply such advantages.

The deplorable corruption of the Roman Church during the century just before the Reformation is appalling. Many of the popes were no more than “respectable” gangsters.

No trace of the Holy Spirit of God is to be found in their words or actions. Yet they *headed* and *represented* what was supposed to be the only Church of God on earth!

Regarding two of these popes, Wharey states: “Sixtus IV had sixteen illegitimate children, whom



he took special care to provide for, and enrich. But of all the popes of this age, perhaps Roderic Borgia, who assumed the name of Alexander VI, excelled in wickedness. He has been called the Catiline of the popes; and the villainies, crimes, and enormities recorded of him, are so many and so great, that it must be certain that he was destitute, not only of all religion, but also of decency and shame” (Wharey, James. *Church History*, 1840, p. 211–12).

It was a common practice in those times for the priests to pay the price of blackmail to their bishops for the illegal concubines with whom they shared their beds, and for each bastard child thus produced (D’Aubigne, p. 18). The Roman religion no longer contained anything that would cause it to be esteemed by those who were truly pious, and nearly the whole worship of God consisted in outward paganized ceremonies. Such sermons as were occasionally addressed to the people were not only destitute of all taste and good sense, but were stuffed with fables and nauseous fictions (Mosheim, p. 547).

Had God’s True Church Become Corrupted?

And yet, after themselves relating these accounts of the spiritual stench, utter depravity of morals, and total ignorance or disregard for all Christian truth and virtue that characterized the Roman church for many generations, these very Protestant writers attempt in the next breath to label this reprobate system the “Church of Christ”—the Church Jesus said He would build, the Spirit-filled body of which He is the *living* Head! (Ephesians 1:22).

Notice D’Aubigne’s pitiful lament: “The evil had spread through all ranks: ‘a strong delusion’ had been sent among men; the corruption of manners corresponded with the corruption of faith. A mystery of iniquity oppressed *the enslaved Church of Christ*” (D’Aubigne, *History of the Reformation*, p. 20).

Of the fact that a purifying and cleaning up of this society was needed, there is no doubt. But of the supposed fact that this *totally paganized* system was the Church of God on earth, there is *great doubt*.

In fact, the description of the true Church as given in the New Testament is in *total contradiction* to the

faith, practice, and life of Roman Catholicism as it has existed for hundreds of years!

The inspired command of Peter to *repent* and be *baptized* (Acts 2:38) was replaced by the Roman injunction to “do penance”—confess to and pay money to the priest. The Apostolic way of life of *love* and *obedience* to God’s spiritual laws was replaced by a pattern of *fear* and a superstitious observance of special fasts, feasts and church festivals utterly foreign to Christ and the early true Church.


In place of the inspired form of Church government instituted by Christ and carried on by the Apostles, we find a corrupt hierarchy of priestly offices, which are not so much as mentioned in the Bible. And over the whole corrupted system we find the Roman pope, who would sit “as God in the temple of God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4), often disobedient himself to all the laws of God and man, yet holding forth with authority as the “Vicar of Christ,” and permitting and encouraging men to prostrate themselves before him in a kind of worship that Peter and the other Apostles would have feared to allow (Acts 10:25–26).

Was this utterly debased religio-political system the legitimate descendant of the Church Jesus and the Apostles founded? Would a “reformation” of *this* foul system constitute a continuation of the true Church?

These are the really *basic* questions that we need to consider. And let us not hide our eyes from the inescapable fact that it was *directly* from the Roman Catholic system that the Protestant churches have sprung.

As we have now seen, political, economic, social, intellectual and religious factors throughout the nations of Europe presaged a universal upheaval. And *political* and *financial* considerations played a very important part in the coming reformation.

When it came, what was its true significance in the overall *plan* and *purpose* of the eternal God? Was it a recapturing of the “faith once delivered” to the saints? We need to face these questions squarely.

In the next installment, we will deal directly with the beginning of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther. Many of the *hidden facts* about *what* actually took place and *why* are truly eye-opening! Be sure to read it in the next issue! 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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Do You Value Life?

One of the leading causes of death among teenagers is suicide. The Centers for Disease Control reports that it is the third-leading cause of death in the United States for young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Only accidents and homicides account for more deaths for this age group. Even more alarming is the fact that suicide is the fourth-leading cause of death for children between 10 and 14 years old, according to *teensuicidestastics.com*.

Several factors may influence a teenager's decision to take his or her life, including parental divorce, substance abuse, feelings of worthlessness, rejection by friends or peers, violence in the home, inability to find success at school, and—most commonly—depression. Many young people feel as though they are trapped in a life that they cannot handle and feel hopeless and anxious. Sadly, in some cases, young people feel that suicide is the only way to escape from these problems.

Although life can certainly be challenging, and you may find yourself in one of the situations mentioned above, suicide **is not** the answer.

Life Is a Challenge

Life at times is like trying to climb a towering mountain. The goal is to reach the summit. However, the peak seems high and far away. The trail is steep, the path is rocky, and the journey is daunting. One of Satan's clever devices is to cause doubt to enter our minds and to make us think that the path is too difficult and the going is too tough—to tempt us to give up and quit before we even get started.

Faith and courage are needed to face the challenges of life. It isn't easy, but it was never promised to be. Satan is the god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4), and he

seeks to destroy us. The Scriptures tell us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is the primary cause behind discouragement. He seeks to destroy us—to cause us to lose heart. He causes us to have negative feelings of doubt and to lose faith in the power of God.

While some young people set lofty goals and take on multiple responsibilities, there are others who get depressed, in part, because they set no goals at all. They are just drifting along, letting life slip by. Deep inside, such people are often miserable because they feel they are accomplishing nothing of value. Life should be an active, ongoing process of growth and achievement. After all, God created it! He is Creator of everything in our vast universe—the stars and galaxies in endless space, our planet, mankind, and everything above, under, and on the earth. That is what God is and what He does. He creates, designs, forms and shapes. He gives life! And He also sustains it all! Christ said, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working" (John 5:17). Our Creator placed within us the same desire to grow and achieve. Whenever we fail to grow in character and quit developing our life, we begin to experience a sense of emptiness, failure and worthlessness. Therefore, it is imperative that we set goals and pursue them in order to grow, find contentment, and lead a full and productive life.

How Do We Climb a Mountain?

The most logical way to climb a mountain is one step at a time. A monstrous mountain can be intimidating. A huge mountain will require many steps, and many hours

of diligent effort to climb—but each step will bring us closer to success. The key is to get moving. We must begin before we can finish, and it is important to be determined to follow through to the end. Standing still only causes discouragement and ends in failure. On the other hand, when we move toward achieving our goals—failing at times, but getting up and trying again—a pattern of success begins to be established, and life becomes more full and satisfying. When we encounter difficulties and hardships and press forward anyway, we often find that not only do we advance over time, but accomplishment is sometimes easier than expected.

No doubt each of us will encounter obstacles along the way. We can choose to look at these difficulties as roadblocks or as challenges and opportunities to grow. If we ever hope to conquer discouragement, we must establish meaningful goals and apply ourselves daily to achieving them.

We Need God's Help!

Having said these things, we must note that the key to real and lasting success lies in the mighty power of God! God expects us to do our part, and often much is required. However, our human strength alone will only go so far. We need God's help! If we are to accomplish anything in life that brings lasting success and results, God **must be** involved. Why not tap into the greatest power in the universe and ask God for help when the going gets tough? Jesus Christ pointed out the impor-



tance of being connected with Him. In John 15:5, He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." This verse clearly shows that human strength alone is not sufficient. The power of God is an absolute necessity.

God is the real source of power! He gives us the confidence and strength needed to accomplish our goals. In his epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory..." (Ephesians 3:20–21). And to believers at Philippi he wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). God will see us through even the most difficult problems and through the darkest and most trying of circumstances if we *trust Him* and **prove that we trust Him** by beginning to seek Him in our actions and choices.

On the other hand, sin produces negativity, guilt, discouragement and failure, and results ultimately in death. Sin destroys our purpose for living. Sin separates us from God and His power (Isaiah 59:2). God does not hear the prayers of those who persist in living in sin. "Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does His will, He hears him" (John 9:31). Therefore, if we are discouraged, we should examine ourselves and see if sin has entered and is separating us from God. There is no way we can live a full and abundant life unless we are walking with God and putting sin out of our lives.

Yet, if we are willing to turn to Him and to ask for forgiveness, seeking to change, God provides abundant grace and forgiveness. He loves us even more truly than we often seem to love ourselves, and knowing that should provide powerful encouragement.

And that's important. Discouragement is one of the most powerful and destructive emotions. Discouragement inhibits growth, and produces feelings of despair, guilt and shame. It can leave us weak, helpless, fruitless and lifeless. If we seek to have a personal relationship with God, and if we strive to live a godly life, then He will impart to us the confidence and power to attain our goals and be genuinely happy and productive human beings! This is one of the keys to overcoming discouragement. Life is short. Treasure it, and live it to the full!

—Sheldon Monson



TURNING POINTS in WORLD HISTORY



The Remarkable Rise of the West

Why have nations of the West dominated the globe for the last five hundred years, when for centuries they lagged behind great civilizations in India, China and the Moslem world? Why were a few small countries on the western fringe of the great Eurasian continent able to spread their culture all around the world when other cultures did not? Why did a group of daring navigators from Western Europe—Columbus in 1492, Vasco de Gama in 1499, Ferdinand Magellan in the 1520s and others—launch the Age of Discovery with globe-girdling voyages in tiny ships, instead of men such as the great Chinese Admiral Zheng He, who sailed thousands of miles across the Indian Ocean in huge treasure ships nearly a century earlier?

Questions like these have puzzled scholars for centuries. However, the deliberate removal of courses in Western Civilization from schools and universities and a failure to discuss the role of religion or Bible prophecy have *obscured* key elements in the remarkable rise of the West. As a result, many today are largely ignorant of one of the most dramatic turning points in the history of the world—a transformation of global proportions that has been termed by some as “the miracle of the West.”

What led to the rise of Western Civilization? How did it happen, and what does this pivotal event reveal about God’s hand in history?

Searching for a Cause

Numerous scholars have proposed ideas to explain the remarkable rise of the West. In his book, *Historians Debate the Rise of the West*, Jonathan Daly chronicles

many of their theories. For instance, some believe that geography and climate favored Europe. The acquisition and use of navigational instruments and advanced ship design, as well as the development of more powerful armaments made important contributions. Other scholars have pointed out that more efficient economic systems and methods of production and the growth of global trading networks aided the West. Others cited the respect for law and private property, the free exchange of ideas that fostered innovation, and competition that fed the growth in science, technology and capitalism.

In contrast to thinking in the East that glorified the past and sought to maintain the status quo and harmony in the present, the West focused on progress and by learning to harness the forces of nature for the betterment of mankind—and for profit (Louis Rougier, *The Genius of the West*, pp. 89-91).

Taken together, these and other factors operating in Europe, “transformed the balance of the world within an amazingly brief period of time... The magnitude of European cultural achievements in the sixteenth-seventeenth centuries...arouses a sense of wonder and amazement” (William H. McNeill, *The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community*, pp. 574, 598). Yet, as historian Christopher Dawson has pointed out, “none of these causes seems adequate to explain the magnitude of the European achievement” (*Religion and the Rise of Western Culture*, p. 15).

The Significant Role of Religion in Europe

Dawson also notes that the British historian Lord Acton once commented, “Religion is the key of history.” While modern secular scholars tend to dismiss the influence

of religion in history, biblical principles did play a critical role in the rise of the West. Max Weber, a prominent German sociologist, “emphasized a constellation of historical features he considered unique to Europe,” especially the “radical change in religious outlook—from Catholicism to Protestantism.” Such factors “brought the West to materialistic prominence in the modern world” (*Historians Debate the Rise of the West*, pp. 8–9).

Our series on the Protestant Reformation—the second installment of which can be found on page five of this magazine—chronicles with precise detail this massive change in Europe’s religious landscape, as well as the many apostate doctrines, teachings, and practices that infected European “Christianity.” However, buried amid the distortions of Christ’s teachings, remained some surviving biblical values and principles that did make a mark on European culture in a powerful way. Jonathan Daly has noted that some scholars, such as Dr. David Landes, credit the presence of such biblical principles for instilling an appreciation of hard work, widespread literacy (for both men and women), thrift, diligence, and other ethics into European civilization.

Rodney Stark, a professor of sociology and comparative religion, writes that modern scholarship is “far too reluctant to acknowledge the positive effects” that such religious influence had on the culture of the West. He goes on to explain that science as we know it flourished in Europe instead of elsewhere “because Europeans believed in God as the Intelligent Designer of a rational universe” that operated on laws that could be discovered and put to practical use (*How the West Won*, pp. 5, 13, 315–317). In contrast, in Islam,

the universe did not operate on laws but according to the will of Allah—which was not conducive to the development of science—thus many innovations in the Islamic world were driven by Jews and other Christian sects. While the Chinese developed printing, mechanical clocks and gunpowder, they never exploited the potential of these innovations because they threatened to disrupt the stability of their society. Islamic caliphs outlawed mechanical printing for religious reasons (*ibid.*, pp. 12–13, 33–45).

Yet even these insights are not sufficient to explain the rise of the West.

Setting the Stage for Prophetic Fulfillment

Above all else, Europe’s rise to prominence was enabled by the God of Heaven, who is working out the fulfillment of ancient prophecies over the course of history (Isaiah 46:8–11).

The Bible reveals that God “removes kings and raises up kings,” and that He determines when, and how long, kings reign or nations rule (Daniel 2:21; Job



12:23). It is not a coincidence that the rise of the West occurred just as Asian societies turned inward and

“suddenly became immobile... [T]hey cut themselves off from a changing external world just when European expansion was beginning” (Geoffrey Barraclough, *Turning Points in World History*, p. 24). Once the West started to rise in the sixteenth century, “it seemed that nothing could hold it back” (*Historians Debate the Rise of the West*, p. 23). But *why* did one civilization rise and the others decline—almost at the same time?

Today, few understand that many nations of the West are Israelites—descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—who migrated into Northwest Europe and then to other parts of the globe. In Genesis 12:2–3 we read that because of Abraham’s obedience, God promised Abraham and his descendants, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” God gave His laws to the ancient Israelites so they could be an example and a blessing to the peoples of the world (Deuteronomy 4:1–10). Though they cast aside many of those laws and concepts as the centuries passed, some of those laws, concepts and ideas survived to become a part of the foundation of Western civilization that has transformed the world over the last five hundred years. The dramatic rise of the West—one of the most important turning points in the history of the world—illustrates the accuracy of these prophecies and the power of these divinely inspired ideas. In future articles in this series, we will see how more of these prophecies have been fulfilled.

—Douglas S. Winnail

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Since All Have Sinned, How Does God Hear Anyone's Prayers?

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

Answer: Of course, God reserves to Himself the prerogative to have mercy on whomever He wills (Romans 9:18). But the sobering truth is that sin—the breaking of God's law—*does* cut us off from God! The prophet Isaiah records, "Your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). So, what can we do, since all have sinned (Romans 3:23)? Notice the prophet Isaiah's answer:

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

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

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

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

Genuine repentance means *total surrender* to Jesus Christ—repenting of thoughts as well as deeds!

One must truly accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior, Lord, Master and soon-coming King. One must make His will, not our own, our life's priority. One must seek His ways and His thoughts, and serve others rather than seeking "to serve" ourselves.

Do you have the right attitude?

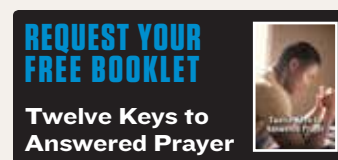
God *does* respond to the prayers of those who truly *seek* Him, *repent* of their sins and turn His way! Those who rebel, ignore God and never change will simply *not* be heard! Their sins are a barrier and cut them off from God. But a truly repentant attitude moves God to hear (Psalm 34:17). God states,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

Do Christians still sin—even *after conversion*? Yes! "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Yet God looks at the heart to see the intent. Before conversion, the heart is hardened in deception and rebellion against God. After conversion, most Christians sin out of weakness or neglect. Yet sensitivity to sin, and the resulting guilt,

moves the growing Christian to cry out to God for forgiveness and strength to overcome. Many scriptures

explain that conversion is a growth process—that we must "*grow* in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

But does this sin *after* conversion cut us off from God as before? Our prayers *can* be hindered when we fail to repent of our sins (e.g., 1 Peter 3:7). However, "If we confess our sins, He [Jesus Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). As we repent of sin and yield to God, our prayers can and will be heard!



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Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.



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Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

UNITED STATES

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Angel One SU 8:00 p.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.
TH 9:00 a.m.

CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WORD Network SU 7:30 p.m.
WE 1:00 a.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Angel One Ch. 262 SU 8:00 p.m.
WE 7:00 p.m.
TH 9:00 a.m.
Impact Ch. 9397 SU 11:00 p.m.

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AL Dothan WTVY SU 7:00 a.m.
Montgomery WBMM SU 7:00 a.m.

AR Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Prescott Community SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SA 5:30 p.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
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Palm Springs KION SU 8:00 a.m.
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Palm Springs KCWO-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
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San Francisco Access WE 8:00 p.m.

CO Grand Junc. KJCT SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Naugatuck Tele-Media MO 9:30 p.m.

FL Ft. Lauderdale WSFL SU 6:30 a.m.

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

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CBS Action Sky TV 148 SU 8:30 a.m.

CBS Drama Freeview 74 SA 7:30 a.m.

CBS Drama Sky TV 149 SA 7:30 a.m.

CBS Reality Freeview 66 SU 7:30 a.m.

CBS Reality Sky TV 146 SU 7:30 a.m.

Gospel Sky TV 587 MO 7:00 p.m.

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WE 6:00 a.m.

Sky TV 590 MO 12:30 a.m.

Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.

Gainesville WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.
Miami WSFL SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WHG SU 7:00 a.m.

GA Augusta WAGT SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon Cox SU 5:00 p.m.
Macon Cox TU 7:30 a.m.
Macon Cox FR 2:00 p.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.
Dubuque Mediacom MO 3:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom MO 7:30 p.m.
Dubuque Mediacom TU 10:00 a.m.*

ID Boise KYUU SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago CANTV Various*
Chicago WJYS FR 10:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.
Chicago WJYS MO 5:00 p.m.
Moline WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Peoria WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.
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Springfield Insight TU 1:00 p.m.
Springfield Insight TU 10:00 p.m.

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KS Parsons TWPAR WE 7:00 p.m.
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Salina SCAT FR 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT SA 9:00 a.m.
Salina SCAT SU 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 5:30 p.m.
Lexington PEG TH 12:00 a.m.
Lexington Insight Various*

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

MA Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.
North Adams NBCT WE 8:00 p.m.

MD Baltimore Community SU 9:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia TH 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Adelphia FR 10:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
Brunswick WABI SA 8:30 p.m.
Brunswick TV3 SU 6:30 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPO SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Detroit Comcast SU 7:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV SU 6:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV WE 8:30 a.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet MEDLO SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDLH SU 7:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SA 11:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SU 7:00 p.m.
Minneapolis MCN SA 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MCN SU 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MTN TH 12:00 a.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SA 10:30 p.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SU 4:30 a.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SU 10:30 a.m.*

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBI SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner SU 7:00 a.m.
Meridian WTKO

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.
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Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
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Raleigh WRAX SU 7:30 a.m.

ND Fargo WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.

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Reno KREN MO 12:00 p.m.

NY Albany-Troy Time Warner MO 3:00 p.m.
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Batavia Time Warner TU 5:30 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner FR 7:30 p.m.

Binghamton Time Warner WE 10:00 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner FR 8:00 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner SU 8:00 a.m.
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Brooklyn BCAT MO 4:30 p.m.
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Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Hauppauge Cablevision MO 4:30 p.m.
Manhattan MNN SA 7:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.
Riverhead Cablevision SU 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.
Rochester RCTV SU 5:00 a.m.
Rochester RCTV TU 10:00 a.m.*
Syracuse Time Warner SU 7:30 p.m.

OH Cincinnati Time Warner TH 8:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner SU 11:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner TU 1:00 p.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Lima WBOH MO 7:00 a.m.

PA Allentown SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Bethlehem SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown Atl. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.
Scranton FOX TH 5:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX SA 5:00 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 Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKXN SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville WKXN SU 6:00 p.m.
La Follette Comcast-WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont KBTU SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.
Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KTRE SU 6:30 a.m.
McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KWES SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KWES SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KLTU SU 6:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville Comcast Cable MO 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WVMR SU 8:00 a.m.
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Fairfax Public Access SA 10:00 a.m.
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Norfolk WSKY SU 8:30 a.m.
Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.
Bennington CAT WE 12:00 a.m.
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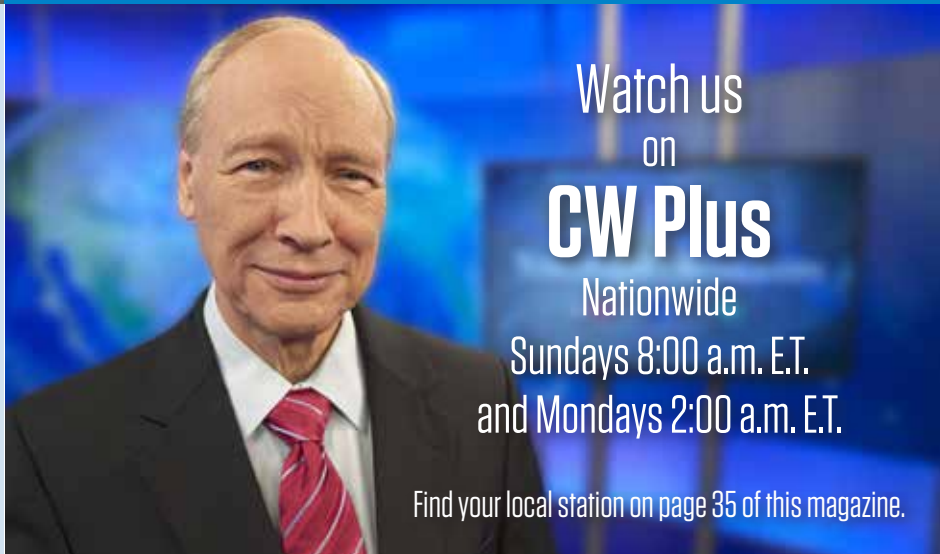
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June 15-21

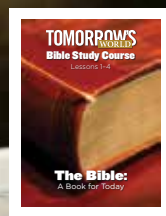
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