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# **Tomorrow's World**

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

*Seven Reasons  
Why Christ  
MUST Return!*

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Personal

By Roderick C. Meredith, Editor in Chief



A New Magazine of Understanding!

The magazine you are now holding in your hands is definitely *different*, for our team at *Tomorrow's World* is dedicated to giving you more than just news and opinions. We will give you the real *meaning* behind today's news and the prophecies of tomorrow's world.

Our capable editorial team members are unafraid to stick their necks out. We will be controversial. We will be incisive. And we will also give you TRUTH that you will be unable to obtain from other sources.

We at *Tomorrow's World* believe in wisdom, balance and common sense. But we also believe in a REAL God — a *personal* God who intervenes in world affairs and guides the rise and fall of nations and empires. A God who — when He wishes — intervenes in the normal weather patterns to bring His punishments upon rebellious men and nations.

Speaking of how God has seemingly blessed and guided the destinies of the American and British peoples, Sir Winston Churchill told the United States Congress during World War II, "If you will allow me to use other language I will say that he must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below, of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants."

We at *Tomorrow's World* believe in this transcendent God. Our God is the One who reveals Himself in the Bible. And we take the Bible literally. We believe that God stands firmly behind His Word. We believe that God has revealed Himself in this statement in the book of Daniel: "This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (Daniel 4:17).

You should know that we editors and writers of *Tomorrow's World* believe that we are in the prophesied "time of the end" (Daniel 11:40). Although we do not set exact dates, we believe that we are *near* the end of 6,000 years of recorded human history and that this time period will be followed by an epoch of 1,000 years. This will be the prophesied Millennium when Jesus Christ will literally RULE *this earth* as King of kings (Revelation 11:15). This is the "Tomorrow's World" of which we speak.

It will be a time of unparalleled peace and prosperity. It will be a time when Jerusalem will become the world capital, where leaders and nations will go to learn a *new way of life* based on God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments: "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it.

"Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; 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 any more" (Micah 4:1-3).

As we approach this coming time of God's intervention in human affairs, we will give you specific prophecies to watch. We will point out to you, step by step, how these prophecies are being fulfilled in the news headlines you will be reading or seeing on television news. We will try to make these prophecies "come alive" for you and your families.

With God's guidance, we will show you not only what to watch, but what *to do*. For God's Word — His inspired "instruction manual"

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# Seven Reasons Why Christ MUST Return!

By Roderick C. Meredith

**W**e are now at a turning point in human affairs! As traumatic world events begin to speed up and intensify their effects on each other, our CREATOR must and WILL intervene!

Jesus Christ instructed His followers to pray, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done *on earth* as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). With the disgustingly high level of crime, violence, sexual immorality and general degradation in our society, it should be obvious that the Kingdom of God is *not here yet!*

From one end of the Bible to the other, God’s Word tells us that the *literal* GOVERNMENT of God will be set up on this earth at the end of this age! And we are commanded to prepare to be part of that Christ-led government — the Kingdom of God.

Yet millions of professing Christians seem *completely oblivious* to that paramount truth. They have been taught to “just believe” on the *person* of Jesus Christ. They have been taught to “lead a good life” and that somehow, some way, they will “go to heaven” when they die.

Many believe that the Biblical statements about Jesus Christ’s literal return to this earth are restricted primarily to the mysterious book of Revelation or to certain vague Old Testament passages. And as “good mainstream Christians” they prefer to read the Psalms, Gospels and New Testament Epistles for “inspiration,” without worrying too much about what the rest of the Bible actually says — or even what *those books* of the Bible actually mean! These people fail utterly to realize that the message of Christ’s second coming and the Kingdom of God permeates almost the entire Bible. For that is our hope. That is a key part of our destiny!

Notice how Jesus encouraged the Apostle Peter and the other disciples. Peter had exclaimed to Jesus, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have? So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’” (Matthew 19:27–28).

Jesus was obviously talking about a *literal government* to be established here on earth! That’s why He told us to pray, “Your Kingdom COME... *on earth.*”

Near the end of His physical life, the disciples asked Jesus, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3).

Jesus then gave them several “signs” to watch for which would indicate His second coming was imminent. But *in spite of* traumatic world events, millions obviously still won’t “get it.” For Jesus also explained, “But as the days of Noah were, *so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.* For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, *so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*” (Matthew 24:37–39).



## Christ’s Return Described Again and Again

The Apostle Paul described Christ’s second coming in this way, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

It is important to note that although the true saints meet the descending Christ “in the air” — the air of this earth’s atmosphere — God does NOT promise His saints eternal life “up in heaven.” Rather, as we see in Acts 1:11, Christ will “come in like manner” right back to the Mount of Olives from whence He rose. In fact, God’s Word is very specific on that very point. For the prophet Zechariah was inspired to write, “Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...” (Zechariah 14:3–4). So Christ literally sets His feet once again on that big hill just east of Jerusalem! Then what?

“And the LORD shall be King over all the EARTH. In that day it shall be; ‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one” (v. 9).

Christ the King will be ruling *this earth* from Jerusalem. And “ALL the nations” shall come up to Jerusalem during Jesus’ earthly reign and learn to observe God’s commanded festivals — including the Feast of Tabernacles! Jesus will obviously be ruling over physical nations *here on this earth.*

But WHY should Christ return to planet earth? Aren’t we getting along pretty well? Aren’t most people relatively prosperous, healthy and happy? From the point of view of an all-knowing, all-loving God, is there a real NEED for Jesus Christ to return and RULE this earth as King of kings?

*Of course there is!*

Let us now examine *seven* of the key reasons why God will send the living Jesus Christ back to this earth again — this time in total POWER and magnificent GLORY — to SAVE humanity from destroying itself and to TEACH all men the *right way to live.*

## Reason 1: Man’s Capacity for COSMOCIDE

As far back as the 1950s, the world became aware that mankind could soon destroy itself. President Dwight Eisenhower stated, “Science now seems ready to confer upon us, as its final gift, the power to erase human life from this planet.”

That time came a few years later. And at present, science has developed *several* means of destroying all human life. These include atomic and hydrogen weapons, chemical and biological weapons and no doubt other weapons that are being developed even as I write.

A recent shocking development has been the revelation that Communist China has stolen vital technological secrets from the United States. As the *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported on March 6, 1999: “Working with nuclear secrets stolen from a U.S. government laboratory, China has made a leap in the development of nuclear weapons: the miniaturization of its bombs, according to administration officials.”

In addition, we know that Russia is virtually coming apart and that rogue nations such as Iraq,

Iran, Libya and North Korea can purchase nuclear, chemical and biological weapons “on the sly” from Soviet arms dealers. Regarding Russia itself, President Boris Yeltsin is *a very ill man* and if his successor turns out to be someone in the mold of Josef Stalin or Adolph Hitler — *watch out!*

Speaking very definitely of *our time* — just before His second coming — Jesus Christ prophesied, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:21–22).



Until the last few decades, it would have been virtually impossible for humanity to annihilate itself. Nowadays it is not only possible but — as Christ indicated — *a certainty* UNLESS God intervenes powerfully in human affairs. For the sake of those who have genuinely *surrendered* to God and are being led by the Holy Spirit, God WILL intervene “for the elect’s sake.” That is a KEY reason *why Christ MUST return to this earth!*

## Reason 2: Unprecedented DROUGHT and FAMINE

Again, speaking of the time just before His second coming, Jesus said, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be FAMINES, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7).

Terrible famines have occurred in recent years across Africa and Asia. Large areas of Texas and other parts of the United States have experienced serious droughts in recent years — reminiscent of the “dust bowl” years. However, actual famine and human starvation have not yet been experienced in the United States or the other developed nations. Yet according to Jesus Christ, *that is all going to CHANGE!*

As many of you readers understand, the United States and other British-descended peoples are, in fact,

among the descendants of the so-called “lost ten tribes” of Israel. Dozens of Old Testament prophecies speak directly to *our people* at the time of the end! Other prophecies are DUAL. That is, they had a smaller, earlier fulfillment through events that affected ancient Israel, but their wording clearly indicates that these *same punishments* will affect modern Israel (the U.S. and British-descended peoples) at the END of this age.

The book of Amos contains such a DUAL prophecy. In Amos 3, God is clearly addressing the prophecy to *all 12 tribes of Israel* — NOT just “Judah” or the Jewish people. God says, “Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: ‘You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.’” (Amos 3:1–2).

Later in this same prophecy, God states prophetically to *our people today*, “‘Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities. And lack of bread in all your places; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD. ‘I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered.’

“‘So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD. ‘I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD” (Amos 4:6–9).

A time of alternating drought, floods and FAMINE is clearly prophesied to affect our nations — unless we REPENT and turn to the true God in a way we have NEVER done before! As we shall see, these plagues are going to be AWESOME in their effect — devastating the lives of *hundreds of millions* of people worldwide!

For any who do not yet understand the vital “key” to our prophetic identity, let me urge you to write or call us immediately to request your FREE copy of our powerful new booklet entitled, *What’s Ahead for America and Britain?* This booklet explains clearly *who we are* in Bible prophecy and what future awaits our peoples. You truly *need* this booklet to UNDERSTAND the prophecies directly affecting America and the British-descended peoples in the very near future!

## Reason 3: Horrifying DISEASE EPIDEMICS

Notice again Matthew 24:7, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And

there will be famines, PESTILENCES...” So right after the alternate floods and droughts produce famine and MASS STARVATION, along come DISEASE EPIDEMICS of unprecedented proportions!

In our modern, scientific age, *how can this be?*

The answer is simple. When there is polluted water and polluted food — inherent in the prophecies regarding worldwide drought and famine — these are nearly always followed by disease epidemics. After Hurricane Andrew hit Florida in 1992, many victims had to pay up to \$30 for a gallon of clean water! Even with this much money, one might not find clean water in many third-world countries. In any case, the coming punishments will be MUCH WORSE, because then — added to these other conditions — will be the horror of drug-defying *disease epidemics!* A hint of this horror was reported last August 17, in a leading Canadian newspaper, *The Ottawa Citizen*:

“A quiet epidemic is stalking the corridors of Ontario hospitals. The threat is a unique strain of bacteria whose prevalence has exploded by 2,000 percent in four years. It kills hundreds each year. And every 15 minutes, it grows more resistant to the most powerful antibiotics known to medicine... the more



patients are treated with vancomycin — the so-called drug of last resort — the quicker the bacteria will become resistant to it.”

Describing the punishment that is soon coming to modern A m e r i c a , Britain and Canada and other Israelit-

ish nations, God inspired Ezekiel to write, “And you, son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber’s razor, and pass it over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair. You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them” (Ezekiel 5:1–2).

God explains in verse 12 *exactly* what is involved here, “One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.”

Can we begin to imagine the tens of MILLIONS of men and women this is talking about, to whom God is NOT real, who commit adultery, lie, steal, cheat, lust, hate and take God’s name in vain without even a second thought? Many of *these* people go to “Christian” churches, and like to imagine that they are “good people.” Most of these people will NOT change until they are truly humbled by God. They will NOT accept correction from the Word of God. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:15–18).

Of course, these END-time plagues will affect the whole world, not only Israel. For after describing the “four horsemen” of false prophets, wars, famines and finally horrifying disease epidemics, John writes, “And power was given to them over a FOURTH of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth (Revelation 6:8). Most scholars recognize that John was not writing about one-fourth of the earth’s land or sea surface, but about one-fourth of the ENTIRE POPULATION of this earth at the time of the end. Since the earth’s population is approaching six BILLION people, this prophecy is speaking of the coming destruction of about one-and-one-half BILLION human beings!

## Reason 4: Massive Earthquakes, Hurricanes and Weather Upheavals

Perhaps you have noticed the “wild and crazy weather” much of the world has been experiencing in the last few years. Many records are being broken. The “worst” of this or that is reported regularly in the news.

It would be easy to say “coincidence” IF one did not understand the biblical prophecies pointing to *these very things!* However, when you understand, you will realize that we have so far experienced just a mild portent of what is yet to come. For, describing Christ’s second coming and the magnificent Temple that will be built at *that time*, God says, “For thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Once more (it is a little while) I will SHAKE heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will

**Continued on page 27**



# NATO at 50—Historic Past, Hopeful Future?

By John H. Ogwyn

In the spring of 1945 Europe lay exhausted and spent. After six years, the long, dark Nazi night finally seemed to be drawing to a close. A new day was dawning.

Through the last winter, Russian troops had advanced into German Silesia and from there to Warsaw and Cracow. American bombers by day and British bombers by night pounded the German heartland. American and British forces under General Bradley and Field Marshall Montgomery crossed the Elbe. The Russians drew on toward Berlin while the Allies stopped and waited. The Allies had halted their troops — not for military reasons, but for political ones.

A short time earlier, Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt had come together for the final time. Meeting in Yalta, a Russian seaport on the Black Sea, they had discussed the future of Europe and sought to arrange the post-war world. Stalin came to the meetings with an agenda designed to advance Russian communism, and plenty of high-sounding promises. An ailing Roosevelt readily accepted Stalin's promises. He failed to real-

ize that Stalin's view of promises was the same as that of his predecessor, Lenin, "Promises are like pie crusts, made to be broken."

Peace came with the end of the European war in May and the Japanese surrender in August. Peace, however, meant different things to different people. A perceptive Winston Churchill, voted out of office at the end of the war, made a watershed speech in 1946 at Fulton College in Missouri. He had no illusions about either the



Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill — *Presslink*

nature of communism or the intentions of Joseph Stalin. "An iron curtain," he declared, had rung down in Europe. Immediately decried by the American left, Churchill's vision of the future proved, nevertheless, to be the correct one. Over the next couple of years the Soviets

tightened their grip on the territory that their troops had occupied at the end of the war.

## 1949 — The Cold War Begins

In April of 1949 a new alliance, primarily formulated by the United States and Britain, was established. Originally consisting of nine members, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sought to build a strong bulwark against Russian expansionism and bind together its members with the pledge that an attack on any member would be considered an attack upon all.

Soviet Russia countered NATO by forming the Warsaw Pact, consisting of the Soviet Union and its puppet regimes in eastern and central Europe, and providing an excuse for Russian troops to remain stationed in eastern Europe.

Ostensibly, they were there to protect their allies from the West. In reality, they were there to ensure that their "allies" remained allies!

At the close of World War II, the allies intended that Germany, which had plunged the world into war twice in just over two

decades, be demilitarized permanently. The new fears of Russian communism, however, changed the equation in western eyes. Increasingly fearful of Soviet expansion, the West began to view Germany as a potentially useful ally.

Konrad Adenauer, post-war Germany's first chancellor, began the process of bringing Germany into the western alliance. West Germany became part of the Council of Europe in 1950. In 1955, West Germany joined with France and Italy to form the European Union. Later in that year, West Germany was finally accepted as a member of NATO.

In ten years, Germany had moved from a defeated and occupied enemy to a valuable ally. Fear of Russian communism was the driving force in western foreign policy during those years. The Cold War was in full swing, the arms race was in progress and the world seemed permanently divided between east and west. Throughout the fifties, sixties, and seventies the

cold war divisions that had developed by 1949 appeared to be the eternal order of things.



October 1989; the Berlin Wall is toppled — *NATO Photo*

## The Wall Comes Tumbling Down

The fall of 1989 proved to be one of the most remarkable moments in the twentieth century. The post-World War II order collapsed in a heap in early October, shocking government leaders and opinion-molders alike. A movement that started in Poland, fueled by a Polish Pope, accomplished what NATO could have dared contemplate. Communist governments fell like dominoes. The

Berlin Wall, hated symbol of the east-west division, was breached. German reunification took shape with breathtaking speed. The Cold War, which had held Europe and the world in its grasp for forty years, was at an end! Soon afterward, the red "hammer and sickle" flag was lowered from atop the Kremlin for the final time, replaced by the flag of old Russia. Not a shot was fired! The Soviet Communist experiment in Russia thus came to an end fewer than seventy-five years after it began.

Yet the euphoria of those months eventually gave way. High hopes and dreams of a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous world began to founder. Economies of the former communist bloc began to disintegrate. Unemployment soared. While a handful of people made astronomical sums of money, the nations of the former Soviet Union and many of its allies were faced with virtual collapse of their infrastructure. Even Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, foundered in trying to absorb the former East German territory.

In the midst of this, NATO seemed to be an alliance in search of a mission. Formed to combat Russian communism, that menace

had faded away. Yet NATO continued. Soon former members of the Warsaw Pact, which had officially disbanded in the aftermath of communism's collapse, were clamoring to join.

March 1999, almost half a century after NATO's inception, saw the induction of three new members. Not quite ten years from the collapse of the communist dictatorships that had ruled them for forty years, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic officially became part of the western alliance. All three of these are heavily Catholic nations that have had historic ties to the West.

Other nations formerly in Moscow's orbit are also clamoring to join NATO. Countries such as the Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, as well as Slovakia and Slovenia, have expressed interest in joining. Even countries such as Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Albania, with far closer ties to Russia than to the West, have also put out feelers.

### The Future of the NATO Alliance

Where are these events leading? It made sense in the aftermath of World War II for the United States to have hundreds of thousands of troops stationed in Europe. After all, we were occupying the conquered lands of our former enemies. Once the Cold War began in earnest, there was another rationale for keeping troops in Europe. This time it was to prevent a Russian-led invasion of the West. Today, many on both sides of the Atlantic are asking why multiple tens of thousands of American troops are still needed

in Europe. Who is protecting whom from what?

Yet another rationale for NATO is now being advanced since the collapse of the Soviet Union. NATO, it seems, is no longer an alliance directed at a specific enemy. Rather, it exists



NATO troops in military exercises. • NATO Photo

simply to promote peace in this region of the world. It seems that the end of the Cold War did not bring peace to Europe and the world after all.

In fact, in some ways, it may be that the twentieth century is closing in Europe much as it began, with strife and unrest in the Balkans. It was ethnic unrest in the Balkans at the beginning of the century, after all, that provided the spark which set off World War I. The present fear is that current Balkan strife will spill over into the surrounding countries, most of whom have historic ties with one or another of the warring factions.

The irony of pursuing an American-led peace in the Balkans today is that it was an American "solution" in the aftermath of World War I which contained the seeds of the current conflict. President Woodrow Wilson took the lead in creating a new country in the Balkans at the Versailles Peace Conference of 1918. This new nation of Yugoslavia, meaning the nation of the "southern Slavs," was cobbled together as a solution to ongoing

strife in the Balkans. Americans in particular didn't grasp the differences and distinctions that existed among the various groups they sought to squeeze together.

Yugoslavia proved to be dominated by the Serbs who had long-standing rivalries with the Croats as well as with the Bosnians and Albanians. Traditionally the Serbs were Eastern Orthodox in religion and have had strong historic ties to Russia, the age-old protector of the Orthodox Church since the fall of Byzantium in 1453. Croatia, on the other hand, is Catholic in religion and has had strong historic ties to Germany and the West. Bosnia and Albania contain large Moslem populations, relics of several centuries of Turkish domination. They have historic enmity with the Serbs.

Now America is seeking to remold the purpose of the NATO alliance, to use it as an instrument to bring peace to the troubled "powder keg of Europe." Is NATO going to be the instrument that insures a peaceful, prosperous Europe? How much longer is Europe prepared to accept a dominant American role and to rely on the United States as the guarantor of its future security? To what extent does the United States even have the will to continue its current role?

### Antecedents of Europe's East – West Divide

The division between east and west in Europe long antedates the post-World War II partitions of the Cold War. In fact, it dates back many centuries to the beginning of the fourth century AD. Roman Emperor Diocletian divided his realm into east and west for administrative purposes. Emperor

Constantine, a successor, launched the grand scheme to build a "new Rome" on the Bosphorus to be the eastern capital. Constantine called this new capital Constantinople. Within a short period after his death, the Roman Empire had become permanently divided into two realms, the Eastern Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire.

By the twelfth century, religious conflict between the Roman Pontiff and the Patriarch of Constantinople led to a formal schism in the professing Christian church. The old Eastern Roman realm, now known as the Byzantine Empire, was Orthodox in religion, Greek in thought and culture, and increasingly Slavic in population. The western realm, now called the Holy Roman Empire, was Catholic, Latin, and Germanic. Herein lies the historic divide in Europe. Military, political, economic, educational, and religious influence spread to the rest of Europe from these two centers of power, Rome and Constantinople.

This situation was foreseen anciently by the One who declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). He inspired the prophet Daniel to record a dream and its interpretation which laid out an overview of the history of the western world for the next 2500 years. The east-west divide in Europe and its final result are actually recorded in advance right in the pages of your own Bible, believe it or not!

It was an understanding of these prophecies that led Herbert

W. Armstrong, our predecessor in this Work of God, to write in the April 1952 *Plain Truth*, at a time when the Russian boot seemed permanently planted on eastern Europe, that East Germany would be reunited with West Germany and that Russia would "be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria" (p. 16).

From Daniel 2 we learn that the ancient Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream which no one but Daniel could interpret for him. In his dream he saw a great statue with a head of gold, shoulders and chest of silver, thighs of brass, two legs of iron, and feet with the toes composed of a mixture of iron and ceramic clay. A stone of supernatural origin ("made without hands") appeared and smashed this



NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. • NATO Photo

image on its feet. The whole thing turned to dust and blew away, while the stone grew into a huge mountain that filled the earth. Daniel explained to Nebuchadnezzar that in the days of the final ten kings (symbolized by the ten toes on the feet of the image) "...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed" (v. 44).

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he and the Babylonian Empire over which he ruled was symbolized by the head of gold (v. 38). After him, there would arise another great empire, symbolized by sil-

ver (v. 39). Historically, this was fulfilled by the Medo-Persian Empire which conquered Babylon in 539 BC. A third world-ruling kingdom, symbolized by the image's thighs of brass, was to arise as Persia's successor. This was the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great which conquered Persia in 331 BC. The fourth kingdom, the iron kingdom (v. 40), represented the Greek realm's successor, the Roman Empire. Rome's empire, later divided into an Eastern and Western division, was symbolized by two legs of iron.

It is the ten toes on the feet of this image that represent the final end-time continuation of the old Roman Empire. This is the system that will be destroyed by Jesus Christ when He returns in power and glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. The end-time system, called in Revelation 17 and 18 "Babylon the Great," consists of a union of ten leaders whose origins are in the outgrowth of both the western and eastern Roman empires.

The old east-west divide is yet to be healed, but not by an American-led NATO. A short-lived European superpower will soon emerge on the scene, exercising economic, political and military dominance on a world-wide scale. This system will also represent a union of church and state, much in the tradition of the old Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages. Yet this coming United States of Europe will not really be cohesive. The nature of its union is, after all, pictured by ten toes composed of an iron and ceramic mixture. It will represent man's final flawed attempt at self-government cut off from his Creator before the return of Jesus Christ to establish His rule in tomorrow's world. ☐

# A Fourth Reich?

What is Germany's future? Bible prophecy and German history offer important clues!

By Douglas S. Winnail

Germany is a land of mysteries—and miracles! One of the most remarkable aspects of the German people is their astounding recovery and social transformation since the end of World War II. In 1945 the entire nation—which only 12 years earlier had set out to rule Europe and the world—lay prostrate in defeat. German cities had been reduced to rubble. Industry and the economy were destroyed. However, “just as the Germans had set world-class standards in destruction and self-destruction, they now proved equally adept at digging out and cleaning up” (*The German Question and Other German Questions*, Schoenbaum, p. 12). Today Germany's rebuilt cities hum with activity. The German economy is one of the biggest and strongest in the world. Wages and living standards are among the highest in the world. The militarized Germany of the Nazis has become a peaceful democracy. This would have seemed unthinkable 50 years ago.

Another incredible development was the sudden and unexpected reunification of East and West Germany beginning in the Fall of 1989. This surprising event concentrated 80 million Germans in the heart of Europe. Although skeptics may disagree, a German newspaper reported “just one year ago, no German

politician was pursuing this goal, and no foreign politician wanted it...it was God's work” (*The German Comedy*, Schneider, p. ix). As the 20th century draws to a close, Germany has emerged again as the most powerful nation in Europe—the same position it held at the beginning of this century! Not surprisingly, modern Germans, as did their predecessors in 1900, sense the “coming century as theirs” (Ibid, p. 10).

But just who are these remarkable people—the Germans? What's behind their miraculous recovery and incredible transformation? Most scholars recognize that “Germany is one of the great cultural centers of Europe and that German achievements in architecture, music, literature and philosophy are among the landmarks of civilization” (*The New Germans*, Radice, p. xvi). The great composers—Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Strauss—were Germans. Gutenberg printed the first book with moveable type, the Bible, in Mainz about 1456. The ideas of Martin Luther spawned the Protestant Reformation. German philosophers and theologians have molded the intellectual climate of the West. In academic fields, “from agronomy to zoology, Germans have not only advanced, but practically defined the natural sciences” (Schoenbaum, p. 11). German-engineered products are synonymous with precision and quality

around the world. The contribution of Germany to the development of Western civilization has been almost without parallel!

## Which Way for Germany?

What role will Germany play in the 21st century? Will we see a “Europeanized” Germany blend into the fabric of a united continent, or will Germany try again to take over Europe? Will a more powerful and assertive Germany be a friend or foe of America and other Western nations? The return of Germany to a position of power in Europe has raised once again *the German Questions!* Who are the Germans? How did they acquire their striking national characteristics? What does the future hold for Germany?

Such questions may seem irrelevant to generations born since 1945. After all, Germany has been a stable democracy, a good neighbor and dependable ally for over 50 years. Based on what Germany has achieved in the last half-century, some assert that “prospects for a larger, potentially more powerful Germany living at peace are promising” (Radice, p. 207). Supposedly, Germans no longer harbor great power ambitions because “the lesson of two world wars has been fully understood” (*Germany's New Position in Europe*, Baring, p. 29).

However, these optimistic views may be shortsighted and dangerously flawed. Astute observers with longer memories are concerned. Could a reunified Germany become “an uncaged giant, a Fourth Reich—a German Empire?” (*Germany and Europe*, Marsh, p. 167). A former *Washington Post* bureau chief in Bonn and Berlin sees Germany as “the most conflicted, powerful, promising and dangerous country in Europe” (*After the Wall*, Fischer, jacket). Italian journalist Luigi Barzini has described Germany's tendency to make sudden and unexpected changes. He warned it is “important to keep an eye on the German Proteus [a Greek sea god capable of assuming different forms] in an attempt to fathom the probable shape of things to come...Its decisions could once again overwhelm Europe and the world” (*The Europeans*, Barzini, p. 107).

While many assume it is impossible to predict the future in the complex field of international relations, that simply isn't true! The Bible outlines the future

course of world history by predicting the actions of specific nations. One key to understanding Bible prophecy is to be able to identify the nations involved. National characteristics that remain consistent over the centuries provide important clues. As we will see in this article, Germany can be identified in the prophecies of the Bible and her future course of action can be known. That identity is surprising and the future is sobering—in the short run—but exciting in the ultimate outcome of God's plan for mankind.

## Reason for Concern

What worries many seasoned observers is that this remarkably gifted nation has other unique and ominous proclivities. Germany has been described as a “country of promising beginnings, dramatic changes and abrupt breakdowns” and “a country with a never-ending series of surprising inceptions and equally surprising finales” (Baring, p. 2). Many modern Germans



The renovated Reichstag, pre-war seat of German government, reopened on April 19, a milestone in the government's shift from Bonn to Berlin — © Presslink

are nervous that a developing crisis could push their newly united country “back into the continuity of German history” (Ibid, pp. 10–11). That history, viewed from the perspective of centuries, reveals a marked tendency to undergo periodic and dramatic transformations in national character. Visitors in one era describe a country of poets, philosophers and post-card panoramas that suddenly becomes a “nation of warriors” and brutally efficient conquerors in another era (Schoenbaum, p. 7).

This sobering phenomenon of “the mutable Germans” has been described by numerous writers. When Barzini visited Berlin in the early 1930s as a war correspondent he saw a city that was the “artistic capital of Europe” filled with avant-garde art shows, trail-blazing films and experiments of all kinds” (Barzini, p. 75). Several years later, after the Nazis had come to power, he saw a much different Berlin crowded with “stiff men in spotless uniforms,” serious business men, chic women and families (Ibid, p. 78). Barzini comments, “I saw a strangely malleable country given a new shape by the Nazis” (Ibid, p. 78). He continues, “frightening above all were the young, healthy, well-washed faces of the soldiers, their eyes shining with a fanatic faith as they marched by, singing martial songs” that included “Today we

have Germany, tomorrow the world” (Schoenbaum, p. 73).

It is this tendency toward a *militaristic transformation* that is the most worrisome aspect of the German people. German soldiers have marched out of Germany and across Europe as “a relentless unstoppable war machine” *numerous* times in history. World War II, “the most German of all wars,” claimed 50 million lives (Ibid, p. 5). It began in 1939 when Hitler openly broke agreements with neighboring nations. Elite Panzer tank units lead the German *blitzkrieg* (lightening war). U-boats prowled the Atlantic in *wolfpacks* and newly developed U-2 rockets rained death and destruction on England. Millions of Jews, Czechs and Poles were *deported* to work as slave laborers in German factories and face *genocidal* deaths in concentration camps—with their *piles of corpses!*

The German war machine of World War II stands *unequaled* in modern Western civilization for its efficiency, destructiveness and brutality. From a historical perspective, “the Third Reich became the *epitome* of the barbarity of man” (*The Neo-Nazis and German Reunification*, Lewis, p. 1), which raises even more questions: Why did Germany deteriorate into tyranny? Where do these tendencies come from? Could this happen again?

### Obscuring German Origins

Germany’s neighbors and national security advisors are not the only ones asking these questions. Many modern Germans, trying to understand Germany’s turbulent past, are asking “basic questions about their identity...*who are we?*” (Fisher, p. 11). One political scientist stated, “**We do not know who we are, that is the German Question**” (Baring, p. 2). Yet answers are available—recorded in the annals of history, imbedded in legends passed down from antiquity, and woven into Bible prophecies that focus on our times.

German historian Hagen Schulze writes; “**Our identity is explained sufficiently only when our history is known**” (*The Unmasterable Past*, Maier, p. 150). Unfortunately, German history has been *manipulated* to hide—from Germans and the world—critical bits of information concerning German origins and national traits. One historian comments, “Modern

approaches to the problem of German origins have to a large extent been governed by shifts in *political feeling*” (*The Early Germans*, Todd, p. 9). Writers, promoting the false idea of pure racial origins, have *ignored or obscured* significant *external* influences on the development of German culture. This was particularly true in the late 1800s during the rise of German nationalism and into the Nazi era (Ibid, p. 263). However, history provides some remarkable insights into the origin and national character traits of the Germans. Coupled with Bible prophecy, these insights give us a divinely *revealed* window on Germany’s future.



**The 1934 Nazi Party Congress at Nuremberg gave a rapidly remilitarizing Germany the opportunity to show its new might to the world.** — © Presslink

Historical sources indicate the German tribes descended from Indo-Europeans that migrated from lands around the Black or Caspian Seas where they had been “neighbors of the Hebrews” (*Natural History*, Pliny, Bk. 4,12; *Germany: Her People and their Story*, p. 10). Julius Caesar (60 BC) and the Roman historian, Tacitus (98 AD) refer to tribes living along the

Rhine as *Germani* (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., p. 830; Todd, pp. 2–5). Tacitus states German men had “no taste for peace” and spent their time in warlike pursuits. According to early accounts, “Germanic society was a warrior society, a society geared to waging war” and they posed a serious threat to the Roman army (Todd, p. 36).

History clearly reveals the German tribes *absorbed* Roman ways (imperialism, totalitarianism and the religion of a “Christianized” empire) and became the “heirs of Rome” with the rise of the Holy Roman Empire under Charlemagne and the German kings (*Germany: 2000 Years*, Reinhardt, pp. xxiii, 43). To find Germany leading the effort to unite Europe today is not surprising. This idea has been part of the German cultural heritage for over a thousand years!

### The Power of Ideas

But what accounts for Germany’s tendency to undergo dramatic transformations in national character? Why did so many Germans buy into the “master race” concept and the destructive policies of Hitler’s Third Reich? Part of the answer is found in the *cultural history* of Germany. It has been said that the character of individuals and nations determines their destiny. The character of a nation is molded by religious and philosophical *ideas* of its people (see Reinhardt,

pp. xxiv–xxvii). Ideas and ideologies have influenced cultural and political events in Germany “perhaps more than in any other nation in Europe” (Ibid, p. xxvi).

In German mythology the primary gods, Thor and Odin/Wodin, exhibit striking characteristics. Thor is a *peaceful* god of seasons and pastures but also a *god of war*. Thor combines in himself *two different personalities*—the “contrasting elements of friendly guardianship, and dark and dangerous irrationality” (Ibid, p. 15). Odin is a god of death, storm and battlefield, but also of wisdom and witchcraft. Odin also exhibits this same “incalculable and unfathomable irrationality. He destroys heroes and protects cowards; he sows discord among friends...he changes his attachments and affiliations, *deserting his friends when they need him the most*” (Ibid, p. 15). Over the centuries, Germany has exhibited the same tendencies for dramatic and irrational shifts in national character. It is also interesting to note that German mythology offers no real purpose or meaning for life (Ibid, pp. 12–13)—which leaves people *searching* for a cause.

When we examine the philosophical orientation of the ancient Germans we find a “lust for adventure and love of warfare [that] made them frequently *oblivious of humane considerations and inhibitions*. They tortured criminals... and broke solemnly sworn treaties without scruples” (Ibid, p. 10). The German sense of honor exalted vengeance. In Germanic tradition, loyalty, honor and heroism were more important than the humility, compassion and charity emphasized by Christianity.

This fundamental conflict between traditional cultural influences and Judeo-Christian values begins to explain why Prusso-Teutonic forces have pursued paths completely different from those taken by other peoples of Western civilization.

### Leaders Make a People

This powerful mixture of ideas, traditions and opportunities appears to merge in the lives of individuals who have molded German history. The German lands were part of the territories Charlemagne conquered in his attempt to reassemble the Roman Empire. Charlemagne was a powerful warrior with a powerful idea. That same idea of uniting Europe

under the banner of Christendom burned in the hearts of the first German emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, Otto the Great and Frederick Barbarossa (Frederick I of Hohenstauffen—proclaimed “master of the world”). Under these strong warriors the Germans became the most powerful kingdom in all Europe (960–1150 AD). However, the promising Hohenstauffen dynasty floundered (one of the “most brilliant failures of the Middle Ages”) trying to conquer Italy, and Germany became the domain of warring princes for several centuries (*Basic History of Modern Germany*, Snyder).

In the early 1700s Frederick William I of Prussia *revived* the militaristic course of modern Germany. Following his Hohenzollern family tradition that land and military strength were keys to national power, he set out to build the strongest and best-trained army in Europe. When he died, Prussia was recognized as the most *thoroughly militarized power* in Europe and one of the most self-sufficient and prosperous. His son, Frederick the Great, turned Prussia into the “drill-yard” of Europe and a first-class power (*Jackboot*, Laffin, pp. 6–7). Frederick



**On the day of German unification the North Atlantic Council marks the occasion by a special meeting and welcomes the united country as a full member of the Alliance.** — NATO Photo

was a visionary administrator who established a centralized government and a professional civil service to rule his expanding realm.

Frederick the Great was also an opportunist who learned from his mistakes. As king “he had no use for the forms of international law,” *invading without declaring war*, then creating a pretext for his desired adventures (Ibid, p. 15). For Frederick, war was

serious business to be one as quickly and efficiently as possible. He favored tactics involving surprise, cunning and audacity for attacking enemies of superior strength. He amazed his adversaries with his “capacity to continually recover and rise up afresh” (p. 18). Frederick began his reign as a humanitarian only to be transformed into a ruthless “hammer of the world”—emulating earlier German Fredericks (see Jeremiah 50:23).

### The Prussian Influence

The Prussian militaristic tradition begun by Hohenzollerns eventually permeated all of Germany. Following the defeat of Prussia by Napoleon, the



Prussian Army was reorganized. Gerhard von Scharnhorst, a brilliant theorist and organizer, established military academies, built a new type of army, and laid the groundwork for what became the great German General Staff. This group of professional soldiers planned for war even in times of peace, and prepared future generations of officers—an idea copied by nations around the world. Under Scharnhorst's direction, the *entire population* of Prussia was indoctrinated to the purpose and glories of war. However, it was the influential writings of his most devoted pupil, Karl von Clausewitz, that put “a halo around the profession of arms” and led Prussia and Germany into preparation for total war.

According to Clausewitz, war was merely a continuation of politics by other means, and no victory should be without the shedding of blood. These ideas gained wide acceptance in Germany and are reflected in Bismarck's policy that “the great questions of the day will not be settled by resolutions or majority votes, but by *blood and iron*” (Ibid, p. 71). The goal of the new army created by Scharnhorst, Clausewitz and others was the *destruction* of an enemy as quickly and efficiently as possible by superbly trained and disciplined troops fighting for their *national destiny*.

It was this Prussian tradition—*authoritarian, anti-democratic, militaristic, and expansionistic*—that paved the way for the rise of Imperial Germany, the Nazis and the military adventures, atrocities and disasters of the Third Reich. While Hitler's ascent to power was aided by a worldwide depression, his ideas were drawn from *long-standing* German ideas and traditions. The warlike behavior and glorification of battle recognized by the Romans *reappears consistently* in German history. But where did the Germans develop their fixation for precision and martial behavior that so distinguishes their national character? Who were the ancestors of the Germanic tribes that migrated from the shores of the Black and Caspian seas?

### Striking Parallels

If you get a map showing the Black and Caspian seas, and check several history books for nations that occupied this area of the world in the 1st and 2nd millennia BC and exhibited militaristic traits similar to the Germans, you quickly discover some very interesting facts. That part of the world was dominated by Assyria and a neighboring kingdom, the Hittites. Read what historians and archaeologists have learned about these ancient nations. Notice their distinctive

national character traits. Compare those traits to the ones that Germans have been noted for for nearly 2000 years. It won't take you long to begin to realize you are on to something!

The most outstanding feature of Assyria and the Hittites (as in Prussia and periodically in Germany) was the *totally militarized structure* of their cultures. Historians state: “The unique feature of the Assyrian state, in contrast to its contemporaries, was its *militarism*, which was a strong point in creating and running an empire. The Assyrian army was the *mightiest* that the ancient world had ever seen and no other people could resist it, at least for long” (*Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, Sasson, ed., p. 916). Hittite power also rested on military prowess (*The Barbarian Tides*, Time/Life, p. 14). As in Prussia and Germany, Assyria was described as a nation of warriors, and the Assyrian government was primarily an instrument of war. The Assyrians developed a strongly centralized form of government under an absolute ruler, the “king of the world” (*History of the Ancient World*, Starr, p. 132). Initially, Assyrian conquests were to gain control and protect vital trade routes. Their goal was to translate the emerging *economic* unity of the Near East into *political* unity (as is happening in Europe today)!

The military tactics of the Assyrians and Hittites, like the Germans and Prussians, stressed rapid troop movements and surprise. Each nation developed a reputation for advancing the technology of war—chariots, cavalry, tanks, submarines and rockets. The Hittites were the first to make iron, and the Assyrians were “the first great army to use iron weapons” (Starr, p. 183). Charlemagne was noted for wearing iron armor and weapons and an iron crown (Gifford, pp. 34–35). The Germans award an Iron Cross for meritorious service in war.

The Assyrians, like the Germans at various times in their history, were notorious for using extreme acts of cruelty—blinding, mutilating, stacking severed heads and corpses—to intimidate and control conquered peoples. Both nations *deported* conquered peoples to different locations on a massive scale to obtain forced labor and break morale. Genocide was also practiced by both peoples. Assyrian art and literature glorify the destructiveness and brutality of war. Virtually the same could be said for the writings of von Clausewitz and other Prussian and German authors.

Assyria was an “empire that in military might would stand *second to none*...they wrote a bloody chapter in the story of mankind—one that was all the uglier because it featured deliberate terror and atrocity as

instruments of foreign policy” (*Barbarian Tides*, p. 17). In the end, “Assyria's atrocious behavior had made it the object of seething hatreds” (Ibid, p. 29). Surrounding nations finally ganged up and defeated the Assyrians—as Allied nations have done twice in this century to Germany. For Assyria, “the end came so swiftly and was so complete that few details are known” (Ibid, p. 28).

This sudden collapse poses problems for historians. We are told that the Assyrians seem to *disappear* into the mists of history—in the area of the Black Sea. We are also led to believe the ancestors of the Germans emerge in the *same region*. While most historians are reluctant, or fail, to make any connection between the disappearance of the Assyrians and the appearance of the Germanic tribes, the fact remains that **no other nation's history and national character resembles Germany more than does that of Assyria**. Both Assyria and Germany stand *unique* in history for exactly the same reasons: totally militarized societies, the glorification of war, brutally efficient armies, deliberately calculated acts of extreme cruelty, mass deportations, slave labor camps, and genocide—all centrally administered with incredible efficiency. The histories of both nations reveal periods of powerful military resurgence after periods of decline. These parallels are *striking and unique* in the story of human civilization!

### More Connections

The Assyrian Empire developed from the city-state of Asur (named for Asshur, a son of Shem—one of Noah's three sons—see Genesis 10:1, 22). Asshur was a brother of Aphraxad—an ancestor of Abraham, who was the father of the Hebrews (Genesis 11:10–26). Thus true Assyrians and the descendants of Abraham (the Israelites) are kindred peoples. The name Assur means “leader” or “successful.” Josephus, writing in the 1st century AD, states the Assyrians “became the most fortunate of nations, beyond others” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 1:6:6). In light of their abilities and contributions to Western civilization, this is also true for the Germans.

Assur was worshiped as “the chief god of Assyria...the god of war” and represented as a “solar deity with a *winged disc*” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., p. 788). Both the winged disc and the *swastika* were also used by the Hittites (*Collier's Encyclopedia*, “Hittites”). The swastika is a symbol for the sun, power, energy, **Thor's hammer** and the god of weather and storm (*Dictionary of Symbols*, Liungman, pp. 48–49, 178–179). The Hittites and Assyrians also used a double-headed eagle to symbolize the sky gods—storm, thunder and the sun. These symbols reappear in the culture of Germany, Prussia and especially the Third

Reich. The Hittites (who were conquered and absorbed by the Assyrians) show definite linguistic and cultural links with two of the German tribes—Hessians and Prussians.

Even more interesting are legends that Trier, the oldest city in Germany, was founded by Trebeta, the son of an Assyrian king named Ninus, in about 2000 BC (*In Deutschen Landen*, Bihl, p. 69). Many modern travel books mention an inscription on a historic house in Trier's marketplace stating this Assyrian colony was founded 1,300 years before Rome. Arab writers of the Middle Ages also refer to the Germans as Assyrians. The links between Germany and Assyria can be found and are neither far-fetched nor imagined.

### Germany in Prophecy

But just what is the *significance* of these striking parallels between ancient Assyria and Germany? Simply this—numerous Bible prophecies clearly indicate that at the end of this age, just before the return of Jesus Christ, *Assyria will once again play a pivotal role in world affairs* (see Isaiah 10: 11). While Scripture states that the name and identity of Assyria, or Ninevah, would *disappear* (Nahum 1:1,14), which history confirms, the numerous prophetic references to Assyria in the context of the end times clearly indicate that the cultural, intellectual and ideological



**THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE CITY OF NUREMBERG:** Known in modern times as the site of the post-World War II “Nuremberg Trial” at which Nazi war criminals were brought to justice, the city's coat of arms shows its link to its Assyrian past with the two-headed eagle hearkening back to the sun-god Shamash. — PhotoDisc

Continued on page 30

# Generations In Crisis?



By Mark Mendiola

“One generation passes away, and another generation comes, but the earth abides forever” (Ecclesiastes 1:4).

Every month, approximately 3,200 World War II veterans die. Aging leaders like Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Helmut Kohl have given way to younger men like Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Gerhard Schroeder.

The mantle of leadership, in the United States and around the world, is passing to a new

generation largely raised in an environment of material prosperity and spiritual bankruptcy.

Veteran NBC newscaster Tom Brokaw's best-selling book *The Greatest Generation*, and the award-winning movie *Saving Private Ryan*, have focused a belated retrospective look at the sacrifices made and the hardships endured by Americans who grew up in the 1930s and 1940s. Their lives, and those of millions of others throughout the world, were changed dramatically by profound events beyond their control.

“They answered the call to help save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs. They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest” (Brokaw, p. xix).

By contrast, today's younger generation has too often undervalued or even ridiculed the values and achievements of their parents and grandparents, embracing lifestyles in many ways contrary to the standards for which today's senior citizens fought when they were in their youth.

During that bygone era, “they were mature beyond their years, tempered by what they had been through, disciplined by their military training and sacrifices. They married in record numbers and gave birth to another distinctive generation, the Baby Boomers. They stayed true to their values of personal responsibility, duty, honor and faith” (Brokaw, p. xx).

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah warned of a time when there would be a generation gap marked by disrespect for the elderly, a

crisis in leadership, rebellion against authority, rejection of traditional values and moral bankruptcy.

Isaiah predicted that God would remove the strong leadership needed at times of national and international crises, and the people would suffer as a result. He wrote: “For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away... the mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator” (Isaiah 3:1-3, KJV).

Gone are Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur and so many others who displayed tremendous leadership qualities and courage during World War II. Would this modern generation be able to rise to the occasion if another crisis of such magnitude were to erupt — or have we become too soft and complacent in the prosperous post-war decades?

In 1992 and 1996, American voters were given a clear choice between two generations. They could have elected World War II veterans — George Bush or Robert Dole, representing more conservative values — or Bill Clinton, the first president born after World War II, representing modern liberalism and the Baby Boom generation.

Both Bush and Dole were nearly killed in combat. A Navy Air Corps pilot, Bush had to be rescued after his plane was shot out of the sky by the Japanese

during a bombing run, and he lay adrift in the ocean for hours. Dole nearly died from infection and other complications after he was gravely wounded in an assault on a fortified German position in the Italian Alps. After a series of operations and painful therapy that lasted more than three years, Dole never regained the use of his right arm.

Campaigning for the White House, President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore used as their theme a song made popular by the rock group Fleetwood Mac. Reflecting a disregard for lessons



President Clinton pins the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, on World War II veteran and former Senator Bob Dole, whom he defeated in the 1996 Presidential election. — *Preslink*

learned by the previous generation, its lyrics include: “Don't stop thinking about tomorrow. ...it'll be better than before. Yesterday's gone. Yesterday's gone.” To many, the song epitomizes an arrogance about the future, and a scorn for the past.

## Ancient Prophecy of Modern Capriciousness

Isaiah continued: “I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them” (v. 4). Those who embraced leftist ideolo-

gies during the 1960s now dominate the nation's institutions of government, law, education and media, dramatically transforming society's cultural values. “Babes” in Isaiah 3:4 may be translated “capricious,” which means “apt to change suddenly or unexpectedly” — like politicians using opinion polls as their moral compasses. And it is not just the “leftists” at fault. From widespread adultery to rampant divorce, from financial misdeeds to corrupt politicking, too many “conservatives” of the younger generation share in the common disdain for traditional values. No longer are we shocked when a leader, “conservative” or “liberal,” asks others to live by a code to which he does not himself adhere.

So what is the result when a young generation, ignorant or disdainful of the lessons of history, supplants older, wiser, more experienced leaders? Isaiah warned: “The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder and the base toward the honorable” (Isaiah 3:5).

“Insolence” sadly describes a far-too-prevalent attitude held by the young toward the elderly who gave up so much for their nation to help ensure the quality of life now taken for granted by many insultingly contemptuous in their speech and conduct. Today, age and maturity are considered outmoded liabilities. Corporations ruthlessly fire older employees on the verge of retiring, replacing them with young people who may themselves be discarded as they age.

Yet some of history's legends achieved their greatest successes

in the twilight of their years. Winston Churchill was 65 when he became Prime Minister of Great Britain, and led her in her finest hour during World War II. He was 82 when he wrote *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*. Benjamin Franklin was 81 when in 1787 he proffered the compromise that led to the Constitution of the United States.

A recurring Biblical theme is that a nation makes a fatal mistake when it rejects the perspective of the older generation. When the foundation of the second temple was laid in Jerusalem, people shouted for joy, but many of the priests, Levites and chief elders, who were old men, wept with a loud voice because they remembered the glory and splendor of King Solomon's temple. They could see that the second temple was nothing by comparison. The younger generation, not remembering Solomon's temple, lacked their elders' perspective (Ezra 3:11-12).

There was another time when the counsel of the elders in the nation was rejected, and instead young princes ruled the roost, strutting their stuff (1 Kings 12). After Solomon died in ancient Israel, his son Rehoboam rejected what the elders who stood before Solomon recommended. Instead, he did what the young men advised, in essence: "Crack the whip and deal harshly with the people!" Oppression and destruction resulted. The kingdom split apart, and Israel ultimately went into national captivity.

In Isaiah 3:6, we see someone selected to be ruler because he dresses well and projects a fashionable image. The verse concludes by saying: "And let these ruins be under your power." In verse 7, potential leaders decline

to be made rulers of the people, much like the most qualified leaders today decline to run for president, opting not to take charge, leaving the lesser qualified to assume positions of authority.

It is no coincidence that in the same context of this crisis in leadership, Isaiah described a blatant flaunting of sexual immorality and deviance. Today it is blared all over television, newspapers and magazines for people of all ages to consider — topics which people in the not-too-distant past would have been ashamed to even mention! The sexual sins of even our top government leaders are exposed for everyone to ponder. Yet, there is widespread indifference and lack of outrage at scandals that would have been the political death knell for elected officials not long ago.

"The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves," Isaiah wrote (v. 9).

Sodom was a hedonistic society where sexual immorality in all forms was rampant and openly espoused. Traditional family values were under assault. The end result of its wickedness was sudden destruction. History repeatedly records the demise and fall of empires whose morals skidded into the depths of depravity and whose family institutions collapsed.

Isaiah continued, "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err [or "lead you astray," NIV], and destroy the way of your paths" (v. 12).

When a younger generation rises to power and rejects traditional values, they often impose oppressive policies on the citizenry that

can even lead to a nation's destruction. Isaiah 3 then concludes by describing warfare, desolation and suffering as the consequence.

The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:1-4, that perilous times would come in the last days marked by disobedience to parents, ingratitude and despising anything decent and wholesome. People would love themselves, money and pleasure. How much more explicit could he have been in describing this modern generation?

Solomon also describes "a generation that curses its father and does not bless its mother. There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness. There is a generation — oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are like swords and whose fangs are like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men" (Proverbs 30:11-14).

### Elders, Too, Share Blame

Despite all its laudatory characteristics, even the generation that Brokaw describes as the greatest is not without its sin and blame for conditions in society today. Often today's senior citizens did not properly instruct their offspring, spoiling their children and grandchildren, and they themselves were too materialistic. Too frequently they have taken credit for "winning the war" without acknowledging God's miraculous intervention in crucial battles, turning the tide against the Axis powers.

In Deuteronomy 8, God warns His people not to forget Him when they are blessed with tremendous natural resources and have eaten the abundance of the land. There is a consensus

throughout the western world today that "my power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17).

God, however, counters: "You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then, it shall be, if you by any means forget the



LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish" (Deuteronomy 8:18).

The same God who has blessed the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand with astonishing wealth and high standards of living can remove our stockpiles of food and riches just as He has removed our strong leaders. This generation's boom could turn to bust sudden-

ly, just as the roaring '20s came to a screeching halt with the stock market crash of 1929, followed by the Great Depression.

The Bible shows a time of extreme punishment coming on an evil, adulterous generation. It will pale into insignificance all of the compounded wars, famines and epidemics that have plagued mankind since time immemorial. It will be an unprecedented catastrophe in the annals of history.

Jesus Christ foretold this period would precede His return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. He warned: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.... Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place" (Matthew 24:21-22, 34).

The World War II generation is passing from the scene like old soldiers fading away. As Ecclesiastes states: "One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever" (Ecclesiastes 1:4). The generation living right before Christ's second coming will be ravaged by the most destructive and horrifying conditions ever to engulf our planet.

Yet beyond the terrifying years ahead of us lies a glorious millennial period ushered in by Jesus Christ, a time we call "Tomorrow's World," a time all generations will enjoy peace and prosperity based on adhering to God's holy, righteous spiritual laws that ensure happiness.

When Jesus Christ establishes the Kingdom of God on earth, His government will be exalted and all nations shall flow into it. No longer will warlike nations arise to wreak havoc. No longer will soldiers be slaughtered storming enemy fortifications, pilots shot out of the air or blood spilled in battle. No longer will families grieve for war casualties.

Just as Isaiah foresaw the crisis in leadership and morality that would afflict our peoples at the end of the age, leading to the horrific Great Tribulation, the Old Testament prophet waxes beautifully poetic describing the Millennium that will ensue.

"He will teach us His ways and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:3-4).

At that time, God's way of peace and harmony will be restored throughout the earth. No longer will people be reviled and despised for upholding standards of decency and morality. Successive generations will enjoy wonderful peace, prosperity and happiness during the thousand years of the Millennium. Their lives will not be disrupted by a call to arms. Their hopes and dreams of a bright future will be fulfilled. Young and old will dwell harmoniously together in tranquility in tomorrow's world.

Almighty God promises lasting peace, "My righteousness will be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation" (Isaiah 51:8). ☐

# What is HELL?

By Richard F. Ames

**Is there really a fiery hell where the souls of condemned men, women and children suffer for all eternity? Are human beings, created by God in His image, being tormented at this very moment? Traditional Christianity has its answer, but you may be surprised—and reassured—by what the Bible really says about hell.**

**A** Gallup Poll earlier this decade revealed that approximately three out of five Americans believe in hell. But popular opinion cannot tell us whether there really is a hell fire that forever torments the souls of the wicked. What does the Bible actually say?

The Bible clearly mentions the words **hell** and **fire**. But there are many misconceptions about hell. These misconceptions are not unique to Christians; indeed, this world's religions have a variety of beliefs regarding hell and the final judgment.

For example, the religion of Islam describes hell as a lake of fire. Islam's holy book, the Koran, states this belief regarding the wicked, "Sufficient scourge is the fire of hell. Those that deny Our revelations We will burn in fire. No sooner will their skins be consumed than We shall give them other skins, so that they may truly taste the scourge." (Sura 4, verses 55–56, translated by N. J. Dawood)

Such notions are common to many other faiths. In an article entitled "Other Faiths, Other Hells," (*U.S. News & World Report*, March 25, 1991) author Jeffrey Sheler notes that the religion of Jainism "views the universe as having three realms, the lowest containing 8.4 million hells where humans are punished for their sins. Those guilty of unpardonable sins are kept in a bottomless abyss forever." Sheler also points out that there are 21 hells of Hinduism where "the soul is recycled to a higher state in the next life."

Compare this to many Christians' belief in a temporary purgatory where souls are being purified by suffering excruciating torments, and their belief in a similar but never-ending hell in which souls will be tormented forever without any hope of redemption.

All of this can be quite upsetting and frightening. I remember as a boy hearing my pastor describe the flames of hell. This vivid and horri-

fying imagery stuck with me over the years. Yet had I known the truth at the time, I could have been comforted instead of frightened. Indeed, Jesus made the reassuring statement, "...you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

That Biblical truth, I later learned to my great surprise, is that at this moment in time **there is no human soul suffering in an ever-burning hell fire**. That's right! You need not worry that your relatives who may not have converted to your religion are now being tormented in the flames of hell!

Does that disappoint you? Sadly, some take pleasure in believing that the unconverted are suffering in eternal torment. They expect to spend eternity in heaven looking down on others suffering in hell. Could you enjoy heaven for all eternity, knowing that your loved ones and others are suffering excruciating torment? Many people expect to do just that. Such ones have been fooled terribly by Satan, and have been given a false and unbiblical understanding of the Creator as a cruel God, which He is not.

As we will see, God **will** in the future use a lake of fire at the final judgment. That fire will eventually engulf the earth and purify it. *That*—not an ever-burning torture pit for human beings—is the ultimate hell revealed in your Bible.

## The Fate of the Wicked

You have heard the gospel of the Kingdom preached on the *Tomorrow's World* telecast, and in the pages of this magazine. That gospel is the good news of Christ coming back to rule this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords! But did Jesus Himself also speak about a fiery judgment? Yes, He did!

When Christ returns, He will bring both rewards and condemnations. He will reward His faithful servants. As the Bible describes it, "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34).

But there is also punishment for those who have sealed their character as wicked and evil rebels against the way of God, the law of God and the love of God. As the Bible tells us, after rewarding His faithful servants, "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'" (Matthew 25:41).

What happens to these cursed individuals? Do they remain alive for all eternity? Or are they burned up? Here is what the Bible says will happen to the incorrigibly wicked—those who have sealed their

minds to never repent and never obey God: "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch" (Malachi 4:1).

The wicked will be totally destroyed. They will receive the eternal death penalty. Malachi continues with the description, "You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this," says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 4:3).

Those who have sealed their own fate, those who have determined never to repent of their evil attitude and nature, will be totally burned up and will become ashes! They will not be tormented forever. They will be totally annihilated!

Many people have wondered why, if God is such a just God, He condemns people to suffer for all eternity when they have never had a real chance to hear, believe or act upon the gospel. The answer is simple: *He does not do that!* God is just and fair.

It is Satan and his angels who will be tormented forever. Satan wants us to believe that his fate, as a spirit being, will be the fate of humans! Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9). Contrary to Satan's propaganda, God will **not** allow humans to suffer forever!

Notice Jesus' amazing statement, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Read this scripture in your own Bible! God is able to destroy both soul and body. Yes, God is so powerful that He can destroy souls forever! This means that life, *psuché* in the Greek, will be totally destroyed. There is no resurrection from the death that Jesus is speaking about! We will see this more clearly when we look at the book of Revelation later in this article.

We have seen that there is a widespread religious belief in the eternal punishing of wicked souls. Various religions believe that an ever-burning hell fire will torment evil humans forever. But we also saw that God is able to destroy the souls of humans. He will put the incorrigibly wicked out of their misery forever! God is fair and just!

## The Gift of Everlasting Life

John 3:16 is one of many Bible verses demonstrating God's loving nature toward every human being. Those who believe that God cannot, or does

not, totally destroy the incorrigibly wicked should take a closer look at this verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

First, let us realize that God has given His Son for you! You do not have to be one of those incorrigibly wicked that will be burned up in a lake of fire. You can be forgiven, if you repent and believe the gospel as Jesus said! “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom

## Would God consign individuals who have never heard the Gospel, to an ever-burning hell fire? No!

of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

But you need to **know** what you are doing, and not just react emotionally without proving the truth to yourself. The Bible tells us, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21, KJV). We encourage you to do that, by checking up—in your own Bible—on what you read in the pages of this magazine.

Of course, if you already have an immortal soul, then you would never perish. You would already have immortal life. Again, what do we read in John 3:16? “Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Jesus said that the wicked will perish, but that those who genuinely believe Him and obey Him will receive the gift of everlasting life. If you already have everlasting life as an immortal soul, then everlasting life would not be a gift. This is further emphasized in another scripture with which you are becoming familiar if you are a regular viewer of the *Tomorrow's World* telecast: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Again we see that the penalty for sin is death! Death is the absence of life. Eternal life is a precious gift through Jesus Christ!

### Dante and Hell Fire

Just where did the concept of souls burning in fire come from? Some ideas came from pre-Christian concepts, but the common idea of hell was popu-

larized in the famous poem *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri, written between 1302 and Alighieri's death in 1321. The poem consists of three parts, *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*—or *Hell*, *Purgatory*, and *Paradise*. In *Inferno*, the poet Virgil guides Dante on his journey through hell. At the entrance to Hell they encounter the foreboding sign: “Abandon all hope, you who enter here” (*Inferno*, translated by Elio Zappulla, Canto III, p. 39). Virgil tells Dante about his tour of hell, “I'll be your guide, and you will follow me, and I will lead you through a world of pain where dead souls writhe in endless agony and clamor, as they cry, to die again” (*Inferno*, Canto I, p. 24).

Dante continues his journey through the various compartments of hell, and writes, “So in the ditch, far down below the arch on which we stood, there bubbled viscous pitch... I only saw the bubbles rise and burst, the huge mass heave, contract, heave, and contract repeatedly...” Dante then sees someone consigned to hell, “The sinner plunged into the pitch... They pricked the sinner with a hundred prongs...” (*Inferno*, Canto XXI, pp. 189–191).

Dante wrote *The Divine Comedy* as an allegory, to teach certain principles and lessons. Its content also reflects the politics and history of Dante's contemporary Italy. His poem is not a literal reflection of the Bible's teaching on hell, but many have mistakenly come to accept as literal truths the images painted by Dante in his poem!

As we have already seen in Romans 6:23, “the wages of sin is death”—not life! Interestingly, Dante's poem calls sinners' supposed eternal agony the second death. This is very deceptive. The Bible refers to the second death, we will see later, as the total destruction of life in the lake of fire. The second death is not life in some place called hell. Death is **death**, not some form of continued living. Death is the absence of life!

### Which “Hell” Do You Mean?

What is incredible in most discussions about hell is the assumption that hell automatically means eternal fire! This is a very misleading definition. In fact, there are four words in the Bible that are translated “hell.” Let us get to the truth of the matter.

The original Old Testament language is Hebrew. In the King James translation of the Bible, the Hebrew word often translated “hell” is *sheol*—which

simply means pit or grave. It does not mean a place of ever-burning fire! The Hebrew word *sheol* occurs 65 times in the Old Testament and in the King James Version it is translated as “grave” 31 times; “hell” 31 times; and “pit” 3 times. The New International Version of the Bible translates the word *sheol* as “grave” and **never** translates *sheol* as “hell.” The word *sheol* simply means a “pit” or a “grave.”

So when someone asks you if you believe in hell, your response should be “Which hell?” The English word “hell” in your Bible does **not** automatically mean a place of fire or a place of eternal punishment!

There are three Greek words in the New Testament translated as “hell,” each of which has a different meaning. They are: *hades*, *gehenna* and *tartarus*.

The Greek word *hades* means “grave” or “pit” as does the Hebrew word *sheol*. It does NOT mean a place of fire.

The word *Gehenna* is derived from the Hebrew expression *ge hinnom* which means the “valley of Hinnom.” The valley is on the south side of Jerusalem. As have millions of other visitors, I have been there several times. You could say I have been to hell and back!

Anciently the valley of Hinnom was used as a place to dump Jerusalem's trash, which was burned up by sulphur-fed fires or devoured by worms and maggots. Occasionally the body of an executed criminal would be thrown into the fire. *Gehenna* thus became a symbol of a place of judgment associated with fire. The Greek word *gehenna* is used by the Gospel writer Matthew as he recounts Jesus' words, “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:22). That “hell fire” is actually *Gehenna* fire.

Jesus was saying that those who have an unrepentant murderous attitude would be in danger of *Gehenna*. As we will see later, it is the lake of fire where the unrepentant wicked are burned up and suffer the penalty of eternal death!

The fourth word translated “hell” in the Bible is based on the Greek word *tartarus*. This denotes a condition of restraint—and it does not apply to humans, but to fallen angels. Notice 2 Peter 2:4, “...God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment...”

Here is the explanation given in *An Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* by W. E. Vine: “The verb

*tartaroo*, translated ‘cast down to hell’ in 2 Peter 2:4, signifies to consign to Tartarus, which is neither *Sheol* nor hades nor hell, but the place where those angels whose special sin is referred to in that passage are confined ‘to be reserved unto judgment’; the region is described as ‘pits of darkness.’ RV”

So what then is hell? From the biblical perspective it is one of three different places or conditions:

- *Sheol* (in the Hebrew) or *Hades* (in the Greek) means “pit” or “grave.”

- *Gehenna* means “the valley of Hinnom.” Symbolically, this refers to fiery judgment.

- *Tartarus* which signifies the confining of fallen angels.

So you see, to use the word “hell” for all three meanings does not accurately communicate the truth of the Bible! You need to ask, “What particular hell are you talking about?”

### What Happens to the Ignorant?

Is God unfair? Will He not give a genuine opportunity for salvation to everyone on earth? Would God consign individuals, made in His image, who have never heard the Gospel, to an ever-burning hell fire? No! God is not unfair—He will give everyone an opportunity!

Yet how will the multitudes who have never heard Christ's name receive their opportunity? We recall that, speaking of the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, the apostle Peter boldly proclaimed “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

But billions of people have not even heard the true gospel or the name of their Savior. How could they even have a chance to believe? The Bible shows us that all humans will have their opportunity for salvation. For those who have not been called to really understand the truth, there is the White Throne Judgment described in the 20th chapter of Revelation.

Who will be in that judgment? Who will then be given their first opportunity for salvation? Let's look at one encouraging example. What do you think is the ultimate fate of some of the most wicked people on earth—people whom God has already punished? Notice what Jesus said about the wicked people of Sodom, “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land

of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you” (Matthew 11:23–24).

God consumed the people of Sodom with fire and brimstone and destroyed every human being! Are they now also suffering the so-called flames of hell? No! They are dead! Yet Jesus said it will be “more tolerable” for them in the day of judgment. What day of judgment is that? We discover in the 20th chapter of Revelation a resurrection to judgment, in which the books will be opened as the scriptures say. It is at this point that all those who have been spiritually blinded will receive an understanding of the Bible and the words of life for the first time: “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:12).

Yes, those who have suffered from their own sins and those who have been innocent victims of oppression and genocide, will be resurrected to understand the Book of Life. They will have their first real opportunity to understand the Gospel and the love of God the Father for all humanity. As Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

In the White Throne Judgment, billions of atheists, sinners and pagans will finally learn from their past suffering, and will be given the opportunity to truly repent, believe the gospel and eventually inherit the Kingdom of God.

## The Second Death

But what about those who have seared their conscience and given over their will to rebellion, hatred and sin? Those who have known the truth of God, but have willfully rejected His forgiveness and love, will be burned up in a lake of fire. “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14–15).

Here is the second death—the eternal death penalty from which there is no resurrection. Those who have sealed their mind never to repent or surrender to Jesus Christ, will be totally burned up. They will suffer the torment of knowing their fate before their final execution. But a loving and merciful God will put them out of their misery for all eternity.

Then, the whole earth will be purified by fire! “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2 Peter 3:10).

Once the earth is purified by Gehenna fire, the lake of fire, everyone will either be a glorified member of God’s family (as described in 1 Corinthians 15, the “resurrection chapter”)—or they will be dead for all eternity, burned up in the lake of fire. The Devil and his angels (as immortal spirits) will be tormented forever. That is **their** fate, not humanity’s!

God is a God of absolute justice and absolute love. He will give everyone the opportunity for salvation in His time and in His way. The Devil has deceived the whole world and has blinded the vast majority of human beings on earth today. But God has a plan of salvation, even for the wicked sinners of Sodom. They will have learned an excruciatingly painful lesson and will have their chance in the White Throne Judgment. And those who have been the innocent victims of injustice and genocide will be healed, restored and blessed with their first opportunity for salvation!

Those who are called, faithful and chosen in this age, will rule with Christ in His Kingdom. They will help teach, serve and rule the earth with Christ for 1,000 years. After this “Millenium” comes the resurrection to judgment. Then, finally, the real hell fire—the lake of fire—will consume the incorrigibly wicked.

Until then, we must heed the Apostle Peter’s warning, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:11)

Yes, we must be spiritually vigilant and faithful, looking forward to a wonderful future, a hope-filled future you have heard about on the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast and in the pages of this magazine. Peter continues, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless” (2 Peter 3:13). Indeed, we can rejoice with the apostle Peter that there is hope for all of us through our Savior Jesus Christ. ☐

## SEVEN REASONS (continued from Page 7)

SHAKE all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts” (Haggai 2:6–7). Indeed ALL nations will be “shaken” by the Almighty God in the most MONUMENTAL earthquakes imaginable. For God says that “EVERY mountain and every island will be moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:14).

So far, the *worst* earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and tornadoes have struck more *thinly populated* areas of the earth as a whole. But the time is coming — *and soon* — when they will begin to devastate the *big metropolitan areas* in the major cities of this earth.

Even the power of our latest hydrogen bombs is *dwarfed* into insignificance in comparison with the destructive capacity of EARTHQUAKES. It would take the combined force of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND atomic bombs of the Hiroshima class to begin to release the equivalent energy of only ONE of the major shocks in the earthquake which struck Mexico City a few years ago!

Because of REBELLION against God and His physical and spiritual LAWS, men will have to be literally SHAKEN to their senses. But in His *mercy*, God is going to CUT SHORT the days of this terrible punishment so that Christ may come as King of kings to teach man *how to live by God’s physical and spiritual laws* before mankind becomes any more DEPRAVED than it already is!

Someday — *probably within the next 15 years or less* — when *your city, your home, your little “world”* is suddenly SHAKEN by a devastating HURRICANE, volcanic ERUPTION, or EARTHQUAKE — you will begin to see a real NEED for *Jesus Christ’s second coming* to SAVE man from the results of SIN against his Maker!

## Reason 5: Escalating Sorrow and TERROR

The suicide rate of America’s young people continues to rise. And over much of the world — *in spite of our modern technology* — people’s lives are becoming more MISERABLE.



Pulitzer Prize winning author Allen Drury wrote these words a few months ago — just before his death at the age of 80, “We live in the Republic of Feel-Good, in a time when all the scum of America is rising to the top. The worried voices of the honest, the decent, the goodhearted and the levelheaded express their concerned dismay. Ever louder rises the chorus of the scum to drown them out. Down, and further down, sinks America as the scum steadily gain ground.”

More and more books are coming out like Robert Bork’s recent work, *The Death of Outrage*. The authors of these books — like Drury — express a sense of loss and hopelessness in the face of our growing immorality, our growing selfishness and rejection of almost all the good and decent values of the past.

In much of our western society, youth suicide is a powerful reminder of the utter emptiness and lack of purpose felt by so many. “Ireland has the fastest-growing rate of youth suicide in the world, and almost one in four suicides occur among those aged between 15 and 24,” the Catholic archdiocese of Dublin said in a statement at a recent conference on the subject” (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 14, 1999).

In the United States, nearly one out of every 150 people is in prison — a figure no other democracy comes close to matching. Many of the new inmates are drug offenders. The FBI recently reported that arrests of people who use drugs is at an all-time high. Drug use has markedly increased among our youth — especially for powerful drugs like heroin and methamphetamines. Are our young people trying to ESCAPE the real world which they consider empty and miserable by immersing themselves in the world of drugs and alcohol?

In our confused, do-your-own thing “value system,” America is no longer sure about what is right and what is wrong. So our cities are increasingly unsafe. More and more American high school girls get pregnant. About 1.5 million little human beings are murdered here each year while still in the womb. Yet we print on our currency, “In God We Trust.” Are we a hypocritical nation?

The Apostle James was inspired to write, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if

you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty” (James 2:10–12).

Notice that the “law” James is writing about is clearly the Ten Commandments. He states that Christians will be “judged” by that law (v. 12). In addition, the Ten Commandments are specifically called the “law of liberty.”

If obeyed, the Ten Commandments would liberate mankind from war, crime, divorce, drunkenness, drugs, AIDS and most of the mental and emotional tension and guilt that haunt so many people.

But a nation or a people without true values — and especially lacking in obedience to the “law of liberty,” the Ten Commandments — will eventually become a nation of miserable, confused and often suicidal people who have NO GOALS, no real PURPOSE in life, experiencing a profound emptiness in their day-to-day existence. Because God “rebukes and CHASTENS every son He loves,” the Almighty will soon intervene and PUNISH our peoples in order to SHAKE them out of their rebellious and miserable ways!

### Reason 6: Man’s “Last Hope for Peace” has FAILED!

The United Nations Conference assembled in San Francisco in the spring of 1945 to found an international political entity to preserve PEACE. Men and women of many races and colors were there from fifty-four nations — representing the majority of human beings living on the earth.

As the conference opened, General Jan Smuts of South Africa declared: “If San Francisco fails, then I see nothing but STARK DISASTER before mankind.”

“It is no exaggeration to say,” said Anthony Eden, “that the work on which we are making a start here may be THE WORLD’S LAST CHANCE...”

Remember?

Yes, those were the words we were hearing and reading back in 1945 from the acknowledged LEAD-

ERS of modern human civilization! But *go back even further*. Recall that even the League of Nations — formed after World I — was basically the *same type of organization*, formed for the same basic purpose. It, too, was called “*man’s last hope for peace*”!

As all the world knows since World War II began, the League of Nations miserably FAILED!

Why?

The real ANSWER is contained in the *Word of*

*God*. The book of James reveals part of it: “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).

Human nature is basically *hateful, resentful, competitive* and SELFISH. Until HUMAN NATURE is *changed, we will have war!*

“Where is the Security Council on Kosovo?” said Herbert S. Okun, a former American ambassador and an adviser to the United Nations on international drug issues. “or Ethiopia? Or even Iraq?”

The United Nations and Security Council are NOT stopping the bloody conflicts raging all over this earth! It is vital to realize that man *cannot* and WILL NOT solve his problems apart from the intervention of the Great GOD who gives us life and breath. One of the great military leaders of modern times grasped this fact very clearly. In an historic address to the joint houses of Congress, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur stated:

“The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh” (*The World’s Great Speeches*, p. 596, Dover Publications, 1958).



### Reason 7: Jesus PROMISED to Return

Though thousands of “modern” ministers, priests and religious teachers believe otherwise, the inspired Word of God is very clear about the fact that the Living Jesus Christ WILL return to this earth as King of kings. In fact, we just read that in Revelation 11:15! It all gets down to whether you actually BELIEVE *what the Bible clearly says over and over*.

The Prophet Zechariah was inspired to write, “Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...” (Zechariah 14:3–4). And verse 9 continues: “And the LORD shall be King over all the EARTH. In that day it shall be; ‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one.”

So Christ will rule over the nations *on this EARTH* after He returns — NOT up in heaven. Jesus Himself makes that clear in Matthew 25:31–34: “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

Since “all the NATIONS” will be brought before Christ for judgment at His second coming, the setting is obviously *here on this earth*. For not *any* rebellious nations or individuals will be allowed in heaven!

What happens to the “overcomers” — those who in this life *fully surrender* to let Christ live His obedient life in them through the Holy Spirit? “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations; ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’; as I also have received from My Father” (Revelation 2:26–27). The faithful saints are given RULERSHIP over the carnal nations *on this earth*. For, in the beginning of the Millennium, they will need to be ruled with “a ROD of iron” until they are able to be taught God’s way of life based on His Ten Commandments. Jesus Christ will be King of kings. Under Him will be the twelve apostles who are placed over the twelve nations of Israel — joined perhaps by resurrected saints such as Daniel and Paul who may rule over the Gentile nations — those whom they served in their human lifetimes.

Under these outstanding leaders in the Government of God on earth will be those faithful saints who

have truly “overcome” and SURRENDERED themselves to do God’s will and to keep His commandments through the Spirit of Christ within them. For God’s Word tells us: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those WHO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

### A Vital Part of the “GOOD NEWS”

Actually, the belief in a literal one-thousand-year reign of Christ on earth with the resurrected saints was part of the ORIGINAL GOSPEL — the message preached by the original Apostolic Church and preserved among God’s faithful people for many generations! However, it was gradually stamped out of professing Christianity by the reasonings and imaginations of various bishops and monks during the Dark Ages. Even the highly respected secular historian, Edward Gibbon, discovered this in his massive research of that time period. In his landmark work, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, he wrote:

“The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labor and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Gibbon, Vol. I, p. 403).

Within the lifetimes of many of us, this part of the “Lord’s Prayer” WILL be answered, “Your Kingdom *come*, Your will be *done on EARTH* as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

Speaking in the first person, Jesus promises to return quickly, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12). God grant that our “works” may be pleasing in His sight so that our “reward” may be truly fulfilling. For Jesus Christ is coming SOON. We have seen *seven* vital reasons why Christ MUST RETURN to save mankind — not the least of which is that He PROMISED to do so. *God speed that day!* ☐

# Tomorrow's World Television Log

## A FOURTH REICH? (continued from Page 17)

heritage of the Assyrians would survive. The annals of history strongly suggest the Germans are the bearers of that ancient legacy. It is written on their national character. It is linked to their origins. When the bible speaks of Assyria in the end times' it is speaking of Germany. No other modern nation fits the description so completely.

Germany's return to power in the years since World War II is no accident. God prophesied over 2,500 years ago that He would bring certain events to pass to accomplish His purpose (Isaiah

46:9-10; Revelation 17:17). Germany is the leading player in the effort to form a European Union. This union may become the long-prophesied, ten-nation beast power that will again rise out of the ashes of the Roman (and Holy Roman) Empire (Revelation 17:9-14).

Germany has played this role numerous times before. This emerging configuration will become a global economic power (Revelation 18:2-3, 9-14) and will use that power for political purposes. It will appear peaceful at first but will be transformed into a devouring, war-making beast (Daniel 11:21; Revelation 13:2-3; Revelation 17:12-14). Daniel describes this end-time kingdom as a strong

and ferocious beast with "iron teeth" (Daniel 2:40-45; 7:7, 19-23). Yet, amazing as it may seem, Bible prophecy also indicates that God will eventually utilize the remarkable German people (Assyria) as a leading nation for peace in the coming kingdom of God (Isaiah 19:23-25).

God will use the outstanding intellectual and cultural strengths of the German people to help enrich the world during the coming millennial rule of Jesus Christ. As all peoples of the earth, the Germans have in their national character both strengths and weaknesses. In tomorrow's world, God will use the remarkable strengths of the Germans to serve their fellow man! ☞

## PERSONAL (continued from Page 3)

to mankind — makes it very clear that the overwhelming majority of humans is DECEIVED. Revelation 12:9 tells us, "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." The Apostle Paul also warns us of this vital fact, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Our job is to help you genuinely come to understand the meaning of true Christianity. For we at Tomorrow's World are dedicated also to restoring apostolic Christianity to our readers and followers. We do NOT claim to have found some gold tablets under a hill somewhere, or to have received a book from an angel or to have heard some heavenly voice giving us a new revelation. Rather, we can show you plainly and clearly that the original Christianity of Jesus Christ and the apostles has been "hijacked." It was systematically stamped out of mainstream Christianity during the appropriately named Dark Ages.

Yet the true religion of Christ and the apostles will help you come to know God genuinely. You won't merely know about God. You will come to know and to become deeply acquainted with the awesome God who created the vast universe — and who now RULES over His creation, intervening directly from time to time to work out His magnificent purpose. As this real understanding of God and His will gradually permeates your thinking, you will find that your marriage, your children, your work and your entire LIFE will take on a richer meaning.

You will truly learn how to be successful in all phases of your life. For Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). We will help you learn the true way to that abundant life. Beyond that, we will do our best to give you the vital keys to eternal life in tomorrow's world. Happy reading!

*Roderick C. Meredith*

## International

### —AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: ACE—Ch 6/31, SUN 11:30 am  
Brisbane: BRIZ—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am

### —NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Triangle Television—Ch 41, SUN 5:00 pm  
Nelson: Mainland TV—Ch 61, SUN 8:30 am

### —PHILIPPINES

Borongan: Borongan Cable—Ch 25, SAT 3:00 pm  
Manila: Home Cable—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am  
Naval, Leyte: Naval Cable—Ch 8, SUN 9:00 am,

### —CANADA (nationwide)

ON, Toronto: Vision—SUN 6:30 pm (ET & PT)

## United States

AL, Birmingham: Cable—Ch 3, TUE 4:00 pm  
AL, Montgomery: TCI—Ch 3, SAT 5:30 pm  
AR, Fayetteville: Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
AR, Little Rock: Comcast—Ch 27, MON 10:30 am; THUR 5:30 pm  
AZ, Phoenix: Access—Ch 22, FRI 3:00 pm  
AZ, Prescott: Cable—Ch 13, SAT 9:00 pm; SUN 8:30 am  
AZ, Tucson: Access—Ch 62, Fri 2:30 pm MON 7:30 pm  
CA, Anaheim: Century—Ch 3, TUE 4:00 pm  
CA, Buena Park: Comcast—Ch 55, THUR 7:30 pm  
CA, Eureka: Cox—Ch 10, FRI 5:30 pm  
CA, Garden Grove: Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 10:30 am  
CA, Modesto: Cable One—Ch 8, TUE 3:00 pm  
CA, Oceanside: KOCT—Ch 17, SUN 5:30 pm  
CA, Riverbank: SONIC—Ch 9, WED 6:00 pm  
CA, Sacramento: RCCTV—Ch 20, WED 7:00 pm  
CA, San Andreas: Media One—Ch 4, TUE 4:00 pm  
CA, San Diego: Cox—Ch 18, & 24 THUR 6:00 pm  
CA, Sonoma: TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
CA, Turlock: Marcus—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
CT, Naugatuck: Tele-Media—Ch 10, THUR 9:30 pm  
FL, Gainesville: Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm  
FL, Ocala: Cox—Ch 35, SUN 10:00 am  
HI, Honolulu: Olole—Ch 23, & 53 SUN 11:00 pm  
IA, Des Moines: TCI—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
IA, Waterloo: Cable—Ch 2, WED 9:00 pm  
ID, Pocatello: Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:30 pm  
IL, Bloomington: TCI—Ch 10, SUN 10:00 am; MON 8:00 pm  
IL, Peoria: TCI—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
IL, Springfield: TCI—Ch 4, TUE 6:00 pm  
IN, Elkhart: TCI—Ch 3, THUR 7:30 pm  
IN, Flora: Marcus—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm; TUE 9:00 pm  
IN, Frankfort, IN: Marcus—Ch 2, SUN 7:30 pm; THUR 9:30 pm  
IN, Lafayette: Insight—Ch 13, TUE 8:30 pm  
IN, Monticello: Marcus—Ch 2, SUN 9:30 am  
KS, Chanute: Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm

KS, Parsons: Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm; WED 9:30 pm  
MD, Baltimore: TCI—Ch 5, SUN 10:00 am; SUN 6:00 pm  
MN, Duluth: Public Access—Ch 7 & 24, SAT 9:30 am; SUN 9:30 am  
MN, Minneapolis: NW Community—Ch 35, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
MO, St. Louis: Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
MS, Jackson: Capitol Cable—Ch 11, WED 12:00 am  
ND, Bismarck: CATV—Ch 12, SUN 3:00 pm  
NJ, Hudson County: Cablevision—Ch 63, MON 8:30 pm  
NJ, Oakland: Cablevision—Ch 19/20, SUN 7:00 pm  
NM, Albuquerque: CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 5:00 pm  
NV, Carson City: Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm  
NV, Gardnerville: Community Access—Ch 26, SUN-SAT (no set time)  
NV, Reno/Sparks: SNCT—Ch 30/16, SAT 12:00 pm  
NY, Brooklyn: BCAT—Ch 35, SUN 11:00 pm  
NY, Elmira & Corning: Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 9:30 am  
NY, Hauppauge: Cablevision—Ch 25, FRI 10:30 pm  
NY, Port Jefferson: TCI—Ch 1/99 THUR 11:00 pm  
NY, Riverhead: Cablevision—Ch 27, MON 4:30 pm  
NY, Rochester: Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 10:00 am  
OK, Tulsa: TCI—Ch 9, MON 12:00 am  
TX, Corpus Christi: TCI—Ch 10, THUR 2:00 pm; FRI 10:30 am; SUN 11:00 am;  
TX, Dallas: Community Television—Ch 14b, FRI 2:00 pm; SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
TX, Temple: KPLE—Ch 31/46, SUN 7:30 pm  
VA, Chesterfield: Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
WA, Bellingham: TCI—Ch 10, SUN 8:00 am  
WA, Seattle: TCI—Ch 29, FRI 12:00 pm  
WA, Vancouver: Clark/Vanco—Ch 49, SUN 9:30 am

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



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