

November-December 2004

# Tomorrow's World

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



## The Weather Factor!

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## The FEAR of God

An enormous danger to the very survival of western civilization is now presenting itself. It will soon have a more dramatic and powerful effect upon our nations than any massive earthquake in the history of mankind. Simply put, this quickly growing danger is an almost total lack of what the Bible calls “*the fear of God.*”

“Why become excited about this old-fashioned religious idea?” you might ask. The *answer* is that when mankind turns away from deep respect for the idea—and the authority—of the Creator God, it is in grave danger of *anarchy* and of *total breakdown* in the norms of decent civilization. And it is in danger of the *wrath* of a real God who *does* exist, as we will *soon* realize when He begins to intervene even more powerfully in world affairs!

In America, Canada, Britain and Australia, we are already almost there! Consider: more than *40 million* unborn children have been put to death by abortion in the 30 years since the United States Supreme Court declared abortion legal. This far exceeds even the six million Jewish people who were killed under Adolph Hitler’s Nazi regime in Germany. When you really understand it from the Creator’s point of view, legalized abortion is one of the greatest “holocausts” in human history!

What is happening in the United States and other British-descended nations today is essentially the *same* as what happened in ancient Israel after that nation turned away from God. The book of Judges reveals a litany of unchecked violence, countless murders, sexual horrors and general confusion, and concludes: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

In other words, when men begin to invent their own “standard of righteousness”—when they begin to “do what is right in *their own eyes*”—great confusion, lawlessness and chaos eventually follows. Your Bible says: “There is a way that *seems right* to a man, but its end is the way of *death*” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). Men have all kinds of ideas that “seem” right.

But Jesus Christ said: “*It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’*” (Luke 4:4).

All professing-Christian churches and ministers know Jesus’ *foundational* teaching of living by *every word* of God. So *why* do they fail to follow this clear teaching? *Why* do they *directly contradict* this inspired command from Christ in their own teachings regarding homosexuality, abortion and a host of other issues? *Why* do they persist in calling themselves “Christian,” yet *directly contradict* dozens of the clear teachings of the very Founder of Christianity?

**Why?**

Frankly, they do this because God seems “far off” to most of them. He is an *unreal* or *vague intellectual* concept to many—including some who are highly educated in the colleges and seminaries of this world. Put simply, they do *not* have what the Bible calls “*the fear of God.*”

The inspired book of Proverbs tells us: “The *fear* of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7). Again: “The *fear* of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (9:10). True knowledge, wisdom and understanding all flow from a profound *awareness of*, and a sincere *awe* and deep *respect* for, the Creator of the heavens and the earth—the Lord and Giver of life. Without this profound *respect* for the real God, mankind simply stumbles around in the darkness of confusion, human lusts, and the *intellectual vanities* of many who like to try out various ideas that titillate their own intellect!

Mankind desperately *needs* to come to a deep awareness and appreciation of the great God who gave life to all, and who now governs the rise and fall of nations and the overall course of human affairs. But we have *turned our back* on that real God, and so *He* has turned His back on us!

**Continued on page 30**



# Vital “Key” To END-TIME Prophecy

By Roderick C. Meredith

**H**ow can you *really* understand the traumatic events beginning to affect the entire world? How can you make sense of the adversities that seem to be afflicting especially the American and British-descended peoples scattered all over this earth? What is the vital “key” that will help you fully grasp the *prophetic meaning* of the fast-moving events reported each day in newspapers and on television news?

Can the ancient prophecies that Almighty God inspired centuries ago “come alive” for you? Can they help give a sense of understanding and purpose to your life? Can they help you know how to seek and find divine protection in the years just ahead?

As you ponder these important questions, I must throw out to you a challenge: you must be willing to *prove to yourself* that—in its original writing—the Bible really is the *inspired Word* of your Creator. You must be willing to understand that the great God who gave us life and breath inspired this book and that, in the Bible, *God says what He means and means what He says!*

Speaking of what most people call the Old Testament, Jesus Christ said: “*The Scripture cannot be broken*” (John 10:35). Jesus also

said: “*Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). Again, speaking of the “Old Testament”—*the only written scripture then available*—Jesus said: “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God’” (Luke 4:4).

Approximately one-fourth of the entire Bible is prophecy. It is **vital** that we genuinely understand God’s revelation to mankind, and understand how *He* will guide the rise and fall of nations and empires—how *He* will orchestrate world events and the decisions of men to bring about His plan here on earth, and teach all mankind the **lessons** that we need to learn in order to fulfill God’s ultimate purpose for human life.

The Eternal God told ancient King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon that he would be removed from office and greatly humbled, “until you know that the Most High **rules** in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever *He* chooses” (Daniel 4:32). The Bible clearly reveals that our Creator is in charge of major world events—that He sets up great nations and also *brings them down* to fulfill His purpose. God’s Word also tells us: “For whom the LORD loves He **chastens**, and *scourges* every son whom He receives” (Hebrews 12:6). God repeatedly indicates that He, our Creator, will “chasten” or will punish *entire nations* when it is necessary, to teach them lessons through this process.

## God Promises to Reveal the Future

God’s inspired prophet Amos wrote: “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it? Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:6–7). The great-

est prophet of all time, Jesus Christ, stated that the *most awful tribulation in human history* would immediately precede His Second Coming. After describing the **end-time** events of increasing *wars, famines, disease epidemics* and massive *earthquakes*, Jesus said: “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).

Most prophecy students fail to ask: “Will this Great Tribulation *equally* affect all parts of the earth? Or will it *primarily* affect **particular** nations—before the trumpet plagues and seven last plagues, which come later, affect all the world and humble the *entire* human race just before Christ returns?”

The answer is that although many nations are to be involved in the coming Tribulation—some as “instruments” God will use to punish others—the Bible *reveals* that the soon-coming Great Tribulation will *primarily* focus on chastening God’s “birthright” peoples. God has given these nations the greatest *blessings* and the greatest *power* in modern history, yet they are rapidly *turning away* from the God who gave them these blessings. In fact, these nations are beginning to “despise” God’s *name* and **everything** for which He stands!

We desperately need to know *who* God’s birthright peoples are. Our *very lives* may depend upon it. For the Great Tribulation—the **greatest** tribulation in human history—is soon

destined to fall primarily upon *these very peoples*.

### The “Birthright” Peoples

When God told Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldees, He said: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a **great nation**; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:1–3).

Later, God told Abram (as he was first named): “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for *all the land* which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered” (Genesis 13:14–16). Yet, just as liberal ministers have tried to “spiritualize away” much of the Bible, they have also attempted to explain away these scriptures—and the following **promises** of God—as applying only to the relatively small nation of ancient Israel, or only to the spiritual blessings of the Church. But God is *clearly* talking about *physical* blessings such as *national territory, military power* and *control* of the “gates” of their enemies. These **awesome** promises *cannot* be trivialized or “spiritualized away”!

For example: after Abraham had proved his *total submission* and *trust* in God by being willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, the

Eternal God stated: “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the **gate** of their enemies” (Genesis 22:16–17).

Rebekah, who would become the wife of Abraham’s son Isaac, was given this blessing: “Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the **gates** of those who hate them” (Genesis 24:60). What **gates** could these prophecies be talking about? What kind of gate would help God’s birthright peoples achieve and maintain both economic and military power all over the world?

If you have studied military strategy, geopolitics and world trade, you will recognize that the “sea gates” have been the most vital—and very nearly the only—gates that have had much significance in the last few hundred years. And **who** was given control over virtually all of these sea gates? Britain and the U.S.!

Until recently, the U.S. controlled the Panama Canal—one of the most vital sea passages on earth—and the British peoples controlled the other major sea gates *all over the world!* They controlled the Suez Canal, Singapore and the Malacca Straits, the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el Mandeb—controlling the *southern* entrance to the Red Sea as the Suez controlled the northern entrance. The British also controlled the vital naval base of Simonstown, South Africa,

guarding the passage around the southern tip of Africa. They *still* control Gibraltar (guarding the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea) and the Falkland Islands (which have been used to control shipping around the southern tip of South America)—yet these last two gates are even now in grave danger of slipping from British control. *Watch the daily news!*

“So, what’s the ‘big deal?’” some may ask.

The big deal is that God gave the American and British-descended peoples unprecedented national resources and wealth—and gave them these “gates” to control trade and naval action *all over the world*—allowing them to rise to a level of power and prosperity far surpassing the Roman Empire or **any other** group of nations in human history!

This fact *must not* be “spiritualized away.”

Because of Abraham’s obedience and God’s great *purpose*, these awesome blessings have come down through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph to the *modern* descendents of Joseph—the American and British-descended peoples. We who are willing to understand should give the Eternal God great *thanks, praise* and **worship** for keeping His solemn promises and demonstrating His **love** and His **power** in these latter days of human history!

## **How God’s Promise Has Come to Us**

In His inspired Word, God spelled out and enlarged to Abraham His promises of national greatness, telling his grandson:

“Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but **Israel** shall be your name.’ So He called his name Israel. Also God said to him: ‘I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a **nation** and a **company of nations** shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body’” (Genesis 35:10–11).

The name “Israel” was given to Jacob and his descendents. Which of Jacob’s descendents would *continue* to bear the name “Israel”? The genuine *answer* may surprise you!

Most people *assume* that “Israel” and “the Jews” are synonymous! But they are **not**! Jacob, whose name was changed to “Israel,” had 12 sons. One was named “Judah,” from whom come the Jews. One of the younger sons was named “Joseph.” *He* was the one Simeon, Levi, Judah and the other brothers sold into slavery. They had become *jealous* of Joseph, because, as the Bible tells us: “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him” (Genesis 37:3–4).

After being sold into slavery in Egypt, Joseph rose to become “governor” of the *entire nation*, reporting only to Pharaoh! For Joseph had *unusual ability* to manage men and material wealth with skill and wisdom.

At the end of Israel’s life, God guided him to give *Joseph*—not Reuben, Judah or one of the older brothers—the “birthright” inheritance of great wealth and power. Judah, father of the Jewish peo-

ple, received the “scepter” promise—that from him would come the kingly line and the Messiah who would eventually *rule all nations* (Revelation 11:15). Notice the clear *biblical proof*: “Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright; yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, *although the birthright was Joseph’s*” (1 Chronicles 5:1–2).

So, just before Jacob (or “Israel”) died, God guided him to place his hands on Joseph’s two sons (not Judah), conferring upon *them* the “birthright” promise (Genesis 48:14–22). Soon after this, as he was dying, “Jacob called his sons and said, ‘Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the **last days**’” (Genesis 49:1). Notice that these promises were to come to fruition in the “last days”—the **end** of this age. God said of Judah, the Jew: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people” (v. 10). Judah had unusual brilliance in many ways and would be “praised” (v. 8) by his brothers. Actually, the word Judah *means* “praise.” In modern times, the Albert Einsteins, Leonard Bernsteins, Alan Greenspans and *countless* of the world’s outstanding scientists, musicians, doctors and economists have come from the Jewish people—**far more**, proportionately, than from any other ethnic group on the face of the earth! From Judah came King

David, and later Jesus Christ Himself—plus most of His apostles. So the Jewish people certainly do merit *praise* and respect for their abilities and contributions to mankind. And we all need to be forever mindful of the fact that—in His human form—Jesus Christ, our Savior, was a *Jew!*

However, as the Bible clearly states, the *birthright* was *Joseph's* (1 Chronicles 5:2). So, when we read Genesis 49, we see just a verse or two describing the destiny in the last days of most of the modern nations descending from Jacob. But when we read what God inspired Jacob to prophesy about *Joseph's* descendents in these “last days”—Wow!

### Why Was the Birthright Promise Delayed?

If they inherited the “birthright” promise, then why did America and the British-descended nations only rise to true greatness in the last 200 years? In Leviticus 26, God warned that if Israel turned to the worship of idols, He would punish the nation “seven times more” for their sins. The Hebrew word for “times” indicates duration of punishment, not merely intensity, as in Nebuchadnezzar’s “seven times” (seven years) of punishment (see Daniel 4:32). What is a prophetic “time”? Revelation 12 and 13 use the expressions “1,260 days” and “time, times, and half a time” and “42 months” interchangeably. Forty-two months of 30 days each are equal to 1,260 days—or three-and-a-half years. Clearly, then, 2,520 days—1,260 doubled—are the equivalent of

“seven times.” Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6 establish the principle that a day is equal to a year in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Beginning from 721BC, when Israel first went into captivity, this “seven times” extension of its



**The American military, formerly accustomed to easy victories, is facing tremendous obstacles in its effort to “democratize” Iraq. ©DVIC**

punishment would run for 2,520 years—until 1800AD, when indeed the U.S. and the British Empire began their rapid rise to world dominance. God fulfilled His promise to bless Israel; He also delayed it according to His promised punishment!

For the last 200 years or so, the British-descended peoples of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have inhabited the choicest parts of the earth, and have received unparalleled blessings of prosperity and national power. Even the peoples of the Roman Empire, at its very zenith, did not have the wealth and power—and worldwide influence—with which America and the British peoples have been blessed. Together, we won World War I and World War II. The weather (controlled by God; see “The Weather Factor!” on page 10 of this issue), miraculous circumstances and incredible blun-

ders by our enemies, all gave the U.S. and Britain decisive victories in those major wars. Together, these nations were absolutely *unbeatable* during these many years.

However, after World War II, the U.S. did have to compromise in the Korean conflict and then suffer a degree of actual humiliation in the Vietnam War. America quickly won a *limited* “victory” in the first Gulf War (though without even reaching Baghdad or ousting Saddam Hussein). In the second Gulf War, however, America is running into *tremendous* obstacles trying to “finish the job” in Iraq. In the months and years to come, it will

prove extremely difficult—if not impossible—to “democratize” Iraq and the rest of the Islamic world. America has some *fearful* lessons to learn as it continues to turn away from God—yet many Americans still expect, somehow, that the God of heaven will always “see us through” as He has in past generations!

Remember—the wonderful physical blessings America has received were *not* given because of the nation’s inherent goodness. They have come because of an entire series of *awesome promises* that the Eternal God made to the biblical patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. *Notice these promises carefully.* Remember, as Jesus Christ said: “The Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

### America and the British Empire in Prophecy

Read carefully the magnificent prophecy: “Joseph is a fruit-

ful bough, a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), by the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. *The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.* They shall be on the head of **Joseph**, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers” (Genesis 49:22–26).

Remember, this inspired prophecy is telling us what would happen to Ephraim and Manasseh—the sons of Joseph—who were destined to become a single “great” nation and also a “company” or *commonwealth* of nations (Genesis 48:8–19). They were to bear the name “Israel” (v. 16)!

Where, in these last days, have we seen one truly **great** nation—and a group of related people who became a “**company of nations**”—together blessed in these last 200 years with national wealth and power *above all other nations*? When you consider where these powerful prophecies may have been fulfilled in modern times, it is clear that **only** the U.S. and the British-descended peoples have fulfilled *these specific predictions*!

In these last days, it is obvious that the U.S. is overwhelmingly the most powerful and pros-

perous nation on earth. But let us *not forget* that up until the end of World War II, the **British Empire** was the largest and most powerful group of nations ever to assemble in human history! As was often stated: “The sun never set on the British E m p i r e . ”

Comprising Britain itself, C a n a d a , Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, both northern Rhodesia and southern Rhodesia (now Zambia and Zimbabwe), Egypt, the Sudan and many other nations and territories, this mighty empire circled the

globe, guided the destinies of *hundreds of millions* of people, possessed one of the most powerful naval fleets on earth, controlled most of the vital “sea gates” of the earth, and spread its language, literature and commerce all over the world in a way that no other power before had ever done.

Together, the U.S. and the British Empire proved absolutely unbeatable—until they began to turn away from God. The two “brothers”—Ephraim and Manasseh—were granted control over most of the world’s developed resources. They shared a common language, culture and religion. When you read the inspired prophecy of Genesis 49:22–26, you should be moved by the words of this remarkable

prophecy for these two “brother” nations in the last days: “The Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. *The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my*

*ancestors, up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills.* They shall be on the head of **Joseph**, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers” (vv. 25–26).

These words are very much like the religious and patriotic hymns of our two nations, describing our mutual blessings “from sea to shining

sea.” Throughout his speeches and in his writings, Sir Winston Churchill commented upon the remarkable and meaningful relationship between the American and British-descended peoples. One of these prescient statements was contained in Churchill’s address to the U.S. Congress on December 26, 1941: “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. It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will for their own safety and for the good of all



**“Some great purpose and design is being worked out here below, of which we have the honor to be faithful servants.”—British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. ©KRT**



walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.”

Indeed, as Churchill stated, a “great purpose and design” is being worked out here on earth. The American and British people *have* been used as God’s “servants” to preserve a degree of peace and human liberty in the modern world—*up until recent years!*

But, as we turned more and more away from God and His ways, *He* orchestrated the downfall of the former British Empire. *He* has taken away *most* of the *sea gates* formerly controlled by Britain and America. He is *now* in the process of **humbling** both of these peoples as nearly everything is beginning to **go wrong** in their wars, as the American dollar continues to drop in value and as respect for America and Britain declines *all over the world!* So what will be the **outcome** of all of this?

## God’s Loving Corrective Punishment

God called the American and British-descended peoples as “custodians” of the great blessings that He had promised Abraham. These blessings were **not** given because they were “better” people in any spiritual or moral sense. Again and again, God specifically *warned* in many prophecies that if His people turned away from Him, He would *take away* these blessings and bring them into national tribulation and disgrace! For the Great Tribulation predicted by Jesus Christ was specifically prophesied to come upon both Israel and Judah in the latter days (Jeremiah 30:4–6). God said: “Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and *it is the time of Jacob’s trouble*, but he

shall be saved out of it. ‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them’ (vv. 7–9).

This time of “**Jacob’s trouble**,” coming upon the descendants of the **entire** House of Israel, will certainly come primarily upon the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, who had the greatest blessings from God in the first place!

God indicates that when they are finally delivered, “foreigners shall no more *enslave them*.” And then, “but they shall serve the Eternal their God, and **David** their king whom I will *raise up* for them.” This is at the time of the **resurrection from the dead** when King David will once again be made king over all Israel. When the prophet Ezekiel was inspired to describe the reuniting of all the tribes of Israel in Ezekiel 37:24, he stated: “**David** my servant shall be *king over them*, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.” And in

verse 25: “My servant **David** shall be their prince forever.”

Though the God of heaven will bring on the American and British-descended peoples the *greatest national tribulation* in human history, He will finally bring them back: “With *weeping* and with *supplications* I will lead them” (Jeremiah 31:9). *After* they have been humbled enough to begin to learn their lesson, God will deliver them. Meanwhile, we all need to realize that God **has kept His word!** He *has* given the sons of Abraham through the sons of Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh—the **awesome** blessings that He promised. As we understand the vital “key” to our national origins, we should not only rejoice, but we should also *take heed* that we, individually, may be protected from this coming Great Tribulation if we will truly repent and turn to God. For, speaking of the terrible events of these last days, Jesus Christ stated: “**Watch** therefore, and **pray** always that you may be counted worthy to **escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). Each of us needs to *understand* and *prove to ourselves* this important “key” to understanding end-time prophecy! ☐

## To Learn More...



God blessed the United States and Great Britain—yet those blessings are being lost as a result of national disobedience. How will the decline of these great nations affect **your** life?

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



# The Weather Factor!

By Douglas S. Winnail

**Skeptics may ridicule the idea that God guides world events, but history tells a different story!**

**T**oday it is often considered inappropriate to talk seriously about God in classrooms or textbooks. Many smirk if a world leader mentions God's name, and consider anyone who believes that God intervenes directly in human affairs to be pitifully ignorant or simple-minded. As a result, modern history has been sanitized of references to the supernatural, and of the role God has played in human affairs.

One of the great tragedies of our age is that *remarkable evidence* of divine intervention has been ignored, glossed over or deliberately hidden from most people today! The Bible and the historical record clearly show that God has *dramatically intervened* in human affairs—often using the weather. Bible prophecy indicates that in the years ahead, God will again intervene in astonishing ways using weather-related events. You need to understand why!

## **God, the Bible and Weather**

The Bible records that God has again and again used *the weather* to accomplish His purposes. God used 40 days of torrential rains, in a *great flood*, to terminate a civilization totally corrupted by violence, wickedness and perversion (Genesis 6:5–13). Secularists may doubt that the Biblical account ever occurred, and try to dismiss it as an idea taken from Babylonian mythology. But even a brief reading of the Babylonian *Epic of Gilgamesh*, with its capricious gods and quickly disappearing waters, suggests that the Babylonian story is a fanciful account of the event that the Bible more realistically describes. Those who assume that the flood was localized, or fictional, ignore that flood traditions are found *around the world*—from Babylon, Egypt and Greece to China, Polynesia, Mexico and Peru. The *world-*

*wide reach* of these legends only makes sense if the event *really happened* and God *did* intervene in human affairs with a weather-related event!

To understand *why* God has intervened on behalf of certain individuals and nations, we must understand the plan of God as revealed in Scripture. After the Flood, God began to work with Abraham and his family. God promised Abram and Sarai that—if *they would obey His laws*—their descendants would inherit certain lands, be blessed and become great nations and be a blessing to the world (Genesis 12:17). These promises—*conditioned on obedience*—were repeated and expanded to their son Isaac and their grandson Jacob—and eventually focused on Joseph and his sons Ephraim and Manasseh—whose descendants can be identified today (for more on this topic, please request our free booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*).

Joseph's brothers, jealous over his prophesied future, sold him into slavery in Egypt. God then used weather-related events—a dream forecasting seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine—to bring Joseph to the attention of Pharaoh (Genesis 41). The famine also brought Joseph's entire family to Egypt. Later, as their numbers grew, the Egyptians enslaved them. God then delivered the Israelites by a series of supernatural plagues, including a terrifying hailstorm (Exodus 9:18) that humbled the most powerful nation on the earth and revealed to the Egyptians the power of the real God. When an Egyptian army pursued them as they fled, the panicking Israelites were told that “the LORD will fight for you” (Exodus 14:14, 25; Joshua 23:3). God then *parted the waters* of the Red Sea using a *strong east wind* that allowed the Israelites to escape, while the Egyptians perished when the waters came together.

Skeptics dismiss these stories as myths, yet *inscriptions* and *documents* from ancient Egypt, Greece and Arabia mention Joseph. They mention the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. They mention the great plagues that came on Egypt. They mention Moses leading the Exodus out of Egypt through the Red Sea (see *The Signature of God*, Jeffrey, pp. 44–53; see also *The Exodus Case*, Moller). God delivered the Israelites because He intended to use the nation—if it obeyed His laws—as an *example the world could follow* (Deuteronomy 4:1–10). However, the Israelites *failed to obey* and were conquered by the Assyrians. Emerging from captivity, the Israelite tribes migrated into northwest Europe, where the history of the British and American peoples *dramatically illus-*

*trates* how God has intervened in human affairs to *accomplish* His plan and *fulfill* Bible prophecies.

## Storms and the Rise of Britain

The rise of Britain as a world power began in 1588 with the defeat and destruction of the Spanish Armada. The Spanish king, Philip II, controlled the world's most powerful military force and ruled a global empire. He believed he was chosen to rule by God and was determined to reunite a “Christendom” shattered by the Reformation. Emboldened by success after annexing Portugal, invading the Azores and defeating the Turks at Lepanto, Philip launched his “invincible” Armada of 130 ships and 30,000 men to bring England back to the Roman Catholic fold (see *Empire, War and Faith*, Parker). Philip believed that since he had “dedicated this enterprise to God... God would send good weather” and that “God would intervene to ensure the desired outcome” (*ibid.*, p. 61).

However, when the Armada sailed from Lisbon it was battered by gales and high seas that damaged and scattered ships, and undermined the morale of commanders and men. Reaching the English Channel, the Armada fought a series of battles with the British navy. Although outnumbered and poorly provisioned, the British ships were faster and carried iron cannons that fired more quickly and had a longer range than the brass cannons of the Spanish. After losing several ships in a battle off the coast of France, the Spanish admiral headed north toward Scotland with a still-powerful fleet of 100 ships, pursued by British ships that were nearly out of powder.

Although some modern historians credit victory to the superior technology of British ships and armaments, *the real story was the weather*—and the so-called “Protestant” wind. Historian Simon Schama comments that “at every stage it was *geography and the weather* that decided the outcome... it was when the Armada rounded the northwest tip of Scotland and ran into *merciless Hebridean gales and tempests* that it was *destroyed*” (*A History of Britain*, p. 386). The Spanish lost 30 to 40 ships on the perilous voyage around Ireland, and the 50 battered boats that limped back to Spain were manned by skeleton crews, decimated by hunger, thirst and disease.

A century later, the weather again played a *dramatic role* in English history. When King James II tried to take England back to Roman Catholicism, English nobles invited the Dutch Protestant Prince William of Orange to intervene. In 1688, William launched an armada even

bigger than the Spanish armada—consisting of more than 500 ships, 40,000 men and 5,000 horses. William took a “colossal gamble” in launching a November invasion, yet this time a series of *remarkable changes* in the weather favored the invader! The Dutch fleet originally sailed north, “but *the elements took control. A gale blew up* and the fleet had to sail [south] through the Dover Straits and then west” (*This Sceptred Isle*, Lee, p. 283). This change in the wind aided William’s success by “bottling up James’ [fleet] in the Thames estuary” (*The Glorious Revolution*, Miller, p. 14). As the armada sailed by Torbay on the south coast of England, the winds *suddenly changed again*, allowing the Dutch ships to sail easily into Torbay—yet the same wind *prevented* the pursuing British navy from interfering with the landing! William’s risky invasion succeeded because of the “vagaries of the channel winds... *made impossible* a meeting between the antagonists, and... completely assured the Dutch success” (*The English Navy in the Revolution of 1688*, Powley, p. 94). Many in Holland and England saw this again as the divine intervention of a “Protestant” wind.

Inclement weather also stymied French plans to invade England and conquer Russia, and it limited French expansion around the world. In 1759, a French invasion was thwarted when the British commander Edward Hawke, “*in a rising storm...* pursued the French fleet deep into Quiberon Bay on the south coast of Brittany, where it was shattered—two-thirds of it wrecked, burned or captured”—giving the British naval supremacy and ensuring victory in Britain’s struggle with France for colonies (*Empire*, Ferguson, p. 36). If it had not been for a *thick blanket of fog* that obscured the eastern coast of Australia from the French explorer Bougainville, Captain James Cook could not have claimed that continent for Britain, and Australians might now speak French instead of English (*Captain James Cook*, Hough, pp. 52–53). During the Napoleonic Wars, snow and freezing temperatures doomed France’s attempts to conquer Russia, and a *sudden rainstorm* gave Wellington an unexpected advantage over Napoleon at Waterloo (*The Battle 100*, Lanning, pp. 30–33). Napoleon’s defeat ended French dominance in Europe.

Bible prophecies foretold that Britain (Ephraim) would become a “multitude of nations” and a great

colonizing people (Genesis 48:19; 49:22–24), while the French, as descendants of Reuben, have a different future (see Genesis 49:3–4). The histories of Britain and France *demonstrate* how God has *intervened* using the weather to work out His plan!

A recently published book offers further evidence. Recent archaeological work has shown that in the early 1400s, under a progressive and expansionist emperor, Chinese fleets (with ships more than 450 feet long—big-



**Without a sudden break in the stormy weather, Allied troops could not have surprised the Axis powers and mounted a successful invasion of Normandy.**

ger and more advanced than any ships in Europe) circumnavigated the globe and planted colonies in America nearly a century before Columbus. Yet in 1421, “a *violent storm* broke out over the Forbidden City... *lightning struck* the top of the palace... *the whole city was set ablaze*” (1421, Menzies, p. 75). The Chinese understood this disaster as a bad omen from their gods, and the emperor was toppled. China’s new leaders turned inward; they terminated the voyages of discovery,

dismantled the fleets and destroyed records of discoveries. Without this dramatic, *weather-related* series of events, the Chinese—not the British—would have ruled the waves, and the dominant culture of the world would be Oriental rather than Western. However, God *revealed the course of history* in the pages of the Bible, thousands of years ago, and He has *intervened* to accomplish His purpose (see Isaiah 46:8–10).

## The Birth of America

Timely weather changes also played a vital role in the United States’ War of Independence. Early in the war, George Washington fortified Dorchester Heights, overlooking Boston harbor. When the British discovered this maneuver, General Howe ordered an amphibious attack the next day. However, during the night, a “southeaster of gale proportions” roared into Boston harbor where “the wind and waves disrupted Howe’s plans, and he called off the attack, blaming... the badness of the weather” (*The Weather Factor*, Ludlum, p. 34). Soon after, the British evacuated Boston. Five months later, General Howe landed 15,000 troops on Long Island, trapping and routing Washington’s army. The American Revolution might have ended there if it had not “rained prodigiously” the next day, preventing destruction of the American army. Washington ordered an evacuation that

evening, but it was impossible due to adverse winds and tides. However, at about 11:00 p.m., there was a “providential shifting of the wind” and “that heavenly messenger, the fog” settled over Long Island, *preventing* the British from seeing or stopping the American retreat (*ibid.*, p. 37). Washington and his ragtag army escaped to fight another day, because of a crucial change in the weather!

The crossing of the Delaware and the attack on Trenton took place in a violent snowstorm. Marching out of the storm with the wind at their backs (and into the faces of the enemy), American troops surprised the foreign defenders and achieved one of the first major victories of the Revolution. In response, Cornwallis—the British general—made a difficult march over muddy roads to trap Washington just south of Trenton, intending to “bag the fox” the next morning. That night, however, a “providential change in the weather” occurred (Ludlum, p. 42). The ground *froze*—making troop movements easier. Washington left his campfires burning, and moved his troops around the British army. In the morning, Cornwallis awoke to view the smoldering fires of Washington’s empty camp. By the time the British army was ready to move, the ground had *thawed*, making troop movements difficult. Washington was now fighting and winning the Battle of Princeton behind the British lines, because of a *perfectly timed freeze!*

The final battle of the American Revolution also hinged on timely changes in the weather. During the siege of Yorktown the weather was pleasant, except during two vital periods. On the night Washington began digging approach trenches, a soldier recorded that “we were favored by Providence with a night of *extreme darkness*” and by a *gentle rain* that muffled the sound of digging. Near the end of the siege, Cornwallis attempted a breakout by ferrying his best troops across the York River at night. Halfway through the operation, “the weather... changed to a most violent storm of wind and rain” that drove the barges down river and left Cornwallis’ forces divided and scattered. “The adverse turn of the weather completely disrupted the attempted breakout,” and Cornwallis surrendered the next day (Ludlum, pp. 62–64). The Battle of Yorktown was one of the most influential battles in history, because it led directly to the independence of the United States and the fulfillment of prophecies that Manasseh (America) would become a

great nation (Genesis 48:17–19). God accomplished His purpose with another “providential” shift in the weather!

## Deliverance and Victory

Some of the most dramatic examples of divine intervention occurred during World War II—a war that Winston Churchill felt threatened the future of “Christian civilization.” During two short weeks in May 1940, the Germans launched a blitzkrieg offensive that broke through French lines, defeated the Belgians and pinned a reeling British army against the ocean at Dunkirk. Several British generals said that “only a miracle” could save their beleaguered forces. Yet with certain victory within their grasp, Hitler *suddenly halted* German tanks just 20 miles from Dunkirk, fearing that they were dangerously exposed and had outrun their supply lines. During this lull, a *severe thunderstorm* grounded German planes, allowing Allied troops to move toward Dunkirk and set up a defense perimeter. Following a National Day of Prayer led by King George VI for the hopelessly trapped army, the British began an evacuation effort that lasted for nine days, during which the normally rough and unpredictable English



**U.S. Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower saw, firsthand, God’s miraculous intervention in the weather.**

Channel remained *as smooth as a “mill pond.”* Yet, the day after the evacuation ended, “the wind moved to the north, and *giant breakers* came rolling over the empty beaches” (*The Miracle of Dunkirk*, Lord, p. 272). A British general recorded that “the evacuation of Dunkirk was surely a *miracle*” and Churchill called the evacuation of more than 330,000 soldiers (almost the entire British army) a “miracle of deliverance.” The *Daily Telegraph* described the thankfulness of “officers and men who have *seen the hand of God...* delivering them from the hand of a mighty foe” (June 8, 1940). The British people *knew* that God had *unmistakably intervened!*

The “hand of God” continued to be evident as the Allied powers began their counteroffensive to liberate North Africa and Europe. In late October 1942, an armada of 650 ships sailed from England to North Africa, undetected for almost two weeks by U-boats or the German Air Force. A British Admiral remarked that “it is almost incredible... that they were not attacked and sustained no casualties.” The day before

the scheduled landings at Casablanca, 15-foot waves were breaking on beaches, making landings impossible. However, the next morning, the invasion force approached the beaches “in fair weather... and a calm sea” (*We Have a Guardian*, Grant, p. 34). The landings succeeded because of *suddenly favorable weather*. A London newspaper declared: “Only the thoughtless can fail to realize how great a part Providence played in the swift and successful transformation of the war” (*Daily Mail*, Nov. 14, 1942).

The weather also played a crucial role during the invasion of Sicily. On July 10, 1943, as General Dwight D. Eisenhower watched the departing ships, he saluted the armada, dropped his head in prayer, and commented that the mission was now “in the hands of God.” Yet shortly after the ships were launched, the wind kicked up to *gale force* and the invasion fleet had to plow through heavy seas. However, the wild weather lulled Sicilians into relaxing their vigilant defenses. Following the successful landings, an admiral noted that just before zero hour “the wind *suddenly dropped*... and the swell went down quicker than I have ever seen it do before. It was *so sudden* it was almost unbelievable... it seemed *miraculous*... many a silent prayer of thanks was offered up” (Grant, p. 39).

Almost the same phenomenon occurred on D-Day—June 6, 1944—during the invasion of Normandy. Eisenhower launched the invasion in inclement weather, hoping for a break. The Germans had been advised that no invasion would occur, due to continuously stormy weather. Yet, on the morning of June 6, there was a *brief break* in the bad weather. Wind and surf died down, and broken clouds allowed Allied planes visibility for pinpoint operations. The landings caught the Germans off guard. Nearly a decade later, speaking in his Kansas hometown, Eisenhower commented that “this day eight years ago, I made the most agonizing decision of my life... the consequences of that decision... could not have been foreseen by anyone. *If there*

*were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an almighty and merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it...* The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred the next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed, with losses far below those we had anticipated” (*Time*, June 6, 1952). General Eisenhower *knew* that God had intervened at one of the most important moments in the history of the world!

It should be obvious by now that there is *abundant evidence* that God exists, and that He *intervenes dramatically* in human affairs to accomplish His purposes (see Daniel 2:28; 4:25). Yet this remarkable evidence has been glossed over and ignored by scholars and theologians *from the very countries that have gained the most* from God’s interventions! Instead of explaining these vivid lessons, leaders today *ignore* God’s hand in history. Ignoring God and His law, they instead *excuse* adultery, *accommodate* divorce and cohabitation, *promote* homosexuality and *coexist* with lies, violence, greed and pornography! As a result, our secular, materialistic, pleasure-seeking culture is rapidly *losing sight* of the God of the Bible, and denying that God requires obedience to His laws—especially from the nations He has favored so consistently (see Deuteronomy 28).

However, God is not finished intervening in history. The Bible carries God’s warning to backsliding Israelite nations. He says to them, “I will break the pride of your power,” unless they repent of their wicked ways (Leviticus 26:19). We are watching this happen today! Bible prophecies also indicate that terrible weather-related disasters lie just ahead (see Matthew 24:7; Revelation 6, 8, 9, 16), unless our decadent societies are willing to repent of flouting the laws of God. Our modern world is about to learn that the God of the Bible is *real*, the Bible is *true* and the days of God’s *most profound interventions* in human affairs are just around the corner! ☐

## To Learn More...



Why does God allow natural disasters? Is there a purpose behind floods and droughts, earthquakes and fires? Why is our planet in such turmoil, and what can *you* do about it?

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Who Controls the Weather?* or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

# Questions & Answers

**Q** Jesus said that the day of judgment would be “more tolerable” for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Tyre and Sidon, than for those who heard and rejected Jesus’ message during His ministry on earth. How can this be? If all these people were judged and condemned, how can some fare better than others at the day of judgment?

**A** God destroyed those cities, making them an example and a warning to “those who afterward would live ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6). But most people today do not realize how this fits into God’s plan for mankind. When Jesus said that the day of judgment would be “more tolerable” for Sodom and Gomorrah, and for Tyre and Sidon (Matthew 10:15; 11:22, 24), He was revealing that the residents of these cities *had not yet had* their first opportunity to understand His message.

How can we understand this? We must recognize that, as the New Testament explains, there are three different “judgment ages” for mankind. The Apostle Peter described the first judgment age, with which most are familiar: “For the time has come for *judgment to begin* at the house of God; and if it begins with us *first*, what will be the end of those who do not

obey the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17).

This is the “**Church Age**”—the first period of judgment. Peter called the Church “the house of God”—true Christians whose eyes have been opened to understand Christ’s message. Jesus holds his disciples accountable for this knowledge, and expects them to produce spiritual fruit (Matthew 25:14–30; 2 Peter 1:1–9; John 15:1–10). True Christians are being judged in this lifetime by their works and obedience to God’s Word (1 Peter 4:17; Revelation 20:12; 22:12).

The next judgment period is the “**Millennial Age**.” Bible prophecy shows that Jesus Christ will soon return and set up His Kingdom on earth for a thousand years (Revelation 20:2–6). All nations will then come up to Jerusalem, the “world headquarters” of Christ’s government, to be taught (Isaiah 2:1–4). The whole world will be exposed to the wonderful truth and perfect way of God—“for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9). During this age, God will write His holy and righteous laws in people’s hearts through the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 8:10–12). Just as during the “Church Age,” people will be judged by their obedience to God’s word.

The third and final judgment period can be called the “**Last Judgment Age**”—the book of Revelation calls it the *Great White Throne Judgment* (Revelation 20:11–12). In this age, billions who lived and died in ignorance of God’s truth and His way of life will be resurrected to physical life (Ezekiel 37:1–14). For the first time, their eyes will be opened to the truth, and they will have their first opportunity for salvation.

Jesus Christ explained that in the future, the men of Ninevah and the queen of the South would be resurrected alongside the men of His day, and would condemn those of Jesus’ day who rejected His message (Matthew 12:41–42). Consider the magnitude of the time of judgment that Jesus is describing! Billions of people across the millennia of human history will be alive, together, to learn God’s way, and to contrast it to how they had previously lived without God.

Millions today wrongly believe either that God is capricious, sending to damnation billions who never heard His message preached, or that He is inconsistent, giving salvation to some who did not hear His gospel preached. The truth is far more inspiring. To learn more about God’s plan for all of humanity, please request our free booklet, *Is This the Only Day of Salvation?*



# Is Christmas Christian?

By John H. Ogwyn





**T**o billions around the world, no time of the year is more eagerly anticipated than the Christmas season. “’Tis the season to be jolly,” is how the song goes. Of course, for many people, Christmas can be a depressing season, emphasizing their loneliness and isolation from family. The Christmas season is the time of year with the greatest number of parties and celebrations, but it is also the time of year with the highest suicide rate.

In recent decades, many have sought to “secularize” Christmas, removing from it all references to Jesus Christ and His birth. In the United States, legal challenges have successfully removed manger scenes from courthouse squares, and have created a climate in which many school choirs avoid singing Christmas carols with religious themes. Yet, as much as references to Jesus Christ and His birth have been downplayed, Santa Claus has become an unavoidable part of the season.

Millions of evangelicals have been deeply troubled by these trends. Feeling that they are in a battle with hostile secular forces that seek to eliminate everything that points to Christ and the Bible, they want to “reclaim” Christmas from the secularists.

Millions more are simply turned off or offended by the crass commercialism associated with the Christmas season. Christmas has become a sales gimmick in the modern-day U.S.—and in Canada. Christmas-related sales are the key component of

yearly profit margins for most retail sales operations. That is why, by the beginning of November, familiar Christmas music blares from the public address systems of malls across North America. Retailers are trying to get the public “in the mood” to begin Christmas shopping early.

Decrying the commercial exploitation of the holiday season—and deeply bothered by efforts to remove all reference to God and the Bible from public life—many well-meaning religious people are demanding that Christ be put back into Christmas. The secularists, they claim, have hijacked a sacred Christian holiday for their own ends.

Western society is increasingly described as “post-Christian,” and secular elites have been dubbed “the new pagans.” In such an environment, should Christians join together to somehow *reclaim* Christmas? In a society that is more and more disconnected from God, can this disconnect be healed by encouraging more references to Jesus Christ during the Christmas season?

What approach *does* God want His people to take regarding Christmas? Is Jesus Christ, in fact, “the reason for the season?” You may be shocked to learn that Christmas is actually *not* Christian in its origins! For centuries before Jesus Christ’s birth in Bethlehem, December 25 was associated with decorating evergreen trees, exchanging gifts and carousing at parties and celebrations.

How did Christmas become the chief “Christian” holiday? Is it—and *can it be*—Christian at all? You can search the New Testament from start to finish, and you will *never* find a reference to any sort of Christmas party. Moreover, you will never read of a religious service held to commemorate Jesus’ birth.

But if the first Christians did not celebrate Christmas, then *why* did they not do so? When and how did this celebration achieve such prominence on the calendar of professing-Christian churches?

## **Where Did Christmas Originate?**

Did you know that there were Christmas celebrations in Rome long before there were any in Jerusalem? How could a holiday that most associate with Jesus Christ of Nazareth have its origins in Babylon and Egypt many centuries before His birth? And how could such a holiday come to be so widely accepted as Christian?

To help us understand, we can look at the word “Christmas” itself. It means “mass of Christ,” and has its origins in the practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Yet even Catholic sources acknowledge that Christmas was *not* among the earliest festivals of the church, and that it does not have apostolic origins. Notice: “Christmas (i.e. the Mass of Christ), in the Christian Church, the festival of the nativity of Jesus Christ... As late as 245 Origen, in his eighth

homily on Leviticus, repudiates as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ ‘as if he were a king Pharaoh.’ The first certain mention of Dec. 25 is in a Latin chronographer of A.D. 354, first published entire by Mommsen... [December 25 was] a Mithraic feast and is by the chronographer above referred to, but in another part of his compilation, termed *natalis invicti solis*, or birthday of the unconquered Sun” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed., article: “Christmas”).

The New Testament makes certain key dates plain; for example, it tells us that Jesus Christ died on the day of the Passover. Yet Scripture does not mention the date of Jesus’ birth, and does not recount any Christians celebrating His birthday. In fact,



the Bible associates the celebration of birthdays with the practices of heathen kings, and never mentions such celebrations in a positive light. This is why Origen—one of the early “Fathers” of the Roman Church, writing in the third century—was shocked at the very idea of celebrating the Savior’s birthday.

When the early Roman Church established a festival to celebrate the Messiah’s birth, it timed that festival to coincide with an existing pagan festival celebrating the birthday of the sun god. By co-opting existing pagan rituals and customs, the church sought to win the pagan masses to its idea of Christianity,

allowing converts to continue to practice familiar customs—just calling them by different names.

The “mother and child” motif in religion was well known in the ancient pagan world. The ancient Babylonians and Egyptians worshipped a “Madonna” whom they revered as the “Queen of Heaven”—a title that the Roman Church would apply centuries later to Mary, the mother of Jesus. In Egypt, Isis was the mother and Horus was the child. In Mesopotamia it was Ishtar and Tammuz.

These stories trace back to Semiramis and Nimrod, in the early years after Noah’s flood. Nimrod was a mighty hunter (see Genesis 10–11), and led mankind’s rebellion against God at the Tower of Babel. Nimrod was one of the chief architects of the human civilization that began at Babylon, and that spread around the world as people migrated to repopulate the earth after the great flood.

The real origin of Christmas goes back to these ancient times, before it was carried forward by an apostate “Christian” church. The winter solstice—the day with the shortest daylight in the northern hemisphere—was anciently associated with the birth of the sun god. It was a time of festivity. Called Saturnalia by the Romans, this holiday was a time very reminiscent of our modern Christmas, when gifts were given, hostilities ceased, civic functions were suspended

and parties were held. “It was usual for friends to make presents to one another; all animosity ceased, no criminals were executed, schools were shut, war was never declared, but all was mirth, riot, and debauchery”



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(*Lempriere’s Classical Dictionary*, article: “Saturnalia”).

### Jesus Was Not Born in Winter

“Christmas” festivities are not just “pre-Christian”—dating to pagan worship of the sun god—they in fact have no connection to the date of birth of the true Messiah, Jesus Christ. How do we know this? While the Bible does not explicitly tell us the exact day of Jesus’ birth, it gives us *clear* evidence of the *approximate* time. From Scripture, it becomes obvious that *winter* is the one season in which Jesus *could not* have been born.

Luke tells us that on the night of Jesus’ birth, the shepherds were still keeping watch over their flocks in the field (Luke 2:8). In ancient Israel, the rainy season began *after* the Feast of Tabernacles (which generally occurs in early October). By November, when the weather was turning cool and wet, the shepherds had already brought their flocks in from pasture and were keeping them in winter quarters. Shepherds were no longer spending the nights in the fields with the sheep, as they had done from

the beginning of spring through the early fall season.

Another vital piece of evidence is overlooked by most. From Luke 1:35–36 we learn that John the Baptist, born to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, was approxi-

served during each of the three festival seasons—Zacharias could not have begun his return home until after the first week of June, or thereabouts. If John the Baptist was conceived shortly after his return home, near the middle of

of the ten tribes of Israel who had gone into Assyrian captivity more than seven centuries earlier.

The Magi arrived at the king's palace in Jerusalem several weeks after Jesus' birth, looking for the Messiah. They had seen a myste-

## Why Roman Church established a festival to celebrate the Messiah's birth, it timed coincide with an existing pagan festival celebrating the birthday of the sun god.

mately six months older than Jesus. We are told that John's father, Zacharias, was an elderly priest officiating in the temple, burning incense on the altar when an angel appeared to tell him that he and his wife would have a son who would prepare the way for the Messiah (vv. 8–17). We know approximately when the angel made this announcement, because we are told that Zacharias was "of the course of Abijah" (v. 5, KJV).



What was the "course of Abijah"? Centuries earlier, in the days of King David, there had been many priests. King David divided them into 24 "courses" (or groups) that served by rotation in the temple (1 Chronicles 24:1–19). The course of Abijah was the eighth of the 24 courses, and would normally have done its first week of service around the end of May. As Pentecost, the second of the three great pilgrim festivals, came the week after the eighth course served—and all 24 courses

June, his birth would have been nine months later—around mid-March. Jesus, who was six months younger, would thus have been born soon after mid-September. This, of course, would have been while the shepherds were still staying with the fields at night with their flocks (Luke 2:8).

Consider also the traditional image of the three wise men who, together with the shepherds, are commonly represented standing in the stable to celebrate the newly born Messiah. The Bible nowhere says that there were *three* wise men, and it makes clear that they did not come until at least a few weeks after His birth—by which time Jesus and His parents were living in a house (Matthew 2:11). We are told that these Magi came from the east. In first century parlance, this usually meant that they came from beyond the Euphrates River (which was then the eastern border of the Roman Empire). East of the Euphrates was the Parthian Empire, home to many remnants

of the ten tribes of Israel who had gone into Assyrian captivity more than seven centuries earlier. The Magi arrived at the king's palace in Jerusalem several weeks after Jesus' birth, looking for the Messiah. They had seen a mysterious "star" in the east, which had prompted them to make their journey to Judea. Upon hearing from the Magi about the timing of the star's appearance, and what it portended, Herod ordered the slaughter of all boys in Bethlehem aged two years and younger (Matthew 2:16).

We know from Luke 2:22 that Jesus' parents presented Him in the temple when He was 40 days old (cf. Leviticus 12:2–4), so they were still in the Jerusalem area when He was nearly six weeks old. Yet the family fled to Egypt, spurred by a warning Joseph received in a dream, immediately after the Magi visited them (Matthew 2:13–14). Clearly, the Magi did not arrive until well after Christ's birth.

### What Difference Does It Make?

Almost every year, newspapers and magazines will publish articles pointing out that Christmas customs originate not from the Bible, but from pagan antiquity. Most readers, when faced with these facts, simply say:

**Continued on page 29**



# The Mysterious First Horseman!

Nearly everyone wants to know what the future holds, yet it is widely believed that *no one* can accurately predict the future. The God of the Bible, however, boldly states: “I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come... What I have said, that I will bring about” (Isaiah 46:9–11, *NIV*). Bible prophecies about the mysterious First Horseman of the Apocalypse provide important insights into history, and reveal where current events are heading. The Bible’s “ancient” prophecies are *coming alive today*, and will surprise a world that has lost sight of the *real* God of the Bible.

## Early Warnings

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ told His disciples that He would *come again* at the end of the age (Matthew 24:3, 30–31; John 14:3; Acts 1:11). He explained that a *series of recognizable events*—false prophets and religious deception, wars and rumors of wars, famines and natural calamities (e.g. earthquakes and disease epidemics)—would precede His Second Coming (Matthew 24:3–8; Mark 13:5–8; Luke 21:8–11). The sequence of these events is important. Jesus warned His disciples to *watch* for these signs, because an unsuspecting world will be surprised by swiftly escalating events in the last days (Matthew 24:36–44; Mark 13:32–36; Luke 21:34–36).

The Apostle Paul warned that false teachers would come, preaching another Jesus and a different gospel (2 Corinthians 11:1–4).

## The Mysterious Rider

Bible students recognize that the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are symbolic of end-time events preceding Christ’s return. Yet controversy exists over the identity of the first horseman, who rides a white

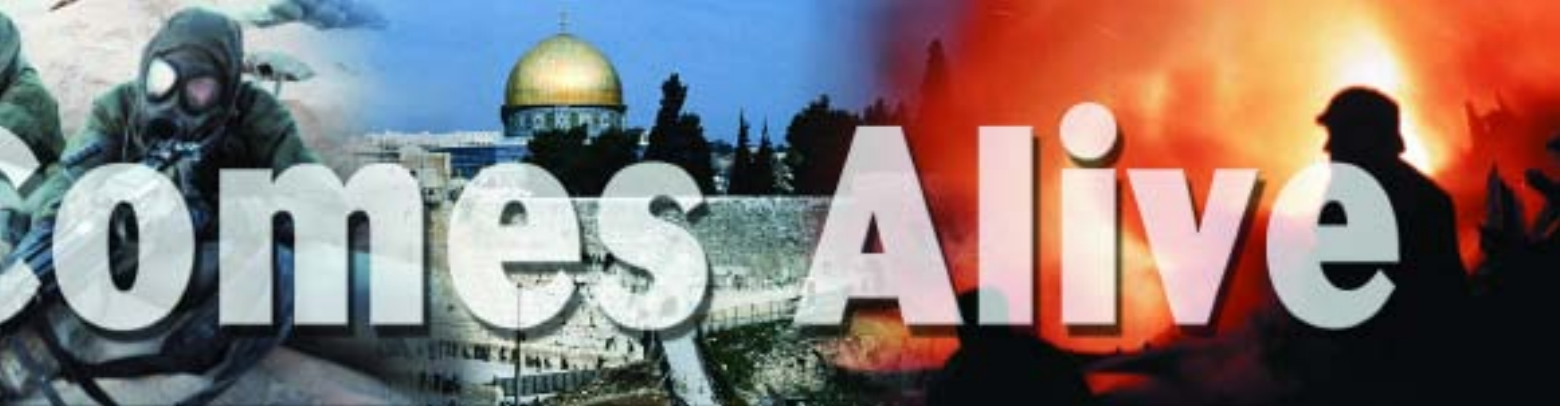
horse. Some say that the rider represents Jesus Christ preaching the Gospel, because of his apparent similarity to Christ on a white horse, as described in Revelation 19:11–14. Others believe that the first horseman represents the antichrist, who will oppose Christ at His return. Many view the Four Horsemen as a mere allegory—a device that only conveys a spiritual lesson and is not related to real-life events.

The Bible, of course, provides its own explanation. The sequence of end-time events outlined in Matthew, Mark and Luke *parallels* the events pictured by the Four Horsemen of Revelation 6. In each of the Gospels, the *initial event* of the end-time sequence is a growing prevalence of false teachers and religious deception. This means that the first horseman is not Jesus Christ, but instead personifies a great false religious movement. The crown of this rider (a symbol of leadership and authority) suggests a prominent religious leader (Revelation 6:2). He carries a *bow* (for shooting arrows), in contrast to Christ in Revelation 19:11–15, who is pictured with a sword and a rod of iron. Ephesians 6:16 pictures Satan shooting darts (arrows) at true Christians, thus suggesting that the first horseman is in league with Satan.

We should be sobered upon reading that the first horseman “went out conquering and to conquer” (Revelation 6:2). This points to the rise of a *militant form of false Christianity* just before Jesus Christ’s return. This fits the end-time scenario that places the Great Tribulation—a time when true Christians will be persecuted—just after the events pictured by the Four Horsemen (see Matthew 24:8–9; Revelation 6:9–11). But *how* does the mysterious first horseman provide insights into history, explain the direction of current events and reveal the future?

## History Reveals the Future

The Bible and Church history provide keys to the identity and future activity of the first horse-



man. The prophet Daniel speaks of a “little horn” associated with a Roman system that would “change times and law” (Daniel 7:21, 25). While the Bible reveals that Jesus, His disciples and the early Church kept the Sabbath and the biblical Holy Days (Luke 2:41–42; 4:16; Acts 17:2), history records that the Roman Church *forbade* observance of the biblical Passover and (at the Council of Nicea in 325AD) mandated the observance of Easter. The Roman Church also *outlawed* observance of the biblical Sabbath and (at the Council of Laodicea in 363AD) enshrined Sunday as its day of worship. The Roman Church adapted pagan celebrations of December 25 to commemorate Christ’s birth, supposedly to make it easier for pagans to “convert” to Christianity. Through such changes, the teachings of the early Church were corrupted by paganism—thus fulfilling prophecies given by Daniel, Jesus and Paul.

Daniel prophesied that the “little horn” of the fourth empire (Rome) would preside over future revivals of that empire (Daniel 7:7–8, 24) and would “make war against the saints, and prevail against them” until Christ returns (Daniel 7:21–22, 25). These revivals link the “little horn” to the militant form of corrupt Christianity that will arise at the end of the age, and to a politically active church—the “great harlot” who rides the beast (composed of ten kings)—with whom worldly rulers have had intimate relations (Revelation 17). Church history leaves little doubt as to which institution has fulfilled this role.

The pontiffs of Rome presided over the revivals of the Roman Empire. During the Middle Ages, the papacy called for crusades to destroy enemies of that dominant church (see *The Crusades*, Hindley). Those “enemies” included not only Muslim “infidels,” but *also others who pro-*

*fessed belief in Christ and the God of the Bible*—including members of the Eastern Orthodox Church (a rival of Rome) who perished in the sack of Constantinople, many Jews, Sabbath-keeping Cathars and Albigensians in southern France and Waldensians in northern Italy and Germany. Those who followed the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Apostles and the early Church were labeled *heretics*, and slaughtered over the centuries, because they would not follow the decrees of the Church of Rome.

But how do these facts of history relate to current events and reveal the future? The “mainstream” Protestant churches took many of their doctrines and practices—including the idea of the Trinity, the immortal soul, and the observance of Christmas and Easter—from the teachings of the Roman Church. These pagan-inspired doctrines and practices are not found in the Bible, yet “mainstream” professing Christianity has adopted them, as the Bible predicted.

The Roman Church is leading an “ecumenical” drive to bring all professing-Christian churches together under one umbrella, even though it has made clear that it considers itself the one true Church (see Isaiah 47:1–8). The Roman Church is promoting a united Europe, in which it can regain the prominent role it played in the “Holy Roman Empire.” During the reign of the Holy Roman Emperors and other Catholic monarchs, the Roman Church used state power and the Inquisition to attack its “enemies” in the hope of creating one empire under one monarch and one religious leader. The history of medieval Europe sheds light on how a deceptive and militant false form of Christianity will operate when the first horseman of the Apocalypse begins his ride. We are watching these prophecies come alive today!

—Douglas S. Winnail



A silhouette of a person's head in profile, looking out at a vibrant, multi-colored galaxy with a large planet in the foreground. The galaxy features a mix of blue, green, and red stars and nebulae. The planet in the foreground is a reddish-orange color with a textured surface.

# How Will You Spend Eternity?

By Richard F. Ames

*God has created a glorious universe. Images from the Hubble telescope reveal awesome galaxies and nebulae. Do distant stars and planets have anything to do with your future? What will you be doing for all eternity?*

**B**enjamin Franklin once wrote: “Nothing in life is certain except death and taxes.” Death is a reality we all must face. The Bible tells us: “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Yes, human beings die. But your Bible reveals that God has prepared an awesome future, after death, for truly converted Christians who are His faithful servants.

Have you ever pondered images from deep space—galaxies and novae and other astronomical phenomena—and wondered whether these distant places will be a part of your future? Human beings are very limited by time and space, yet we have a desire to explore our universe. That innate drive led to the Apollo space exploration program in the 1960s. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr. walked on the moon. They spent 21 hours there, and returned to earth with 46 pounds of lunar rock. In December 1972, Apollo 17 landed on the moon. Astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt became the last of 12 Americans to set foot on its mysterious surface. Since then, no one has been back.

In January of this year, U. S. President George W. Bush announced plans to send Americans back to the moon as early as 2015, and eventually to Mars. Bush said: “We will build new ships to carry man forward into the universe, to gain a new foothold on the moon and prepare for new journeys to the worlds beyond our own...’ Bush proposed landing an unmanned spacecraft on the moon as early as 2008. Humans would return to the moon by 2020, after an absence since December 1972. The moon would serve as a stepping stone to an eventual manned mission to Mars” (*Reuters*, January 15, 2004).

Will nations also use space exploration for future military development and warfare? As

*Reuters* reported, some critics describe Bush’s plan as “a costly extravagance that could renew a military space race... It could also help extend U.S. military supremacy in space at a time when China, a growing strategic power, is planning lunar exploration missions.” U.S. Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), chairman of the Senate commerce subcommittee on science, technology and space, told *Reuters*: “You always want the [strategic] high ground.” Such thinking echoes a key aim of the 1960s U.S. space race against the Soviet Union. National interests in space will always consider military applications and development. “Alice Slater, head of the environmentalist advocacy group Global Resource Action Center for the Environment, warned that the Bush initiative ‘will create a new arms race to the heavens’” (*ibid.*). Will mankind ever learn the way to peace? (Romans 3:17).

Other nations are also pursuing space travel. In October 2003, the People’s Republic of China launched its first “taikonaut” into space. Only Russia and the U.S. had previously sent a man into space. As *Reuters* reported: “Sun Laiyan, deputy director of the China National Space Administration, said in December China planned to launch a lunar probe program this year, which includes a lunar satellite by 2007. That will be followed by the landing of an unmanned vehicle on the Moon by 2010 and collecting samples of lunar soil by 2020.... China plans a second manned space launch within the next two years, this time carrying more than one astronaut. The United States last had a man on the moon in 1972” (*ibid.*).

Human beings have a fascination with the universe, and we should. We are a part of God’s great creation. Ancient King David marveled at his place in the cosmos; as a young shepherd, he saw the glory of the heavens night after night. He wrote: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars,

which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:3–4). Have *you* considered *your* place in the universe—now, and in the future?

As incredible as it may seem, the Bible indicates that the earth and the universe were created for mankind! In fact, King David went on to write: “For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion [authority or rulership] over the works of Your hands; You have

do that when we inherit eternal life, when we become God’s immortal children. God has an awesome purpose for us, and it will involve our future in the universe!

That purpose will expand our capacity and our understanding far beyond what we can now imagine. Do we recognize our present limitations? Do we think that we, as air-breathing, food-eating, water-drinking creatures can travel very far into space? While the planet Mars may be within reach at a cost of billions of dollars, the *star* nearest to us—

## God gave mankind dominion over the physical earth and its govern, and serve as faithful stewards.

put *all things* under his feet, all sheep and oxen—even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!” (Psalm 8:5–9).

God gave mankind dominion over the physical earth and its creatures. We are supposed to be learning how to manage, govern, and serve as faithful stewards. But why did God give us such dominion over the earth? The answer is astounding, and many are afraid to believe it, even though the Bible makes it plain. God is now giving us the opportunity to train for greater authority and stewardship in the future! God has an awesome plan for all humanity. As unbelievable as it may seem, God wants to share the universe with *you*! That is what your Bible reveals! The book of Hebrews quotes David’s psalm: “You have made him [mankind] a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put *all things* in subjection under his feet...” (Hebrews 2:7–8).

Under God’s inspiration, the author then adds a comment: “For in that He [God] put all in subjection under him [mankind], He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him” (v. 8). It appears that nothing in the universe will be excluded from mankind’s dominion. This awesome event is yet future, but it is God’s promise, and is certain!

The Greek for “all” in verse 8 is *ta panta*, which literally means “the all.” In the absolute sense, *ta panta* means “the universe.” God not only wants to give you dominion over the earth; He wants to share with you the entire universe. But we can only

Proxima Centauri—is 4.2 light years away. If we could travel at the speed of light, it would take us 4.2 years to go there. Of course, our spaceships and probes travel much more slowly; Voyager 1 would need 70,000 years to travel as far as the distance between the earth and Proxima Centauri. We will never conquer space, much less travel very far into space, unless we can break through the human limitations of time and space. But there is hope for the future! God has a plan for His children to transcend time and space.

Your Bible reveals that God’s purpose for every man and woman will bring us joy for all eternity. But what exactly will faithful, God-fearing, genuine Christians be doing for all eternity? Many professing Christians believe that the human soul, at death, goes either to a fiery hell or a blissful heaven, perhaps spending some time in purgatory before reaching heaven. What does the Bible actually teach? It teaches that there is a human spirit—not an immortal soul—in human beings (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11). “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Yes, the Bible teaches that the soul can die!

Jesus stated in Matthew 10:28: “But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [Gehenna fire].” The Bible teaches that souls are mortal, not immortal, and can be destroyed totally in fire. Jesus said so. The incorrigibly wicked will indeed be tormented, and then burned up in a lake of fire. That is called the second death (Revelation 20:14). The second death is final; it is a death from which there is no resurrection. You certainly do not want to be thrown into a lake of fire! You need to choose life, and choose the salvation that God offers you through



Jesus Christ! You need to repent and be baptized, as the Apostle Peter preached on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38).

God has a wonderful plan of salvation for all humanity. He wants *you* to be a part of His family for all eternity. Paul wrote: “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole *family* in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14–15).

God is the Father of a family. One of the awesome activities Christians will experience, for all eter-

nity, is fellowship with our loving family. It is a royal family (1 Peter 2:5, 9). Jesus Christ will come back as King of kings, and Lord of lords. Jesus Christ will “have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). Yes, we will be kings and priests, serving under our Savior, Jesus Christ!

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We will inherit the Kingdom of God: “But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever” (Daniel 7:18). Those saints will be in the first resurrection when Christ returns. They will rule on this earth, serve under the King of kings, and help billions of people during the Millennium. At the Second Coming—at the beginning of the Millennium—we will be resurrected, or changed, and given immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51–54). We “shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man” (v. 49); we will have glory, power, immortality and a spirit body.

Remember, after Jesus’ resurrection, He ascended to Heaven and had His pre-incarnate glory restored to Him, such that “His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength” (Revelation 1:16). Yet Jesus was able to manifest Himself in the flesh after His resurrection; He appeared to His disciples and shared bread and fish with them (John 21:13). The saints also will be able to manifest themselves to the physical nations during the Millennium. As kings and priests, we will be governing and teaching. In fact, the priests in ancient Israel *were* the teachers. During the Millennium, we will be teaching God’s way of life—the way of truth, the way of the Bible, the way of living that Christ exemplified and taught. As

the two nations become one (Ezekiel 37). Jesus said that the Twelve Apostles would be ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel: “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. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life’” (Matthew 19:28–29).

What other responsibilities will the saints have? In Luke 19, Jesus gave the parable of the minas (or “pounds,” KJV), revealing that faithful Christians would rule over cities—some managing five, some overseeing ten. Jesus also taught that those who overcome would rule over nations (Revelation 2:26). Do the cities and nations of this world need godly government? Absolutely! That is why we pray: “Your Kingdom come.” *You*, as a part of God’s glorious, immortalized family, can be a part of the solution to this world’s problems!

God’s Kingdom will rule on earth. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world. Notice this inspiring prophecy: “Thus says the LORD: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of *Jerusalem*. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain’” (Zechariah 8:3). Faithful Christians will serve Jesus Christ as kings and priests here on this earth—not in heaven as many wrongly teach! Here is how the Apostle John describes the resurrection that will occur when Jesus Christ returns to the earth: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be *priests*

s creatures. We are supposed to be learning how to manage,

of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

After the thousand years, Satan the devil will be released to deceive the nations. Those who follow that deceiver will be destroyed by fire from heaven (Revelation 20:9). Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41). Then the book of life will be opened for billions, for the first time, in the White Throne Judgment (for more on this topic, see *Questions and Answers* on page 15 of this issue). This is the time of the second resurrection, the judgment period when many of your friends and relatives, who never had a real opportunity for salvation, will be given that opportunity. After the White Throne Judgment, what will happen? “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).



*This* is the real hellfire of your Bible. After the White Throne Judgment, all human beings who have ever lived will either be destroyed in the lake of fire, or will be glorified children of God, living forever in the immortalized family of God. Peter writes that the earth will be totally purged 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” (2 Peter 3:10).


The earth will be renewed, and so will the heavens. Then God’s heavenly throne will come to the purified earth: “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be

His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God” (Revelation 21:3).

Notice that God not only gives Christians the earth (Matthew 5:5)—He also gives us the entire universe: “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son” (Revelation 21:7; Romans 8:32). God’s purpose is to prepare us to govern the universe. We will be able to travel instantly to far-off galaxies. We will not be limited by time and space. God wants us to liberate the creation from its decay and corruption. As Paul wrote, “the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).

God has an awesome future destiny in store for His faithful children. We will be active, fulfilled and gloriously happy for all eternity. Foretelling the coming of the Messiah, and His eternal kingdom, the prophet Isaiah wrote: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...” (Isaiah 9:6–7).

Do you want to be a part of the glorious future God has planned for you? Do you look forward to the day when God’s throne of grace will come to the earth? Only then, finally, will there be no more pain, suffering and death. John writes of our inspiring ultimate destiny: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4). This is the eternity God has planned for you. May God help you to understand His great love and purpose for you, and to prepare for your awesome eternal destiny! 

## To Learn More...



God has a plan for your life—and it is far more than most human beings today can imagine! God, your Father, wants you to be a member of His family for all eternity. How can your Christian walk today prepare you for that wonderful future?

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

# Letters to the Editor

I greatly enjoy receiving and reading *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I am sure that much of your literature brings readers to Christ. As a young man entering Catholic seminary, I am aware of the similarities between old pagan traditions and Catholicism, and have read *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop. Some of these rituals and practices that you point out do have an alternate history behind them, which is not completely pagan in origin. My only concern is that the language directed at the Roman Catholic Church is too harsh and limited. Though I see no wrong in pointing out the pagan influences, I feel the articles fail to mention the great philosophers and theologians the church has bred. Though I strongly feel salvation is limited to Christianity, I don't believe it is limited to one particular denomination or adherence to doctrine. In the end times, the Catholic Church too will have believers who can distinguish the false from the true.

T. H., Rock Island, IL

I have been reading your magazine and booklets for some time now. I wanted you to know what a life changing experience it has been to find the things that I could find no answers for suddenly come to life and be answered. All the questions that had puzzled me for years, like the Sabbath and Christmas and Easter, also why did we not celebrate the holy days set out in the Bible like the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. How did so many of the things Jesus taught come to be discarded as no longer valid or necessary? To me God said what He meant and meant what He

said. I particularly liked the article about the clean and unclean foods ("Bible Health Laws," March-April 2004). Thank you for your magazine and the booklets, and for giving me a new and much happier outlook on my life. I feel I am a better person and one that feels much closer to God as I become better acquainted with His word.

J. T., Dauphin, MB, Canada

When I started your *Bible Study Course* I was determined to finish. It is an interesting course. I have learned so many important truths, and it makes me go over my lessons. The course has also opened up a new way of understanding the Bible more. Thank God I did this course. Thank you for making it all possible.

G. F., Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Thanks for your Christian preaching of the Word in truth, I now know the way we are heading and the forthcoming atrocities. Moreover your interpretation of the Book of Revelation is factually honest and the warnings you give are true. Thank you once again for assisting me in my search for the only way—God's way!

A. R., West Midlands, United Kingdom

I would like to use this opportunity to thank wholeheartedly the *Tomorrow's World* staff for the uncompromising stand you take on the word of God. You teach and preach the truth fearlessly, and it is up to us as individuals to accept or deny it.

D. C., St. Elizabeth, Jamaica

We encourage you to share with us your reactions to *Tomorrow's World*. Please direct your correspondence to "Letters to the Editor" at our United States address, or send e-mail to [letters@tomorrowsworld.org](mailto:letters@tomorrowsworld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Remember to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

# Thanks for Nothing?

**“How sharper than a serpent’s tooth it is to have a thankless child.”**  
*(King Lear, Act I, Scene 4)*

What parent cannot relate to these famous words from William Shakespeare? On Thanksgiving Day, millions across the United States will put aside their family squabbles and try to enjoy a pleasant meal together. Millions of parents will wonder, quietly, “What went wrong? Why don’t my children appreciate everything I have given, and all the sacrifices I have made for them?” Still, many parents will leave such thoughts unspoken and try to put family differences aside for the day.

Thanksgiving Day has a rich heritage. Most historians trace its origin to a three-day feast, held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in the fall of 1621, at which the Wampanoag tribe and the Pilgrims gathered together to celebrate a bountiful harvest. President George Washington proclaimed the new nation’s first Thanksgiving in 1789 and another in 1795, but these celebrations were not held in the fall. It was Abraham Lincoln who established Thanksgiving Day as an annual fall holiday, held on the final Thursday of November. This custom remained until 1941, when the

U.S. Congress enacted a law placing Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November.

Today’s Thanksgiving Day bears little resemblance to the day first observed by the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims, or even by Abraham Lincoln. The centerpiece of a modern Thanksgiving is likely to be a big parade or a football game, probably seen on television rather than in person. The National Turkey Federation reports that 45 million turkeys, weighing 675 million pounds are eaten at Thanksgiving—15 percent of the year’s entire turkey consumption.

Most of us who live in the United States or other English-speaking nations have much to be thankful for; we have received blessings that the majority of the world’s population can scarcely imagine. In a world where more than half of the population subsists on less than \$2 per day, even the poorest in the U.S. and Britain are among the most blessed people on our planet.

Yet God has given us something even more valuable: the Bible—His “instruction manual” for how to live in harmony with His creation and reap the blessings that He intends for His creation. God is our perfect Parent. He wants us to be happy, and through His law He has shown us how we can be happy. King Solomon knew well: “Happy is he who keeps the law” (Proverbs 29:18). Jesus Christ came not to

abolish God’s law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17).

We know how a parent feels about a disobedient and thankless child at the Thanksgiving table. But are we disobedient and thankless children of our Father? Jesus Christ admonished those who merely *talked about* obeying Him, asking “why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). As we prepare for Thanksgiving Day this year, we should ask ourselves: “Am I thankful to God? Do my actions show my thankfulness?” When we take a moment to pray before our Thanksgiving meal, can we honestly say to God, as Jonah did: “But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD” (Jonah 2:9)?

The Apostle Paul taught Christians to be “anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6–7). Do we have the peace that comes through thankful obedience to our Savior? Do our actions say “thank you” to God—or do they say “thanks for nothing”? This year, let us resolve to thank God with our actions, not just our words.

—William Bowmer

## Is CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN? (continued from page 19)

“I don’t see what difference it makes,” and continue with their Christmas preparations. Millions of professing Christians insist that, regardless of what pagan practices might lie behind the origin of

instructions, not to look at pagan practices and seek to copy them. What kind of empty, pagan customs was Jeremiah talking about in Jeremiah 10? The specific example in that chapter involved going out into the woods, cutting a tree and bringing it home to set it upright and decorate it (vv. 3–4). Does this sound amazingly like putting up a Christmas tree? It should.



**Millions of professing Christians insist that, regardless of what pagan practices might lie behind the origin of Christmas, they celebrate the holiday to honor Christ.**

Christmas, they celebrate the holiday to honor Christ.

Does that make Christmas acceptable to God?

Several centuries ago, Scripture became widely available in English as Protestant believers threw off the shackles of the medieval Roman Catholic monopoly on the Bible. Eager Bible students found themselves wrestling with many issues as they looked into God’s word. One issue was the celebration of Christmas. What conclusion did they reach? According to the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*: “In 1644 the English puritans forbade any merriment or religious services [on Christmas] by act of Parliament, on the ground that it was a heathen festival” (article: “Christmas”). When King Charles II restored the monarchy, this ban was lifted, but the ban remained in many of North America’s early colonial settlements. Not until the 1840s was Christmas accepted as a legal holiday in Massachusetts.

Ask yourself a simple question. Should those who claim to be Christian take the Bible seriously? In Jeremiah 10:2, God declared to His people through the pen of the prophet: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles.” He went on to state that “the customs of the peoples are futile,” that is, they are utterly empty and useless. God wants His people to follow His

Jesus declared: “And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Mark 7:7). Those who wish to use Christmas to worship Christ are faced with a dilemma: do they follow the pattern of worship prescribed in Scripture, or do they cling to cherished customs, regardless of when and how those customs originated? Jesus censured many of the religious leaders of His day because they rejected the commandments of God in order to keep their own traditions (v. 9).

Would Jesus say those same words to *you*, based upon your actions and your choices?

When the ancient Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land, they were warned against adopting religious customs from the surrounding nations (Deuteronomy 12:30–31). God told them instead to observe all the things that He instructed them, neither adding nor taking away from what He had taught (v. 32).

So, instead of seeking to put Christ back into Christmas, we must acknowledge that He was never there in the first place! Christmas *never was* Christian! True Christians will give it back to the pagans, to whom it has belonged all along! Instead of borrowing from the world around us, we ought to take our religious customs and practices directly from the Bible. Then we will be worshiping our Creator in spirit and truth, just as He teaches us to do (John 4:24). □

## To Learn More...



God revealed His plan for humanity through a series of annual festivals that He gave to Israel. Jesus Christ kept those festivals, and His followers *still* keep them today!

Please request our **FREE** booklet, *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*, or download it from the Literature section of our Web site [www.tomorrowworld.org](http://www.tomorrowworld.org).

## THE FEAR OF GOD (continued from page 3)

Only a couple of years ago, a Gallup poll found a *great deal* of religious “tolerance” among most Americans. Much of this was because people are not really sure what to believe in all the religious confusion around them. As a *U.S. News and World Report* article (May 6, 2002) stated: “Gallup says that the high degree of religious tolerance reflects, in part, ‘not only a lack of knowledge of other religions but an ignorance of one’s own faith.’ In some polls, he says, ‘you have Christians saying, ‘Yes, Jesus is the only way’ and also, ‘Yes, there are many paths to God.’ It’s not that Americans don’t believe anything; they believe everything.’”

If people believe “everything,” they end up in *confusion, uncertainty* and doing what is right in “their own eyes.” As the Apostle Paul was inspired to warn us nearly 2,000 years ago: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3–4). Remember, Paul had just *commanded* Timothy: “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: *Preach the word!* Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (vv. 1–2).

Yet, instead of “preaching the word,” vast numbers of professing-Christian ministers today look around to see which way the wind is blowing, then they preach what is “politically correct!”

Did you know that, as you walk up the steps to the building that houses the U.S. Supreme Court, you can see (near the top of the building) a row of the world’s lawgivers, each of whom is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view. They are facing Moses, who is holding the Ten Commandments! Did you know that as you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments engraved on the lower portion of each door? Did you know that as you sit inside the courtroom, you can see on the wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments? Did you know that James Madison (the fourth President of the United States, known as the “Father of the Constitution”) stated: “We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-govern-

ment, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

*How far* we have come! How far the Americans, Canadians and British have fallen from the deep respect we *used to show* to the **great God** who gives us life and breath! Our “fear of God” is almost *gone!*

A little more than 70 years ago, U.S. President Calvin Coolidge stated: “A spring will cease to flow if its source be dried up; a tree will wither if its roots be destroyed. In its main features the Declaration of Independence is a great spiritual document. It is a declaration not of material but of spiritual concepts. Equality, liberty, popular sovereignty, the rights of man—these are not elements which we can see and touch. They are ideals. They have their source and their roots in religious convictions. They belong to the unseen world. Unless the faith of the American people in these religious convictions is to endure, the principles of our Declaration will perish. *We cannot continue to enjoy the result if we neglect and abandon the cause*” (emphasis ours).

It is vitally important that each of you subscribers fully realize that our entire team of writers and editors here at *Tomorrow’s World* definitely believes in a **real God**. We fully believe in, and have proved to ourselves, the *divine inspiration* of the Bible. You need to know that we will often stand *alone* in telling you many vital **truths** of the Bible, of God’s way of life and of God’s massive intervention in human affairs that will occur if our peoples do not genuinely **repent**. We hope and pray that all of you will carefully read our articles with an *open* mind, and that you will *prove to yourselves* the existence of the true God of creation and the inspiration of the Holy Bible. Then, we hope you will put forth the physical and mental energy to “check up” on what the Bible *really* says, and that God will grant you the courage to act on His Truth.

If you ever want personal help, personal counseling or a visit in your home or office, please write or call and let us know. We have representatives near many major cities all over the world. A final note: if there is one single piece of literature that best summarizes *how* we in this Work are different and *what* should be done, it is our eye-opening booklet entitled, *Restoring Apostolic Christianity*. If you have not already done so, be sure to call or write for a free copy *today*.



# Tomborrow's World

## Television and Radio Log

### INTERNATIONAL:

#### —AUSTRALIA

**Adelaide:** C31—Ch 31, SUN 9:00 am  
**Brisbane:** BRIZ—Ch 31, SUN 8:30 am  
**Melbourne:** MCTC—Ch 31, SUN 9:00 am  
**Perth:** CETL—Ch 31, SUN 9:30 am

#### —BARBADOS

**St. Michael:** CBC—Ch 8, SUN 9:30 am

#### —CANADA

**ON, Toronto:** Vision—THUR 3:00 am; SUN 5:30 pm

#### —JAMAICA

**Kingston:** TVJ—Ch 7, 9, 11 & 13, SUN 9:00 am

#### —NEW ZEALAND

**Nationwide:** PRIME TELEVISION—SUN 8:30 am

#### —PHILIPPINES

**Bansalan:** Bansalan Cable—Ch 10, SAT 10:00 am  
**Borongan:** Borongan Cable—Ch 4, SAT 3:00 pm  
**Camiguin:** Cable TV—Ch 21, SUN 8:00 am  
**Kidapawan:** Metro Cable—Ch 19, SAT 8:30 am  
**Nabunturan:** Nabunturan Cable—Ch 21, SAT 10:00 am  
**Maasin City:** Maasin Cable—Ch 13, SAT 10:00 am  
**Ormoc City:** Ormoc Cable—Ch 3, SAT 12:00 pm  
**Sogod:** Sogod Cable—Ch 13, SAT 12:00 pm

#### —TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

### UNITED STATES:

**AK, Anchorage:** GCI—Ch 16, SAT 10:00 pm  
**AL, Birmingham:** Bright House—Ch 4, FRI 2:30 pm  
**AL, Troy/Montgomery:** WRJM—Ch 67, SUN 6:30 am  
**AR, Fort Smith:** KPOA—Ch 24, SAT 6:00 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** KFAA—Ch 51, SAT 6:00 am  
**AR, Fayetteville:** Access TV—Ch 8, SUN 8:30 pm  
**AR, Little Rock:** KASN—Ch 38, SAT 8:00 am  
**AZ, Lake Havasu City:** KLHU—Ch 45, SUN 10:30 am  
**AZ, Phoenix:** Access—Ch 22, WED 12:30 pm  
**AZ, Prescott:** Cable—Ch 13, SAT 5:30 pm; SUN 6:30 am  
**AZ, Tucson:** Access—Ch 73, SAT 2:00 pm; SUN 11:30 pm  
**CA, Anaheim:** Adelphia—Ch 97/98, MON 4:30 pm  
**CA, Eureka:** Cox—Ch 10, MON 8:00 pm  
**CA, Garden Grove:** Time Warner—Ch 6, SUN 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
**CA, Modesto:** AT&T—Ch 2, TUE 3:00 pm  
**CA, Oceanside:** KOCT—Ch 18, SUN 5:30 pm  
**CA, Sacramento:** RCCTV—Ch 19, MON 5:30 pm  
**CA, San Diego:** Cox—Ch 18 & 23, THUR 6:00 pm  
**CA, San Francisco:** Access TV—Ch 29, SUN 10:30 am  
**CA, San Jose:** Community TV—Ch 15A, SAT 11:30 pm  
**CA, Sonora:** TCCCA—Ch 8, SUN 8:00 pm  
**CA, Turlock:** Charter—Ch 2, MON 8:00 pm  
**CT, Enfield:** Comcast—Ch 15, THUR 6:30 pm  
**CT, Naugatuck:** Tele-Media—Ch 10, TUE 9:30 pm  
**FL, Gainesville:** Cox—Ch 55, SUN 8:00 pm  
**FL, Ocala:** Cox—Ch 71, SUN 10:00 am  
**FL, Tampa:** WTTA—Ch 38, SUN 8:00 am  
**GA, Atlanta:** AIB—Cable, THUR 9:30 pm; SAT 1:30 am  
**GA, Atlanta:** PTV—Ch 24, FRI 2:00 pm  
**GA, Macon:** Cox Cable—Ch 18, SUN 5:00 pm; TUE 7:30 am; FRI 2:00 pm  
**HI, Hilo:** Na Leo—Ch 2, FRI 9:30 pm; SUN 12:30 pm  
**HI, Kahului:** Akaku—Ch 44, SUN 7:30 pm; MON 4:30 am  
**HI, Kailua-Kona:** Na Leo—Ch 14, SAT 10:30 pm; MON 1:30 pm  
**HI, Lihue:** Ho'iike—Ch 12, MON 1:30 pm  
**IA, Des Moines:** Mediacom—Ch 15, SAT 10:00 am; SUN 11:00 am  
**IA, Dubuque:** TCI of Iowa—Ch 16, THUR 8:00 pm; MON 3:30 pm & 7:30 pm; TUE 10:00 am; WED 2:00 pm  
**ID, Boise:** TTVY—Ch 11, SAT 6:00 pm; SUN 8:00 am  
**ID, Pocatello:** Vision—Ch 12, SUN 7:30 pm; FRI 1:00 pm  
**IL, Bloomington:** Insight—Ch 20, SUN 1:00 pm; MON 10:00 pm; TUE 4:00 pm; SAT 6:00 pm

**IL, Chicago:** WGN—Ch 9, SUN 5:00 am  
**IL, Moline:** MediaCom—Ch 75, MON-WED 2:00 pm; THUR 6:00 pm; FRI 3:00 pm; SAT & SUN 2:00 pm  
**IL, Peoria:** Insight—Ch 20, SUN 7:30 pm  
**IN, Bloomington:** CATS—Ch 3, MON 5:30 pm  
**KS, Chanute:** Cablevision—Ch 5, SUN 7:30 am; TUE 5:30 pm  
**KS, Parsons:** Time Warner—Ch 21, WED 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm  
**KY, Latonia:** PEG 17—Ch 17, WED 5:30 pm; THUR 12:00 am  
**KY, Lexington:** Ch 14, Check Local Listing  
**KY, Paducah:** Public Access—Ch 2, WED 3:30 pm  
**LA, Baton Rouge:** KZUP—Ch 44, SUN 11:00 am  
**LA, Shreveport:** KSHV—Ch 45, SUN 8:30 am  
**MA, Cambridge:** CCTV—Ch 22, TUE 4:00 pm  
**MA, Malden:** Access TV—Ch 3, SUN 11:00 am  
**MD, Rockville:** Comcast—Ch 19, THUR 5:00 pm  
**MD, Westminster:** Adelphia—Ch 19, THUR & FRI 10:00 am  
**ME, Auburn:** GFTV—Ch 11, SAT 9:00 am; SUN 8:00 pm  
**ME, Brunswick:** Cable 7—Ch 7, SAT 8:30 am; SUN 6:30 am  
**MI, Traverse City:** TCTV2—Ch 2, SUN 5:30 pm  
**MN, Duluth:** Public Access—Ch 24, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 7:00 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** MTN—Ch 75, THUR 6:30 pm  
**MN, Minneapolis:** NW Community—Ch 19, SAT 10:30 pm; SUN 4:30 am, 10:30 am & 4:30 pm  
**MN, Roseville:** CIV—Ch 15, TUE 8:00 pm; WED 4:00 am & 12:00 pm  
**MN, St. Paul:** SPNN—Ch 14, SUN 8:30 pm  
**MO, Joplin:** KOAM—Ch 7, SUN 7:00 am  
**MO, Kansas City:** KCWE—Ch 29, SUN 8:00 am  
**MO, Springfield:** KSPR—Ch 33, SUN 8:30 am  
**MO, St. Charles:** Charter—Ch 47, SUN 9:30 am & 9:00 pm  
**MO, St. Louis:** Double Helix—Ch 22, MON 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** Time Warner—Ch 18, SUN 10:00 am; WED 4:00 pm  
**MS, Jackson:** WAPT—Ch 16, SUN 8:30 am  
**MT, Billings:** BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am  
**MT, Great Falls:** BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am  
**MT, Helena:** BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am  
**MT, Missoula:** BSC—Cable, SUN 8:30 am  
**NC, Burlington:** Time Warner—Ch 5/10, SUN 9:00 pm  
**NC, Greensboro:** GCTV—Ch 8, FRI 6:30 pm; SAT 7:00 am  
**NC, Wilmington:** Time Warner—Ch 4, WED 10:00 pm  
**NE, Omaha:** KPTM—Ch 42, SUN 8:00 am  
**NH, Hanover:** CATV—Ch 6, SUN 6:00 pm; MON 12:00 am & 6:00 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 7:00 pm; FRI 1:00 am & 7:00 am & 1:00 pm  
**NJ, East Windsor:** Comcast—Ch 27, WED 5:30 pm  
**NJ, Oakland:** Cablevision—Ch 76, SUN 6:30 pm  
**NJ, Trenton:** Comcast—Ch 26, MON 10:00 pm  
**NM, Albuquerque:** CCC27—Ch 27, SUN 7:00 pm  
**NM, Rio Rancho:** CABLE ONE—Ch 51, THUR 7:00 pm  
**NV, Carson City:** Access TV—Ch 10, SAT 9:00 pm  
**NV, Gardnerville:** Community Access—Ch 26, SAT 3:30 am & 3:30 pm; SUN 3:30 am & 3:30 pm  
**NV, Reno/Sparks:** SNCT—Ch 30/16, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Batavia:** Time Warner—Ch 19, TUE 5:30 pm  
**NY, Binghamton:** Time Warner—Ch 6, FRI 5:00 pm  
**NY, Brookhaven:** Cablevision—Ch 20, FRI 9:30 pm  
**NY, Brookly:** BCAT—Ch 56/69, SUN 3:00 pm  
**NY, Canandaigua:** FLTV—Ch 12, SUN 11:30 am  
**NY, Elmira & Corning:** Time Warner—Ch 1, SUN 8:00 am  
**NY, Fairport:** FACT—Ch 15, SUN 11:00 am  
**NY, Hauppauge:** Cablevision—Ch 20, FRI 9:30 pm  
**NY, Irondequoit:** ICAT—Ch 15, SUN 7:30 pm; WED 11:30 am & 7:30 pm  
**NY, Ithaca:** Pegasys—Ch 13, SAT 7:00 pm; SUN 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Manhattan:** MNN—Ch 67/110, FRI 7:30 am  
**NY, Oneta:** Community Access—Ch 99, THUR 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
**NY, Oneonta:** Time Warner—Ch 23, WED 8:30 pm  
**NY, Queens:** OPTV—Ch 34/35, SAT 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
**NY, Riverhead:** Cablevision—Ch 20, MON 4:30 pm  
**NY, Rochester:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 1:30 pm  
**NY, Staten Island:** CIV—Ch 34, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 12:00 pm  
**NY, Syracuse:** Community Access—Ch 98, SUN 7:30 pm  
**NY, Utica:** Adelphia—Ch 3, MON 9:00 pm  
**NY, Woodbury:** Cablevision—Ch 20, SAT 6:30 am  
**OH, Cambridge:** AVC—Ch 2, TUE 7:00 pm  
**OH, Centerville:** MVCC—Ch 23, MON 6:00 pm  
**OH, Cincinnati:** Time Warner—Ch 8 & 24, SUN 11:30 am; TUE 12:30 pm  
**OH, Dayton:** Access TV—Ch 12, TUE 4:30 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**OH, Fairborn:** CAC—Ch 23, TUE 12:00 pm  
**OH, Greenville:** GPAT—Ch 3, THUR 9:00 pm  
**OK, Tulsa:** KTFQ—Ch 41, SAT 12:30 am

**OR, Portland:** MCTV—Ch 11, SUN 12:30 pm  
**PA, Johnstown:** Atlantic Broadband—Ch 9, MON 10:00 pm  
**PA, Philadelphia:** Urban—Ch 5, THUR 9:00 pm; SUN 5:30 pm  
**PA, Sayre:** Time Warner—Ch 18, MON-FRI 5:00 pm  
**RI, Providence:** WPXQ—Ch 69, SUN 9:30 am; MON 11:30 am  
**TN, Chattanooga:** WDEF—Ch 12, SUN 8:30 am  
**TN, Knoxville:** WVLT—Ch 8, SUN 6:30 am  
**TN, LaFollette:** WLAF—Ch 12, TUE 10:30 pm  
**TN, Nashville:** WZTV—Ch 17, SUN 7:00 am  
**TX, Austin:** Community Access—Ch 11, TUE 7:00 pm  
**TX, Corpus Christi:** TCI—Ch 10, TUE 4:00 pm; FRI 12:00 pm  
**TX, Dallas:** Community Television—Ch 14b, SAT 1:00 pm; SUN 11:00 am  
**TX, Lufkin:** KTRF—Ch 9, SUN 6:30 am  
**TX, Midland:** KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am  
**TX, Temple:** KPLE—Ch 31/45, SUN 7:30 pm  
**TX, Tyler:** KLTV—Ch 7, SUN 6:30 am  
**VA, Chesterfield:** Comcast—Ch 6, THUR 6:30 pm  
**VA, Roanoke:** WDRL—Ch 24/54, SUN 7:00 am  
**VA, Virginia Beach:** Cox—Ch 71 & 74, SAT 8:30 am  
**VT, Barre:** Charter—Ch 7, SAT 9:30 pm; SUN 2:30 pm & 11:30 pm  
**VT, Bennington:** CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 pm; THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm; SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm  
**VT, Manchester:** Adelphia—Ch 15, FRI 11:00 pm; SAT 11:00 am; SUN 11:00 am; MON 11:00 am; TUE 11:00 am  
**VT, Montpelier:** Community Access—Ch 15, TUE 9:00 pm; WED 3:00 pm  
**VT, Richmond:** Community TV—Ch 15, SUN 2:00 am, 9:00 am, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm; MON 7:00 am, 11:00 pm  
**VT, Springfield:** SAPA TV—Ch 8, THUR 10:00 pm; MON 12:00 pm  
**WA, Everett:** Comcast—Ch 29/77, MON 3:30 pm  
**WA, Kennewick:** Charter—Ch 13/99, SUN 8:00 pm; TUE 8:00 pm  
**WA, Seattle:** TCI—Ch 29, FRI 5:30 pm  
**WA, Spokane:** AT&T—Ch 14, MON 8:00 pm  
**WA, Vancouver:** FVCT—Ch 11, SUN 9:30 am  
**WI, Wausau:** Charter—Ch 10, THUR 9:00 pm; FRI 7:30 am  
**WY, Casper:** KTWO—Ch 2, SUN 10:00 am  
**WY, Cheyenne:** KLLWY—Ch 27, SUN 8:00 am

### RADIO STATIONS:

**Argentina, Bahia Blanca:** Vida—107.7 FM, WED 10:00 am; THUR 8:00 pm; SAT 2:00 pm  
**Argentina, Bueno Aires:** La Nueva Radio—650 AM, SAT 1:30 pm; SUN 8:30 am  
**Chile, Santiago:** Alfa Y Omega—107.7 FM, Daily 4:00 pm  
**Chile, Santiago:** Radio Contacto—98.1 FM, Daily 4:00 pm  
**Costa Rica, San Jose:** Radio Fabulosa—890 AM, SUN 8:00 am  
**Martinique:** Radio Banlieue-Relax—103.4 FM, SUN 6:15 am  
**Mexico, Mexico City:** XEEST—1440 AM, SUN 9:30 am  
**Philippines, Cebu City:** DYLA—909 AM, SUN 6:00 am  
**Philippines, Davao City:** DXUM—See Local Listing  
**Philippines, Manila:** DWBL—1242 AM, THUR 10:30 pm; SUN 3:30 pm  
**Philippines, Ozamiz City:** DXOC—1494 AM, SUN 5:30 am  
**USA, LaFollette, TN:** WLAF—1450 AM, SAT 3:00 pm

- **Canada**  
VISION—SUN 5:30 pm ET; THUR 3:00 am ET

- **Television Superstation**  
WGN—SUN 6:00 am ET

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**WGN:** SUN 6:00 am ET

**VISION:** Canada: SUN 5:30 pm ET; THUR 3:00 am ET

## NEW TELEVISION STATIONS:

**LA, Lafayette:** KATC—Ch 3, SUN 9:00 am

**NY, Woodbury:** Cablevision—Ch 20, SAT 6:30 am

**TX, Midland:** KMID—Ch 2, SUN 9:00 am

**VT, Bennington:** CAT—Ch 15, WED 9:30 am & 12:00 pm, THUR 12:00 am & 9:30 pm,  
SAT 8:00 am & 4:30 pm

**VT, Manchester:** Adelpia—Ch 15, FRI 11:00 pm, SAT 11:00 am; SUN 11:00 am;  
MON 11:00 am; TUE 11:00 am



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