

TOMORROW'S **WORLD**

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DEBT

**INFLATION
DEFLATION**

**INTEREST
RATES**

TAXES

DEFICITS

TIPPING POINT

*Has the world economy passed
the point of no return?*



Beware of Satanic Confusion!

Your Bible tells us that Satan is the “god” of this present world (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is called the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

This evil being has an entire cadre of *false ministers*! And he clearly uses many other people as well to *confuse* and to *deceive* this world and blind them to the Truth of God. In addition to using his own ministers, Satan will *especially use* “opinion makers” in our confused society—the so-called “educators,” the psychologists and psychiatrists, and certainly the **media moguls** who simply want to “make money” even at the expense of **destroying** the entire moral fabric of our society. These people are usually *very clever*. For they will often use words that sound **good** for something that is terribly **evil**. As Almighty God warned about such people: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20–21).

Think!

Word Games

The entire so-called “gay rights” movement started out on the basis of using terms that “seemed good” to somehow manipulate the minds of Americans to accept something that is *totally against* everything that God and His entire creation show as good. Ditto for the abortion movement.

In *The Marketing of Evil*, author David Kupelian describes an entire campaign to make these vile practices seem good through a centrally planned “program of unabashed propaganda, firmly grounded in long-established principles of psychology and advertising.” He writes:

Simple case in point: homosexual activists call their movement “gay rights.” This accomplishes two major objectives: (1) Use of the word *gay* rather than *homosexual* masks the controversial sexual behavior involved and accentuates instead a vague but positive-sounding cultural identity—

gay, which, after all, once meant “happy” and (2) describing their battle from the get-go as one over “rights” implies homosexuals are being denied the basic freedoms of citizenship that others enjoy.... [Similarly, the] abortion rights movement has prevailed



in **that** war precisely because it succeeded, early on, in framing the debate as a question, not of *abortion*, but of *choice*. The abortion vanguard correctly anticipated that it would be far easier to defend an abstract, positive-sounding idea

like *choice* than the unrestricted slaughter of unborn babies (pp. 24–25).

What Kind of “Love”?

Homosexual activists constantly appeal to “love” in describing their relationships, yet the way they go about their “love” is essentially **misusing** various parts of the body. Consider that many males who take the part of the female in homosexual contact eventually need to *wear diapers* because of the permanent damage they have done to their body by using it in a way that their Creator *never designed* it for!

Sadly, using various words and terms to confuse the public will obviously evolve not only into more and more “same-sex marriage” but into polyandry, polygamy and even “group marriages.” Already, some activists are promoting “man-boy love” as something normal and desirable. All of this will lead to untold physical and mental suffering that—unless God intervenes—will absolutely **ruin** people for the male-female monogamous marriages that are the

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only kind of marriages that can produce children as the Creator intended. Yet Satan is *so clever* with his various “word games” that he is able to twist the idea of “love” and confuse human beings into practicing almost *anything*.

The next step? *Bestiality*! Yes, it is now reported that increasing numbers of people in Germany and other countries are practicing bestiality and are “offended” that people would dare stop them from making “love” to their own *animals*!

Wow! Where are we headed?

Spare Not!

The Eternal God commands His true ministers: “Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1). In this long passage in Isaiah talking to the “house of Jacob”—which is, as most of you know, the modern nations of the American and British-descended peoples, God tells us, “Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice” (Isaiah 59:14–15).

For many years, the American and British-descended nations at least maintained a pretense of “biblical” morality. But now, they are more and more

*The Eternal God **will** intervene!*

giving themselves over to their unbridled lusts. This trend will continue, under the sway of lawlessness and great religious deception, until even the entire “Protestant” movement has disappeared, as I explain in my article (“Will Protestantism Disappear?”) in this issue.

Thankfully, just before Satan—through confused and blinded human beings—is able to completely **destroy** the earth, the Eternal God *will* intervene! For mankind will become so *utterly corrupt* and so filled with **violence** that people would utterly destroy all humanity unless God intervenes: “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22). This will culminate in a prophesied

time known as the “Day of the Lord,” which you can read about in Mr. Richard Ames’ article in this issue.

God’s Kingdom Will Come!

Then what? God’s word explains: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1–2).

For about 6,000 years, cut off from God and His magnificent **law**, mankind will have tried, under Satan’s influence, every form of perversion imaginable! But once Christ is here as King of kings and Lord of lords, human beings will be taught the law of God—the Ten Commandments. These commandments are often vilified even in so-called “Christianity,” but they will be the very **basis** of the entire righteous way of life in tomorrow’s world!

Think! When men start to **cut themselves off** from God and from a willingness to **obey** what the Creator tells us in His inspired word, they get into *every conceivable* sin and “unnatural” way of life. That way *always* leads to “death” (Proverbs 14:12). May God help **all of you** “wake up” and realize that we are, indeed, near the **end** of a civilization that has cut itself off from God—so much so that it is not even able to think straight! The very terms of reference

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used to explain all kinds of deviant behaviors are being so twisted and perverted that the invisible

Satan the devil—the “god” of this present world—is easily able to seduce gullible human beings into a way of life that is *totally degenerate*, destructive of the family and ultimately destructive of all human life unless the Creator intervenes. God help us to *understand* and to **heed**!

Rodney C. Neelath

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Will Protestantism Disappear?

To request free literature or correspond with the editors, contact the Regional Office nearest you or write to Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org.

United States

PO Box 3810
Charlotte, NC 28227-8010
Phone: (704) 844-1970

Australasia

PO Box 300
Clarendon, SA 5157, Australia
Phone: (61) 8-8383-6288

Canada

PO Box 409
Mississauga, ON L5M 0P6
Phone: (905) 814-1094

New Zealand

PO Box 2767
Auckland 1140
Phone/Fax: (09) 268 8985

Philippines

PO Box 492
Araneta Center Post Office 1135
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Phone: (632) 455-3699

South Africa

Private Bag X7
Hatfield, Pretoria, 0028
Phone: (27) 58-622-1424

United Kingdom

BM Box 2345
London, WC1N 3XX
Phone/Fax: 44 (0) 844-800-9322

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Mass defections from Protestant churches are now the order of the day! Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches have lost, in total, *millions* of former followers. Other Protestant groups have also lost many members—as have many “independent” churches.

Why?

By Roderick C. Meredith

Many polls show that increasing numbers of people feel these churches do not really “stand for anything.” They have so much watered down what they believe and are increasingly “joining the world” that it is hard to distinguish the way of life of churchgoers from the general population of this world. An article in *USA Today* points out:

Most young adults today don’t pray, don’t worship and don’t read the Bible, a major survey by a Christian research firm shows.

If the trends continue, “the Millennial generation will see churches closing as quickly as GM dealerships,” says Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. In the group’s survey of 1,200 18- to 29-years old, 72 percent say they’re “really more spiritual than religious....

We have dumbed down what it means to be part of the church so much that it means almost nothing, even to people who already say they are part of the church,” Rainer says (April 27, 2010).

Truly, the “mainstream” churches have “dumbed down” what religion means. They really do not “stand for anything”! Rather, they have, in fact, *joined the world*. So why should anyone join them? Increasing numbers of people think “what’s the difference” between those in the church and those out of the church. They wonder, “*Is there any religion out there that really stands for something?*”

Interestingly, the Roman Catholic Church “appears” to stand for something it believes—even though often ridiculed by the mainstream media. Yet many Bible-believing people are put off by the “popery” of Marian devotion and so many practices clearly taken from ancient paganism. What millions

want is a religion based on the Bible. As one of the noted Protestant theologians of his time wrote: “The Bible, the whole Bible and **nothing but the Bible**, is the religion of Protestants” (*Schaff-Herzog Cyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article “Chillingworth, W.”).

The “Mainstream” Is DECEIVED!

Yet, sadly, the vast majority of “mainstream” churchgoers have almost *no knowledge* of what the Bible actually teaches! The ministers in these churches get up and give generalized sermons *referring to* the Bible, but rarely reading, explaining and *expounding* whole passages *from the Bible* to teach people *what the Bible says*. And most Americans and Britons do not *study* the Bible in detail to find out what the Creator is actually telling them about the meaning of life and what they ought to do. Because they lack a solid biblical foundation for their faith, most modern ministers are going along “whole hog” with the ideas and traditions of men. So without a powerful and genuine *commitment* to “seek” the God of the Bible and *do what He says*, their followers are slowly but surely compromising with Satan the devil’s agenda on virtually *everything*. It will not be too many more years until these Protestant leaders of professing “Christianity” not only allow homosexual practices for their members, but begin to approve polygamy, polyandry and “group marriages”! *How dare* I say this? Because that is definitely the path of continuing compromise which they are now on. And there is *no indication* that they will ever get off that path!

The Gospel of John specifically condemned the religious leaders of Jesus’ day by stating, “they loved the *praise of men* more than the praise of God” (John 12:43). My friends, do **you** “love the praise of men”? Do *you* really believe that in the soon-coming Great Tribulation these puny *men* will be able to save you?

Think!

The inspired word of God warns all of us: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD”

(Jeremiah 17:5). As the Eternal God warns us in the book of Proverbs: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of **death**” (Proverbs 14:12). If you who read this article carefully and really want to *obey* your Creator and have part in His everlasting Kingdom, please *think carefully* about what I am writing and do **not** simply “go along” with pagan ideas masquerading as Christian!

The respected “mainstream” Protestant historian, Jesse Lyman Hurlbut, in his well-known history entitled, *The Story of the Christian Church*, describes the early decades of what we call the “Dark Ages” as the main developing pagan church took over the name of Christianity:

The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of worship. About 405AD, images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as memorials, then in succession revered, adored, and worshiped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana; the Lord’s Supper became a sacrifice in place of a memorial; and the elder evolved from a preacher into a priest. As a result of the church sitting in power, we do not see Christianity transforming the world to its own idea, but the world dominating the church (p. 79).

Sadly, neither Protestant nor Catholic theologians as a whole have **ever** taken seriously the simple, straightforward teaching of Jesus. For when Jesus Christ was asked by a young man the way to eternal life, He replied, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments**” (Matthew 19:17). In the famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly stated, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and



*Venus, Diana or Mary? “Heart of Virgin Mary,”
from Basilica of San Lorenzo, Verona, Italy*

teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17–19).

Many professing Christians do not remotely grasp the importance of those words. Christ said, regarding the law, that not “one jot or one tittle”—the tiniest marks in the Hebrew script—would pass from it until heaven and earth pass away. Since heaven and earth have **not** passed away, we must understand that the law remains. Did His “fulfilling” the law somehow change these commands? Or did they change after Christ’s resurrection? No! Heaven and earth did not pass away at His resurrection. And we see that Jesus’ own example was to keep **all** of the Ten Commandments (cf. Luke 4:16)!

Peter’s Warning

At the very end of his life, in his final letter, the Apostle Peter *specifically warned* that deceived men could *pervert* the teachings of the Apostle Paul into an excuse to do away with the law of God! Peter describes Paul’s epistles as a part of Scripture—yet as

a part that “ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error **of the lawless**” (2 Peter 3:16–17, *NIV*).

Lawless? Do you think for one minute that Peter was talking about *traffic laws*? Of course not! He was talking about the *spiritual law of God*—the Ten Commandments. God obviously knew, in advance, that *false teachers* would rise up—as Peter and Paul warned about over and over—and turn men away

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from the *way of life* patterned on the Ten Commandments, which God intended all true Christians to

follow. Paul consistently *obeyed* God's laws—kept the weekly Sabbaths and the Holy Days—and *never once* said God's spiritual law was abrogated! Otherwise, he would have been *contradicting himself* when he wrote in God's inspired word, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments** of God is what matters” (1 Corinthians 7:19).

Yet bishops and popes substituted their own pagan doctrine and “church traditions” for the clear teaching and example of Jesus Christ. And many of these substitutions were accepted and even embraced by the Protestant “reformers.” Martin Luther said: “No one can deny that we hold, believe, sing, and confess all things in correspondence with the old church, that *we make nothing new therein nor add anything thereto*, and in this way *we belong to the old*

vehemently affirms their essential *oneness* with the Catholic Church!

Speaking of the other great Protestant Reformer, John Calvin, respected historian George Park Fisher tells us: “He did not deny that the Christian societies acknowledging the Pope are ‘churches of Christ’.... He indignantly denies that he has withdrawn from the Church” (*History of Christian Doctrine*, p. 304).

Schaff tells us that it is in speaking of the visible or *historic Catholic church* that Calvin writes: “As our present design is to treat of the *visible Church*, we may learn even from her the title of *mother*, how useful and even necessary it is for us to know her” (Schaff, Vol. VIII, p. 450).

The insistence of the Protestant leaders on their *basic unity* with the Catholic church, and their identification of her as their “mother” church is *most significant!*

God Identifies the Roman Church

In the early editions of Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament, there are many illustrations picturing the “Whore of Babylon” as the *Roman Catholic Church*. In describing this *widely understood interpretation*, Bainton tells us: “Fallen Babylon is plainly **Rome**” (*Here I Stand*, p. 258).

Countless Protestant books, pamphlets, and tracts make that same identification today. They brand the Roman Catholic Church as the “Great Whore” of Revelation 17.

But, it must be admitted, most of the more conservative Protestant denominational writers have stopped making this identification. After those first editions of the Bible, and pamphlets and tracts,

they suddenly came to the embarrassing realization that *they were telling on themselves!* For in one of the easily understood passages in this inspired prophetic book, God describes a great false

religious system which was to arise and labels it “Babylon the Great” (Revelation 17:1–6).

Turning to Revelation 17, we see that the woman pictured here is a fallen woman—a “*Great Whore*.” She sits upon “many waters.” In verse 15, the

PROTESTANTISM CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

PETER SPECIFICALLY WARNED OF DECEIVERS WHO WOULD PERVERT PAUL'S TEACHINGS INTO AN EXCUSE TO **DO AWAY WITH THE LAW OF GOD!**

church and are one with it” (Lindsey, *A History of the Reformation*, Vol. I, p. 468).

By their *own* statements, then, it is *proved* that the Protestants regarded themselves only as a *continuation of the historic Catholic church*, but under a different and “purified” form. Luther himself

h Canada!

REPUTATION, CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP



A recent survey by The Reputation Institute surveyed more than 27,000 people from the G-8 countries, to arrive at a reputation ranking for 50 countries around the globe. The result? “Canada has the best reputation, for the third year in a row” (*Barron's*, August 19, 2013).

Such surveys and reports are not unnoticed by Canadians, who pride themselves on tolerance, inclusion and good government.

When it comes to human government, Canada certainly has much to be pleased with, but its governance has not seemed uniformly good in recent years. Last November, Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay resigned amid allegations of corruption. “Tremblay continued to deny any direct knowledge of corruption within his administration on Monday evening, saying in his speech that ‘crooks’ within his circle had betrayed his trust” (“Montreal mayor’s resignation called ‘courageous,’” *CBC News*, November 6, 2012).

Michael Applebaum was chosen as Montreal’s interim mayor, but he too resigned after 14 counts were laid against him alleging fraud, breach of trust, conspiracy, municipal corruption and secret payments. According to a *Reuters* report, “His departure will do little to help the reputation of Quebec, where a two-year public inquiry... is unearthing almost daily allegations of contract rigging, kickbacks and fraud going back many years” (“Montreal mayor resigns, says will fight corruption charges,” June 18, 2013).

While Canada’s second largest city is mired in accusations of corruption, its largest city fares no better. Toronto’s colorful mayor, Robert Bruce “Rob” Ford, seems to be all over the news for all the wrong reasons: illegally driving while talking on a phone, making an



obscene gesture to a woman and her six-year-old daughter and being intoxicated in public on several occasions. He has also been accused of much more serious offenses; three reporters claim to have seen a video of him smoking crack cocaine, but after a week of silence (during which several of his trusted senior staff members quit), he confidently declared, “I do not use crack cocaine, nor am I an addict of crack cocaine.” In spite of the accusations, Ford’s popularity remains high.

The picture is no better for national leadership. Four appointed senators are currently facing legal scrutiny; three for allegedly taking illegal tax deductions, and another for claiming inappropriate expense claims. Interestingly, two of the four were well-known television journalists before being appointed to the Senate.

Even the Canadian Forces took it on the chin several years ago with a shocking scandal. Colonel Russell Williams was the highly decorated commander of Canada’s largest airbase, CFB Trenton. He was also chosen to transport various international and Canadian VIPs, such as the Prime Minister, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. All this ended when he was arrested and later convicted of rape and the murder of two women. Recently, Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau confessed that he smoked marijuana more than once while holding a seat in Parliament. In response, many politicians around Canada quickly jumped on the pot-smoking bandwagon, saying they too had broken the law by smoking marijuana while in office. Apparently, they calculated that their admissions would help them gain popularity with a public morally adrift.

Growing Cynicism?

The failure of leadership is nothing new in Canada or elsewhere, but more and more people are growing

cynical about their leaders. No matter where you turn, you seem to find a lack of personal integrity and character. Leaders entrusted to public service appear to be more interested in having the public serve them.

This should not be surprising. Leaders are a reflection of society at large, and today we see character and integrity devalued in our culture. Real belief and faith in God is on the decline, and with it, standards of right, wrong and morality in general.

Few realize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a message about government. Jesus came to declare the coming Kingdom of God, where rulers will not be elected, appointed or usurped by men. Jesus Himself will appoint leaders who have proven they will put the needs of others before their own.

Today's crisis in leadership will bring about an unimaginable time of trouble. Jesus revealed, more than 19 centuries ago, that "unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:22). The only way mankind's madness will be stopped is for Jesus Christ to return (Acts 1:6-11; Zechariah 14:1-4).

Jerusalem will be the focal point of world conflict at the time of Christ's return, but every region of our planet will be affected before He comes to take His place as "King over all the earth." Some nations will at first resist His rule, but He will prevail (vv. 16-19).

As regular readers of this magazine know, Scripture identifies the people of the United States and the British-descended nations, including Canada, as modern-day



**Sir John Macdonald, first Canadian Prime Minister,
on Canadian \$10 banknote**

descendants of the ancient Israelite tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. The prophet Ezekiel tells us that Israel's descendants will be reunited in the future (Ezekiel 37:15-22). King David will be resurrected to rule over them (Ezekiel 37:24-25; Jeremiah 30:9). Jesus gives us further insight into who will be ruling these nations. When Peter asked what he and his fellow apostles would receive, He told 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

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twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28).

But He did not stop there! In the parable of the minas, Jesus informs us that those who overcome and multiply spiritual fruit today will govern cities when He returns (Luke 19:16-19; Revelation 20:4).

Moral Character?

Our leadership crisis today is one of moral character. Canada is no worse than most countries in the world when it comes to corruption of authority. Compared to some, it may even appear to be better off, but this does not excuse the rampant misbehaviour by some of its leaders. Human nature, which is made up of vanity, lust, greed and selfish ambition, is the common shortcoming of people everywhere. To solve this problem, God is working with a few men and women today whom He will appoint to positions of leadership at Christ's return. These are not the elite of the world (1 Corinthians 1:26-29), but are people who possess the basics of leadership: self-sacrifice and outgoing concern for those governed. They are learning during this lifetime the way of **give** rather than **get**.

There can be no better advice for Canada's future leaders, and the future leaders of every nation, than that found in Philippians 2:3-7: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

—Gerald Weston

TIPPING POINT

Has the world economy
passed the **point of no return**?

By Dexter B. Wakefield

Picture in your mind a man sitting in a wooden chair with four legs. Then imagine what would happen if he slowly begins to tip the chair backward, lifting the front legs off the floor. The chair will remain stable up to a certain point, where it will be barely balancing on its two rear legs. At that point, just a small additional push and the man and chair will crash over backward. That point is “*the tipping point*.”

National economies can be very much like that chair. Consider that when governments spend more than they receive, they typically finance the difference by borrowing. The interest rate they must pay is determined primarily by the investors’ confidence regarding repayment and monetary inflation in the borrowing nation.

When governments accumulate large amounts of debt relative to the size of their economies, investors get worried. The credit rating of the government may be downgraded, which increases their borrowing costs. The increased borrowing costs further limit the government’s ability to service the debt—which again reduces their creditworthiness even more—which increases borrowing costs again. As their credit dries up, the government must increase taxes and reduce expenditures—called “austerity”—which restricts the economy, compounding the problem. A devastating downward economic and credit spiral can begin.

Cry for Argentina?

Argentina is a beautiful country of 40 million people blessed with great natural resources, fertile plains called *pampas* and a world-famous wine-growing

region near the majestic Andes Mountains. But in 2002 the nation defaulted on its sovereign debt. “When Argentina defaulted on some \$100 billion in bonds 11 years ago, its debt represented *166 percent of gross domestic product*. Bank deposits were frozen and devalued, the economy shrank 11 percent in one year, and millions lost their jobs” (*Reuters*, May 13, 2013, Hilary Burke). Argentina had experienced hyperinflation, riots and the fall of its government. After that collapse, the Argentine economy rebounded for a while, but the nation lost its access to many of the world’s capital markets. Once again, sadly, this beautiful country is experiencing high inflation, a weak economy and social unrest. Default on at least some of debt is again a concern. Will the U.S. soon experience a similar circumstance?

The U.S. Debt Bomb: By the Numbers

In 2004, the total sovereign debt of the United States stood at \$7.3 trillion or about \$70,000 per taxpayer. But after the financial crisis in 2008, the government began incurring trillion-dollar deficits attempting to stimulate the economy. For the current fiscal year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the staggering pace of debt buildup is projected to decline somewhat to around \$759 billion—about 4 percent of GDP. That is far less than the \$1.4 trillion deficit—10.1 percent of GDP—that the government ran in 2009, but it is still an unsustainable pace.

Regrettably, the 2013 projected decline may be temporary, since it came largely from *temporary, one-time gains* from mortgage giants, FNMA and FMCC. Foxnews.com reported Rep. Chris Van Hollen, (D-MD), top Democrat of the House Budget Committee, as saying, “The good news is the near-term deficit

is dropping, but it appears to be dropping primarily as a result of additional, *one-time revenues* rather than any uptick in economic growth” (*foxnews.com*, May 15, 2013). Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget added, “The rosier-than-expected near-term projections do not change the fact that rising health care costs, an aging population, Social Security’s looming insolvency and ever-increasing interest payments will greatly expand the national debt” (*ibid.*).

This year’s shortfall would register at 4 percent of the economy, far less than the 10.1 percent experienced in 2009 when the government ran a record *\$1.4 trillion deficit*. Often, people think that China is absorbing all this U.S. sovereign debt, but that is incorrect. Indeed, as of July 30, 2013, China held more than \$1.2 trillion in U.S. Treasuries, buying new Treasuries even as other foreign investors have increasingly been net sellers. In recent years, China has purchased new U.S. debt at about the same rate that the existing bonds come due and are paying off. The U.S. Federal Reserve is by far the largest purchaser of U.S. sovereign debt, buying up the bulk of new issues. The U.S. is buying its own debt.

As of early 2013, total U.S. sovereign debt has risen to \$16.8 trillion—\$148,000 per taxpayer, of which \$12 trillion—*75 percent of GDP*—is held by the public and the rest is intra-governmental debt such as debts owed to the Social Security Trust Fund and the Medicare Trust Fund. All the money collected from payroll taxes for these trust funds is quickly spent by the government and substituted with unmarketable U.S. Treasury obligations. These intra-governmental obligations will have to be repaid in the future if Medicare and Social Security benefits are to be

continued as promised to the public, so essentially, the debt is owed to the public. *Total U.S. sovereign debt is now about 105 percent of GDP*. And the creditors will want their money paid back *with interest*.

A Tip from Rising Rates

Could the tipping point come from rising interest rates? Many analysts think that there is a “point of no return” when an economy enters a downward spiral from which it cannot recover. Recently, interest rates on U.S. debt have been at historic lows, but yields on long-term U.S. Treasury Notes have increased dramatically in the last twelve months. A return to a normal rate environment will mean a huge increase in debt service costs. If rates should spike upward, the deficit could increase dramatically, further increasing the nation’s debt burden. And rates are now rising.

Economist and commentator Bill Mauldin calls the tipping point “the **Bang!** moment” and advises “...debt is not a problem until it becomes one. And then it reaches a critical mass and you have what they called the **Bang!** moment... With debt-to-GDP ratios, all we know for now is that the **Bang!** moment exists, but the precise point for any one given country is not something we can calculate. But wherever that line happens to fall, once it is crossed, **Bang!** Everything changes” (February 22, 2013).

But other economists think that we *can* know the tipping point number. In a study paper presented to the U.S. Monetary Forum earlier this year in New York, a group of leading economists had this to say: “Countries with high debt loads are vulnerable to an adverse feedback



loop in which doubts by lenders lead to higher sovereign interest rates which in turn make the debt problems more severe. We analyze the recent experience of advanced economies using both econometric methods and case studies and conclude that countries with **debt above 80 percent of GDP** and persistent current-account deficits are *vulnerable to a rapid fiscal deterioration* as a result of these **tipping-point dynamics**. Such feedback is left out of current long-term U.S. budget projections and could make it much more difficult for the U.S. to maintain a sustainable budget course. **A potential fiscal crunch also puts fundamental limits on what monetary policy is able to achieve**” (*Crunch Time: Fiscal Crises and the Role of Monetary Policy*, February 22, 2013).

Is the Fed Shooting Blanks?

One of the U.S. Federal Reserve’s primary roles is to control the nation’s monetary supply, called “M2,”

WHAT DOES GOD SAY WILL HAPPEN TO A NATION WHEN HE WITHDRAWS HIS BLESSING? DEBTS, FOR ONE THING!

which is the total of cash and demand deposits (such as checking and savings accounts) in the economy. Indeed, the Fed has been purchasing massive amounts of securities in the last few years in what is called “Quantitative Easing.” This drives interest rates down and also means that the securities purchases by the Fed inject huge amounts of money into the U.S. economy—in an attempt to stimulate it. The economists quoted above are saying that at the tipping point, *monetary policy becomes ineffective in controlling the money supply and the economy*. Is there any evidence that is the case?

Over the last five years of attempted monetary expansion, a disconnect has been brewing. In the first quarter of 2013, the Fed purchased **\$277.5 billion** in securities, injecting that amount into the economy, but the money supply, M2, actually **contracted by \$55 billion** during that period. This is largely because the more money the Fed injects, the slower the circulation of money—called the *velocity of money*

(“V”)—becomes. The velocity of money is at its lowest level in over half a century. Since the economy is not using it and price levels are not increasing much, all that extra money piles up in banks, which deposit it as excess reserves in... The Federal Reserve! Over the last 5 years, the Fed’s balance sheet has ballooned from about \$890 billion in early 2008 to \$3.75 trillion as of mid-October 2013! It appears that not only are our regulators missing their monetary targets, *they may be shooting blanks!*

Inflation or Deflation?

Large fiscal deficits, and increases in the monetary supply of an economic system, often presage an inflationary spiral. As prices absorb excess monetary supply, inflationary expectations increase, fueling more price increases. Inflation can get out of control as it did in Germany in the 1920s. At its worst in 1923–24, German hyperinflation reached one trillion marks for one U.S. dollar, and prices were doubling every two days. The currency became worthless.

More recently, Argentina endured hyperinflation during its crisis of 1989–92. During hyperinflation, price levels are difficult to measure, but economists say that Argentine price

levels increased at an annual rate above 10,000 percent per year. One peso in 1992 equaled 100,000,000,000 pesos from a decade earlier. A deep recession ensued, followed by collapse of the government.

Inflation nearly got out of control in the U.S. during the Carter Administration, climbing from 5.2 percent when he took office in 1979 to more than 14 percent in 1980. Fed Chairman Paul Volcker slammed on the monetary brakes by raising the Federal Funds Rate to 20 percent, and the prime rate of interest that banks charge leapt to 21.5 percent in 1981! But inflation subsided and the U.S. economy returned to growth in the 1980s. The U.S. economy was at a tipping point with inflation, and Fed Chairman Volcker pulled the economy back from it in the nick of time.

So, do large government deficits always produce inflation? And where is the evidence of impending inflation in today’s economy? It may appear in the future, but it is not evident yet, at least not dramatically so. Even with all the deficits and

Quantitative Easing, for the first eight months of 2013, the monthly inflation rate has averaged just 1.6 percent. *Deflation*, which occurs when price levels decrease, can be very difficult for central bankers to control and most would rather cope with inflation than deflation. Governments can increase interest rates to combat inflation—as Paul Volcker did—but they cannot reduce interest rates below zero. The yield on U.S. 13-week Treasury Bills has been barely above zero for the last five years.

Deflation can be tenacious. For two decades, Japan has had the most extreme deficit spending of any industrialized nation—its total debt is over 230 percent of its GDP, as compared to Greece’s debt of 175 percent of GDP. Yet Japan has experienced what has been called “The Lost Decades” of 1990 to 2010 in which the economy has struggled against persistent *deflation*. Interest rates have been near zero in Japan for over a decade, without producing inflation. Japanese Prime Minister Abe is taking drastic measures to try to re-inflate the Japanese



economy. The situation in the U.S. is not exactly the same as in Japan—there are dissimilar reasons for

Japanese deflation—but many similarities do exist. The U.S. faces deflationary pressures such as high unemployment, sagging commodity prices and a slowing velocity of money, and its economy and price levels are becoming less and less responsive to the Federal Reserve’s Quantitative Easing policy.


The tipping point for deflation comes when demand for goods and services contracts, reducing prices, which in turn, slows down the economy, further reducing demand. High unemployment tends to be deflationary, since competition for jobs reduces wages—which further reduces demand. *So down the spiral goes*, and once it begins, it is very difficult for governments to reverse. That was the situation for many of the world’s economies during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

A Tip from Long Ago

The U.S. has been blessed greatly by God, and in past generations, the leaders and people generally have acknowledged that their blessings have come from God. God tells us that it is He who makes our creation of wealth possible, but He warns us about it as well. “*Beware* that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is He* who gives you *power to get wealth...*” (Deuteronomy 8:11–14, 17–18). So, *in which way will the U.S. economy tip?*

A nation that is being blessed by God in creating wealth is often a lender to other nations. This was the situation with the U.S. in the past. “The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. *You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.* And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them” (Deuteronomy 28:12–13).

But what does God say will happen when He withdraws His blessing? ***Debts, for one thing.*** “The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. *He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail*” (Deuteronomy 28:43–44).

Some will have to learn the hard way that the “borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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THIS IS London CALLING



MAGNA CARTA REMEMBERED



Eight hundred years ago, in St. Albans, England, King John's restless and dissatisfied Norman barons entered into a series of negotiations with the king's representatives. The talks dragged on for two years. On June 15, 1215, in a famous meadow named Runnymede, the king's representatives and the barons assented to a "Great Charter"—a formal royal grant stamped with the king's Great Seal of approval.

This iconic and famed document, called Magna Carta, is widely considered the foundational document of English liberty, and the chief defense against arbitrary and unjust rule in the nation. Yet it may come as a surprise to learn that it did not start out with such an illustrious pedigree. Indeed, the original document contained very few sweeping statements of principle; rather, it mainly dwelt upon a series of practical concessions wrung from an unwilling king by barons who were determined to curtail his power.

Becoming a Charter of Lasting Importance

King John quickly rejected the Runnymede document, not least because one of its provisions gave barons the right to seize the king's properties if he failed to observe the terms of the charter. Pope Innocent III declared Magna Carta null and void, in return for the king's submission to universal papal authority. England soon descended into civil war.

Had King John not died a year later, Magna Carta might have been lost forever. But his son and successor, the nine-year-old Henry III, went along with the document (via his Regent), to build support among the barons. The original 1215 document was soon modified, rescinding its provisions that were most restrictive against the king. The modified Magna Carta passed into law in 1225. In 1297 it was placed on the statute book of England and Wales, where it remains to this day.

As England's feudal system changed over time, the document's legal relevance has diminished, as all but a very few of its provisions have either been repealed or superseded. The remaining provisions, still in effect in English law, are as follows:

- *The English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired.*
- *The City of London, together with other cities, boroughs, towns and ports, shall enjoy all their ancient liberties and free customs.*
- *No free man shall be imprisoned, dispossessed, outlawed or exiled without the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land. To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice.*

What has endured, however, is the overriding principle behind the document's provisions—that government by the king must be subject to law. No one was to be above the law.

"Magna Carta was the first programme of reform in English history," wrote historian David Horspool in his book *The English Rebel*. It was the first document that forced a King of England to limit his powers and protect the privileges of the feudal barons. It influenced the adoption of constitutional law throughout the English-speaking world, and strongly influenced the United States' Constitution.

Magna Carta, God and the Bible

The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta will provide an opportunity to affirm the ideals of individual freedom, liberty and justice in a world where such ideals are not always respected. But neither should we forget the strongest of connections among Magna Carta, God and the Bible.

Magna Carta acknowledged that King John ruled by “the grace of God.” The provisions of the charter were for “the health of our soul and those of our ancestors and heirs, to the honour of God, the exaltation of the holy Church and the better ordering of our kingdom.” With those words, the charter explicitly pledged submission of its parties to God’s governance over mankind for its greater good. The charter acknowledged God’s existence, and sought to be consistent with His will. “Since we have granted all these things to God, for the better ordering of our kingdom....” To a great extent, Magna Carta follows

God gave His great Charter for humanity freely—planned from the beginning of time and guaranteeing perfect justice for all, past, present and future!

the biblical pattern of government by covenant.

Sadly, as the English-speaking nations prepare to celebrate a noted anniversary of this revered Charter, belief in God and in His word—the Bible—is rapidly diminishing. Yet the Bible, from which the authors of Magna

Carta sought to derive their authority, is the ultimate and pre-eminent legal document in world history.

Magna Carta was a charter intended to preserve the rights, freedoms and temporal liberty of the English from a tyrant king. The Bible represents nothing less than a Great Charter for all of humanity, heralding the ultimate spiritual freedom from death and the tyranny of Satan, the present god of this world. Yet while Magna Carta was given grudgingly by England’s king, under coercion, to provide a somewhat greater degree

of justice, God gave His great Charter for humanity freely—planned from the beginning of time and guaranteeing perfect justice for all, past, present and future!

Though it was affirmed by the oaths of all parties, Magna Carta could only be as reliable as the fragile and

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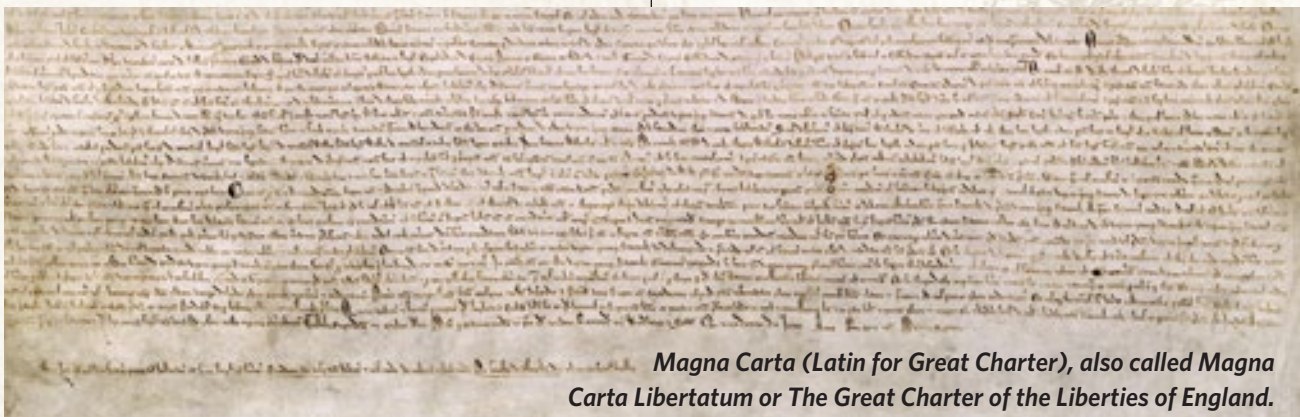
unsteady human nature on which its signatories relied. By contrast, God’s great Charter is totally reliable, resting

on His immutable promises confirmed by His inviolable oath (Hebrews 6:13-20). While Magna Carta was made legal and binding by the king’s Great Seal, so God’s great Charter, which He calls His “everlasting covenant,” is permanently sealed with the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 13:20-21).

As a formal royal grant by England’s king to its people, Magna Carta became the cornerstone of temporal liberty for those who strive to live by its underlying principles. By contrast, God’s covenant provisions are for all humanity. They amount, in effect, to a formal royal grant by the King of kings—the cornerstone of eternal liberty!

Those who recognize Magna Carta’s greatness in human terms should be able to see that God and His word—the Bible—are far greater by innumerable orders of magnitude. As the British-descended peoples turn their attention to the 800th anniversary of this foundational document, should we not be paying even more attention to the document that undergirded it, and to the message of that document, which offers liberty not just in this life but for all eternity to those who believe and act upon the covenant it offers?

—John Meakin



Magna Carta (Latin for Great Charter), also called Magna Carta Libertatum or The Great Charter of the Liberties of England.

THE DAY OF THE LORD



By Richard F. Ames

A major prophetic event looms on the horizon. The great prophets of the Bible, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel wrote about it. The so-called Minor Prophets—Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Zephaniah, Zechariah and Malachi—also emphasized this event. Even the Apostles Peter and Paul wrote about it. It is called the Day of the Lord. But just what is it? And how does it fit into the framework of Bible prophecy?

The book of Joel contains a prophecy for our generation: “Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand: a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations” (Joel 2:1–2).

Almighty God will intervene in human affairs in a dramatic way. There will be major wars during this time when God executes judgment on the nations. Not only will military weapons bring destruction; there will also be vast ecological devastation. “What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; and what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten” (Joel 1:4).

Even today, locust invasions are not unheard of. In July 1874, the prairie region of the United States experienced the largest locust infestation in recorded history. An estimated 198,000 square miles of land—an area nearly twice that of the state of Colorado, and larger than Germany, Iraq or Japan—was shrouded by 12.5 trillion locusts that devoured crops, foliage, leather fabric and more. The thick layer of dead insects became so troublesome that even railroad traffic was stopped as tracks had to be cleared.

Earlier this year, the island nation of Madagascar found itself battling a locust infestation that threatened two-thirds of the nation’s land mass. Experts have identified at least 100 locust swarms across the island, consisting of about 500 billion ravenous insects that eat about 100,000 tons of vegetation daily. The nation’s livelihood is threatened, yet this is a minor disturbance when compared to the future plagues that will make today’s seem minor by comparison.

When God brings punishments upon rebellious nations, He will call upon them to humble themselves and repent! Of course, you and I need not wait until then: “Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty” (Joel 1:14–15).

The Day of the Lord is the time of God’s judgment on the nations. It is the time when Almighty God will



begin to intervene more directly and powerfully in mankind's affairs.

Seven Seals

In Revelation 5, we read of a scroll sealed with seven seals. Jesus, the Revelator, opens those seals, as described in Revelation 6. The first four seals are known as the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. The first horse (the white horse) and its rider represent false religions—false Christs.

The second seal reveals a horseman (riding a red horse) with the power to take peace from the earth. The third seal presents a rider (on a black horse) representing the scarcity of food and resulting famine. The fourth seal shows a rider (on a pale horse) named “Death and Hades.” These riders’ combined power will bring destruction to one-fourth of the earth.

This description parallels the events Jesus outlined in His Olivet Prophecy: “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7).

The trumpet plagues described in the book of Revelation are waiting for us on the horizon. And we are laying the foundation for our own destruction. As Jesus said, “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

The Day of the Lord is a coming time of God’s powerful intervention in world affairs. God will even stir the elements of nature to bring great destruction

as He calls on carnal human beings to repent and seek Him. He will judge rebellious nations, even letting them destroy one another in world conflict.

An Intensified Ride

Critics say we have always had war, famine and pestilence. But we will see the four horsemen of the Apocalypse intensify their ride with increasing global impact as time goes on. These four horsemen are revealed as Christ opens the first four seals. What happens when Christ opens the fifth seal? “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held” (Revelation 6:9).

Here we read of the martyrdom of the saints—true Christians. In the first century, the Emperor Nero violently persecuted Christians and put them to death. This fifth seal also predicts a major end-time persecution of God’s people. Then Jesus opens the sixth seal, revealing the heavenly signs that will shock people all over the earth.

John wrote: “I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:12–14).

Not only will asteroids and meteorites frighten people, but massive earthquakes will also shake

the earth. As the Apostle John saw in vision, “every mountain and island was moved out of its place.” Almighty God will get the attention of rebellious humanity through these earthquakes and heavenly signs. The Creator God tells us, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven” (Hebrews 12:26).

Obviously, it would be better for all of us to repent and humble ourselves before God now, rather than having to be shaken for our rejection of the Creator and His way of life! Yes, the great men of the earth will flee in terror. The Apostle John recorded their fearful response: “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:16–17).

To use the vernacular, God will “get our attention!” The heavenly signs will terrify people. The great leaders of the earth will be frightened.

The heavenly signs introduce the Day of the Lord, the time of God’s wrath and judgment on an unthankful, rebellious world. Jesus Christ, the Lamb, will be wrathful. He will execute God’s righteous judgments. The Day of the Lord is called, here, “the great Day of His wrath!” (v. 17)

A Day for a Year

Just how long is this “Day” of the Lamb’s wrath? As many Bible students know, prophecy often uses a day to indicate a year. The Day of the Lord, in one sense, is the year preceding the return of Christ! Isaiah made this plain. “For it is the day of the LORD’s vengeance, the year of recompense for the cause of Zion” (Isaiah 34:8).

The environmental and political problems symbolized by the four horsemen of the Apocalypse will continue to intensify. There will be wholesale religious persecution, as revealed through the fifth seal of Revelation. The sixth seal, the heavenly signs, will awaken the world to the beginning of the Day of the Lord—the seventh seal!

The seventh seal lasts approximately one year and it consists of seven trumpet plagues. As John described: “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets” (Revelation 8:1–2).



The trumpets give us warning—they announce seven plagues or judgments!

Notice in Revelation 8 that as the first four angels sound their trumpets there is great ecological devastation all over the earth. There are earthquakes. Vast areas of vegetation are burned up. A third of all sea life dies. Water sources are poisoned. The heavens are darkened.

The last three trumpet plagues are called woes. The word “woe” is an exclamation of grief! “And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!’” (Revelation 8:13).

Revelation 9 describes the first woe, or the fifth trumpet plague. This “plague” is a devastating military action lasting for five months. The second woe, the sixth trumpet plague, pictures an intense military counter-attack from the east, by a 200 million-man army that will kill one-third of the world’s population. This phase of World War III will kill billions of people! Yes, Jesus said that unless those days were shortened no flesh would be saved—otherwise, all life on earth would be destroyed.

Next we hear the sound of the seventh trumpet. For Christians, the sounding of the seventh trumpet is good news, because it announces the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. We all need to be preparing for that time!

THE DAY OF THE LORD CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is there good reason to reject December 25 as Jesus' birthdate?

Question: Does the Bible indicate the date, or even the season, of Christ's birth?

Answer: One key to the accurate dating of Jesus Christ's birth is contained in a biblical statement about Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. In Luke, we are told that John's father was "of the division of Abijah" (Luke 1:5). This brief mention has great significance.

We learn from Luke that Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to visit her cousin Elizabeth right after Jesus' conception. Elizabeth was six months pregnant at the time (vv. 36–41). Thus, John the Baptist was about six months older than Jesus. So if we can determine when

In December, flocks were indoors; no shepherds would have been in the fields at night!

John was born, figuring out the approximate date of Christ's birth is a simple matter. This is where "the course of Abijah" becomes important.

About 1,000 years earlier, in the days of King David, the number of priests in Israel had grown considerably. David, therefore, divided them into 24 divisions or "courses" to rotate their service in the temple (1 Chronicles 24; cf. 23:6; 28:13). The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote in the first century AD that the aforementioned partition has remained "to this day" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, book 7, chapter 14, section 7).

Jewish historical records show that all of the Temple priests served in Jerusalem during the three annual Festival seasons—Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles (cf. Leviticus 23; Deuteronomy 16). Throughout the rest of the year, however, they took turns, with each course serving one week in rotating order. Their rotation began on the first Sabbath of Nisan (or Abib)—the first month on the Hebrew calendar—with each course serving from Sabbath to Sabbath.

Because **all** of the courses served during the week of Passover, that meant the course of Abijah—eighth in rotation (cf. 1 Chronicles 24:10)—would have come

on duty at the beginning of the **ninth** week. And when this rotation was over, the week of Pentecost would have begun—so the course of Abijah would have remained for the tenth week as well. Luke 1 informs us that John was conceived right after his father returned home from serving at the temple (vv. 23–24). This was during the last half of Sivan, the third month of the Jewish calendar. Thus, his birth nine months or so later would have been in the spring of the next year. And since Jesus was born six months or so after John, He would have been born during the following autumn.

Such a conclusion is corroborated by two other details Luke gives us about the events surrounding Christ's birth. Luke describes that the shepherds were **in the field**, keeping watch over their flocks by night (Luke 2:8). Shortly after the fall harvest and the Feast of Tabernacles, in October, Judea's rainy season would have begun. By November—as the weather began to turn colder—the flocks would have been brought in for the winter. By December they would no longer have been in the fields at night with shepherds watching over them.

Another detail Luke provides is that Joseph and



Mary had gone to Bethlehem at the time of a census enrollment for taxation (Luke 2:1–4). Normally such

enrollments were set for right after harvest—which, again, would coincide with a fall date. This shows that, contrary to modern religious ideas, Jesus Christ was not born in the winter, but during the autumn, even though the precise day is not known.

Although it is helpful to know the general season of Christ's birth, we do not find early Christians regarding birthdays, Christ's or any other, as significant. Even as late as 245AD, the noted scholar Origen "repudiated as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition). It is also important to note that Jesus Christ did not mark the anniversary of His birth, or make reference to it in any such fashion, nor did any of the Apostles so much as even mention Christ's birth date or their own.



THE Works OF HIS HANDS

How Big Is the Universe?

King David, the warrior-poet of ancient Israel, once gazed at the night sky and asked, “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).

When we take the time to contemplate the awesome vastness of the universe around us, it is a very natural question to ask. Just how large is the physical creation around us? What lessons might it teach us?

Even if we only considered what we can see above us in the night sky, the size of the universe would seem impressive! Away from city lights on a moonless, cloudless night, astronomers estimate that one can see 3,000 to 5,000 stars—shimmering, brilliant gems against a dark velvet backdrop! Most would be stars like our sun, but varying in size, color and characteristics, some with planetary systems not unlike our own solar system.

But the universe is not bound by the limits of our eyes! A hint of a larger cosmos greets the nighttime viewer in the form of the Milky Way—a bright but faint, fuzzy band of light that stretches from one horizon to the other. That band is our view, looking through the width of our own galaxy, of a vast collection of stars, gaseous nebulae and other cosmic objects stretching across 100,000 light years—meaning that it would take a beam of light a *thousand* centuries to travel from edge to edge!

Billions and Billions of Stars

Scientists estimate that our galaxy holds 100 billion stars—or more! That means that if it, alone, were the entirety of the universe, there would be more than one

star for every human being who has ever walked the earth!

Yet there is so much more to God’s vast creation! When astronomers point their telescopes skyward in any direction, they find countless *additional galaxies* beyond our Milky Way, out in the far-flung reaches of intergalactic space! Some estimate that there are 100 billion galaxies in the universe, together containing as many as 300 *sextillion* stars—that is three followed by 23 zeros, 300,000,000,000,000,000,000!

Such a number presses the limits of our imaginations and almost defies our ability to visualize! It is hard enough to imagine some Earth-bound phenomena, such as the number of grains of sand on the beaches of our planet—one noteworthy estimate puts the number at about 7.5 quintillion grains. By that estimate, it would take the beaches of 40,000 Earths to produce enough grains of sand to match the count of stars in the cosmos! All of this in a universe that scientists estimate is *91 billion light years* in diameter!

Truly, the universe is a *big place*!

A Great Creator

Given the scope of the vast creation, what does it tell us of *the Creator*? The Apostle Paul says of those who deny Him that “His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

Indeed, considering the vast immensity of the cosmos—the collection of stars and worlds that greets our naked eye in the night sky, and the astonishingly greater universe lying unseen beyond it—we are humbled by scriptures telling us that God “counts the number of the stars; He

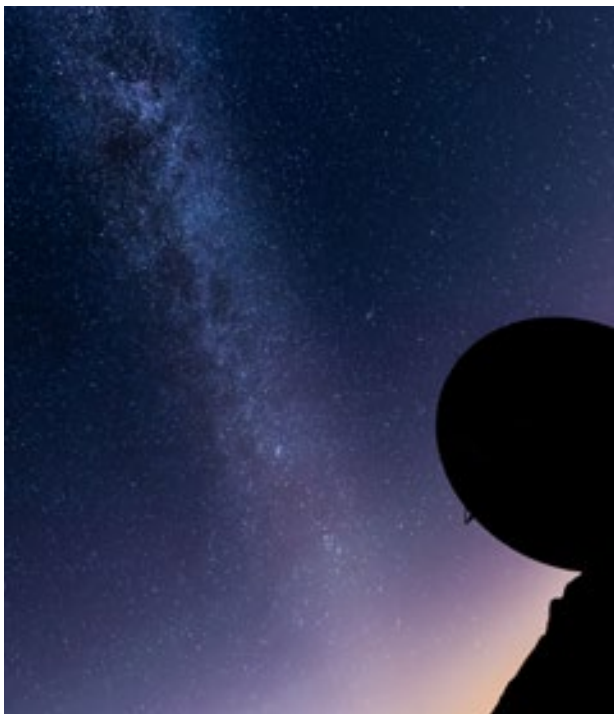
calls them all by name" (Psalm 147:4). He calls them *all* by name! Indeed, "Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is *infinite*" (v. 5)!

If the creation is great, its Creator must be immeasurably greater! We must remember that the glory revealed in the works of His hands is only a *tiny hint* at the true glory of Almighty God! For as we are told by the patriarch Job, "Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?" (Job 26:14).

And just as the scope and scale of our amazing cosmos moves us to wonder about God, it should also move us to wonder about our *own place in it*. As noted earlier, King David once asked of God's love and attention toward man. "You have crowned him with glory and honor," David noted. "You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; you have put all things under his feet" (Psalm 8:5-6).

All in Subjection

Does that dominion to be given to mankind over the works of God's hands include the far-flung and seemingly endless universe—star upon star and world upon world—beyond our planet? Indeed! The Apostle Paul, quoting and reflecting on these words of David,



wrote of the destiny of mankind as full children of God, saying, "For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not

It would take the beaches of
40,000 Earths to produce
enough grains of sand
to match the count
of stars in the
cosmos!

yet see all things put under him" (Hebrews 2:8).

The worlds both within and currently beyond the reach of our eyes as we gaze on the star-filled night sky will one day be ours to inherit, develop and beautify for the glory of God, as children in the very Family of God! The

immensity of the universe tells us that a destiny beyond imagination awaits mankind!

Our Pale Blue Dot

Musing on a photograph taken by the distant spacecraft Voyager 1 showing the earth to be a pale, blue dot against the enormous dark void of space, the famous astronomer Carl Sagan once wrote, "Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity—in all this vastness—there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves" (*Pale Blue Dot*, p. 7).

Yet, while considering the greatness of our universe *should* humble us and remind us of how truly small we are, Sagan could not be further from the truth. Pondering the unfathomable scale of the cosmos should also compel us to consider the incomprehensible power of creation's Creator, and that it is He who is "upholding all things [the entirety of the cosmos!] by the word of *His* power" (Hebrews 1:3)! And such considerations should also remind us that the creation is the divinely ordained *inheritance* of those who are choosing at this time to allow God to shape them and to sculpt their character in the image of His own—to make of them His own, precious children.

For those called to be children of God, every time they peer into the night sky they are looking at the smallest and faintest of hints of their glorious future in the Family of God!

—Wallace G. Smith

THE DOGS OF WAR

In a world where violence is the norm, will there ever be peace?

The headlines scream of the carnage unfolding in Syria, with allegations of the use of poison gas by the Bashar al-Assad regime. While the United Nations makes empty pronouncements and the major powers hurl hollow threats of intervention, people on both sides of the conflict die in increasing numbers.

In the Iraqi capitol of Baghdad, car bombs are detonated, as Sunni and Shiite factions tear at each other in a protracted power struggle. Even though the war is “over” and the troops from the United States and the coalition that toppled Saddam Hussein have withdrawn, peace is still elusive.

Meanwhile, the Taliban continue to wreak havoc in Afghanistan, where a corrupt government clings to power while the United States, with a whimper, begins withdrawing at the end of its longest war. Mosques are bombed, leaving worshippers murdered or maimed as they gather to pray. Young girls and women are oppressed and abused as Sharia law is imposed.

In Gaza, Palestinian rockets are regularly lobbed into the little nation of Israel, which retaliates with deadly ferocity. These skirmishes serve as a constant reminder of the centuries-old conflict for this hotly contested area that has played such a prominent role in history down through the ages.

Yet not all of the hot spots are in the Middle East. North Korea, described by experts as the most repressive regime on the planet, rattles its nuclear sword and makes outrageous threats of war with South Korea and the United States. With the largest standing army in modern times led by a young and unproven leader, North Korea is a constant, volatile threat.

Violence is just under the surface in Chechnya, with its ongoing conflict with Russia. Islamic extremists also flare up frequently in the Philippines, and the age-old feud in Northern Ireland

between Protestants and Catholics breaks out from time to time.

South of the U.S. border, in Mexico, the equivalent of a bloody civil war is raging as the drug cartels resist government intervention and vie for dominance and control. The violence occasionally spills across the border into the United States, which is very unsettling to the border states.

In the United States, homemade bombs were detonated in a crowd of spectators at the Boston Marathon, killing innocent people and inflicting terrible injuries on dozens more. It is a stark reminder that terrorism is very real threat.

Pondering these intractable armed conflicts around the world resulting from ideological, nationalistic and internecine differences is enough to boggle the mind. These conditions vividly illustrate the poignant line in William Shakespeare’s play, *Julius Caesar*, “Cry

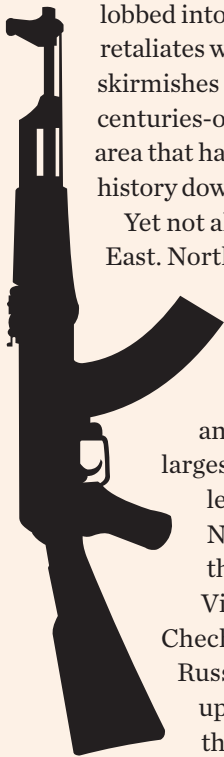
The way of peace they have not known...

‘Havoc,’ and let slip the dogs of war.” Yes, “the dogs of war” are on the loose, wreaking havoc wherever they can.

Mankind throughout history has been more often engaged in war with all its horrors, than enjoying brief respites of peace. Truly the prophet Isaiah stated it correctly when he was inspired to write, “**The way of peace they have not known**, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace” (Isaiah 59:8).

Jesus Christ plainly told His disciples to expect these conditions, when He said, “And you will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not troubled...” (Matthew 24:6). But notice, He said, “see that you are not troubled.” These words apply to those who understand that this age is coming to an end, and that Jesus Christ will return in great power and glory to silence the “dogs of war.” In doing so, He will usher in a thousand years of peace and plenty for a war-weary world.

—J. Davy Crockett, III





“Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15). What wonderful news!

But the seventh trumpet is also called the third woe! Why? Because it will also signal the final seven plagues. This will be an intense fulfillment of the day of God’s wrath. “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete” (Revelation 15:1).

You can read the description of these plagues in Revelation 16. They include plagues of painful sores on those who have worshiped the Beast power and its image. They include even greater poisoning of rivers and seas to the extent that “every living creature in the sea died” (Revelation 16:3). The sun will become hotter—resulting in extreme heat waves tormenting those who will not repent of their sins!

A Victorious Ending!

Finally, when Christ returns to this earth, He will judge and conquer all His enemies. These are the enemies of peace. These are the enemies of Christ—and these powerful armies are influenced by fallen angels or demons (cf. Revelation 16:14).


This year-long period called the Day of the Lord ends with the announcement that Christ is taking over all the kingdoms and governments of this world! That is the good news we all look forward to hearing!

Jesus Christ will be victorious over the world’s armies! They will foolishly choose to fight Him at His

coming, but Christ Himself, the King of kings, will prevent humanity from destroying itself! Jesus Christ will save the world from destruction and will bring our planet peace and restoration for a thousand years! We all look forward to hearing that seventh trumpet sound, because it will announce the coming Kingdom of God on Earth.

In one sense, the Day of the Lord is the year preceding the return of Christ. In another sense, it continues on through the millennium and on out to eternity.

The Apostle Peter described it this way: “But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:10–13).

Peter exhorted Christians to be in a spiritual state of readiness. We must be alert to the Day of the Lord, a sobering period of judgment on the nations. Beyond that lies tomorrow’s world, a wonderful millennium with beauty, prosperity and restoration under the rulership of Christ. May God speed that day! And may you and I be ready for it! 

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Armageddon and Beyond Your Bible foretells of terrible war, violence and destruction ahead, but then will come the glorious rule of Jesus Christ. Request a **free** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.





Building Pillars for Success

Do you want to make something of your life? Do you want to be a success? Success in life does not happen by accident. Success is the result of time-tested principles. Here is an example: “The fear of the LORD is the **beginning** of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7). In other words, all knowledge starts with the solid foundation of a fear of God. Foundations are an important part of a successful life.

If you take a few moments to stop and observe the foundation of a new home being built, you will see that trenches are dug, then filled with concrete or cinder blocks to support the house. Perhaps a concrete slab will be poured on top of these trenches for the house to rest upon. Every house must have a foundation. The tallest skyscrapers use the same types of components for strong, solid foundations. If you could see underground, you would see very similar patterns. Yet a building’s construction does not end with the foundation. Strong “pillars” are required to frame and support the building as it is built to its eventual height.

From the ground up, buildings have an endless variety of shapes, sizes and designs. To recognize God’s rule over our life is a solid foundation. Yet, as individuals ruled by God’s law of love, we as individuals differ in personality and strengths in many ways, which we must consider as we build our lives on the solid foundation of God’s word.

So, how can we “frame” what we are as we grow from childhood into adulthood in a way that is beautiful, attractive, honorable and virtuous? How can

we become what God intends us to be? What are the “pillars” that we will anchor in our foundation to build strong and successful lives?

Godly Character

This pillar is critical to a successful life, and can be built from the time we are children. Remember what we read in the Book of Proverbs: “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).

Integrity, truthfulness and purity are far greater in value than being “cool”, “hot”, “popular” and “bad.” If your character is built strong and true, it will support you in all you do. It will bring you respect, trust and honor—from God and man. The account of Joseph and Potiphar’s wife provides a good example of the character that was at the core of this young man—it was a fundamental part of his personality (Genesis 39:1-23). When she attempted to seduce him, he said, “There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9).

If we develop God’s holy and righteous character, knowing what is right and habitually doing it, we will be prepared for some of the most difficult situations that life will bring us.

Academic Knowledge

Do you love knowledge? Are you curious about the world around us? The desire to search for

understanding, to learn and “know,” is a God-given human trait. Solomon wrote, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2). In other words, making an effort to learn is an honorable and God-created impulse in humans. “A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel” (Proverbs 1:5).

Our world has been flooded with knowledge. It is easy to be overwhelmed and jaded. We can also fall into the trap of wanting quick answers instead of a thorough understanding. If we take our academic education seriously when we are young, developing a love of learning, and acquiring knowledge with enthusiasm, we will build one more pillar of strength that will add to our success in life. Not everyone is a star student, but we can all benefit from adding to our knowledge.

Music

For some young people, music can provide another pillar of success. Some play in a school band, others



sing in a choir, or learn to play an instrument on their own. Learning to sing on pitch or play in tune trains our brain in a specific

way. And through music training, we learn diligence and patience, as well as teamwork and cooperation. We experience the beauty and power of sound and harmony. King David loved music. We read, “Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets” (1 Chronicles 13:8). Playing music can be an emotional, joyous experience. It also can provide one more pillar that can give us strength and comfort throughout our life.

Athletics

Learning how to play sports is a great way to build another pillar in our life. By engaging in one or more sports, we develop our body physically. Paul reminded Timothy that “bodily exercise profits a little” (1 Timothy

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4:8). He used the example of exercising to help us in our physical life, to teach about the importance

of striving for eternal life. Physically speaking, some sports focus more on agility, others on strength or stamina. Team sports teach lessons of cooperation, while individual sports demand personal focus. Whether you learn to play basketball or baseball, run track or swim, play golf or tennis, developing some athletic ability and experience can be another beneficial pillar in life. The lessons of discipline, tenacity and wholeheartedness that are required in sports are lessons for life. And some sports can be enjoyed long into adulthood.

Travel

If you have the opportunity to travel and visit other states and countries, you are building a pillar! Seeing life in places besides our own hometown broadens our perspectives and helps us think differently. We develop empathy for other people and their way of life. We recognize the value and beauty in other cultures and customs, even though they are different from ours.

The Value of Pillars

Just as homes and buildings differ in appearance and form, we are all different in personality. That is a good thing! But our personality is enhanced and supported by pillars that we build in our youth. I have only mentioned a few here, but there are many, many others. Perhaps you have an ability to write well, or to play chess. Maybe you participate in your drama club or are known for your ability to fix computers. When we develop areas of strength and experience, we gain confidence. We also share common understanding with others who have those same pillars. And, by having multiple pillars, we are not dependent on one area for our identity. Build pillars to build success!

—Jonathan McNair

prophecy itself identifies these waters as “*peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*.” This fallen woman, then, is a *great* church—ruling over many *nations* and *peoples*. She is accused of having “committed fornication” with the kings of the earth. Spiritually, that could only mean that she is guilty of mixing in the *politics* and *wars* of this world.

Christ said that His Kingdom is *not of this world* (John 18:36). James speaks of those who participate in the material *lusts* and *wars* of this world as spiritual “*adulterers*” (James 4:1–4). The prophecy now becomes plain! This apostate church is condemned because she has *played politics* and participated in the *warfare* of this world.

This fallen woman, or church, is arrayed in *purple* and *scarlet* colors. The purple symbolizes *royal* power and dignity. The scarlet signifies her *spiritual whoredom*! She is a *wealthy* church “adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls” (Revelation 17:4). And, John writes: “I saw the woman, *drunk* with the *blood of the saints* and with the blood of the *martyrs* of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement” (v. 6).

This church *cruelly persecuted* and *martyred* many of God’s saints. But her *wealth*, her *power*, and her *royal majesty* inspired a sense of awe even in John! Later, God reveals: “The woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth” (v. 18).

The Prophecy Fulfilled

All of these descriptions apply *perfectly* to the *Roman Catholic Church*! This is the church that has *persecuted* God’s scattered people down through the ages. This is the church whose *wealth* and *material power* are equaled by no other. This is the church which has had its *own army*, and has actively participated in the *wars* and *politics* of this world!

Only the capital of “Christendom” at Rome could truly be called a “great city” which has *ruled* over the kings of this world. *There is no mistaking this*

Denominational Beliefs

	The Bible is totally accurate	Satan is real	Christ was sinless
Adventist	64%	37%	45%
Assembly of God	77%	56%	70%
Baptist (any)	66%	34%	55%
Church of Christ	57%	36%	54%
Episcopal	22%	20%	28%
Lutheran (any)	34%	21%	33%
Methodist (any)	38%	18%	33%
Pentecostal	81%	47%	73%
Presbyterian (any)	40%	22%	45%

identification! Alexander Hislop, in his remarkable book, *The Two Babylons*, states: “There never has been any difficulty in the mind of any enlightened Protestant in identifying the woman ‘sitting on seven mountains,’ and having on her forehead the name written, ‘Mystery, Babylon the Great,’ with the Roman apostasy” (Hislop, p. 1).

He tells us: “It has been known all along that Popery was baptised Paganism; but God is now making it manifest, that the Paganism which Rome has baptised is, in all its essential elements, *the very Paganism* which prevailed in the ancient literal Babylon, when Jehovah opened before Cyrus the two-leaved gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron” (*ibid.*, p. 2).

In this most enlightening work, Hislop proceeds to *prove* that indeed the Roman Catholic Church adopted the *philosophies*, the *traditions*, and the *church festivals* of the ancient *pagans*. Roman Catholicism is nothing more than “*baptized paganism*”!

Hislop states that “Rome is in very deed the Babylon of the Apocalypse, that the essential character of her system, the grand object of her worship, her *festivals*, her *doctrines* and *discipline*, her *rites* and *ceremonies*, her *priesthood*, and their orders, have *all been derived from ancient Babylon*” (*ibid.*, p. 3). No wonder God calls this system, “Mystery, Babylon the Great!” The Roman Catholic system contains the very *same doctrines, rituals* and *pagan religious holidays* as the ancient, heathen city of Babylon—so often used to typify *sin*.



But thus far we have left out *two important points*. The first is that in describing this *great false church*, John states: “The inhabitants of the earth were made *drunk* with the wine of her fornication” (Revelation 17:2). Hislop reveals that in the original Babylonian religion, the worshipers were *literally made drunk* so that they would favorably receive the pagan

the earth have become spiritually *drunk* on these false doctrines! When they approach the Bible and spiritual truths they become *mixed-up, confused* and *divided*.

“Babylon” literally means *confusion*. It is *great confusion*! And it typifies what we have seen of the Protestant reformers—arguing, bickering, *divided* even among themselves. And it describes the mixed-up, self-contradictory course taken by Luther, Calvin and the other reformers. The reformers were actually rebelling against only a *small part* of the Roman Catholic teachings. And they were as men *spiritually drunk*—not knowing where they wanted to go, or how to get there—still guided and misled by a background of *paganized* Roman doctrines and concepts. As we have seen, when they *came out* of the Roman Catholic Church, they brought *most* of her teachings and traditions right along with them!

The Protestant Movement Identified

Now we should be able to understand clearly the *full* name and description of this whole apostate system! It is given in Revelation 17:5: “And on her forehead a name was written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the *Mother of Harlots* and of the *Abominations* of the earth.”

The corrupt Roman “mother” church has given birth to *harlot daughters*! If the clear, consistent principles of scriptural identification are to be honestly applied, the Protestant churches are “harlot daughters” of paganized, apostate Rome! They came *out of her* in protest. But, as we have clearly seen, they retained *most* of her pagan doctrines and concepts. They are still following Rome’s example of mixing in

the *politics* and *wars* of this world. Though Jesus Christ warned against this, they are substituting the “traditions” of *men* for the *Commandments of God* (Matthew 15:3–9).

WHEN A REVIVED “ROMAN EMPIRE” WILL IMPOSE ITS RELIGION ON OTHERS ON PAIN OF DEATH, NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE RELIGION WILL REMAIN!

“mysteries” (Hislop, p. 5). This indicates that the worshippers of Rome are made *spiritually drunk* so that they cannot see spiritual truths clearly. God says: “For *all the nations* have *drunk* of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (Revelation 18:3).

These poisonous teachings and false concepts have crept into *every civilized nation on earth*. The peoples of

And we have seen abundant *Protestant* testimony that they recognize that Rome is their “mother”!

One Protestant historian comments on Luther: “He started out to inaugurate a Church composed of those who had faith and spiritual vision, and who revealed an ability and power to proclaim the word of God. But, in reality, he left in full operation a large relic of

Percentage of Americans in "Mainline" Protestant Denominations

1967	51%
1969	50%
1974	51%
1975	46%
1976	47%
1978	42%
1980	41%
1983	43%
1984	41%
1985	40%
1986	38%
1987	40%
1988	42%
1992	43%
1993	41%
1994	43%
1995	40%
1996	39%
1997	40%
1998	38%
2000	42%
2001	36%
2002	38%
2008	18%

ancient creeds, an extensive ‘rump’ of *superstition, tradition and magic*, and a heavy inheritance of external authority” (Jones, *The Church’s Debt to Heretics*, p. 228).

As Dr. Jones clearly implies, the Protestants still retain *many pagan doctrines and traditions* that they inherited from Rome. We have observed that some of these false traditions involve the *pagan holidays*, which the early Catholics adopted and gave Christian-sounding names. We ought to *look into these things!*


The Protestant churches stand *clearly identified* by God Almighty as the “*harlot daughters*” of apostate Rome! Speaking of this entire Babylonian system, God commands: “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.” (Revelation 18:4). The question is whether or not we will *obey our Maker!*

So what does all this mean for *your life*? It means that *if* God is opening your mind to His Truth, and *if* you have **proved to yourself** that the Holy Bible is, in fact, the *inspired word of God* (2 Timothy 3:16), then you must be willing to *obey Jesus Christ’s basic command*. For Jesus Christ said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*” (Luke 4:4). There is only *one Church* on earth that treats this command with total respect. It is called “the Church of God”—the inspired **name** of God’s Church stated twelve times in the New Testament. And it is that Church which is willing to obey the fourth commandment of God and to “keep holy” the day God “made holy”—the

seventh-day Sabbath (Exodus 31:15). It is that Church which is also surrendered enough to God to keep His *seven annual Sabbaths* as well as the seventh-day weekly Sabbath. It is the Church that is *really* willing to “**grow** in grace and in knowledge” and to grow “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). It is the Church that is willing to do the real Work of God commanded by Jesus Christ: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

Will Protestantism Disappear?

Yes, Protestantism undoubtedly will **disappear** within the lifetimes of most of you reading this article! For when you read the clear statements showing that the “revived” Roman Empire will take over virtually the entire world (Revelation 18:3)—and will *impose its religion* on others on pain of death if people resist (Revelation 13:15)—you will quickly perceive that no *viable alternative* religion will remain within the western world. As you long-term subscribers of *Tomorrow’s World* begin to “see” the enormous prophetic events we have described to you actually begin to occur on a **massive scale**—as the entire “world” around you becomes increasingly violent, confused and deceived—may God help **you** to *act on the Truth!*

If you wish to counsel with a representative of the true Church of God—which *sponsors this very Work*—then let us hear from you. Tell us clearly that you wish to contact our representative and give us your address or phone number. There will be **no pressure** upon you to “join” anything, to “give” any money or do anything else like that. We know that it is only **God** who “calls” people to understand and to act upon His Truth. But any such contact could be the most vital “turning point” in your entire life! May Almighty God grant **all** of you the understanding, the faith and the courage to “come out” of modern Babylon. May you then truly *serve* and *obey* the Creator who gives you life and breath and who is **now** beginning to intervene powerfully in world affairs. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

Where Is God’s True Church Today? Jesus promised that His Church would endure to the end of the age. Do you know where to find it? Request a **free** printed copy from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Two simple words that can change your destiny: "Thank You!"

Some of my most pleasant memories come from spending Thanksgiving with my family. But the holiday also makes me think about times when I have not been particularly thankful. God has blessed me with many wonderful experiences and opportunities, even when I least expected (or acknowledged) them.

At Thanksgiving, we have a natural opportunity to reflect on our blessings, and to renew an "attitude of gratitude" in our lives. How important is our attitude? God expects us to be thankful, and in Scripture He left us many powerful examples of the danger of thanklessness.

One example can be found in one of the most important Old Testament miracles God performed,

...how did the Israelites respond to God's gift? They complained...

providing food for His people where there was none—bread from a wilderness and life-giving provision from the dew of a desert (Exodus 16:1–5). Manna from heaven was neither stuffing, nor pudding, nor turkey and gravy, but it gave sustenance, and with it God was proving Himself to His people by providing for them so that they might live. Having opened the door to their deliverance, His gift of manna was enough, even more than enough, for a people so recently enslaved in bondage and ignorance!

So, how did the Israelites respond to God's gift? They complained about its lack of variety, and asked for meat (Numbers 11:4–6). These people, who had not shown themselves willing to abide by their covenant with God, were already putting Him to the test by their complacency and ingratitude! If God could give them bread, they reasoned, why not meat? They forgot that God did not have to give them anything at all!

But God heard their complaints, and gave them what they wanted—and it was a harsh lesson in being careful what you wish for! He brought waves of quail, and fed them meat until they grew literally and physically sick of it: "You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and

becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, 'Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?'" (Numbers 11:19–20). God then sent a plague to finish off those who most offensively allowed their desire for self-gratification to get ahead of their remembrance of their Deliverer (Numbers 11:33–34).

God has done something very similar for many of us today. He has allowed us to live in abundance, and blessed our nations in just about every way possible. Even when times are relatively hard, we must be careful to remind ourselves that such blessings are not shared by all, and are not guaranteed to last.

When God opens a door for us, as He did for the Israelites, we may show gratitude by going through it, but we often betray a profound **ingratitude** when we do not! We should have confidence that, as with the Israelites and early Christians before us, God will not "hand us a stone" in place of bread if we ask in gratitude and righteousness (Luke 11:10–12). But if we slap from His hand the gifts He offers, or if we simply walk away in ignorance or self-will, He might sometimes let us have a brush with a scorpion, or give His blessings to others more grateful. So, pray always that you may see—and walk through—those open doors (Philippians 4:6)!

Although Thanksgiving is a natural occasion for us to reflect on our attitude of gratitude, it is a holiday invented by mankind. God Himself has given His



people an annual series of Holy Days that are even more meaningful. Those Holy Days are true gifts from God—

from the Days of Unleavened Bread in March/April, to Pentecost in May/June, to the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day in September/October. These annual Holy Days, outlined in chapter 23 of the book of Leviticus, are not just an opportunity to draw closer to God, but also to understand His plan of salvation for all of humanity—the ultimate and most precious blessing we can receive!

—William L. Williams

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for the July-August 2013 magazine with the cover article, "Your Glorious Destiny Beyond Death." I immediately sat down to read it because I disagree with the same-sex marriages, and I'm so appalled that others have changed their minds to agree with them. God bless you all. Keep up the good work for God. May He continually bless you all with strength, courage and health in doing His Work. I've enjoyed all magazines that you sent to me.

P. P., Chicago, IL

I have been a longtime subscriber to the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and have read many of the booklets. I was truly amazed and blessed by the booklet *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*. This booklet should be read by everyone who really wants to know the truth about God's plan for man as revealed through the Holy Days that He ordained.

A. J., Flint, MI

Thank you all so much for helping to lead me into the real truth of God. I have tried to study several church doctrines, and always felt that something wasn't quite right in the way they taught the Bible. Since the day I first watched my first *Tomorrow's World* program I finally understood what I was searching for.

C. T., Palmyra, MO

I "just happened" to come across your program, *Tomorrow's World*, some Sundays ago, and I knew immediately the Lord had allowed me to experience or be privy to something out of the ordinary. The straight from the Bible messages you present are a much needed and refreshing change from all of the mainstream preaching going on today. I am truly blessed by it and so look forward to not only another Sunday night program, but also to the

additional literature that I ordered via the telephone.

A. K., Windsor, CT

Your *Tomorrow's World* is like food on the table—making the Holy Bible and its prophecies easily understood.

A. S., Minneapolis, MN

Thank you for the enlightening *Bible Study Course* you are giving me. It has helped clear the confusion I had on topics such as Lazarus and the rich man, and of the translation of Elijah and Enoch. I remain ever thankful and appreciative for the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and the booklets you have sent me.

L. P., Livingstone, Zambia

The July-August 2013 issue of *Tomorrow's World* is at hand and, if I may say so, it is the finest issue yet. It is being both corrective and uplifting, encouraging, and people may sense that there is hope after all. Your article on homosexuality may be one of the best, if not the best, on the subject. May this outstanding issue reach the farthest corners of the earth. I am truly grateful for your help.

H. L., Bronshoj, Denmark

I just wanted to thank you for helping me put my life in perspective through your magazines and helpful booklets. Instead of being concerned about "my purpose," you have given me a global insight on God's purpose and His divine will! So, thank you for opening and expanding my mind to the true essence of God. May God continue to bless you, your staff and this informative Work! Please send me your magazines without interrupt. Our nation is so isolated because of many ideological ideas and problems.

T. G., Asmera, Eritrea

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All scripture references are from the *New King James Version* (©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

P. 26: Source: "Religious Beliefs Vary Widely By Denomination," Barna Group, June 25, 2001"

P. 28: Sources: "Factors in the Slide of Mainline Churches," *Gallup Poll*, February 4, 2003; Religion and Public Life Project, *Pew Research*, 2008

TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

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

BARBADOS

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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WGN SU 6:00 a.m.

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

LOCAL STATIONS (All times local)

AK Anchorage GCI SU 10:00 p.m.
Anchorage KIMO SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks KATN SU 6:00 a.m.
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Dothan WDFX SU 7:30 a.m.
Dothan WTVY SU 7:00 a.m.

AL Montgomery WBMM SU 7:00 a.m.

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

AZ Phoenix KASW SU 7:30 a.m.
Phoenix KASW SA 5:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SU 11:30 p.m.
Tucson Access SU 7:00 p.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KUVU-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka Sudden Link SU 8:00 p.m.
Fresno KFRE SU 7:30 a.m.
Garden Grove Time Warner SU 9:30 a.m.
Garden Grove Time Warner SU 6:30 p.m.
Monterey KION SU 8:00 a.m.
Orange County Adelphia MO 5:00 p.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento RCCTV MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas KION SU 8:00 a.m.
San Diego Time SU 6:00 p.m.
San Francisco Access WE 8:00 p.m.

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

CT Naugatuck Tele-Media MO 9:30 p.m.
New Haven WZME SU 11:00 p.m.

DC Washington WACW SU 6:30 a.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

FL Gainesville WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWS SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WJHG SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

ID Boise KNIN SU 7:00 a.m.
Boise TTVT SU 9:30 p.m.
Boise TTVT MO 11:30 a.m.

Idaho Falls KPFI SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago CANTV Various*
Chicago WGN SU 6:00 a.m.
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.
Peoria Insight SU 7:30 p.m.
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 5:00 a.m.
Springfield Insight TU 1:00 p.m.
Springfield Insight TU 10:00 p.m.

IN Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

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

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

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.
Baton Rouge WGMB SU 9:00 a.m.
Lafayette KLBW SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

MA Cambridge CCTV SU 3:00 p.m.
Cambridge CCTV WE 9:00 a.m.
Cambridge CCTV FR 11:00 a.m.
Everett ECTV TU 1:00 p.m.
Everett ECTV SU 9:00 p.m.
Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.
North Adams NBCTC WE 8:00 p.m.

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

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

MI Alpena Charter WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
Detroit Comcast SU 7:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV SU 9:30 a.m.
Kalamazoo CACTV MO 5:00 p.m.
Lansing WLAJ SU 8:00 a.m.
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet MEDCLO FR 10:00 a.m.
Cloquet MEDCLO SA 4:00 p.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 7:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SA 11:00 a.m.
Duluth Public Access SU 7:00 p.m.
Duluth MCN SA 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MCN SU 8:30 a.m.
Minneapolis MTN TH 12:00 a.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SA 10:30 p.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SU 4:30 a.m.
Minneapolis NW Community SU 10:30 a.m.*
Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV TU 8:00 p.m.
Roseville CTV WE 4:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.
St. Paul Nhd. Network SU 8:30 p.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Jefferson City KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
Springfield KRKB SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Louis WRBU SU 9:00 a.m.

MS Biloxi WBGP SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBI SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide Prime TV SU 8:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

UK & NW EUROPE

Believe-TV Sky TV 593 SU 10:00 p.m.
Gospel Sky TV 588 MO 7:00 p.m.
WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 WE 6:00 a.m.
Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 p.m.
Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.

Hattiesburg WBH SU 7:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner WE 4:00 p.m.
Meridian WTOK SU 7:00 a.m.
Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBKZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWBZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Charlotte WAXN SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenville WNCT SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.

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

NH Hanover CATV8 TH 7:00 p.m.
Hanover CATV8 FR 7:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 MO 6:00 a.m.*

NJ Oakland CVNNJ SA 8:00 a.m.

NM Rio Rancho Cable 1 SA 7:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany WCWN SU 7:00 a.m.
Albany-Troy Time Warner MO 3:00 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner SU 2:00 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner TU 5:30 p.m.
Batavia Time Warner FR 7:30 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner MO 10:00 p.m.
Binghamton Time Warner FR 8:00 p.m.
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brookhaven Cablevision SU 11:00 p.m.
Brooklyn BCAT SU 7:30 p.m.
Canandaigua Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Glenn Falls Time Warner FR 8:00 p.m.
Glenn Falls Time Warner MO 8:00 p.m.
Hauppauge Time Warner TU 8:00 p.m.
Manhattan Cablevision SU 11:00 p.m.
Manhattan MNN SA 7:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 a.m.
Queens Public Access TU 8:30 p.m.
Riverhead Cablevision SA 10:30 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Rochester RCTV SA 8:30 a.m.
Rochester RCTV TU 10:00 a.m.*
Rockland Cty. Cablevision TH 9:30 p.m.
Schenectady WCWN SU 7:00 a.m.
Staten Island Community SU 8:00 p.m.
Staten Island Community TU 2:00 p.m.
Syracuse Time Warner SU 7:30 p.m.
Webster Cable Access SU 9:30 a.m.
Woodbury Cablevision SA 7:30 p.m.

OH Centerville MVCC FR 2:30 p.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner TH 8:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner SU 11:30 a.m.
Cincinnati Time Warner TU 1:00 p.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Lima Various* SU 7:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Allentown SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Bethlehem SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Erie WBEP SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown WPSG MO 10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia FOX SU 7:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX TH 5:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX SA 5:00 a.m.

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

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

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WBXX SU 7:30 a.m.
La Follette Comcast-WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.
Nashville WZTV SU 6:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Austin KNVA SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KBTU SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDK SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS SU 7:00 a.m.
Dallas Community SA 1:00 p.m.
Dallas Community SU 11:00 a.m.
Dallas KTXD SU 8:00 a.m.
Houston KUBE TU 6:30 a.m.
Houston KUBE TH 6:30 a.m.
Houston KUBE FR 6:30 a.m.
Laredo KGSN SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.
McAllen KSFE-LP SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KWWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KWWT SU 7:00 a.m.
Temple KPLE SU 7:30 p.m.
Tyler KLTU SU 6:30 a.m.

VA Bluefield SU 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville Comcast Cable MO 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access MO 12:00 p.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.
Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.
Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.*
Burlington Access WE 2:30 a.m.
Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.
Burlington Access MO 7:00 a.m.*
Richmond Public Access TH 10:00 p.m.
Springfield Public Access MO 12:00 p.m.

WA Everett Comcast WE 4:30 p.m.
Kennewick Charter SU 8:00 p.m.
Kennewick Charter TU 8:00 p.m.
Vancouver Community SU 8:30 a.m.
Vancouver Community TU 10:30 a.m.
Vancouver Community WE 12:00 p.m.

WI La Crosse WQOW SU 7:00 a.m.
Wausau Webster TH 9:00 a.m.
Wausau Charter FR 7:30 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA SU 8:00 a.m.
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KGWC SU 8:00 a.m.
Casper KTOW SU 11:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KLWY SU 7:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KLWY SU 11:00 a.m.

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Seven Signs of the End Times

Jesus Christ explained how we can recognize that His return is drawing near!

November 14-20

God Heals

Jesus Christ suffered so you could be healed!

November 21-27

You Can Understand the Bible

God's word can be relevant and meaningful to your life today!

November 28-December 4

Will the Beast Rise in Europe?

How can you recognize the prophesied Beast?

December 5-11

The Soon-Coming Great Tribulation

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

December 12-18

The Master Key to Bible Prophecy

Very few understand one of the Bible's most surprising hidden truths. But you can!

December 19-25

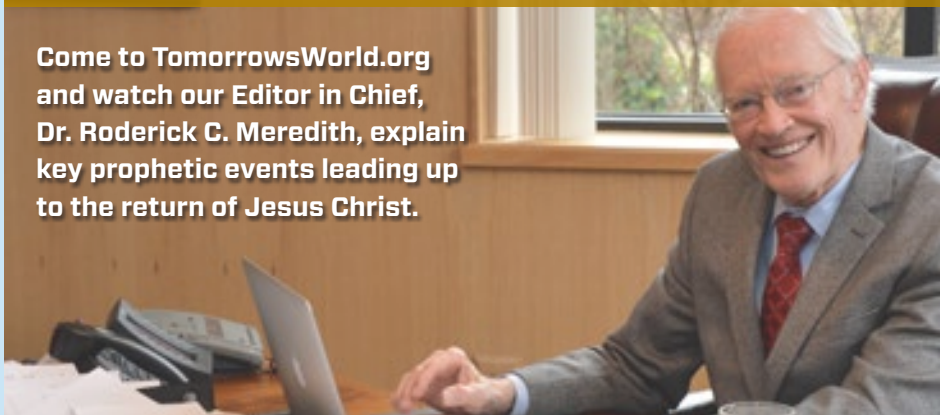
Schedule subject to change

Live Internet Presentation

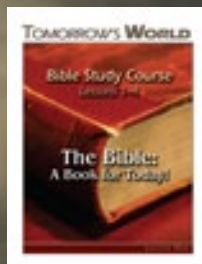
Sunday, December 8, 3:30 p.m. ET | 20:30 UTC

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