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AFTER SUEZ**

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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**Should Christians
Keep Christmas?**

What Should You Believe?

Most people just believe *whatever* their family taught them as they grew up. But how can you really **prove** what you should believe? Should you just read various articles or books on religion and then make up your mind? Or should you go to the absolute **real source**—the Holy Bible?

If you are willing, you can **prove** to yourself that the Bible was absolutely inspired by God and that it tells you definitively what you *should* believe! Jesus Christ said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). All authorities agree that He was clearly referring to the *inspired Bible*—the book that, increasingly, no one knows!

If you take the trouble to actually **study** what the Bible says on various subjects, like “going to heaven,” you will *often* find that the Bible says the *exact opposite* of what most people believe! For instance, Jesus said: “**No one** has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13). Also, the Apostle Peter made it very plain that King David—whom God called “a man after My own heart” (Acts 13:22)—did **not** go to heaven when he died, but is rather “both **dead and buried**” (Acts 2:29)! And the Bible repeatedly tells us that the **true** followers of Christ are to be made kings and priests—one day assisting Christ in ruling over *this earth* (Revelation 5:9–10), not in *heaven*.

If you ask the average Protestant minister if you are *supposed* to “keep the Ten Commandments” he will often tell you, “No, for the Ten Commandments were *nailed to the cross* and Christians are not required to keep them today.” Yet, Jesus Christ **repeatedly** told us that we must **obey** all of the Ten Commandments. Jesus stated emphatically: “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 teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:17–19). A little later, He began to *name* some of the Ten Commandments, such as murder and adultery, to show *which commandments* He was talking about.

Yet, the “learned” Protestant scholars often have a very clever way of trying to “do away” with Christ’s plain teaching about God’s commandments by saying that this was because Christ was teaching “under Judaism,” and so all of this is not necessary today. But what did **Christ** say about this?



Christ Is the Same Always

Near the very end of His human life, Jesus told His apostles: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19–20).

Therefore, even *after* His resurrection from the dead and everything was nailed to the cross that was nailed there, Christ emphatically **commanded** His apostles to teach the exact *same thing* in the future that He had taught them! How can you possibly “twist” this around? Yet that is **exactly** what many biblically illiterate Protestant ministers end up doing!

So, my friends, you need to learn to actually **study** the book we call the Bible—*the inspired word of God*. You need to be alert and to be willing to do what *the Bible actually says*. Then, and *only then*, will you un-

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derstand “true religion” and be willing to follow what Almighty God commands true Christians to do!

Almighty God inspired the author of Hebrews to tell us: “Jesus Christ is the **same** yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). So the Christ of the Bible does **not change**. He does not suddenly “in-

Almighty God makes it very plain in prophecy that Christ will forcefully punish entire nations in the coming Millennium if they refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles!

troduce” all kinds of “new” and contradictory ideas about marriage, sex, murder, etc. For, *if* you are willing to understand, the Christ of the Bible is the One who existed with God from eternity as the “Word,” the *Logos*, the Spokesman for God throughout the entire Old Testament. As God inspired the Apostle Paul to tell us in 1 Corinthians 10:3–4, the Israelites “all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” As *many* scriptures indicate, the God of ancient Israel **was Christ!** It was

Christ who gave the Ten Commandments! It was Christ who commanded the seventh day Sabbath! It was Christ who gave the annual Holy Days that God commands all Christians to keep, such as Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles! In fact, Almighty God makes it very plain in prophecy that Christ will forcefully **punish** entire nations in the coming Millennium if they refuse to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16–19)!

Wow!

Why have you *never heard* this preached in the “mainstream churches”? Because the Bible also makes it *very plain* that Satan is the “god” of this present world—this present human society (2 Corinthians 4:3–4). The Apostle Paul explains that the devil is “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), which means he is effectively *in charge* of the media! He *blinds* the minds of many through the constant bombardment of *mis*-information that comes pouring out

through our media to confuse people—and especially our youth—about what is right and wrong, about the true nature of humanity, and about **true religion!** So **if** you truly want to understand **how** you ought to really worship the Creator, and **how** you ought to live in order to gain eternal life, you had better truly **study** the Bible in a way you have never done before!

Real Help, for Genuine Understanding!

We in this Work of the living Christ are here to help you. *I urge you* in genuine love and outflowing concern to request the tremendously helpful correspondence course we have available for those who are truly willing to **study** the Bible. Also, we have **two**



very powerful booklets to help you understand **if** you truly want to understand. The first is titled *Restoring Original Christianity*.

This booklet will open your eyes to *what happened* to the original Christianity of Jesus and how it became completely destroyed and twisted during the “Dark Ages” of this world’s religious development. Also, our very helpful and informative booklet titled *The Bible: Fact or Fiction?* will help you genuinely **prove** that what we call the Bible is, in fact, the revelation of God to mankind. Both of these booklets and the *Tomorrow’s World Bible Study Course* will be sent **absolutely free** upon your request.

But if you truly desire to live forever in the soon-coming Kingdom of God when Christ returns as King of kings, then you **do** have *your part* to do! So be willing to step out and **act** and show your Creator that you really do want to find “the Truth” if it is out there somewhere. Somehow, God has brought you to the place where it is *truly revealed*—as you can **prove** to yourself if you are willing! So send for these absolutely **free** materials, and learn to genuinely **study** the Bible and look up all the scriptures on any given subject with an open mind. Then be willing to “walk with God” and let the true Christ of the Bible guide your life and live His life within you through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20).

Roderick C. Meredith

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The weather disasters and earthquakes we read about in the news are trying to tell us something very important. You need to know!

10 Seven Secrets for a Joyous Marriage

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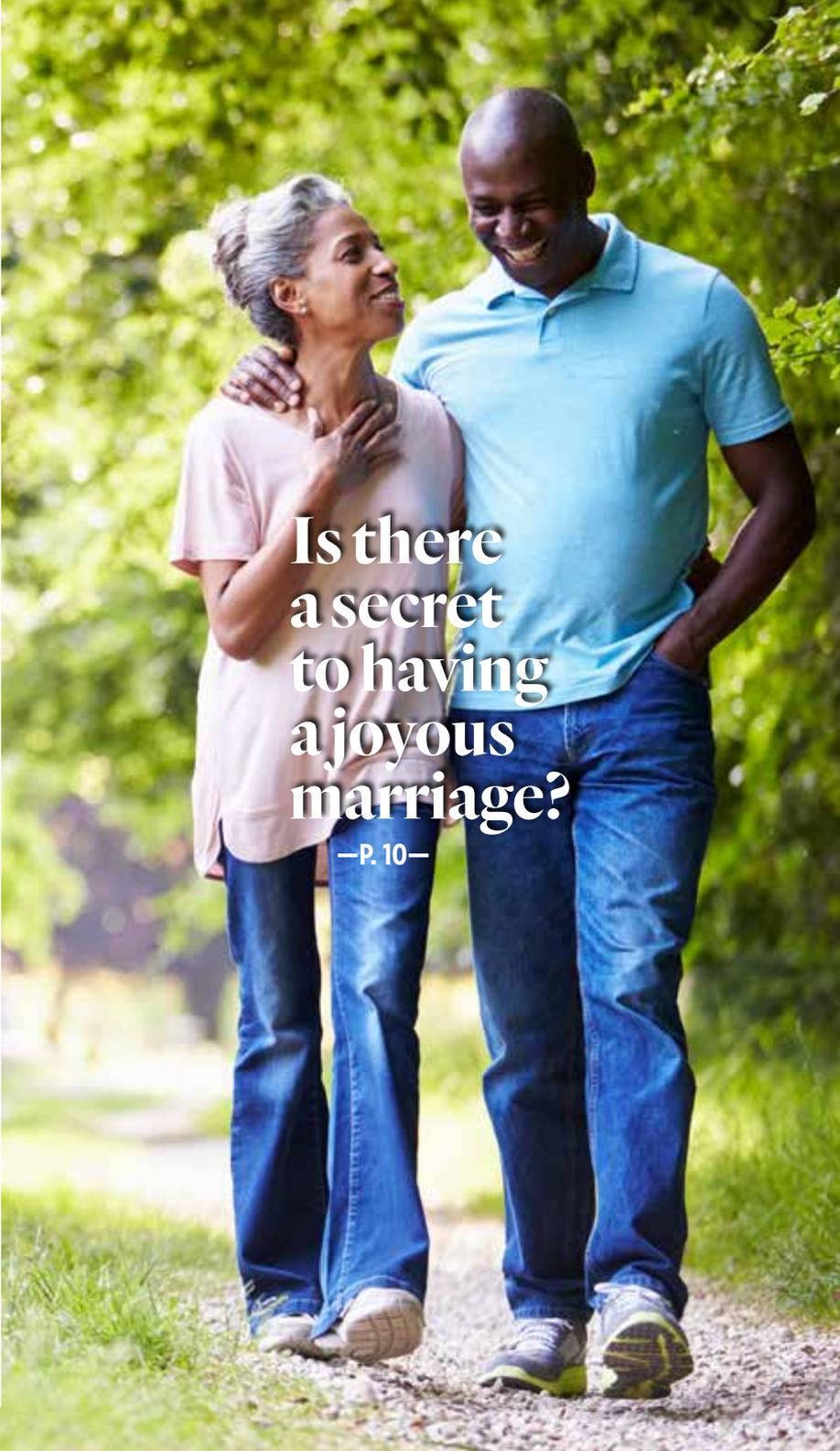
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to having
a joyous
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United States

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
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Phone: (905) 814-1094

New Zealand

PO Box 2767
Shortland Street
Auckland 1140
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Philippines

PO Box 492
Araneta Center Post Office 1135
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Phone: (632) 239-4320

South Africa

Private Bag X3016
Harrismith, FS, 9880
Phone: (27) 58-622-1424

United Kingdom

Box 111
88-90 Hatton Garden
London EC1N 8PG
Phone/Fax: 44 (0) 844-800-9322

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Almighty God Controls the Weather!

As our world increasingly seems to be growing out of control, we can no longer afford to ignore the truth! For the **Almighty God**—the Creator of heaven, earth, and all things—is trying to *get our attention!* He is letting us know, through powerful weather catastrophes, earthquakes and the events happening in the world around us, that *He is in charge!*

By **Roderick C. Meredith**

All of us must learn to face **reality!** For Almighty God is *not* “dead”! He is very much *alive* and is *right now* preparing to intervene in world affairs more than ever before! We in *this Work* have explained to all of you readers of *Tomorrow’s World* many *specific prophecies* that have recently come to pass or are right now beginning to occur.

Are you, personally, paying **attention?** Are you willing to face **reality?** *Think!*

Thousands of you realize that I am the last one of the five original evangelists ordained by Herbert W. Armstrong back in December 1952. I joined

with him and the other leaders in the Work at that time in “warning” that the British Empire would come to an **end**. We warned that the American and British-descended peoples would soon start our fall from national greatness all over the world and that our “pride of power” would disappear (Leviticus 26:19). We warned that the great “sea gates” God gave the British and the Americans would soon begin to be *taken away*. We warned that the hundreds of thousands of Russian troops and tanks stationed in Eastern Europe at that time would soon be **gone**, and that Germany would become the obvious leader of a coming United Europe—and about many other *specific prophecies!*

Soon after I joined Herbert Armstrong in preaching and writing in *The Plain Truth* magazine about



these prophecies, they began to occur! My wife and I were sent to Britain in the autumn and winter of 1956, and it was *right then* that the Suez Canal was taken away from Britain! The Suez Canal was one of the most important “sea gates” in the world at the time—and you can read about the powerful impact the loss of that canal had on the British Empire in our article “The Suez Crisis: 60 Years On,” right here in this issue. In the years immediately following that, most of the other “sea gates” began to be taken away as well: the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab el-Mandeb, the Simonstown Base—controlling the tip around South Africa—and the Strait of Malacca—controlling vast numbers of ships going through areas in the Far East. Then, President Jimmy Carter virtually “gave away” the Panama Canal—the **only** major sea gate controlled by America!

Then, a few years later, the thousands of Russian tanks and troops were indeed withdrawn from the nations of eastern Europe and the Berlin Wall came crashing **down!** Germany became *one nation* again, with a speed that *shocked* political observers!

These things have taken place just as we warned they would. Right now, even as I write this, Germany is internationally recognized as the most powerful nation and the “leader” of the European Union, and only **two** of the eight to ten major sea gates are left under British

or American control: Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. And those of you who carefully follow world news know that *both* of these are constantly “under siege” in the media—with the Argentinians constantly claiming that the Falkland Islands belong to them and the Spanish trying to gain control of Gibraltar and kick Britain out! No doubt, within the next few years, either one or *both* of these gates will be “gone.” Then, as we might say, they will be “all gone”!

My friends, these prophecies are not “tiny” events! They are affecting *hundreds of millions* of human beings and hundreds of **billions** of dollars in international trade and commerce that have to go through the great “sea gates.” To paraphrase the Bible, these **massive** events were **not** “done in a corner”! But this same great God—the *God of the Bible*—also has *specifically predicted* absolutely **massive** occurrences in the **weather** and related events to soon come upon us! I am including—along with prophesied drought and famine—terrible **fires** that always come as a result of these. And I am including **earthquakes**, which God also controls in the same way He does the weather. For God is indeed “El Shaddai”—**God Almighty**. All of us need to really *understand* this and its obvious implications, for this fact is going to affect **your life** and the lives of all your children and loved ones in the near future.

It is God Who Controls the Weather!

Even recently, news reports described the terrible **earthquake** that struck central Italy, killing almost 300 people. Entire villages were devastated so powerfully that they may **never** be able to be rebuilt! Also the entire American West is beginning to go into the most serious drought in recorded history, and many areas are *burning up* with **fire**! At the same time, the *opposite* has occurred in parts of Texas and Louisiana—with the terrible **flooding** in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area completely *devastating* the lives and properties of tens of thousands of people!

Please remember, the Bible itself makes it *very plain* that both the Old and New Testaments are *inspired by God*, and Jesus Christ constantly quoted the Old Testament as “Scripture”—the very word of the Creator!

In Amos 4:1–9, Almighty God prophesied to the peoples of “Samaria” (v. 1), the ancient “House of Israel” and the ancestors of the British-descended and American peoples: “‘Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD. ‘I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one

GOD DESCRIBES HOW HE WILL CAUSE IT TO RAIN “TOO MUCH” ON SOME CITIES AND WITHHOLD THE RAIN FROM OTHERS!

city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withheld. So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD. ‘I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the LORD” (vv. 6–9).

So God describes how He will cause it to rain “too much” on some cities and **withhold** the rain from others! And yet, as God said, His people will **not** re-

pent and return to Him! And please remember, my friends, all of these prophecies I am quoting were written centuries **before** the modern “climatologists” have come out with their predictions about “global warming,” whereas a few years ago they predicted “global cooling”—*neither* of which have happened to any great extent yet! For it is Almighty **God**—not the modern weather scientists—who actually **controls** the weather! Do *you*, personally, begin to “get it”?

In His major “Olivet Prophecy” in Matthew 24, Jesus Christ describes the “key” changes in events that absolutely **will** come about and **are** coming



about at the end of this age. First Jesus said to beware of *false prophets* (vv. 4–5). Then He describes wars and

rumors of wars and explains that different nations and “ethnic” groups would rise against each other increasingly at the time of the end (v. 7). Next, He describes *famines*, **pestilences** (or *disease epidemics*) and **earthquakes** in various places. Jesus Christ said that all these are the “beginning of sorrows” (v. 8). Then Jesus prophesied that His true servants will be delivered up to tribulation and “hated” by all nations for His sake (v. 9). All this will soon come about within the lifetimes of *most of you* reading this right now!

Elijah Prophesied “Bad Weather”

Do you remember Elijah the prophet? Many do, but they usually forget that he demonstrated God’s *absolute control* over the weather. In fact, Elijah is first introduced through this very matter: “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word’” (1 Kings 17:1).

But **why** had God inspired Elijah to prophesy *total drought* for a period of three years? The answer was found when Elijah finally presented himself before wicked King Ahab: “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals’” (1 Kings 18:17–18).

WEATHER CONTROL CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

Oh Canada!

The Man Who Worked with All His Might



When we think of the telephone and its inventor we likely think of Alexander Graham Bell.

On March 10, 1876, at the age of 29, Bell spoke to his fellow worker Watson positioned in another room, uttering the famous words over the new device that would change the world: *“Mr. Watson—Come here—I want to see you.”*

The process of research and experimentation that Bell had begun a number of years earlier had eventually culminated in what turned out to be a marvellous invention that turned words into electrical impulses that could be sent through a wire and turned back into words that could be heard at the other end. Thus, the device called the *telephone* was born. It seems that ingenuity and inventiveness was in Bell’s DNA!

His father Melville started commercializing the invention in Canada in 1878, and in 1880 the Bell Telephone Company of Canada was established. By 1886, a short six years later, more than 150,000 people in the U.S. owned telephones.

A Varied Life in Varied Lands

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1847, Alexander Graham Bell would eventually reside at various times in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, and all three proudly claim him as their own.

If Bell were to provide a resume, it would have to include many titles. He was certainly an inventor and a scientist, making contributions in fields as far from communication as hydrofoil design and aeronautics. But he was also an educator, well known for his work with the deaf, conducting his own research on speech

and hearing. In fact, he was known to proudly refer to himself as a “teacher of the deaf.” He eventually married one of his deaf students, Mabel Hubbard, in 1877, and together they had four children, though only two survived infancy.

Bell’s family background was a major contributing factor in his inventive genius and shaped his personal and professional life. His mother’s deafness and his father’s work as a speech therapist and interest in speech and elocution deeply influenced Bell. He and his father developed and improved a set of symbols to depict the spoken sounds—a system they called “Visible Speech,” which they felt could be used to teach the deaf to speak clearly. Such work helped to pave the way for his future work on the telephone.

The Canadian Connection

In his early years in Canada, he resided with his parents near Brantford, Ontario, on a farm overlooking the Grand River. He spent his summers there, alternating between Boston and Brantford. It was at that time in the early 1870s that Bell began his initial work on the harmonic telegraph and learned the language of the Mohawk Nation, recording it in writing using his Visible Speech system.

Alexander Graham Bell was an incredibly hard worker, often laboring late into the night. On the wall in the lab in which he toiled was a picture of an owl, given to him as a joke to reflect his tendency to work late into the night.

Being busy does not necessarily mean being productive. Yet Bell’s passion for discovery and invention, coupled with his focus and determination,

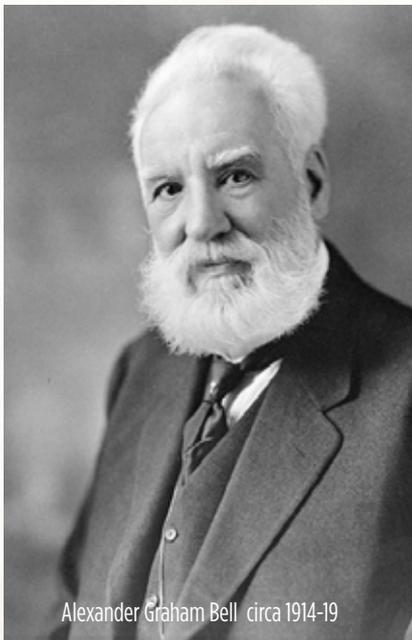
showed that he was more than just busy—he was a productive individual, who turned dreams into realities.

Like any inventor does, he had failures and missteps. But this did not deter him from moving ahead. As he once observed, “When one door closes another opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us.” And as for persistence, Bell remarked, “In scientific researches, there are no unsuccessful experiments; every experiment contains a lesson. If we don’t get the results anticipated and stop right there, it is the man that is unsuccessful not the experiment.”

But Alexander Graham Bell’s life was filled with more than invention and discovery. He spent much of the last 35 years of his life with his wife Mabel and their two daughters on an estate he had purchased near the shores of Baddeck Bay. When their two daughters married and provided them with a complement of nine grandchildren, the Bell household was often quite full. “I do so love little children,” he once said, “and I like nothing better than being around them.”

The love he and his wife shared was clearly demonstrated in their final words to each other before his death. While at his bedside, Mabel whispered to him, “Don’t leave me.” He responded, “No,” in sign language, then lost consciousness and died.

A Biblical Work Ethic



Alexander Graham Bell circa 1914-19

The life of Alexander Graham Bell exemplified a work ethic taught clearly and firmly in God’s word. We can see in his example a reflection of King Solomon’s admonition to all of us, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your

might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

This “teacher of the deaf” certainly fulfilled these words from Scripture, not only looking for opportunities for personal growth and understanding, but also seeking to benefit the lives of others.

Bell’s life also illustrates another principle of hard work: “The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich” (Proverbs 13:4). To be sure, the inventor of the telephone was anything but lazy, and he seemed filled with a wonder about the world around him that resulted in a life rich in many ways. He once observed, “God has strewn our paths with wonders, and we shall certainly not go through life with our eyes shut.”

At the news of his death in 1922, the entire phone



system in Canada and the United States ceased to operate for a moment of silence, in commemoration of his

life and contribution to society.

We are living in an age in which technology is evolving at a rapid pace. Since Bell’s initial invention, mankind has developed a seemingly endless variety of forms and methods of communication. One wonders what Bell would think today of Bell Canada, a large telecommunications and media company—one of many that bear his name.

Bell had hoped long distance wires would eventually connect phones in various and distant cities, and by the year 1907 more than six million phones were in use. In 1915 the first coast-to-coast call was made between Bell and his friend and former assistant Thomas Watson. The call was from New York City to San Francisco, and Bell started the conversation by uttering the same words said to Mr. Watson many years before on March 10, 1876: “Mr. Watson—Come here—I want to see you.”

Let’s appreciate the determination, foresight, focus and remarkable work ethic by the man of three countries: inventor Alexander Graham Bell. Thanks to his efforts and dedication, communication improved for people all over the world. He truly was a man who “worked with all of his might”!

—Winston Gosse



SEVEN SECRETS for a Joyous Marriage

Marriage in our Western nations is under attack as never before, but there are principles you can apply to keep your marriage strong and happy!

By **Richard F. Ames**

The family is the building block of any society, and marriage between a man and a woman is the beginning of that family. Stable marriages build happy families. Stable families strengthen neighborhoods and communities and nations.

Some of you reading this article may be considering marriage. You will want to thoroughly prepare for this life-long commitment. What principles will you apply to ensure a happy and stable marriage? If you are already married, you know there is always room for improvement. What can you do to improve a troubled marriage, or make a happy marriage even happier?

Marriage can be joyous, but it can also be challenging. I know this from years of personal experience. In the more than 50 years my wife and I have been married, we have sometimes faced difficulties because of our human nature. But your Bible gives the strategies and secrets for a successful godly marriage. You need

to apply these universal principles in **your** marriage. This article will reveal seven secrets to help you have a joyous marriage!

Secret 1: Communicate in Love

My wife has a background in music; she was a violin teacher and even performed professionally before we were married. I, on the other hand, was trained as an engineer. Ideally, my analytical thinking and her subjective approach should complement one another, but frankly it took us some time to adjust. But we learned to communicate effectively. That means effective listening, not just effective speaking.

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

The Apostle Paul gives us a fundamental principle in communicating effectively: “But, **speaking the truth in love**, [we] may grow up in all things into

Him who is the head—Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Some people speak the truth in hate. But a Christian who is maturing in Christ, will be **concerned** for the effect of his words and message on the listener.

When you talk with your husband or your wife, do you demonstrate concern and care? Do you communicate respect? Certainly we need to be patient with one another. Remember: “Love suffers long and is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). Another translation puts it this way: “Love is patient, love is kind” (v. 4, *NIV*). Take care in your conversations to speak the truth in love!

In our fast-paced lives, husbands and wives may be going in different directions and hardly have time to speak to one another. Some studies have shown that many couples average less than 20 minutes a week in conversation! But there is a way to capitalize on the brief time you have together—and that is the four-minute contact rule. In their book, *Contact: The First Four Minutes*, Dr. Leonard Zunin and his wife Natalie Zunin explain: “The success or failure of a marriage... can depend on what happens between a husband and wife during just eight minutes of the day: four in the morning upon awakening, and four when you are reunited after the working day” (p. 133).

Your language, attitude, or expression at the beginning of the day can affect the whole relationship.



Learn to express a positive, loving attitude for the first four minutes you are together at the beginning of the day. Make a special effort to communicate in love.

Secret 2: Keep Romance Alive

You have probably heard the expression, “It’s the little things that count.” Every kind word of appreciation makes a difference. Research has also shown that hugs can reduce stress, and they even encourage loving unity between husband and wife! Often, when my wife and I leave each other to work on separate projects at home, we will hug—and at other times spontaneously as well. Years ago, I read an insurance report that stated husbands who kiss their wives before leaving for work have fewer auto accidents and earn 30 percent more money than those who do not kiss their wives. I made it a regular habit to kiss my wife before leaving the house for work. One day I did not kiss her and backed my car into a tree. Even though there was little damage, I now make sure I kiss her every morning!

Other loving and thoughtful deeds help keep romance alive. A thoughtful and caring husband will often give his wife a bouquet of flowers on an anniversary, and at other times as a total surprise. A creative and caring wife may surprise her husband with a special gift or a special meal.

God intended husband and wife to become one flesh, to enjoy the pleasures of godly sex in marriage! At least four times in the book of Genesis, God commanded married couples “Be fruitful and multiply.” The Bible is very clear: God created sex for marriage and family. Remember, the Bible also reveals that marriage is only between a man and a woman. In the Bible—and in the **real world** of spiritual, divine law—**there is no such thing as “same-sex marriage”!** The Bible plainly reveals that any sexual relationship outside of marriage is **sin!** We read: “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

Secret 3: Give 100 Percent to Your Spouse

The old saying, “Marriage is a 50–50 proposition” is **totally wrong!** Upscale, modern, “enlightened” professionals may say, “Independence is our priority. We’ll intellectually agree to work together, but I’ll still reserve my personal escape route in case things

don't work out right." But true love is giving without expecting anything in return. Paul wrote: "And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Or, as the *Moffatt* translation states, "It is happier to give than to get."

When two people **both** give 100 percent, you have a strong bond—a strong "overlap" that is going to guarantee flexibility and the ability to cope with cri-

DO YOU REALLY VALUE YOUR SPOUSE? DO YOU RESPECT HIM OR HER AS A HUMAN BEING MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD?

ses and problems. In such a scenario, both mates are "all in." But the 50–50 proposition is a built-in weak link in your relationship!

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your **time!** Some years ago, when I was very active in sports, I tended to shortchange my wife in spending time together. I still remember the time when I determined to **give** my time to her in some special activity that would please her. She wanted to go canoeing—that was not my favorite activity, but we went canoeing on an east Texas lake on a Sunday afternoon surrounded by pine trees, blue skies, waterfowl and peace! What *I* considered a sacrifice of my time led to a strengthened relationship—my wife enjoyed the activity and appreciated my effort. Make a commitment to **give** more than you have in the past. Be determined to find ways to give to your spouse—then you will not be so frustrated, and God will bless you in your relationship. As Jesus stated, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Secret 4: Fulfill Your God-Given Responsibilities

God has given important responsibilities to husbands and wives. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and

without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church" (Ephesians 5:25–29).

God commands me as a husband to love my wife. I must give account to God for my attitude, service and commitment to my wife. Notice that God does **not** give all kinds of escape clauses. He does **not** say,

"if" your wife is perfect, **then** you love her. **No!** God **commands** you to **love** your wife. That is **your responsibility!** As we saw earlier, you need to give 100 percent to your wife.

Now, what does God instruct the wives? "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is

head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:22–24).

Again, ladies, God does **not** say that you submit only to the **perfect** husband. I do not know of any perfect husbands. Only Christ is perfect! But, as each of us fulfills his or her *own* God-given responsibilities—sincerely and diligently, however imperfectly—God will bless the marriage even more! Notice, too, in this same passage that the Apostle Paul encourages



Social Media Adding Stress to Many Marriages

As times change, so do the sources of stress that marriages face. Research commissioned by the UK law firm Slater and Gordon suggests that an increasing number of couples are citing *social media use* as a cause of their divorce. Their survey of 2,000 married Brits in 2015 uncovered a number of disturbing trends:

- One in seven said that their spouse's activity on Facebook, Snapchat, and other social apps motivated them to contemplate divorce.
- 17% of those surveyed said they fought with their partner every day due to social media use, while almost a quarter fought about social media at least once per week.
- 14% said that they used social media to search for evidence of infidelity.
- 15% believed that social media was dangerous to their marriage, with Facebook topping the list as the most dangerous platform.

Andrew Newbury, head of family law at the firm, said, "We are now actively advising our clients to be cautious when it comes to using Facebook and all forms of social media because of its potential to damage relationships."

us to be thankful and to ensure we are "submitting to one another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:20–21). As husband and wife, you each have this responsibility to your spouse.

Secret 5: Honor and Respect Your Spouse

Most of us married couples know we have human nature and human weaknesses. My wife and I have had arguments, not so much now, after 50 years, but how do you reconcile and solve those arguments? The next secret may be difficult for some who find fault and know the weaknesses and character flaws of their spouse. Consider God's instruction regarding our relationship with others: "Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition** or **conceit**, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem** others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

Do you really value your spouse? Do you respect him or her as a human being made in the image of

God? Yes, your Bible instructs us to **esteem**—that is, to **value**—others better than ourselves. That does not mean you must respect every bad quality or bad habit of your spouse. But look for his or her positive values! If you have been abusing your spouse, **physically or verbally**, you need to repent! You need to humble yourself before God and ask His forgiveness. And you need to apologize to your spouse as well! It is sometimes difficult to say, "I'm sorry." But doing so can go a long way in healing and restoring a relationship!

Keep in mind that you and your spouse are "heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7). It is vital to **understand** how God values **every** human being—and that includes your spouse, regardless of your opinion of him or her. Every human being on earth has the potential of being born into the divine family of God as a glorified, immortal child of God. Paul wrote: "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My



sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18). Always be conscious of your spouse’s awesome potential.

Secret 6: Learn to Forgive

How often do you have arguments in your family, or in your marriage? We all need to exercise self-control, courtesy, honor and respect. Sometimes, the best strategy in an argument is to remember: “A soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1). Sometimes, we need to admit our own responsibility. Perhaps we have personally contributed to the problem. I know it can be very difficult at times because our pride gets in the way. I have experienced that myself. But simply saying “I’m sorry” can go a long way in solving a conflict. And certainly we need to forgive one another.

Remember the awesome instruction in your Bible: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, even as God in Christ **forgave** you” (Ephesians 4:32).

Another passage also emphasizes that point: “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and **forgiving** one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:12–14).

Secret 7: Pray Together

I realize you may be married to an unbeliever, in which case you simply need to pray every day for him or her—and pray for your marriage. Strive to be a Christian example to your spouse. We read: “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives” (1 Peter 3:1).

Your loving, giving, Christian **example** can go a long way toward positively influencing your husband. Notice the emphasis is on the conduct, **not** on trying to argue your spouse into your religion.

Of course, if both you and your spouse personally pray, try praying together. It is amazing how many intimate and personal thoughts come out in our prayers. In that way, we are sharing with one another and with our God.

Ask God to help you apply these principles in your own life. Remember, you cannot force your spouse to change—you can only change yourself. But your example of love and service can have a very positive influence on your spouse. You cannot do it on your own. You need the help of your Savior! As Paul wrote: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

May God bless you and your spouse—one man and one woman in one marriage! May He bless your marriage and your family as you strive to live by His word! 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

God’s Plan for Happy Marriage The Bible really does explain how you can have a truly happy marriage! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why does God allow Satan to rule on Earth?

Question: If God is all-powerful, why does He allow Satan to be the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4)?

Answer: Scripture makes it clear that the devil—Satan—is currently in charge of planet Earth. Even Jesus Christ Himself, shortly before His arrest and crucifixion, acknowledged Satan’s authority: “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me” (John 14:30).

How does the devil exert his rule? He influences world events by injecting his evil ideas into the minds of human beings, much as a television transmitter broadcasts its signal into the air to be received in people’s homes. This analogy can help us see why Scripture calls Satan the “prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (Ephesians 2:2–3).

Was there always a Satan? No! God created a powerful and beautiful archangel named Lucifer, who—along with Michael and Gabriel—served at God’s throne in heaven. Why did this Lucifer (Latin for “light-bringer” or “morning star”) fall and become Satan (Hebrew for “accuser” or “adversary”)? You can read about this in Ezekiel 28:12–15 and Luke 10:18.

Lucifer and a third of the angels (Revelation 12:3–4) rebelled against their Creator. At some point in the distant past, Lucifer led these angels “above the heights of the clouds” to take the throne of God (Isaiah 14:13–14), leaving their “proper domain” or assigned responsibility (Jude 6) *below* the clouds here on Earth. Unsuccessful, they were cast back down to the Earth (Isaiah 14:12).

Satan failed in his rebellion, but he remains in the office God gave him, where he is ironically still instrumental in God’s plan. You see, human beings are spending 6,000 years living their own way, influenced by Satan’s spirit of selfishness and evil. They are writ-

ing with their own blood, sweat and tears the history of what it is like to live in disobedience to God’s way.

God Has a Plan

The member of the God Family who became Jesus Christ came to earth a little more than 2,000 years ago as a human being (John 1:1, 14). By living His perfect life—filled without measure with the Holy Spirit—He demonstrated that with God’s help, human beings can live in obedience to God, and reject Satan’s way (Galatians 2:20).

It is because of Jesus Christ that Satan’s rule on the earth will soon end. That is why the devil is only called the god of “this age.” An age is soon coming when Jesus Christ will replace Satan as the ruler of this world. We call that time “the Millennium.” Jesus Christ, who came to the earth as a human being and

God is watching to see who is obeying Jesus Christ, and who has surrendered to evil.

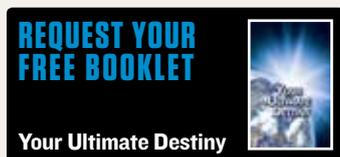
lived a perfect sinless life, will return as King and remove Satan from his rule.

Since the Millennium is not here yet, what can we do to escape the evil effects of Satan’s rule? Those who accept Jesus Christ’s sacrifice can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, come under God’s government now and receive the power to

resist Satan’s influence in their lives. “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:7–8).

God is watching to see who is obeying Jesus Christ, and who has surrendered to evil. “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now, ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’” (1 Peter 4:17–18).

When the Prince of Peace returns to set up His government over the nations, Satan’s rule will end. “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out” (John 12:31). God speed that day!



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14:13–14), leaving their “proper domain” or assigned responsibility (Jude 6) *below* the clouds here on Earth. Unsuccessful, they were cast back down to the Earth (Isaiah 14:12).

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The Suez Crisis: 60 Years On

The Suez Canal in Egypt was completed by the French in 1869. It connected the Mediterranean to the Red Sea and was designed to replace the long journey that shipping had to take around Africa. The famous waterway was operated and maintained by the France-based Suez Canal Company, with Britain as the controlling shareholder, and took on great strategic importance to all who used it.

Britain saw the canal as an “imperial lifeline” to her far-flung empire and stationed a large number of troops to protect the canal from 1882 onwards. The canal took on even greater importance because of Middle East oil—by 1955 about two-thirds of Europe’s oil passed through the canal. However, in 1956 a huge crisis of ownership occurred after Egypt took control of the canal and all British troops left the country.

Today in this 60th anniversary year of the Suez crisis, let’s briefly remind ourselves *why it took place*, and *the huge impact it had* over the following years. And from a spiritual perspective, *where is God in such geopolitical events?*

Who’s Helping Whom?

In 1952, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power in Egypt. He wanted all British troops off Egyptian soil, so a treaty was signed in July 1954 requiring all British troops to be gone by 1956. Nasser tried to play America against the Soviet Union for ongoing military and financial support. When America, unhappy with Nasser’s radical politics, declined to help finance the Aswan High Dam project, Nasser angrily responded by nationalizing the Suez Canal Company on July 26, 1956.

This led to great fears concerning the free flow of international shipping, especially that of Middle East oil to Europe. Israel was prevented from using the canal, and Britain’s links with its Empire nations also seemed to be threatened. The fact that Nasser was the foremost champion of Pan-Arab nationalism, a potent threat to Israel, and actively opposed to colonialism provided additional reasons for Britain, France and Israel to want to remove him from power and regain control of the canal. However, as they proceeded, they ignored American advice, failed to inform the U.S. government, and fatally misjudged world opinion.

Britain, France and Israel’s secretly planned invasion began on October 29, with Israel taking over Sinai. But a little over a week later, the war was halted due to heavy American political and economic pressure, and international diplomacy through the United Nations. France and Britain were therefore prevented from achieving their objectives. Nasser emerged victorious, regaining control over the Suez Canal and eventually all territory lost in the war. France and Britain were humiliated, though Israel benefitted in one sense, being more prepared for its next war with Egypt eleven years later.

Why did America fail to support some of its most valued allies?

The war over Suez had fallen into the shadow of the 40-year-long Cold War between America and the Soviet Union. 1956 was a challenging year in which first Poland and then Hungary challenged Russia’s oppressive rule. Although the Polish situation temporarily stabilized, the Hungarian uprising led to brutal and bloody repression, which happened, crucially, *at the same time as the Suez crisis*.

America feared that French, British and Israeli intervention in Egypt would offend Arab and Muslim opinion and destabilize the Middle East. Arab nations might be driven towards Russia and open the door to greater Soviet influence in the region. At the same time, Russia threatened to launch rocket attacks against Britain, France and Israel, with Khrushchev publicly threatening to go to war in defense of Egypt, giving rise to very real fears that the conflict could escalate into World War III.

Coincidentally, Eisenhower was up for re-election on November 6 and needed to be sensitive to U.S. domestic opinion. So, even though Britain and France were important NATO allies, America saw the way ahead as demanding an instant halt to hostilities. There wasn't much that could be done to help Hungary. The canal was closed for five months until March 1957 and then reopened to all traffic.

The ramifications of these events for many nations were significant.

The Suez crisis signaled the end of *Britain's* role as a world power. The disintegration of Britain's declining Empire was hastened. The Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, was crushed; his health collapsed, and he resigned from office. Britain could only survive with



American economic intervention and approval; their newly subservient "special relationship" was rapidly rebuilt under the McMillan premiership.

West Germany was furious with the U.S. for its failure to intervene in Hungary against Russia, while at the same time working with Russia against her Western allies in Egypt. The *NATO alliance* was thereby weakened and divided. *France* felt betrayed by her unreliable allies and progressively detached herself from NATO to develop her own nuclear capability. The experience likely influenced the adoption of the *Treaty of Rome* in 1957, which was intended to encourage greater European self-reliance. *Arab nations* felt emboldened to stand up to "big nation" bullying, as did aspiring nations seeking to emerge from the rule of their colonial masters. *America* lost influence in the Middle East while the *Soviet Union* gained.

Over time the importance of the Suez Canal has diminished somewhat, though it remains a crucial choke-point. The largest modern oil tankers are too big for the



Ship convoy passing through Suez Canal

canal, making the passage around Africa preferable for some. Britain was eventually blessed with North Sea oil. Nasser passed into history, and his dream of becoming a Pan-Arab leader never materialized. America won the Cold War and became the world's only superpower.

The Best Laid Plans...

All this illustrates a simple, overarching *spiritual point*. Despite all the dynamic, ever-changing relationships among nations on the international stage—with all their military, economic, ideological and diplomatic complexities and intrigues—it is *God who remains supreme*. He is the one who exalts nations and brings down nations to accomplish His purposes and to fulfill biblical prophecy.

Anciently, mighty King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had to learn the hard way "that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (Daniel 4:25). God is all powerful and His will and purpose will prevail: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

In today's chaotic and fast-moving world in which God is progressively marginalized and ignored and His will is neglected, it would be wise to remember this vital, all-encompassing lesson.

Keep reading *Tomorrow's World* magazine as we continue to bring you a deeper understanding of the progression of world events as seen through the prism of biblical prophecy—God's inviolable will and purpose. "Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it" (Isaiah 46:11).

— John Meakin



Should Christians Keep Christmas?

By **Wallace Smith**

It seems like a crazy question. Nonsensical. Ridiculous. But it is a question for which the vast majority of the professing Christian world has the wrong answer.

Should Christians keep Christmas?

As the month of December arrives on the calendar, so do the decorated trees and homes, the wrapped gifts, the beloved carols, the special church services and masses, and all the other trappings of Christmas. On the commonly accepted “Christian Calendar,” few occasions are more cherished and more highly anticipated than the Christmas season. Children are given advent calendars, families go shopping for friends and neighbors, and children begin fantasizing about what goodies Santa Claus might bring them.

It is a time enjoyed by many the world over, and tales abound of even international strife being brought to a temporary halt on Christmas day in honor of the commonly held belief of both sides of the conflict that the day is meant to recognize the birth of the Prince of Peace—after which, of course, each side’s attempt to kill the other recommences.

It truly may seem odd to ask the question “Is Christmas Christian?” After all, if one were to simply look at the word “Christmas,” he would see the name of “Christ” right there at the beginning!

Yet Christians must always be willing to compare their beliefs, practices and traditions to God’s revealed will and word—embracing that which is validated by God’s express desire and casting aside that which conflicts with it. As the Apostle Paul admonished the early Church, “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). And “all things” would certainly include the keeping of Christmas.

But as we ask the question of whether or not Christians should keep Christmas, it’s just as important to understand what questions we are not asking. For instance, we are not asking whether or not Christmas is fun. While the intensity of shopping for gifts and presents is incredibly stressful for many, Christmas is still generally considered one of the most enjoyable times of the year.

We’re also not asking whether or not Christmas traditions, songs, customs and carols are beautiful and inspirational. Frankly, some of the most beautiful music of Western Civilization has been inspired by the sentiment of the Christmas season. And while some customs associated with Christmas are nauseatingly materialistic, many people give of themselves selflessly during the Christmas season, and many personal and family traditions enjoyed during those days create happy memories.

But charity and selflessness certainly need not be limited to one brief season out of the year, and Christians don’t need Christmas to feel inspired, sing beautiful music, or create lasting family memories.

Our question is much simpler: Should Christians keep Christmas? That is, should individuals who claim allegiance to the religion, belief, practices and teachings of Jesus Christ observe Christmas? Would Jesus encourage individuals to keep the holiday? Or would He discourage them from it? Would He command its observance or condemn it? Would He, Himself, keep it or ignore it?

The Origins of Christmas

Any consideration of whether or not Christians should keep Christmas should begin with understanding the origins of the day and its many traditions.

Christmas traditions differ from place to place, to be sure. But many are familiar with the experience

of decorating a Christmas tree, or perhaps burning a Yule log. Hanging holly and strategically placing some mistletoe is common in many cultures. Gathering together as a family or with friends and exchanging gifts is certainly commonly associated with the “Christmas spirit.”

All of these customs come directly from pre-Christian, pagan religions and winter worship practices.

Believe it or not, this isn’t generally a debated question, at all. It’s a fact of history. Even many mainstream Christians don’t dispute the pagan origins of Christmas practices and traditions, and even popular, conservative Christians such as Dr. James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, and theologian Dr. R. C. Sproul readily admit that. The pagan origins and influences behind what we now call “Christmas” are available to any open mind willing to research the matter, and the facts are not in serious dispute.

For instance, consider this brief summary of the origins of Christmas from the widely respected “Christian” resource *Eerdmans’ Handbook to the History of Christianity*: “The Christian church took over many pagan ideas and images. From sun-worship, for

example, came the celebration of Christ’s birth on the twenty-fifth of December, the birthday of the Sun. Saturnalia, the Roman winter festival of 17–21 of December, provided the merriment, gift-giving and candles typical of later Christmas holidays... Some pagan customs which were later Christianized, for example the use of candles, incense and garlands, were at first avoided by the church because they symbolized paganism.”

In his famous work *A Classical Dictionary*, scholar John Lemprière summarized some of the ancient, pre-Christian practices of the pagan holiday Saturnalia—the pagan winter festival upon which many Christmas traditions are derived: “The celebration was remarkable for the liberty which universally prevailed. The slaves were permitted to ridicule their masters... It was usual for friends to make presents one to another, all animosity ceased, no criminals were executed, schools were shut, war was never declared, but all was mirth, riot, and debauchery.”

Does any of that sound familiar?

Sure, many of the practices and customs of Christmas that come from pagan origins have had their



Many are familiar with the experience of decorating a Christmas tree, or perhaps burning a Yule log. Hanging holly and strategically placing some mistletoe is common in many cultures. Gathering together as a family or with friends and exchanging gifts is certainly commonly associated with the “Christmas spirit.” All of these customs come directly from pre-Christian, pagan religions and winter worship practices.

original meanings changed so that they sound more Christian. For example, some preachers compare pagan wreaths of holly to the crown of thorns Christ wore at His crucifixion, or the red of the holly berries to His blood. But those interpretations were added to these ancient, pre-Christian elements much later, and none of them change the fact of the origins of these customs, trappings and traditions. And if we are going to honestly answer the question at hand—Should Christians keep Christmas?—we need to do so in full view of the facts.

And, when it comes to the origin of the practices, those facts are clear: the dates, the practices, the customs—almost the entire package we know of as “Christmas”—was imported into Christianity from pagan customs rooted in sun worship in the winter and the Roman Saturnalia. Again, virtually no historians seriously dispute this.

What Should Guide a Christian’s Decision?

Actually, these days it is not uncommon to see major magazines and other publications openly discussing the pagan origins of Christmas traditions—decorating evergreen trees, hanging mistletoe and giving gifts—without a hint of controversy. Though these things seem increasingly well known, few people seem to care.

Perhaps these facts don’t have any impact on the question of whether a Christian should or should not observe the holiday. Really, how do we know what Christians should or shouldn’t do? What makes something appropriate for Christians or not appropriate for Christians? Is it all a matter of opinion and preference, or is there an objective standard that informs a Christian’s faith and practice in such things?

That might seem like a hard question, but it isn’t. The name “Christian” comes from the name of the very founder of Christianity, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. People who call themselves Christians are claiming to be followers of the teachings and example

of Jesus Christ. So, if something is going to be declared appropriate, or even required, of Christians, it must agree with the teachings, statements, example and commands of the very founder of the religion whose name that faith bears: Jesus Christ!

Really, it’s obvious, isn’t it? Something belongs in the faith and practice of Christians if it matches the teachings and practice of Jesus Christ. Something does not belong in their faith and practice if it does not. It isn’t complicated!

And it isn’t just common sense. It’s what Jesus Himself explicitly taught. The New Testament re-

records His assertion that to be His follower—to be a Christian—it is not enough to merely “believe” what He said while ignoring it in your life and practice.

Consider, for example, His con-

demnation in Luke 6:46 of those who declare Jesus their “Lord” without actually living as He commands: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” Similarly, He declares, “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matthew 7:22–23).

Jesus clearly does not accept those who call Him “Lord” but who do not follow and act on His teachings and who ignore God’s laws and commands. Even if someone claiming to be “Christian” is a miracle worker, Jesus said that if such a one ignores practicing His teachings and God’s law, then He will cast that one aside and declare that He never knew him!

In fact, this element of truly acting on Jesus’ words and obeying His Father’s commands was so essential to the faith He was promoting, that Jesus taught “if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17). And one of the original Twelve Apostles, selected and personally trained by

ALMOST THE ENTIRE PACKAGE WE KNOW OF AS “CHRISTMAS” WAS IMPORTED INTO CHRISTIANITY FROM PAGAN CUSTOMS ROOTED IN SUN WORSHIP IN THE WINTER AND THE ROMAN SATURNALIA.

Jesus Himself, wrote, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3–4).

That’s strong! Jesus says through His apostle that if we don’t follow His commandments and teachings we don’t even know who Jesus Christ is—and if we say we do, then God’s word calls us a liar!

What Would Jesus Do?

The implications are clear. If we want to know whether or not Christians should keep Christmas, we simply have to ascertain how Jesus’ own teachings and practice apply to Christmas. That is, we have to look at Christmas and figure out the answer to the popular question “What Would Jesus Do?”

Thankfully, we don’t have to guess at the answer. The Bible is remarkably clear on this question in many passages.

For example, speaking of pagan peoples and pagan traditions and customs, God commanded ancient Israel very clearly, “[Do] not inquire after their gods,

pagan nations outside of ancient Israel. He couldn’t be any plainer: He does not want His people worshipping Him using pagan ways. In fact, the passage in Jeremiah 10 goes much further and describes one specific example of a pagan practice God is condemning, and it should sound familiar! God continues, “For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple” (v. 3–4).

How many people do this with an evergreen tree every Christmas—bringing it into their home, standing it up, and decorating it with silver and gold? Almighty God says He doesn’t care if you call it an idol or not. Instead, He simply says, “Do not learn such things from the pagans, and do not worship Me in that way!”

Commands for Christians, As Well!

Of course, these passages are from the Old Testament, aren’t they? The question at hand is about whether or not Christians should keep Christmas, and per-

haps Jesus Christ changed things. Perhaps He said that it is perfectly acceptable to put God’s commands aside for the sake of traditions that we personally want to observe. Perhaps He says that we are allowed to ignore God’s commands and to worship Him however we want and with whatever traditions we want, regardless of what the rest of the Bible says.

JESUS SAYS THROUGH HIS APOSTLE THAT IF WE DON’T SEEK TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDMENTS AND TEACHINGS WE DON’T EVEN KNOW WHO JESUS CHRIST IS!

saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way” (Deuteronomy 12:30).

This is crucial! Notice that God didn’t simply say, “Don’t worship idols” or “Don’t worship their gods.” He says, “You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way”! The Bible makes it plain that we should not even worship the true God in pagan ways. So, while some often try to say that it is acceptable to use pagan traditions, symbols and days as long as one is worshipping the true God with those things, the Bible says otherwise.

Similarly, in Jeremiah 10:2, God instructs, “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles”—meaning those

But we’ve already answered that, haven’t we? Jesus loved the laws of God and honored them, commanding all who follow Him to do likewise. In fact, He specifically addressed the question about whether or not His followers should be willing to set aside God’s commands for the sake of traditions they want to keep.

Jesus Christ harshly condemned the religious leaders of His day who did the same thing—ignoring God’s laws for the sake of their own worship traditions: “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of



men.' For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men... All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition" (Mark 7:6–9).

God's word and the teachings of Jesus Christ are crystal clear! For a Christian to observe Christmas—the tree, the gifts, even the date itself—he or she would be required to lay aside the commandment of God to hold onto that tradition. God commands us not to use pagan-originated customs and traditions to worship Him, and Christmas—beyond all doubt—is infused with such customs and traditions. To keep Christmas, a Christian must first reject God's commands. And Jesus Christ—the Son of God and the very founder of Christianity—passionately condemns doing that in no uncertain terms.

If we claim to be a Christian but ignore the teachings of Christ in order to keep Christmas anyway, Jesus' words come back to us across 2,000 years to challenge us: "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

It's actually amazingly clear. If Jesus were on earth, today, knowing that His Heavenly Father commands Him not to use pagan customs to worship Him, would Jesus Christ keep Christmas? Anyone willing to be honest with the Bible would have to say, "No, He would not." And no one claiming to follow Him—claiming to be a Christian—would either.

Jesus Christ did not put His name on Christmas. Men did. But Jesus Christ, and His faithful followers, hold themselves responsible to a higher authority than the traditions of men. That's what it means to be a Christian.

A Simple but Irrefutable Answer

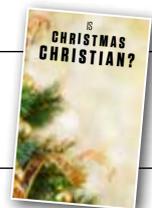
We began with what might have seemed a strange question: Should Christians keep Christmas? And the answer may seem just as strange—but it is also irrefutable: No, they should not.

It may be fun and a "good time." We may enjoy it. It may be a long-standing family tradition. We may very sincerely be trying to keep it to God with good intention. But Christmas is not a Christian celebration according to the words and teachings of the founder of Christianity, Himself—Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus' teachings condemn its celebration, and the celebration of all such holidays with roots in pagan customs and worship practices, and He forbids His followers from keeping them. Christians should not keep Christmas.

If Christians want to practice their faith with pure hearts and without hypocrisy—seeking to please Jesus in their service and practice, and not themselves or others—then these things matter. Christians must be committed to more than good intentions. As Jesus told the woman by the well, "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:22–24). ^{TW}

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Is Christmas Christian? More and more people are discovering the amazing truth about this holiday! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.





By Their Fruits You Will Know Them

Jesus Christ famously said, “Therefore by their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:20). Their fruits? What fruits? What did Jesus mean?

Your fruits are your actions—what you do and the results of your choices. Wise King Solomon wrote long ago, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right” (Proverbs 20:11).

So what about you? If you are known by your deeds, how would you be known? What are the fruits of your life so far?

It really does boil down to *action*. You may have good intentions about doing better in life—perhaps beginning to pray regularly, studying the Bible, practicing more kindness toward others, or striving to be more encouraging. But if it never moves past mere *intentions*, we’ve got trouble. It’s like the diet or exercise program that someone is always going to start... tomorrow. Except tomorrow never comes. And, as a result, no fruit is ever produced. No character is ever developed.

Character and Predictability

On the other hand, if you have begun to implement some of these good intentions—and if those intentions line up with the Bible—you will begin to develop good fruit. And if you’ve been diligent about making positive changes in your life, then you will probably keep producing good fruit tomorrow, and the next day, and the next. And the longer you do the right thing, the more predictable you will become and the more good fruit you will produce. You are developing good habits. If this is the case in your life, God knows that

most likely tomorrow will find you obeying Him once again. You are bearing good fruit and building godly character—not only good for you, but also pleasing to your Creator.

Of course you are a free moral agent, with the power of choice. Everyone has the ability to jump off the right track and back onto the wrong one. Some have given up after years of living a Christian life. The Apostle Paul was very aware of this possibility when he was inspired to write, “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27).

Abraham was a good example of a true servant who became predictable in his willingness to obey God, no matter what was asked of him. Even when God tested him by commanding him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice, Abraham obeyed! As he stretched out his hand to slay his son God intervened, telling him. “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me” (Genesis 22:12). Though he had failed at some moments earlier in his life, Abraham had overcome and grown and now he was known by his deeds—by his fruits. God says in the Bible that He blessed Abraham and his descendants “because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws” (Genesis 26:5).

Letting God Get to Know You

Just as all of us need to get to know God, it’s also true that He must get to know you. God is looking for

individuals who won't cave to negative peer pressure. He is searching for those who live by His laws and who are willing to swim against the current when necessary. And let's face it—in the world today, young people who try to live God's way face many tests. Peer pressure to conform to the world's standards may be immense at times, especially with regard to personal appearance, dress, drugs and sex. Do you compromise in these areas? Or do you uphold high standards of conduct? You may be ostracized or rejected by your peers. But how you handle these situations is important to God.

When the young Jewish boy named Daniel was carried away as a captive to Babylon, he was only a teenager. When pressured to compromise in his observance of God's laws, he and three other young men (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) resisted. They would not "defile [themselves] with the portion of the king's delicacies" (Daniel 1:8-20). Similarly, when his three friends were commanded to bow down before an idol or else face execution, they refused to turn their backs on God's command (Exodus 20:4-6) even though they knew it might mean their deaths (Daniel 3:16-18). They put their lives on the line. They refused to compromise with their beliefs. As a result of these deeds, and others, they increased in favor with God and with men, and they were promoted to positions of leadership in the empire of Babylon!

If you're reading this magazine and seeking to understand what God has for you in the Bible, you are probably beginning to learn a lot! However, along with this knowledge comes responsibility. You are accountable for what you know. For example, the book



of James tells us that "to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). You must choose a path—right or wrong—and then decide to act, or not to act, accordingly. And as you do, keep in mind the Proverb mentioned earlier: "Even a child is known by his *deeds*..."

A Personal Foundation for Your Future

You are not going to have opportunities in tomorrow's world simply because of how your parents lived or the quality of your friends' character. You, yourself, must learn to make right decisions all on your own. You must "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). It is up to you, not anyone else, to work with Jesus Christ in that salvation. No one can do that for you.

If you're reading this magazine and seeking to understand what God has to teach you in the Bible, you are probably beginning to learn a lot!

Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company, is quoted as saying: "You can't build a reputation on what you're *going* to do." This is a fact. If you are to have success in any area of

life, you must act appropriately upon the knowledge you have. And the same is true spiritually speaking: spiritual fruit in your life will require real *action* on your part. Jesus warned those who wanted to be a part of His future eternal Kingdom, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but *he who does the will* of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Did you notice what this verse says? It says action is required. There is something you must *do*.

Now is the time to begin building good habits and living by the laws of God. Today is the time to begin making positive changes in your life where they are needed. Don't put it off until tomorrow. Seek to pass each test that comes along *when* it comes along and not put off the hard things to a later time. Become a predictable human being that God can count on to do the right thing. "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:43-44).

—Sheldon Monson



TURNING POINTS *in* WORLD HISTORY



How “Christianity” Changed the World

In 31AD Jesus Christ founded His Church, which was to take His teachings and His message of the coming Kingdom of God to the world (Matthew 28:19-20). Those who were a part of this movement began to be called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). However, it was not long before an element of that faith began to diverge from the teachings of Jesus in significant ways (Jude 3). The religion that grew from this divergence—blending some of the biblical teachings and practices of Jesus with unbiblical teachings and practices from outside of the Bible—eventually gained the power and authority of Rome and the public label of “Christianity.”

The blending of biblical concepts and pagan ideas that this global, *professing* Christianity represents, as well as the remarkable ways in which God preserved the pure faith and teachings of *true Christianity* among a small flock, will be the subject of future articles in this series. But the historical record is clear: the hybrid religion that took Christ’s name had a *powerful* impact on civilization that is felt to this day around the world.

Transforming the Roman Empire

And such impact began soon in the Roman Empire, itself. Former professor of sociology Dr. Alvin Schmidt notes Elwood Cubberly’s observation that the biblical teachings of Jesus Christ challenged “almost everything for which the Roman world had stood” (*How Christianity Changed the World*, Schmidt, p. 44). Dr. James Kennedy writes, “Life was expendable prior to Christianity’s influence... In those days abortion was rampant. Abandonment was commonplace: It was common for infirm babies or unwanted little ones to be taken out into the forest or the mountainside, to be consumed by

wild animals or to starve... They often abandoned female babies because women were considered inferior” (*What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?*, pp. 9–11).

The Romans promoted brutal gladiatorial contests where thousands of slaves, condemned criminals and prisoners of war mauled and slaughtered each other for the amusement of cheering audiences. Roman authors indicate that “sexual activity between men and women had become highly promiscuous and essentially depraved before and during the time that Christians appeared in Roman society” and that homosexuality was widespread among pagan Greeks and Romans, especially men with boys (Schmidt, pp. 79–86). Women were relegated to a low status in society, where they received little schooling, could not speak in public and were viewed as the property of their husbands (Schmidt, pp. 97–102).

As professing Christianity spread in the region, those parts of its teachings that corresponded to biblical truths had a profound impact. Pagan practices were confronted with biblical principles concerning the status of women and the importance of the family (Ephesians 5:22–33; 6:1–4), the sanctity of human life as made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26), and the sinfulness of sexual immorality and homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9–10). Eventually, Roman emperors even outlawed the branding of criminals and crucifixion and terminated the brutal gladiatorial contests that had flourished for nearly seven centuries—implementing one of the most important reforms in the moral history of mankind (Schmidt, p. 63–65). In the words of historian Christopher Dawson, the changes brought about by the spread of these ideas marked “the beginning of a

new era in world history" (*Religion and the Rise of Western Culture*, p. 25).

Such changes were not limited to the West. The influence of biblical principles abolished *suttee* in India—the practice of burning widows on the funeral pyre of their husband. It stopped the killing of wives and concubines when tribal chiefs died in Africa, discouraged cannibalism, and helped to end the global slave trade in the 1800s (Kennedy, pp. 16–17).

Change Not Always Voluntary

Yet while it bore some biblical teachings in its doctrines and catechisms, this "Christianity" was a syncretic religion that combined some of the biblical teachings of



Exposure to biblical concepts eliminated gladiatorial contests

Jesus with the beliefs, practices, and attitudes of many of the peoples it sought to "transform."

Many of the same scholars who recognize the benefits that professing Christianity brought to the world as its influence increased also recognize that this increasing influence was often accomplished by very unbiblical and unchristian means. The history of movements such as the Spanish Inquisition, forcibly converting Jews and Muslims in Europe and elsewhere under pain of torture cannot be denied. Jesus taught His followers, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight" (John 18:36). But the religion that spread in His name thought otherwise, launching the Crusades and other militaristic efforts to create spaces where its influence could increase.

Burnings at the stake, beheadings, hangings and other executions of heretics and those unwilling to convert were characteristic of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant strains of professing Christianity (Schmidt, p. 293). The religion that was changing the

world may have been called "Christianity," but it was not truly the religion founded by Jesus Christ.

Impact on Modern World

Still, the impact of that religion continues to be visible in Western civilization today. Historians of professing Christianity have noted that "by the Middle Ages, Christianity had shaped Western culture, and it would



continue to influence culture wherever [its teachings] spread" (*Seven Revolutions*, Aquilina & Papandrea,

pp. 6–7). The charity encouraged by biblical teachings (e.g., Luke 10:30–37) eventually blossomed into hospitals, orphanages, homes for the elderly and care for the poor, the hungry and the homeless (Schmidt, pp. 147–148). Even many of the greatest and most prominent universities of our day were originally founded for "Christian" purposes (Kennedy, p. 40).

And while critics claim the Christian religion impeded the growth of science, history says otherwise. Dr. Rodney Stark, a professor of sociology and comparative religion, states, "the leading scientific figures in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries overwhelmingly were devout Christians who believed it was their duty to comprehend God's handiwork" (*For the Glory of God*, p. 123). Unlike the godless religions of Asia and the capricious gods of other faiths, the God of the Bible was a rational Being whose creation operated on laws that were discoverable and could be applied to solving problems for the benefit of mankind (Psalm 19:1; Proverbs 25:2)—an understanding "essential for the rise of science" (Stark, p. 123).

Modern, atheistic critics can scoff at the beliefs of the Bible and the superstitions of professing Christianity, but they do so while benefitting from living in a culture built on many of the beliefs they detest. While in many ways it seems on the wane for the moment, the Bible prophecies that this apostate, professing Christianity will once again rise in power, not merely to *influence* the world, but to *conquer* it (Revelation 6:1–2), on a path that will take it into conflict with the *true* Christianity it has sought to leave behind (Revelation 13:11–17).

And in a very real way, the turning point in history that the spread of professing Christianity represented may presage a greater turning point to come.

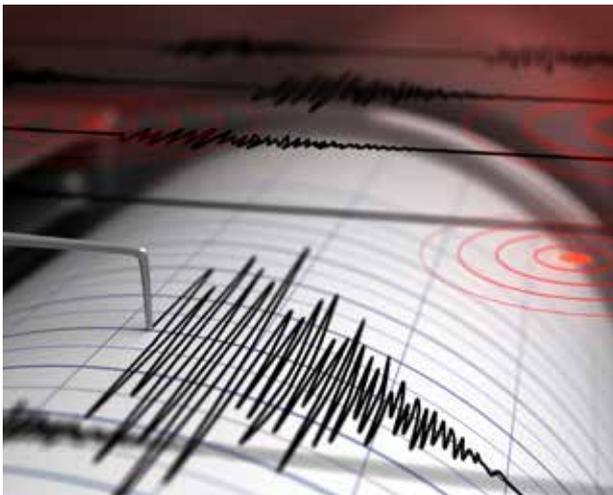
—Douglas Winnail

And the New Testament *directly validates* this Old Testament account. For in the book of James—written by the brother of Jesus Christ—we find these inspired words: “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit” (James 5:17–18).

Have we, in the United States, Canada and Britain, “forsaken the commandments of the Lord” as Elijah condemned King Ahab for doing? The answer is rather obvious. And will we receive the *same kind of punishment* that the land of Israel did back then? We have the answer from the word of God: “*For I am the LORD, I do not change*” (Malachi 3:6). As the New Testament puts it, “Jesus Christ is the **same** yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

Notice Solomon’s inspired prayer *acknowledging God’s direct control over the weather*. “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and **send rain** on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance” (2 Chronicles 6:26–27).

In Isaiah 29:6, God says of Jerusalem, “You will be punished by the LORD of hosts with thunder and **earthquake** and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire.”



Again, God says, “I change **not**” (Malachi 3:6, *KJV*). He did punish ancient Jerusalem with *earthquakes* and *storms*. Now, He is beginning to punish the modern descendants of ancient Israel in the *same way*.

God Controls the Earthquakes

After a recent earthquake in Southern California, some local newswriters asked, “Why pick on Los Angeles?” The better question would be, “Why **not**?”

Los Angeles is widely regarded as the entertainment capital of the world. More rotten, vile movies and television shows featuring murder, mayhem and illicit, perverted sex are produced in Los Angeles than any other place in the world. California has long been regarded as the “leading edge” of seemingly every form of perversion known to man. The Great God who rules over men and nations has every right to *punish* degenerate and rebellious people and nations who have forsaken His laws and have not appreciated His great blessings. The people in California—and in most parts of the English-speaking world—have in the past had *many* chances to learn the Truth if they had any genuine interest. God’s basic ethical standards, summed up by the Ten Commandments, are generally well known—not hidden, esoteric knowledge. **Maybe a good “shaking up” will get people’s attention!**

Speaking to our ancestors, the Great God says: “And you have polluted the land with your harlotries and your wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain. You have had a harlot’s forehead; you refuse to be ashamed” (Jeremiah 3:2–3). *Be honest*. As a professing Christian nation, we have “polluted” the land with our modern adulteries, perversions, crimes and murders—including the butchery of some **50 million** unborn children since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973—along with countless other acts that are **abominable** in the sight of the God of heaven. Is He then justified if He withholds the “latter rain” from those who disobey Him? Or if He strikes the earth beneath our feet?

The British-descended peoples of the earth are *definitely* the descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel. God has blessed our nations immeasurably with the greatest concentration of wealth and material resources of any people in human history. But we have “forgotten” **God**. We are a *disgrace* to



Aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Pictured area is downtown San Francisco, with City Hall in the distance.

the One who has blessed us so much. Therefore, in prophecy after prophecy in your Bible, God describes in detail how He will **punish** the modern “house of Israel”—**and** the Jewish people as well. Again, as a loving father “disciplines” his son, so God will discipline us *for our own good* in the hope that it will **wake us up!**

Do you remember reading about the **massive earthquake** that struck San Francisco in 1906? Writer Jack London lived just 40 miles away. He rushed to the city when he heard the news, and recorded what he saw: “Nothing remains of it but memories and a fringe of dwelling-houses on its outskirts... There was no opposing the flames. There was no organization, no communication... The telephone and telegraph systems were disrupted. And the great water-mains had burst. All the shrewd contrivances and safeguards of man had been thrown out of gear by thirty seconds’ twitching of the earth-crust... Not in history has a modern imperial city been so completely destroyed. San Francisco is gone” (“The Story of an Eyewitness,” *Collier’s*, May 5, 1906).

The desolation of San Francisco was beyond words. In 45 to 60 seconds of tremors and three days of fires, 28,000 buildings were destroyed and 225,000 people were left homeless. An estimated 3,000 people lost their lives. Property damage reached \$400 million (in 1906 dollars). The fire destroyed four square miles of San Francisco—roughly two-thirds of the city.

On today’s Richter scale, the quake measured 7.7 to 7.9—nearly 100 times as intense as the terrible earthquake that struck Northridge, California on January 17, 1994!

My friends, what will it take to “shake” **you** to be willing to genuinely **seek God**—the true God of the Bible—with all your heart and with all your soul? What will it take to “shake” **you** to be willing to come out of this present society and truly **obey** the God who gives you life and breath?

In the New Testament, the great God who created us all inspired the writer of Hebrews to give us this warning: “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘*Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.*’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25–29). May the God of your Bible help you to listen. 

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Who Controls the Weather? Learn how Almighty God uses the weather for His plans and prophetic purposes! Request a **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Do You Know What's Going On?

Red sky at night, sailor's delight. Red sky at morning, sailors take warning. For millennia, people have recognized that it would be beneficial to be able to read the signs of the times to predict future events. Sometimes the signs can be wide open for all to see, but only those who are able to put them into the right context can understand what they mean for the future!

Sailors and others whose lives depended on the sea learned that a red sky in the morning had a very different meaning than a red sky in the evening. Since most weather patterns move from west to east, a red sky in the evening—when the sun was setting in the west—meant that clear skies were ahead. By contrast, a red sky in the morning meant that the sun was lighting the underside of approaching storm clouds, arising to the west.

Jesus Christ referred to this very phenomenon when speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees. “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening’” (Matthew 16:2–3).

The Pharisees and Sadducees did have a certain level of wisdom, which allowed them (among other things) to read the coming weather patterns. However, they were not as wise as they thought themselves to be. Christ rebuked them for their inability to read the signs of the times in which they were living. “Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3). They were waiting for the Messiah to appear, but could not recognize that He was standing right in front of them! Later, Christ used a similar saying to teach His disciples to watch for His return (Matthew 24:32–35). He told them of signs that would accompany His return and the end of the age (Matthew 24:3).

Are you aware?

Are you watching for the signs of the times? Do you see the gathering storm on the horizon? Paul



described that, at the end of this age, “perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power” (2 Timothy 3:1–5). What age could this describe if not the present one? The prophet Daniel describes the end of the age as a time when “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4). Think about the achievements in transportation in the past century, and the knowledge explosion that has come about through the digital age.

There is a blistering red morning sky. The signs are there to see, but they cannot be interpreted properly without the context of God’s Holy Scriptures—the Bible. The signs are pointing to a gathering storm that would destroy mankind entirely, were it not for the prophesied return of Jesus Christ to set the world in order!

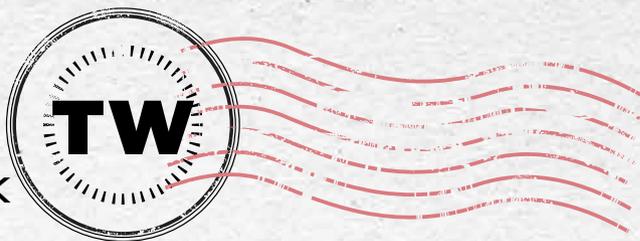
Wake up! *Tomorrow’s World* presenters and writers are conducting a series of informative live events in the weeks and months ahead, and I urge you to attend one near you. Details can be found at TomorrowsWorld.org. And, for an overview of the signs of the times that must occur before Jesus Christ’s return, read our free booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ’s Return*.

—Michael Heykoop



LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I have read many books, pamphlets, articles, etc. on the subject of human love and found this booklet, *God's Plan for Happy Marriage*, to be especially full of very helpful biblical guidelines.

M.W., Lolo, Montana

From my heart to yours—I'm not an educated person. What I like about your study course is that I can do it in my home at the time I choose. In your letter, you thanked me for my interest in the *Bible Study Course*. It is I, and people like me, who should thank you and your staff for their time, hard work and energy to make it available.

G.B., Homosassa, Florida

I have been receiving your magazines for a couple of months now, and I love them! Especially the section titled, "Tomorrow's Youth." I am struggling with my relationship with my mother. But whenever we sit down and read your magazine or booklets, we calm down and sometimes even laugh and talk to each other, just as mothers and daughters are supposed to. Thank you!

A.V., Modesto, California

Thank you for *Tomorrow's World* and the booklets I've received. They are so well explained, one can really start to clearly understand what was confusing before.

H.P., Vancouver, BC

I love your broadcast. It's also great to see a ministry on TV that does not try to guilt people into sending in money.

F.S., Independence, Virginia

Have heard your messages for a few decades now. Each time I mailed a request to you, a clean response was returned! Your ministry is fully trustworthy! My own future is going to be brighter thanks to you!

D.D., LaCombe, Louisiana

Thank you very much. I watch your programs every week. They are very informative, very much on point, and very much make me want to know more about the Bible. Your programs have made me a better person and make me want to live as God wants us to live. God bless you.

L.R., Dunnville, ON

Thank you for everything—DVDs, magazine and all. You have changed my life. Thank you!

L.S., Brunswick, GA

I recently had the extreme honor of acquiring a copy of *Tomorrow's World* from a friend of mine. I was very impressed with its format, but most of all with the contents as they are extremely well written and highly informative. Most importantly—they are scriptural!

C.V., Tallasse, AL

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The Gecko Grip

In warm climates of the globe, you will find a small creature that has amazed and bewildered human observers for thousands of years. “Gecko” is the name of a family of lizards known for possessing many unique features. For example, it uses its tongue to clean and moisten its eyes since it cannot blink, and is recognized by its frequent and sometimes annoying chirping.

Yet, by far, virtually all observers agree that its most amazing characteristic is its ability to walk effortlessly on vertical or even overhead surfaces, despite the fact that its feet are not sticky nor do they possess any form of suction cups. For centuries man has been unable to explain this behavior. Twenty-three hundred years ago, the Greek philosopher Aristotle commented on the capacity of a gecko to “run up and down a tree in any way, even with the head downwards” (*The History of Animals*, Book IX, Part 9, trans. D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson).

In our day the secret of the gecko’s ability is beginning to be understood, and this comprehension is spawning new advances in adhesion technology, even creating new adhesive applications in the space program.

Doing the Impossible

If you have ever had the opportunity to observe a gecko, you will have noted that it can move very quickly, even on vertical surfaces. Travelling up a vertical plane requires the one moving to create a force greater than the weight of the body being moved, and there must be sufficient friction or adhesion to the surface to allow the application of that force. Consider also that a gecko can move at a rate of 20 body lengths per

second, whether on a vertical surface or even on the ceiling above your head! The gecko’s foot must somehow adhere to the surface, *and yet* be released just as quickly as it initially stuck to that surface. As noted by the Oxford Journals: “...repeated and rapid detachment without significant detachment forces is beyond the capability of any current synthetic adhesive” (“Mechanisms of Adhesion in Geckos,” *Oxford Journals*, Volume 42, Issue 6, p. 1082).

A mechanism that a simple lizard applies daily and without thought or effort continues to remain beyond mankind’s ability to duplicate! So how does the gecko do it?

It appears the secret of gecko movement is in the foot design. The five toes on each gecko foot are covered with several rows of microscopic bundles of “hairs” called setae. Each of these bundles can split into hundreds of extremely tiny endings called spatulae. Scientists have learned that the length and design of these hair-like structures enables each of them to create an electrostatic force (known as *van der Waals force*) which develops as soon as the toes touch a surface. The toe immediately develops a positive charge, and since the surface has an equal and opposite negative charge, the resulting electrostatic force of attraction allows the gecko to be secure on almost any surface.

A gecko weighs approximately 50 grams (2 ounces), yet the average gecko would require up to 130 kilograms (286 pounds) of force to be dislodged if fully attached with all four feet (David Robson, “Gecko’s gravity-defying trick explained,” *New Scientist Live*, June 2007). This explains why some people have seen a gecko clinging to a ceiling quite safely using a single

toe. A 50-gram gecko has about 6.5 million spatulae. One million setae could fit on a dime and easily support the weight of a child (St. Fleur, "How Do Geckos' Feet Work?" Huffington Post, August 10, 2012).

But why does the gecko not become stuck in one place, given that the force developed is so strong? How is it able to lift its feet if they are sticking to the surface so powerfully?

The spatulae do not project from the feet at a right angle, but are designed to touch the surface at an angle. When that angle is 30 degrees, the force appears to be at a maximum. But as the gecko moves the foot forward, the angle increases and the force rapidly grows weaker, allowing for quick movement.

Oregon State University assistant professor of mechanical engineering, P. Alex Greaney, puts it this way: "These are really fascinating nanoscale systems and forces at work... It's based not just on the nature of the seta, but the canted angles and flexibility they have, and ability to work under a wide range of loading condi-



tions" (Rachel Feltman, "New Research Investigates the Physics of Sticky Gecko Feet," *Washington Post*, August 12, 2014).

Kellar Autumn, a biologist at Lewis and Clarke College in Oregon, in observing this phenomenon stated: "Geckos are vastly over-engineered" (Robson). This is due to the fact that a 50-gram gecko needs to use only 3 percent of its setae to be secure as it climbs—allowing it to hang by a single toe! It only runs into problems if the surface becomes wet, which significantly reduces the effectiveness of this fascinating, gecko-gripping technology.

Inspiring New Technology

Overall, the efficiency of this system of adhesion is far superior to anything man has been able to design. Thus British Aerospace, NASA and many other research labs are now working to perfect synthetic "gecko grippers." NASA has already tested prototypes using carbon nanotubes, which they hope to be able to use to enable robotic spacecraft to grab space debris. Others are looking at using them for high-end braking systems, as

These superheroes of the lizard world more than rival the fictional "Spider-Man" of Marvel Comics! Geckos are real creatures!

well as effective stick-and-release mechanisms for any number of very large and very small applications where traditional adhesive systems have limitations. One research project is looking at using the carbon nanotube adhesive as a replacement for solder in electrical systems, while

others are studying this gecko technology to gently seal wounds without stitches.

Thus equipped, these superheroes of the lizard world more than rival the fictional "Spider-Man" of Marvel Comics! Geckos are *real creatures*, whose technical ability modern science now seeks to replicate in order to improve its ability to operate on the earth and in space.

Because of our very rapid pace of life, most of us seldom take the time to stop and consider the many remarkable and intricate aspects of the organisms that make up our world. Sometimes we notice the big things, but often ignore the subtle or minute. Yet in some of these small but fantastically complex life forms are reminders of the obvious engineering that has been built into the fabric of life.

We have more opportunity than ever, in this age, to learn about and appreciate the genius that is so clearly evident in designing even the gecko, aspects of which modern science seeks to copy today to better address the challenges of tomorrow. The Genius behind the gecko grip, the brilliant Engineer and Creator of both the astronomical and the microscopic, is praised eloquently in the biblical book of Psalms: "O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions" (Psalm 104:24).

— Stuart Wachowicz

REALLY, I AM THANKFUL

Have we forgotten God?

Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:25, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

If the Savior of all mankind says that, then why am I always worried about these things? Another house payment is coming. The furnace is getting older Food prices are getting to be ridiculous. My best suit is getting a bit frayed—have you seen what the new ones cost? Did I mention about the car?

My house. My furnace. My food bill. My suit. My car. We have these things in abundance in a world where half the population lacks even the basics to sustain life. Statistically, nearly three billion people live on less than two dollars a day. According to the United States Department of Health and Social Services, poverty for a single-person American household is considered at \$33 a day. The average personal income for the U.S. is about \$44,500 or \$122 a day.

Days Set Aside for Thanksgiving

In October and November, Canadian and American families will sit down to a national meal that in much of the world would be comparable to a king’s banquet, and in terms of calories would feed the average family in poverty for a week.

According to the Bread for the World Institute, 759 million people across the world suffer with hunger every day. Every day, approximately 21,000 people die from hunger-related causes—mostly children. That is one death every four seconds.

Jesus’ question “Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” is not going to be in the forefront of the average American or Canadian mind this year. For many, their minds will be on life’s many distractions—business as usual while enjoying a long weekend.

How much genuine thankfulness will take place as families sit down to the meal and recite that memorized little prayer, “Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blest—Amen”?

Abraham Lincoln, establishing the precedent of declaring a national day of thanksgiving, wrote in

1863, “I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience... fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.”

In today’s America, that would get him hauled into court by the American Civil Liberties Union and condemned by “politically correct” congressmen. But President Lincoln was right in proclaiming earlier that year, “We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God... and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”

What should we think about and pray for as we sit down to eat this Thanksgiving Day? If I have the opportunity to pray at such a meal, Isaiah 63:7 comes to mind: “I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has bestowed on us... according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.”

Why? Because, really, I am thankful. The house, the furnace, the food, the clothes—yes, even the car—did not come by my superior wisdom or virtue. They are the wonderful blessings from a loving God, given to me, despite living in a nation which is not keeping the word of His truth and which has denied His name.

—Gary Ehman

TOMORROW'S WORLD

TELEVISION LOG



AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7Two SU 7:00 a.m.

BARBADOS

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

JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

CityTV (Ontario & Alberta) SU 8:30 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.
MO 2:00 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

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

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

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

Impact Ch. 9397 SU 11:00 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

WORD Ch. 373 SU 7:30 p.m.
WE 1:00 a.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KJUV-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Monterey KION SU 8:00 a.m.
Orange County Time Warner MO 5:00 p.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs KCWQ-LP SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento RCTV MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas KION SU 8:00 a.m.
San Francisco Access WE 8:00 p.m.
San Francisco KBCW SU 6:30 a.m.

KENYA

Nationwide Family Media TV MO 7:30 p.m.

Nationwide Family Media TV FR 1:00 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide Prime TV SU 8:30 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide CTV/SA SU 11:00 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

FL Gainesville WCJB SU 8:00 a.m.
Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.
Panama City WJHG SU 7:00 a.m.

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

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

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

IL Chicago CANTV Various*
Chicago WJYS FR 10:00 a.m.
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 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 TWPAR 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.
Salina SCAT SU 7:00 p.m.

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

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

MA Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.
North Adams 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 WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

Minneapolis NWCT SU 4:30 a.m.
Minneapolis NWCT SU 10:30 a.m.*
Rochester KTTK SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville CTW TU 8:00 p.m.
Roseville CTW WE 4:00 a.m.
Roseville CTW WE 12:00 p.m.
St. Paul Nhdh. Network SU 8:30 p.m.

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

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBI SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.
Jackson Time Warner WE 4:00 p.m.
Meridian WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KRWZ 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 9:00 a.m.
Greenville WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.

ND Fargo WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.

NH Hanover CATV8 TH 7:00 p.m.
Hanover CATV8 FR 7:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 FR 1:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 MO 12:00 a.m.
Hanover CATV8 MO 12:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

OK Oklahoma City KAUT SU 8:30 a.m.

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

UK & NW EUROPE

CBS Action Freeview 64 SU 8:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sky TV 590 MO 12:30 a.m.

Sky TV 590 SA 12:00 a.m.

Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SA 8:00 a.m.
Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Allentown SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Bethlehem SETV2 FR 4:30 p.m.
Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Johnstown Atl. Broadband MO 10:00 p.m.
Scranton FOX TH 5:00 a.m.
Scranton FOX SA 5:00 a.m.

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

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

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.

Knoxville WBXX SU 7:30 a.m.

Knoxville WKXN SU 6:00 p.m.

La Follette Comcast-WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.

Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

Nashville WZTV SU 6:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont KBTV SU 6:30 a.m.

Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.

Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.

Lufkin KTRF SU 6:30 a.m.

McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.

Midland KWES SU 7:00 a.m.

Odessa KWES SU 7:00 a.m.

Tyler KLTV SU 6:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville Comcast Cable MO 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WTVR SU 8:00 a.m.

Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.

Fairfax Public Access MO 12:00 p.m.

Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.

Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.

Bennington CAT WE 12:00 a.m.

Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.

Bennington CAT TH 12:00 a.m.

Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.*

Bennington CAT SA 4:30 a.m.

Burlington Access WE 2:30 a.m.

Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.

WA Everett Comcast WE 4:30 p.m.
Kennewick Charter SU 8:00 p.m.
Kennewick Charter TH 8:00 p.m.

WI La Crosse WXOW SU 7:00 a.m.

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

WY Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m.

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Is the Bible everything that it claims to be?
Can we prove this book for ourselves?

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Sabbath or Sunday?

Which day of worship is commanded by God
for Christians? Does it matter?

November 17-23

Ezekiel's Message Unlocked

This prophetic book of the Bible, misunderstood
by many, carries a warning for our day!

November 24-30

The Secret History of Hell

Are there people suffering in hell right now?
Learn the history of hell few people know!

December 1-7

Watch the Middle East

Prophetic events will soon engulf the whole
world. Will you see them before they arrive?

December 8-14

John 3:16 — So Misunderstood

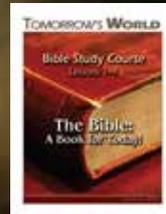
The post popular verse in the Bible is also one
which almost everyone misunderstands!

December 15-21

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