

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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**The Rise of
Neo-Paganism**

How Can All of This Be Free?

There are two of our resources that you have not likely come across. Frankly, I do not think we have advertised them to the public or mentioned them in our magazine in years. Do you know what they are?

This column is titled “Personal” for a reason. As Editor in Chief, it gives me an opportunity to communicate with you about those things that are on my mind, and in this issue, I want to answer three questions that are asked of us: “Who is behind *Tomorrow’s World*?” “Is it *really* free?” and “How can you pay for so much television and give away all of your materials without asking for money?”

Let me answer the second question first. Yes, everything we advertise really is free of charge—no strings attached, and no emotional appeals. We do not sell magazines, booklets, DVDs, or CDs—and we never will. Our 24-lesson *Bible Study Course* is sent free of charge. We do not hawk shirts, mugs, prayer cloths, or any other such items as you have likely seen peddled by other ministries.

The answer to the first question, “Who is behind *Tomorrow’s World*?” explains the answer to the third. The *Tomorrow’s World* magazine and telecast are sponsored by the Living Church of God, which is made up of dedicated members who seek to practice “the whole counsel of God,” as the Apostle Paul referred to it in Acts 20:27. That counsel includes the biblical law of tithing (or “tenthing”). Most of our members faithfully and voluntarily send in their tithes and offerings throughout the year. We don’t even take up offerings during our weekly Sabbath services!

Jesus gave us our mission in Matthew 28:19–20: “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.” In Mark 16:15, He plainly commands, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Furthermore, He said that we will succeed in accomplishing this mission before His return: “And

this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

As you well know, we never request donations on the *Tomorrow’s World* telecast, in our magazine, or in any of our literature. Coworkers and members of the Living Church of God take seriously Jesus’ admonition, “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). Or as Proverbs 23 tells us, “Buy the truth, and do not sell it” (v. 23).

A Different Approach

Of the more than 290,000 current subscribers to *Tomorrow’s World*, only about 15 out of 100 ever contribute to this Work.



Many of these do so only one or two times over a period of several years. We are grateful to all who contribute, no matter how often and no matter how much or how little. We also appreciate our subscribers who, for whatever reason, never contribute. We adver-

tise that our literature is free, and truly it is. And this may surprise you: We are so serious about our literature being sent free of charge that we *return money* when the giver explicitly says he or she is sending it as “payment” for our materials. This is true for all our offices around the world. I can personally confirm this, as I was the Director of the Living Church of God and *Tomorrow’s World* in Canada for more than 13 years, and in the United Kingdom for a couple of years, before being trans-

How Your Subscription Has Been Paid

Tomorrow’s World has no subscription price. It is made possible by the tithes and offerings of Living Church of God members and by others who have chosen to become co-workers in proclaiming Christ’s true Gospel to all nations. Donations are gratefully acknowledged and may be tax-deductible.

ferred to our world headquarters here in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Each month, one of us—usually me—writes a letter to all our members and coworkers to express our appreciation for their support and update them on biblical prophecies and trends taking place in this world. We also give “behind the scenes” information on new developments in this Work to which they contribute.

The Living Church of God has more than 390 congregations scattered across North, Central, and South America, Australasia, the U.K. and Europe, and Africa. We, along with coworkers who have voluntarily chosen to be part of this Work, are a small but dedicated group who are willing to go against the course of this world (Ephesians 2:1–2), following the way of Jesus Christ and first-century Christianity. Our members reject pagan and heathen traditions that have infiltrated modern Christianity. We observe the days God instructs us to observe, and we follow the true doctrines found in the Bible.

At the beginning of this Personal, I referred to the two least-advertised and least-requested pieces of literature we provide. Do you know what they are? The first one is our booklet *God's People Tithe!* We do not promote it frequently because we don't want anyone thinking there is “a catch to all this free stuff.” Receiving any of our resources is not dependent in any way on donating to this Work. While this booklet is listed among our resources on the Internet and in Lesson 16 of our *Bible Study Course*, it is the second-least-advertised and requested booklet that we have. As I write this, very few of our subscribers even know of it. As far as I can recall, it has never been mentioned on our *Tomorrow's World* telecast.

And speaking of the Internet, we do have a link on our website for anyone who wants to donate. This is only because some people want to do so and want to know how. We do not “promote” it or position it prominently, as so many websites do with theirs. It is there strictly as a service for those who want to donate of their own free will, and there is no emotional appeal made for them to do so.

So, what resource could be advertised less than our tithing booklet? The one that almost none of our

subscribers (and probably not all of our members) know of is our “Planned Giving” brochure. Some of our members, coworkers, and subscribers desire to include us in their wills or make other types of planned gifts. We make this resource on estate planning available upon request to help those who want to do so.

Now, I understand that I've taken a risk here of bringing out the cynical nature in some. They no doubt will think this is an appeal for money—and if they do, I understand. However, we have nothing to hide, and we receive these three questions on a regular basis. I believe it is best to be open with people and simply “tell it as it is.” *Tomorrow's World* is backed by the Living Church of God and others who want to contribute to this Work—and yes, all of our materials really and truly are free.

Trusting God to Provide

And more importantly, all our resources will *continue* to be sent free of charge. No one will call to ask you to send money or buy something. You should never feel pressured to give to this Work. We are grateful to those who do, but that is a decision between you and your Creator. We will do as we have always done—trust God to provide. For us, faith that God will provide is real. He has taken care of us, and each issue you receive of *Tomorrow's World* is tangible proof.

Occasionally, we ask our subscribers to renew their free subscription—not to get them to contribute money, but to let us know that they are truly interested in receiving further issues of *Tomorrow's World*. We believe this is a way to be good stewards—by not sending magazines to individuals who may no longer want them.

So, while other televangelists sell their wares with sentimental music, pictures of orphans, and teary-eyed appeals for money, we will never do that. Truly, this magazine and all our resources are free for the asking.



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NATIONS RISE AND FALL

By **Richard F. Ames**

The Chinese nation is again on the march toward political and economic superpower status. The once great British Empire has crumbled, and the United Kingdom may not even survive “Brexit.” For nearly 6,000 years, from ancient Babylon to our modern day, civilization has seen powerful nations fall and others rise—and one final, prophesied empire or superpower is soon to come.

Earlier this year, Gerald Weston, Editor in Chief of *Tomorrow’s World* magazine, reminded readers that the United States is nearing the end of its time as the world’s leading superpower:

The United States is still the leading world power, but it will not remain so forever, as surprising as that may sound to many Americans. *No* empire has endured forever. We can imagine that the citizens of past civi-

lizations also expected their governments to remain. The “impregnable” city of Babylon with its great empire fell in one night to the Medes and Persians. None of them saw it coming. The Persian Empire fell before the daring conquests of Alexander the Great and his Greco-Macedonian Empire, which later fell to the rising might of Rome. And as we know, Rome’s power and dominance also came to an end. Many people around the world root for America’s demise, but have little idea who will fill the vacuum or what will be the consequences (“Our Best Hope,” *Tomorrow’s World*, January-February 2019).

For more than 200 years, the United States has been a great power on the world scene. Yet in the years since the Soviet Union’s fall and in the wake of the global war on terror, we have seen the U.S. declining while other world powers exert ever more political, economic, and military force.

We should not be surprised. The world-ruling empires of the past no longer exist. The great Babylonian Empire, for example, conquered many nations, including the Kingdom of Judah. The ancient Greek historian Herodotus wrote, “in addition to its enormous size it [Babylon] surpasses in splendour any city of the known world” (*Histories*, 1, 178).

What happened to Babylon? Its depravity led to God’s judgment. As we see increasing rejection of the God of the Bible take root around us, should we expect anything different for ourselves? The philosopher Georg Hegel famously observed, “What experience and history teach is this—that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it” (*The Philosophy of History*, 1857, p. 6).

What can we learn from the past? What does the Bible tell us about the future? The prophet Daniel foretold the rise and fall of vast empires, including the Roman Empire. What happened to that empire? It lasted for more than 500 years beyond the Roman Republic. Yet even that mighty empire saw its first incarnation dissolve in 476 AD.

Modern empires, too, have come and gone. In the 20th century, the German “Third Reich” extended its rule over much of Europe and North Africa. Adolf Hitler’s ambitions included the conquest of the Soviet Union, but he failed. Allied armies vanquished the Third Reich. The Soviet Union, or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, consisted of 15 republics spanning 11,000 miles from east to west. This superpower took great pride in its communist ideology. It fought for the hearts of nations and peoples all over the world—yet ultimately, it, too, failed.

The Fall of Nations Prophesied!

Who could have predicted the demise of such a great superpower? You might be surprised to learn that a small group of Christians, inspired to understand the truth revealed in the Bible, understood all along that Eastern Europe would eventually escape the grip of the Soviet Union. How did they know? Bible prophecy foretells the rise of another great superpower, called the “beast” in the book of Revelation. More than 65 years ago, the *Good News* magazine—published by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong—boldly proclaimed that East Germany would be rejoined to West Germany, and that Russia

“will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria” (“Will German Rearmament Stop Russia?,” *The Good News*, April 1952).

Shortly after Russia’s 1956 invasion of Hungary, when many “experts” believed that the “Iron Curtain” had fallen forever on Eastern Europe, *The Plain Truth* magazine made this amazing statement: “The way is being prepared for a colossal third force in world politics—a European Federation of Nations more powerful than either Russia or the United States!... We have shown years in advance what would happen to Russia’s ill-fated Empire in Eastern Europe” (“Foretold 22 Years Ago!,” December 1956).

Even a hundred years ago, people still said that “the sun never sets on the British Empire.” Yet within a century, that vast empire crumbled. After a final burst of expansion right after World War II, a process of *decolonization* began, and by 1960 the British had given up the lands that today comprise India, Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Ghana, Nigeria, and Somalia, as well as much of sub-Saharan Africa, the Palestine Mandate, parts of Egypt and Sudan, and Hong Kong. For a generation or two, Britain sought to recapture some measure of its former glory as a member of the European Union, but even that attempt faltered when it found itself tasked with “Brexit” after British voters repudiated their EU membership.

U.S. President Donald Trump has campaigned under the slogan “Make America Great Again.” Will he succeed, or will the U.S. face a decline similar to that of Great Britain, Greece, and Rome? You *can* know what nations or empires will rise and fall in the 21st century. Bible prophecy reveals the future of the Western nations, *if you know the key* to finding the modern descendants of ancient biblical nations.

Remember or Repeat?

The words of renowned philosopher George Santayana remind us, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (*The Life of Reason: Reason in Common Sense*, 1905, p. 103). Will we in the Western world learn the lessons of history? Or will we follow the pattern of all great kingdoms and empires that have come and gone before us?

King Belshazzar of Babylon was one great ruler who should have learned the lessons of history. Yet he insisted on his own godless way of life and led others

into debauchery. His empire paid the penalty. That profound lesson is recorded in the pages of history—and in the pages of your Bible. The prophet Daniel was in the city of Babylon the night the Persian army conquered it. Through Daniel, God told Belshazzar what was going to happen to him and his empire. This amazing sequence of events is recorded in chapter 5 of the book of Daniel. King Belshazzar prepared a feast—a great party—for his nobles. They drank wine out of golden vessels plundered from God’s temple in Jerusalem. “In the same hour the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other” (Daniel 5:5–6).

The king called upon Daniel to interpret this saying. What had the mysterious hand written? “And this is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians” (Daniel

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

We must take spiritual action now! Of course, some will remain skeptical. But those who seek God through His word can have understanding and peace of mind.

A Lesson from Long Ago

We have seen that great empires rise, decline, and fall. Will the Western nations learn the lessons of history? King Belshazzar ignored the lessons from his ancestor, King Nebuchadnezzar, who had ruled over the Babylonian empire. Daniel reminded Belshazzar of the lessons he should have learned:

O king, the Most High God gave
Nebuchadnezzar your father [ancestor] a
kingdom and majesty, glory, and honor. And
because of the majesty that He gave him, all
peoples, nations, and languages trembled and
feared before him. Whomever he wished, he ex-
ecuted; whomever he wished, he kept
alive; whomever he wished, he set
up; and whomever he wished, he put
down. But when his heart was lifted
up, and his spirit was hardened in
pride, he was deposed from his kingly
throne, and they took his glory from
him. Then he was driven from the
sons of men, his heart was made like
the beasts, and his dwelling was with
the wild donkeys. They fed him with

grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the
dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High
God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints
over it whomever He chooses (Daniel 5:18–21).

Nebuchadnezzar had tried to rule without ac-
knowledging God, and he suffered terribly for it!
Belshazzar, however, ignored this lesson and paid the
penalty (Daniel 5:22). Must we also learn lessons the
hard way, or will we pay attention to God and to His
word, the Bible?

TODAY, THE HANDWRITING IS ON THE WALL FOR THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. THE WARNING SIGNS ARE ALL AROUND US AS OUR NATIONS BECOME MORE DECADENT AND IMMORAL.

5:25–28). Then, “That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old” (vv. 30–31).

Today, the handwriting is on the wall for the United States and Great Britain. The warning signs are all around us as our nations become more decadent and immoral. If we in the Western world continue to ignore, despise, and reject the Ten Commandments and the word of God, the Bible, we will face more disasters—until we finally realize that we need to seek God with our whole heart! The

When Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that none of his advisors could reveal, Daniel not only told the king the contents of his dream, he also gave its interpretation: “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay” (Daniel 2:31–33).

Daniel told the king the dream’s meaning. “You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold” (vv. 37–38).

Here, God revealed that He, the Creator of the universe, was giving power and authority to the “head of gold”—Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom. The dream, however, foretold the end of Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom and the establishment of others after his: “But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others” (vv. 39–40).

Which empires did this dream describe? Reputable Bible scholars today agree on their identity. The head of gold represented the Babylonian Empire from 625 BC to 539 BC. This empire was replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire from 558 BC to 330 BC, represented by the chest and arms of silver. The belly and thighs of bronze signify the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great from 333 BC to 31 BC. The two legs of iron indicate the Roman Empire from 31 BC to 476 AD.

A Future Revival

Finally, the ten toes on two feet of iron mixed with ceramic clay represent a future revival of the Roman Empire. The modern founders of the European Union consciously looked to the Roman Empire as a model, and even sitting U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, schooled in the classic literatures of ancient



U.K. prime minister Boris Johnson outside 10 Downing Street

Rome and Greece, famously lauded the best of the Roman Empire in his book *The Dream of Rome*. As one reviewer put it, “The problem with the European Union, concludes Boris Johnson... is that it isn’t more like the Roman Empire” (“Empire building,” *The Guardian*, February 4, 2006).

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream revealed that even the revived Roman Empire would be temporary. It will be replaced by what we can call a fifth Kingdom—the Kingdom of God. “You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (vv. 34–35).

What is the stone that struck the image? “And in the days of these kings [symbolized by the statue’s ten toes] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (v. 44).

Can a Nation Repent?

Throughout the history of the world, societies willing to turn from their evil ways have been extremely

rare. Nineveh, the capital city of ancient Assyria, was one of these few—and actually delayed God’s judgment. The prophet Jonah came to the citizens of Nineveh with God’s warning: “And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes” (Jonah 3:4–6). Can you imagine any of today’s world leaders humbling themselves before God?

The Assyrians responded to Jonah’s warning. They repented of their evil ways, and God spared them. This happened in the eighth century BC. God spared Nineveh for many years, and even used the nation to punish ancient Israel and bring its people into captivity. After Assyria captured the “Northern Kingdom”—Israel—that kingdom was lost to history and its peoples became known as the “ten lost tribes.”

The prophet Isaiah records God’s purpose in using Assyria to punish Israel. Isaiah quotes God as saying, “Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations” (Isaiah 10:5–7).

God had warned the Kingdom of Israel to repent, but its people refused. As a result, the Assyrians conquered the ten tribes of the House of Israel and moved the captives to Assyria. Israel’s final captivity took place around 721 BC.

Eventually, however, Assyria’s respite from punishment proved as temporary as its spirit of repentance. History bears witness to the nation’s cruelty, and in 612 BC God allowed the Medes to destroy Nineveh.


God had also sent His warnings to the Kingdom of Judah, but that nation also persisted in its sins. So, God used the kingdom of Babylon under King

Nebuchadnezzar to punish the House of Judah. A majority of Jews were deported to Babylon over a period of two decades, ending with the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. As young men, Daniel and three of his friends were taken captive, later to be trained in the culture and literature of Babylon. Those young men persisted in the godly values they had been taught in Judah, and God was able to use Daniel to interpret Nebuchadnezzar’s dream—and to give the good news of a coming Kingdom that will stand forever!

Will You Repent?

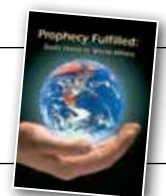
Even if your nation does not heed God’s word, *you* will be blessed individually if you believe and act on God’s revealed truth, which reveals the future of the nations descended from the ten lost tribes—including the U.S., Great Britain, the British-descended nations, and many of the peoples of northwest Europe. To learn more about the rise and fall of the nations descended from ancient Israel, contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) to request a free copy of our informative booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It reveals, from your Bible and history, the origins of our Western nations. Bible prophecy reveals what historians, world leaders, and political analysts do not know!

As regular readers of *Tomorrow’s World* know, much of Bible prophecy is “dual”—there is an end-time fulfillment parallel to an ancient fulfillment. Indeed, prophecy shows that the end-time descendants of Assyria will punish the end-time descendants of the Kingdom of Israel—the ten lost tribes. Will you be ready when this happens? Do you know the signs to watch for? Keep reading *Tomorrow’s World* and studying your Bible, and you will come to understand world events in the light of Bible prophecy.

Whether or not the Western nations learn the lessons of history, you and I *can* repent individually—and we *must*. The day of God’s judgment against humanity’s failed ways is quickly approaching. Those nations and individuals who turn to God will be blessed. Do not wait for your nation to change. Now is the time for *you* to seek God with all your heart! 

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Prophecy Fulfilled: God’s Hand in World Affairs Are you watching world news as Jesus told us to do? Do you know what to watch for? Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



h Canada!

Protests, Peacocks, and Virtue Signalling



Wouldn't it be great if you could demonstrate to the world what an amazing person you are just by posting where you eat—or don't eat—on social media?

Given the current state of polarization in our society, it should come as no surprise that something as simple as the opening of a fast-food restaurant has become not only something controversial and a news story worthy of major headlines, but also one of the quickest ways to share with the world your remarkable example of “modern virtue.”

On September 6, Chick-fil-A opened its first Toronto location. As has often occurred when popular American chains venture north in an effort to tap into the Canadian consumer market, Chick-fil-A was welcomed by long lines of eager customers. Many fried-chicken lovers stood in line for twelve hours to sample the latest entry into Toronto's food scene.

However, not everyone was so welcoming. The grand opening was also met with protestors wielding an array of grievances and serenading customers with cries of “Shame, shame!” The protestors voicing their disdain for the U.S.-based chicken specialists claimed multiple motivations. One of the leading organizers was Toronto-based activist group “The 519.” Jaymie Sampa, the 519's manager of anti-violence initiatives, stated, “When we have an increasing global climate and rhetoric around hate-fuelled values, this is about taking a stand against that” (“Grand Opening of Toronto Chick-fil-A generates both excitement and anger,” *GlobalNews.ca*, Sept. 5, 2019). The 519's involvement is in response to statements made by the Cathy family, owners of the poultry powerhouse, concerning

their support for the traditional family unit centred on the marriage of one man to one woman. Animal rights activists joined in the protests, and some even tried to paint the opening as “anti-indigenous” (“LGBTQ2, animal rights protesters overshadow grand opening of Chick-Fil-A in Toronto,” *GlobalNews.ca*, Sept. 6, 2019).

Rise of the Moral Peacock

The utter moral confusion among such protestors aside, the broader phenomenon on display at such events is worth noting. Such incidences of very public protests against retailers and businesses—showy and filled with an air of moral condemnation, yet, in the end, achieving little to nothing—are clearly on the rise. In an age when people post images of their meals on Instagram and chronicle their every action on Facebook and Twitter, everyday choices such as where to grab a chicken sandwich or buy a sweatshirt have become opportunities to declare one's superior moral status.

Polarization is fracturing our society, with social media serving as the jackhammer. In an age when it has never been easier to discover any individual's views, a single Tweet “outing” someone for being on the politically incorrect side of an issue can result in immediate calls for a boycott. When U.S. President Donald Trump announced his plans to attend a fundraiser in Beverly Hills, Toronto-born actor Eric McCormack “advocated on Twitter for the *Hollywood Reporter* to ‘kindly report everyone attending this event, so the rest of us can be clear about who we don't wanna work with’” (“Will & Grace stars back-track calls to out and boycott Trump backers in Hollywood,” *WashingtonExaminer.com*, September 4,

2019). While McCormack later backpedaled in the face of claims he was advocating a McCarthyism-style “blacklist,” this type of attack is increasingly common, and such behavior is found on both sides of the political aisle. How many political conservatives in the United States tweeted their public declaration that they would never buy another Nike shoe when the corporation chose controversial football player Colin Kaepernick to promote its brand?

The draw of using social media for such public display is clear. “In a world where everyone is a one man/one woman P.R. department on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, ‘moral peacocking’—outrage on social media that is not combined with action—becomes convenient and costless” (“When Do Consumer Boycotts Work?” *NYTimes.com*, February 7, 2017). It costs nothing and yet shows the world what a virtuous person you are—aptly symbolizing what our society has come to value.

The Danger of a Mirage

What danger is there in such virtue signalling and moral peacocking? The peril in any mirage is not the imagined presence of something that is not really there—it’s the risk of diverting from a sound course of action in pursuit of the mirage. Seeing an oasis in the desert that is only a figment of your imagination is not, in and of itself, destructive. However, when one believes the mirage, chasing it can result in missing out on the real thing.

The true danger of such virtue signalling and social media activism is the subtle temptation to believe that virtue is determined by which chicken sandwich we prefer, instead of the far more difficult task of living a life of honesty, integrity, and character. When we focus on which restaurants, clothing stores, or sports teams to avoid, the weightier matters of character are likely to be forgotten.

Not so long ago, the following sage advice was popular among high school guidance counselors: “Choose your friends by their character and your socks by their colour. Choosing your socks by their character makes no sense and choosing your friends by their colour is unthinkable.” These days it seems we are encouraged to choose our socks by the character of the designer, the manufacturer, the retailer, the advertising agency, and any other set of hands that

may be associated with the socks before they find their way to our feet.

Of course, there is nothing inherently wrong with letting people know why you do or don’t patronize a

When one is focused on which restaurants, clothing stores, or sports teams to avoid, the weightier matters of character are likely to be forgotten.

business. But we should consider such stances or actions in a balanced manner, examining what they do and do not represent. We should understand that avoiding or patronizing a particular chicken sandwich establishment says very little about the protestor’s and patron’s actual moral values. A tweet often says much about what we want other people to think about who we are, but—in reality—it says little about who we *really* are. And it does risk causing us to be confused about ourselves and our own

moral standing, as we fall for our own public relations efforts.

An Ancient Parallel

While virtue signalling has been taken to new extremes in our current age, the concept itself is nothing new. Jesus often chastised the religious leaders of His day for actions that were akin to the moral peacocking rampant today. Matthew 23 contains a scathing indictment of such behaviour: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (vv. 27–28). God is not impressed with outward shows of moral superiority, and we shouldn’t be either.

The prophet Micah described virtues God seeks in us: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but *to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*” (Micah 6:8).

To learn how the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20 were instituted with the intention of teaching mankind these three great character traits—and more—be sure to read our free booklet *The Ten Commandments*.

—Michael Heykoop

The Rise of Modern Paganism



What is driving this global trend?
Where is it leading? What does it mean to you?

By **Douglas S. Winnail**

The twenty-first century has witnessed remarkable historic events—the rise of Russia after the demise of the USSR, the resurgence of militant Islam, the rise of China, the fragmenting of the European Union, and ever-deepening divisions in the United States. However, one of the most surprising events has been the *reemergence* of ancient pagan ideas and traditions in Western nations once considered “Christian.”

As part of this global trend, Iceland has constructed its first temple in over 1,000 years to worship the old Nordic gods Thor and Odin. In England, thousands gather at Stonehenge on the summer solstice to greet the rising sun—as ancient pagans once did. In Edinburgh, Scotland, performers painted as red devils entertain crowds to celebrate the ancient Celtic Fire Festivals of Beltane and Samhain, while many gather at ancient U.K. sites to burn a wicker man—as Druids once did. In America, thousands travel to Burning Man festivals catering to uninhibited behavior resembling old pagan practices.

In Greece, Hellenists are promoting the worship of the ancient deities Zeus, Apollo, and Athena, while at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, children write prayers to Aphrodite or Venus, the Greco-Roman goddess of love and lust—and patron goddess of prostitutes. In Eastern Europe, people celebrate ancient fertility rites by dancing around and jumping over fires, customs from a pre-Christian past. In Russia,

church leaders note with concern the growing interest in pagan traditions. In America, the fastest-growing religion is witchcraft, and statues promoting Satanism appear on public grounds. The U.S. Air Force Academy has even constructed a pagan chapel.

Why should the return of paganism *matter* to progressive Western nations today, where tolerance, acceptance, and diversity are promoted and celebrated? Is there a largely unrecognized *significance* to the dramatic changes taking place? Are we *ignoring* important lessons of history? If so, what consequences await us in the days ahead? Why should *you* be concerned?

The Pagan Worldview

To grasp the significance of what is happening, we need to understand the ideas and practices that permeated the pagan world, and how they differ from those of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The term *pagan* was initially used to describe anyone who did not believe in the God of the Bible or follow biblical guidelines. The thoroughly pagan Greco-Roman world—given to idol worship and adopting gods and practices of other religions as if they were interchangeable—provides one ancient example. Such concepts and practices were totally at odds with biblically influenced religion. The Greeks and Romans were a mix of polytheists who worshiped many gods and goddesses, pantheists who believed that “god” was everywhere in nature, and what we now call *atheists*, worshiping no god at all. Such pagans had no knowledge of the God of the Bible (cf. Acts 17:23). The idea of one true, personal God was generally foreign to them.

In Greco-Roman paganism, there were few fixed creeds. Truth was relative—there was little comprehension of absolute right and wrong, and no real concept of sin, guilt, or judgment. Each person decided his or her own path through life. Pagans focused primarily on earthly life, gratifying physical desires, and pursuing personal happiness. While deceptively appealing and subtle in some of its errors, it does not take much research to see that the whole of the pagan approach is utterly alien to what the Bible reveals.

Unlike the God of Scripture, the gods of the Greek pantheon, for example, were promiscuous. Myths abound with tales of their lust, envy, murder, and other gruesome deeds. Open sexuality and debauchery characterized many pagan ceremonies—especially the spring and midsummer fertility festivals. The worship of Aphrodite involved visits to temple prostitutes that generated revenue for the temple, which the Bible also condemns (Leviticus 19:29; Deuteronomy 23:17). In Greco-Roman society, fornication, homosexuality, and the sexual abuse of children—advocated by Plato and practiced by the Spartans—were common and accepted. Art that we would term pornography was everywhere. The Roman baths, inns, and taverns were locations for gratifying any kind of physical desire. One reason pagans saw biblical religion as a threat was that they feared the Bible's teachings about sex would “turn the lights out on that merry dance” (Steven Smith, *Pagans & Christians in the City*, p. xiii).

The Bible teaches that children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3–5) and that they are precious in His sight (Matthew 19:13–15). However, in the ancient pagan world, infanticide was common. Aristotle advocated killing children for population control and to eliminate malformed infants. History records the case of a Roman citizen advising his wife that if she had a child while he was away, she should keep it if it were a boy but kill it

if it were a girl (Ken Spiro, *WorldPerfect*, pp. 6–7). The pagans of ancient Canaan and Carthage burned babies alive as sacrifices to the god Baal, hoping to receive, in return, rain or safe voyages—a practice the Scriptures clearly condemn (Leviticus 18:21; Deuteronomy 18:10). The Bible also states that human beings are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27) and not to kill each other (Exodus 20:13). Yet, in the pagan world, human life had little value. Not only killing in battle, the Romans also killed *for entertainment* on a massive scale, and thousands of people died as crowds cheered in arenas scattered across the empire.

Why is an understanding of ancient pagan ideas and traditions *relevant* to us today?

The Return of Paganism

In recent years, there has been a growing realization that the spread of Christian ideas in the West and general respect for the Bible did not eliminate paganism. Many ancient ideas simply went underground and have begun to reemerge in today's more favorable climate. For the last several centuries, Europe and America have become increasingly secular as pre-Christian ideas and traditions have gained acceptance. Today, the Western nations, once considered “Christian,” appear to be in the midst of a “pagan revival,” as noted in a December 2018 *New York Times* article titled “The Return of Paganism.” Many concepts viewed as “progressive” in our modern society are actually part of the *reemergence* of pagan ideas that stand in total contrast to the teachings of biblical Christianity—and *those ideas have consequences*.

Commonly accepted ideas today—that God does not exist, that the Bible is not divinely inspired, that all religions are equally valid, that absolute values of right and wrong do not exist, and that there is no such thing as sin—were all expounded by ancient pagan philos-



The Pagan Spring Beltane (Beltane) Festival at Butser Ancient Farm in Waterlooville, Hampshire, UK. Attendees burn a wicker man and perform ancient dances and crafts.

ophers. Just as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography, and infanticide were condoned and widely practiced in the ancient pagan world, these activities are increasingly common and even celebrated today. The “secular humanism” that dominates modern society is, in many instances, a thinly disguised “neo-paganism” asserting itself in our twenty-first century culture. In fact, a Google search for “modern paganism” or “contemporary paganism” demonstrates a startling level of interest in bringing ancient, pagan practices back into prominence. But how could the anti-Christian values and ideas of paganism *displace* Judeo-Christian values that have seemed so firmly woven into the culture of Western civilization for so long?

Seeds Sown Long Ago

The fertile ground for the decline of Christian influence and the return of paganism was actually prepared during the early centuries of Christianity. As the Church grew and spread throughout the Mediterranean world, it encountered many pagan ideas and practices that some did not *discard*, but rather *adopted and absorbed* into their doctrine. These customs were popular, and apostate church leaders reasoned that incorporating them would make it easier for pagans to convert to this new religion. The biblical Sabbath observed by Jesus, the apostles, and early Christians (Luke 4:16; Acts 13:14, 42–44; 17:1–2) was abandoned in favor of Sunday, a day already acknowledged by pagans who, like Emperor Constantine, worshipped the sun. The popular winter festival of the Saturnalia—a time of gambling, merry-making, and social role-reversal—was renamed “Christmas” and observed as Jesus’ birthday, despite the total lack of biblical support for the major deviation from original Christian practice that the festival represented. (See Gerald E. Weston’s article “Does Christmas Matter?,” on page 18 of this issue.) The pagan springtime fertility festivals with eggs, rabbits, and sexually-oriented activities honoring Aphrodite and Ishtar (“the queen of heaven”) were adopted by increasingly apostate leaders and named “Easter” under the guise of remembering Jesus’ resurrection—even though the Scriptures condemn these practices (see, for example, Jeremiah 7:18; 44:18–23; Ezekiel 8:15–18). It is unsurprising that some Christians begin to question their faith when they look into the origins of these major holidays.



Celebration of Belorussian holiday Ivan Kupala
near Bolshaya Rechka, Russia

The historical evidence is undeniable: Professing Christians who claimed to follow the teachings of Jesus *borrowed* many ideas and customs from the pagan world, something the Bible clearly warned against (Deuteronomy 12:29–32; 16:21–22; 18:9–12). Historian Will Durant has stated, “Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it... [The] Greek mysteries passed down into the impressive mystery of the Mass... From Egypt came the ideas of a divine trinity... the adoration of the Mother and Child... From Phrygia came the worship of the Great Mother... Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient pagan world” (*Caesar and Christ*, p. 595). Others have documented that many non-Scriptural practices of modern, mainstream Christianity—crosses, crucifixes, church steeples, shrines, clerical vestments, relics, Sunday worship, and even the title *Pontifex Maximus*—were “lifted directly out of pagan culture in the post-apostolic period” (Frank Viola and George Barna, *Pagan Christianity?*, p. 6).

While many *assume* the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s restored true, biblical Christianity, this is *simply not true*. Although some non-biblical practices were eliminated or weakened—such as indulgences, confession to a priest, praying to saints, rosaries, the ideas of purgatory and transubstantiation, and the role of the pope—many other doctrines of pagan origin were retained. Although the Reformation severed Protestantism from the ecclesiastical control of the Roman church over doctrine and practice, the new emphasis on religious freedom “opened the doors to wider dissent and to irreligion as well” (Harold Lindsell,

MODERN PAGANISM CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Isaiah and Resurrection

Question: In Isaiah 26:14, the prophet Isaiah seems to indicate that the dead will not be resurrected. However, we know that Jesus Christ taught the hope of the resurrection. To what, then, was Isaiah referring?

Answer: The Bible in many places describes the resurrection (see 1 Corinthians 15:50–54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17; John 5:28–29; Revelation 20). However, Scripture also explains that a time will come when the incorrigibly wicked will be burned up, never to be resurrected again (Malachi 4:3; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 20:4–15). Therefore, when Isaiah describes the dead not being resurrected, he is describing the future condition of the incorrigible.

Isaiah wrote, “They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased, they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish” (Isaiah 26:14). Understanding the context of Isaiah’s words will help us understand the identity of these incorrigible ones.

In Isaiah 24:1, God says, “Behold, the LORD makes the earth empty and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants.”



Notice, also, that the “inhabitants of the earth are burned” (v. 6)—culminating in a great earthquake (vv.

19–20). Here, Isaiah is describing the Day of the Lord—the day of God’s wrath and fierce anger when He will shake heaven and earth (Isaiah 13:13; Joel 3:16). This is the same Day of the Lord that Jesus Christ describes in Revelation 16, during which seven “bowls” of divine judgment will be poured out on unrepentant mankind.

Notice further the end-time context of Isaiah’s prophecy: “It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered... in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison” (Isaiah 24:21–22). Could these “exalted ones” be Satan and his demons, who have deceived and held

captive all nations throughout the course of human history? Yes, indeed (see Isaiah 14:12–17; Revelation 12:9; Revelation 20:1–3)!


The Apostle Paul clearly identifies the “host of exalted ones,” calling them the “rulers of the darkness of this age” and “spiritual hosts of wickedness

The incorrigible Beast and False Prophet will not be resurrected after they are sent into the Lake of Fire; they will be dead forever.

in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). Satan and his demons, at the end of this age, will be delivered into “chains of darkness” (2 Peter 2:4). They will be shut up in *tartarus* (a Greek word meaning “place of restraint”), until their time of judgment (Jude 6, 13). God will also punish “the kings of the earth” (Isaiah 24:21). This will occur when

the Beast and the False Prophet will be thrown alive into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20)—and all others who fight Jesus Christ at His return will be killed and given to birds to be consumed (Revelation 19:21).

Final Judgment

It is significant that the word “they” in Isaiah 26:14 refers to the “masters besides You” who “have had dominion over us,” mentioned in verse 13. Indeed, these end-time “masters”—the Beast and False Prophet—will be burned up in the Lake of Fire reserved for the incorrigible. “They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased, they will not rise.” The incorrigible Beast and False Prophet will not be resurrected after they are sent into the Lake of Fire; they will be dead forever. As the *Amplified Version* renders it: “They are dead, they shall not live and reappear; they are powerless... they shall not rise and come back. Therefore you have visited and made an end of them and caused every memory of them to perish.” This could only occur if the Beast and False Prophet, burned up in the Lake of Fire, were completely annihilated forever, never experiencing the resurrection to which all true Christians look forward. 

Can the World Wide Web Be Rescued?



During the spectacular opening ceremony of the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the noisy stadium hushed with expectation as the lights dimmed. Attention was soon focused on a solitary desk, where a middle-aged man in a white jacket typed on a computer keyboard.

The words *"This is for everyone"* quickly flashed up in LCD lights to the more than 60,000 spectators who filled the stadium, and were simultaneously broadcast to an estimated *one billion people* watching around the world. The man at the desk was Tim Berners-Lee, a modest, low-key computer genius who was being honored as the creator of the World Wide Web, which he had invented some years earlier.

"The Web" turned 30 this year, and it is now used by *half the planet—some four billion people*. It is a platform of software services that sits on top of the infrastructure we call *the Internet*, which is a global "network of networks"—creating a kind of marriage of information and technology that is simple and easy to use.

Everything Connected

Berners-Lee's vision and how it developed makes for a fascinating story.

Tim grew up in London, the very bright, enquiring son of very bright parents, who themselves were computer pioneers. After earning a first-class honours degree in physics from Oxford University, he pursued a career as a computer scientist and software engineer.

For several months in 1980, Berners-Lee worked at CERN in Switzerland, the home of European particle physics research. What he saw there—lots of different

computers with lots of information, but not connected to each other or with the Internet—inspired a dream that was to dominate his life: *What if all computers could be linked together in such a way as to produce an information space that everyone, regardless of where they lived, could freely and simply access, add to, and interact with?*

The breadth and scope of his vision was staggering—to connect *anything and everything with everything else*. His brainchild, what we know as the "World Wide Web," represents the accomplishment of this prodigious feat.

Working again at CERN in 1984, Berners-Lee was *the right man in the right place at the right time*. Not only could he dream an outrageous dream, he also had the knowledge and skills to turn that dream into reality. In 1990, he and his team wrote the first Web programs and began creating the now familiar acronyms, language, protocols, and standards that define today's World Wide Web.

Berners-Lee could have patented his invention, received royalties, and become very rich. Instead, he ensured that his work would be publicly and freely available to all. No single person or organisation would own the platform that is the World Wide Web, but it would nonetheless need careful leadership to nurture, protect, and improve it. So, in 1994, he founded the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to carry out this function.

Great progress has been made in facilitating *people talking with people*, but the biggest development is still in progress: creating a "Semantic Web" in which more capable machines and software will be able to analyze all the data on the Web to *understand its*

meaning—*machines talking with machines* (see *Weaving the Web* by Tim Berners-Lee, chapters 12 and 13).

Mounting the Rescue

But despite its conspicuous success, “the Web” is *not* performing as Berners-Lee envisioned. Too much power has become concentrated in too few organizations. From the beginning, he realized that, in the wrong hands, his invention could be misused and abused. The temptation to monitor, manipulate, spy, and corrupt is simply human, and the Internet with its World Wide Web has now become a new battleground where *cyber warfare* of every kind takes place.

Berners-Lee has concluded that, instead of serving humanity as he intended, the Web he created has failed, becoming “*a large-scale emergent phenomenon which is anti-human*” (“‘I Was Devastated’: Tim Berners-Lee, the Man Who Created the World Wide Web, Has Some Regrets,” *Vanity Fair*, July 1, 2018).

In late 2018, Berners-Lee took a sabbatical from directing the W3C to begin work on a brand-new platform he calls “Solid,” which he hopes will rescue the situation. The aim is to radically change the way Web applications work in favor of greater user control—more *personal privacy* and *protection of personal data*. According to Berners-Lee, a new decentralized Web is coming, and he is in a hurry to complete it.

A Better Vision: Human Nature Transformed

Tim Berners-Lee’s invention of the World Wide Web has been hugely instrumental in *transforming how this world functions*, but it has also unwittingly enabled the “dark side” of human nature, with its inherent moral failings, to further manifest itself.

The stark truth is that no amount of clever computer programming can transform human nature.



Good inventions can’t prevent evil. What is needed is a “*spiritual re-engineering*” of the human heart, where the trouble truly lies.

We at *Tomorrow’s World* are committed to proclaiming this vision that will soon become a reality. A new age is coming that will truly transform how this world functions—forever! It may or may not have an “Internet” or a “World Wide Web” sitting upon it, but it will certainly do what no human can possibly do—*transform the human proclivity towards evil* by providing a *new heart* to all who

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are willing to have one (Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:25–27). This holds the most wonderful promise for the ad-

vancement of all humanity, leaving all human inventions, however welcome they may be, far behind.

And it will be made possible by *God’s intervention* rather than *human invention*! We are talking, of course, about the new age that will be ushered in when Jesus Christ returns to establish God’s righteous government on this earth (Daniel 2:44–45; 7:27; Revelation 5:9–10; 11:15). This new age will begin by dealing with the source of all evil (Revelation 20:10), and continue by progressively giving human beings *a new nature* (1 John 3:4–9)—God’s holy, righteous nature—which is only possible through His Son Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:2–4).

The returning Christ will be the right Person, at the right time, in the right place, and with the right knowledge and skills to transform the entire world forever. It is His destiny to rule over this earth as King of kings, and His reign will be truly wonderful: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6–7).

This remarkable vision for the future is not a fanciful or outrageous dream, but a powerful, compelling reality that is certain to come—and come soon. If you would like to learn more, write for or download our free resource *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*

—John Meakin



Christmas— Does It Matter?

It may be a wildly popular holiday, but it brings along a tremendous amount of baggage. Should we care?

By **Gerald E. Weston**

Millions around the world view Christmas as the highlight of the year. There is no holiday in the professing Christian world celebrated with more time, money, and energy. Countless retailers plan for the season throughout the entire year, as December spending is “make or break” for them.

Christmas is widely celebrated even in Japan, where most consider themselves Buddhists or Shintoists. Depending on the source, perhaps even less than *one percent* of Japan’s population professes Christianity, yet lighted trees and Santa Claus are quite popular there. “Christmas Eve is thought of as a romantic day, in which couples spend time together and exchange presents.... Young couples like to go for walks to look at the Christmas lights and have a romantic meal in a restaurant—booking a table on Christmas Eve can be very difficult as it’s so popular!” (“Christmas in Japan,” *WhyChristmas.com*, 2019).

Many would be surprised to know that Christmas is also growing in China, an officially atheistic nation. While not an official holiday—shops do not close for the observance—Christmas traditions are increasingly evident.

Starting in late November, many department stores are decorated with Christmas trees, twinkling lights, and festive decorations. Malls, banks, and restaurants often have Christmas displays, Christmas trees, and lights. Large shopping malls help usher in Christmas in China with tree lighting ceremonies. Store clerks often wear Santa hats and green and red accessories. It’s not uncommon to see leftover Christmas decorations still decking the halls well into February, or to hear Christmas music at cafes in July (“Is Christmas Celebrated in China?,” *ThoughtCo.com*, August 16, 2019).

Why does Christmas have such a hold on the world? From where do its traditions and customs arise? Can Jesus compete with Santa, decorated trees, office parties, and consumer spending? Do we need to “put Christ back into Christmas,” as many claim?



The “Old-Fashioned Christmas” Myth

More and more people in the Western world are beginning to question whether end-of-year celebrations should even be referred to as Christmas. Court cases have ruled against nativity displays on public property. Christmas trees are being referred to as “holiday trees,” so as not to offend anyone who does not subscribe to the religious aspects of the season. So where is all of this headed?

There is a longing among many to “put Christ back in Christmas”—to de-emphasize its commercialization and return to an old-fashioned Christmas. What they fail to realize is that the idea of an old-fashioned Christmas is a romanticized invention of recent generations. The holiday evolved dramatically in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. What we now think of as Christmas is radically different from that of earlier generations.

VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT CHRISTMAS, FROM ITS DATE TO THE CUSTOMS SURROUNDING IT, COMES FROM NON-CHRISTIAN, HEATHEN CELEBRATIONS.

Author Bruce Forbes says he loves Christmas and was moved to research its history. As he details in his book, *Christmas: A Candid History*, he encountered a number of surprises. Here, in Forbes’ own words, is a small sample of unexpected facts he discovered:

- Early Christians in the first two or three centuries AD did not celebrate Christmas.
- Puritans in England and in New England made Christmas observances illegal.
- The United States Congress regularly met on Christmas Day into the 1850s.
- President Franklin Roosevelt changed the date of Thanksgiving in order to lengthen the Christmas shopping season.

Much of what we think of as an old-fashioned Christmas is the result of more recent cultural influences such as Norman Rockwell paintings, Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas,” and efforts by department stores to “cash in” on the holiday. And let us not forget eight-year-old Virginia O’Hanlon’s question, “Is there a real Santa Claus?” and the famous 1897 *Sun* response, which became the most reprinted newspaper editorial in the English language and a part of Christmas folklore.

As Phillip Snyder wrote in *December 25th: The Joys of Christmas Past*, “The Christmas Americans celebrate today is largely a late-nineteenth-century creation: a blend of Old World history and traditions melded and altered by an emerging American culture” (p. xiii).

Putting Christ Back into Christmas?

However, *times are a-changin’*. According to a 2018 Pew Research poll, even professing Christians are less inclined to hang onto traditional Christian expectations regarding the holiday (“5 facts about Christmas in America,” *Pew Research Center*, December 18, 2017). Nevertheless, we still hear cries of “Put Christ back into Christmas!” There is a problem with this, however, and a short history lesson explains it.

Virtually everything about Christmas, from its date to the customs surrounding it, comes from pre- and post-Christian heathen celebrations, except for the commercialization added in relatively recent times. The only grain of truth to it all is that Jesus is real, was born, and was born to be a king. But Christmas badly muddles even His being born to be a king, along with the entire nativity narrative.

Lost in the Forest

Perhaps the greatest symbol of Christmas in many parts of the world is a tree decked with tinsel, baubles, and lights. But what does it have to do with the birth of Christ? Author Barbara Segall explains the origin of this venerated tree:

[The Christmas tree] has made its way into our homes... bringing its past mythology along, mingling with Victorian Christmas traditions and renewing Christmas associations for succeeding generations in the

modern world.... But proud all through the changing seasons are the evergreens that, here as elsewhere, in Northern Europe and North America, in the mid-winter, give us, as they did our pre-Christian ancestors, courage to hope and believe in a warmth beyond the season... (*The Christmas Tree*, pp. 6–7).

One can find a legion of resources verifying the pagan pre-Christian past surrounding “the reason for the season,” but not everyone is familiar with the discrepancies between tradition and the biblical nativity account. As an example, almost everyone who knows anything about the religious side of the Christmas celebration believes the Magi, the wise men, arrived on the night Jesus was born to give Him “birthday gifts.” This understanding is seriously in error according to the recorded account.

At the time of the Magi’s arrival, Jesus was not a newborn. He is not referred to as a *babe*, but as a *young child*—a very young one, no doubt, but there is a clear distinction between a babe and a young child in the Greek language, as there is in English. Also, when the wise men arrived, He was not in a stable, but in a house. “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11).

We know that this took place, at the very least, 40 days after His birth, as Jesus was presented at the temple prior to their visit (compare Luke 2:21–24; Leviticus 12:2–6; Matthew 2:11–14). That is the earliest the visit could have occurred, but it likely happened weeks or months later, as we see that Herod “put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men” (Matthew 2:16). There is quite a difference between a newborn and a two-year-old!

Traditions versus Reality

The differences between traditions and facts are important. Jesus came in the flesh for several reasons. One reason was certainly to pay the penalty for our

sins, but another was to lay the groundwork for His return as King of kings and Lord of lords to save a troubled earth. These wise men, or Magi, came bearing gifts not to celebrate Jesus’ birth, but to appear with proper respect in the presence of a king—something often lost in the details of the “Christmas story.”

While not strictly a Christmas composition, Handel’s *Messiah* is sung all over the world during the Christmas season. The ever popular “Hallelujah Chorus” contains the words of Revelation 11:15 and 19:16: “He shall reign forever and ever, King of kings and Lord of lords.”

The words may be there, but the understanding is lost. Few realize that He is coming back, not as a Lamb to the slaughter, but as a conquering King to save mankind from utter destruction. Jesus is our Savior in more than one way.

Zechariah 14 begins with an announcement that “the day of the LORD is coming,” and explains that when the Messiah comes, the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem, will split in two, “making a very large valley,” which will bring forth a river that flows both east and west from Jerusalem. This seems to be a literal fountain from which two rivers flow, but it also symbolizes the healing Spirit of God. Before those healing waters flow, however, Jesus will fight against the nations that come up against Jerusalem and against His rule as “King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:1–9; cf. Revelation 14:15–18).

This is not a message about a helpless infant! The real story of His birth and the reasons He came are obscured by heathen traditions and a corrupt recounting of the biblical record. Yet few seem to be bothered by any of this. Why doesn’t it bother anyone that Jesus’ birth is nowhere celebrated by any biblical personage? Yes, two of the gospel writers tell of the birth of Jesus and events that followed, but *nowhere* is there an annual celebration of His birth.

If God wanted us to celebrate Jesus’ birthday, why is it that the time of year, much less the precise day, of His birth is not recorded in the Scripture? Even the *year* of His birth is controversial! The *one thing* that most biblical scholars agree on is that He was *not* born on December 25. This is because Luke 2:8 informs us that there were shepherds living in the fields at the time. As volume 5 of *Adam Clarke’s Commentary on the Bible* explains regarding this verse:

And as these shepherds had not *yet* brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that *October* had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was not born on the 25th of *December*, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could he have been born later than *September*, as the flocks were still in the fields *by night*. On this very ground the *nativity in December* should be given up. The feeding of the flocks by night in the fields is a *chronological fact*, which casts considerable light upon this disputed point (Adam Clarke, p. 370, emphasis added).

So, if December 25 is not the date of Christ's birth, why is it the day the Roman Church chose for its celebration? Barbara Segall explains not only the origins of evergreens, but also how early church leaders chose a date right in the middle of three heathen pre-Christian festivals:

In the minds of our pagan predecessors, most plants and animals held magical and mystical powers and, in particular, those evergreen plants that survived the blasts of winter were specially regarded.... In one era, the cause for joy was the birthday or awakening of the sun god, after the darkness preceeding [sic] the winter solstice in mid December. Later, our more settled ancestors found it was a good time to enjoy the feast of Saturn, the god of agriculture, celebrated in the second and third weeks of December.... As December gave way to January, and the old year to the new, ancient Romans enjoyed a festival called the Kalends. It was a time when they gave each other gifts or *strenae*, usually holly itself, or other gifts accompanied with or decked with sprigs of evergreens.... The early Church in Rome set the date for Christ's birthday in the middle of these pagan festivals (Segall, pp. 11–15).

This is confirmed by none other than the highly respected *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. Sun-worship hung on in Roman Christianity and Pope Leo I, in the middle of the fifth century, rebuked worshippers who turned round to bow to the sun before entering St Peter's basilica. 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 (ed. Tim Dowley, pp. 131–32).

Birthday celebrations were not a custom of the early Church, as explained in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* Christmas article: "As late as 245 Origen, in his eighth homily on Leviticus, repudiates as sinful the very idea of keeping the birthday of Christ 'as if he were a king Pharaoh.' The first certain mention of Dec. 25 is in a Latin chronographer of A.D. 354" (vol. 6, 11th ed.).

Does It Matter?

That the celebrations surrounding Christmas, including the date, are steeped in heathen practices is not controversial. That the popularly related nativity narrative is filled with inaccuracies *ought* not be controversial, as a careful reading of the accounts in Matthew and Luke demonstrate this fact. But the question remains: If the practices and beliefs in question are being used to celebrate Christ, does any of this really matter?

Note this insightful comment from atheist Tom Flynn in *The Trouble with Christmas* (pp. 68–69):

Even devout Christians must admit—as mainstream and liberal Christian clergy do—that much of what we know as the “story of Christmas” is simply the result of a process of literary accretion. Its elements are inspired by, or just appropriated from, the legends of earlier holy “personages.” Even if

Christianity is true, the story of Christmas is unworthy of it.

If Nativity lore accumulated over time, in a way unrelated to the life of the historic Jesus, we might expect the first Christians not to have observed the feast of the Nativity. And indeed they did not, as even conservative religion writer George W. Cornell acknowledges:

For more than 300 years after Jesus' time, Christians didn't celebrate his birth. The observance began in fourth century Rome, timed to coincide with a mid-winter pagan festival honoring the pagan gods Mithra and Saturn. The December date was simply taken over to commemorate Jesus' birth, since its exact date isn't known. Consequently, the fusion of the sacred and the profane characterized the celebration from the start.

Whether any of this matters to us depends on a crucial decision: Should we decide based on human emotion and reasoning, or sincerely look to the Bible for the answer?

Let's be honest. Many of our emotional reactions to elements of the Christmas tradition emerge from deep-seated childhood memories. The season also appeals to our physical senses: colorful lights, the



smell of greenery, favorite celebration foods, nostalgic music, and the thrill of discovering what is waiting for us inside brightly colored wrapping paper. Then we have the time-honored story of Charles Dickens' Christmas-hating, "Bah, humbug!" Scrooge. Who wants to be lumped in with him?

But doesn't it make sense that if we are honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ, we would want to know *His* thoughts regarding this celebration? Wouldn't it make sense to decide things based on *His* instructions? One would think so, but is that what we do?

Time and again, Jesus challenged those who called Him their Lord and Master but chose to follow their own traditions. "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). "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" (Mark 7:6–8). "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).

A Little-Understood Truth

Is Jesus silent on the subject of Christmas? Not at all! Few professing Christians understand who Jesus was before His human birth, yet the Bible tells us explicitly. Speaking of Christ, Paul wrote, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead" (Colossians 1:16–18). Could anything be clearer? All things were created through the One who became Jesus Christ.

Paul further clarifies who it was that worked with Israel: "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea... and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:1–4; see also Ephesians 3:9 and Hebrews 1:1–2).

This simple truth clears up what would otherwise be a contradiction. Exodus 24:9–11 tells us, “Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel.... So they saw God, and they ate and drank.” Yet we read, “No one has seen God [the Father] at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18).

So, what does the One who created all things—the spiritual Rock who followed Israel, and the One whom 74 men saw with their own eyes at Mount Sinai—reveal about His thoughts on the subject? Consider first: Nowhere do we see an annual celebration of His birth. Further, the popularized nativity story is fraught with errors. Further still, Christmas is a mixture of theological error and pagan customs. Now, read what “the Rock that followed them” says about borrowing pagan customs and traditions and bringing them into His worship:

When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, “How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.” You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it (Deuteronomy 12:29–32).

The One who created all things also inspired the prophet Jeremiah to write the following:

Thus says the LORD: “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at


them. 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. They are upright, like a palm tree, and they cannot speak; they must be carried, because they cannot go by themselves” (Jeremiah 10:2–5).

Just compare these details to the Christmas custom of cutting down a tree, securing it with nails and a crosspiece (prior to modern ways of securing it in a water-filled container), and decorating it with silver and gold objects. Some assume this refers to a carved idol, but Jeremiah addresses that problem later in the chapter. Ancient cultures commonly worshipped trees:

Part of the story [of the Christmas tree] originates with our ancestors. Evergreens, such as holly, box, ivy, bay, laurel and the conifers, able to hold their shiny leaves or aromatic needles through the long and cold winter months, are and have been a source of fascination to us and to our pre-Christian ancestors.

In many ancient myths and legends, the central power lies in a sacred tree. For example, oak, willow, ash and date palm are among the trees that hold a place in Homeric, Chinese, Scandinavian and Arabian myth and legend” (Segall, pp. 6–7).

Are trees worshiped today? Perhaps not the way they were in past generations, yet how many in our modern world will sing a song to a tree this year? *O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree...*

So, does Christmas matter? An honest and careful reading of Scripture shows that it does, but not in the way many think. Most would rather determine right and wrong for themselves than listen to the One they claim to serve. Few have the courage to put Christ first in their lives. Do you, my friend, have that kind of courage? 

**MAY WE
SUGGEST?**

Is Christmas Christian? It may seem like a strange question, but the answer will surprise you. It is time to uncover the truth! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.



READ IT FOR WHAT IT REALLY SAYS

Do we read what the Bible says, or what we think it says?

People misread things all the time. Instructions say, “Do *this*,” but people read, “Do *that*,” because they are distracted, they have their mind on something else, or they simply misread the instruction for what they *think* it says instead of what it *really* says.

A friend of mine once thought he had won a prize of thousands of dollars. He had received a sweepstakes mailing and was excited about the prospect of having won, but I expressed skepticism—I had seen similar contest mailings that make you *think* you have won when you have not. He asked me to come over and read it for myself. I quickly read the mailing, then read it aloud to my friend, carefully emphasizing the key sentences. He then understood that he had misread it. In my friend’s defense, I must say that it was poorly written—perhaps purposely in order to mislead the reader.

People misread the Bible, too. Long-held, ingrained beliefs cloud one’s ability to read a scripture for what it actually says. So many preconceived notions can cloud a person’s mind. We can “read into” the word of God our own ideas—but the Scriptures should be carefully and objectively read to find out what God is *truly* saying.

For example, the Bible plainly says the dead will be resurrected (e.g., Luke 20:35). Not many would argue against the idea of a resurrection of the just, but some would argue about *when* it occurs. Most who call themselves Christians believe that people immediately go to heaven or hell when they die. But the Bible makes very clear that no resurrection from the dead occurs until Christ’s return.

Paul shows this very clearly in his first epistle to the Thessalonians: “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:15–16).

Jesus said, “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the

will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting

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life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:39–40). “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (v. 54).

John 11 tells us that when Lazarus died, Jesus came to raise him back to physical life. Jesus said to Martha, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (vv. 23–24). Martha knew when the resurrection will take place.

Christ also said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself” (John 14:2–3). When? When He comes again! “Behold I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52).

Open to Learning Something New

Reading God’s word through the lens of our preconceptions is a real obstacle to ever discovering we were wrong. After all, it is hard to learn something new when we are fully convinced we already know the answer!

But if we can set aside what we think we know, we will be astonished at what truths have been staring us in the face all along, hiding in plain sight.

It is truly amazing what we can learn when we simply read the Bible for what it says. To learn more about what it really says, request a free copy of *What Happens When You Die?* or download it from TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Roger Meyer



All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes

Long ago, a man brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus. The evil spirit troubling this young man would often cause him to fall down, foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth, and become rigid. The boy's father explained to Jesus that his son had been possessed from childhood, and that the demon often threw his son into fire or water. In desperation, the man begged Jesus to have compassion and cast the demon out.

This scenario might seem unrelatable to us in our day, since we don't commonly witness demon-possession. But we who are parents can sympathize with this father in more ways than we may understand at first glance.

Imagine this family's misery, living with such a dangerous and difficult situation. People likely avoided this child and those living with him. Imagine a life with no friends—even your relatives want nothing to do with you. This family lived in constant fear, regularly dealing with the terrifying events the father described. How many of us have faced agonizing concerns for our own children, whatever the cause? Few things cut into a parent's heart so deeply as a suffering child.

Jesus certainly felt this pain and, moved with compassion, said to the man, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23–24). The Scriptures go on to show that Jesus honored this man's faith by commanding the demonic spirit to come out forever! "Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand

and lifted him up, and he arose" (Mark 9:26–27). This moving story demonstrates the potential of faith and the power of God Almighty! Although this spirit had not responded to Christ's disciples, it was no match for the faith-filled Son of God. The demon had no choice but to obey Christ's order!

God's Intervention for Our Families Requires Faith

There inevitably come times when we, too, recognize that we are insufficient to address the concerns that weigh on us. There are times when we cry out for God to rescue us or a loved one. In such cases, our faith will be tested. Before God intervenes, He wants to know if we "believe." When we ask God for a miracle, He requires faith.

James, Jesus' brother, wrote that if we truly desire answers, we must "ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:6–8). To doubt is to be divided in one's mind, to halt between belief and unbelief with an inclination toward the latter. If we have the faith of Jesus Christ, there will be no hesitation, doubt, or vacillating thoughts.

The doubter is likened to "a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind." A wave has no stability. It is at the wind's mercy, driven and tossed about. In like manner, he who comes to God with unsettled convictions is likely to be mentally driven about. At one moment, his mind is filled with faith and hope—at the next, with uncertainty and doubt. Hope on one hand and fear on

the other keep the mind restless and faithless. To be “double-minded” in this way is to be unsettled, undetermined. Scripture confirms how important faith is in



a Christian's life: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that

He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). In other words, we can only hope for God's favor if we put confidence in Him. He sees the heart, and if He sees there no belief in His existence, no real trust in Him, no reliance on His promises, we cannot please Him. Why would God grant us what we ask of Him if we ask in such a state of mind? If we waver between belief and unbelief, we should not expect God's favor, nor should we expect the desired answers to our prayers.

Devoted to His Will, Not Ours

Faith is simply confidence and assurance in God. We can depend on God never to break His word (Hebrews 6:18; 10:23). Faith is the assurance that what God has promised, He is able to perform (Romans 4:21). It is the “substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the unshakable belief that God will do what He has said He will do. But that belief must be rooted in something more fundamental than our own desires—we must seek God's will.

In 1 John 5:14–15 we read, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” God reveals His will

through His written word, and real, dynamic, living faith must be based on it. If we wish to know what God has

When our families face trials, we should be thankful that God is testing and deepening our faith and helping us develop greater patience.

and has not promised, we must “search the Scriptures” (John 5:39). The Bible shows that it is His will to heal us, for instance. However, it also reveals that if we wish to be healed, we must have faith, exercise patience, and live in obedience to God's laws (1 John 3:22). When we pray for healing, we must believe and obey—and then, because God has not promised *when* He will heal us, we must patiently wait for Him to intervene. So, besides faith, obedience and

patience are also conditions for healing. Sometimes God heals instantly, but more often He requires us to wait. In some instances, God chooses to delay healing until the resurrection. We are required to exercise patience, trusting that God will act when He knows the time is best. James said the prayer of faith will save the sick and God will raise them up (James 5:15)—but he did not say when.

Our Own Faith Is Not Enough

It is important to realize that our own faith is insufficient to save us—we need to have the faith of the Son of God added to our limited, human faith. Faith is God's gift (Ephesians 2:8) and it comes through Bible study (Romans 10:17) and through prayer. Like the father of the demon-possessed boy, we need to ask for the power to overcome our doubts and faithlessness. The apostles understood this and asked Jesus to increase their faith (Luke 17:5). Unbelief is the opposite of faith, and it is a dead-end street! “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

Let's pray for more faith. When our families face trials, we should be thankful that God is testing and deepening our faith and helping us develop greater patience—two important aspects of holy character! In our trials, there is no one we can trust more than God. *Trust Him!*

—Sheldon Monson



The New Paganism, p. 42). The *irreligious* fruits of the Reformation emerged in the centuries that followed.

Neo-Pagans of the Enlightenment

The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emerged in Europe in the 1700s, and it played a *pivotal role* in reviving ancient pagan ideas that continue to shape our modern world. Critical thinkers of the Enlightenment resented the corruption, extravagance, and oppressiveness of the Roman church, and they were driven by the winds of change the Reformation generated. Over the years that followed, critics launched unremitting attacks on Christianity, the Bible, and God. Their weapons included the re-discovery and popularization of pagan Greco-Roman writings and the misunderstanding, misinterpretation, and misuse of discoveries in the natural world.

Like their ancient pagan predecessors, the “neo-pagans” of the Enlightenment focused on the natural world, and they rejected the idea of one supernatural God who intervenes in human affairs. Enamored with human reason, they mocked the idea that the Bible is a divinely inspired book containing accurate history and universally applicable moral laws. The rise of so-called “higher criticism” in Western academia generated claims that many books of the Bible were spurious, that miracles are impossible, that Jesus was not the divine Son of God—just an itinerant preacher in Palestine—and that His resurrection was staged, invented, or imagined.

This anti-Christian perspective was aided by scientific discoveries and theories that appeared to contradict a religious worldview—partially due to unfounded (and unbiblical) superstitions that had become associated with “Christianity.” Copernicus had already demonstrated that the earth revolved around the sun and not the reverse. Medical advances revealed that diseases were not always caused by curses from God, but by germs—and seemed to be preventable through new medical practices. These and other discoveries all fell in the realm of the natural world that the pagan philosophers focused on, and appeared to some to paint God and the Bible as unnecessary products of human imagination. Within an atmosphere of eagerness to reject the supernatural, Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution—which claimed to explain the living world without appealing to a Creator—found a ready audience.



Children with the Lady of Cornwall in a neo-pagan ceremony in England.

Such cultural changes during and after the Enlightenment produced a *momentous shift* in the worldview of Western nations that had functioned on a Judeo-Christian foundation for the better part of a millennium. The spirit of the age *presumed* that human reason could replace biblical revelation as a guide to truth, that the scientific method was more trustworthy than Scripture, and that a *secular* approach to life would lead to happiness and a better world. These anti-Christian ideas were gifts of the Enlightenment that have infiltrated our universities and shaped the troubled world in which we live—where paganism has returned as biblical religion has declined. However, as Yale historian Peter Gay has noted, the critics, skeptics, and reformers of the Enlightenment “were modern pagans” whose paganism was “directed against their Christian inheritance” in an effort to create a world free of moral restraints (*The Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Paganism*, pp. xi, 8).

A Dangerous Road Ahead

We need to ask several important questions. What is the *real significance* of the modern revival of ancient pagan ideas and traditions? What is *driving* this historic shift? *Why* is it happening *today* in the Western world? *Where* is it leading?

In recent decades, numerous observers have recognized that we are slipping backward into the equivalent of a pre-Christian past. Historian Jacques Barzun noted that, over the last 500 years, “the West offered the world a set of ideas and institutions not found earlier or elsewhere,” and that secular ideas and practices—largely stemming from the Enlightenment period—“are bringing about its demise” (*From Dawn to Decadence*, p. xv).

British journalist Ferdinand Mount has observed that “the society that is now emerging bears an astonishing resemblance... almost eerily so, to the ways in which the Greeks and Romans lived,” emphasizing physical pleasures, gratuitous violence, unlimited sexual freedoms, multiple gods, and no sense of guilt (*Full Circle*, p. 1). While some have resisted these “progressive” changes, our secular Western societies as a whole continue to jettison biblical values and absorb thoroughly pagan ones—clearly heading down a dangerous path.


Nearly 80 years ago, social critic T. S. Eliot noted that the future of Western societies would be determined by a contest between Christianity and what he called “modern paganism” (*Pagans & Christians in the City*, p. 8). A generation later, theologian Carl F. H. Henry warned that neo-pagans were threatening “to undermine the foundations of Western civilization” and that the already visible result of their ideas was “moral and intellectual decay paralleled only by Pompeii and Sodom” (*The Twilight of a Great Civilization*, p. ix). Today, numerous scholars recognize that there is a powerful *religious* element to the “culture war” being waged within Western civilization, as essentially pagan and godless ideas come into conflict with long-held Judeo-Christian values and biblical concepts.

The Bible reveals that the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4) is Satan the devil—an entity most modern pagans do not believe even exists. This is unsurprising, as Scripture also reveals that Satan has deceived “the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). He is the demonic “author” of the spiritual confusion and carnal attitudes driving the return of paganism and corrupting the Bible-influenced foundations of Western civilization. The creatively destructive leaders of the Enlightenment and their modern disciples are Satan’s unwitting accomplices (see 2 Corinthians 11:3–4, 13–15).

Few realize that the dramatic cultural shift we are witnessing was actually predicted nearly 3,000 years ago in the Bible. The rise of Western civilization was not an accident. God anciently revealed His laws, religion, and way of life to the ancient Israelites (Exodus 20) so they could be a light and example to the world

(Deuteronomy 4:6–8). The Israelites entered into a covenant with God that promised blessings for obedience and serious consequences for disobedience (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28)—consequences that included going into captivity for turning away from Him. Following their Assyrian captivity, the northern Israelite tribes migrated into northwest Europe and America, where God’s promises to Abraham and his descendants were fulfilled in the rise of several Western nations (see Genesis 12:1–3 and our free resource *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*). Satan’s current activities especially target these modern Israelite nations.

Moses thundered numerous warnings to the ancient Israelites about the consequences of forgetting God and turning to other gods (Deuteronomy 6:14; 7:16; 8:18–19; 12:29–32), and recorded a *sobering prophecy* about what would happen to the modern Israelite nations as they approached the end of the age. He was inspired to warn, “For I know that after my death you will become *utterly corrupt*, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. *And evil will befall you in the latter days*, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 31:29). Jeremiah also warned that “the time of Jacob’s trouble” would come upon Jacob’s descendants—modern-day Israelite nations—“in the latter days” because of their embrace of ideas and behaviors that God condemns (Jeremiah 30:1–25). With the resurgence of outright and unmasked paganism in many Western nations, these ancient prophecies are coming true *today*.

Seeing how anti-Christian ideas and practices are spreading throughout the Western world today, it appears that many have *failed to learn the lessons of history*. We are *repeating* the mistakes of the ancient Israelites—despite the examples God recorded in the Bible for our benefit at the end of the age (1 Corinthians 10:1–11). While our modern nations may not repent of turning away from God, *you can learn from these examples* and avoid the coming consequences—if you recognize and avoid the ideas and practices rooted in the modern return of paganism and begin sincerely seeking the God and way of life presented in the pages of Scripture. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

What Is a True Christian? Many claim the name “Christian,” but what does that really mean according to the Bible? Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.





THE Works OF HIS HANDS

Insect Innovations

Leafhoppers. You have likely seen them while working in your garden, or perhaps during a walk in a park if you have paused and looked closely. Many insects fall into this broad category, named for their ability to hop from leaf to leaf as they look for food and keep their distance from predators.

Their prevalence can make them seem fairly mundane—just “run of the mill” insects. However, many leafhoppers have caught the attention of scientists around the world, having proven themselves to be remarkable examples of mechanical engineering! Robotics experts, mechanical engineers, and even military researchers have recognized amazing features of precision engineering and technological savvy in leafhoppers, as well as structures previously noticed only in works of human design.

Let us take a moment to consider just three such features sported by these insect “innovators.”

Surviving Takeoff

Watching a manned rocket take off is a thrilling experience, but surely not as thrilling as riding in one. Astronauts are exposed to some extreme forces as they begin their journey. The powerful acceleration of the U.S. Space Shuttle caused a force of 3 Gs—that is, three times the force of gravity—to be exerted on the bodies of the astronauts inside. That meant that a 170-pound astronaut would sink into his seat as if he weighed 510 pounds!

Pilots of the advanced F-22 fighter jet can experience forces of up to 9 Gs—enough to make the same individual feel as if he weighs 1,530 pounds! Such forces make it necessary for the pilots to wear specialized pressure suits to keep their blood from draining from their brains.

Yet, according to the *Journal of Experimental Biology*, the leap of the green leafhopper *Cicadella viridis* generates more than 15 Gs of force on its body—nearly 16 times the force of gravity (“Bent Legs Beat Breakages During Take-Off,” April 2013). This feat grabbed the attention of Dr. Cesare Stefanini and his colleagues at the BioRobotics Institute, who wondered why such a punishing takeoff did not shatter the insect’s legs or punch a hole in its leafy launching pad.

Using high-speed cameras to record the insect’s launches, they discovered that its body muscles and leg segments work together in a remarkably coordinated action. The muscles in the thorax (the insect’s body) generate the power needed for the launch, and that force is transmitted through the femur and tibia (the two leg segments) to push against the leaf and accomplish the liftoff.

As the highly variable force generated by the insect’s muscles is transmitted through the femur, the femur *twists and rotates* in such a way that the force is converted into one that is smoother and more constant, pushing the tibia smoothly against the leaf and launching the insect safely airborne from its undamaged leafy perch. Without this subtle mechanical transfer and conversion—from variable force to smooth and constant force—the peak of muscular power would destroy the insect’s legs or shoot them through the leaf beneath them. Yet with this “innovation” in place, an otherwise overwhelming force is channeled into a graceful and remarkable upward launch.

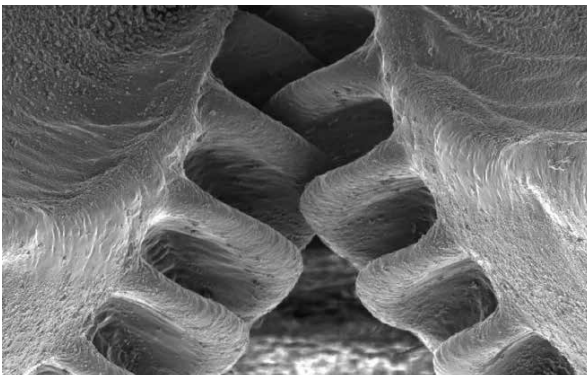
Toothed Gears

Not content to let its fellow leafhopper dominate the spotlight, the species *Issus coleoptratus* has attracted attention for its own surprising design.

This insect, too, moves from place to place with powerful leaps. In fact, its juvenile nymph form leaps as high as 100 times its own length. (Imagine a two-foot-tall child jumping to the top of a 20-story building!) The feat takes remarkable coordination: Both legs must fire within 30 microseconds of each other—that is, within *30 millionths of one second*. Otherwise, the force of their jump could launch them left or right instead of forward, which could make the difference between jumping away from a predator or straight toward it!

The insect's nerve cells are not fast enough to ensure the legs fire in such precise synchronization, so how does the young *Issus coleoptratus* pull it off?

Zoologist Malcolm Burrows discovered that the insect possesses something common in the world of human engineering and design, but never before noticed in biology—a pair of *gears with interlocking teeth*! The teeth of the gears force each leg to move at the same time as its opposite, guaranteeing synchronized action through mechanical coordination.



The gear mechanisms, discovered by Malcolm Burrows and Gregory Sutton, of the juvenile *Issus coleoptratus*. These mechanical gears keep the insect's powerful legs synchronized during its remarkable leaps.

Close-up photographs and scanning electron micrograph images reveal the design, which looks just like the kinds of gears one would expect to see in a watch or other man-made mechanism. But for these gears, another Designer gets all the credit. While the invention of the toothed gear was a major step forward for human engineering, it appears that leafhoppers had the jump on us and possessed such gears long before we did!

Cloaking Devices

Means of locomotion are not the only area in which we see extraordinary design in ordinary leafhoppers. Some

of the little critters are also masters of high-tech camouflage that would be the envy of any military in the world.

Many leafhoppers are known to produce micro-particles called *brochosomes*, which they spread on their wings and eggs. These particles have an intricate, microscopic structure that makes them *superhydrophobic*, meaning that they repel water and keep the wings and eggs of the leafhoppers dry. But engineers at Penn State suspected there was an additional, previously unknown benefit to these microparticles.

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Evolution and Creation:
What Both Sides Miss



They noted the similarity between the insects' brochosomes and the synthetic microspheres they

themselves were designing in their laboratory. The engineers' microspheres are pitted with tiny holes that are similar in size to the wavelength of light. As a result, the material can "capture" up to 99 percent of light and prevent it from reflecting off of its surface.

The similarity in structure prompted the engineers to examine these microstructures under simulated insect vision. When they did so, it became clear that the water-repellent brochosome coating would *also* act as a high-tech "cloaking device," making the leafhoppers and their eggs virtually invisible to predators.

As reported in *Penn State News*, their synthetic material requires "a rather complex five-step process using electrochemical deposition" ("Synthetic material acts like an insect cloaking device," November 2017). Yet without a laboratory, equipment, or a team of engineers, leafhoppers accomplish this technological wonder routinely—providing themselves a defensive technology mankind is only now learning to produce.


Innovation on Display

Humanity is truly intelligent, and our engineering achievements are astonishing! But our capacity to design and innovate is only a reflection of the intelligence of our own Designer, whose engineering marvels can be seen all around us if we are willing to look for them.

Next time you see a tiny insect leaping from leaf to leaf, take the time to appreciate what you are really looking at: a remarkable example of precision design and engineering, and a reminder that the Great Engineer of life still has much to teach us.

—Wallace G. Smith

Welcome to our new *Tomorrow's World* feature, “NewsWatch”!

During His ministry on earth, Jesus Christ emphasized the need to watch the times in which we live and to pray we would be ready for His return: “And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:37). On these pages, we plan to keep you informed of noteworthy news and current events that we believe should have your attention. Today’s world is changing quickly, and here at *Tomorrow's World* we want to help you fulfill Christ’s admonition to watch! 


The Filter Power of Seafood

Shellfish—including lobsters, oysters, mussels and crabs—are consumed by people around the globe as a delicacy, yet few realize they are dining on creatures that God created for an entirely different purpose. An *AFP* article noted, “The mussel is the [vacuum cleaner] of the sea, taking in phytoplankton for nourishment along with

microplastics, pesticides and other pollutants.... It’s a super-filter in the marine world, filtering up to 25 litres of water a day.... [Mussels] store almost everything else that passes through—which is why strict health rules apply for those destined for human consumption” (August 18, 2019).

Because mussels store the contaminants they filter from the water, they are excellent “bio-indicators” of the health

of the waters in which they reside. Scientists are now using mussels to determine which toxins are present in aquatic environments, and researchers are considering “deploying” mussels and oysters to rid polluted waters of microplastics, pesticides, bacteria, and other environmental toxins.

Though the same scientists claim mussels are safe to eat, they should reconsider! As discussed in our July-August 2019 article, “Do You Really Want to Eat That?” by Dr. Douglas Winnail, shellfish are scavengers—part of the “clean-up crew” for aquatic environments, never intended by God to be food for human beings (Leviticus 11:9–12). 





Disaster in the Bahamas

On September 1, Hurricane Dorian devastated the northern islands of the Bahamas as a category 5 typhoon. “Dorian was the most powerful hurricane on record to hit the Bahamas... with wind gusts topping 320 kph (200 mph)” (*Deutsche Welle*, September 7, 2019). The number of dead stood at 56 on September 30, a count that may yet rise.

According to the United Nations, some 70,000 people lacked food and shelter (*BBC*, September 9, 2019). The devastation is far-reaching and extreme. “Mark Green, head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), said he had been ‘struck by the focused nature of the devastation’ on the Abacos, and that some areas looked ‘almost as though a nuclear bomb was dropped.’”

Residents are reporting no food, no water, no medicine, and no fuel.

The totality of the devastation on the Abacos Islands is alarming and heartrending, and the fact that well into the twenty-first century we are still so vulnerable to the natural forces around us should be humbling. Our free booklet *Acts of God: Why Natural Disasters?* explains the relationship between these awesome forces, God’s sovereignty, man’s choices, and the years ahead of us. 

people in the U.S., U.K., and Sweden, researchers noted, “No individual gene alone makes a person gay, lesbian or bisexual; instead, thousands of genes likely influence sexual orientation” (August 29, 2019). The finding led the researchers to conclude that “the predisposition to same-sex sexual behavior appeared influenced by a complex mix of genetic and environmental influences.” That is, homosexuality is not something pre-ordained at birth. As one of the study’s co-authors stated, “It’s effectively impossible to predict an individual’s sexual behavior from their genome,” demonstrating that the “gay gene” is, in the words of *Live Science*, “a total myth.” 



There Is No “Gay Gene”


As reported by *Live Science*, in a genome-association study of nearly 500,000

Fragile German-U.S. Relations

According to German news source *Der Spiegel*, “Never since the founding of postwar Germany have relations between Berlin and the United States been as fragile as they are today” (August 21, 2019). President Trump and Chancellor Merkel communicate very little and have not had a good relationship. In addition to President Trump’s comments that Germany needs to pay more for Europe’s defense, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany has made provocative statements about Germany’s internal domestic politics. *Der Spiegel* noted that a majority of Germans view their nation’s relationship with America negatively, and more than 40 percent of Germans see China as a more reliable partner than the United States.

Current events seem to be propelling Germany in the direction of greater involvement in world affairs.



Bible prophecies reveal that a German-led Europe will emerge to play a major role that will impact the world in the years just prior to the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the age. To learn more about this coming superpower, request our free booklet *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?* 


New Archaeological Support for the Bible

Archeology continues to reinforce the accuracy and historicity of the Bible. “Archaeologists excavating

on Mount Zion in Jerusalem have uncovered evidence of the Babylonian conquest of the city, appearing to confirm a Biblical account of its destruction” (*CNN*, August 12, 2019).


Archaeologists have unearthed a gold earring among debris and arrowheads—items not usually found together in dig sites. *CNN* reports that Shimon Gibson from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte said that “the recovery of the rare piece of jewelry is the first time that archaeologists have uncovered signs of the ‘elites,’ appearing to confirm Biblical descriptions of Jerusalem’s wealth prior to the conquest in 587–586 BC,” noting that “jewelry is a rare find at conflict sites as warriors would normally loot it and melt it down.” According to Gibson, the find is a “clear indication of the wealth of the inhabitants of the city at the time of the siege.”

The Bible records the destruction of Jerusalem under Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar—an event

that has been described in its ancient pages for thousands of years (see 2 Kings 25 and Jeremiah 39 and 52). As history and science advance, the accuracy of the biblical text continues to be confirmed. 

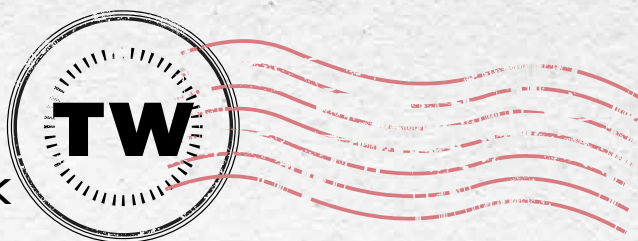
Children’s Bodies Invaded by Plastic

Between 2014 and 2017, the German Environment Ministry and the Robert Koch Institute examined blood and urine samples of 2,500 children. The study found plastic byproducts in 97 percent of those samples (*Deutsche Welle*, September 14, 2019). One of the study’s authors reported, “Our study clearly shows that plastic ingredients, which are rising in production, are also showing up more and more in the body.”

According to researchers, “Plastic from cleaning products, waterproof clothing, food packaging and cooking utensils frequently comes into direct contact with the body.” However, the plastics from non-stick cookware and waterproof clothing were most concerning to scientists, as these products are most dangerous to the reproductive systems and the liver. “Plastic byproducts are also blamed for disrupting hormone function, which could lead to obesity, reproductive disorders, cancer and development delays in children.” The youngest children and those from the poorest families had the highest levels of plastic in their bodies. 

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I just finished reading the booklet entitled *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?* This booklet is truly incredible! A wonderful witness of God Almighty. I am so thankful for the work that the Living Church of God is doing. This is biblical information that I have never heard in any other church. May God continue to bless your faithful service.

—Subscriber in Texas

I have found that a lot of critics of the Bible either do not read it, or else they cherry-pick the information that supports their opinion. In the latter cases, I have found that the information is taken out of context, and when you read the surrounding verses, the opposite of what they think is indicated. I know this, for up until five years ago, I was in that category. Since I became a member of the Living Church of God and began studying the Bible on a daily basis, I have discovered the truth that is in that Bible. It has completely changed my life.

—Subscriber in Alberta

Editor's Note: We are glad to hear it! Anyone interested in information about a nearby congregation of the Living Church of God, sponsor of this magazine, or hearing from a local representative can find more information on TomorrowsWorld.org. Just click on "Find a Congregation." You can also contact one of our Regional Offices, using the information listed on page 4.

Hello, I have just received a subscription magazine through post and I would like to express my gratitude for all the magazines we receive from *Tomorrow's World*. My father and I look forward to reading them. Thank you very much.

—Subscriber in the United Kingdom

Thank you for being such an invaluable tool in my path to Christ and for so many others! I appreciate your in-depth study guides, very reliable research, and knowledge-backed *Bible* guidance. I always look forward to my next booklet!

—Reader in British Columbia

So glad your article ["Why Observe Easter—The Hunt for the Truth," March-April 2019] came out and exposes how we've been being deceived. I'm making copies to give to some of the churches I've attended.

—Email from a Reader

This 88-year-old man has been further enlightened by your article on the subject of Sharia Law [in the March-April 2019 issue]. The mockery of Christianity in our society by the godless and the plain ignorant is now applauded. What would happen if the cowards in Hollywood who promote immorality and ridicule Christianity dared make a movie mocking Islam? They wouldn't dare, because the reaction from Muslims would be too frightening. Not so for Christianity. Our watered-down version of Christianity, endorsed by compliant so-called ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, would remain silent. Shalom from Australia.

—Reader in Queensland

Erratum: On page 30 of the September-October 2019 issue, the article incorrectly states that 50 million soldiers and civilians had died in World War I. This mistake was an artifact of the editing process, not the author's writing. Accurate figures were provided on page 9 of the same issue. We apologize for the error.

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P. 31 University of Cambridge (Profs. Malcolm Burrows & Gregory Sutton) <http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/functioning-mechanical-gears-seen-in-nature-for-the-first-time>

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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.

ICELAND

Reykjavik Gospel FR 8:30 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 TU, WE, FR 5:30 a.m.

Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 TU, WE, FR 6:30 a.m.

PHILIPPINES

Nationwide CNN SU 11:30 p.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

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

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 7:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

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



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

NewsMax SU 9:30 a.m.

IMPACT SU 11:00 p.m.

WGN SU 6:00 a.m.

WORD Network SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

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

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

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

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AK Anchorage GCI SU 10:00 p.m.
Anchorage CREDO SA 7:00 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.
Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.

AZ Prescott Community SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott Community SA 5:30 p.m.
Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico KHSL SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka KUVU-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 RCCTV MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas KION SU 8:00 a.m.
San Francisco Access WE 8:00 p.m.

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

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

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

GA Atlanta COW SU 9:30 a.m.

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

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 SU 8:00 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 TWPAP WE 7:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT TH 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT FR 5:00 p.m.
Salina SCAT SA 9:00 a.m.
Salina SCAT SU 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.
Latonia PEG TH 10:00 p.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 WLJA 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 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 KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
Rochester CTV WE 4:00 a.m.
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.
Roseville CTV SU 8:30 p.m.
St. Paul Nbhd. Network

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
St. Louis KPLR MO 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBT 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 KTVO SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive KWBZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
Greenville WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
Hickory WHKY MO 7:30 p.m.
Raleigh WRAY SU 7:30 a.m.

ND Fargo WDAY SU 7:00 a.m.

NH Hanover 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.

NM Albuquerque KBWQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 p.m.
Albuquerque KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 a.m.
Santa Fe KCHF FR 9:00 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 WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brooklyn WBNL MO 4:30 p.m.
Canandaigua BCAT MO 4:30 p.m.
Elmira Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Hauppauge WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Manhattan MNN MO 4:30 p.m.
Oneida Access SA 7:00 p.m.
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.
Queens Access TH 7:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.
Riverhead Access SU 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.
Rochester Access 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.
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.
Lima WBOH SU 7:00 a.m.
Lima WBOH MO 7:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
Oregon City Access WFTV SU 8:00 a.m.
Portland Access WFTV SA 8:00 a.m.
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.

SC Charleston WCBT SU 8:00 a.m.

Time Warner SU 10:00 a.m.
Time Warner WE 4:00 p.m.
WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

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

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKCN SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville WKCN SU 6:00 p.m.
LaFollette WLAF WE 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont 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.
San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.
Tyler KLTU SU 6:30 a.m.
Waco KYLE SU 7:30 a.m.

VA Charlottesville Comcast MO 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville WTVR SU 8:00 a.m.
Charlottesville ADELVA WE 6:30 p.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access MO 5:30 p.m.
Fairfax Public Access FR 1:00 a.m.
Fairfax Public Access SA 10:00 a.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.
Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.

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

WV Bluefield WWA SU 8:00 a.m.
Charleston WOCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m.

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TOMORROW'S WORLD

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Evolution on Trial

Darwin's theory of evolution is accepted by millions of people. Should you believe it?

November 7-13

Unlock Bible Prophecy!

Many find prophecy hard to understand, but a few simple tools can make it plain.

November 14-20

Who Changed the Sabbath to Sunday?

The Bible speaks of a seventh-day Sabbath, but many worship on Sunday. Why?

November 21-27

Do You Have an Immortal Soul?

Many believe they have an immortal soul. But why? And what does the Bible teach?

November 28-December 4

Who Are the End-Time Superpowers?

Which national powers will compete for control of the world before the return of Jesus Christ?

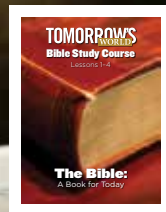
December 5-11

Will Civilization Collapse?

Civilization is at a crossroads. How did we get here? And what is coming next?

December 12-18

Schedule subject to change



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