# TOMORROW'S September-October 2010 www.TomorrowsWorld.org

# Who Is the Devil?



A personal message from the Editor in Chief, Roderick C. Meredith

### Why Is Everything Going Wrong at Once?

Articles after articles now appear in magazines, newspapers and on the Internet, regarding the distrust of the United States government that increasing millions of Americans are feeling. There is a sense that America's government is "out of control"—that something truly *awful* is happening—that the nation will **never** be the same again. Many analysts have described the "two Americas." They analyze the division between different groups of people in the U.S.—and where this is leading. And a few analysts even note Jesus Christ's inspired statement, A "house divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25). In our present circumstances, how long *will* America stand?

Our world is certainly changing! I remember when, driving from Los Angeles to East Texas back in the 1950s and early 1960s, my wife and I stopped over a couple of times to see the sights in Juarez, Mexico right across from El Paso, Texas. Right across the Rio Grande, we found Juarez fascinating and heard of an interesting restaurant—with accompanying Mexican music—that was clean and offered excellent food. It was a very enjoyable place to visit, and we always had a good time and *felt perfectly safe*.

*Flash forward*—Today, Juarez is a virtual murder capital of the world! Scores of people are routinely slaughtered there by the Mexican drug cartels. This is *right on the American border*! And thousands of migrant workers are rushing across the border into America each month from this area. As increasing numbers settle illegally, some bringing families and having children in the U.S., we hear more and more about a soon-coming "*reconquista*"—the reconquest of the American Southwest by peoples of Mexican and Native American descent, who believe this part of America has been "theirs" all along! Another huge problem now looming just ahead is the massive financial crisis, which is affecting not only the U.S., but also much of the rest of the world. Yet it will affect America more dramatically than most other countries—for the U.S. has become the world's "biggest debtor"—and is printing money like crazy—creating *trillions* of dollars of "Monopoly money" backed up by essentially **nothing**! Other nations to whom America owes increasing *hundreds of billions* of dollars—*especially China*—are growing very concerned. They may at any time *cut off* their massive loans—which would bring down the dollar and the entire U.S. financial system almost overnight! As the eternal God tells us, "The borrower is **servant** to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7).

Long-time readers of Tomorrow's World understand that the U.S., the British-descended nations, and the democratic nations of northwestern Europe (along with Judah, the modern state of Israel), are the modern descendants of ancient Israel. Ominously, the Bible foretells that if the descendants of ancient Israel turn aside from God and His laws, "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you" (Deuteronomy 28:43-45).

Truly, all over the world, America's power and prestige are being "broken." As we have noted many

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### What will happen to a world that mocks God? Do you deeply respect your Creator?

any were shocked earlier this year when the Comedy Central cable television network announced its slate of new programs under development. Along with its typical mix of ribald, vulgar and slapstick comedies, the network described a rather unusual project in a May 6 press release:

*"JC.* A half-hour animated show about JC (Jesus Christ) wanting to escape his father's enormous shadow and to live life in NYC as a

regular guy. A lot has changed in 2,000 years and he is the ultimate fish out of water. Meanwhile his all-powerful yet apathetic father would rather be playing video games than listening to JC recount his life in the city. *JC* is a playful take on religion and society with a sprinkle of dumb."

Keep in mind, this new program is being developed by the same network that has refused to air an episode of the series *South Park* because it was accused of blaspheming Muhammad, whom Muslims revere as a prophet. But whether or not *JC* 

ever actually comes into production, the *very idea* that such a stupid, arrogant and blasphemous depiction of the Son of God would be seriously considered should give all of us a clue as to *how far down the path* we have come! For such an idea would not have even been *dreamed of* just a few decades back. Then, at least some few had a *deep respect* for God.

Do I sound "old-fashioned"?

Perhaps I do. For it is certainly not "fashionable" to talk in today's society about the "fear" of God. Truly, the very idea of a "real" God—a God of **total power** who is willing and able to intervene in human affairs has been almost obliterated from the minds of most modern people. But, whether they like it or not, the *real* God of the Bible is now beginning to intervene in human affairs more than ever before, and will **shake** millions of skeptical and rebellious people to their very foundations!

This is where **you**, dear reader, come in.

For we at Tomorrow's World do not want you to be in ignorance of all the atheistic and false religious developments swirling around you. We do not want you to suffer the fate that is just ahead for so many who are not willing to genuinely worship and obey the actual God of the Bible. Yet, today, we have high-powered "scholars" like Richard Dawkins and critics such as Christopher Hitchens, writing about The God Delusion and similar topics. In their arrogant, highhanded, hyper-intellectual manner they certainly denigrate the very concept of a real God. Their vanity and arrogance is profound. But the important question to ask is: "Are they right?"

### INTELLECTUAL ARROGANCE?

Nearly 2,000 years ago, when the Apostle Paul confronted the intelligentsia of the Greek and Roman world, he was inspired to write about their approach. Paul stated, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). Like their modern counterparts, those intellectuals would deny, ignore and suppress the massive evidence indicating that there was a creation and that the Creator has, in fact, intervened in human affairs in awesome prophetic developments recorded over and over in the Bible. Frankly, if they would use even onetenth of their mental energy trying to prove the existence of God, of His creation, and of His intervention in prophetic events, they would find it very obvious that God is realand that He ought to be deeply respected and feared! But they have gone the other way. As Paul wrote, "professing to be wise, they became fools" (v. 22). Paul also describes the "vile passions" into which millions of men and women have descended as they get into more and more perverted practices, "committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (v. 27). Perhaps we should think about AIDS, all the other venereal diseases, illnesses and shattered lives that result from fornication, adultery and so many other perverted behaviors of such individuals.

Any objective observer can see the awful "fruit" of living in rebellion against God's way. God has shown us His way, but stubborn and rebellious human beings persist in disobeying their very Creator who loves them more than they can imagine! Yet, if we honestly stop to consider the great, unfathomable love and personal concern that God the Father has for each one of us, we should be humbled and deeply grateful. Once we have come to the knowledge of God, and we understand His purpose for us, we should be deeply fearful of practicing sin, knowing that the Day of Judgment will come. We should be fearful of disappointing our Savior, Jesus Christ, who died a painful death for us that we might be saved. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world. but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

### WHAT IS FEAR?

People often misunderstand what the Bible means by "fear." As we have seen, God loves us so much that He let Jesus Christ come to this earth to die for those who were still sinners. He is not trying to "crush" people and make them "cower" for His pleasure. He sincerely desires that all should be saved. Those who are rebelling against God should certainly fear His vengeance. But those who are seeking to obey Him should be awestruck by His love, and should be moved to deep reverence.

Jesus Christ Himself expressed "godly fear" in calling out to His Father (Hebrews 5:7). So we cannot say, as some mistakenly do, that "fear" is an immature emotion, which Christians "grow out of" after their faith matures. Rather, we understand godly fear as the deep understanding of God's awesome power—and the knowledge that He uses His power in perfect love.

So, do *you*, personally, have a proper **fear** of the true God of the Bible—the Creator and Governor of the universe—who gives you life and breath? Please *think about it*—for your own good. In

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Proverbs 9:10, we read, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

It is vital that we understand that there really is a Creator who gives us life and breath, who is working out a supreme purpose here on earth. That knowledge helps us make right decisions and choices for our future-both now and forever. So, that type of "fear" is the beginning of genuine wisdom. As we have seen, it does not mean that you are "afraid of God" in

negative а or terrifying sense. It simply means that you face reality. It means that you have come to the point that you are willing to humble yourself and acknowledge your Creator—and are actually willing to do what He says.

The "wisest man on earth." King Solomon, summed up the entire book of

Ecclesiastes in these words: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13. KIV).

God created human beings for a purpose. We are intended by our Creator to learn to have the right kind of respect and even awe of Him in order to fulfill that purpose in order to be made fit to receive eternal life in the very Family of God. God is not in the business of creating "rebels." He simply wants people who will love Him, revere Him and obey Him, so that they may learn and practice the right way of life and be able to get along

harmoniously *forever* in His coming Kingdom. It is just that simple. Through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, He has made possible complete forgiveness for our past sins and mistakes and rebellion. But once we have repented-remember, repentance means change—we should then start having the deep respect or "fear" of God so that we will actually live by the Way He reveals in Scripture.

### GOD DEMANDS RESPECT

Since we are filled with human nature, we human beings have a natural tendency toward self-will, sarcasm and even rebellion against our Creator—just as many teenage children seem almost naturally to display toward their own parents. So, God does want us to have the proper kind of fear, in

order that we may be willing to heed what He tells us to do. God is not embarrassed to demand this healthy kind of fear and respect. This is a serious matter! Jesus Christ directly stated, "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Yes, you read it right—Scripture states in many different places and ways that God will destroy those who will not surrender to Him and are not willing to do what He says! Otherwise, if they were given eternal life without a genuine repentance first, they would make themselves and *everyone* else absolutely miserable for all eternity. There would be continual rebellions and challenges to God's authority, such as Lucifer exemplified when he turned against God and became Satan (cf. Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28, and see our article "Who Is the Devil?" on page 10 of this issue).

The real Jesus Christ of the Bible pointedly warned people, again and again, that human arrogance and rebellion brings sorrow and death. Describing how the religious leaders of His day were lacking, Jesus warned, "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12). He also warned. "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

Yes, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when Christ returns. Many professing religious people-even religious leaderswill find that their own pagan practices will not permit them to be in God's coming Kingdom, by the authority of Jesus' own words: "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"" (Matthew 7:23).

Lawlessness? Yes! Most professing Christians today, directly or indirectly, have a "no law" approach. They cannot seem to accept that Christ taught about both grace and obedience to God's law (Matthew 5:17–19). They have adopted a completely and totally pagan paradigm of what Christianity is all about. And because they do not have the genuine "fear" of God, most will not listen, even when they are told the Truth. For, as did the ancient pagans, most "educated" people are still denying and even suppressing the Truth about God and the purpose of human existence. Their lack of fear of the real God leads to



a kind of spiritual and intellectual arrogance that does not permit them to *humble themselves* and **seek** the true God of the Bible, even as He is now beginning to intervene in human affairs more than ever before.

God's inspired word clearly describes the spiritually lazy and self-satisfied individuals who although they are religious in some ways—do not sincerely seek God, neither do they *obey* God with all their hearts or try to **do His**  Work. For Jesus said, "And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30). No, Jesus did **not** always speak "nicely" when describing the fate of the wicked! But He **did** describe the coming Lake of Fire. He **did** describe how there would be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" human beings absolutely **paralyzed** with the wrong kind of fear and terror, because in their pride they were **not willing** to *rightly* fear their Creator—to love Him, serve Him and obey Him.

### THE LAST DAYS

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write about the almost **total lack** of deep respect for those in authority, and for God Himself, that will be extant in these last days. He wrote: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,



### WHAT ABOUT LOVE?

The Apostle John wrote: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). Bible students sometimes misuse this verse to try to prove that "love" and "fear" are incompatible attitudes—and that, for a Christian, "love" replaces fear. But is that really what your Bible teaches?

Consider the example of Jesus Christ. No one would say that Jesus Christ did not have perfect love. But notice: Jesus Christ Himself showed "godly fear" (Hebrews 5:7–8)!

How can this be so? To understand, we must be sure that we recognize what love is. How does Scripture define love? "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:2–3). Do you consider God's commandments burdensome? If so, you are not showing love toward God. Consider what John

wrote: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, *KJV*).

To love God perfectly is to obey Him perfectly. Where there is disobedience against the law, there is sin, and sin brings punishment (Luke 12:47–48; James 1:13–15). But where there is perfect love, and thus perfect obedience, there is no fear of punishment (Galatians 5:22–23).

Of course, as human beings, the reality of our lives is that we are not yet perfect in love. But we can rely on a Savior who was and is perfect! In Christ, we have a High Priest who was tempted in all points, just like us, but who—unlike us—never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). Can we even begin to conceive of how awesome His love for us must be, that He died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8)?

Were it not for Christ's sacrifice, we would have every reason to live in terror of our fate. Thankfully, because of that sacrifice, we can repent of our sins and receive forgiveness (Acts 5:31–32; Ephesians 1:7–8). As a result, we can feel deep awe and reverence and gratitude toward God, without dread or torment.

Yes, genuine love of God goes hand-in-hand with godly fear. For a true follower of Jesus Christ, "love" and "fear" are not a matter of "either/or"—they are a matter of "both/and." Notice these words of Moses, which remain relevant to Christians as "spiritual Israel" today: "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12–13).

—William Bowmer

blasphemers, boasters. proud, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unloving, unforgiving, unholy, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good" (2 Timothy 3:1–3). Today, we certainly see that most men and women are totally absorbed with the "self." They are told in countless television and radio ads, "You deserve this, so buy it!" They are taught to pamper the self, spoil the self and virtually "worship" the self. So-without the genuine fear and awe of God, and with rampant disrespect of all God-appointed authority-they are "boasters," they are "blasphemers," they are "disobedient to parents" and they are certainly "despisers of good." For many of them cannot even stand to talk humbly about the true God, about biblical religion, and about obeying the Creator of heaven and earth. Such are the attitudes that lead to the kind of warped minds that would conceive of a cartoon comedy mocking the very Son of God and His Father in Heaven!

Bible prophecy reveals that, within the next several years, the growing arrogance of hundreds of millions of human beings will manifest itself in one of the most remarkable occasions in the entire history of the world, an event described in Revelation 17:12-14. We find described here the final ten kings of the coming revived Holy Roman Empire, who will soon give their power to the coming "Beast" or super-dictator described throughout Revelation. Then, after the 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-year tribulation described in Revelation, the armies of these countless millions of people will literally "make war" with the very Son of God! Can you even begin to understand the total lack of respect these hundreds of millions of people and their armies must have in order to fight God when

He sends His Son back to this earth? It should tell us something about the **total deception** of this world under Satan the Devil, as John was inspired to describe: "So the great dragon was cast out, that have been describing for decades, which are *now* beginning to come to pass! You *know* that practically **everything** seems to be going wrong in the United States and in much of the Western world. You *know* that

### Do you have the right kind of godly fear, so that you will be motivated to seek God fervently, and to prove for yourself, from your own Bible, that what we are writing, speaking and publishing is true?

serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who **deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

Dear reader, I am writing to you as a servant of the living God. We are definitely nearing the end of a 6,000-year period during which God is keeping "hands off" and allowing human beings to go their own way before He intervenes powerfully. Many of you are beginning to realize that this Work is, in fact, the primary Work Jesus Christ is using to prepare the way for His Second Coming. Again and again, we urge you to prove what we are sayingout of your own Bible. We urge you to watch world events, so you may see with your own eyes the entire series of end-time prophetic events we people are wondering about the *real reasons* behind so many world events. In this publication, and on the *Tomorrow's World* telecast, and on the *www.TomorrowsWorld.org* Web site, we are trying to help you understand the *genuine answers*.

We certainly give you those answers from your Bible. But do you have the right kind of godly fear, so that you will be motivated to seek God fervently, and to prove for yourself, from your own Bible, that what we are writing, speaking and publishing is true? I pray that you will learn to have the right kind of deep awe and reverence for your Creator, that you will love Him—and show that love and reverence by striving to obey His commandments (1 John 5:2–3). Prove God's Truth for yourself—and act on it while you have the opportunity!

### PROPHECY FULFILLED: GOD'S HAND IN WORLD AFFAIRS



Is God "real" to you? Can you look at world events and see how God is working out His purposes by fulfilling end-time prophecy, just as He promised?

Write for our FREE booklet, Prophecy Fulfilled: God's Hand in World Affairs, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site www.TomorrowsWorld.org.

# Questions & Answers

Question: What was the meaning of Jesus' baptism? In Matthew 3:16, we read that when John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit descended "like a dove" and rested on Him. Is this when the human Jesus Christ first received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** This misunderstanding of Jesus' baptism is very common, and is frequently expressed by those who believe in the false doctrine of "adoptionism" and assume that Jesus was not the Son of God before His baptism, and who want to deny or diminish Jesus Christ's pre-existing eternal presence in the Godhead.

Jesus Christ existed as the Logos—the "Word"—from the very beginning (John 1:1). Yet this very same divine being came to the earth "in the flesh"—and Scripture labels as "Antichrist" the idea that Jesus was not fully human (1 John 4:3; 1 Timothy 3:16). Yet Scripture also makes it plain that Jesus Christ would come to the earth as "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).

How could Jesus be a human being coming forward for baptism, yet also be "God with us"? Reconciling these facts will not only help us understand how and when and why Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit; it will even help us understand something about His nature—a subject much misunderstood by "mainstream Christianity."

We know from Scripture that Jesus was born of a virgin, and that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20). Yet—although the Logos was God—in what is known as His *kenosis* (Greek for "emptying") He voluntarily gave up His Godhood, emptying Himself of divinity to become a human being (Philippians 2:5–7, NRSV). Yes, when Jesus Christ was a man, He was really a man, and when He died, He spent three days and three nights in the grave before His Father raised Him to eternal life.

Notice that, throughout His ministry, Jesus again and again made clear that His Father was greater than He (John 14:28). Christ did not claim to do miracles, or to offer His teachings, on His own authority; rather, He clearly pointed to His Father as the source: "The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works" (John 14:10). Of Himself, Scripture shows, there were sometimes limits to what the human Jesus Christ could accomplish when faced with unbelievers who knew Him simply as Mary's son, the carpenter. Notice this account of His visit to Nazareth: "Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them" (Mark 6:5).

For some time before Jesus' ministry began, another powerful ministry had been underway in Judea, led by John "the Baptizer." Scripture reveals that, six months before Mary learned she was pregnant with Jesus, the angel Gabriel had appeared to John's father Zacharias, and had prophesied that John—Jesus' cousin—would be "filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15). John's mission would be to prepare the way for Jesus' ministry.

As an aside, we see from this that, even before Jesus' birth, God gave the Holy Spirit to a very few individuals with whom He was working in a special way to bring about His plan on the Earth. Ancient King David is another such example; he prayed to his Lord, "Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11).

Unlike today's Christians, who are begotten by the Holy Spirit after repentance and water baptism, Jesus Christ—who had no sins of which to repent—received the indwelling Holy Spirit from the moment of His conception. He was Immanuel—God with us, God in the flesh. Filled without measure with the Holy Spirit (John 3:34), He lived a perfect, holy and righteous life even before beginning His ministry. John had baptized only with water, but at Jesus' baptism, which set the example for all who would follow, God gave a sign—the Spirit descending "like a dove" indicating that Jesus' followers would be baptized not only with water, but with the Holy Spirit. This is the meaning of Jesus' baptism by John.

### Who Is the Devil? By Richard F. Ames

Can you recognize—and overcome the power of evil around you?

o one can deny that millions today are fascinated by the occult. Young people in particular are flocking to "entertainment" like Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* novels. Three movies of those novels have been released; one—*The Twilight Saga: Eclipse*—grossed more than \$72 million on its opening day in June 2010, more than had any other film in United States history.

Contemporary entertainment routinely glamorizes "undead" vampires, witty and creative witches, demon private detectives and other figures who maneuver in a shadowy world between God and Satan, life and death. The "death metal" music genre, along with glamorizing gruesome violence, often sings open praise of the devil. But who and what is the devil? On the one hand, many "intellectuals" consider it primitive and unfashionable to express belief in evil spirit beings. Yet on the other hand, the subject remains one that fascinates millions. Certainly, if there is a devil, we need to know how to recognize him and how to overcome his malevolent influence.

Your Bible explains why there is so much trouble and evil in the world. We read in Revelation, "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

Here, your Bible describes a powerful spirit being, called the Devil and Satan, as "the great dragon" and "that serpent of old." And we learn an amazing truth which few today believe—that he has deceived the whole world.

Why is there a devil? God did not create a devil, but He did create angelic beings with free moral agency. He created three cherubs or archangels-Lucifer, Michael and Gabriel (the cherub Michael is called an archangel in Jude 9)—and each apparently led one-third of the angels. One of these, Lucifer, became God's adversary (the term "Satan" comes from the Hebrew for "adversary") and was cast down to the earth with onethird of the angels. "And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth" (Revelation 12:3-4). In scripture, stars are often a symbol for angels (cf. Revelation 1:20).

Who is the devil? Some may find it shocking, but your Bible describes Satan as "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4). He roams about on the earth, "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

### **T**YPE AND **A**NTITYPE

Using type and antitype, chapter 28 of the book of Ezekiel describes Lucifer's original responsibilities, and subsequent downfall. Here the king of Tyre is the type, and the cherub who became Satan is the anti-type. "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings"" (Ezekiel 28:12-17, NIV).

Lucifer was given responsibility over the earth long before human beings were created. He had the free choice to obey or to disobey, just as human beings have the power to choose right or wrong. But Lucifer rebelled—he refused to carry out the will and government of God. The first man—Adam—was then given the opportunity to replace Satan as ruler of this world. But Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation and sinned. Like Adam and Eve, every human being except Jesus Christ— Immanuel, God in the flesh—has sinned. Scripture reminds us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

God the Father sent a second Adam, Jesus Christ, to resist the devil and conquer him. Scripture tells us that after 40 days of fasting, Jesus was physically exhausted, but He still battled the devil with scripture. Refusing to obey Satan, Jesus finally gave him an order, saying, "Away



with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Matthew 4:10).

Jesus proved that He would not give in to the devil. Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin (cf. Hebrews 4:15). He proved that He has the character and the righteousness to rule the earth. When Jesus returns as King of kings, He will replace Satan as the prince of this world, banishing him for 1,000 years. But until then, Satan will continue to deceive the whole world. Could he be deceiving you?

### AN ANGEL OF LIGHT?

God warned ancient Israel to reject the occult and all false worship that He did not establish: "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall

not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners" (Deuteronomy 18:9–14).

Shockingly, despite God's clear warning, we see that every year at Halloween, millions of parents encourage their children to dress up as demons, witches and other strange occult figures, making light of the occult and making a mockery of God's command to shun such practices!

While many millions of people "play at" the occult, only a relative few openly and knowingly worship a being they consider to be "the evil one," or participate in occult religions that openly worship Satan, his demons or some manifestation of evil. It is not unheard of, even in our "modern" day, for witches and sorcerers to practice deadly rituals-in extreme cases even to the extent of human sacrifice. Others practice what they consider to be "innocent" forms of occultism and paganism-in the U.S. alone, as many as 300,000 people are estimated to be practitioners of "Wicca"-a form of polytheistic nature worship that is even recognized as a legitimate religion by the U.S. Army chaplain's office, which provides pastoral service for military Wiccans.

How common, then, is Satanworship? Most people who worship Satan do not even realize that they are worshiping him! The Apostle Paul explains this satanic strategem, pointing out that Satan will not always appear as a serpent or a dragon, but will disguise himself as an angel of light! "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13–15).

Yes, the Apostle Paul warned that Satan has his own ministers who appear as ministers of righteousness. That is why we challenge *Tomorrow's World* readers not to believe us just because we assert something as truth. We urge you to go to your Bible to find the truth. Remember the Bereans in Acts 17:11? Luke wrote that they "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." We all need to do that!

How can you identify a minister of Satan? A minister of Satan may be sincere, but sincerely deceived. A minister who preaches against the words of Jesus Christ and God the Father is certainly not a true minister of Jesus Christ, no matter how sincere he may be. For example, some ministers preach that Christians need not strive to keep the Ten Commandments (which Christians know is possible through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit). They believe that Christians are free to disobey their Savior-in effect they approve of rebellion against God, just as Satan does! Remember, as the Apostle Peter wrote, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17).

The Apostle Paul also warned those who disobey God's truth, "to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek" (Romans 2:8–9). The Bible plainly teaches obedience—to the truth, the gospel, the Ten Commandments sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,

We must be able to identify in our own nature our human weakness and tendency to sin. That is why we need a living Savior to redeem us first of all from our past sins, and to give us the power to overcome the influences of the world, Satan and our own human nature!

and God's righteousness. Counterfeit religion is one of Satan's deceptions. He appears as an angel of light, but leads millions away from the true light of God's word.

### SATAN WORKS ON OUR WEAKNESSES

The devil also seeks to exploit our human nature—which is vanity, selfishness, greed, envy and lust! There is an evil influence that, as the Apostle Paul states it, "now works in the sons of disobedience." Paul explains that, through Christ, we can be delivered from our past participation in the lusts of human nature. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others" (Ephesians 2:1–3).

We must be able to identify in our own nature our human weakness and tendency to sin. That is why we need a living Savior to redeem us first of all from our past sins, and to give us the power to overcome the influences of the world, Satan and our own human nature!

Some Christians struggle against their uncontrolled anger. Some who have been offended let their feelings turn to bitterness, malice, rage, hostility and hate. We should be angry at evil and the ways of Satan, but we must never hate another human being. We should despise people's wicked conduct and attitudes, but we should love even our enemies, as Jesus taught in Matthew 5:44.

#### **Continued on page 29**



Write for our *FREE* booklet, **Revelation:** The Mystery Unveiled!, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site *www.TomorrowsWorld.org*.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I must say that I am truly impressed with your Web site (www.TomorrowsWorld.org). I am impressed with the information available. I have seen a couple of the programs that are available to watch, and I must say that they're excellent. The message is said like it should be, and I do believe that we are living in a time where everyone identifies themselves as Christians and false teachings are spreading like fire, and the sad thing of it all is that the world accepts the false teachings as truth. God bless you and all who are involved in the spreading of the truth!

### W. F., Apopka, FL

I was channel surfing this morning, and I caught your program. From the very first word, you had me. I am very much into eschatology, reading anything I can get my hands on. I ordered your *Armageddon and Beyond* booklet just a minute ago; I study the word of God daily and just can't seem to get enough information.

#### V. M., Tucson, AZ

I can't thank you enough for all your literature. I am learning so much. May God continue to bless your ministry. I just wanted to thank you not only for your booklets but also your *Bible Study Course*. I have finished the first lessons, and look forward to my next lessons. Your article, "Have You Committed the Unpardonable Sin?" (January-February 2010) has constantly been on my mind since I read it, and I am going to study into this to see what God has to say. Please pray for me that God will help me to understand. Thank you for all your literature. I always look forward to receiving it.

#### M. D., Craigmore, SA, Australia

Tomorrow's World is the greatest! I have always wondered about my brother, sister and dad, all of whom I lost before I turned 16 years old. I wasn't sure about where they would be after the Lord returns. People I talked with about my concerns always made me feel that I had no hope of ever seeing them again. I bought in to the teaching that because they died without being saved, they would wake up at the resurrection only to be thrown into hell. What a genuine joy it is to hear the comforting truth. I don't know where this journey will take me, but my heart is aching to be in the land of promise. Thank you for helping me open up to this reality. May God continue to bless your ministry, and thank you from the bottom of my heart. And please keep me in your prayers.

### K.C., Indianapolis, IN

Since reading your September-October 2009 issue of *Tomorrow's World* magazine I have changed my view on the rapture and second coming. Thank you for helping me understand Jesus Christ's second coming. Your magazine, ministry and outreach is a true gift from our living Savior Jesus Christ.

#### J. D., Brickeys, AR

I just wanted you to know that I have been watching your programs and reading your magazines and booklets for quite some time and feel that it has made quite an impact on me. It is definitely presented in such a way that it seems crystal clear that we are living in the end times and I have finally realized so much that I never understood since I started reading the Bible. It is so amazing as to what is in there. I know I have a long way to go, but I'm really trying to live the way God wants and have felt so much better inside since I have repented and found Him as my true Savior.

#### K. J., Blairsville, PA

I just read your booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. It is truly inspiring to see how perfect God's word is. I visited Capitol Hill in Washington DC, today, where the pride and arrogance of our leaders, with chins held so high, truly reveals a sinful attitude suggesting we created what we have with our hands, not through the blessings from God. It makes me want to cry when I see what our nation has become, but I know there is good news ahead after the Tribulation.

M. O., Oxford, PA

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

### **Turning Points**

David Cameron and his coalition partners, elected back in May, have set for themselves a monumental task, upon taking the reins of power after 13 years of Labour government. What is that task? Here is how

Cameron described it in a July 2008 by-election speech in Glasgow, Scotland:

"Our mission is to repair our broken society-to heal the wounds of poverty, crime, social disorder and deprivation that are steadily making this country a grim and joyless place to live for far too many people... The thread that links it all together passes, yes, through family breakdown, welfare dependency, debt, drugs, poverty, poor policing, inadequate housing, and failing schools but it is a thread that goes deeper, as we see a society that is in danger of losing its sense of personal responsibility, social responsibility, common decency and, yes, even public morality."



But the current crisis goes far deeper than just economics. The very fabric and cohesion of British society is failing, its former values and standards have been eroded, its belief in God and the way of life He espouses (however imperfectly that was applied) progressively abandoned. The rot has set in, and *evidence* of moral decay is all around. In a wider sense, British society itself is broken!



Will the Prime Minister succeed in what amounts to a call-to-arms for a *national moral crusade aimed at individual character change*? Will the nation respond in appropriate ways and buy into his exemplary vision?

If so, where might they look for inspiration? Well, the scale of Britain's economic woes has been compared to the dark days of World War II and its aftermath. So, in this 70th year since Britain's "darkest hour," let us consider those historic events, and the parallels and lessons they may reveal for us today.

### **ON THE BRINK**

Back in May-June 1940, Britain trembled on the very brink of oblivion. On May 10—the same day Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of an all-party *coalition government*—the Nazi armies of Germany unleashed their mighty blitzkrieg against Belgium,

Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Over the next month, Belgium, Holland and France fell in rapid succession. In Northern France, the British Expeditionary Force was pushed back to Calais and then to Dunkirk. Were it not for Hitler's astonishing pause in hostilities and the "miracle of Dunkirk," World War II would likely have come to its end in June 1940, with Germany the victor!

The true desperation of Britain's plight back in 1939 and 1940 *took time to be fully and widely appreciated*. But, in retrospect, we can see that those perilous, uncertain days of May-June 1940 provided the fulcrum—*the turning point*—that would set the course of the war. Historian John Lukacs points to May 28 as the signal moment of decision, when Winston Churchill declared that England would go on fighting *no matter what happened*. There would be no surrender, no negotiating with Hitler. Churchill said, on that day, "We shall go on and we shall fight it out, here or elsewhere, and if this



long island story of ours is to end at last, let it end only when each of us lies choking in his own blood upon the ground."

Lukacs writes that turning points can be seen

as "a sudden shifting of events and movements in a battle or during a revolution... A turning point may occur in a person's mind; it may mean a change of direction; it has consequences that are multiple and predictable, consequences that are more often than not recognizable in retrospect. A turning point may sometimes be foreseeable, but not with certainty" (Five Days in London: May 1940, p. 2).

### SEVENTY YEARS LATER

Seventy years later, to the very day, David Cameron gave his first policy speech as Prime Minister on May 28, 2010. Like Churchill before him, he

declared his commitment to a war that some do not think can be won. But Cameron is warring against a very different enemy. He declared as his first priority the transformation of a broken economy and the battle to rein in Britain's out-of-control indebtedness. He said, "Britain is at *a turning point*. The decisions we make now will live with us for decades to come. For many years we have been heading in the wrong direction."

Cameron laid out an ambitious vision of restoring Britain's economy, but his vision goes a lot further than economics. He intends to reform welfare, press for social renewal and "actively agitate" for much more community action in national and local affairs. The change Cameron seeks encompasses a moral dimension.

Yet Cameron's "war" may prove far harder to win than Churchill's. Debt and overspending may appear to be the obvious enemy, but they are far less finite and immediate than airplanes, armies, bombs and guns. They are also symptoms of something deeper: *the enemy*  within, the state of human nature and the moral compass that guides each one of us. Britain undoubtedly stands at a turning point, but then so do each of us individually. Whether the country survives and rebuilds its fortunes



each of us, as we cooperate with our Creator. Without Him, no lasting moral change will take hold and allow

depends not only on leadership from

And that cooperation begins with

Britain to revive dying values and ideals. Remember, the fear of God is the beginning... of wisdom (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 15:33), and of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). The "fear of God" is something we should actively choose (Proverbs 1:29); it is to "hate evil, pride and arrogance" (Proverbs 8:13); it leads to a long life (Proverbs 10:27; 19:23); it leads to great strength

of confidence and is a fountain of life (Proverbs 14:26-27); by it men depart from evil (Proverbs 16:6); it leads to riches, honour and life (Proverbs 22:4). In his article on page 4 of this issue, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith asks the question, "Do You 'Fear' God?" Your future depends on how you answer this question!

For Britain to reclaim past greatness, its people must remember that "righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34) and that it is God who provides power to gain wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 10:22). God Himself issues to each one of us a challenge-an invitation-to become one of His people and to represent His way of life to the world. He issued this challenge to the Old Testament nation of Israel (Exodus 19:5-6), and the same challenge lies before His New Testament Church (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Britain as a nation may or may not accept that challenge. How will you respond as an individual?

—Iohn Meakin

## **Mystery** of the Mind

By Wallace G. Smith

### Is the human mind the ultimate unexplored frontier?

he human race has explored mysteries in seemingly every corner of creation! Men and women with courage to match their curiosity have ventured to the highest mountains and the deepest caves. When we cannot go there ourselves, we send machines to explore for us: plunging robotic submersibles to scour the depths of the ocean and hurtling complex probes to the very edges of our solar system and beyond.

Yet, even as human beings apply their marvelous minds to the understanding of the unknowns before us, one area remains, perhaps, the greatest mystery of all: the human mind, *itself*!

In many ways, science in recent years has come to understand more about the physical brain than ever before. Parts of the brain related to reason, thought and emotion—even to moral judgment—are beginning to yield some of their secrets.

But as more is learned about the human brain, the human *mind* seems ever more mysterious! Some of the scientific findings concerning the brain and the mind seem contradictory—pointing to a marvelously complex physical structure, but also to something that extends *beyond* the physical: beyond our ability to measure, weigh or count.

What is it about the human mind that makes us so remarkably different than the animals around us—capable of so much more? What is the answer to the mystery of the mind?

### **Powerful Differences**

Like many other creatures on planet Earth, human beings have a *brain*—an intricate, physical organ devoted to controlling the various systems of the body and playing a central role in directing its behavior. Because human beings share this trait with many other animals, a common assumption is that the human being is just a "slightly more advanced" animal—one whose brain is a small-but-significant step above fellow creatures such as the chimpanzee or the dolphin.

Yet, when we compare the awesome mind-power of human beings with the relatively meager capabilities found throughout the animal kingdom, the difference is startling! Yes, we find animals such as chimpanzees stripping leaves from twigs to craft "tools," and we may marvel at how Koko the gorilla was taught to communicate through simple sign language. But have we ever seen a group of orangutans team up to build a space shuttle? Have we witnessed a dolphin designing a stunning work of architecture? Has a parrot composed a passionate sonnet that stirs the soul?

Despite having a brain very similar *physically* to some other mammals, human beings have scaled amazing heights and achieved astonishing feats of vision, planning, creativity and imagination. No other species has ever come close! So, what makes the difference?

For many decades, scientists have poked, prodded and probed the brain, hoping to find clues to the mystery of how our brains make us who we are. In doing so, they have uncovered surprising facts that may pose a challenge to many people's religious and philosophical understandings.

### THE VERY PHYSICAL BRAIN

Science has demonstrated that there is a very *physical* component to our minds—to our personality and our intellect. *Who we are* as individuals is very dependent on the physical condition, health, and structure of our brains, and *altering* that structure can bring fundamental changes in core aspects of our personality and even our values.

Consider, for example, morality. Many would say that the ability to make moral choices, judging between right and wrong, is one of the defining elements of individual identity. Yet, simply by applying magnetic pulses to a part of the brain just above and behind the right ear, scientists have been able to alter people's ability to make accurate moral judgments ("Magnets Can Alter Moral Judgment by Changing Brain Activity," *Medical News Today*, April 1, 2010).

In fact, researchers have known for some time that physical alteration of the brain can cause changes in how we think and act, and even in our basic personality. Consider the case of railway worker Phineas Gage, who in the mid-1800s experienced a traumatic brain injury when an explosion propelled a 13-pound iron bar through his skull. Though the projectile tore out a portion of his brain, he not only survivedhe recovered! Yet many friends and acquaintances testified that the Phineas Gage they had known was, in the words of his doctor, "no longer Gage"-that his personality and character was completely and radically altered ("Recovery from the passage of an iron bar through the head," Dr. John Harlow, Publ. of the Massachusetts Medical Society, 1868)

Though Gage is one of the most famous cases, it seems he has a lot of company! Researchers have noted that profound brain injuries are frequently accompanied by dramatic changes in personality, such as increases in impulsive and aggressive behavior, and the loss of previous inhibitions ("Agitation, aggression, and disinhibition syndromes after traumatic brain injury," *NeuroRehabilitation*. 2002;17(4):297–310).

Such findings seem to show clearly that much of *who we are* our personality, our ability to make moral choices and judgments is profoundly dependent on our physical brain. So, is the human *brain* all there is to the human *mind*?

Many scientists answer, "Yes!" Most researchers in the field of neuroscience conclude that our entire individual identity-our likes and dislikes, our values, our personalityis completely dependent on physical combinations of molecules and electrical impulses in our brain. For them, there is no mystery of the mind, because they have concluded: there is no mind! In their view, human thought, consciousness, moral judgment, free will-everything we call the "mind"—is an illusion, perpetuated by a physical brain acting mindlessly (quite literally) according

to the laws of chemistry and physics, and the chance combinations of chemicals in our brain matter. As Jeffrey M. Schwartz, research professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, has written, "It is not merely that the will is not free, in the modern scientific view, not merely that it is constrained, a captive of material forces. It is, more radically, that the will, a manifestation of mind, does not even exist, because a mind independent of brain does not exist" (The Mind and the Brain, p. 8). This idea-that there is no "mind," no "free will," and nothing truly "spiritual" about human existence-is called *materialism*, and it is the reigning idea in research today.

### More to "MIND" THAN "BRAIN"

The materialism of modern science, however, is increasingly being challenged by *further* findings that seem to demonstrate that the human mind is very real, and is somehow much more than can be explained by a physical brain alone. Consider the much-debated work of British neurologist John Lorber of Sheffield University, who has studied hydrocephalus—a condition in which much of the brain is missing and the skull is filled, instead, with fluid. Left untreated in early childhood development, individuals with hydrocephalus often face severe retardation and early death.

Lorber's research has taken many by surprise, as he has studied startling cases of people who have led otherwise normal lives despite having almost *no brain at all*. One of the most celebrated cases involved a "socially completely normal" college student with an IQ of 126 who had earned a first-class honors degree in mathematics. Yet scans of this amazing young man's skull indicated that he had virtually *no brain*. His cranium was almost completely filled with cerebrospinal fluid, leaving only a thin film of brain matter "measuring a millimeter or so" ("Is Your Brain Really Necessary?," *Science*, 12 December 1980, pp. 1232–4).

If the human mind is nothing more than the human brain, how are such cases explained?

Additionally, scientific research is beginning to demonstrate more clearly than ever that the human mind and free will are not mere illusions generated by the physical brain. Writing in the Wall Street Journal ("How Thinking Can Change the Brain," Jan. 19, 2007), author Sharon Begley describes neurological studies that were performed on Tibetan Buddhist monks at the University of Wisconsin. Work with those monks indicated that, over time, the structure of the brain can be changed merely by the act of thinking!

The standard materialist world view makes the claim that this is impossible, because "mind" is supposed to be merely the *effect*, and physical brain the *cause*. But studies are demonstrating that the reverse can also be the case. Far from the brain creating the mind, scientists are discovering that mind can change the brain—it is a "twoway street!"

So, what exactly is going on here? Are all these different scientists reaching incompatible conclusions? What is the relationship between mind and brain? It may surprise many modern readers to learn that the missing dimension in this discussion can be found in an ancient source of knowledge: the Bible! God's word reveals the truth about the mystery of human mind-a truth that agrees with the findings of science, rightly understood, and points us to deeper, awe-inspiring truth that science alone could never discover!

### MANKIND: SOMETHING MORE

In the book of Genesis, God reveals that He made human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). Like the other living beings in our world, mankind is a part of God's creation. Unlike God and His angels in the spirit realm, human beings are physical beings, subject to death (Genesis 2:17; 3:19).

Human beings see the world through physical eyes that collect physical light and focus it onto physical retinas in our two eyes. Electrical signals then migrate to



the brain, where they register that something has been seen. Similarly, as human beings, we hear the world through physical ears, feel it through physical touch, and smell it through a physical nose. The brain collects, channels, processes and manages all this incoming sensory information.

The mind, however, involves much more than the collection of physical data! Left with nothing more than a physical brain, human beings would be no different than the animals—responding to stimuli, taking care of physical needs and processing at the most mundane of levels. But God intends much *more* for mankind than life at "mundane levels." When He describes the creation of the animals, he says that He "made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind, its kind? (Genesis 1:25).

So, are human beings merely a "human kind"? No! When it comes to the creation of *mankind*, God tells a very different story! "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Genesis 1:26–27).

Unlike the animals—each made after its own animal kind-the Bible boldly declares that human beings are made after the God kind! From the beginning, God intended human beings to be like Himself! When His entire, wondrous plan is fully understood, we see that God has created human beings for the purpose of growing in His holy and righteous character, until they not only resemble God on the outside, but also radiate His character from the inside! God's plan is to transform human beings from their physical, mortal existence into an eternal spiritual existence (1 Corinthians 15:50-55)! To learn more about God's awesome purpose for you and me, please request your free copy of our inspiring booklet, Your Ultimate Destiny.

As part of His plan for humanity, God has added an extra element to human existence, which works with human brain to make men and women so much more than the animals they would otherwise be. This element is called "the spirit in man." Combined with the physical brain, this imparts to human beings a powerful mind, allowing accomplishments far beyond the simple instincts of even the brightest dolphins or chimpanzees.

We read about this spirit in Scripture. As Elihu tells the patriarch Job, "there is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding" (Job 32:8). Indeed, it is the spirit in man that gives him knowledge and comprehension: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?" (1 Corinthians 2:11). This is not an immortal soul; it is an essential God-given element of the mortal human mind, making men and women who and what they are!

### KEY TO THE RESURRECTION!

Scripture explains that when human beings die, it is this human spirit-not an immortal soul, but rather the God-given element of our human identity-that God recovers. We read: "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was. and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). At death, our physical bodies return to the earth from whence they came, but our "identity"-the "spirit in man" that contains the record of our character and experiencegoes to God in preparation for the resurrection.

Is the "spirit in man" conscious after we die? No! Scripture plainly reveals that when human beings die, we are not conscious again until the resurrection from the dead (Ecclesiastes 3:18–21; 9:5). We read of those who "sleep in Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 4:14). Again and again, Scripture describes death not as a disembodied conscious state, but rather as a "sleep" without awareness (John 11:11; 1 Corinthians 11:30).

Every human being receives the "spirit in man" as part of God's act of creation. However, for those who become Christians, an even more important Spirit is added to the equation. After repentance and baptism, Christians receive the Holy Spirit. Just as the "spirit in man" gives human beings a "mindpower" unknown to other animals, the Holy Spirit gives Christians a spiritual power unknown to other human beings.

The Holy Spirit, working with the human mind in the physical body, gives each Christian the ability to prepare to be born into eternal life as a member of the Family of God, at the resurrection of the dead.

When we come to understand all this, the mystery of the human mind becomes clear. The mind is not simply an "emergent property" of a physical brain, with free will and thought only an illusion caused by the collisions and combinations of mindless molecules and electrons. Nor is the mind an immortal and purely immaterial component. The human mind is the result of *two* necessary components: the physical human brain *and* the human spirit, imparted directly by God! *This* is the solution to the mystery of the mind! It is the product of the divinely crafted combination of brain plus spirit.

It explains why our marvelous minds are so dependent on the condition of our physical brains, yet also why our physical brains *simply are not enough* to produce the wondrous human mind!

This is why the animal world while it can certainly amaze us—is still *light years behind humanity* in the realms of creativity and communication, and in capacity for reason and imagination. Unlike even the most remarkable of the animals, God designed human beings for a *cosmic purpose*!

Together, the physical brain and the spirit of man bestowed by God, combine to create the awesome human mind. And it is this mind, yielding to the instruction and care of a loving God, that has the power to come to know, imitate, and one day experience the presence and spiritual reality of its Creator. As is so often the case, God's word shines its light upon mysteries that science alone simply cannot explain!



Write for our *FREE* booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny,* or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site *www.TomorrowsWorld.org*.

### **The Daughter of Babylon?**

For those with eyes to see, the *real meanings* of socalled "mysterious" prophecies in the books of Isaiah and Revelation are *coming into focus*—in spite of widespread efforts to obscure the true intent of the Scriptures. Events making news today, along with the record of history, show

clearly that many long-pondered biblical prophecies are *coming alive* right before our eyes!

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the Apostle John saw in vision a series of prophetically significant events that would occur at the end of this age, just before Jesus Christ's return to the earth. In Revelation 17:1-6, John described an opulently dressed woman riding on a scarlet beast. This woman conducts intimate relations with rulers of the world, and has influenced the world with her teachings. John records the name of the woman as "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE THE GREAT. MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Seven hundred years earlier, Isaiah had recorded prophecies about a woman he called the "daughter of Babylon" and "The Lady of Kingdoms" (see Isaiah 47). Isaiah portrayed this woman as making extravagant and expansive claims: "I shall be a lady forever... I am, and there is no one else besides me... I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children."

But just **who** is the mysterious, opulently dressed woman pictured in these prophecies, and why is she linked with the ancient city of Babylon? What role has she played in history, and what role *will she play* on the world stage as the end of the age approaches?

### **FULFILLED PROPHECIES**

When Bible prophecies describe a "woman," the reference is often to a *church* or a *religious system*. The woman mentioned in Revelation 12:1 is the true



Church of God. John also appears to refer to the Church as a woman in 2 John 1 (see also 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27).

But notice another woman, described in Revelation 17:1–6. This woman, elaborately adorned in purple and

scarlet, gold and precious stones, is a religious organization or system that has influenced the world through its teachings. This powerful institution has also maintained intimate relations with the political leaders of the world. Jesus Christ calls His true Church a "little flock" (Luke 12:32), in contrast to the size and power of this "woman" of Revelation 17.

Is there a church that has adjudicated disputes between ruling kings—and even promoted or dethroned kings? Is there a church that has claimed the right to divide the globe among different exploring nations? Is there a church that even today maintains

an extensive diplomatic corps and takes active part in negotiations between contending nations? Perhaps it is no surprise that for many centuries, Bible scholars have commonly identified the woman of Revelation 17 as the Roman Catholic Church.

Notice the names Scripture gives to this woman. "Babylon the Great" and "daughter of Babylon" hint that many of this organization's religious teachings can be traced back to ancient pagan Babylon. Indeed, from the concept of a sovereign Pontiff, to the veneration of Mother and Child, to the worship of a newborn god on December 25, to the widespread use of statues in worship, to the devotion to a "sacred heart"—again and again we can find parallels between Babylonian and other ancient pagan teachings and the rituals and beliefs of the Roman church (see Hislop, *The Two Babylons*). Despite so many practices taken from non-Christian worship, this church proclaims that it alone holds the valid "apostolic succession" from



Jesus Christ, even though honest Catholic theologians will concede that this claim *cannot be verified*, and that the most-often-cited "evidence" to support these claims is found in *forged documents* (see Kung, *The Catholic Church*, pp. 30–31). Historical sources show plainly that claims for universal supremacy of the Bishop of Rome were put forth by ambitious men who wanted to elevate themselves over leaders in Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and Constantinople (Kung, pp. 45–52).

The reference to the scarlet woman as "THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS" is both embarrassing and instructive when placed in a historical context. During the "Protestant Reformation," many new churches came

out of the Roman church in "protest" of various teachings and practices. The idea of a supreme papacy was rejected, along with ideas about indulgences, purgatory, prayers to and for the dead, and many other teachings not found in Scripture. However, if we look at the matter objectively, we have to admit that these churches have retained many other non-biblical doctrines and practices (e.g. celebration of Christmas, changing the Sabbath day to Sunday) that originated from Rome. The relationship between the Roman church and the Protestant churches is like that of mother and

daughter. This is why the scarlet woman is also called the "MOTHER... OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"—her corrupted, non-biblical religious teachings were borrowed from and have influenced the religions of the world!

The prophecies in Revelation 17 show this opulently dressed woman *riding a beast* with seven heads and ten horns. The seven heads are seven *revivals* of a political system linked to the ancient Roman Empire. The ten horns are ten kings or political leaders who will give their power (surrender their sovereignty) to a dominant political leader who will emerge to lead a revival of this "Roman" system in central Europe at the end of the age. The woman riding the beast depicts an influential religious leader who promotes and guides this political system. It is no secret that Roman popes crowned the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, and that modern popes have promoted the emergence of what has become the European Union. Bible prophecies warn that at the end of this age, Satan will empower and influence a political leader who will dominate a unified ten-nation European state, aided by a Babylonish religious leader of global stature (see Revelation 13).

### THE DAYS AHEAD

Despite recent scandals involving clerical sexual abuse of young children and teens, the Roman Catholic

Church is making inroads among the membership of other churches that have experienced their own problems. Pope Benedict XVI has recently reached out to Anglicans who are upset about their church's liberalization, allowing them to retain much of their traditional liturgy and custom if they convert to Roman Catholicism.

Benedict's planned September 2010 visit to England is also expected to raise controversy and perhaps further destabilize the Anglican community. During this visit, observers expect that he will proclaim Cardinal John Henry Newman as a Roman Catholic saint. Newman, an intellectual 19th century Anglican clergyman who converted

to Roman Catholicism, is seen by many as a symbol of Benedict's desire that more Anglicans will "cross the Tiber" and join the Roman church.

Pope Benedict is also actively pursuing ecumenical efforts to re-unite with the Eastern Orthodox churches, which separated from Rome nearly a thousand years ago. Indeed, the "mother" church is actively seeking the return of her "separated" daughters—just as Bible prophecies indicate! *Watch* for these expansive ecumenical efforts of the Roman church *to increase*—and to culminate with the "daughter of Babylon" promoting and supporting a political figure who will emerge from the ashes of the old Holy Roman Empire—as these ancient prophecies *come alive* in the news!

—Douglas S. Winnail





### Can you make a difference in a world gone rude?

eventy-eight-year-old Angel Arce Torres was just trying to cross a busy street in Hartford, Connecticut, when he was struck by a car that had crossed over the center line. Badly wounded, he lay on the pavement for several minutes, where a streetlight surveillance camera captured his plight. Car after car passed by the injured man, and pedestrians walked by without offering to assist.

According to a police report, Torres was left alone for several minutes, until he was spotted by a police officer responding to an unrelated call. Police arranged for an ambulance to take Torres to Hartford Hospital, where doctors found him paralyzed from the neck down.

The *Hartford Courant* reported this tragic story with a screaming headline, "SO INHUMANE"—and the local police chief was quoted as saying, "We no longer have a moral compass." ("Hartford missing

'moral compass'?", Associated Press, June 6, 2008).

Eventually, it was discovered that four passers-by had phoned 911 to report the tragedy while rushing along on their way. Still, why did it take so long for anyone to speak up—and why did Torres receive no help for several minutes until the police arrived?

Has something gone terribly wrong in our society when, for whatever reason, people "don't want to get involved" and are reluctant—even unwilling—to extend themselves to help others in need?

Torres died on May 11, 2009, nearly a year after the hit-and-run incident. But to the citizens of Hartford—and to many others who are concerned about the breakdown of decency and civility in modern society—he remains a powerful symbol of a world gone wrong.

### A COARSENING SOCIETY?

Unlike what happened to Angel Torres, most displays of callousness are not matters of life-or-death. But one does not need to look very hard to find that same attitude pervading our modern world. Not only are people today less willing to help one another, they often are not even willing to treat each other with common courtesy. Look at the thriving phenomenon of "road rage." Watch bargain-hunting shoppers jostling in line before a sale. Note the ease with which "cyber-bullying" lets angry people vent their rage at one another over the Internet.

Author Stephen L. Carter summed up many Americans' feelings in his book, *Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy:* "Although we Americans have always thought civility is collapsing, I think, this time, we might be right" (p. xi).

Yet despite media stereotypes of the "ugly American," the lack of civility is an international problem. In June of 2002, the government of the state of Victoria, Australia, stepped in to issue rules for parents of junior sports team members, responding to what the press called the "Ugly Parent Syndrome." The government's action was a result of an "increasing use of bad language and even physical aggression displayed by parents watching their children participating in junior sporting events" ("Why Civility Matters", *Centre for Independent Studies Policy*, Nicole Billante and Peter Saunders, vol. 18, no. 3, p. 35, Spring 2002).

In 2009, authors Alessandra Buonfino and Geoff Mulgan published *Civility Lost and Found*, in which they detailed the growing coarseness of British society. They noted: "A recent ITV survey concluded that Britain 'is getting ruder' with almost 90 percent of its respondents convinced that manners have deteriorated. Antisocial behaviour has been a prominent issue of public concern throughout the last decade and Britain is now reportedly the worst country for road rage in the European Union" (p. 12).

Even Canada, a country known for its civility, is afflicted. A Statistics Canada survey of 11,000 Canadians found that one in four felt concerned about the evidence of "incivility," or signs of potential crime, in their community (*CBC News*, July 15, 2008).

In response to this troubling phenomenon, more and more voices are calling for a renewal of civility in our personal and public lives. Websites such as *collapseofcivility.org* and *civilityproject.org* are springing up. Convention planning and public relations associations are putting more emphasis on civility and respect among colleagues and clients. The Civility Initiative, founded in 2000 by Johns Hopkins professor Dr. P. M. Forni, was constituted for the purpose of "assessing the significance of civility, manners and politeness in contemporary society."

Indeed, groups all over the world have initiated programs to reverse the tide of incivility. "These range from student movements promoting local kindness in Japan, to the Singaporean governmentfunded World Kindness movement promoting a World Kindness day in November and a campaign suggesting good manners for every situation. The South Korean Bright Smile movement promotes the importance of smiling and sharing smiles through programmes in schools and local communities, while the Kindness Offensive in London's West Hampstead performs small and large random acts of kindness towards strangers through the work of volunteers" (Buonfino, p. 30).

Truly, many sense that there is something wrong and are concerned that incivility must be fixed. The question is: **How**?

### THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"?

Many in the older generation think they would like to return to a simpler, gentler time from the past. But studies make it clear that incivility is not just a generational division, or a young people's problem. In How Rude! The Teenagers' Guide to Good Manners, Alex J. Packer wrote, "93 percent of the teenagers we asked in a survey on manners agree with the statement 'It's important to have good manners'" (p. 4). Some young people are challenging and rejecting the poor example of their forebears. In 2003, a group of youth leaders in the Duluth, Minnesota/ Superior, Wisconsin area took Dr. P. M. Forni's book Choosing Civility and created the "Speak Your Peace" project based on its premise. It was a concerted effort to convince local leaders in city council and county commission positions to stop the derisive shouting matches in their meetings.

Not everyone believes that society used to be more civilized. "There is little agreement on the basic facts about whether British society is actually more or less civil than it was in the past. We know that murder rates are much lower than in the past, and that there appears to be much less casual violence. For the most part, Britain in even the most supposedly well-behaved periods of the past (e.g. the 1950s) was less ordered and more violent than the present, whether street brawls or child murders are counted" (Buonfino, p. 14).

Many today decry the acrimony in American politics, and for good reason. And yet, an honest evaluation shows politics has always been tainted with incivility. Almost 150 years ago, United States Congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina brutally caned Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts into unconsciousness as a result of two speeches Sumner, a Republican abolitionist, had given. Just five years later, the bloodiest war ever on America's shores, the very "uncivil" Civil War, broke out, leaving over 600,000 dead. Can any generation claim to have the ultimate answer to the "civility" question?

### As OLD As MANKIND?

Incivility is not a problem of youth, nor is it confined to one generation. In fact, it can be traced all the way back to the Garden of Edenwhere Adam and Eve, through sin, rejected their Creator's offer of an intimate, loving relationship of trust and mutual respect. Note, too, the account of their sons Cain and Abel. Each brought an offering to God, but Cain grew angry when God rejected his offering. God asked Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?" With murder in his heart, he approached his brother and furiously attacked and killed him (Genesis 4:6-8).

Eventually, God saw that "the wickedness of man was great in

the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). He destroyed the old, evil civilization with the Flood, and generations later called the patriarch Abraham and his children to walk with Him anew. Yet even in the family of Abraham's grandson Jacob, Scripture shows incivility again rearing its ugly head. Resentment against Joseph—Jacob's favorite-grew and festered in the minds of some of his brothers, until "they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him" (Genesis 37:4). Their harsh words turned into threats of violence-and to the shocking crime of selling their own brother into slavery.

Even when the very Son of God came to earth to live and walk among His creation, He was mistreated and ridiculed (Luke 8:53). At the end of His ministry, He was arrested and brought before the High Priest. "Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him... And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands" (Mark 14:65). Even as Christ hung, dying, on the stake, some blasphemed and reviled Him (Matthew 27:39, 41, 44). Why did the Son of God endure such extreme incivility against Himself? So that we might have a Savior, be forgiven, and *learn true*, godly civility ourselves.

### MORE AHEAD?

Historians point out that the decline of every great civilization has been accompanied by a *loss of civility.* "Corrupting morals, incivility and bad behaviours were, in ancient Greece and Rome, seen as deciding factors for the collapse of civilisations. In the 1700s, Edward Wortley Montagu in his *Reflections on the Rise and Fall of the Ancient Republics*, suggested that 'the principal causes of the [decline

of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations] was a degeneracy of manners, which reduced those once brave and free people into the most abject slavery" (Buonfino, p. 17).

Bible prophecy warns that greater incivility is ahead. Jesus Christ predicted that in the years just before His return, human



beings would betray one another and persecute true followers of God. "And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another... And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:10, 12). As any civilization turns its back on God and His Word—the only true guide to real civility—man's inhumanity to man only escalates.

The Apostle Paul continued this theme when he also predicted the collapse of a selfish and narcissistic society in the end-times: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful. unholv. unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1–5)! Does that describe us today?

The bad news is that incivility will continue, and will worsen. Long-time readers of *Tomorrow's World* magazine understand that the modern Israelite nations have been blessed with material possessions unimaginable to past generations! And yet, because of our sins, God's blessings to Abraham will be withdrawn. Confusion and chaos are sadly ahead of us unless we individually and nationally repent.

### Do UNTO OTHERS...

The essence of civility is to choose to exercise the self-restraint necessary to be mindful of the needs of others, regardless of how we feel at the moment. Civility is loving others because God commands us to and because we care for them. The Apostle Paul explained this in Philippians 2: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (vv. 3–5). Are you putting on the mind of Christ? Are you learning to focus not just on your own needs, but on the concerns of others?

Paul Meier, author of *Don't Let Jerks Get the Best of You*, writes that when it comes to civility, most people can be divided into several categories. The most difficult to get along with are those "who truly enjoy controlling, abusing, and dominating their fellowman and not feeling *any* guilt about the pain and suffering they cause." Another group, only slightly better, are people who "purposefully and willfully manipulate, control, and abuse their fellowman. And, while they usually feel some guilt afterward, they are likely to do it again." The last group includes most people we run into every day. These are the "good guys" who "mean well, try to be honest, fair, and trustworthy for the most part, but who may be a bit selfish now and then or take advantage of others without meaning real harm" (p. 8).

But think about it-how much selfishness is ok? What level of incivility are we willing to accept in our life? Paul wrote that true Christians should be striving to grow "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). Ultimately, the problem is not the inconsiderate shopper who edged us out at the grocery store, or the driver who cut us off in traffic, or the one who sent us a thoughtless e-mail. If we are honest, we realize: the problem is us!

### A KINGDOM OF CIVILITY?

Will civility make a comeback in society? Some world leaders are trying to make that happen. British Prime Minister David Cameron has emphasized "common decency" as among the waning attributes he hopes to help Britain revive (see "London Calling" on page 14 of this issue). In the United States, too, "civility has been a common theme in political rhetoric. In 1998, the then Mayor of New York Rudolph Giuliani suggested that 'students (should) learn the importance of civility in their history classes' while former U.S. President George W. Bush suggested in his inaugural speech that 'civility is not a tactic or a sentiment. It is the determined choice of trust over cynicism, of community over chaos'" (Buonfino, p. 15). While the efforts of civic, business, and even political leaders

are commendable, will they really turn the tide of incivility? Can they?

The truth is that real, lasting, godly civility across all human society will only be found when Christ rules on earth. Bible prophecy shows the Savior of the world will not only rule with a rod of iron and power (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27) but also with wisdom, understanding and righteousness (Isaiah 11:2-4). Isaiah 11:6-9 gives a picture of the tranquility and harmony in the coming world. If the coming millennial reign of Christ is typified by peace and civility among even the wild beasts, how much more among human beings who are made in the image of God?

How does God define true civility? Read about how children should respect parents (Ephesians 6:2) and how parents should *train*—not provoke—their children (Ephesians 6:4). Find out how husbands and wives should love and respect one another (Ephesians 5:33). Read how the younger generation should honor the older generation should honor the older generation (Leviticus 19:32). Discover what God says about resolving conflicts and giving constructive criticism (Matthew 18:15–17). Resolve not

to gossip (Psalm 15:3). Speak the truth *gently and kindly* (Ephesians 4:15). Consider the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–37), and compare it to how Angel Torres' neighbors treated him as he lay bleeding on that Hartford road.

Christianity is not a soft, watered-down feel-good philosophy for the weak of heart. It is a *challenge* to muster the faith and courage to love our fellow human beings. In his book, The Case for Civility: And Why Our Future Depends On It, author Os Guinness correctly explains that civility must be rebuilt if we are to survive as a civilization: "Civility must truly be restored. It is not to be confused with niceness and mere etiquette or dismissed as squeamishness about differences. It is a tough, robust, substantive concept... and a manner of conduct that will be decisive for the future of the American republic" (p. 3).

Even as the world coarsens around us, we individually have a choice. We must decide which road we will take: the path that leads to greater selfishness and anger, or the one that leads to humility, service and love. Heed the call to be a strong, faithful and godly ambassador of Christ. Choose civility!

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Christianity is more than just a set of beliefs; it is a Way of life. God has given His people the tools to live peaceful, happy and successful lives, if they will heed His instructions. Will you?



Write for our *FREE* booklet, *The Ten Commandments*, or download it from the Booklets section of our Web site *www.TomorrowsWorld.org*.

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### **The End of Liberté?**

All is not well in Europe. Debt woes and insolvency fears have swept the continent. Tough austerity measures have led to growing social unrest. There are increasing fears that as financial instability spreads from country to country, the "contagion" may push Europe back into recession—and that, combined with European and American debt problems, this could lead to another worldwide Great Depression (*London Telegraph*, "City fears of 'Great Depression Mark II," May 21, 2010)! Rising in the wake of the ancient Roman Empire's sudden collapse in 476AD, the Frankish Merovingian warrior dynasty ruled from Paris, establishing order even while much of the rest of Europe was suffering the horrors of constant barbarian invasion—and even barbarian rule.

It was the Frankish ruler Charles Martel who—in 732, at the Battle of Tours—defeated the Umayyad armies of Islam, which had previously conquered Spain. This marked

To limit the contagion, Europe has enacted painful tax hikes, payroll cuts and welfare reductions (*Reuters*, "Austerity measures around the Eurozone," June 8, 2010). However, it is **Germany** that is boldly pushing these policies. Germany's growing assertiveness has stunned the French, who find themselves on the sidelines—watching while in matters of policy **and** economy Europe finds itself "relying almost entirely



on Germany to drive growth" (*Financial Times*, "German strength drives eurozone recovery," August 2, 2010).

No matter how the E.U. evolves through the current crisis, Scripture reveals it will not be France at the helm of the final European empire. Rather, it will be *a powerful and resurgent Germany*. And this new world order will be *catastrophic* for France, Britain and the United States!

France, Britain and the U.S. are brother nations *much more literally than most people understand!* But just how is their history connected? What is ahead for them?

### FRANCE'S PAST GLORY

Understanding France's history provides insight into its European aspirations. France has long considered itself the custodian and protector of Western civilization, and has taken for granted a dominant role in Europe. It is partially because of this heritage that France aspires to *future* glory. the end of Islam's incursion into Europe from the west, and set the stage for the powerful Carolingian dynasty, which had come into power by 751. The famous Carolingian ruler Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 800.

In 1066, after England's King Edward died childless, his cousin William, the Duke of Normandy, invaded and was crowned England's

king at Westminster Abbey. France and England continued to maintain a tight connection—sharing lands, royal bloodlines, customs and laws, and participating in numerous Crusades into the Holy Land.

Eventually, the French would become embroiled in the Hundred Years' War. The House of Valois fought to expel the House of Plantagenet. By 1453, the House of Plantagenet was defeated, and so was the Plantagenet dream of a unified French-English empire. From then on, the French and English kingdoms would grow as *separate nations*, but in spite of intermittent conflicts they would share a *common heritage* and an enduring bond. As we will see, they also share a *common future*.

With the French Revolution in 1789 came the battle cry: *liberté, égalité, fraternité!* France today sees itself not only as a nation with a proud historic past, but also as one whose values ought to be at the heart of future European power. For all these reasons and more, French leaders believe their

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nation deserves a leadership role in the Europe of the future. But Bible prophecy reveals that France's dreams will not be realized within the coming European empire!

### **EMPIRE OF IRON AND CLAY**

Germany is taking the lead in enacting strict financial regulatory measures to bolster the European financial system. Germany is the most powerful economy in the European Union, and the most bold. Germany is most powerfully driving economic and political unification. And Bible prophecy helps us understand that it is under the aegis of a powerful German-dominated European Union that the final resurrection of the ancient "Holy Roman Empire" will occur. To learn more about this fascinating topic, please request our free booklet, The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor or Soon-Coming Reality?

As God's Church has long warned, this final revival of the old Holy Roman Empire will be an uneasy alliance of ten national or regional "kings" who will give their authority to one supreme king (known in Scripture as the "beast"), whose armies will be among those fighting Christ at His return (Revelation 17:12–14, 17)! Your Bible describes this end-time superpower as a mixture "partly of iron and partly of clay" (Daniel 2:33). This empire will briefly lead the world in *economic prosperity* (Revelation 18:3). And it will quickly turn to *military* dominance (Revelation 13:4).

But, what of France? And what of England, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other descendants of ancient Jacob?

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ warned of the coming Great Tribulation—a time also described as "the time of *Jacob*'s trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7). What does this mean? As long-time *Tomorrow's World* readers understand, the U.S. and Great Britain are modern-day descendants of the patriarch Jacob (whose name God changed to "Israel"), through his son Joseph. Modern France is largely descended from Jacob's first-born son, Reuben, whose descendants known as Gauls—migrated to northwestern Europe long before Charlemagne, hundreds of years before Christ, along with remnants of other Israelite tribes, including their cousins the Celts. Scripture shows that although Reuben's descendants would partake in the blessings promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the first-born son's birthright blessing of future national greatness was transferred to Reuben's nephews, "the sons of Joseph" (Genesis 49:3–4; 1 Chronicles 5:1–2). To learn more about the modern-day descendants of ancient Jacob, please request our free booklet, *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*.

### TRAGEDY AND GLORY AHEAD!

Thousands of years of history, and the pages of today's newspapers, are setting the stage for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy regarding France and its European neighbors. Neither France nor Britain will lead a united Europe. Rather, they will find themselves increasingly at odds with—and eventually subservient to—a resurgent Germany.

History shows that Germany (which can be identified in Scripture as the modern descendant of ancient Assyria) has in the past been willing to act unilaterally, *and aggressively*, to advance its interests. Prophecy shows that it will again, while the nations descended from ancient Israel will together "stumble in their iniquity" (Hosea 5:5)!

France, Britain, America and the rest of "modern Jacob" have much more to fear than a "double-dip recession" or even a terrible, devastating "Great Depression II." Absent true repentance, these nations are destined to partake of the "time of Jacob's trouble"—and will exchange their *liberté* for *austerity*. God will use a German-led European empire to punish modern Jacob for its sins (Isaiah 11:10–12; 48; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 17:12–13).

But there is good news, in the end! Jesus Christ will then return and redeem *the entire house of Israel*. He will smash the Beast power and rescue Jacob's descendants from bondage (Jeremiah 31:8–11; Daniel 2:33–35; Revelation 18:5–8). Then, the "Son of the Highest" will sit on "the throne of His father David," and "He will reign over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32–33)! He will establish His perfect, righteous kingdom on this earth (Romans 14:11; Revelation 5:13), for *all* nations and *all* peoples (Isaiah 11:9; 19:23–25)!

Will the ideals of true *liberté*, *égalité* and *fraternité* ever be fulfilled? Yes! In the coming Kingdom of God! —Wyatt Ciesielka



"Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died" (Revelation 16:3). Many have noted the eerie sight of the British Petroleum "Deepwater Horizon" oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and have compared it to what the Apostle John saw in vision and recorded in Scripture more than 1,900 years ago. Some even wonder: Has the second angel poured

out the bowl of the wrath of God?

The Apostle John wrote his words while living in exile on the island of Patmos. There, as an elderly man near the end of his life, he had a most incredible experience. In vision, he was transported into the future, to the time of God's impending intervention and judgment on humanity. In the vision, John saw what life would be like at the end of this age, just before Jesus' return. Christ revealed to John the things that would come to pass at the end, so he could record them to show God's servants down through time what must take place (cf. Revelation 22:6).

Before Christ's arrest and

crucifixion, His disciples asked Him what life would be like at the time of the end, just before His return (cf. Matthew 24). When Christ answered their question, He also said "See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass" (Matthew 24:6). Christ told of many signs that would precede His return and although the picture painted is dark indeed, His purpose was that His followers, knowing what would come, would not be alarmed. Christ's intent was that, in knowing what to look for, His disciples would not be caught off-guard when His return would come quickly after these events occurred.

Events just ahead of us are unlike anything that has ever happened on earth in nearly six thousand years of human history. Those who dismiss the Bible's end-time prophecies as a recounting of past history, or as mere allegory, will be in for a rude awakening. The prophesied events will come to pass, and those who understand now have the opportunity to prepare for Christ's return. Sadly, many others ignoring the fulfillment of prophecy all around them in the news headlines—will be caught unaware.

What about you? Will you be prepared? Do you know what events to look for? Do you know the sequence in which prophesied events will occur?

Many consider Revelation the most difficultto-understand book in the Bible. Some dismiss its

> complicated narrative, inset chapters and vivid descriptions as little more than fantasy. Others assume that it allegorizes past history. The truth, however, is far more remarkable: if you understand Revelation, you can know the future of the world!

The seven bowls representing God's wrath on the earth will be poured out in rapid succession. If the bowls were not poured out rapidly, no flesh would be saved alive. Together, these seven bowls—judgments make up the seventh trumpet, announcing the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 11:15; 19:16). These bowl judgments, also known as the seven last plagues (Revelation 15:1), come in the prophetic sequence after the



OIL FROM THE BP DEEPWATER HORIZON SPREADS ACROSS THE GULF OF MEXICO.

seven seals of Revelation (Revelation 6) and after the seven trumpets (Revelation 8 and 9).

Since the imagery described in the Bible is so dramatic, and is so far removed from what we see around us, it can be hard to imagine that those events really will occur. However, when we watch the news and see a shocking event described in biblical language, it can help us understand how quickly the seemingly "permanent" can change.

No, the dramatic pictures of oil on the ocean appearing as if blood, as seen from the BP Deepwater Horizon spill, are not the second bowl of God's wrath. But they do foreshadow it, and should give us pause as we consider what the "real thing" will look like.

Do not let what is coming catch you by surprise. To understand the future of the world and how it will impact your life, be sure to read our free booklet, *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled!* 

### Who Is the Devil?

Continued from page 12

Be warned. Satan can control you if you do not control your anger. "'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:26-27). Uncontrolled rage can lead to a satanic bitterness, and anyone who remains consumed with anger will ultimately end up in the lake of fire. Do not let Satan have his way with you. Learn to live at peace with others. We read: "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled" (Hebrews 12:14–15).

Even Christians sometimes face difficulty and stress because of past hurts and abuse. As a result, they may become careless and allow a root of bitterness to spring up in them. They want to hold on to the pain of the past, and even to relish some hopedfor revenge. But what does God say? "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Romans 12:19). God will ultimately inflict righteous judgment and punishment on all unrepentant sinners. Christians, however, must learn to forgive! In His "outline prayer," Jesus taught us to ask God to "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Do you pray that way? Pray for your enemies. Learn to let go and forgive. You will be thwarting Satan, and you will not be giving in to his attitude of malice and revenge!

### SATAN'S FATE AND CHRISTIANS' VICTORY!

We have seen a few of the devil's strategies and how to avoid his deceptions. Realize that Satan's fate is already decided. At the final judgment, all the wicked will be consumed in the lake of fire. Satan and his demons will also be cast into the lake of fire. "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

We look forward to the time when all evil will be banished from this earth. We pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" Until then, Satan and his demons will continue to attack and deceive wherever they can. What can you do to overcome this evil Resist! God will give you the power. Get down on your knees and pray to your Father in heaven. Study the Bible—God's inspired word—and obey its instructions. When Jesus faced Satan's temptations, He fought the devil by quoting Scripture. Jesus used these spiritual weapons. You need them, too!

The Apostle Paul tells us to be fully armed spiritually. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against

God has made these promises. You need not give in to temptations, or to feelings of depression or fear. Resist! God will give you the power. Get down on your knees and pray to your Father in heaven. Study the Bible—God's inspired word—and obey its instructions.

force? Christians must overcome the influence of the world, the power of Satan and his demons and their own human nature.

First, we need a close relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. God will protect us from evil. The "outline prayer" teaches us to ask of God, "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:13).

God will protect you and deliver you from the evil one, if you cry out to Him for deliverance—if, in word and deed, you choose the Kingdom of God and reject the kingdom of Satan. As He inspired the Apostle James to write, "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:6–8).

God has made these promises. You need not give in to temptations, or to feelings of depression or fear. the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:10–13).

Who is the devil? He is neither an imaginary figure, nor a comicbook character in a red suit with horns and tail. He is not a creature to "have fun about" on Halloween. The devil is your enemy, and wants to see you destroyed. But you can overcome him, if you use the sword of the Spirit—the word of God—and if you live by that word. The Apostle John wrote, "I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one" (1 John 2:14). You can have peace of mind. Act on the words of your Bible, and with the help of vour Savior, vou too can overcome Satan!

#### Why Is Everything Going Wrong at Once?

**Continued from page 2** 

times, Scripture prophesies that if America turns away from God's commandments and His statutes (Leviticus 26:15–16), He would let the nation experience "terror"—or "terrorism," as it may be translated. Furthermore, as punishment for continued disobedience, God warns, "I will **break** the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit" (vv. 19–20).

What have been the two primary symbols of America's power? Its overwhelming military strength and its unmatched national wealth. No other nation has matched the U.S. in those key areas of national pride and prestige. But now-unless there is national repentanceand a genuine turning to the God of the Bible, America's military power will be broken on the foreign battlefieldsof Afghanistan and Iraq, and soon perhaps Iran and elsewhere-as the U.S. military is "spread too thin" and God's protective hand is removed because of mounting sins. Also, as vv. 19-20 point out, at this juncture a onceprosperous nation will begin to experience crop failures, food shortages and-still later-"plagues" or disease epidemics! All these national punishments, and others like them, will come upon the modern descendants of ancient Israel, because we have rejected God!

Our modern Western nations are increasingly disobedient against the laws and statutes of the Eternal God who made us and who gives us life and breath. Remember, the God of the Bible strictly commands, "*Thou shalt not kill*" (Exodus 20:13, *KJV*). That same God also commands, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an **abomination**" (Leviticus 18:22). Yet today, because of the incessant onslaught of secular propaganda foisted upon them, *millions* of young people have been desensitized to right and wrong. They literally do not understand the difference between what the God of the Bible strictly commands and what "Hollywood" and its supporters promote. Their minds have been **seared** so they do not grasp the *enormity of sin*, or what "sin" is even about. This is **damnable**!

Can we understand that *more than 40 million* young human beings have had their skulls crushed or their brains vacuumed out in the name of "reproductive rights"?

And now we behold the ludicrous spectacle of men "marrying" men! Such a perverted practice would have brought ridicule and total derision even a few decades ago. It would have been treated like the Pennsylvania farmer who literally came to a preacher with his donkey and *asked the minister to "marry" him to his donkey*! This was done, tongue-in-cheek, to show this farmer's *utter disgust* at the idea that a few homosexuals were, even many years ago, discussing the idea of men "marrying" men. Yet, today, our "educators" and "leaders" often act as if such perverted practices are absolutely "normal." And they are *determined* to make them **seem** "normal"—and will continue until the God of heaven intervenes and **stops** all of this by sending His Son back to this earth as King of kings!

May God help you to be an "overcomer"—to fulfill the **purpose** for which God has given you life and breath, and to be given eternal life in His soon-coming Kingdom. "He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son" (Revelation 21:7). But may God help you **not** to be in the other category of those who laugh and sneer at God's word and literally "despise" the laws and ways of their Creator. For God says in the *very next verse*, "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" (v. 8).

May God help you, dear reader, to wake up before it is too late! May God help you to genuinely study your Bible as never before—and prove to yourself where Christ is working today and what you should be doing about it. If you have not already done so, contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed below on this page) to request your *free* copy of our stirring booklet, *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return*, detailing the major prophetic events that will soon come upon us. And, while you are at it, request our eye-opening and inspiring booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. This in-depth booklet will explain to you, in detail, the way of God that all of us should be living. These powerful booklets—sent absolutely free upon your request, like all our literature—will help you more fully understand what lies just ahead, and why.

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### TOMORROW'S WORLD TELEVISION LOG

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AR	Fort Smith	KHBS	SUN 7:00 a.m
	Jonesboro	KJOS	SUN 7:00 a.m
AZ	Phoenix	КРРХ	WED 11:30 p
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	Redding	KHSL	SUN 8:00 a.m
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	San Bernardino	KPXN	THU 12:30 a.
CO	Denver	КРХС	WED 11:30 p
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	Monroe	KNOE
	New Orleans	WPXL
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	Elmira	WENY
	New York	WPXN
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	Oklahoma City	KOKH
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### • Nationwide Cable WGN-SUN 6:00 a.m. ET

WORD-SUN 7:30 p.m. ET ION-THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT CW-PLUS—SUN 8:00 a.m. ET/PT

#### DirecTV

Riverton

WGN-CH 307, SUN 6:00 a.m. ET WORD-CH 373, SUN 7:30 p.m. ET ION-CH 305, THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT

Dish Network WGN-CH 181, SUN 6:00 a.m. ET ION-Ch 216, THU 12:30 a.m. ET/PT

#### Canada

VISION, Toronto—SUN 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m.; MON-FRI 3:00 a.m. ET ON, Toronto: Grace Television-Cable, SUN 4:00 p.m., WED 9:00 a.m. ET



WGN: SUN 6:00 a.m. ET WORD (TWN): SUN 7:30 p.m. ET VISION, Canada: SUN 4:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. ET; MON 1:30 a.m. ET MON-FRI 3:00 a.m. ET

**New U.S.A. Television Station:** MO, Joplin: KFJX 8:30 a.m.

**New Canada Television Station: QC**, Montreal: CJNT 8:00 a.m.

### NEW TIME ON ION NETWORK STATIONS, STARTING SEPTEMBER 29!

Beginning on September 29, ION Network viewers will be able to see *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday mornings!

ION Network stations that previously aired the telecast Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. (see the TV Log on page 31 of this issue) will air *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday at 5:30 a.m. Stations that previously aired the telecast Thursday at 12:30 a.m. will air *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

Come and see us on ION at our new time!