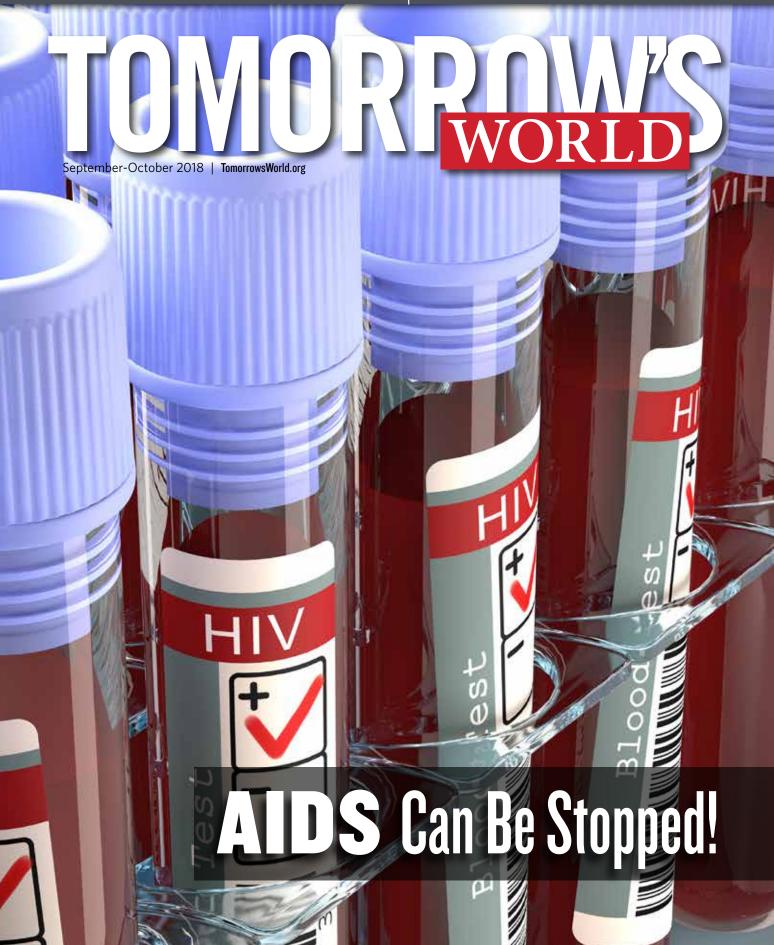
Prophecies for the Middle East | King of the Arctic



Design Implies Purpose

his article began in beautiful British
Columbia, one of my favorite places
on this planet we call home. On my
recent trip to Canada, I recorded three
Canadian-version *Tomorrow's World* telecasts, gave a *Tomorrow's World* Presentation in Kelowna and also
spoke by way of an Internet connection to our congregations in Western Canada. Then I took a few days
off with friends at a remote lakeside cabin—where I
find myself now, writing this letter to you.

Outside, I see majestic mountains and white fluffy clouds painted against a magnificent blue canvas. Have you ever considered how truly remarkable our earthly home is? It is so easy to take for granted, and no matter where you travel, you find earthly treasures abounding. There are tropical islands where delicious fruits hang from native trees. The cornfields of Iowa and Nebraska feed both man and beast. Then there are the towering snow-covered mountain ranges of Europe, Asia and South America, which provide water for lower regions during the heat of summer. We marvel at the strange, colorful creatures inhabiting our oceans. But we can still take it all for granted.

Life Out There?

I heard in grade school that life might be found on Mars or Venus, our closest neighbors, but such hopes were shattered decades ago by later scientific discoveries. Scientists are beginning to understand how unique our planet truly is. Many imagine that with so many galaxies, so many stars, and so many planets out there, life must exist somewhere else in our universe. However, the more scientists learn about the conditions needed to support life, even so-called primitive life, the slimmer the chances become. More importantly, there is the problem of how life could ever develop from non-living material anywhere. The odds against even a single protein evolving are astronomical. It is statistically impossible. No one has truly produced new life from non-living material, and no one can give a plausible explanation that stands up to scrutiny concerning how this ever could happen.

The fact that you are reading this magazine probably indicates you see the marvel of design in every living creature and recognize the need for a Creator, a Designer, a Life-giver. This brings me to a very important question: *Why* are we here?

At the *Tomorrow's World* Presentation in Kelowna, I pointed out how few consider the meaning and purpose of life. Why did an intelligent Being put us here on this special place? Why are we even capable of considering such a question?

Few people invest time trying to discover the answer. Instead, they move from one exciting activity to another. They cheer for their favorite team and live for the next game. They make as much money as pos-

can (or cannot) afford, and go along with the customs handed down to them.

They are oblivious to the why question. Many try to live what they consider a "good life," believing their feeble efforts may somehow give them life after

death, but their decisions

make it evident that life

sible, buy as many toys as they

after death is not their top priority. Instead, they live a just-in-case life—that is, a life lived a certain half-hearted way "just in case" there is a God, and "just in case" there is life after death.

We exist because a Mind far greater than our own designed, engineered and created us. If that is true—and I believe most of you reading this article believe it is—then there must be a purpose. However, too few (perhaps including some of you) care enough to try to discover that purpose. How sad!

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Precious Knowledge

Many of our booklets, magazine articles and Tomorrow's World telecasts address this subject. This is precious knowledge that I personally never learned in the mainstream churches I attended growing up, and I am certain you were not taught them where you attended Sunday services. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus has transcendent significance to every human being, even though most have little idea what all this means. But, what was the message Jesus brought prior to His death, burial and resurrection?

In passage after passage in what is called the New Testament of the Bible, we read about the Kingdom of God—but what does that mean? It is not what most church-goers think. It is not about going to heaven. It is not the great golf game, fishing excursion or marijuana patch in the sky. Instead, Jesus Christ taught His disciples that He would return and set up a kingdom on this earth, and we can have a part in ruling that kingdom with Him.

A man once came to Jesus asking, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" He was told to "keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:16–17). This sounded simple enough, but by the end of the conversation, it was evident that the individual was not willing to go "all the way" to obey God. The man's god was his money, and Jesus pointed out to His disciples how difficult it is for someone of wealth to put God first. This teaching stunned His disciples. They had given up all to follow Him and they wanted to know, essentially, what was in it for them (vv. 21-27).

Jesus replied, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (v. 28). This ought to create several questions in our minds. For example, were not ten of the twelve tribes lost in history, absorbed into other nations and peoples, as many claim? How, then, can there be twelve distinct tribes when Christ returns? Our booklet, The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy, explains this mystery in detail.

We also read that King David will be resurrected to life and will rule over all twelve tribes of Israel

(Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24). Verse 24 of Ezekiel 34 makes it clear that these passages are not referring to Christ, but to David himself, as it mentions both "the LORD" and David: "And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them...."

Why did an intelligent **Being put us** here on this special place? Why are we even capable of considering such a question? Few people invest time trying to discover the answer.

Jesus' disciples first thought He would set up His kingdom during their lifetime, but He gave them a parable to dispel that idea (Luke 19:11-27). In the parable, rewards are given to those who actively obeyed the commands given to them. The first man multiplied the mina given to him tenfold. "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities" (v. 17). The man who multiplied his mina fivefold was to receive rulership over five cities (v. 19).

We see this pattern in what is prophesied to come. When Christ returns, He will be King over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9). Under Him will be David over all twelve tribes of Israel. Under David will be Jesus' twelve Apostles, each ruling over one of the twelve tribes. And then we find that others of the servants of God will rule various cities to bring peace and prosperity to this troubled world. Numerous scriptures point out that the reward of God's servants will be on this earth (Revelation 5:10; Daniel 7:27).

This is only a small part of a much larger picture of why you were born. God has a great purpose in mind for you. Is it not time you discovered the meaning of your life?

If you would like to learn more-much more than you will learn in a Sunday-morning worship service request our free booklet, Your Ultimate Destiny. The regional office nearest you, listed on page 4, would be delighted to send you a copy upon your request.

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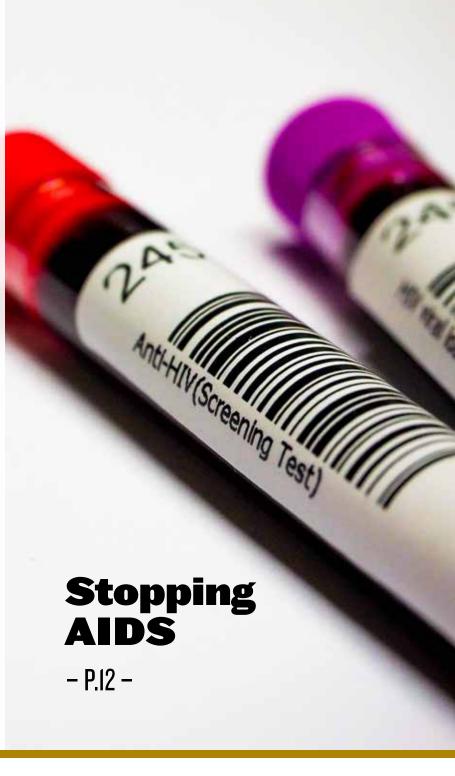
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Circulation: 247,000



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Five Prophecies for the Middle East

God's word identifies the Middle East as the key location for endtime conflicts leading up to the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom. These five prophecies for the Middle East describe events that must occur before that return—events you should be looking for!

By Richard F. Ames

iblical prophecy reveals that events in the Middle East will determine the future of the whole world. Have you been watching this tumultuous region? Do you know what to be watching for?

"When the Middle East sneezes, the rest of the world—especially America and Western Europe—may get the flu," observed Israeli journalist Yossi Melman. Indeed, conflicts in the Middle East are often keenly felt in the U.S., and the reverse is also true.

"The United States military is spending about \$1 million to help detain thousands of Islamic State fighters and their family members in makeshift camps run by Kurdish militias in northern Syria, drawing the Pentagon deeper into the war-zone detention operations that it has sought to avoid" writes Eric Schmitt of the *New York Times*. "Critics fear the facilities could become breeding grounds for extremists and repeat a key security miscue of the

Iraq war." Schmitt goes on to write that "Over the past month alone, and armed with new authorities from Mr. Trump, American Special Operations forces continue to hunt Islamic State and Qaeda operatives." Clearly, conflict in the Middle East is far from being a thing of the past!

One way or another, the Middle East seems to remain an ongoing focus of world conflict. Will there ever be a time when this region—or, indeed, all the regions of our world—will experience true, lasting peace?

The good news is that your Bible foretells a time when peace will ultimately reign on Earth, but that time will come only after a period of intense war and suffering such as our world has never before seen. Yet, if we know what prophesied events to watch for, we can have hope and confidence in God's promised future of peace, even while we are still in the midst of terrible hatred and devastation. This article will examine five key prophesied events for which we should all be watching.

Prophecy #1: New Military Alliances East of the Euphrates River

Do you remember the Iran-Iraq War? It lasted from 1980 to 1988, and more than a million people were killed. The Euphrates River figured prominently in that conflict, and your Bible shows that it will again be central in prophesied end-time events.

The Euphrates River runs from Turkey through Syria and Iraq to the Persian Gulf. The nation of Iran lies immediately to the east of Iraq. During the prophesied Day of the Lord, an immense army of 200 million soldiers will move westward across the Euphrates River into the Middle East.

In the Book of Revelation, we read about a powerful army from the east, which will kill billions of people. The Apostle John describes this as the sixth trumpet plague. Notice where this huge force will be gathered: "Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates'" (Revelation 9:13–14).

Yes, the Euphrates River is the focal point for this prophecy. John continues:

"So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths" (Revelation 9:15–18).

This is describing a world war in which billions of human beings will die, as an army of 200 million drives west across the Euphrates River and destroys one-third of the planet's population! This is why Jesus Christ told us that unless those days would be shortened, no flesh would be saved alive (Matthew 24:21–22).

What world powers are east of the Euphrates? Look at a map, and you will find nations including Iran, India, China and Russia. Be sure to watch those nations' military developments and international alliances. Watch them also for growing investments in military power, including nuclear weapons!

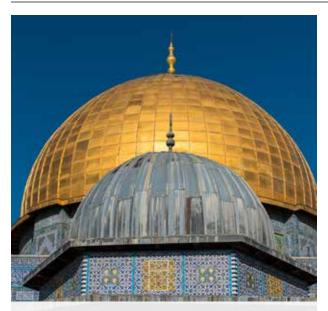
Prophecy #2: Greater Unity Among Israel's Traditional Enemies

In June 1967, Israel fought what came to be called the "Six-Day War." Pitted against the combined forces of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This victory gave Israel access to Jerusalem's ancient holy sites, including the Western Wall (also known as the "Wailing Wall") at the Temple Mount. At the close of the war, Israel offered to return the West Bank to Palestinian control, if they would accept Israel's complete ownership of Jerusalem. Gamel Abdul Nassar, Egypt's president at the time, joined with his Arab neighbors in saying "No!" to Israel's land-for-peace offer.

Seven years later, on October 6, 1973, Israel again was at war. In what became known as the "Yom Kippur War"—since it began on the Day of Atonement that year—Israel repelled invasions by Egypt and Syria. Eventually Israel, Egypt and Syria agreed to a United Nations cease-fire plan ending that conflict.

Since then, there have been occasional military strikes, as well as the years-long *intifada* (Arabic for "shaking off") in which Palestinians expressed resistance—sometimes bloodily—to what they considered unjust Israeli rule. Fighting and bloodshed also continued among warring Palestinian factions; Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas at one point described his nation as being "on the verge of civil war" due to struggles between his Fatah organization and the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Even in the midst of conflicts within the Arab and Muslim nations, many are nevertheless united by a pervasive hatred of Israel. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani denounced Israel as "an occupier and usurper government" that "does injustice to the people of the [Middle East] region, and has brought instability to the region, with its warmongering policies." According to the *Times of Israel*, commander Mohammad Reza Naqdi of the Basij militia of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in 2015 that "erasing Israel off the map" was "nonnegotiable." Although traditional disputes among Arabs and Muslims will continue, watch for growing unity of these forces



The Dome of the Rock situated on the Temple Mount in modern Jerusalem

against Israel. Your Bible shows that a future "king of the South" will unite several Arab nations, and that this combined force will be seen as a threat by the "king of the North" and will intensify conflict around Jerusalem (Daniel 11:40–45). This will bring about a frightening conflict that will shake our world, but Bible students will be able to recognize that this is also a harbinger of Jesus Christ's imminent return.

Prophecy #3: International Attempts to Control Jerusalem

Historically and religiously, Jerusalem is important to followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. All these religions look to Jerusalem as the site of major events central to their faith. Jews treasure Jerusalem as the city of the great prophets, and as the capital of the kingdom of Israel and Judah under King David and his son King Solomon.

Solomon's Temple, also known as the "First Temple," was built in Jerusalem under King Solomon's direction in the tenth century BC and remained as Judah's center of worship until the Babylonians destroyed it in the sixth century BC, when the people of Judah were taken into captivity. Rebuilt as the "Second Temple" after the Jews returned from Babylon, it remained the focal point of Jewish worship until it was destroyed by Roman armies in 70AD.

Jerusalem is also considered the third most holy city of Islam, after Mecca and Medina. It is home to the "Dome of the Rock"—a gold-domed mosque that has dominated the Temple Mount since 691AD and remains the oldest Muslim-built structure known to exist. Muslims refer to the Temple Mount as the *Haram al-Sharif* ("The Noble Sanctuary") and believe that the Dome of the Rock marks the location from which Muhammad ascended to heaven, accompanied by the angel Gabriel.

Christians, of course, look to Jerusalem as the city where Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected, but also as the site of His prophesied Second Coming—when His feet will first touch the earth at the Mount of Olives in eastern Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:4).

For years, Jerusalem's importance to three major world religions has made its administration a focus of international controversy. Although Israel has controlled both East and West Jerusalem since 1967, many other governments want to see Jerusalem administered internationally. The original 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine (UN General Assembly Resolution 181) proposed that Jerusalem be treated as a *corpus separatum*—an internationally administered zone-and although this status never took effect, many still hope for something similar to be achieved. In 1984, Pope John Paul II wrote in his apostolic letter Redemptoris Anno that he hoped Jerusalem could be given a "special internationally guaranteed status." Who might guarantee that status? In 1975, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proposed that Jerusalem become an international city, with the control of holy places and religious administration given to the Roman Catholic pontiff.

Will such international control of Jerusalem be achieved? The Bible reveals that a shocking turn of events will occur, through which Jerusalem will be controlled not by Israel, but instead by other governmental powers. The Apostle John wrote, "Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months'" (Revelation 11:1–2).

Yes, Jerusalem ("the holy city") will be controlled by the Gentiles for 42 months before Jesus Christ returns! A great world power, described as the "Beast" in the book of Revelation, will invade the Middle East and take control of Jerusalem for the three-and-a-half-year period preceding the return of Jesus Christ! During that time, two prophets of God will be witnessing with great power and will contend against the Gentile force that will then be dominating the Middle East (Revelation 11:3–14).

Prophecy #4: Animal Sacrifices Restored by Jews in Jerusalem

If you have read the books of Daniel and Matthew in your Bible, you may have been puzzled by the mysterious "abomination of desolation." What is it, and what will it mean in end-time prophecy? First, let us look at Jesus' own words: He said, "'Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel

fices will again be cut off! Jesus warns us as Christians to be alert to an end-time abomination of desolation! Just as Antiochus Epiphanes profaned the temple in 167BC and cut off the sacrifices, so will a profane authority cut off Jewish sacrifices in the future! In fact, the Apostle Paul warns of a great false prophet that will stand in the holy place. "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4).

A great false prophet will work great miracles and deceive millions of people. He will cultivate worship toward himself and claim the mantle of divinity. This great false prophet will work amazing miracles, even

calling down fire from heaven, and he will deceive millions of people around the world (Revelation 13:13–14)! But we must not be deceived by these signs and wonders! Scripture

EVEN IN THE MIDST OF CONFLICTS WITHIN THE ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS, MANY ARE NEVERTHELESS UNITED BY A PERVASIVE HATRED OF ISRAEL

the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains'" (Matthew 24:15–16).

Clearly, this is an important warning to understand. It signals the time when God's people are to flee to escape the final three-and-a-half-year sequence of devastating end-time prophetic calamities.

Historically, the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes issued a decree in 167BC that prohibited the Jews from making sacrifices in the Temple. "And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation" (Daniel 11:31). Not only did Antiochus stop the daily sacrifices; he erected in the temple a statue of Jupiter Olympus and directed everyone to worship it.

This event, also described in Daniel 8, prefigures a prophesied end-time milestone. "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days" (Daniel 12:11). Yes, 1,290 days before Jesus Christ's second coming, animal sacri-

tells us, "Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

But there is a catch. The Jews have not offered animal sacrifices since 70AD, when the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. In order for end-time sacrifices to be stopped, they need to have been started! When animal sacrifices begin again in Jerusalem, you will know that the prophecies Jesus spoke about are soon heading for a grand-smash climax!

Watch for developments in Israel leading to the reinstitution of animal sacrifices. This may or may not mean the rebuilding of a full-scale temple structure. Notice what happened when the Jews returned from Babylonian exile around 536BC. They had a holy place, but not yet a temple. The book of Ezra describes their coming to the "House of God" *before* they had a temple in which to offer sacrifice (Ezra 3:6). *Later*, in the verses that follow, we read about the laying of a temple's foundation.

The point is that sacrifices must be presented in a "holy place"—but we have seen in Ezra that sacrifices

FIVE PROPHECIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

IF I WERE A RICH MAN...

What is your best investment?

hat if money were no object? Who hasn't had this question put to them by a friend or acquaintance? What would be your answer? Would you decide to travel, buy a house or pay off your mortgage? Would you "party hearty," or would you bank a sizable sum?

Folks in our Western culture often admire others who are financially successful. However, just because someone has made money doesn't necessarily mean they have it made.

Many who find themselves suddenly rich—in the situation where choices are not limited by lack of money—are only better off for a short while. The benefits that come with unexpected wealth do not often last.

A few years ago, writer Sheri Masters made an interesting observation:

Statistics about the impact of sudden wealth are grim: The rate of lottery winners filing for bankruptcy within five years of winning is double that of the general population, according to a study by economists at the University of Kentucky, University of Pittsburgh and Vanderbilt University; Sports Illustrated has reported that 78 percent of former NFL players are bankrupt or experience financial difficulties within two years of retirement; interviews by the Williams Group of more than 2,000 families who had gone through estate planning and wealth transfer revealed that 70 percent of those families lost control of their assets-and their family harmony—in the first generation after the transfer (Wells Fargo: Conversations, November 11, 2012).

One online resource, *Investopedia*, defined Sudden Wealth Syndrome as "a syndrome afflicting individuals who suddenly come into large sums of money"—such as those who win the lottery, for example. The definition continues, "Becoming suddenly wealthy can cause an individual stress. Its symptoms include: feeling isolated from former friends, guilt over their good fortune, and an extreme fear of losing all their money."

Some individuals even experience forms of identity crisis, as they make decisions or feel influenced by forces and experiences far different than they ever expected (or were prepared) to encounter in their life before being "in the money."

Money can be a blessing or a curse depending on how it is used. The misuse of money can certainly end up causing grief and tragedy—consequences that stick around long after the money is gone.

Jesus Christ gave counsel about one's attitude in regard to wealth. He said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). What else should your life consist of?

It has been said that a person usually does not have time and money at the same occasion. But if you have a measure of wealth, then you also have a measure of time. What, then, is your best investment?

In the popular musical "Fiddler on the Roof," the lead character, Reb Tevye, sings the song, "If I Were

Your sweetest investment, regardless of riches, is ultimately found in the pages of your Bible. a Rich Man." Here are some of the lyrics: "If I were rich, I'd have the time that I lack to sit in the synagogue and pray. And maybe have a seat by the Eastern wall. And I'd discuss the holy books with the learned men, several hours every day. That would be the sweetest thing of all." For

Reb Tevye, pursuing the principles found in the Holy Scripture would be the sweetest thing of all. You, too, could benefit from that same kind of sweetness.

Your sweetest investment, regardless of riches, is ultimately found in the pages of your Bible, seeking the wealth that does not diminish with age. As Mr. Richard Ames, in our *Tomorrow's World* telecast "Vital Keys for Bible Study" has stated, "The Bible can transform your life, if you know how to study it. Bible study can be exciting and fresh and relevant, if you apply the Bible's own guidance to your study." You might consider looking up that telecast on the *Tomorrow's World* YouTube channel.

-Brian Pomicter



King of the Arctic



CANADA

On the front of the Canadian two-dollar coin

is the image of an animal that symbolizes dominance and power in the far northern regions of the planet. *Ursus maritimus*, the polar bear, a creature of rare beauty, is particularly suited for the brutally harsh environment of the

northern arctic zone.

This great bear is the largest living land carnivore on the planet, the average male weighing 1,200 pounds (545 kilograms) with a record of 2,209 pounds (1004 kilograms), according to Polar Bear International. While it may look adorable and cuddly, it is, in fact, one of the most dangerous and ferocious animals on earth.

If one set out to custom-design a carnivorous predator for the high arctic, one could do no better than *Ursus maritimus*. In a treeless barren land covered with ice and snow and bordered by the freezing brine of the Arctic Ocean, the polar bear has flourished for thousands of years in temperatures averaging -30° F (-22° C) in the winter.

What characteristics are built into this majestic animal's design that enable it to survive in a region that would quickly freeze the life out of most species? Here are just a few.

Blubber: The polar bear has a thick, insulating layer of blubber (a type of oily fat between the skin and muscles of marine mammals). This layer, not found in other bears, is four to five inches thick, and insulates the muscles and organs from the bitter cold of freezing air or sea water. This insulation can keep the animal warm even while swimming for many hours in the freezing waters of the Arctic Ocean—rather essential for an animal that considers seals to be *haute cuisine*.

Without the genetics to develop this blubber layer, the polar bear would not survive.

Black Skin: While most people consider the polar bear to be white, its skin is, in fact, black. Black surfaces absorb rather than reflect light energy. The clear outer fur allows light and the infrared energy of the sun to penetrate through to warm the skin and, thus, the blood flowing near the skin, which then flows deeper into the body. Once the heat is transferred into the body, the blubber holds most of it there. The black skin is seen only around the eyes, ears and the characteristic black nose. An interesting side note is that the bear seems to be aware of its black nose, for when one is waiting for prey it will often place a paw over its nose, thus not betraying its position.

High-Tech Fur: The fur of a polar bear appears white or off-white and keeps cold out and warmth in. Exactly how it does this, however, is of great interest to researchers. It has been found that the coat is much more than camouflage. The coat is made of two distinct layers: a short, very dense layer next to the skin, and an outer layer of longer guard hairs. The outer hairs are actually transparent and clear—not white. Because they scatter or reflect the full visible spectrum, the bear appears white to the viewer, enabling it to almost disappear from view against a snow-covered background.

However, these high-tech hairs serve an additional function. Recent research has revealed that these guard hairs also work to absorb heat energy radiating from the bear's body. The clear hollow hairs absorb outgoing infrared energy, directing it back to the bear's

body. This ability to absorb radiation is especially high at the specific part of the infrared spectrum where mammals tend to radiate heat most strongly ("Fur Absorbs Infrared Radiation," Ask Nature, June 2017). This explains the ability of polar bears to be invisible to infrared sensors when the temperature of the surface of their coat matches the temperature of the ice and snow around them. This amazing design feature almost completely eliminates radiation heat loss from this mammal in its cold environment. Thus the polar bear combines the efficient insulation of blubber with an infrared-absorption system, making it nearly immune to cold. So efficient is this heat-retention system that the bear's biggest problem is overheating when walking or running. It will often dive into freezing water to cool off, even in winter, if it has been active.

Endurance: One of the features of this great bear is its remarkable endurance and strength. It is by far the strongest of the bear family. Nothing demonstrates this more than its ability to swim extremely long distances in freezing water.

In July 2011, National Geographic reported that a female polar bear, which had been earlier outfitted with a radio collar, made an epic swim of 426 miles (687 kilometers) in the Beaufort Sea over a nine-day period (the average swim is between 30 and 60 miles, or 48 to 96 km). Swimming enables it to hunt for its primary dietary staple, the ringed seal. It travels great distances on land to reach open water, and then swims to open sea ice where it waits by the breathing holes of seals for hours at a time. One slap of a paw can flip a 150-pound (70-kilogram) ringed seal out of the water onto the ice. At other times it charges its prey, moving at speeds up to 40 miles per hour (64 kilometers per hour).

Sense of Smell: The polar bear is designed with one of the most sensitive noses in the animal kingdom. In November 2014, *LiveScience* reported on research that suggests a polar bear can catch the scent of a seal on the ice from up to 20 miles (32 kilometers) away.

Socks: One can add to these features the fact that the bear comes with a set of built-in socks, composed of very coarse fur covering much of the bottom of the feet, which provides excellent traction on the ice.

These are only a few of the amazing features built into the genetics of a creature designed to live and thrive in an icy land. It is also among the most adaptable animals on the planet, having survived numerous fluctuations in temperature and arctic sea ice.

In the past few years, many have predicted that climate change will drive the white bear to extinction as sea ice retreats, but field research supports a very different conclusion. As recently as February 27, 2017, the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF) called for a reassessment of the bear's endangered status.

Canadian wildlife expert Dr. Susan Crockford documents the latest findings on bear numbers, which grew from 22,500 in 2005 to about 30,000 only twelve years later. The bears are thriving, despite shrinking summer sea ice. Dr. Crockford's report concluded that "loss of summer sea ice, regardless of cause, is not a major threat to bear survival" (GWPF TV, "Polar Bear Scare Unmasked: The Saga of a Toppled Global Warming Icon").

Apparently, this remarkable animal was also designed to survive the periodic gyrations in the

extent of arctic sea ice. When one studies the polar bear, one can only be amazed at the complexity of this creature, and of the myriad of specialized parts that work together to ensure its survival. It is hard not to conclude that this bear is a product of deliberate design, at the hand of a Being of astounding capacity. The ancient patriarch Job had similar evidence in mind when he declared, "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?"

-Stuart Wachowicz

(Job 12:7-10).



By Scott D. Winnail

exually transmitted infection rates are on the rise all around the globe, and in some places have reached *epidemic* levels! However, when was the last time you heard about HIV or AIDS? The global catastrophe of AIDS—and HIV, the virus that causes it—has been abandoned by the media in developed nations, despite the fact that a vast number of people contract HIV every year. This deadly disease is *still* here and is *still* devastating developing nations.

Can AIDS ever be stopped or prevented? The exciting and even "inconvenient truth" is "yes, it can!" Did you know that governments and health agencies around the globe, including the famed World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), know exactly how to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS right now? Yet, world governments and health agencies refuse to advocate for the only proven method of HIV and AIDS prevention. The public health policy journal Health Affairs reported in 2009 that the cost of treating the disease may reach \$35 billion annually by 2031 in developing nations alone. So why do world leaders and premier public health agencies refuse to

aggressively promote the simplest and surest way out of this epidemic? What are they afraid of?

The Scope of HIV/AIDS Infection

According to the CDC, although the overall number of new HIV cases is dropping, in 2016 there were still 1.8 million *new* cases worldwide. HIV is the virus that causes the disease known as AIDS. *One million* people die from AIDS every year and, there are 37.6 million people now living with HIV. Since the epidemic began around 1981, 35 million people have died from AIDS-related diseases—a number that roughly equals the population of Poland, the Sudan, or the state of California. What if the entire population of one of these nations or the state of California were completely erased? This is the global impact of AIDS in just the last 37 years.

People in *developed* nations also experience HIV infections, but at far lower rates than those in the *developing* world. Perhaps this is why those in developed nations hear so little about AIDS today. According to the CDC, "Sub-Saharan Africa bears the biggest burden of HIV/AIDS, with two-thirds of the global total of new HIV infections for 2016. Other regions significantly affected by HIV/AIDS

include Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia." In May 2018, a *New York Times* article had the following headline: "AIDS Runs Rampant in Venezuela, Putting an Ancient Culture at Risk." The *Times* reported, "The disease threatens an entire indigenous population, the Warao people of the Orinoco Delta, as government programs collapse." Venezuela is just one of many nations being overrun by AIDS.

AIDS orphans are another group of victims gaining global attention in recent years. According to the international charity "AIDS Orphans," there are as many as 25 million AIDS orphans worldwide. What if **not one** of these 25 million orphaned children had to experience the AIDS-related death of their father or mother, or both? How would their childhoods and their lives be different?

History of AIDS

According to *AIDS.gov*, HIV and the outbreak we now see worldwide was first identified through rare, opportunistic infections that appeared in *seemingly healthy* homosexual men in 1981. Within a year, AIDS symptoms appeared in infants who had received contaminated blood through blood transfusions. Less than a year after that, in 1983, public health experts discovered that HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, was also spread through heterosexual contact.

In the U.S., between 2002 and 2011, HIV infection rates decreased among every population group *except* homosexual men (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, July 23/30, 2014). Among homosexual men ages 13–24 and age 45 and above, HIV rates increased. Among the 13–24-year-olds specifically, HIV infections increased over 130 percent (ibid.). According to *CDC.gov*, in 2016, 77 percent of new AIDS cases in the U.S. occurred among homosexual and bisexual men and injection drug users, while 23 percent occurred in heterosexuals.

Globally, over 13 million people inject drugs, according to the U.N. The AIDS virus, HIV, is spread through sexual contact with an infected person, sharing of contaminated needles, from mother-to-child during pregnancy, childbirth or through breast feeding, and through transfusions with contaminated blood. Ultimately, though, HIV is a sexually transmitted infection, or STI. And like other STIs, the best

way to control and prevent this deadly disease is behavioral in nature—as even the top public health agencies know and generally teach. However, there is **one** proven method of HIV/AIDS prevention that public health agencies and governments completely ignore because it is not politically correct. It is an ethical action that is increasingly anathema to our modern society.

The World Health Organization lists six key prevention strategies designed to reduce the incidence of HIV and AIDS. They are:

- 1. Male and female condom use
- 2. Testing and counseling for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- 3. Voluntary medical male circumcision
- 4. Antiretroviral drug therapy
- 5. Use of needle exchange programs for intravenous drug users
- 6. Reducing mother-child HIV transmission (including antiretroviral drug therapy for pregnant mothers)



What is the *glaring omission* from this list of preventive AIDS strategies? While the WHO advocates for medical male circumcision as an HIV/AIDS prevention technique, even though it is politically incorrect in many circles, it lacks the courage to strongly recommend the *one* action that is the cheapest and *most effective* HIV/AIDS prevention strategy available: limiting sexual activity to a monogamous marriage between husband and wife!

The Biblical Key to Stopping AIDS!

About 3,500 years ago God, through His prophet Moses, gave simple laws and statutes designed to make His nation **unique** and blessed among nations.

do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart." This is suggestive of the symptoms of some of the opportunistic infections that kill AIDS victims. These diseases destroy the immune system and cause the body to waste away, sometimes literally "consuming" the flesh and even the eyes, and ultimately stopping the heart from beating.

It is important to remember that the Lord of the Israelites is the same one who later became Jesus Christ. He is the Savior who the Apostle Paul noted in Hebrews 13:8 is "the same yesterday, today, and forever." He was the same Being with the same demand for obedience 3,500 years ago as He is today.

IT IS SOBERING TO REALIZE THIS BIBLICAL KEY TO PREVENTING AIDS IS ONE SCIENTISTS, PHYSICIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS KNOW WILL WORK, BUT ARE TOO AFRAID TO PROMOTE

Many of His commands related to public health and societal infrastructure, in *addition* to their religious applications.

In Exodus 15:26, God promised, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put **none of the diseases** on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

Ancient Egyptian history shows they had many of the same diseases that plague our modern society, including heart disease, cancer, STIs and other infectious conditions. God told Israel that *if they would obey His laws* He would protect them from all sorts of diseases. But, was God promising supernatural protection in exchange for subservience, or was there more to it?

Leviticus 26:14–16 warns, "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will And He wants to bless those who *are* obedient today by putting "none of these diseases" on them (Exodus 15:26, *KJV*), just as He wanted to do with the ancient Israelites.

It is sobering to realize this biblical *key* to preventing AIDS is one

scientists, physicians and government officials *know* will work, but are too afraid to promote. Most officials are well-meaning and dedicate their careers to helping people, but they steer far clear of advocating for this powerful prevention method.

In the Bible, chapter 20 of the book of Exodus lists the Ten Commandments. In verse 14 of that chapter, God provides a short, clear command that, if obeyed, would stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and virtually *all* STIs! The command's five simple words are "**You shall not commit adultery**." Jesus repeated this command in Matthew 19:17–18. The Apostle Paul amplified it in 1 Corinthians 6:18 when he said, "Flee sexual immorality," or as the *King James Version* has it, "Flee fornication."

Today "adultery" and "fornication" are outdated terms. Ironically, they are losing their meaning as the definition of marriage also changes. To better understand God's prevention tool, we must understand what adultery and fornication mean, according to the Bible.

AIDS CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

CAN WE THINK OF ETERNAL LIFE AS A TANGIBLE ASSET?

What should you be investing in?

hen I was in high school, I was in a oneact play that reached the state finals. Our last competition started at 9:00 p.m. on Friday evening. As a Sabbath-keeper, I wasn't able to participate. "Can't you miss church once?" one girl from our cast asked me, casually adding, "God would understand."

The answer to her question would come to me years later: God understands very well the things we vainly strive for in this life. In reality, we are the ones who don't understand and who lose sight of God's promise of *eternal* life. Fully understanding what that promise means should make it the supreme goal of our life.

Do we really comprehend what eternal life is? After all, we've never experienced it ourselves, so it can seem ethereal and out of reach. On the other hand, this physical life seems very real—or, tangible—to us. Therefore, it can seem much more tangible than the promise of eternal life.

First, the biblical facts: We know that eternal life is the gift that God gives us through grace (Romans

God understands very well the things we vainly strive for in this life. In reality, we are the ones who don't understand and who lose sight of God's promise of eternal life.

6:23), and we seek that gift through faith and action (James 2:24; Romans 2:6–7). Eternal life does indeed mean to live forever, because death is destroyed after God's plan is fulfilled (1 Corinthians 15:54; Revelation 21:4).

The Bible reveals that, in order to receive this promise, there is something we must do now: keep the commandments (Matthew

19:16–19). Are those just the "big" commandments? James 2:10 states that "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"! And Isaiah was inspired to write, "Woe to those who begin by pulling at transgression with a thread, but end by dragging sin along as if with a cart rope" (Isaiah 5:18, Complete Jewish Bible). Some sins may seem minor, but "small" sins can lead us down the wrong path!

How can the connection between commandment keeping and eternal life be more tangible to us? Imagine someone promised you \$10 million if you didn't tell a lie for one year. Your first thought every morning would probably be, "I'm not going to lie today!" Why? Because \$10 million is tangible. You know of people who actually have that much money. The reality of the reward would inspire you. But it would not be easy to always tell the truth, and you would likely

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experience trials as a result. The question then becomes, is doing what's right worth the reward? The same

question applies to the pursuit of eternal life.

But how do we know eternal life is reality? Because someone already has obtained it—our Savior, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20–23)! And He tells us that regardless of what we leave behind for His sake, we will receive a hundredfold reward, "and in the age to come, eternal life" (Mark 10:29–30). Also, Paul wrote that the gift of eternal life is worth any hardship suffered in this physical life (Romans 8:18). Becoming part of God's family as full spiritual children will literally fix everything suffered during this physical life—even death!

Is there something we can do to make eternal life more tangible in our present lives? In 2 Corinthians 4:18, Paul says we should look for the things that are not seen because they are eternal. How can you believe in things that are unseen? Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is the key to making the invisible things of God real in our lives. Over time, our hope becomes grounded less in our fallible faith and more in the faith of Christ Himself in us (Galatians 2:20).

As the Apostle tells us, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). With this promise, we can know that devoting our *entire lives* to the goal of eternal life is worth it.

-Karl Harmdierks

ELondon CALLING

Penicillin: Miracle Drug No More!



hat would you do if you became sick with a bacterial infection like tetanus, tuberculosis or strep throat? Today, a doctor would prescribe a course of antibiotics—but what if there were no "miracle drug" available? Would there be anything else to treat you? This was the situation up until 75 years ago, when the first antibiotic, penicillin, began to be mass-produced.

Since then, the impact of penicillin has been almost incalculable, and the drug is credited with saving an estimated two hundred million lives. Named after the fungal mould penicillium notatum, from which it is derived, penicillin acts by destroying the cell walls of bacteria, making it a formidable antibiotic in addressing infection. However, with antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria making the arsenal of such drugs increasingly ineffective, we now face a return to the pre-penicillin era, with few viable "medical" defenses at all. Will science discover some new "superdrug" in the fight against disease? Or might there be an even more powerful means of preventing and addressing diseases, one that has been overlooked?

Penicillin Discovered

The British bacteriologist Alexander Fleming is said to have discovered the antibiotic qualities of penicillin by accident in 1928. Apparently, Fleming left a petri dish smeared with *staphylococci* (or simply "staph") bacteria in his laboratory while he was away on a two-week holiday, and the petri dish grew a fungus that killed the staph bacteria around it.

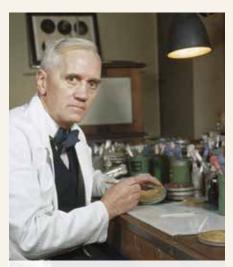
Fleming soon identified and isolated the effective component, but he had difficulty extracting significant

quantities of penicillin beyond his experimental needs. It wasn't until 1939 that scientist Howard Florey and biochemist Ernst Chain furthered Fleming's research and produced penicillin in much larger quantities. In 1942, penicillin was first used successfully on a patient with septicaemia, successfully treating the infection and saving her life.

The Second World War provided essential motivation and financial support for the mass production of penicillin. By 1944, the Allies possessed sufficient penicillin to treat soldiers with infected battlefield injuries and return them to the front line.

In 1945, Fleming, Florey and Chain were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the discovery of penicillin and its effectiveness in treating various infectious diseases. That same year, Fleming issued an insightful warning about the future use of antibiotics. "Man may easily underdose himself," he cautioned, "and by exposing his microbes to non-lethal quantities of the drug make them resistant."

The last 75 years have shown Fleming's prediction to be true. Today, antibiotics are becoming less effective, as superbugs become more prevalent. The overuse of these medicines and the failure of patients to finish their prescribed courses of antibiotics have resulted in the exact scenario Fleming predicted. Antibiotics have also been applied extensively in agriculture, on both plants and animals, contributing to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria. According to a report by *The Review on Antimicrobial Resistance*, 700,000 people die every year because of drug resistance, and by 2050 this number is expected to rise to 10 million.



Alexander Fleming, discoverer of the antibacterial effects of penicillin.

ln the 2016 Tomorrow's World article "Superbugs! The End of the Antibiotic Era," author John Meakin highlighted a sobering observation from Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health

Organization. In a speech in October 2015 to the World Health Summit, she said, "Antimicrobial resistance has become a major health and medical crisis. If current trends continue, this will mean the end of modern medicine as we know it." Here in the U.K., Dame Sally Davies, England's Chief Medical Officer, recently warned that the world is facing an "apocalyptic scenario" as we are fast running out of effective antibiotics.

Penicillin, identified in Alexander Fleming's petri dish, originated from a fungus that grew from spores in the air. In their search today for new antibiotics, scientists are testing microbes from sources as diverse as the soil, cave deposits, the Arctic seabed, leaf-cutter ants from the Amazon and even Komodo dragon blood. Malacidins found in soil have been tested successfully on several bacterial diseases that have become resistant to most existing antibiotics, including the superbug MRSA. Scientists have also developed some synthetic antibiotics, but most are semi-synthetic, meaning they are modifications of various natural compounds. Even if new antibiotics are found, development and clinical testing take many years before a product reaches the market. Also, pharmaceutical companies know that antibiotics are not a high-profit item and may only be effective for five to ten years before resistant strains of diseases develop.

What God Makes Available

All the potential new sources of antibiotics have one thing in common with Fleming's discovery: They are derived from the physical world around us. Yet, as the Bible explains, that world has a Creator! Ultimately God is the creator of everything. Alexander Fleming recognised and researched the attributes of something present in God's creation, but why do we not think one step further: Why not look to God Himself? God is far more powerful than any and all diseases—and any and all antibiotics. The Bible proclaims a benefit available to those who seek God: He is our healer (Psalms 103:2-3). He can "make us whole" again, in all senses of the word.

It is in God's power to heal. When the ancient Israelites left Egypt to become God's nation, He promised to spare them from the Egyptian diseases of the day, provided they obeyed Him (Exodus 15:26). As long as they kept God in the picture, He promised to be a source of healing for them (Exodus 23:35).

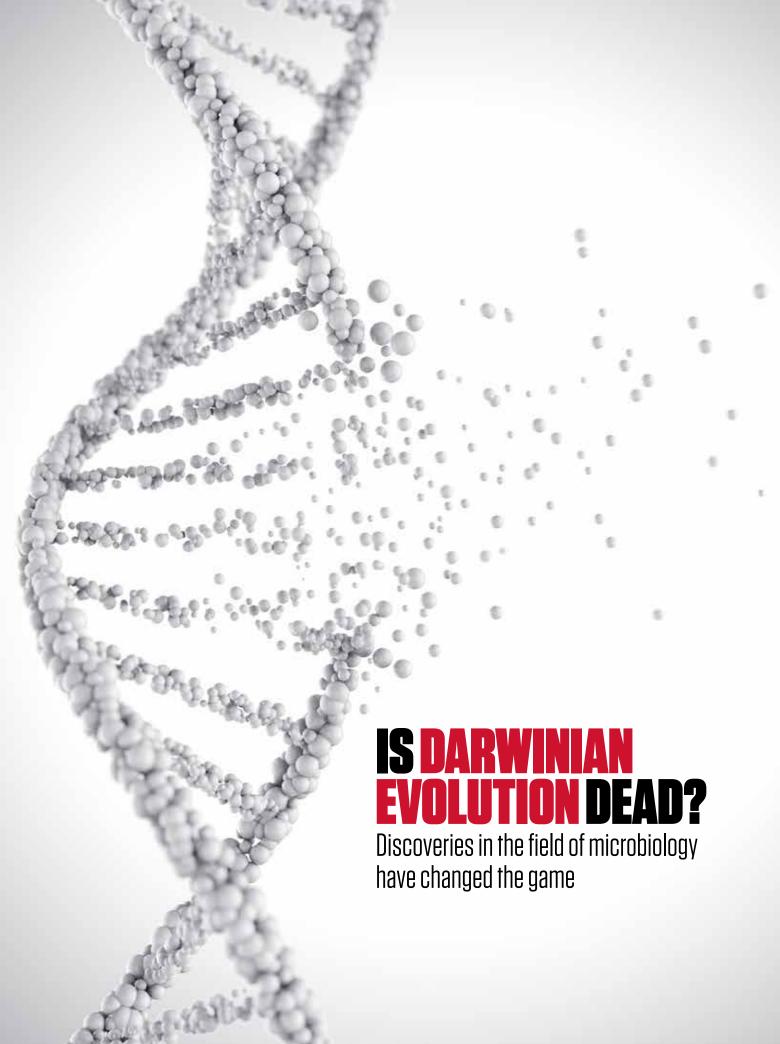
Today, it is no different. What should you do if you get sick? Does it make sense to look only to man's "wonder drugs," when we can have access to our Creator? Shouldn't we involve God in our health and healing if He is at the centre of our lives? Here is what He tells us today: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:14-16).

The future looks dire when it comes to our battle against disease if we rely solely on the ingenuity of man (Matthew 24:7–8), but God can provide healing for those who seek Him in faith as their first priority (Matthew 9:27–30).

Mankind has benefitted greatly from being able to kill many pathogens that otherwise would kill us. But that ability has its limits. Yet we must remember that God has authority over all diseases! He is willing to play a role in our health and fitness if we seek to know Him and please Him in all aspects of our lives. If you would like to learn more about the vital subject of God's healing, read our free booklet *Does God Heal Today?* You can request it or read it online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

—Simon R. D. Roberts

17



Our culture is saturated with the claim of Darwinian evolution: that natural selection acting on mutations that arise due to blind, unguided chance is responsible for life on our planet—no God necessary. However, when we drill down into the smallest unit of life—the cell—we do not see a world that anything related to "blind chance" could have produced! We see, instead, a complex and remarkable world of molecular machinery that points to a Grand Designer.

By Gerald E. Weston

s Darwinian evolution the *established fact* you have been told it is? Or is there reason to doubt Darwin's theory? Many discoveries made over the last half-century call into question whether life as we know it could possibly be the result of random chance. One scientist with a PhD in molecular and cellular biology certainly doubts that possibility.

In an interview with Lee Strobel, Dr. Jonathan Wells said, "The evidence for Darwinism is not only grossly inadequate, it's systematically distorted. I'm convinced that sometime in the not-too-distant future—I don't know, maybe twenty or thirty years from now—people will look back in amazement and say, 'How could anyone have believed this?' Darwinism is merely materialistic philosophy masquerading as science, and people are recognizing it for what it is" (*The Case for a Creator*, Strobel, p. 79).

There is a constant smear campaign against Wells, as there is against any scientist who would dare call into question the god of Darwinian evolution, but facts are facts and any truly objective mind that seriously looks into the evidence must conclude that Darwinism is not the open-and-closed case diehard evolutionists would like you to believe. And if empirical evidence is not on Darwin's side, this has serious implications for the question of how we got here, and whether there is a purpose for our existence.

As Michael Denton rightly wrote,

The idea [of evolution] has come to touch every aspect of modern thought; and no other theory

in recent times has done more to mould the way we view ourselves and our relationship to the world around us.... The triumph of evolution meant the end of the traditional belief in the world as a purposeful created order—the so-called teleological outlook which had been predominant in the western world for two millennia.... Any suggestion that there might be something seriously wrong with the Darwinian view of nature is bound to excite public attention, for if biologists cannot substantiate the fundamental claims of Darwinism, upon which rests so much of the fabric of twentieth-century thought, then clearly the intellectual and philosophical implications are immense" (Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, pp. 15–16).

In the January-February 2017 issue of *Tomorrow's World* I asked, "Did dinosaurs kill God?" Of course, the question is preposterous, but it highlighted an important point. Many people believe that the fossil record—evidence of the world of dinosaurs—supports Darwinian evolution, when the exact *opposite* is true. According to Denton, once again:

The overall picture of life on Earth today is so discontinuous, the gaps between the different types so obvious, that, as Steven Stanley reminds us in his recent book *Macroevolution*, if our knowledge of biology was restricted to those species presently existing on Earth, "we might wonder whether the doctrine of evolution would qualify as anything more than an outrageous hypothesis." Without intermedi-

ates or transitional forms to bridge the enormous gaps which separate existing species and groups of organisms, the concept of evolution could never be taken seriously as a scientific hypothesis (Denton, pp. 157–158).

However, the lack of intermediates, or to put it another way, the lack of missing links, which would have to number in multiple millions for evolution to be true, is only one of many problems with this theory.

You Are Not Alone!

Evolutionists do not like the term *blind chance*, and would prefer to present their case as unguided natural forces working to bring about all life forms that we

that "all known scientific evidence supports evolution' as does 'virtually every reputable scientist in the world" (Strobel, p. 36).

In response, this collection of 100 credentialed scientists posted a two-page advertisement in a national magazine, declaring: "We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life....

Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged" (Strobel, p 36).

Strobel then goes on to explain that these skeptics of Darwin were "respected world-class scientists like Nobel nominee Henry F. Schaefer, the third most-cited chemist in the world; James Tour of Rice University's Center for Nanoscale Science and

Technology; and Fred Figworth, professor of cellular and molecular physiology at Yale Graduate School" (Strobel, p. 36). Also among them were, "The director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry and scientists at the Plasma Physics

Lab at Princeton, the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institute, the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories" (Strobel, pp. 35–36).

This is not the picture presented in typical high school and university biology courses, and certainly not by the media, but the next time that some knowit-all posts a putdown on the Internet, ridiculing anyone who is a Darwin skeptic, take heart. Men and women who know far more than these keyboard warriors do have serious doubts. Many former atheists and evolutionists have come to reject Darwinism—some openly, while others fear reprisal and stay "in the closet."

Among the scientific discoveries causing so many to reject Darwinian reasoning, those in the field of

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microbiology have been powerfully convicting. Scientists today are able to peer into microscopic

cells and see in far greater detail than scientists of past generations. Michael Denton lays it on the line: "Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly

EVOLUTIONISTS DO NOT LIKE THE TERM BLIND CHANCE, BUT EVOLUTION BY ITS VERY DEFINITION HAS NO INTELLIGENT OVERSIGHT

see today. However, if blind chance is rejected, why Richard Dawkins' book title: *The Blind Watchmaker?* Evolution by its very definition has no intelligent oversight. It works, supposedly, by means of environmental factors acting on chance mutations, which are generally considered to have come about at random. It is therefore blind chance, no matter how someone wishes to spin it!

But irresistible facts are turning the science world upside down, and many former evolutionists and atheists are losing their confidence in "blind chance." Investigative journalist Lee Strobel is one of the more famous among Darwin skeptics. His story is like many others. He once firmly believed in evolution, and as with most—but certainly not all—true believers, was an atheist. He admits he looked down upon poor religious souls who were so ignorant that they rejected what he thought science had proved long ago, but after thoroughly researching the subject, he wrote his findings in *The Case for a Creator*.

In this book, he describes how 100 scientists from a variety of highly specialized scientific disciplines, with PhD's from well-known and prestigious universities, reacted to a seven-part PBS series that asserted

small... each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery. . . far more complicated than any machine built by man and absolutely without parallel in the non-living world" (Denton, p. 250). This is no exaggeration!

Denton further states, "The complexity of the simplest known type of cell is so great that it is impossible to accept that such an object could have been thrown together suddenly by some kind of freakish, vastly improbable, event. Such an occurrence would be indistinguishable from a miracle" (Denton, p. 264).

One truly has to wonder how any educated person can maintain belief in Darwinism when confronted with the staggering complexity of life and the insurmountable challenge of explaining how life arose from non-living material.

Which Came First?

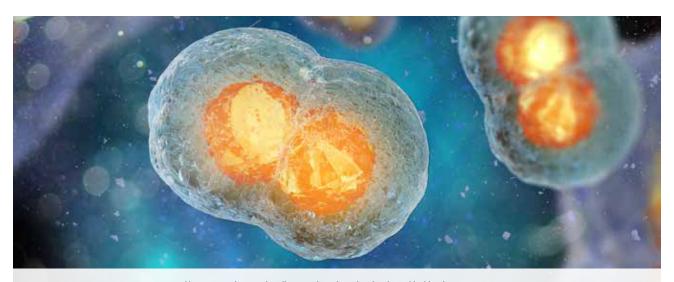
You have no doubt heard the question, "Which came first? The chicken or the egg?" This is no trivial question when it comes to the origin of life. Here is why.

Most biology students are familiar with the Miller-Urey experiment. Stanley Miller and Harold C. Urey speculated that the earth's early atmosphere might have been composed of hydrogen, ammonia and methane. By a carefully crafted experiment in which they sent electrical charges through a mixture

of these chemicals, they were able to produce a few amino acids. This 1953 experiment was hailed as proof of evolution. But was it?

As with so many hopeful headlines, this hoped-for demonstration came up short, and reputable scientists recognize that there are huge problems with the experiment. The highly controlled conditions under which the research was conducted were unlike anything that scientists now believe constituted a primitive earth atmosphere. It is also important to note that an amino acid is not life. All living creatures use only left-handed amino acids, unlike the mixture the experiment produced. And most importantly, scientists cannot demonstrate or explain how a single protein is formed by chance, or by any process other than that which we currently see operating in living organisms. The odds against a protein forming by chance are so staggering that many scientists have given up on it and are looking for an alternative explanation. So far, they have no credible alternative to speak of.

The problem of protein formation is brought out in Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. "No one really knows, but there may be as many as a million [different] types of protein in the human body, and each one is a little miracle," Bryson writes. "By all the laws of probability proteins shouldn't exist" (Bryson, p. 288).



Years ago, microscopic cells were thought to be simple and lacking in structure. We have now discovered that even the simplest cell is filled with fascinating complexity.

Consider carefully. Bryson, a believer in evolution, refers to each of the million or so different kinds of proteins that make us living organisms as "little miracles." Why?

Proteins are made from long strings of amino acids that are connected in a manner that allows them to be folded into precise three-dimensional shapes. Unless amino acids are connected in a proper order, they cannot be folded into the shapes necessary to combine with other proteins to construct the machines and structures within cells. The assembling of these

MOST OF US MARVEL AT HOW MUCH INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN A SINGLE COMPUTER CHIP OR HARD DRIVE. BUT MAN'S GENIUS IS NO MATCH FOR DNA.

amino acides in an *exact* sequence is a necessary—but not sufficient—requirement to build a protein.

The amino acids that are used to build proteins are often compared to the letters in our alphabet, which are used to build words and sentences-but instead of 26 letters, as in the English language, there are only 20 amino acids that are used in the genetic code of life. Think of the relationship between amino acids and proteins this way: This magazine contains hundreds of sentences, each one totally unique—different from all others. These sentences are made up of letters that form words, which are in turn placed in an order that makes sense. Now consider throwing tens of thousands of letters into a box and pulling them out one at a time and placing them in the sequence in which they are drawn. How long would you have to do this to come up with a perfectly constructed sentence, even a short one of about 75 letters? The same problem applies to proteins. What exactly are the odds of a single protein coming together by chance?

Bill Bryson asks and answers the question by discussing *collagen*—an extremely common protein in the bodies of mammals, including human beings.

As Bryson highlights, "to make collagen, you need to arrange 1,055 amino acids in precisely the right

sequence. But—and here's an obvious but crucial point—you don't make it. It makes itself, spontaneously, without direction, and this is where the unlikelihoods come in. The chances of a 1,055-sequence molecule like collagen spontaneously self-assembling are, frankly, nil. It just isn't going to happen" (Bryson, p. 288).

If it "just isn't going to happen," then maybe we could get along without collagen. We cannot, but let us imagine for a moment we can. After all, there may be as many as a million different kinds of proteins

that contribute to what we are, and maybe we could do without one or two.

Without getting into the weeds and losing everyone, Bryson calculates the odds of a more modest 200-amino-acid-protein self-assembling as one in... what? One in 1,000? One in 10,000?

No, the number we're looking for is a one followed by *260 zeros!* That number, Bryson helpfully explains, is "a

larger number than all the atoms in the universe." As he says, "Each one is a little miracle."

So, who believes in faith and miracles, now?

This is why many scientists are giving up on chance. So far, no one has come up with a convincing explanation as to how even one protein came into existence without an intelligent designer and apart from the way they are formed today.

And just how are proteins formed today? They are constructed according to directions supplied by the DNA within our cells. DNA is nothing less than code—or to put it another way, instructions—on how to build proteins. DNA is powerful! You can read about this amazing molecule in our May-June 2013 article, "The Miracle of DNA," available on our website at Tomorrows World.org. But for now, let us gain some perspective.

Most of us marvel at how much information is contained in a single computer chip or hard drive. But man's genius is no match for DNA. "The information necessary to specify the design of all the species of organisms which have ever existed on the planet, a number according to G.G. Simpson of approximately one thousand million, could be held in a teaspoon [of DNA] and there would still be room left for all the information in every book ever written" (Denton, p. 334)!

So how did DNA evolve? This is a question that evolutionists cannot answer. Can anyone give us an example of code (or shall we call it "building instructions") that ever came into being apart from intelligence? If Bill Gates must hire highly intelligent programmers to write code for Microsoft products, why would anyone think that the most powerful code known to man would come into existence by chance? This is a serious question that demands an answer!

But DNA is only the beginning. Making a protein is complicated and requires the use of molecular machines made from already existing proteins! You need proteins to make proteins! DNA can do nothing without machines made of proteins!

Without ever explaining how DNA came into existence, Bill Bryson explains the paradox: "Proteins can't exist without DNA, and DNA has no purpose without proteins. Are we to assume then that they arose simultaneously with the purpose of supporting each other? If so: wow" (Bryson, p. 289).

One must seriously ask again, "Just who is relying on faith and miracles, now?"

When confronted with the staggering gap between a few amino acids—such as those that were formed in the Miller/Urey laboratory—and the complexity of the simplest cell, evolutionists have a standard answer. Instead of explaining *how* such a gap is bridged, which they cannot, many prefer to skip over it and reply, "We are here, so it happened!"

Of course, no one disputes that we are here. What we dispute is *how* it happened, and there is a far better explanation: The code of DNA was designed by intelligence. The inner workings of the cell shout "Design!" Every bird, butterfly, fish and flower display the invisible attributes of a great, powerful and loving God!

The Apostle Paul declares that Darwin's promoters of "creation without a Creator" have no excuse. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Israel's king David marveled over the miracle

of life, saying "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14). He further declared, "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1).

The Other Side of the Elephant

To conclude this investigation of the current state of affairs, perhaps the final word could be given to biochemist and former evolutionist Michael Behe. In his bestselling exposé, *Darwin's Black Box*, Behe explains how scientific research over the last several decades has exposed biologists to the incredibly complex inter-workings of cells that make up every living organism—facts that represent an "elephant in the room" that few want to discuss. His conclusion?

The result of these cumulative efforts to investigate the cell—to investigate life at the molecular level—is a loud, clear, piercing cry of "design!" The result is so unambiguous and so significant that it must be ranked as one of the greatest achievements in the history of science. This triumph of science should evoke cries of "Eureka!" from ten thousand throats, should occasion much hand-slapping and high-fiving, and perhaps even be an excuse to take a day off.

But no bottles have been uncorked, no hands slapped. Instead, a curious, embarrassed silence surrounds the stark complexity of the cell. When the subject comes up in public, feet start to shuffle, and breathing gets a bit labored. In private people are a bit more relaxed; many explicitly admit the obvious but then stare at the ground, shake their heads, and let it go at that.

Why does the scientific community not greedily embrace its startling discovery? Why is the observation of design handled with intellectual gloves?

The dilemma is that while one side of the elephant is labeled intelligent design, the other side might be labeled God (pp. 232–233). [19]

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The Real God: Proofs and Promises** Many mistakenly believe science has done away with God. Prove His existence for yourself! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF. ePub and Kindle are also available.





Making Good News

o you ever get tired of hearing about all the struggles that so many people face in our world? One day, you hear that three in ten people don't have access to good, safe water in their homes. That's 2.1 billion people. The next day, you read that in Ghana, 36 percent of public schools lack toilet facilities. Then, you see a YouTube video highlighting the lack of electricity typical in many corners of the world, making it virtually impossible for vast numbers of people to enjoy so much of the modern way of life that is familiar to the rest of us. What do you think about when you are confronted with the reality of a struggling world?

The Pressure to Give Up

When we are children, we are largely oblivious of the world around us. We have a small bubble of awareness that includes our family, our toys, our friend Timmy and our dog Rover. But as we grow older, we become aware of a larger world, and in that world, we see that some people have far fewer blessings than we do. We see a homeless man in a doorway when we're riding down a city street. We see a woman with a cardboard sign asking for food at an intersection. And perhaps we drive through a part of town where the buildings look run-down, and we wonder about the people who live there. But it is hard to see what we can do to help—how we can make a difference.

As we grow yet older, we learn more about the breadth of humanity's problems. We see pictures of refugees, starving children, and drought-afflicted villages. And we can feel overwhelmed by the scope of human suffering. We also learn from the prophecies

of the Bible that mankind's suffering will increase right before Christ's return. We read Matthew 24, and see that Christ prophesied mankind would have a history of suffering and struggle, culminating in the greatest time of trouble man has ever known. And, again, we can feel overwhelmed. But should we just give up? Should we just say, "There's nothing I can do, so I'll just do nothing?"

Helping Today

What do we see in God's word? Does He direct us to "give up" helping others? Not if we look at Christ's example. In Luke 18:22–23, Jesus sought to teach a wealthy gentleman about priorities. He pointed the young man to consider the needy and turn to Him. Paul taught the Church to be generous and helpful to those in need, as we read in his words to the Galatians: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

So, how can you "do good"? How can you make "good news"? What can you imagine and create that will bring help to others in need? Some of the best news today is about people who are using their creativity and ingenuity to make life better for those who need help the most.

Here's an example of two people who made good news. Pettie Petzer and Johan Jonker are two South Africans who were concerned about the struggle many face to bring water to their homes. Every day, millions of people around the world spend a significant portion of their day carrying heavy containers of water on their heads from a village water source to

their homes, sometimes kilometers away. The majority of these people are women. This duo had grown up on farms in rural areas, had seen this vexing problem and wanted to do some good. At first they tried to convert a 100-liter plastic barrel into a wheelbarrow, using the benefit of a low center of gravity to maximize the amount of water that could be moved. But the most expensive part of the project was the wheel. In a creative twist, they realized that the barrel itself could be the wheel!

The result? Today, their "Hippo Roller" is used in over 20 countries, and 50,000 blue "Hippo Roller" barrels roll down dusty roads in villages from Africa to South America. How beneficial is this? Consider the scope of the problem. According to WaterAid, a charity that works to improve access to water and better hygiene and sanitation, one in nine people in our world do not have access to water close to home—more than 800 million people, based on the world's current population. When you consider the time and energy spent walking miles every day to obtain water for drinking, sanitation and gardening, the extent of the challenge becomes more clear. At the same time, good solutions that help to overcome this challenge become even more exciting.

Other innovative ways to collect, move and use water are equally promising. On mountaintops in Chile, villagers have installed nets to collect water from



mist, alleviating local drought conditions and providing thousands of gallons of water every year. Other creative inventors have developed the "LifeStraw," a simple handheld device enabling millions to filter water for drinking.

But the needs of many who are suffering go beyond water. For example, Jessica Matthews experienced the reality of living without consistent electricity when she visited her family in Nigeria. Challenged in a college course to address a key problem in developing countries, she and three other students invented the "Soccket"—a soccer ball that produces electricity! It's only an ounce heavier than an ordinary soccer ball, but inside it carries a pendulum that captures the kinetic energy that is generated as the ball is kicked and moves around. This drives a motor, which charges a battery. One hour of play produces enough energy to power an LED lamp for three hours!

Jessica didn't stop there. She also developed a jump rope that produces four times the power of a "Soccket," using the kinetic energy from the rope's rotations.

A Future Making Good News

The point is this: If you dream of a way to help others, through service or creative inventions, there are plenty of ways to "make good news" today! Many of us will never invent a new technology, but in a world of darkness, unhappiness and suffering, simply providing a helping hand reflects a good and godly mindset. Christ's compassionate mindset motivated Him to heal the sick and encourage the poor.

Even more exciting is this: Our future will be full of "making good news." The very best news we can give today is that Christ will return to our war-torn, poverty-ridden world. He will establish His Kingdom. And when that time arrives, each day will be full of more good news. The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write of that time, that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9). That knowledge will include an understanding of every facet of how our environment works. We will show how to make our world into a Garden of Eden, with abundant water, proper sanitation and the power needed to build a godly, productive civilization. We'll be able to develop creative solutions to daily challenges. Making good news will become a way of life.

—Jonathan McNair

Defining "Outdated" Words

To understand adultery and fornication, we must recognize their roots in the biblical definition of marriage. God defined marriage in Genesis 2 as being between *one man* and *one woman*. This heterosexual marriage relationship was designed to bring about "godly offspring" (Malachi 2:15). God also designed marriage as a tool to help a man and a woman become *one flesh*, physically and spiritually (Genesis 2:24; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:16). A monogamous heterosexual marriage is the *only place* God intended for a sexual relationship to occur. He is the *Eternal* who designed sex in the first place! He designed sex as a *blessing* for

Genesis 1:26 reminds us that God created human beings in *His* image. And God designed us to be able to avoid many diseases and even forms of sexually related depression, *if* we choose to live within His definition of marriage. God wants to bless us and bless our lives. He is not a selfish and egotistical god who lurks in the shadows waiting to pounce on us when we break His commandments. God gave us His commandments to *protect* and *bless* us (Deuteronomy 5:33), not to confine and punish us and eliminate our freedoms, as many mistakenly claim.

The sad irony about HIV and AIDS is that the Bible has *the* solution the entire world longs for—a

HOW EFFECTIVELY WOULD CONFINING SEXUAL RELATIONS TO A MONOGAMOUS MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND WOMAN SOLVE THE SPREAD OF STI'S? THE CLEAR ANSWER IS THAT THESE DISEASES WOULD ESSENTIALLY DISAPPEAR IN A GENERATION!

a husband and wife *in* marriage. And He had every right to dictate *how* and *when* it should be used. God *commanded against* the use of sex outside of marriage—not only *before* marriage (which is fornication) but with someone other than your spouse *after* you are married (which is adultery).

How effectively would confining sexual relations to a monogamous marriage between one man and woman solve the spread of STIs like syphilis, human papillomavirus (genital warts and cervical cancer), gonorrhea, herpes, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS? The clear answer is that these diseases would essentially disappear in a generation!

Why does confining sex to a marriage between one man and one woman make people so angry? Perhaps because no one wants to be told that there is a "right" and a "wrong" way to live. Humanity wants the freedom to make its own choices while also ignoring the consequences. But, the painful reality is that our actions *always* have consequences. And in the case of sexual activity outside of marriage, some of these consequences are deadly!

solution our world leaders *know* will work. No legitimate public health expert would deny that limiting sexual relations to a monogamous, heterosexual marriage would prevent the spread of dozens of STIs, includ-

ing AIDS! The Bible outlines preventative health behaviors that are virtually 100 percent effective in stopping AIDS and other STIs, and our leaders know they will work! What is also exciting is that these biblical preventatives have no contraindications and no adverse side effects. Sadly, too many of our leaders are not interested in the health of *their* public. They are more interested in obtaining votes to keep themselves in office. Because of this, they naturally lack courage to face the political and social backlash that would follow if they allowed the advocacy of godly prevention efforts.

A Vision of the Future

So, what would the world be like if people actually kept the seventh commandment—"You shall not commit adultery"? Imagine what society would be like if sexual relations *only* occurred within a marriage between one man and one woman. How would this affect *teenage pregnancy*? How would this affect the phenomena of *absentee fathers* and *single-parent families*? What would happen to the widespread



and emotionally devastating atrocity of *rape*? How would lives and societies be changed if *all* children grew up in a family with a loving father *and* mother, both present because they had not died of AIDS? How would families be different if they did not have to watch a loved one die of AIDS-related wasting diseases? Most of the 35 million people who have died from AIDS had families who suffered as they watched them die. Many children have watched their parents die. This same suffering continues around the world today. How different would the world be today *if* these 35 million people had *not* died? How different would the lives of their families and friends be if *they* had not experienced such a horrific loss?

The suffering that comes from HIV/AIDS and most other STIs does not need to happen. It is completely preventable! And this suffering *will be* prevented in the near future, when Jesus Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom on this earth, based fully on His loving, *life-giving* laws—laws which God explains were designed for *our good* (Deuteronomy 10:13). Isn't this the type of life for which everyone on earth truly longs?

One of the former things that will pass away when God's laws regarding marriage are fully kept is this horrible disease we call AIDS. It will pass away because the leaders of this future society will have the courage, wisdom and love for the people they govern to tell them the truth about how to prevent such needless suffering, and how to live a more peaceful and abundant life. How badly do *you* yearn to be part of a society like that? How deeply do you hope for a time when people will suffer no more? Do you long for a time when the plight of AIDS orphans will be one of the *former things* referenced only in history books?

In the Bible, God gives us powerful keys to avoid and stop disease and its inevitable consequences. Although society today is not interested, you can choose to follow His biblical directions right now. If you choose to do this, it is possible to experience many of the health blessings that come with obedience to God's laws and statutes.

For a more detailed vision of how life can change when we follow the health and other guidelines of the Bible, request our booklet *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?*

MAY WE SUGGEST? **Does God Heal Today?** While modern medicine is impressive, it doesn't compare to the power of God to heal and make whole! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.



A Universe Tailored Just for You

n June 28, 2018, NewScientist magazine published an online article titled "A fine-tuned universe may be controversial but can't be ignored." What are they talking about?

The more that cosmologists and physicists have plumbed the depths of the laws governing our universe, the more they have been unsettled. They have found that the laws of nature seem to have been *very finely tuned* to make life possible. If just one of many constants and principles governing the cosmos were different by even the *slightest amount*, then life as we know it—in fact, *life in the universe at all*—could not exist!

When we examine the universe, it does not appear random and unplanned. Quite the contrary, it appears to have been *designed* to allow for life like ours to exist! One of the ways that design shows itself is through the numerous factors that must have been *finely and precisely tuned* to tailor a universe just for us.

The number of such cosmic "adjustments" that make our lives possible is far too large to exhaustively list them in this brief article. But let's take the time to survey only a few of them and then consider what such fine-tuning implies.

A Universe Precisely "Dialed In" to Allow Life

For example, physicists have discovered that the ratios of the particle masses that make up the atom cannot vary by even the tiniest amount. If they did, then the lives of stars would be too short or, in the worst case, even atoms themselves could not exist. As Stephen Hawking once wrote in his book, A Brief History of Time, "The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjust-

ed to make possible the development of life" (p. 125, emphasis ours).

Consider, as well, the "cosmological constant"—an obscure but vital number related to the "energy density" of the universe. Scientists were surprised to find that it was vastly lower than theories predicted, yet if this cosmic constant were not "finely tuned" to within 120 decimal places, then, according to Nobel Prizewinning physicist Steven Weinberg, the universe would have long ago collapsed in on itself or else expanded so fast that no stars or galaxies could exist ("Life in the Universe," Scientific American, 1994).

The list of such precisely "dialed in" numbers that make life possible is long! If the strength of gravity were larger, stars would burn too hot, too quickly, and too unevenly—yet if it were lower, stars would be too cool and would fail to begin the nuclear fusion essential for life. If the "ground state" energy level of the helium atom were slightly higher or lower, there would be insufficient carbon and oxygen in the universe for life. If the electromagnetic force did not have exactly the strength it does, then the chemical bonds that make life possible could not occur. Example after example exists in the sciences of such "coincidences"—where the numbers turn out "just right."

Had these factors that constrain the forces and laws of the universe differed by only the *tiniest of fractions*, we simply could not exist. And yet, try as they might, physicists and cosmologists have yet to discover a convincing reason for *why* these conditions are so precisely fixed the way they are. To them, it remains a mystery for which they continue to seek a satisfying explanation.

Could it be random? Is it possible that we simply "got lucky" and just *happen* to have been given such a "Goldilocks universe"? Geoff Brumfiel, writing in the prestigious science magazine *Nature*, summarized what it means to live in a life-permitting universe such as our own: "If you believe the equations of the world's leading cosmologists, the probability that the Universe would turn out this way by chance are infinitesimal—one in a very large number" (January 5, 2006).

An Infamous Atheist Changes His Mind

Antony Flew had been one of the most famous atheists in the world, writing many books and participating in public lectures and debates, arguing that God did not exist—even that the very idea of "God" was illogical.

Then, in the early-2000s, he changed his mind, to the shock and surprise of many. He summarized how he had arrived at his new conclusion in his 2008 book, There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind. In that book, written with co-author Roy Varghese, he details why he had to face the facts and admit the obvious: There truly must be a God behind the world we see around us.

In his chapter "Did the Universe Know We Were Coming?," Flew discusses the sort of evidence we have described here, and summarizes the clear conclusion with a simple analogy.

Imagine, he suggests, that you stop at a hotel during a vacation trip, get a key, and head to your room. But as you enter the room and put your bags down, you begin to notice a number of remarkable coincidences. The music playing quietly in the room just happens to be your favorite music. You smell your favorite fragrance wafting through the air, and the room is stocked with your favorite beverages and your favorite snacks. The



The universe seems to have been precisely tuned in a multitude of ways to allow life to exist.

book on the desk just happens to be one by your favorite author, and the bathroom happens to be filled with your favorite products. The television is off, but when you turn it on, it is *already* set to your favorite channel.

Such a growing collection of "coincidences" would lead you to conclude that somehow the hotel management knew in advance that you were coming. And, as Flew argues, the far more numerous life-supporting "coincidences" we see in the world and cosmos around us should bring us to the same conclusion: Someone has arranged this universe especially for us.

Only a "Divine Mind"

Some have tried to dismiss the fine-tuned universe idea in a variety of ways, such as a hypothesized "multiverse" of multiple universes, in which ours just happens to be one that "works." (Our November-December 2014 article "Do We Live in a Multiverse?" explores this issue.) Others have suggested that we shouldn't be surprised that the universe suits us, no matter how utterly improbable it might be. After all, they argue, this arrangement of the universe may have been mind-bogglingly improbable, but if it had not turned out this way, we wouldn't be here to wonder about how improbable it is!

In evaluating such responses, the one-time atheist notes that when such "answers" are examined closely, they simply fail to address the central question: No excuse or imagined scenario changes the fact that these laws of nature *must be explained*, and in Flew's own words, "the only viable explanation here is the divine Mind."

None of this should surprise students of the Bible. We are told by the prophet Isaiah that the Eternal One "who created the heavens" is also the One "who did not create [the earth] in vain, who formed it to be *inhabited*" (Isaiah 45:18). His intention from the beginning was to give you a universe in which you could live and come to know Him—to create a home for the works of His hands.

In reality, the universe is made for you in more ways than one. In creating the cosmos around us, the Creator has done far more than craft a finely tuned environment that affords us an opportunity to live out our brief, physical lives. For those who spend the time they are given seeking His will and His way, the universe is more than a temporary home. It is an *inheritance*.

-Wallace Smith



The Anglosphere's Sobering Future

rophetically significant winds of change are beginning to swirl ominously around the globe. Once-mighty Britain, which at one time controlled the greatest empire the world has ever seen, is exiting the European Union and now stands alone as a financially-strapped and increasingly insignificant island nation. America, still the only global superpower, is trillions of dollars in debt, torn by internal divisions, concerned about emerging threats from abroad, and seemingly intent on alienating its allies.

What has led to these *dramatic reversals* and what does the future hold for two nations that, along with their kindred countries, have dominated the world for two centuries? Are we approaching another *critical turning point* in world history? While scholars debate the meaning of these momentous changes, few today realize that Bible prophecies have long foretold these striking events would occur. The Bible also reveals *why* these notable shifts are happening and what lies ahead for the countries of what some call the Anglosphere—the English-speaking nations around the world.

Rising Chorus of Warnings

During the last several decades, a growing number of observers have focused on the *troubling signs* of *decay* spreading across the Western world—especially in the English-speaking nations. More than 20 years ago, Judge Robert Bork published *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*, a "book about American decline" that described America as a nation on a "downward trajectory" and "on the road to cultural disaster." As a university professor in the 1960s, Judge Bork saw the

ideas of political radicals permeate American society, spawning racial tensions, illegitimate births, widespread drug use, the uninhibited display of sexuality, and increasingly violent entertainment. His conclusion was "Gomorrah is our probable destination" (p. 343), referring to the ancient biblical city known as a center of debauchery, destroyed by God along with the city of Sodom (Genesis 19:24–25).

A few years later, English journalist Peter Hitchens published The Abolition of Britain, where he described the efforts of liberal politicians to overthrow accepted cultural traditions in Britain by undermining the foundations of marriage and family and normalizing pornography, prostitution and homosexuality. These would, he believed, put "a great civilization... on the edge of extinction" (p. xi). His concerns were echoed a decade later by Melanie Phillips, an award-winning columnist for London's Daily Mail, in her book The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle over God, Truth, and Power. Ms. Phillips described how the spread of secular humanism, along with moral and cultural relativism, facilitated the rise of New Age cults and the return of paganism, witchcraft and astrology "in Britain's multicultural nirvana," and how the modern liberal attack on traditional Judeo-Christian values—which provided the foundation of Western civilization—is nothing more than a "Secular Inquisition" and "Cultural Totalitarianism" (pp. 97-98). Taken together, these sweeping changes have contributed to what her book describes as "Britain's postwar cultural suicide" (p. xi).

In America, scholar, economist and social theorist Thomas Sowell published *Dismantling America*, in

which he lamented the fact that many today are blind to the lessons of history and fail to see the parallels between the decline and fall of the Roman Empire and what is happening in America and the West. According to Sowell, we are watching "the degeneration of our culture" (p. viii). Patrick Buchanan, an advisor to three presidents, addressed the same subject in Suicide of a Superpower when he wrote, "America is coming apart.... Our nation is disintegrating ethnically, culturally, morally, politically.... What once united us is dissolving. And this is true of Western civilization" (pp. 2, 7). He cites the growing threat of runaway debt, the tragic death of a primarily Judeo-Christian culture in America, and the divisiveness spawned by the worship of diversity. Buchanan concludes, "America has taken on the aspect of a decadent society and a declining nation" (p. vii)—and as a result of the culture wars of the 1960s, America is "a house divided against herself" (p. 408) which will eventually fall (see Matthew 12:25).

The view of the road ahead for other Anglosphere nations is equally telling. BBC correspondent Nick Bryant notes that due to the "uncertainty in Westminster, and something nearing chaos in Washington... neither Britain nor America can boast strong and stable governments" (BBC.com, "The end of the Anglo-American order?," June 9, 2017). He writes, "These English-speaking nations no longer speak with such a clarion voice [like Churchill's], and the rest of the world no longer takes such heed." In his book *The*



Rise and Fall of Australia, Mr. Bryant notes that short-sighted leadership by self-promoting politicians has wasted

many opportunities for the "land down under." An article in *The Brussels Journal* entitled "The Decline of the English-Speaking World" states "the English-speaking world is leading the disintegration of the West, ideologically and demographically. The entire West is sick, but the Anglosphere is sicker than most."

Cause and Effect—The Biblical Perspective

But what does the decline of the Anglosphere nations have to do with the Bible, and why is this happening now? Many today have forgotten that God guides the course of history (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32), and He alone

can bring to pass what He has foretold (Isaiah 46:8-11). Moses recorded that the covenant God made with the ancient Israelites prophesied blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience to His laws (see Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). Just as the ancient Israelites turned away from God, so too have the modern descendants of Israel living in the nations of the Anglosphere. God prophesies of the Israelite nations that, as a result of turning away from God and His ways, "you will become utterly corrupt... and evil will befall you in the latter days" (Deuteronomy 31:27-29), which accurately describes what is happening today. Among the many outcomes that follow from disobeying God, we are told, "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower... [and] he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail... until you are destroyed" (Deuteronomy 28:43-45).

Isaiah anciently prophesied that the sinful nation of Israel had forsaken God and was sick from head to toe (Isaiah 1:3-6). These words well describe the modern Anglosphere nations today. The prophet proclaimed, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20), and the prophet Jeremiah stated repeatedly that the ancient Israelites would be punished because they had forgotten God and forsaken and perverted their ways (e.g., Jeremiah 2:13; 3:21). The Russian novelist, historian and social critic Alexander Solzhenitsyn echoed these same words when he commented in his 1983 Templeton Address that the unprecedented evils of the twentieth century were due to a simple fact: "Men have forgotten God, and that is why all this has happened." The prophet Hosea foresaw a time when the Israelite people would view the laws of God as a "strange" thing (Hosea 8:12). Today in the Anglosphere nations, the biblical concept of marriage and Biblebased prohibitions such as those against adultery, fornication, swearing, and homosexuality are viewed as old-fashioned and repressive laws that must be eliminated—and we are seeing the tragic results.

We are heading toward Gomorrah, and the future is not good. Bible prophecies indicate that the British-descended nations that ignore the lessons of history will reap what they have sown (Galatians 6:7). The demise of the Anglosphere will be a sobering turning point in history and a lesson to the world (Deuteronomy 28:37).

—Douglas S. Winnail

could be made daily even without a physical building called a temple! At present, only Muslims are allowed to worship on the Temple Mount; the holiest site currently controlled by Jewish religious authorities is the Western (or "Wailing") Wall. One way or another, sacrifices will resume, though it remains to be seen exactly where and how this will occur. Watch for a great national crisis in Israel to precipitate this event!

Prophecy #5: A European Superpower Controlling Jerusalem

We have seen that before Jesus Christ's return, Israel's enemies will unify against the tiny besieged nation. We have seen that there will be a push to take control of Jerusalem out of Israel's hands, and put it in the hands of an international administration. We have seen that this crisis will spur religious Jews to reinstitute animal sacrifices. What else should we be watching for?

The Bible shows that shortly before the return of Jesus Christ, a European superpower will take control of Jerusalem. The prophet Daniel described the rise of a southern power that will push against a northern power. Notice: "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He [the king of the North] shall also enter the Glorious Land [or the Holy Land], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (Daniel 11:40–42).

The king of the North will enter into the "Glorious Land"—the location of the modern state of Israel. Bible scholars identify Ammon (which escapes out of the king's hand, along with Edom and Moab) as modern-day Jordan, leading many to believe that Jordan will be allied with the European power. Who will be part of this alliance against Israel? Notice Psalm 83. Assyria (modern-day Germany) will lead an alliance including Moab, Ammon and Edom. Look at your Bible maps to find their historic locations, and if you have not already done so, write for a free copy of our infor-

mative article *Resurgent Germany: A Fourth Reich?* to learn about Germany's role as modern-day Assyria.

What does Scripture tell us about the king of the North? We have seen that he is also known as the "Beast"-but who is the Beast? Notice this marginal note from the *Dougy-Rheims* (New Catholic Edition) of the Bible, commenting on the beast of Revelation 17:11. "The beast spoken of here seems to be the Roman Empire, as in chapter 13." In other words, both the Beast of Revelation 17 and the Beast of Revelation 13 represent the Roman Empire. This Catholic Bible also comments concerning Revelation 13:1 as follows: "The picture of the first beast is based on the seventh chapter of Daniel. This beast is the figure of kingdoms of the world, kingdoms founded on passion and selfishness, which in every age are antagonistic to Christ and seek to oppress the servants of God. Imperial Rome represents this power."

Yes, the "Beast" is a revival of the ancient Roman Empire. If you are watching world events, perhaps you have observed that the European Union is developing political, military and economic characteristics of the empire described in Scripture. You can read about the economic power of this empire in Revelation 18.

As we near the Great Tribulation, true Christians will increasingly be persecuted. But Jesus instructs us how to react as religious persecution intensifies. "By your patience possess your souls. But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near" (Luke 21:19–20).

We are now in the prophesied period known as the end-time. We need to be prepared for the Second Coming. Christ will be King over all the earth, ruling from the new world capital, Jerusalem. "And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The LORD is one,' and His name one" (Zechariah 14:8–9).

Thank God, this wonderful world government under Jesus Christ is coming soon. May we pray with all our hearts, "Your Kingdom come!" 🔟

MAY WE SUGGEST? **The Middle East in Prophecy** God's word tells us that the center of end-time events will be the Middle East. Here's what to watch for! You need to know! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at **TomorrowsWorld.org**. PDF, ePub and Kindle are also available.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Is Halloween a Christian holiday?

Question: Is there any connection between Christianity and the October 31 celebration of Halloween?

Answer: Halloween is anything but a Christian holiday, despite periodic efforts to adopt and transform its practice. Sometime after 601AD, following a letter written by Pope Gregory I to a bishop in England, efforts were made to "Christianize" pagan festivals such as the Celtic Samhain, a festival steeped with fear of wandering spirits, demons and fairies (Evans-Wentz, W. Y. The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries, pp. 288–290). Throughout medieval times, this festival, held on or around the beginning of November, was considered a time when supernatural divination and communion with the dead, and even the devil, was most possible and acceptable (Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 5. "Halloween." p. 646).

The Bible, however, nowhere countenances the adoption or "Christianization" of practices that were

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God's Master Plan

clearly labeled as abominations. God frowned on His people taking the practices and beliefs of pagan

peoples as their own (Deuteronomy 12:30–31). Instead, His admonitions against witchcraft and divination are quite pointed (Deuteronomy 18:10; 1 Samuel 15:23; 2 Kings 17:17; 21:6; Galatians 5:20; Revelation 18:23).

The Bible also contains clear indication that worshiping, venerating or otherwise seeking the aid of the dead goes against the instructions of God Almighty (Deuteronomy 14:1; Isaiah 8:19), and superstitions born out of the fear of wandering spirits or departed souls are illogical assumptions that are refuted by the teachings of Christ and the apostles. Christ taught of a coming *resurrection* (Matthew 22:31–33) and the apostles likened the state of death to sleep, wherefrom people cannot be contacted before their resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6, 12–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

Any edict or letter "consecrating" pagan sites and holy days was a tactic devised to accumulate converts and power to a **different religion** than the one Jesus taught—not an inspired or approved practice according to the God of the Bible. It has been the opinion of some professing Christians throughout history that converts might not be expected to give up all of their non-Christian celebrations at once, and so a means must be devised to "gradually" convince them

The Bible, nowhere countenances the adoption or "Christianization" of practices that were clearly labeled as abominations. to let go of their customs (Bede. Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation, Book I. "A Copy of the Letter Which Pope Gregory Sent to the Abbot Mellitus, Then Going Into Britain." Chapter 30). However, this "tactic" was and has continued to be a dismal failure: "The old beliefs associated with Samhain never died out entirely. The powerful symbolism of

the traveling dead was too strong... the practice of retaining traditional customs while attempting to redefine them had a sustaining effect: the traditional beliefs and customs lived on, in new guises" (Santino, Jack. "Halloween: The Fantasy and Folklore of All Hallows." *The American Folklife Center*). As an example of the "blind leading the blind," this was to be expected (Luke 6:39).

But what if you say you do not believe in the real spiritual overtones long associated with Halloween, and just want to use it as an excuse for a theme for a party or a night of fun? Consider that Christians are to live "by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4), using Scripture as the guide to what is acceptable to their Savior

Scripture shows us that Christ and His disciples admonished converts to "cast off" their old ways and "walk in newness of life" (Matthew 9:16–17; Luke 9:62; Romans 6:4; 13:11–13; 2 Corinthians 6:16–17). Though most of the European world went the way of mixing pre-Christian traditions with watered-down versions of the Bible's teachings, no faithful member of Christ's "little flock" would have accepted practices absorbed from pagan sources. The same should hold true today.

LETTERS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We have received your publication for years. Thank you. In our view, it is one of the best available, and we trust it is spreading the word much better than most. We often watch the TV show and sorely miss Rod King-who I personally consider one of the best "evangelists" on television in this probable end time. He is missed.

Reader in South Carolina

I would like to thank you for all that your publication and church has done. Church history is pretty important to understanding truth. I also wanted to commend you on your May-June 2018 issue. There was an article on Stephen Hawking and another on black holes. Both had a very fair and scientifically sound treatment that was, quite frankly, very surprising coming from a Christian publication! I generally find a great deal of anti-science and often anti-intellectualism in Christian publications, [but] your articles appeared to treat both very respectfully! Just because some obnoxious atheists try to argue against God and use science as talking points to do so, does not make science the enemy! Science by itself is simply observations, evidence, testing, and conclusion about how God's creation works.

Reader in Texas

Please do kindly keep my print subscription to the Tomorrow's World magazine permanent. I have limited online access, and our electricity situation in the country is very poor—so erratic and unreliable. So please, I would always prefer hard copy/printed literature and other Living Church of God publications that you can send—but only whenever you are able to. Thank you so much for your Christian love and support.

Reader in Nigeria

This booklet [Marijuana: What They Aren't Telling You couldn't have come at a better time. One of my relatives in his 30s is having a battle coming off "grass" long-term.

Reader in Australia

I am so sorry to disagree. I have never found marijuana in the Bible. All I found were passages about wine, and Christ said don't drink too much and act the fool. Take that and applying it to present day. Everything is addicting—even food. Look around. I'm a retired nurse. Marijuana does good for many diseases and conditions. It's an adult toy-not to be exposed to children. And those with addictions should not indulge. But we don't all have addictive personalities. Please tell the whole truth if you're to discuss it or publish your opinion.

Reader in New York

Editor's Note: Thank you for your letter, but we hope you will do more diligent research. Certainly anything can be addicting, but—as our articles and our free booklet Marijuana: What They Aren't Telling You explain and document—marijuana is damaging whether you are addicted or not. Calling something an "adult toy" is often, but not always, an excuse to indulge in behavior we know is wrong or harmful, made by those who should know better. Frankly, marijuana is no toy. You are correct that the Bible condemns intoxication regardless of the source. Wine in moderation does not produce intoxication and can actually provide health benefits. Marijuana is another story entirely. Please consider requesting our free booklet.

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the regional addresses listed at the front of this magazine, or send e-mail to: Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

TELEVISION LOG

Nationwide
BARBADOS St. Michael
JAMAICA Kingston
ICELAND Reykjavik

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Finger Lakes

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MNN

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Access Public Access Public Access

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Vision

UNITED STATES

Angel One

Angel One

Impact



Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)



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TVJ

Gospel



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MO-FR 3:00 a.m.

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WUPA	SU 7:00 a.m.
WAGT	SU 8:00 a.m.
Cox	SU 5:00 p.m.
Cox	TU 7:30 a.m.
Cox	FR 2:00 p.m.
KCWI	SU 7:00 a.m.
Mediacom	MO 3:30 p.m.
Mediacom	MO 7:30 p.m.

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Oregon City Portland

Allentown

Bethlehem

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ID	Boise Idaho Falls
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Moline

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Springfield

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	Corpus Christi	KRIS-E
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McAllen

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Odessa

Jackson	WBJK	SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville	WKNX	SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville	WKNX	SU 6:00 p.m.
La Follette	Comcast-WLAF	WE 6:00 p.m.
Memphis	WLMT	SU 10:00 a.m.
Abilene	KTXS	SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo	KVIH	SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont	KBTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont	KFDM	SU 7:00 a.m.
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IMPACT	SU 11:00 p.m.
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Chesterfield	Comcast	TH 6:30 p.m.
Fairfax	Public Access	M0 5:30 p.m.
Fairfax	Public Access	FR 1:00 a.m.
Fairfax	Public Access	SA 10:00 a.m.
Norfolk	WSKY	SU 9:30 a.m.
Roanoke	WWCW	SU 8:30 a.m.
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Bennington	CAT	TH 12:00 a.m.

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For the most u	up-to-date listir	ngs please go to:	МА

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MD	Baltimore Westminster

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Access	SU 11:00 a.m.
NBCTC	WE 8:00 p.m.
Community	SU 9:00 a.m.
Adelphia	TH 10:00 a.m.
Adelphia	FR 10:00 a.m.
Wabi	SU 8:00 a.m.
TV3	SA 8:30 a.m.
TV3	SU 6:30 a.m.
WBPQ	SU 8:00 a.m.

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ksburg	WVFX	SU 8:00 a.m.

For the most up-to-date listings please go to TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in		
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AL	Dothan	WTVY	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Montgomery	WBMM	SU 7:00 a.m.
AR	Fort Smith	KHBS	SU 7:00 a.m.
	Little Rock	Kasn	SU 10:30 a.m.
AZ	Prescott	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.
	Prescott	Community	SA 5:30 p.m.
CA	Bakersfield	KGET	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Chico	KHSL	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Eureka	KUVU-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.
	Monterey	KION	SU 8:00 a.m.

Time Warner

KCWQ

RCCTV

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Access

KJCT

KCWQ-LP

Orange County

Palm Springs

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Sacramento

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Marquette

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SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m. *Check local listings for additional airtimes throughout the week

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OR Bend



Electronic Service Requested



UPCOMING TELECASTS

What's Ahead for 2018 and Beyond?

God's word reveals the future! Here are four specific predictions for the days ahead of us. September 6-12

Three Days, Three Nights, One Messiah

Jesus Christ offered a clear sign to prove He was the Messiah. Why is it so misunderstood? September I3–I9

Coming Soon: One World Government!

Many fear it, but a unified world government is coming. However, it is not what many believe!
September 20–26

What Is the Greatest Love?

Our world offers a philosophy that says loving yourself is the greatest love. But is it?
September 27-October 3

What Is the Great Tribulation?

A time of global terror approaches! What is the Tribulation, and is there any way to escape it?

October 4-10

Surviving Stress

How can you cope with the trials and challenges of life? You need these seven vital strategies!

Schedule subject to change

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