It was over at last! The Japanese surrendered on August 15, 1945, and the world was at peace for the first time since Adolf Hitler launched his invasion of Poland nearly six years earlier. Not every nation entered the war at the same time, and the European and Pacific theaters of military action ended some months apart, but in August 1945 the “world” war was over. Since that day, 75 years have passed.

But the peace was short-lived. Less than five years later, North Korea invaded South Korea, and another significant conflict ensued. Then, in May 1954, the French lost control of Vietnam. That marked the beginning of more direct involvement by the United States and others, eventually culminating in what became known as the Vietnam War, a time of embarrassing loss and internal division in U.S. history. Other struggles took place in Asia and Africa to throw off colonial rule. Since then, many more conflicts have occurred.

Mankind may collectively yearn for peace, but war is clearly the favorite game of far too many. Nevertheless, the message of Tomorrow’s World is that peace will come to this troubled world. Humanly speaking, that is impossible, as evidenced by history. Yet, every generation thinks it can find the way to bring peace at last. In my telecast “The End of War,” which will air in October of this year, I quote from Robert Kagan’s 2018 book The Jungle Grows Back. Kagan writes of those who, like British author and politician Norman Angell in 1909, believed that the world’s great powers had “passed out of that stage of development” in which military conquests would prove of significant benefit to any nation:

[Those of this opinion] could not imagine that the world’s leading commercial powers, so interdependent in the modern global economy, would wage a war for such primitive goals as territory and military domination, that they would be inspired not by rational calculations of interest but by fear, pride, and ambition, and that war would enjoy the enthusiastic backing of their people fueled by nationalism and tribalism (pp. 16–17).

Angell made his assessment a mere five years before World War I—a conflict that U.S. President Woodrow Wilson called the “war to end all wars.” Wilson’s expectation of peace was just as delusional, and little more than two decades after that, the world was plunged into a far greater conflict.

So why is the message of Tomorrow’s World a message about peace? Are we delusional? Are we living a “pipe dream”? On what basis can we make the bold prediction that peace is coming?

Why Jesus Came—In His Own Words

Many believe that the purpose of Jesus’ first coming was to spread peace throughout the world, but they would be shocked to read what Jesus Himself actually said: “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Matthew 10:34).

How does this square with the well-known prophecy that the Messiah would be the “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)? The answer is found in the timing and focus of these two passages.

Jesus Himself realized that His true message to mankind would not be popular. He warned that to follow Him often meant a rough journey with few friends.

After explaining that “a man’s enemies will be those of his own household” (Matthew 10:36), He gave
Many believe that the purpose of Jesus’ first coming was to spread peace throughout the world, but they would be shocked to read what Jesus Himself actually said!

family traditions that are man-made rather than God-made. This was true in Jesus’ day and it is still true in ours. True Christianity does not follow the traditions of the world, many of which come straight out of paganism. It is a different way of life, based on the commands of God. And there is great reward for those who embrace it, though it is not the easy way.

A young man once came to Jesus asking what he must do to attain eternal life. He apparently found Jesus’ answer too challenging, and went away sorrowful. This prompted His disciples to ask, essentially, What’s in it for us? Jesus explained, “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. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (see Matthew 19:16–29).

It is difficult for us to fully grasp what is at stake. We can “live for today” for 70 or 80 years, and that will be it, or we can live for tomorrow and have eternal life. Death or life—it is really that simple, even though the ramifications of that choice may not be simple. It becomes complicated because we are physical, temporary beings who experience happiness and pain, joy and sorrow, in the here and now. It is natural to take the easy road. Yet, if we choose the narrow path, it will bring vastly greater rewards, and this brings us back to the subject of my message to you: Peace.

A New Beginning

The Bible teaches us that those who are Christ’s at His coming will live and reign with Him on this earth for a thousand years. That is merely the beginning—but what a beginning it will be, because that is when peace will finally come to this troubled planet!

Satan and the fallen angels who followed him in rebellion are, right now, ruling on earth. Numerous scriptures prove this (e.g., John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:3–4; Luke 4:5–7) and we see the results all around us. This will change when Christ returns and removes this evil being and his minions. Then this “prince of the power of the air” will no longer direct the course of this world.

Even now, Christ is preparing new rulers to take the place of Satan and his subordinates. This profound truth—that God will reward His servants with positions of rulership—is found in both Testaments (Daniel 7:27; Luke 19:16–19; Revelation 20:4). Human efforts to achieve peace will fail, but a change is coming that few understand or expect—and it does not depend on our understanding or acceptance. It is going to happen! Jesus truly is the Prince of Peace, and He is offering you the privilege of helping to bring His peace to the world. But first He must know that you, now, will be supremely loyal to Him and choose His way of life first above all else. Anything less will not do.

As Jesus said, “many are called but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14). In other words, the offer will go out, but few will take it. The question right now is, Will you?
Is America Entering a Second Civil War?

The violence unfolding in U.S. streets has captured the world’s attention. What forces have brought the nation to this point?

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Is Big Brother Coming?

Advances in privacy-invading technology are rapidly paving the way for the fulfillment of prophecy.

More than 70 years ago, in his novel *1984*, George Orwell wrote of a nation controlled by a totalitarian dictatorship. By using cameras, spies, intimidation, and psychological manipulation, the government—personified by “Big Brother”—sought to exert near-total control over people’s movements, behaviors, and even thoughts. The phrase “Big Brother is watching you” described this oppressive level of government surveillance. George Orwell was an insightful observer of the world, and he recognized the possibility of a government becoming more and more oppressive and invasive in the lives of every person under its sway.

Could Orwell’s predictions come to pass? Consider some of the prophecies of the Bible. Writing about the future, the Apostle John recorded in Revelation that he saw, in vision, two ferocious beasts. One beast rose up from the sea and the other arose from the earth. Students of the Bible understand these beasts to be human leaders wielding power over the nations. Their power will reach its climax at the end of this age, when this unholy alliance will take unusual and far-reaching control over people’s lives. They will even force people to accept a mysterious mark, without which they will essentially be cut off from society.

Could we lose or give up control of our will and our lives? Will a “Big Brother” system really arise on the earth? If so, how can we prepare?

**Beasts from the Sea and the Land**

The book of Revelation introduces these two beasts. This is what John wrote of the first beast: “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name” (Revelation 13:1).

When we compare this passage with Daniel 7 in the Old Testament, it is evident that this beast from the sea is a combination of four world-ruling powers culminating in the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire collapsed in 476 AD—this is the mortal wound described in Revelation 13:3. Also in verse 3, the beast’s deadly wound is healed, referring to the restoration of the empire under Justinian in 554 AD, aided by the pope in Rome. This resurrected Roman Empire would have successive revivals, and is to make its final appearance at the time of the end.
John described the second beast as coming out of the earth: “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon” (Revelation 13:11). This powerful beast represents a religious leader who does great wonders to deceive the masses. He presents himself as an emissary of Christ, but proclaims a very different message—the words of a dragon.

**IS BIG BROTHER COMING?**

These two dark “beast” forces work together to coerce the population into taking a mark of identification, as John explained: “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (vv. 16–17).

Is this Big Brother coming? It sounds a lot like Orwell’s society of 1984. Think of the suffocating repression of personal rights this is describing. It is shocking to think of this happening in the liberty-loving, open societies of the Western world.

**IF YOU HAVE A SMARTPHONE, IT CONSTANTLY SENDS DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR LOCATION TO PEOPLE YOU DON’T EVEN KNOW**

When the COVID-19 crisis hit, many governments around the world quickly moved to get the virus under control. Restrictions on travel, employment, recreation, and meetings were outlined. Some measures were even odd and somewhat comical. One company, called Draganfly, developed drones to detect sick people from above, even detecting sneezing, coughing, heart rate, respiratory rate, and fever (“Coronavirus News: Pandemic drones to monitor fever, crowds from above,” ABC7NY.com, April 15, 2020).

What a remarkable device! But should we be alarmed by pandemic-related censorship and devices that can detect your health from afar? Is Big Brother here now?

Many of the safety measures required by health officials are not great sacrifices. Christians should cooperate and do what they can to safeguard their families and their neighbors. Jesus clearly taught, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). Paul told Christians to obey their human governments, except when those governments command them to disobey God. He wrote in Romans 13:1, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities.”

And yet, are things going too far? Some say yes. Some evangelical leaders connect strong governmental actions to the biblical mark of the beast, claiming that “implantable microchips... could be used to control the population under the guise of tracking COVID-19 infections and immunity” (“Some evangelicals fear the ‘mark of the beast’ from a coronavirus vaccine,” Yahoo News, May 14, 2020). Thankfully, there is no credible evidence of this occurring. But with modern technology, might it soon be possible?

Is the mark of the beast being introduced now, under the guise of COVID-19 monitoring? Has Big Brother arrived? To be clear, this world will always have evil dictators who seek to gain power through
any means, as well as those who seek to control others for their own personal benefit. *But the description of the mark of the beast in Revelation 13 is on a totally different level than COVID-19-related regulations or policies.* These are *not* the mark of the beast.

With that said, many find it unnerving to see ever-more intrusive and invasive technology used to fight this pandemic. For example, a crucial element of fighting any contagious disease is “contact tracing.” When someone contracts a serious and contagious illness, health officials interview them to identify those with whom they have been in contact. Using this information, they can track down others who might be infected. Then, quarantine and other efforts can help prevent the further spread of the disease.

“Quarantine” is not a bad word—it is a biblical principle used for millennia to combat contagious diseases. However, new technology available on smartphones takes the contact-tracing process to an invasive new level, something that George Orwell might have envisioned in his novel. Consider this report:

> Media reports suggest that Ecuador’s government has authorized GPS tracking to enforce compliance to quarantine. The Israeli authorities’ move to permit the security service to use cell phone data of infected persons has already raised privacy concerns.... In South Korea, authorities have been sending health advisory texts which have been accompanied with personal details of infected patients (“COVID-19, surveillance and the threat to your rights,” *Amnesty International*, April 3, 2020).

Privacy experts realize that once governments gain unusual, emergency powers, *they rarely give them up.* A June 18, 2020 article from *The Guardian* reported:

> Extensive surveillance measures introduced around the world during the coronavirus outbreak have *widened and become entrenched.*... The measures have often been billed as temporary necessities rushed into place to help track infections, but govern-

ments have been accused of denting civil rights with the widespread use of techniques such as phone monitoring, contact tracing apps, and physical surveillance such as CCTV [closed-circuit television] with facial recognition ("Coronavirus mass surveillance could be here to stay, experts say," emphasis added).

No, COVID-19 tracking efforts are not the mark of the beast. Social Security numbers or implanted chips are not the mark of the beast, either. However, it is not hard to imagine the beast power employing technology similar to what is now being deployed. Today, it is welcomed as a measure to save lives. Tomorrow, could it be used to control and even take lives?

**Are We Doing It to Ourselves?**

But before sounding the alarms, it is important to take a step back and ask what technology was like before the coronavirus. Was it not already invasive? And *did we not bring it on ourselves?*

A *New York Times* editorial entitled “Total Surveillance Is Not What America Signed Up For” contained the following:

> Your smartphone can broadcast your exact location thousands of times per day, through hundreds of apps, instantaneously to dozens of different companies. Each of those companies has the power to follow individual mobile phones wherever they go, in near-real time. That’s *not a glitch in the system.* It *is the system.* If the government ordered Americans to continuously provide such precise, real-time information about themselves, there would be a revolt.... Yet, as a society, without ever focusing on this profound choice, we’ve reached a tacit consensus to hand this data over voluntarily, even though we don’t really know who’s getting it or what they’re doing with it. As the close of 2019 approaches, everybody is searching for the meaning of the decade. Here’s a thought: This is the decade—the period since the founding of the App Store, in 2008—in which we were brainwashed into surveilling ourselves (December 22, 2019, emphasis added).
Think about it! If you have a smartphone, it constantly sends detailed information about you and your location to people you don’t even know. It transmits information about your private e-mails, purchases, photos of you and your family members—even your health information, if your device collects it. Would we ever consent to sharing this much private information about ourselves and our loved ones if it weren’t a matter of having more and more conveniences? In one of the great ironies of our time, maybe we have already been welcoming Big Brother into our homes and into our lives, sharing our every move in exchange for the lifestyle of tech.

Consider other examples of today’s labor-saving smart devices:

Amazon’s home helper, Alexa, can listen in to what you’re saying, even when Alexa has not been asked a question: She’s always listening. Google operates Gmail, the very widely used email service. Google reads those emails…. Apple’s FaceTime has a bug that allows people to eavesdrop. Facebook knows everything about everyone. They’re following you. I wish I could say there’s a way out of all this, but I don’t think there is. We’ve opened the surveillance box and we can’t close it up (“Big Brother is already watching us: Varney,” FoxBusiness.com, January 30, 2019, emphasis added).

No, Google is not the beast! And the App Store is not where you can obtain the mark! But think about it: Could the technology we are becoming more and more dependent on today be preparing us to be manipulated tomorrow? What if, rather than Google’s marketing algorithms, censorship officials were to read your e-mails, record what you say, keep track of whom you associate with, and take note of how you express your beliefs? Could this happen?

**Slaves of Technology, or Slaves of Christ?**

God gave the prophet Daniel a glimpse of the world in the end times, and he recorded this: “But you Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4). Data is the big buzzword in today’s “knowledge economy.” Businesses are in a race to find ways to mine and use data in order to give consumers what they want before their competitors do. And we as consumers are all too obliging with ever more reams of data. Knowledge is increasing, and it is all in the name of technology—more options, better functions, easier processes. The faster, the better.

Is technology bad, of and by itself? No. Advanced technology has brought many benefits to our civilization—and facilitates the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God around the world, as this magazine and our Tomorrow’s World television program and websites do. To a certain degree, if we live in this world, we are forced to use its technology. Notice what Jesus said when He prayed for His disciples before His crucifixion: “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15).

Christians live and function in this world, but we should not be slaves to our devices. We should be servants—bondslaves—of God (Romans 1:1)! As we use technology, we should be careful to protect our personal information and educate ourselves on how to do so. We must be wary of scam artists. We need to protect our passwords and evaluate our choices carefully. We should remember that for every new feature that provides more convenience, we are usually giving away personal information. If we are allowing a growing presence of invasive technology into our lives, we should be thinking, where will that lead us in the future? No, the beast has not yet been unveiled. But it is coming, and society today is being conditioned for the stripping away of personal freedoms and liberties when the mark of the beast is enforced.

**Prepare with the Right Mark**

What should Christians do? At the beginning of this article, we saw that two prophetic beasts of Revelation will cause the masses to take the mark of the beast. That mark will identify a person as belonging to the beast’s system. But the prophet Ezekiel gives some helpful clues on how to be identified with God’s mark instead. That is vital to know! As dark days approach, how should Christians identify themselves as true followers of God?

God gave the prophet Ezekiel a sobering look at the destruction of Jerusalem that was coming in his time: “And the LORD said to him, ‘Go through the
Seek the Compassion of Christ

Jesus was often moved with compassion for those in need. Will you learn from His example?

During Jesus Christ’s lifetime as a human being, He was often deeply moved with compassion for people who were sick, blind, crippled, hungry, or suffering from other problems, such as demon possession or grief over the death of a loved one. He was sincerely concerned about the suffering of others. We find many examples of Jesus’ compassion in the Bible, including instances when He was even moved to tears. Jesus’ compassion for people and their suffering was one of His many perfect character traits.

Learning and growing in Christ-like compassion is especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have lost jobs and are struggling to buy food. Others have lost friends or family members, or even their own lives. Now is a good time to feel compassion for others as Jesus did.

Moved to Make a Difference

One of my favorite examples of Jesus showing compassion is recorded in Matthew 20:29–34. This passage describes the time Jesus was leaving Jericho as a large group followed Him. As Jesus and the people walked, they passed by two blind men sitting by the road. When the two men realized Jesus was in the group walking by, they cried out for Him to have mercy on them and to heal them (seemingly, they had already heard of Jesus and His power to heal). Some people in the crowd warned them that they should be quiet, but they cried out even more. They desperately asked to be healed because they believed that Jesus could relieve them of their blindness. Verses 32–34 describe a very special moment: “So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ They said to Him, ‘Lord, that our eyes may be opened.’ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.”

The men longed for their eyes to be opened and to receive relief from their suffering. As Jesus heard their cry for help, He was moved with compassion, and then He acted on that compassion. For the rest of their lives, the two men probably told that story hundreds of times.

The Bible records many other examples of Jesus having compassion for the sick, blind, lame, and suffering. For instance, Luke 7:11–15 tells of His entering the city of Nain and coming upon a funeral procession. The grieving woman in the group had previously lost her husband, and now had lost her only son, and the funeral was for him. Moved by His compassion for the lonely widow (v. 13), Christ touched the open coffin and commanded the dead young man to rise—which he did, immediately sitting up and speaking. Jesus then presented the resurrected young man to his mother, who likely felt restored to life herself. Of course, this is just one example of many.

Christ taught and lived the “heart and soul” of the Way of God, which was to help and care for others, especially those in greatest need (Matthew 25:31–46; James 1:27).

An Example to Follow

Jesus was not a distant, detached Savior. He had great empathy—the ability to truly understand and share the feelings of others. Knowing beforehand that He would raise Lazarus from the grave, Jesus still wept when Mary lamented before Him (John 11:28–44). He cared deeply about how people felt, how they were suffering, and the details of their lives. He still does (Hebrews 4:15).

The coronavirus has caused much sickness and suffering. Jesus’ example should stir our own compassion, and motivate us to offer help, support, encouragement, and prayers for those in need. This will help us get a little closer to achieving the goal of developing Jesus Christ’s beautiful and compassionate mind (Philippians 2:5).

—Josh Lyons

REQUEST YOUR FREE BOOKLET
What Is a True Christian?
Imagine having an elderly loved one in a care facility and waking up to read a news report like this: “Elderly residents left soiled and unfed after their caregivers fled the premises, 31 deaths in the space of a few weeks: a nursing home in Montreal has become the symbol of the terrible toll coronavirus is taking in Canada’s long-term care homes” (“Horrors revealed at virus-hit Canada nursing home,” The Japan Times, April 19, 2020).

The horrifying situation found on the premises of a Montreal care home during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic was so appalling it made international news. The Japan Times continues: “Called to the rescue after most of the staff deserted the facility, health authorities found residents dehydrated, unfed for days and lying listless in bed, some covered in excrement. Others had fallen to the floor. Two deaths had gone unnoticed for several days.”

Alas, similar conditions were found in numerous other places across the nation as well. The unusual number of patients succumbing to the COVID-19 virus in these facilities alerted health authorities to the situation.

Exposed by the Pandemic
The coronavirus pandemic has become a modern tragedy throughout much of the world, but in Canada it has revealed the dark secret that many of the elderly are living out their last days in facilities that, while made to look pleasant outwardly, are all too frequently places of neglect. While this is not true of all such homes, too many cases have been uncovered during the pandemic that demand both attention and action to correct a grievous wrong. Dr. Susan Braedley, Associate Professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, reacted to these discoveries in a recent article in which she asked how such appalling conditions could have developed in one of the richest nations on earth:

How did we permit our governments to plan systems that are woefully underfunded and unable to provide safe, respectful and dignified care?... As a society, we tend to devalue and denigrate any adult who is unable to look after themselves, develops disabilities, or cannot “keep up” with the onslaught of rapid social change.... We don’t like seeing older faces and bodies, we stop listening to older voices and minds (“Our long-term care system is failing because we are ageist,” Edmonton Journal, May 27, 2020).

Braedley highlights that “ageism” in Canadian society—and perhaps in other nations—leads to minimizing the funds spent on caring for elderly people who need assistance. Ageism shapes the public attitude toward caregiving: “Our society has a bad attitude toward care work. We have told ourselves it is work that ‘anyone can do.’” She correctly points out the error in that reasoning: “It takes training and experience to learn how to develop relationships with people who are in pain, confused, or feeling acutely vulnerable, lonely, and scared of death.” Braedley goes on to explain that knowledge and skills are needed to help those suffering from dementia, to support frail people with stiff or aching joints, to patiently feed and enhance the social experience of the meals of someone struggling with swallowing, and to make the whole of their lives easier and happier.
A civil society does not just warehouse its aged members conveniently out of sight, but respects and cares for them with dignity—after all, most of us will reach that point of need eventually. Those responsible need to repent of this hidden sin and correct these criminal conditions. But in our Western society, ageism seems to be taking us in a much darker direction.

**Crossing a Line**

A recent court case in the Netherlands, a nation with some of Europe’s most liberal euthanasia laws, demonstrates the declining respect for the value of the lives of the elderly, particularly when they are frail or disabled. News media in both the Netherlands and the U.S. covered the story of Dr. Marinou Arends, a Dutch physician who euthanized a 74-year-old patient who made clear she did not want to be killed. As reported by DutchNews.nl, “Arends put a sleeping drug in her cup of coffee; when the woman later appeared to sit up and draw back from the lethal infusion, her son-in-law pushed her down in her bed again” (“Doctor cleared of murder in euthanasia case says she would do it again,” June 15, 2020).

Apparently, before dementia had set in, the woman had left directives to allow her to choose euthanasia when “the time was ripe,” versus being placed in a care home. “But although the woman repeatedly said she wanted to die, when asked directly, she would then say ‘not yet’…. [Arends] said she had asked the patient three times and had a negative reply.”

When the case became known, the level of concern led to charges being brought against the doctor. The judge, however, indicated to the contrary that the doctor had acted properly and lawfully, and was not even guilty of unethical conduct.

Modern ideas about “assisted death” may sound merciful on the surface, but they have the immediate effect of devaluing human life, making seniors conveniently expendable. This is even more serious when considering that we in the West have a rapidly aging population—yet we celebrate youth and deny the reality and dignity of aging. And because of the societal attack on traditional, biblical family structures and the pressure on both husbands and wives to be active in the workplace, the family home is often no longer a viable place of care for aged family members.

Added to this is an increasing tendency to view the elderly as burdens on society who divert scarce dollars away from the wants of the young. This attitude has developed as our culture has abandoned the biblical principles that once guided it—however loosely—and has instead become a secular society ridden with divorce and uncommitted partnerships. The effects of this transformation are becoming increasingly apparent and include the mushrooming cost of elder care as many families of the aged are no longer willing or able to contribute to their support.

**A Better Society**

There is great wisdom in the biblical principles guiding family structure. These include direction to ensure that no one, young or old, is neglected, and that the aged are treated with respect and love: “You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God; I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:32).

Those who are taught this principle from youth develop the habit of showing respect, which benefits both the old and the young. The Apostle Paul cited one of the Ten Commandments that God gave mankind to shape attitudes within the family structure: “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise; “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:2–3). As Mr. Richard Ames has written so often in this magazine, “Claim God’s promises!” Blessings will eventually accrue to a nation willing to observe this law.

But a society that permits the elderly to be abandoned, abused, neglected, or euthanized is in violation of God’s law. COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on a hidden sin practiced by a society that has departed from the ways of the God who created mankind. The problems, however, are reversible, and would dissipate if humanity chose to live by God’s laws—the only laws that lead to true happiness and life.

—Stuart Wachowicz
Earlier this year, when divorce courts reopened on March 1 in the Chinese province of Xian—after millions of residents had spent more than a month isolated with their families in “lockdown”—officials reported a record number of divorce appointments. One court officer explained that “many couples have been bound with each other at home for over a month, which evoked the underlying conflicts” (“Chinese city experiencing a divorce peak as a repercussion of COVID-19,” Global Times, March 7, 2020).

Even in ordinary times, many of us find it difficult to forgive one another. In times of stress, we may find it even harder to forgive those around us. As imperfect human beings, we know we need others to forgive us. And we may feel guilty, thinking that we don’t really deserve forgiveness, though we want it desperately—especially when we fail to forgive others.

As much as we want forgiveness in our human relationships, how much more do we desire forgiveness from God? Many of us have heard of the “unpardonable sin” and wonder whether we have done something so awful that even God will not forgive us.

Jesus Christ’s somber warning is recorded in Scripture: “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation” (Mark 3:28–29).

Perhaps, in a moment of despair or depression, you have cursed God or doubted the reality and power of His Holy Spirit. Does this mean that you are cut off from God forever, with no opportunity for redemption? Has this thought produced even deeper despair, or have you even become angry at a God who would cut you off with no hope of salvation?

The good news is that if you have these worries—if you are really concerned and troubled by the fear that you may have committed the unpardonable sin—you haven’t actually committed it! As we will see in this article, only those who don’t worry about it—who have hardened their hearts—can commit that dreadful sin. If you repent, your sin is pardonable—and with God’s help you can repent, if you set your heart to doing so!

Turn or Burn?
Your Bible explains that there will be a future time of fiery judgment—a lake of fire for those who persist
in sinning willfully and who insult the Spirit of grace. Scripture gives a warning to all who, as Christians, have been “partakers of the Holy Spirit” (Hebrews 6:4). Remember that God gives the Holy Spirit to those “who obey Him” (Acts 5:32). If obedient Christians willfully turn back to evil—if they adopt a hardened and permanent attitude of disobedience—Scripture teaches that it is impossible to “renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6).

However, we should understand that God is not trying to trick people into sinning so He can find an excuse to destroy them. Nor can Satan force Christians to turn away from God against their will. The truth is that God wants us to be part of His family, and to share in His loving way of life. He wants us to learn from our mistakes, repent, and change our lives.

Does your conscience bother you? Scripture explains that those who have actually committed the unpardonable sin have “seared” their consciences—they are totally consumed with rebellion against God. They are not worried about committing the ultimate transgression. They may be fearful of their ultimate punishment, but that fear is not enough to stop them from persisting in their willfully wicked and evil ways. If your conscience is bothering you, you may need to repent and change your ways. Thankfully, if you act on your conscience, repent, and resist Satan, you can be free of fear and guilt. Luke tells us of a tax collector whose repentant attitude was acceptable to God (Luke 18:9–14), and points out that a self-righteous attitude is not acceptable.

So, can you truly repent after a lifetime of sin? Yes! No matter how seriously you have sinned, you can repent. However, in order to persist in your repentance, you will want God’s help—the help that only comes through the gift of His Holy Spirit. God’s Spirit is the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:6–7).

Without that spiritual power, you and I lack the superhuman strength required to exemplify God’s holy and righteous character in our own lives. How wonderful it is that God is willing to give us that gift, the most valuable gift besides the gift of His Son for the sins of the world. So, to receive that gift, what must we do? On the day of Pentecost, at the very beginning of the New Testament Church, the Apostle Peter gave the answer: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Christians do receive that gift, but it is a gift that must be treasured and even stirred up, as the Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy.

“Converted” Christians are those to whom God has given the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). Of course, even converted Christians will sin—but they do not practice sin as a way of life. They examine themselves regularly and are committed to repenting always. They need a repentant mindset, always looking forward to changing their behavior and attitude. God is patient, but we need to respond to His patience, because our time is growing short. Always desire repentance. Always desire to change your life for good—even if, through weakness, you sometimes give in to temptation. Ask God for a spirit of repentance! God will grant you repentance (Acts 11:18). That means He will give you the ability to see your human nature—your sinful thoughts and behaviors—and to be so sorry for your sins that you strongly desire to change your life and receive His forgiveness. How awesome it is to know we can be forgiven and thoroughly cleansed by the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7–10).

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said that all the sins of the repentant will be forgiven. The only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? How does one blaspheme the Holy Spirit?

To blaspheme is to speak irreverently of or to slander God or the sacred things of God. One gospel account gives us a powerful example of this: “Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He [Jesus] healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’” (Matthew 12:22–23).

The crowds recognized that the prophesied Messiah, the Son of David, would be able to accomplish this miracle—but the Pharisees falsely asserted that Jesus used the power of Satan. “Now when the
Pharisees heard it they said, ‘This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons’” (Matthew 12:24).

These accusers blasphemed—specifically, they spoke evil of God’s miraculous work through the Holy Spirit, claiming it was the power of the devil. Jesus warned them powerfully of this particular form of blasphemy: “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:31–32).

We all need to heed that warning. Notice the Apostle Paul’s warning to Christians that “if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:26).

The willful sinner is intractable. He or she has a conscience seared to do evil. This kind of sinner will never even entertain the thought of repenting and desiring to return to God’s way of life

willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Hebrews 10:26).

The willful sinner is intractable. He or she has a conscience seared to do evil. This kind of sinner will never even entertain the thought of repenting and desiring to return to God’s way of life (cf. 1 Timothy 4:2). The incorrigibly wicked are not blinded like the rest of the world; unlike the ignorant, they have “knowledge of the truth.” They know the effect of Christ’s sacrifice, yet they purposefully profane it. Such people face “a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”

Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10:27–29).

You cannot trample Christ underfoot if you have never truly heard of Him. You cannot speak evil of what you do not know. One of the most comforting and encouraging truths of the Bible is that most people throughout history—individuals many assume are lost forever—have in fact been blinded spiritually. Most of the billions of human beings who have lived and died never even heard the name of Jesus Christ, and even most of those who have heard His name have never truly heard what He preached—the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Without the truth of God, these people were certainly carnal and worldly. Some of them were even wicked. And they will certainly be judged, as the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah were judged. But did these blinded people commit the unpardonable sin? Jesus spoke about those cities which should have repented at His disciples’ preaching: “Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” (Matthew 10:15). This shows that even the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah will have their opportunity for salvation. So, too, will the billions who lived and died in ignorance of Christ’s message. For them, God is preparing the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11–15), where they will for the first time receive the truth and have their own opportunity to accept or reject it.

Are You Hardening Your Heart?
You may wonder, How and why would anyone make the awful choice to blaspheme the Holy Spirit and go into purposeful, intentional rebellion against God? Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, our predecessor in this Work, described how that deliberate choice may be made: “This may come from wrong reasoning; from wrong desire thought out to a final fixed, permanent decision as to his way of life; or, from allowing resentment in his heart toward either God or some person who may have wronged him. To allow resentment to
ARE YOU UNFORGIVABLE?

Hurt feelings often lead to resentment, and resentment turns to hate and bitterness. Are you resentful and hateful toward someone? We must always be on guard against such feelings. Remember: “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15). If you have those feelings, you need to overcome them by choosing to fear God and choosing to understand the seriousness of hate and resentment.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave another antidote to feelings of hate and desires for revenge.

You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:43–45).

How important is this instruction? Remember what Jesus taught in His model prayer—often called the Lord’s Prayer: “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Do you pray that way? Do you forgive others with the same eagerness with which you want God to grant you His forgiveness?

Yes, this is a revolutionary way of life. It is the antithesis of today’s selfish, covetous, “me-first” philosophy. But it is the way of life taught by the Son of God, and the way of life everyone in the Millennium—Christ’s future thousand-year rule on earth—will learn. Try it! Literally get down on your knees and pray for the welfare of someone you may even hate. You will be surprised at the relief from stress you will experience. Of course, some of us who are older may have health conditions that make it hard to pray on our knees, so do what you can, and know that God knows the attitude in your heart even if you are only figuratively “on your knees.”

When you pray, be confident that God, in His judgment, will avenge injustice. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord” (Romans 12:19). When our time comes, we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (14:10). Trust God to punish the wicked, just as He says He will.

Be a Peacemaker!
Notice one more key to overcoming bitterness: “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:14–15).

ARE YOU UNFORGIVABLE? CONTINUES ON PAGE 27
As an eight-year-old boy in 1940, my late-father-in-law watched in awe as the Battle of Britain raged over southern England. The air battle was for Britain’s very survival, and brave pilots struggled to prevent invasion. The valiant efforts of airmen—the few, in their finest hour—ultimately turned the course of World War II for the many. Planning and preparation were key, but history also tells us of a now-neglected power working even at the national level to accomplish the seemingly impossible victory. Considering 1940’s decisive events in the light of God’s word, what lessons can we learn and apply today?

The advancing German army’s blitzkrieg occupation of France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg in the early summer of 1940 meant that Britain was next. A seaborne assault across the English Channel seemed imminent. Britain was about to become the last defence against what Prime Minister Winston Churchill called “the menace of tyranny.” The German High Command decided that supremacy in the air was essential for their victory, and in August 1940, they expected to gain it by destroying the Royal Air Force (RAF) in a matter of 14 to 28 days.

“He Will Have to Break Us in This Island”
The Battle of Britain, fought from July 10 to October 31 that year, is distinctive in part because its name comes from a speech Churchill gave before the conflict even started. On June 18, 1940, Churchill declared,

What General Weygand called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation....

Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free.... Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, “This was their finest hour.”

Churchill’s effective use of the English language motivated the whole nation to rise to the occasion. “The country responded in its own way to the exceptional sacrifices that the airmen were making: ground staff serviced planes round the clock, whilst civilians contributed to Spitfire Funds, voluntary donations that ran at about £1 million a month in 1940, to build more planes” (Simon Schama, A History of Britain, volume 3, p. 522, 2002).

Planning and foresight amongst the RAF leadership had enabled sound preparations to be made under Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding. Newly developed radar towers positioned at tracking stations along England’s east and south coasts facilitated aircraft detection, providing warning of approaching planes before they even crossed the Channel. Members of the Royal Observer Corps at the coast then visually confirmed numbers and other details. This information was passed directly to Fighter Command Headquarters to coordinate the response from different fighter groups. This “Dowding system” ensured that more than 75 percent of fighter aircraft scrambled from the ground found their assigned targets in the air.

By late August 1940, daylight raids proving less effective than expected, a major German tactical decision was made to ignore airfields and focus on bombing London instead. Thus, a few hundred RAF fighter pilots...
had effectively contributed to the postponement and later cancellation of the German invasion. Churchill famously concluded in the House of Commons on August 20, “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” Some have used this quote to develop a mythology around the battle, describing an ill-prepared, plucky little air force fighting against a superior, better-organised foe, but author James Holland challenges some of these perceptions:

Britain was far better [prepared] than that image suggests and won the Battle of Britain because it was ready and prepared to fight such a battle. It had the world’s first and only fully co-ordinated air defence system, aircraft production that was out-producing Germany at a ratio of 2:1 and had the mechanisms to fight a protracted war (“It’s Time to Shatter the Myths of the Battle of Britain,” London Daily Telegraph, September 15, 2015).

September 15, 1940, when 56 German planes were shot down, proved to be a turning point in the conflict. Losses on both sides throughout the three-and-a-half-month battle were staggering, with an estimated total of around 1,000 RAF fighters and 2,000 Luftwaffe aircraft downed.

However, beyond all this preparation and training, one vital petition made the difference, sealing the eventual success of the entire campaign.

Seeking Intervention

Few today even know of Sir Hugh Dowding’s important statement, “I say with absolute conviction that I can trace the intervention of God, not only in the Battle itself, but in the events which led up to it...” On another occasion, Dowding noted, “At the end of the Battle one had the feeling that there had been some special Divine Intervention to alter some sequence of events which would otherwise have occurred. I see that this intervention was no last minute happening... It was all part of the mighty plan” (W.B. Grant, We Have a Guardian, p. 13).

Why the intervention? King George VI called for a national Day of Prayer on September 8, at the peak of the aerial battle. The people heartily supported the King’s request for intercessory prayer for deliverance, and queues formed outside churches all over the land. Britons had undoubtedly been encouraged by the results of an earlier Day of Prayer on May 26, when more than 338,000 evacuating soldiers escaped certain annihilation at Dunkirk.

Most Britons today are absorbed in our “post-Christian” world and doubt that God even exists, let alone guides world events. That the people of Britain 80 years ago collectively asked for divine guidance and acknowledged their dependence upon God’s supreme power seems bizarre and backward to most today. Yet, as a Tomorrow’s World reader, you may be among the few recognising this mindset as indispensable to our lives.

Bible prophecy predicts a dire future for nations that turn away from God (Deuteronomy 8:11–20; Leviticus 26:15–17, 19, 33, 37–38). Moses warned the Israelites not to forget Him or cease keeping His commandments, lest He set His face against them and let their enemies defeat them. God is working out His purpose on earth, and His hand does direct the destiny of nations (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32).

A sobering future awaits today’s generation unless we, as a nation, are willing to repent and turn to God. Speaking to King Solomon, the Eternal God made very clear how we can restore a right relationship with Him: “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

We can pray that our nations wake up. But even if they do not, you can personally humble yourself, repent, and draw close to God—and receive blessings for doing so. To begin seeking your own intervention, read our booklet Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer at TomorrowsWorld.org, or order your own free copy.

—Simon R. D. Roberts
STREETS FILLED WITH RAGE, CITIES GIVEN OVER TO CHAOS...
WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?
Is America Entering a Second Civil War?

By Gerald E. Weston

Street protests turning violent. Murder rates going up. City blocks taken over by anarchists. Historical monuments defaced and torn down by mobs. Citizens without police protection resorting to guns for the defense of their lives and homes. What is happening to America the beautiful, the land of the free and the home of the brave?

To be sure, Americans are hardly without their faults, any more than the citizens of other nations. Yet the United States still stands today as the only true superpower—though for reasons very different than most people understand. Ancient empires have come and gone: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. All these empires had their day in the sun and then collapsed, most often weakened by forces within before they were toppled by forces from outside. Even the greatest of all, the British Empire, which ruled over nearly a quarter of the earth, is hardly an “empire” now.

How long will it be before America falls?

An Assessment from Abroad

Considering all that is happening in their own country, Americans may be forgiven for not knowing the latest news from the tiny, far-away state of Israel. However, what is happening there says a lot about how the world sees the tattered “Stars and Stripes.” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is embarking on a plan to annex portions of the West Bank—in effect, a land grab. The idea is unpopular outside of Israel (among those who even know about it), but it is also unpopular within Israel. So, the questions are, Why? And why now?

The answer is found largely in the Israeli perception of what is happening in America, Israel’s most important ally. War-weary Israelis are not much distracted by the street protests over the death of George Floyd. Rather, what they see goes much deeper. They see the political divide in the U.S. and they see weakness. They see anarchists and milquetoast mayors and governors who cave to looters and rioters. They see America’s foundations being attacked, as statues of national heroes—not just those associated with the Confederacy, but monuments of the nation’s Founding Fathers themselves and even abolitionists (including one who literally gave his life to end slavery)—are disrespected, vandalized, and destroyed. They see the guardians of law and order in society openly disrespected. Israeli leaders recognize the difference between understandable rage over an injustice and the tearing down of the very foundations and institutions that define America.

On July 5, The Times of Israel published an article titled “How fear of a US retreat from the Mideast is driving Netanyahu toward annexation.” Under the subhead “Crumbling before our eyes,” it explains,

When Israeli defense planners who support an annexation move talk about a “window of opportunity” in Washington, they mean something larger than the expected end of the Trump presidency. There is a fear that America itself is in retreat, and with it a global order that could be relied upon to ensure some measure of stability and security for a small country like Israel. “American hegemony is crumbling before our eyes,” said Dr. Eran Lerman, a prominent conservative defense thinker who supports the annexation plan.

For all of its shortcomings, the U.S. has generally been a benevolent power in the world. Nations that have taken it on militarily have often come to regret it, as the strength of America and its allies has crushed those who
have challenged it. Yes, there have been defeats such as in Vietnam, and stalemate in Korea and elsewhere, but Germany, Japan, and Iraq learned painful lessons. Yet this same America helped rebuild Germany and Japan into prosperous and leading nations that once again stand on their own. Its post-World War II efforts were not Soviet-style occupations such as Eastern Europe suffered. While communist nations built walls to keep people in, the U.S. must build walls to keep people out—people who simply want something better than they currently have. How ironic that while throngs of foreigners want to come to America for the opportunities they see, some of its own citizens want to tear it down!

America was born of humble beginnings, as a colony of the then-greatest empire in the world, Great Britain. But when pushed too far by taxation without representation and other grievances, the tea went into the harbor. That may be stating the situation a bit too simplistically, but it sums up much of what many of us were taught in grade school.

We grew up saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, a symbol of all that America stood for. Some of us also began the school day reciting the “Lord’s Prayer,” but in 1962 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled prayer in public schools to be unconstitutional. Only two years later, in 1964, turmoil was rampant across the nation: The U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that thrust America into the Vietnam quagmire, and the “Free Speech Movement” began on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley—eventually spawning the “Filthy Speech Movement” the following spring. That same year, the Beatles rock band arrived in New York singing “I Want to Hold Your Hand”—later, they wanted to put a marijuana joint in it.

It is difficult to describe the turbulent decade of the ’60s in this brief article, nor is it my purpose to do so. Suffice it to say that many threads were knit together—the Vietnam War, campus protests, the Civil Rights movement, and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert F. Kennedy. It was the decade of hippies, “free sex,” and a new sound in music brought by the “British Invasion.” Some today still glorify Woodstock, a drug-infested rock music festival celebrating “free love” and rebellion. But it was also the decade when American Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, fulfilling the goal set by President Kennedy only eight years earlier.

The 1960s and 1970s set the stage for what we see happening in the Western world today, especially in America. No country is without faults, and that is certainly true of the United States. Its barbarous chattel slavery was an early evil, and correcting it took a heavy toll. The American Civil War was the bloodiest war in the nation’s history, taking more American lives than all its other wars combined, and staining the land with the red blood of white and black citizens alike. That was a start, but it did not end the problems in race relations, and some of those problems continue to this day. However, the demeaning practices of mandatory segregation—including separate drinking fountains, separate restrooms, and separate seating on buses for different races—have been a thing of the past for decades.

It is easy to view every protest as an isolated incident, but over the years it has become clear that there are those who protest for seemingly any and every cause. We might call them “professional protesters.” One must wonder how they have the money to travel from one location to another to stir crowds to violence. Why do they hate the country of their birth and the country that gives them the freedom to protest?

**Handing Down Hatred**

The protesters and rioters of the ’60s and early ’70s gave new meaning to “love your enemies.” One celebrity who embodied this new love of enemy was Jane Fonda, still known to many as “Hanoi Jane.” She earned that moniker by traveling to North Vietnam, a country with which America was at war. From enemy soil she made ten radio broadcasts condemning America’s involvement in the war, but she is mostly remembered for a photograph showing her sitting in the seat of an anti-aircraft gun that was used to shoot at American airmen. While she has since expressed much regret over her choice to sit at that gun, the whole of her actions in Hanoi showed great contempt for America. Yet, she came back to enjoy the privileges her country bestows upon her.

Fonda married activist Tom Hayden in 1973. Hayden was part of the radical left and what became known as the Chicago Seven. Along with Abbie Hoffman and five others, he was charged with stirring up violent protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Hayden would later go into California politics, where he could further spread his
radicalism. Abbie Hoffman was a true rabble-rouser, described as a revolutionary, a socialist, and an anarchist, and his 1968 book *Revolution for the Hell of It* sums up his life well. These, and others like them, were not children of poverty, but they hated America and passed their hatred along to following generations.

Most of the turbulence of these two decades was spawned on university campuses—most famously the University of California at Berkeley and San Francisco State University, but these had plenty of company from academia across the land. The Vietnam War was unpopular in the U.S., and a ready cause for American socialists and Marxists. It was from Hollywood and universities that seeds of hatred for America and a love of socialism were sown. The fruit we currently see among so many young students is a testimony to the success of academia’s radical leftist professors.

We are naïve if we think that the U.S. and the Soviet Union were not involved in attempts to overthrow one another’s governments. Such activities have gone on for millennia between nations, and what we see in today’s America is part of that game. But to fully understand why we are where we are today, we must go back earlier than the middle of the twentieth century.

**From Marx to Cullors**

Many of the problems we face today originated much earlier—all the way back at the beginning of humankind—but for our discussion we will start in the nineteenth century. Charles Darwin undercut belief in God with his theory of evolution—an attempt to explain creation without a Creator. The concept of godless evolution that is so much a part of today’s academic thought is understandably popular among a young generation and others who desire to cast off all restraint.

Karl Marx was also a product of the nineteenth century. Most people are familiar with his name and know he is connected to Communism, but how much do they know about the kind of man he was? The nature of his temperament is woven into his diabolical philosophy that has inflicted pain and suffering upon millions of people over the last century.

Paul Johnson is a brilliant and prolific British author. His 1988 book *Intellectuals* describes Marx’s temperament in detail, but the best summation is the title to its third chapter: “Karl Marx: ‘Howling Gigantic Curses’” (p. 52). Johnson also paints a fascinating picture of Marx’s influence on our world. Note this prescient statement:

> The notion that Marxism is a science, in a way that no other philosophy ever has been or could be, is implanted in the public doctrine of the states his followers founded, so that it colours the teaching of all subjects in their schools and universities. This has spilled over into the non-Marxist world, for intellectuals, especially academics, are fascinated by power, and the identification of Marxism with massive physical authority has tempted many teachers to admit Marxist “science” to their own disciplines, especially such inexact or quasi-exact subjects as economics, sociology, history and geography (pp. 52–53).

Johnson rightly notes that individuals and nations influenced by Marx are obsessed with power—so it is not surprising that they end up becoming totalitarian. He also rightly observes that Marx’s philosophies are especially attractive to intellectuals and academics—thus it is also not surprising that his ideas have infiltrated and taken root in our universities. This is evident by the extreme hatred so many students have for their own country and their widespread calls for socialistic ideas. What else can you conclude as you see them burning the flag, tearing down and defacing monuments and statues of the founders of America, and even going so far as to topple statues of abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass and Hans Christian Heg?

Yesterday’s university graduates with extreme-left ideologies are now schoolteachers at all levels and are openly pumping anti-Americanism into their students’
brains. Anything white, European, male, or “cisgender” is labeled racist, misogynistic, “white privilege,” and fascist. Core values of Western civilization, such as the nuclear family and patriarchy, are assaulted. The evidence is there for anyone who has eyes to see.

Many of those protesting the killing of George Floyd are sincere, and not all of them are Marxists, to be sure. Not all hate America. Many protesters have, themselves, publicly decried the violence that overtook the movement. However, the collateral damage from the influence of Marxist university professors is clearly evident. Their students share the angry temperament of their mentor, Marx—angry young punks who spit, scream obscenities, throw bricks, and show total disrespect for law enforcement.

The political organization Black Lives Matter, or BLM, suddenly became everyone’s darling, with mobs and some politicians claiming their banner and calling for the defunding of police. So what is behind the movement? While many sincere people use the term “Black Lives Matter” as part of a broader movement for social justice, many quickly jumped on the BLM bandwagon with no clue about the goals and beliefs of the organization behind the slogan. Do all those jumping aboard really support the dismantling of the nuclear family? Do they support the LGBTQIA+ movement? Yes, the BLM organization supports these goals and ideas. All this and more can be discovered simply by going to the BlackLivesMatter.com website, which openly calls for such cultural and moral changes far removed from the noble goal of caring for black lives. And how many riding the BLM bandwagon know about the organization’s connection with shady characters from the past? To uncover those ties, you must dig a bit deeper.

Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi founded Black Lives Matter. Two of them openly and publicly refer to themselves as “queer.” Further, Patrisse Cullors claims a Marxist connection. How many supporting BLM know that? What exactly did she mean in a 2015 interview titled “A Short History of Black Lives Matter” on TheRealNews.com when she described herself and Garza as “trained Marxists”? From whom and where did they get that training?

**From Cullors to Currents**

The average person has never heard of Thousand Currents, a funding agency for nice-sounding causes around the world. Its website seems innocuous enough and would not raise eyebrows: “Thousand Currents funds grassroots groups and movements led by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in the Global South.” Yet Patrisse Cullors’ comment about being “trained Marxists” and the fact that Black Lives Matter partners with Thousand Currents should prompt a closer look into this agency. When we take that closer look, we find the name of Susan Rosenberg. Who is she?

Rosenberg was heavily influenced by the radical left of the ’60s and ’70s. She became a member of, or was associated with, a number of violent terrorist organizations: the Weather Underground, the May 19 Communist Organization, and the Black Liberation Army. She was considered a suspect in a 1981 armored car robbery and was later charged for her part in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol Building. Rosenberg and Timothy Blunk were arrested in 1984 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where the two were off-loading weapons and 740 pounds of dynamite into a storage facility. In 1985, she was tried and sentenced to 58 years in prison, but had only served 16 years when her sentence was commuted by President Bill Clinton on his last day in office.

Rosenberg’s commutation brought about a rare bipartisan outcry:

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) joined then New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a Republican, in criticizing the decision to set free Susan Rosenberg, convicted on weapons...
and explosives counts, and connected to the Weather Underground’s robbery of an armored car in Rockland County, New York that led to the deaths of two police officers and a Brinks’ guard (“Obama’s VP Screener Missed Problems with Controversial Clinton Pardons,” ABCNews.Ga.com, June 20, 2008).

During an April 2008 Democratic presidential primary debate, candidate Barack Obama criticized President Bill Clinton’s decision to commute Rosenberg’s sentence. Considering the length of her sentence and the rarity of such a deep-seated bipartisan outcry, Rosenberg and those associated with her must clearly be taken seriously.

Numerous sources report on the connection between BLM and Susan Rosenberg:

Formerly known as the International Development Exchange (IDEX), Thousand Currents is a left-of-center grantmaking organization. As of June 16, 2020, Rosenberg sat on the Thousand Currents Board of Directors serving as Vice Chair. However, the organization subsequently deleted the Board of Directors information listing Rosenberg’s biography from its website.

While still known as IDEX in 2016, Thousand Currents began a sponsorship of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. In 2019, financial documents showed the group held over $3.3 million in assets earmarked for BLM. As of June 24, 2020, access to financial information had been deleted from the organization’s website (“Susan Rosenberg,” InfluenceWatch.org).

This deletion of financial information is not surprising, considering the millions of dollars suddenly flooding in from corporate America. Rosenberg continued promoting her leftist agenda in her 2011 book *An American Radical* and is a lecturer on university campuses.

**What’s in a Name?**

Communist front organizations are adept at hiding behind good-sounding causes. The BLM movement is no different. No decent person disagrees that black lives are important and matter just as much as non-black lives. Of course they do! So why is it considered racist to say that white lives, Asian lives, Hispanic lives, and all other lives matter—and to talk about a larger view that sees all people as equals, as they truly are in the eyes of God? Some claim pointing out that “All lives matter” is insensitive at this current moment and fails to recognize the hurt felt by black individuals who feel that their lives have been especially discounted. That’s a conversation worth having. After all, if the statement is intended to convey that “Black lives matter also,” that’s a truth with which we should all agree. But the ambiguity of the BLM slogan provides room for a lot of bad actors on all sides of the discussion. Sadly, no discussion at all takes place.

Rather, any comment about “all lives” generates instant accusations of racism. Why? Because “racist” is what you are labeled if you dare to question the ideologies of the radical left. A word once reserved for the most powerful of condemnations now flies out of lips as easily as breaths of air, diluting the term and providing cover for the truly hateful. And the accusations multiply quickly. You are also deemed sexist, misogynistic, fascist, and suffering from “white privilege”—simply because of the color of your skin or because you refuse to bow before the latest nonsense being spewed from Berkeley, Columbia, or any of the smaller colleges trying to keep up with the big boys.

The fact that all lives matter was proclaimed clearly nearly 2,000 years ago, long before Patrisse Cullors or Susan Rosenberg came along! That truth today is declared on billboards, homemade placards, and rocks in front of churches, but it was first inscribed in the most important book ever written: “For God so loved the world [that is, every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Every single life does matter to God, and we at Tomorrow’s World teach that fearlessly!

The anger many feel over what they believe to be injustice in their countries is not entirely without justification. In America and elsewhere, chattel slavery was once legal and common. As we noted earlier, even after the bloodiest war in American history, fought partially to solve the problem, racism continued. Some former Confederate soldiers terrorized black people during Reconstruction, and continuing racism fueled the
A World Gone Mad

A free offer coming to all our subscribers!

Every Tomorrow’s World subscriber will receive a special offer in November—our brand new DVD, “A World Gone Mad.” Currently in production, this DVD dives deeply into current events shaking our world, exposing the sinister ideologies at work and shedding the light of God’s word on the confusion around us.

Civilization on the Edge

Our society is experiencing some of the greatest civil unrest it has seen in decades. Our television screens and news feeds have been overwhelmed with images of protestors, riots, fires, violence, clashes with police, and destruction of public property—all while leaders seem virtually paralyzed, unable or unwilling to do anything about it.

But why is this happening? Many would point to the needless death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer as the source of rage. Others point to the frustration felt by millions who have lost jobs and a sense of control in their lives in the face of pandemic restrictions.

Surely, both of these events have contributed to the madness sweeping over our world. But the true reasons go much deeper!

All Four Presenters, One Powerful Message!

In this brand-new DVD, “A World Gone Mad,” all four Tomorrow’s World presenters—Gerald Weston, Richard Ames, Wallace Smith, and Rod McNair—tackle the issue to make plain exactly what is happening in our world and why it is happening. This DVD contains original material, never before broadcast on television—indeed, material that many stations would likely refuse to air!

Why is free speech in a spiraling decline, as more and more ideas are considered too dangerous to speak aloud? Is “thought control” next? Why is there a drive to reshape our view of history and the past? What is behind the effort to divide us into smaller and smaller groups, stirring up bitterness and endless conflict?

There are answers to the madness rising in the world, and you need to know those answers!

Watch Your Mailbox!

This November, subscribers to the Tomorrow’s World print magazine will receive their personal invitation to request a free copy of this powerful DVD, “A World Gone Mad.” Like all the material offered by Tomorrow’s World, it is free of charge or obligation! Even if others don’t, we obey Jesus Christ’s command: “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8). So, watch your mailbox—you won’t want to miss this!

If you are not a subscriber, it is not too late—contact us at one of our Regional Offices, listed on page 4 of this magazine, to begin your always-free subscription today!
resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan well into the twentieth century. There are many other modern examples.

However, progress has been made. This is not the 1960s. “Defund the Police” and burning down cities was never the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, and earlier courageous protesters. How different was the courage and grace of the Freedom Riders and others who fought for civil rights, and what a difference the peaceful protests of an earlier age made.

But, as we have noted, there was violence from radical groups in that era as well. We see a resurgence of it today, but—in many ways—on a more frightening scale. What we see now is essentially a new civil war, and it is being carried out on many fronts: in academia, in the media, in the political arena, and in left-wing corporate culture. Many intend to rewrite the nation’s history, dismantle constituted authority, and cause general mayhem in the streets. Today, the U.S. is at a tipping point in a far more dangerous world than the nation faced in its first civil war. Many people understand this but are so turned off by news of COVID-19, flag-burning, and politics that they have tuned out. But the Israeli attempt to annex portions of the West Bank at this time is a clear indication of the dismal future many nations see for America.

Will there be a backlash from the “silent majority” as there was with the New York City “Hard Hat Riot” in 1970? And if so, how will it come and in what form? Let us hope and pray that it will not be in the form of further violence.

**Why Is This Happening? Why Now?**

America has never been the godly nation that many think it is or was, but neither has it been the “Great Satan” that others have accused it of being. However, America has undergone a massive turning away from the nuclear family and other values rooted in biblical morality. This decline has accelerated in the last decade and continues to pick up speed. Moral decline is not just an American phenomenon, of course. It seems that all the nations descended from Great Britain are taking the same path, and the Bible warns of what will happen if we continue turning away from God’s laws.

The prophet Isaiah asks a question that is far more relevant to the U.S. and other British-descended nations than most realize:

*Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints…. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; strangers devour your land in your presence; and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers…. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; give ear to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah… (Isaiah 1:5, 7, 10).*

He goes on to say,

*I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, every one by another and every one by his neighbor; the child will be insolent toward the elder, and the base toward the honorable…. As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths (Isaiah 3:4–5, 12).*

In a very real sense, the second American Civil War has already begun. How long will it last and how will it end? Even though God gave ancient Israel reprieve after reprieve, He said His patience would eventually run out and His people would destroy themselves and be taken into captivity. However, there is good news for those who will listen: “But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days” (Deuteronomy 4:29–30).

We cannot control whether our nations will listen to such warnings. But we can choose to listen ourselves. 

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**The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy**

The Bible explains the rise of these nations—and prophesies their fall! Request this free printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at TomorrowsWorld.org. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.
A HOUSE DIVIDED

A civilization rife with division is doomed. Is there any way to move forward?

A braham Lincoln once said, “A house divided against itself, cannot stand.” He was referencing the words of Jesus Christ, who was, ironically, referring to Satan’s house or “kingdom”: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?” (Matthew 12:25–26).

What a powerful statement concerning the tumult vexing some of our modern nations today. This scripture speaks volumes to our society, which cannot stand in its current, divided state.

This passage also reveals that Satan has many fallen angels in his “kingdom,” and though they may compete and fight among themselves, they are unified in their rebellion against God. Satan knows that division leads to the downfall of countries, cities, and families. He is a master at sowing division and discord amongst mankind—at every level. The Bible gives us awareness of his existence and reveals his tactics of strife and division so that we may avoid them (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:27). He often uses differences among people as a source of contention—differences that our Creator intended to complement each other!

So, how then can a “house” stand that has within it all the differences we see among people around the world today?

Simple but Vital Requirements for Peace

First, there needs to be an understanding that not all differences are a bad thing. The God of all creation appreciates difference and variety. This is evident in the physical creation, from the stars and planets above to the flora and fauna of the earth. This is also evident in mankind—a tremendous diversity exists among the nations and peoples of the earth. There are differences in culture, differences in personality, and differences of natural gifts (Romans 12:3–8). And, obviously, He created differences between male and female that should be complementary (Genesis 2:18). As the saying goes, Vive la différence! Even differences in life experiences and perspectives tell us we should seek counsel and advice from others (Proverbs 24:6). Differences should help make us stronger, not weaker. Let’s not be deceived.

Second, there needs to be common ground—and, to be more specific, common law. Rules and regulations exist for the purpose of creating and maintaining order. The physical universe operates by laws; it should be obvious that human relations do, as well. Nobody in their right mind would espouse the idea that we should live without law—chaos, division, and anarchy would ensue very quickly. God instructed ancient Israel that “one law and one custom” should apply to those who are native-born as well those who immigrated into the country (Numbers 15:16).

Understanding the purpose of differences and the importance of common standards is key to maintaining unity. There is a beautiful prophecy in Isaiah that stands as a beacon of hope for a world full of strife and contention: “In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance’” (Isaiah 19:24–25).

The student of Bible prophecy will also note that these three nations have been warring adversaries in the past. Not so in tomorrow’s world, where these nations and many others will gather to worship together and receive God’s laws and blessings (Micah 4:2).

Society is divided everywhere you look today, but you don’t have to be a part of that divisive and disheartening spirit. Become instead a peacemaker with the help of God’s holy word, and start training now for the glorious kingdom to come.

—Jonathan Bueno
Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). He said, “Do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Will you take His challenge? Will you humble yourself before God and pray for your enemies? This will go a long way toward overcoming any root of bitterness you may have.

One can also lose the Holy Spirit—and go down the pathway toward the unpardonable sin—by continued neglect. Do you neglect prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with converted Christians?

This world has such a pull on our interests that we can be distracted from our spiritual priorities. What is your personal goal in life? Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). That should be our goal in life, according to our Savior! Neglecting our spiritual priorities leads to spiritual weakness and leaves us vulnerable to the bitterness that may eventually cause us to reject God.

**Hope for Your Future!**

When God gave His promises to the patriarch Abraham, it appeared on the surface that fulfillment of those promises was impossible. But notice what the Bible says about Abraham’s attitude: “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, ‘So shall thy seed be’” (Romans 4:18, King James Version).

Abraham, against hope, believed in hope—or as the New King James Version states it, Abraham “contrary to hope, in hope believed.” However, there is not only hope, but promise—the promise of a new world, the Kingdom of God on earth and the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. Jesus has promised to return to this earth and establish lasting, worldwide peace. The Bible is filled with God’s promises to you. You can have an assurance, an expectation, and a hope for the future. Paul went on to say, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13).

**Commit to Change!**

If you feel cut off from God, you can be reconciled! You can have hope. You can be brought near by the blood of Christ. If you want ministerial counsel, please call or write to the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine.

If you are committed to changing your life—if you are truly sorry for your sins and truly repent—you will be forgiven. A vital key to avoiding the unpardonable sin is always maintaining a repentant attitude. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

We need to confess our sins to our God and Savior. Yes, God wants to be near to you—not just to the people the world considers “important” or “special.” Think of the gospel account of the tax collector Jesus said went home justified rather than the Pharisee. He prayed, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” (Luke 18:13–14). If you recognize yourself as a humble sinner who sincerely desires forgiveness, you have not committed the unforgivable sin—yes, you are forgivable!

May God help you to seek Him wholeheartedly, because He is able to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. If we maintain this repentant attitude, we can know that we have not committed—and will not commit—the unpardonable sin!
Life Is in the Blood

We can’t see it, but we know it’s there, under our skin. If it weren’t, we’d be dead!

Our blood—the rich, red stuff of life—flows continuously throughout our circulatory system, keeping us alive. But just how does it do this? Why is blood so important, and what exactly does it accomplish for us?

Blood plays multiple roles in making life possible—one substance ingeniously designed to serve many purposes. Perhaps an imaginary scenario can help us to understand them.

Imagine a young boy on the playground, playing a “pick up” game of basketball with some friends in the summer. Having been passed the ball by a teammate, he rushes through defenders toward the basket for a layup. On his way, he and another player collide and fall to the ground. The boys around offer their two friends a hand up and a pat on the back. Before resuming play, he notices he’s bleeding a bit at his elbow, but not much. He wipes off the blood, unworried, and rushes back into the game, grinning all the while.

The young man may not realize it, but the remarkable design of human blood has played a crucial role in making his game (and his life) possible in at least five different ways—five tasks we all need blood to accomplish for us every day.

Moving Goods and Making Trades
Blood serves as the body’s transport system. Each of its cells—20 to 40 trillion of them—receives oxygen and vital nutrients continuously, and has waste products removed, by blood flowing through the vast, fibrous network of veins, arteries, and capillaries that run throughout the body.

Our basketball player’s muscle cells are fed by the nutrients blood carries from the digestive system, as are the hormones that regulate and motivate his body. Adrenaline to increase his heart rate and ready his muscles, proteins to build and maintain his bones and tissues, and fuel derived from the breakfast he enjoyed earlier are all carried to his hungry cells, non-stop, every moment as he drives himself toward the basket.

As he makes more demands on his muscles, they cry out for more oxygen to burn their fuel. His lungs take in air, and it is the blood—specifically, the highly specialized cells called erythrocytes or, more simply, red blood cells—that brings the oxygen where it is needed. These erythrocytes, manufactured in our bone marrow, look like smooth, symmetric disks, with a bowl-shaped indentation in the middle of each side. Unlike other cells in the body, erythrocytes have no central nucleus. They contain the protein hemoglobin, which “grabs” oxygen from the lungs and “gives” oxygen to other cells it contacts in its journey through the body, passing through even the most microscopic blood vessel so no cell is deprived of the oxygen it continually needs.

Upon reaching a cell, the erythrocyte exchanges its oxygen for carbon dioxide, which the body’s cells produce as a waste product, and carries it to the lungs, which release it to be exhaled and deliver a fresh load of oxygen for the next trip. And along with carbon dioxide, blood carries other waste products to the liver and the kidneys, which “scrub” waste from the blood so that it can continue on its journey, transporting more material.
Sealing Leaks, Mobilizing Troops, and Keeping Things Cool

Two more key roles served by our blood kicked in as soon as our promising young basketball player hurt his elbow.

The moment blood vessels were broken, blood began doing its job to seal that breach. Structures in the blood such as platelets, also called thrombocytes, began to accumulate on the lining of the blood vessels at the injury site. Also made in your bone marrow, platelets respond to signals from a damaged blood vessel by extending “branches” of sorts that allow them to adhere together and “patch” the opening. As they do so, they send additional signals into the blood to bring more platelets to the task, eventually forming a blood clot and sealing the opening—keeping your blood inside and giving your body the opportunity to heal.

The functioning of blood platelets is highly regulated by the body. Should your blood clot too slowly, you risk not only infection but bleeding to death. Yet, if your blood coagulates too quickly or easily, it can create dangerous clots that can damage other parts of the body or cause a stroke. Human blood clotting is an astonishingly fine-tuned mechanism that demonstrates the precision of a loving Creator and ingenious Designer!

But our basketball player isn’t out of danger yet. The moment he cut his elbow, invasive organisms outside his body—such as various microscopic bacteria—were able to enter, potentially causing life-threatening infection.

His blood, however, is already on the job! Next come the white blood cells, or leukocytes, dedicated to destroying invaders and keeping you safe from out-of-control infection. White blood cells form a crucial part of one of the great marvels of creation: your immune system—discussed in far more detail in our previous article “The War Beneath Your Skin” (March-April 2018). Suffice it to say that your blood carries a microscopic army on constant alert for the presence of anything that should not be there. Without this ever-mobilized army, our lives would be short and painful.

Finally, as our promising basketball star is helped from the ground, he wipes some sweat from his brow. He’s hot! Here, too, we see blood serving us in a way we almost never consider. Where we sweat, our skin cools. Blood cells, carrying heat from the interior of our bodies, pass through these cooler areas of our sweating skin—releasing their store of heat and taking colder temperatures back into the body’s core, cooling it. On cold days our circulatory system does the reverse, moving blood further away from the skin to help the body retain more of its heat.

Deeper Lessons

We have yet to be able to fully replicate everything blood is able to accomplish for us. The red fluid flowing through our veins is a marvel of engineering and design, and nothing mankind can create comes anywhere close to rivaling this astonishing substance.

God states that life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11)—not surprising when we see just how vital blood is to our survival! Yet more important is the spiritual reality this points to in Jesus Christ. For while our own blood is at the heart of our hold on physical life, it is the spilled blood of our Savior that allows us to grasp hold of life eternal as it cleanses us of our sins (1 John 1:7), carrying away from us the ultimate “waste product.”

Even beyond the ingenuity of its design and its astounding ability to accomplish so many different functions, blood holds deeper lessons for us and points us beyond this physical life—to the spiritual and eternal things of the One who created it.

—Wallace G. Smith
How Can Judgment Day Be “More Tolerable” for Some?

**Question:** Speaking to audiences in the first century, Jesus occasionally told them that the day of judgment would be “more tolerable” for the sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matthew 10:15) and Tyre and Sidon (11:21–24) than for many of those who heard and rejected His message during His ministry on earth. How is this possible? If all these people were judged and condemned, how can some fare better than others at the day of judgment?

**Answer:** God destroyed those cities, making them an example and a warning to “those who afterward would live Ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6). But most people today do not realize how such punishments of the past fit into God’s plan for mankind. When Jesus said that the day of judgment would be “more tolerable” for Sodom, Gomorrah, Tyre, and Sidon, He was revealing that the residents of these cities had not yet had an opportunity to understand His message.

How can we understand this? We must recognize that, as the New Testament explains, there are three different “judgment ages” for mankind. The Apostle Peter described the first judgment age: “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17).

This is the “Church Age,” the first period of judgment. Peter called the Church “the house of God”—true Christians whose eyes have been opened to understand Christ’s message. Jesus holds His disciples accountable for this knowledge and expects them to produce spiritual fruit (Matthew 25:14–30; 2 Peter 1:1–9; John 15:1–10). True Christians are being judged in this lifetime by their works and obedience to God’s word (1 Peter 4:17; Revelation 22:12).

The next judgment period is the “Millennial Age.” Bible prophecy shows that Jesus Christ will soon return and set up His Kingdom on earth for a thousand years (Revelation 20:2–6). All nations will then come up to Jerusalem, the world headquarters of Christ’s government, to be taught (Isaiah 2:1–4). The whole world will be exposed to the wonderful truth and perfect way of God—“for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). During this age, God will write His holy and righteous laws in people’s hearts through the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 8:10–12). Just as during the “Church Age,” people will be judged by their obedience to God’s word.

The third and final judgment period could be called the “Last Judgment Age”—the book of Revelation calls it the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11–12). In this age, billions who lived and died in ignorance of God’s truth and His way of life will be resurrected to physical life (Ezekiel 37:1–14). For the first time, their eyes will be opened to the truth, and they will have their first real opportunity for salvation.

Jesus Christ explained that in the future, the men of Nineveh and the queen of the South would be resurrected alongside those in His audience and would condemn those of Jesus’ day who rejected His message (Matthew 12:41–42). Consider the magnitude of the time of judgment that Jesus is describing! Billions of people across the millennia of human history will be alive, together, to learn God’s way and to contrast it to how they previously lived without God.

Millions today wrongly believe either that God is capricious, sending to damnation billions who never heard His message preached, or that He is inconsistent, giving salvation to some who never heard His Gospel. The truth is far more inspiring! To learn more about God’s plan for all of us after death, please request our free booklet What Happens When You Die?
midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it. To the others He said in my hearing, ‘Go after him through the city and kill.... but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark’” (Ezekiel 9:4–6).

As society descends into ever-greater immorality and corruption, Ezekiel’s vision should be taken as a warning for today as well. It is because of sin that God will allow our lands to be punished. It is because of sin that He will allow calamity to come. True and devoted Christians should take sin seriously. They should “sigh and cry” for the sins done in the land. They should confess their sins and beg God’s forgiveness. They should strive to have clean hands and pure hearts, knowing that this can be accomplished only through the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7).

In a time of growing moral chaos and depravity, we must love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37–39). We need to ask God to intervene and guide our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1–2). We need to grieve over the sins of our lands—and repent of the sins we have committed, for no one is without sin (Romans 3:23). We must ask God for discernment about these events that are unfolding and ask for help to not be deceived (Matthew 24:4), because these coming evil dictators will deceive many.

The “Beast of Revelation” has its famous mark, but did you know that God also has a sign that “marks” His people? If we accept the shed blood of Christ for our sins, if we are led by His Spirit, and if we diligently obey His eternal commandments, we can have that sign! What is it?

We can have it if we learn from the lessons of judgment that came upon ancient Israel. God indicted the ancient Israelites for their rebellion against Him, saying, “So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, ‘flowing with milk and honey,’ the glory of all lands, because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols” (Ezekiel 20:15–16).

Is there any lesson there for us? Have we today also come to the point where many despise the laws, judgments, and commandments outlined in the Bible? Be honest. What is being taught in many of our universities, promoted by much of our media and entertainment, embraced by the bulk of our leaders, and celebrated by many ordinary people in society as well? Honor and respect for God and His laws, which bring happiness, blessings, and contentment? Or open contempt and disdain for anything having to do with the God of the Bible and His way of life?

Notice what Ezekiel further recorded: God said, “But I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I am the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God’” (Ezekiel 20:18–20).

God wants His people to love Him, to love their neighbors, and to obey His commandments. This includes keeping His Sabbaths. God said His Sabbaths—the seventh-day Sabbath and the annual Holy Days—would be a “sign” between Him and His people. These days would be an identifying mark taken on by His loyal and faithful servants! And to those who are willing to repent, have their sins covered by the blood of Christ, and obey God’s laws, He gives the precious gift of His eternal Spirit (Acts 5:32). In doing so, He begets us through that Spirit as literal sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14).

What is the message for us? How do we take on the mark of God? By repenting of breaking God’s laws—including His holy Sabbaths—by accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf, and by receiving His precious, eternal Spirit.

The dystopian police state of George Orwell is not here, even in the midst of this pandemic. But there are signs that a deceptive and despotic power is on its way. But even more importantly, there are signs that assure us of the soon-coming return of our Elder Brother Jesus Christ. He is our Rock, our fortress, and our salvation (Psalm 18:2). He is the One we must seek with all of our hearts (Isaiah 55:6–7). And He is the One to whom we must show ourselves loyal, even in the difficult days to come (2 Chronicles 16:9). Big Brother is coming—but we can be ready!
Respect Waning for Top UK Universities

A recent *Guardian* article tells a sobering story: “UK universities suffer worst-ever rankings in world league table” (June 9, 2020). For centuries, English universities have received tremendous respect around the world as among the world’s very best. Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London, and other universities in the United Kingdom have long been recognized among the best in the world and have been great sources of pride for the English.

In recent years, however, UK universities have been losing ground to Asian competitors, falling in international rankings for four years running. While Imperial College climbed one spot last year to eighth in the world, it was the only UK university in the top 20 to improve its position. Nearly 75 percent of the country’s schools—including Oxford—fell in the rankings, in what *The Guardian* reports was “the UK’s worst-ever performance.” Universities in the United States are also experiencing a downward trend, “which has seen the country’s share of the top 100 universities fall from 32 to 27 over five years.”

Bible prophecies warn that, at the end of this age, God will “break the pride” of the power of the nations descended from ancient Israel, because they will turn from Him and reject His ways (Leviticus 26:14–19). These substantial declines are a humbling reality—and the Bible reveals that the days ahead will bring even greater examples of the breaking of national pride.

Germany at Helm of European Union!

Though the European Union presents itself as a pan-European confederation of nations, the reality may be somewhat different—a fact made all the more plain by recent leadership changes. On July 1, Germany’s Angela Merkel took over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Council—while fellow German politician Ursula von der Leyen continues to serve as the head of the EU Commission. “The European Union is set to be run by two German women with a long history. The Continent might never be the same” (*Spiegel International*, June 17, 2020). What will these German leaders accomplish together?

Politicians, academics, and pundits have been demanding more aggressive international leadership from Germany for years. German money has contributed greatly to Europe’s success in recent years, and strong German leadership is now being called for. A noted German academic and politician recently observed, “If Germany doesn’t show leadership in Europe, there won’t be a Europe” (*Politico*, June 25, 2020). Indeed, though English and French have long functioned as the languages of commerce in Europe, the German language is becoming increasingly popular throughout the continent (*Politico*, June 26, 2020). Bible prophecy reveals that Germany will play a powerful role in Europe and the world at the end of this age. The political situation in Europe is now ripe for a strong and sober nation to come to the fore. The last half of 2020 may give us some strong hints about the future of Germany’s growing leadership role in Europe.

“Middle Powers” Leading as U.S. Falters?

The respected journal *Foreign Affairs* recently published an article on the emerging role of “middle powers” (“Can Middle Powers Lead the World Out of the Pandemic?,” June 18, 2020). Author Bruce Jones makes the following sobering observation with regard to the global pandemic: “With the United States mired in inward-looking dysfunction and China currently incapable of the kind of diplomatic largesse that global public health leadership demands, middle powers will have to lead the way out of the crisis.”

These “middle powers” are large, independent nations that are stepping into a leadership gap left by the world’s faltering superpowers. They include Japan, Canada, the U.K., Germany, France, and some other European Union nations. They are setting the pace in both financial and
public health leadership during the global pandemic and have even brought the superpowers to the table to make progress on global initiatives.

Bible prophecy reveals that one of these “middle powers”—Germany—will continue its rise on the world stage. With the U.S. promising to withdraw a third of its troop protection from German soil, Germany will be forced to militarize at a faster pace than planned (Washington Post, June 5, 2020). The nation has repeatedly stepped into the leadership vacuum left by the U.S., and students of Bible prophecy know the importance of watching Germany—the nation that will one day lead the world for a time.

**U.S. Marriage Rates Are Lowest Ever**

In 2018, the marriage rate in the United States dropped to its lowest level since 1900 (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, April 29, 2020). Just 6.5 out of 1,000 people married in 2018, down from 7.0 in 2016. Many experts expect this number to drop further in future years. Meanwhile, more couples are living together outside of marriage (Daily Mail, April 29, 2020). Marriages are more prevalent among financially stable couples, while those in more challenging financial straits are less likely to marry. Yet research shows that marriage can potentially improve a couple’s financial situation and also provide health benefits. While some studies suggest that fewer people are marrying because there are not enough “economically attractive” men available, other experts suggest that “the recent decline may simply be because people are following less traditional family paths” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, April 29, 2020).

Describing signs of the end of this age, the Apostle Paul wrote that “men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1–4). These selfish attitudes do not fit well with biblical marriage, which requires each partner to give to and serve the other. Sadly, in choosing not to marry, millions in the U.S. and other nations are denying themselves the opportunity to experience one of the great joys of life.

**Pope Francis Sees Stronger Europe Ahead**

The EU has been struggling, and Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic have added insult to injury. European nations are acting independently in their battle against the virus, and some commentators have declared that this could be the end of the EU as we know it.

By contrast, following in his predecessors’ footsteps, Pope Francis has supported the drive toward a united Europe. In fact, Francis recently implored, “In these times in which we need so much unity among us, among nations, let us pray today for Europe, so that Europe manages to have this unity, this fraternal unity of which the founding fathers of the European Union dreamed” (CRUX, April 23, 2020). Francis recognizes that events in Europe can change the whole world. “It’s not at all clear whether the pope actually can save the EU from itself,” notes Vatican expert John L. Allen, but, regardless, this non-European pope is “reminding his adopted continent of its ideals at a time when disenchantment with them seems to be on the verge of going mainstream.”

Pope Francis perceives a need for a stronger, unified Europe, and he is working toward that end—as have popes before him. Bible prophecies tell of an end-time leader of the Roman church who will strongly support a European superpower known as “the beast.” In fact, this coming religious leader will use powerful miracles to motivate the nations of the earth to view the coming European beast power as a savior (Revelation 13:11–17)! Events unfolding on the continent could be setting the stage for the fulfillment of ancient prophecies that will involve the Roman church and a centralized European superpower.
I just want to thank TW for your free magazine first and foremost but also I Praise God for your free material [Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer]. It has been an inspiration to me in my prayer life. With COVID-19 here, it has brought me closer to Christ because I see more so that our time here will soon be up, which your literature constantly reminds me. I take my time in the mornings to read and study God’s holy word until I can get going. I’m totally disabled, but this is like fuel for the fire. Thanks ever so much for what y’all do for us in the building of God’s Kingdom. Love y’all dearly, brothers.

—Subscriber in North Carolina

Dear brothers and sisters—I study your magazines and videos. I would like to learn more. Also, my family has started keeping the Sabbath. Your teachings help many people like us to come to the truth. May God bless and guide you to spread His word more.

—Reader in Sri Lanka

Editor’s Note: It is wonderful to hear that you and your family have stepped out in faith to begin keeping God’s commandments! For anyone interested in information about one of our many Sabbath-keeping congregations around the world, you can contact one of our Regional Addresses, listed on page 4 of this magazine. You can also go to our website at TomorrowsWorld.org and click on “Meet the Church Behind TW” for more information.

I went [to your website] to order a free booklet (and did order it) and I got lost there for over four hours. The articles are fascinating and inspiring. Glad I found the site.

—Email from a reader

Hello, I don’t usually send comments, but I just wanted to say how much I appreciated this straight-forward, very inspiring article [Tomorrow’s World online commentary “Are You Easily Offended?”]. I needed to hear this. I want to honor God and our Savior. Being watchful of the words that I speak and not allowing myself to be easily offended can be such a struggle. I greatly appreciate this powerful reminder, Thank you!

—Subscriber in California

I received my copy of the Tomorrow’s World Magazine May-June 2020 issue this week. I read the first article last night. It makes it so clear where the virus COVID-19 came from and why, and how it could have been prevented! Thank you so much! I have shared the article through social media and I really hope the world reads it and wakes up!

—Subscriber in Ontario

Thank you so much for sending me the booklet Restoring Original Christianity. You have helped me beyond measure and I’m hungry and thirsty for more information, please. God bless you.

—Subscriber in the United Kingdom

I just want to thank your ministry for preaching [about] the Sabbath day. When many mainstream pastors of our nation have wandered away from God’s fourth commandment, many of them have chosen Sunday worship, which is in honor of sun worship that is idolatry and abomination in the sight of God. I just want to thank your ministry for preaching about the Sabbath day. When many mainstream pastors of our nation have wandered away from God’s fourth commandment, many of them have chosen Sunday worship, which is in honor of sun worship that is idolatry and abomination in the sight of God.

—Reader in Ohio
UPCOMING TELECASTS

Will God Forget Your Children?
The choices our civilization makes have consequences for generations to come.
September 10–16

Unlock Bible Prophecy!
Many find prophecy hard to understand, but a few simple tools can make it plain!
September 17–23

Will You Go to Hell?
Many fear going to Hell, while others dismiss it. Few understand the inspiring truth!
September 24–30

Why Does God Allow Pandemics?
In all of the news surrounding COVID-19, the most important question is overlooked!
October 1–7

A World on Fire
Our streets are filled with chaos and violence. Why? God’s word reveals the real answers.
October 8–14

What Happens When You Die?
Will you cease to exist? Or is there something wonderful ahead? You need to know!
October 15–21

Schedule subject to change