

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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# 9/11

T W E N T Y   Y E A R S   L A T E R

# We Shouldn't Be Shocked

I confess: I'm shocked! But before I tell you why, let me take a very related side trip

Movies present a distorted image of reality, yet they shape our views on many subjects, such as history and culture. I grew up on military bases where theaters charged as little as 15 or 25 cents to see a new feature every day or two. So, I've seen my share of "D-rated" movies. No, this rating is not a competitor of the Motion Picture Association's G and R ratings, which only began in 1968. The unofficial "D" rating meant that a movie had a suboptimal plot and mediocre actors. An example would be a prison escape picture filmed in black and white.

Some action flicks were staged to look like they took place in Shanghai, Hong Kong, or Canton. One of the better ones was *Soldier of Fortune* with Clark Gable and Susan Hayward, but Asia, one way or another, was usually a backdrop for scenes of gangsters and shady characters running around crowded streets. I considered those places exotic danger spots—because the movies told me so.

In years that followed, I learned that another alarming place to travel was Israel. Newspapers and television news conveyed this, but when I had the opportunity to travel to Israel in 1978, I truthfully felt more secure there than I did in New York City. And in 1984 I found Shanghai, Beijing, and other cities in China very different from what I had expected. I didn't find any gangsters—just curious people who were not used to seeing foreigners. Since then I have traveled to Guangzhou (formerly Canton), Hong Kong, and other cities in China and Asia, and have felt safer there than in some parts of Chicago, Los Angeles, and even Kansas City.

## Today's Horrific Violence

Of course, *feeling* safe and *being* safe are two different matters. We quickly adapt to familiar surroundings. Generally speaking, most—but certainly not all—Americans feel safe where they live ("Most Americans feel safe in their own community, big cities still scare many," *Today.YouGov.com*, September 8, 2020). Clearly, the United States of America is still the desired home for many—just ask the thousands of immi-

grants flooding its southern border—but what about people in more prosperous countries? Does the "land of the free and home of the brave" more and more resemble one of those movies with gangsters running around a mysterious and dangerous city? What do outsiders think of America? Are they wondering why anyone would want to venture in?

The year 2021 has been a violent year in America. It seems that we hear of a mass shooting every other day, but that is not what the



facts reveal—it is *far worse than that*. Gun Violence Archive documents more than 350 shootings during the first six months of this year in which four or more persons—not including the shooter—were wounded or killed in a single incident. That's an average of about 1.8 mass

shootings per day—close to 13 per week! As of June 30 this year, there had been 30 shootings with eight or more victims, and there were already 25 mass shootings in the first five days of July! We can only imagine what the rest of the world is thinking—"*Those crazy Americans and their guns.*" This is why I confessed at the beginning of this Personal that I'm shocked at how bad it really is ("Mass Shootings in 2021," *GunViolenceArchive.org*, accessed July 8, 2021).

The U.S. has the most guns per capita by any standard of measurement, yet Switzerland, with nearly 46 guns per 100 people, has not had a mass shooting since 2001. Obviously, the gun cultures of these two countries are different, but the U.S. is not the only country where gun violence is out of control. "The Mexican

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National Security System... reports that 29,406 cases of murder occurred in 2019, affecting 34,588 victims” and much of this was gun violence (“Justice in Mexico releases 2020 Organized Crime and Violence in Mexico Report,” *JusticeInMexico.org*, July 30, 2020).

### Tomorrow’s Peaceful World

Though we are shocked when our fellow man shows so little regard for human life, this should not come as a total surprise if we read what the Bible says about the time in which we live. I grew up attending a generic Protestant church, but in all that time I never heard a sermon on biblical prophecy. *Why*, when at least a quarter of the Bible *is* prophecy? It is true that churches today talk more often about prophecy than they did during my formative years—but those who do so almost never use the proper keys to unlock prophecy.

By contrast, the *Tomorrow’s World* magazine and telecast boldly and accurately proclaim the return of Jesus Christ to rule over mankind. That must seem strange to anyone lacking full faith in the reality of God, but should it be strange to those who truly believe Jesus was resurrected from the grave? Is one more difficult to believe than the other?

Further, unless He does return, we are all doomed. If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, do we believe His words? Jesus warned that mankind would come to the brink of annihilation and only His intervention would prevent it (Matthew 24:21–22). That was not possible when Jesus made this prediction, but since the invention of the nuclear bomb and other technologies, it is *now* possible. The return of Christ is crucial to putting an end to the carnage we see today—crucial to our very survival.

On the evening before He was taken to be crucified, Jesus told His disciples, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). And where will He be? The biblical answer is unambiguous.

For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many witnesses. Finally, on the Mount of Olives, His disciples asked when He would set up His kingdom. His answer? They were not to be concerned about

*when*, but were to *do the Work* for which He had called them. After giving this response, He rose into the air and disappeared in a cloud. As the startled Apostles stood watching, two angels appearing as men spoke and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

We also read that “the LORD shall be King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9). And we are told that when the seventh trumpet sounds, there will be “loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’” (Revelation 11:15). Prophecy after prophecy describes the return of Jesus Christ *to this earth* and what His kingdom will be like.

In front of the United Nations headquarters building in New York City, there is a statue titled “Let Us Beat Swords into Ploughshares,” which was made in the 1950s by an artist from the Soviet Union. It is a “bronze statue representing the figure of a man holding a hammer in one hand and, in the other, a sword which he is making into a plough share, symbolizing man’s desire to put an end to war and convert the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of all mankind” (“Let Us Beat Swords Into Ploughshares,” *UN.org*, accessed July 8, 2021).

It is remarkable that the UN website, along with several others that mention this statue, neglects to mention the source of its inspiration. It symbolizes more than “man’s desire to put an end to war.” The inspiration for the statue comes directly from the Bible, which gives a rock-solid promise that this *will happen* when Christ returns to save mankind from itself. Speaking of His return and reign, we read, “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4; cf. Micah 4:3). This is what *Tomorrow’s World* is all about!



## 5 9/11—Twenty Years Later

Since the horrific terror attacks of September 2001, our world has changed—but has it changed for the better?

## 10 Ireland at 100

A century after the Irish nation won independence, how does Northern Ireland fit within the United Kingdom?

## 12 Who Wants to Live Forever?

What does the afterlife offer? It may not be what you expect, but it is more beautiful than you can imagine.

## 16 The New Racism

Is Critical Race Theory the long-awaited solution to an age-old problem, or can it do much more harm than good?

## 22 The EU After Brexit

What can Scripture tell us about the economic and social prospects of the European Union in light of Brexit?

## 26 Toys and Us

25 Questions and Answers

28 NewsWatch

30 Letters to the Editor

31 Television Log

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# Better Without the Euro?

—22—

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**[Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org](mailto:Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org)**.

### United States

PO Box 3810  
Charlotte, NC 28227-8010  
Phone: +1 (704) 844-1970

### Australasia

PO Box 300  
Clarendon SA 5157, Australia  
Phone: +61 8 8383 6266

### Canada

PO Box 465  
London, ON N6P 1R1  
Phone: +1 (905) 814-1094

### New Zealand

PO Box 2767  
Shortland Street  
Auckland 1140  
Phone: +64 9-268 8985

### Philippines

PO Box 492  
Araneta Center Post Office  
1135 Quezon City, Metro Manila  
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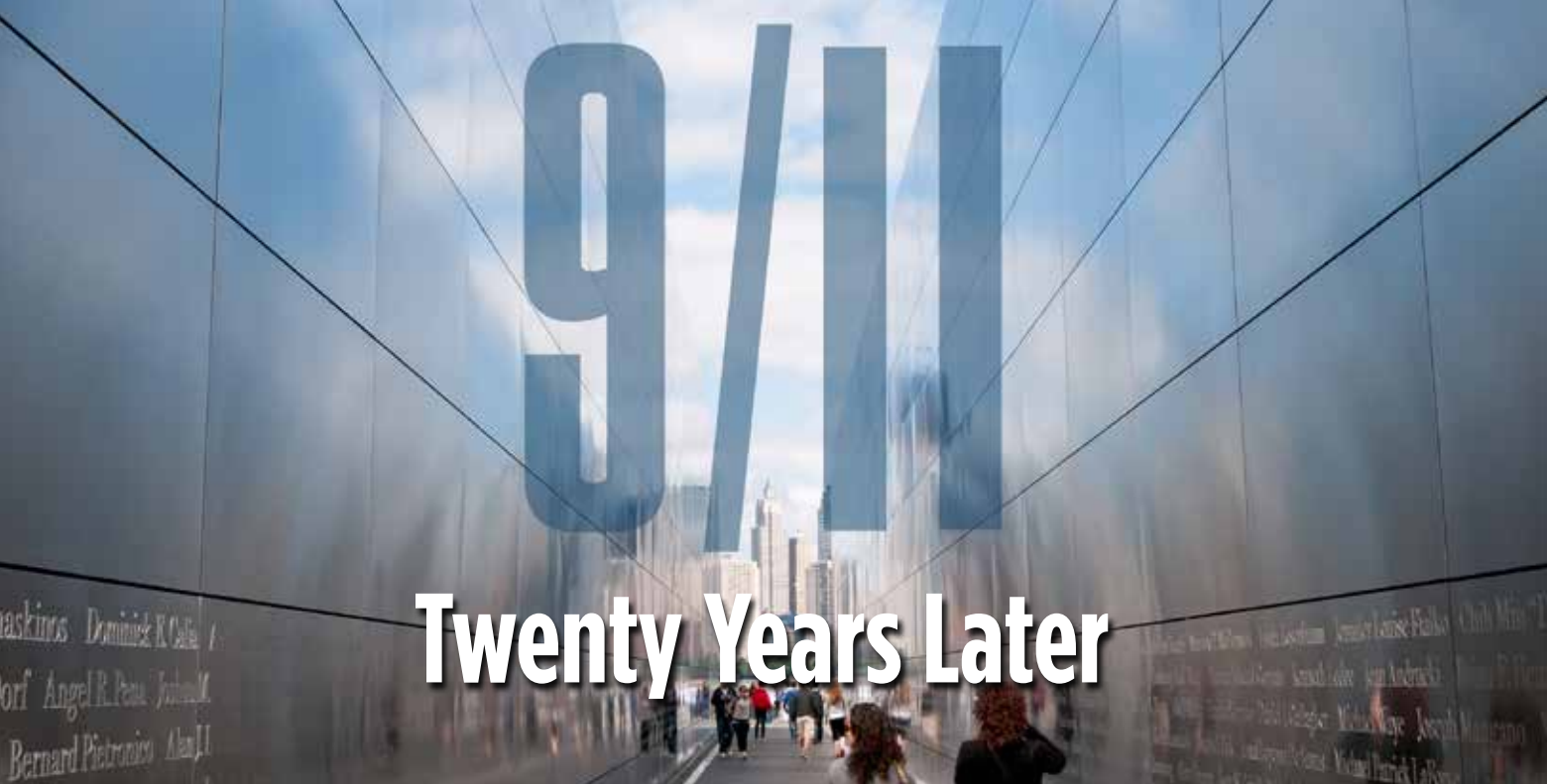
### South Africa

Private Bag X3016  
Harrismith, FS, 9880  
Phone: +27 58 622 1424

### United Kingdom

Box 111  
43 Berkeley Square  
London, W1J 5FJ  
Phone: +44 844 800 9322

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# Twenty Years Later

By **Gerald E. Weston**

**T**he events of September 11, 2001 are etched into the minds of all who are old enough to remember them. We know where we were when the news first came to us. We remember seeing the 110-story North Tower of the World Trade Center billowing black smoke and seeing the second plane hit the South Tower—many of us watching it on live TV. We remember the first report of something happening at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and then the report of a plane crash in Pennsylvania.

The news of what has since been called “9/11” shook the United States and shocked the world. Nearly 25,000 people were injured in the attacks and 2,977 died—more than were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. How could such a devastating tragedy occur? That day was destined to change the world. That was obvious to any thinking person, but exactly *how* the world would be different took time to understand.

Messages of support and sympathy flooded in from leaders around the world, although some in the Islamic world celebrated in the streets—dancing, chanting, shooting weapons into the air, and burning American flags. The skies were eerily quiet for a time, with commercial air traffic into and within

North America diverted and grounded. So many transatlantic flights were diverted to Newfoundland that stranded passengers were taken into homes and impromptu shelters, where they were fed and cared for during several days until airspace was reopened and all the planes could be cleared for departure. Similar scenarios played out at several Canadian airports. It took three years for air traffic to return to pre-9/11 levels.

## Aftermath

There were many questions asked on that fateful day and those that followed. Would there be more attacks? Who was responsible? How would America respond? Then there was the question of *why*. That is the question this *Tomorrow's World* article will answer.

There was also anger, as America wanted to strike back. However, this was not Pearl Harbor, where the enemy was so easily identified. A war against a country with borders is not the same as a war on *terrorism*, which is not the same as a war on *terrorists*. Rage and anger turned into patriotic fervor, as seen in one defiant picture circulated in the aftermath. Its caption read, “They wanted to change America, and indeed they did,” and it showed a residential street with American flags displayed at every home. Americans laid politics aside for a few weeks and pulled together. There would be no tolerance for antipatriotic



displays—no taking a knee during the playing of the national anthem, no turning one's back and covering one's head.

America was united for a short time—indeed, much of the Western world was, as we remembered that 372 of the casualties of 9/11 had been residents of other countries. For a few weeks, church attendance was up, but this did not last. There was no lasting national turning back to God and biblical values. Patriotism replaced repentance—a poor substitute.

### **Where Are We Today?**

Is America today a more righteous nation? Is it stronger? What about the Western world in general? What about the world as a whole? Are we any more secure?

The changes over the last 20 years have been precipitous, as we see from a two-decade trip down memory lane. Remember when there were no se-

that lurk in the grey recesses of the cyberworld and the “dark web”?

Following 9/11, the U.S. massively ramped up electronic surveillance, otherwise known as spying. Spying has been around as long as man has been on the earth. Neighbors spy on neighbors through the window blinds. Baseball teams “steal” the communication symbols between pitchers and catchers. Football teams steal their opponents’ playbooks. Nations pry into the affairs of other nations, friends and foes alike. Companies spy on and steal trade secrets from their competitors. Everyone, it seems, wants to get an edge on his neighbor.

As the Internet grew in the 1990s and the 2000s, a new breed of programmer flourished—the hacker. Many enjoyed the thrill of finding a flaw in Microsoft’s programs and letting the company know so the flaw could be patched. Others were not so noble and

found ways to exploit flaws with a bit of mischief. Over time, hackers realized there was money in finding a flaw and informing the company before any mischief was done. At first, a “zero-day” discovery—a flaw that had not yet been corrected—could fetch a hacker a few hundred dollars, but U.S. government agencies began paying five- and six-figure sums once

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## **IS AMERICA TODAY A MORE RIGHTEOUS NATION? IS IT STRONGER? WHAT ABOUT THE WESTERN WORLD IN GENERAL?** **WHAT ABOUT THE WORLD AS A WHOLE?**

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curity lines at airports? A whole generation cannot remember when the greatest security check was handing over a ticket at the gate. We could send off our loved ones right up to the point of boarding. Such scenes are still seen in popular classic movies—and, if New York is part of the setting, you may see the older skyline, which included two square towers standing above those around them. But the changes go deeper than that, and they are not always understood or appreciated.

New banking regulations and laws against money-laundering have been put in place. Former expectations of privacy have become a relic of the past. Virtually every keystroke, spoken word, social connection, purchase, and inquiry is being monitored. Some suggest that you not have an Alexa or other command box in your bedroom, but what about that smartphone that is constantly listening? And those are legal surveillance tools. What about the excesses

they realized how advantageous a zero-day could be in hacking into a terrorist’s or enemy nation’s computer network.

Pandora’s box was opened, with one country after another getting into the business of buying zero-day exploits to spy at will on nations and individuals. As is so often the case, the road to destruction was paved with good intentions.

“You have to understand,” one... analyst told me, “we were collecting crazy intelligence.... Our work was landing directly in presidential briefings. You felt your work was saving countless lives” (Nicole Perlroth, *This Is How They Tell Me the World Ends: The Cyberweapons Arms Race*, p. 112).

This relatively new form of spying was complicated, as it involved sorting through the massive

amounts of information coming in—but technology came to the rescue.

By 2008 the NSA [National Security Agency] feverishly began removing human decision-making—and with it any complicated moral calculus—from their work. A highly classified NSA software program code-named Genie began aggressively embedding implants not just in foreign adversaries' systems but in nearly every major make and model of internet router, switch, firewall, encryption device, and computer on the market. By 2013 Genie was managing 85,000 implants... with plans to push that number into the millions.

We have reached the point at which every touch on your smartphone, every word that you whisper in your bedroom, everywhere you go, and everything you buy is likely to be logged and listened to in cyberspace. Even if you do not own a smartphone, you are known by the friends you keep and what your political leanings are. There is a biblical proverb that advises, "Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter" (Ecclesiastes 10:20). Never in the history of man has that advice been more relevant.

### **From Spying to Weaponizing Cyberspace**

By 2007, the problem of the Iranian Natanz nuclear enrichment plant—secure beneath 30 feet of concrete and rock, housing 8,700 centrifuges designed to produce weapons-grade uranium—was becoming acute. Israel was getting nervous about Iranian capabilities and was putting pressure on the U.S. to supply "bunker-buster" bombs to destroy the plant. Diplomacy had failed to stop the Iranians, and the potential destabilizing effect of a massive strike was considered too great. It was then that the National Security Agency's Keith Alexander put forth a third option—a cyberattack. It would not be easy, but General Alexander convinced President George W. Bush that it could be done.

"Olympic Games" was a complicated operation spearheaded by the U.S.—some comparing it to the

Manhattan Project that produced the first atomic bomb. In addition to developing an incredibly complicated computer worm, it relied on the Israelis for inside knowledge of the Natanz facility; but all was for naught unless someone could get Stuxnet, the highly sophisticated code, into an extremely secure plant. There are many speculations, but it has never been revealed who actually did it. However, by late 2008, the worm had been inserted into the Natanz plant and was spreading from computer to computer. Incoming President Barack Obama was briefed on the operation, and within a month of his inauguration the first of 1,000 centrifuges failed, thanks to the worm. Stuxnet's full attack did not occur all at once, but took place gradually over the next year, effectively making sabotage appear to be natural failure.

### **The First Shot Has Been Fired**

Cyberattacks are now common, as nations probe their enemies' security weaknesses. Opportunists hack into the computer systems of companies and governments to extort millions of dollars in ransom. Many Americans, especially on the East Coast, were affected firsthand when a cyberattack shut down the Colonial Pipeline on May 7 this year—but this was only the most obvious attack of many that affect daily life in ways seen and unseen.

Consider that in the first 70 days of 2021, according to the *Daily Hawker*, the following companies were hacked, exposing users' names, addresses, Social Security information, birthdates, passwords, banking information—essentially anything needed to steal your identity and much more: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Parler, Pixlr, Nebraska Medicine, California DMV, Kroger, Oxford University Lab, T-Mobile, Microsoft Exchange, and many more. The number of people compromised runs into the hundreds of millions, but there are greater dangers than someone stealing your identity, as troublesome as that is.

Hackers broke into a water treatment facility in Florida, gained access to an internal ICS platform and changed chemical levels, making the water unsafe to consume.... Sheriff Bob Gaultier said on Friday, February 5,



hackers remotely accessed a computer system that a plant operator was monitoring.... The hacker changed the sodium hydroxide from about 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million.... This is obviously a significant and potentially dangerous increase. Sodium hydroxide, also known as lye, is the main ingredient in liquid drain cleaners. It's also used to control water acidity and [to] remove metals from drinking water in the water treatment plants. After the intruder increased the parts per million, the intruder exited the system and the plant operator immediately reduced the level back to the appropriate amount of 100 ("Hacker breaks into Florida water treatment facility, changes chemical levels," *SecurityMagazine.com*, February 9, 2021).

The world is now toying with a new weapon of potential mass destruction. What started out as an attempt to stop world terrorism has spawned a whole new world of terrorism. What will happen when more and more power grids and transportation facilities are shut down?

### Attack on Morality

Since 9/11, our world has changed in many other remarkable ways. Same-sex marriage has become accepted by the majority of people in nation after

nation—especially in the so-called "First World" English-speaking nations. Almost as soon as same-sex marriage became "normalized," the "trans" movement began. Behaviors that were unacceptable 20 years ago are now promoted at the earliest levels of education.

Before 9/11, women were already encroaching on almost every last domain of men. Girls demanded that they be allowed in the Boy Scouts and on boys' baseball and football teams. Female reporters demanded access to the locker rooms of male sports teams. But what goes around comes around. Today, men identifying as women are invading women's sports at every turn, pushing women aside as these larger and stronger

XY-chromosomed specimens of "womanhood" break record after record. Any male who decides that he wants to be female can now enter a women's locker room. This might seem to be a just reward for those who promoted the idea that men and women are the same. However, the father whose daughter was being considered for an athletic scholarship until the transgender athlete showed up has a right to be furious about this injustice! And, as a husband, I find it insulting for men to be given access to a restroom while my wife is there. Or, in places with two unisex restrooms so as not to offend, a toilet that some uncouth man just used while refusing to lift the seat *is* an offense to the woman or girl who uses it next.

Girls who cannot legally get a tattoo or go on a school field trip without parental permission can easily get an abortion or testosterone injection without that same safeguarding consent. We are told that minors are intelligent enough to make those decisions on their own—but why, then, do we not let them drive a vehicle, buy alcohol, purchase a gun, or make a host of other choices until they reach an age higher than is required for them to destroy their bodies and futures? Let's call this movement being promoted on social media and in schools what it is: *child abuse* and *insanity*. All of these changes have taken place since 9/11.

Our democracies are failing. Division within them is the order of the day. "Polarization is tearing at the seams of democracies around the world, from Brazil and India to Poland and Turkey. It isn't just



an American illness; it's a global one" ("How to Understand the Global Spread of Political Polarization," *CarnegieEndowment.org*, October 1, 2019).

The U.S. is more divided today than at any time since the American Civil War—and what will happen to the rest of the world if America tears itself apart? As Jesus proclaimed, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls" (Luke 11:17).

Yes, a lot has changed since 9/11. So we must ask: How did we go so wrong in the last 20 years? What is the cause of our problems?

### Connecting the Dots of Biblical Prophecy

The God of the Bible inspired the prophet Moses to proclaim a choice for His people. If they obeyed God there would be wonderful blessings, but if they disobeyed Him, there would be terrible consequences. You may not at this time understand the identity of most of the Western nations—including the United Kingdom, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and many of the nations of northwestern Europe—but you *can* understand the mind of God through His word.

Take a look at the blessings and curses found in Leviticus 26. Those blessings include rain in due season, abundant crops, good health, and great military strength against enemies. But then, beginning in verse 14, we learn the results of disobedience. Can we connect the dots between our behaviors and the curses God pronounced on those who would disobey Him?

But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and **if you despise** My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even **appoint terror** over you, **wasting disease** and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And **you shall sow your seed in vain**, for your enemies shall eat it (Leviticus 26:14–16).

Note the order of events as emphasized above. It was evident for several years prior to 9/11 that Americans and others had begun not only neglecting, but actually *despising* God's law. And the result? Americans and others have been fighting a war against terrorism since 9/11, with America long mired in conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. Only this year has the U.S. withdrawn from 18 years of conflict in Afghanistan—its longest war by far—and who knows what it will have to show for it in the end?

Further, the whole world has been fighting a war against disease. And the western U.S. and Canada are in one of the worst droughts in recent history. Note this astonishing report from *The Guardian*:

On Sunday, the small mountain town of Lytton, British Columbia, became one of the hottest places in the world. Then, on Monday, Lytton got even hotter—47.9C (118F)—hotter than it's ever been in Las Vegas, 1,300 miles to the south. And by Tuesday, 49.6C (121F). Lytton is at 50 deg N latitude—about the same as London. This part of the world should never get this hot. Seattle's new all-time record of 108F, also set Monday, is hotter than it's ever been in Miami. In Portland, the new record of 116F would beat the warmest day ever recorded in Houston by nearly 10 degrees ("How did a small town in Canada become one of the hottest places on Earth?," *TheGuardian.com*, June 30, 2021).

Some attribute this to global warming, but is that also the cause of terrorism and COVID-19? Why are all these troubles occurring at roughly the same time? Unless we turn around and move in a very different direction, here is our future: "I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you" (Leviticus 26:17). Do not think it cannot happen. Connect the dots and reevaluate your life and choices—before it is too late. [TW]

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## Ireland at 100



**A** hundred years after a newly independent Irish nation established itself free of British control, the northern part of the island—the United Kingdom region known as Northern Ireland—faces questions about its future. Will it remain part of an isolated UK, become another European Union nation, or merge with its neighbour Ireland to the south?

During the tumultuous years of World War I, desire for Irish independence reached a new high. The British Army's heavy-handed response after the "Easter uprising" of 1916 only fuelled further the Irish longing for freedom from British rule. In elections of 1918, the pro-independence party Sinn Féin won a landslide electoral victory, gaining 73 of the 105 open seats. Yet the six northern counties, collectively known as Ulster, wanted no part of the independence movement, led by Roman Catholic freedom-seekers based in Dublin to the south.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty, signed in December 1921, gave Dominion status to the Irish Free State, making it a separate and full member of the British Commonwealth of Nations with an independent status equivalent to that of Canada. Yet it was understood from the start that the Ulster counties would "opt out" of this new Dominion status—and indeed they did.

The northern counties of Ireland were always the ones with the greatest ties to Britain and its Protestant heritage. Ulster was also the economic powerhouse of Ireland, fuelled by shipbuilding and aviation industries. Yet, while the Unionist sentiments of most Protestants in Northern Ireland held the province together, a vigorous Roman Catholic minority sought union with the Irish Republic, which was ruled from Dublin.

In the 1960s, long-standing tensions between Northern Ireland's Protestant and Catholic communities exploded into "the Troubles"—essentially a time of guerrilla warfare conducted between ostensibly Protestant fighters, loyal to Belfast, and the ostensibly Catholic "Irish Republican Army" (IRA), which had ties to revolutionary groups around the globe. Thousands of lives were lost to this violence, and in 1979 the IRA claimed a major victory with the murder of Lord Louis Mountbatten, a member of Britain's royal family.

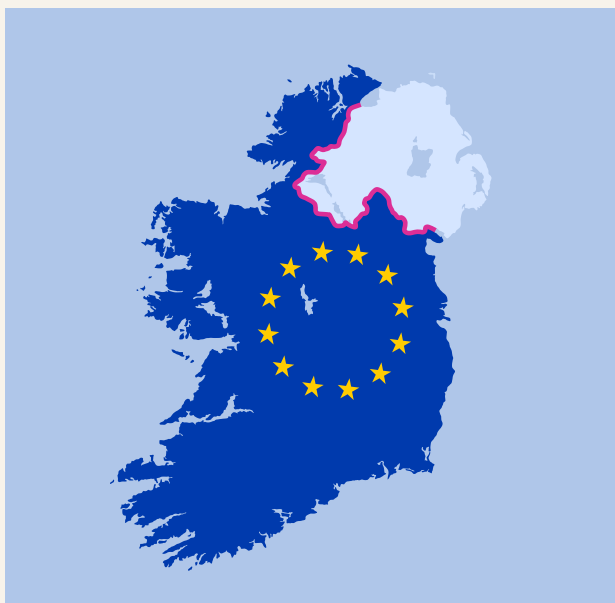
The Troubles were finally put to rest by the terms of the Belfast Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998, which was negotiated by UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, a professing Catholic, and facilitated by a nominally Protestant President of the United States, Bill Clinton. Some observers sought to frame the agreement as an outright religious one, or nearly so—it is often still called the "Good Friday Agreement" to play up religious overtones. Yet religion was at most a thin veneer; Sinn Féin, which championed the cause for reunion with the Irish Republic, is a purely secular organization, and the cause of the Unionists, led by ordained Protestant minister Ian Paisley, was in fact a secular matter despite Paisley's appeal as a religious firebrand.

### **Can a Divided House Stand?**

Despite the signed agreement, power-sharing between the opposing parties has been fragile, with implementations not lasting long. Distrust between Unionist parties and Sinn Féin runs very deep. And now, Brexit is the latest lever being used to try to dislodge Northern Ireland from its union with Great Britain (see "Brexit: The Quest Continues," in the July 2021 issue of *Tomorrow's World*).

Nearly 56 percent of voters in Northern Ireland preferred to remain in Europe rather than support Brexit. Yet their tie to the UK was even stronger, so the Unionists elected to Westminster—the seat of the UK's central government—were content to go along with Brexit plans, provided Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom. Sinn Féin, on the other hand, preferred the connection to Dublin and the Irish Republic, provided through membership in the European Union.

So, which tie will prove stronger in the long term? Observers have noted that a major problem for successive Westminster governments and leaders is that there is no sense of why Northern Ireland should be part of the UK, other than the wish of the electorate. Gone is any sense of their peoples' origins or heritage.



In a recent article in the *Spectator*, Scottish columnist Stephen Daisley lamented the Conservatives' "muddle-along approach" ("Ever weaker Union: The Tories lack a constitutional theory," *Spectator*, June 24, 2021). To Daisley, the preservation of the United Kingdom requires clear thinking on a unitary state, sovereignty, and the place of devolved assemblies—whether the Stormont in Northern Ireland, or those in Wales and Scotland—within that sovereignty. But to find and maintain such an outlook would require a clear view of who we are as people and our relationships with one another from a historical perspective, something that has never been established in the century-long life of Northern Ireland.

And this is where we must acknowledge that the cause for the union runs even deeper than most today realize. It is a cause that brings religion back into the equation, because it is found in the book we call the Bible.

### Godly Government or Government Without God?

Politicians throughout the UK—and, indeed, throughout the world—seem intent on governing without any regard for the word of God. Secular political theories and ideologies are the basis for the UK's governments, especially since World War II.

The result is a *disunited* kingdom in which the opponents of unity appear to have the upper hand and the better of the argument. History, especially biblical history, is ignored these days (see the July 2021 *Tomorrow's World* article "What's Behind the War on History?"). We have access to God's knowledge, but consider it irrelevant to our lives. Hosea, an eighth-century-BC prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel, noted a similar situation when he was inspired to write, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hosea 4:6).

The same message was conveyed by Isaiah, a near-contemporary of Hosea and a prophet to the neighboring southern Kingdom of Judah, when he was inspired to tell his people that "it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, and He who formed them will show them no favor" (Isaiah 27:11).

The truth of the matter is plain to those with eyes to see. The Eternal God warned Israel from the outset that by breaking His covenant, they would be broken themselves (Leviticus 26:15, 19) and many calamities would befall the nation. We at *Tomorrow's World* understand that the people of the UK are descendants of that ancient nation. To find out more about that history and appreciate the circumstances in which the UK now finds itself, request a free copy of *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*, or read it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org). Understand for yourself what provides the basis for the United Kingdom that so many are seeking to undo.

—Peter Nathan





# Who Wants to Live Forever?

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By **Rod McNair**

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**A** recent poll by gaming firm Bowlero found that the average American is bored for 131 days each year. A study commissioned by insurance company Cigna found that 61 percent of Americans report feeling lonely. Can you imagine spending all of eternity feeling the way you feel in your present life?

Clearly, if there is an afterlife, it had better be something much more than this present life. But how can we know? How can we sort through the many opinions and understand *why we should want to live forever?*

## Joining the “World Soul”?

The idea of “becoming at one with the cosmic essence” at death has been around for millennia. In ancient times, some believed that the souls of their kings, at death, entered the heavenly bodies such as the planets, moon, and sun. “Plutarch states that the Egyptian priests expressly taught ‘that Cronus, Osiris, Horus, and all their other principal deities were once mere men, but that after they died their souls migrated into some one or other of the heavenly bodies, and became the animating spirits of their new celestial mansions’” (John Garnier, *The Worship of the Dead*, p. 14). Increasing numbers of Americans are adopting a version of this doctrine; a Pew Research poll found that 33 percent of those surveyed believe in some form of reincarnation (“‘New Age’ beliefs

common among both religious and nonreligious Americans,” October 1, 2018).

The Bible does describe resurrected Christians gaining a greater oneness with God. Jesus Christ prayed for His disciples: “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (John 17:22–23). However, people who become spirit beings will also have distinct spiritual bodies and personalities; they will not just be part of a dumb, blind cosmic force. The Apostle Paul explained what will happen to a person’s body buried in a grave in the ground: “It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:44).

Eternal life is not just about changing to another energy state—it is about having a real, obedient relationship with a real, personal God (John 17:3). But what will the saints be doing for all eternity?

## Gazing at Glory Forever?

Is the ultimate goal of eternity our achieving spiritual bliss through looking into the face of God or floating on clouds forever? In 1336, Pope Benedict XII described the Roman Catholic idea of the afterlife: “And after such intuitive and face-to-face vision and enjoyment has or will have begun for these souls, the same vision and enjoyment has continued and will continue without any interruption and without end until the last Judgment and from then on forever” (“Benedictus Deus: On the Beatific Vision of God,”

*The Christian Faith in the Doctrinal Documents of the Catholic Church*).

Looking into the face of God will be an awesome and thrilling experience, as the Apostle John explained: “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2). To see God the Father on His throne, and to see Jesus Christ—whose face shines like the sun—will be *exhilarating*. But will the saints simply gaze at them unendingly?

Certainly, the resurrection of the saints must have a greater purpose than just staring at God or lounging around on clouds. But what is that purpose?

### Is Pleasure the Goal?

Many equate happiness with sensual pleasure—good food, beautiful sights, and sexual fulfillment. The ancient Irish believed that the good traveled at death to a “land of eternal youth, where the sun was never hidden behind the clouds, and where all the Irish women were beautiful” (Gregg Stebben, *Everything You Need to Know About Religion*, p. 16). The Qur’an pictures Muslims spending eternal life “on thrones woven with gold and precious stones, reclining thereon, face to face. They will be served by immortal boys, with cups, and jugs, and a glass from the flowing wine, wherefrom they will get neither any aching of the head, nor any intoxication. And fruit; that they may choose. And the flesh of fowls that they desire. And (there will be) *Houris* (fair females) with wide, lovely eyes (as wives for the pious), like unto preserved pearls. A reward for what they used to do” (Surah 56:15–24, *NobleQuran.com*).

Sensual happiness in the afterlife—especially regarding sex—has been a widely embraced idea. Some years ago, Barnard College professor of religion Alan F. Segal told *AARP Magazine*, “Americans see life after death as a very dynamic thing. You don’t really hear about angels and wings, sitting on clouds playing melodies.... They talk about humor in the afterlife, continuing education, unifying families—like a retirement with no financial needs.... A lot believe there will be sex in the afterlife, that it’ll be more pleasurable” (“Life after Death,” September–October 2007).

Christ did say that the primary job of resurrected saints would be terrestrial, not celestial, and that it

would be *exciting* and *fulfilling*. In the parable of the talents, He referred to the Kingdom as “the joy of your lord” (Matthew 25:21). In Matthew 5:5, He taught, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”—*not heaven*. Revelation 21 describes a “new earth,” with the “holy city” coming down to earth to be the habitation of God forever. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in human form, and even enjoyed a meal of fish and honey with them (Luke 24:42).

The physical creation will be a beautiful and enjoyable dwelling place for the resurrected saints to dwell in with God. Yet satisfying the senses will *not* be the ultimate goal of resurrected Christians living on earth. Christ explained, for example, that sexuality will not be a part of the resurrected saints’ experience; that “in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30).

Living in the Kingdom of God—under God’s laws, through His Spirit—*will* be a joyful experience, but happiness in itself will not be the ultimate goal and purpose for eternal life.

### Restoring What Was Lost

To understand our spiritual destiny, we must recall the commission God gave when human beings were first placed on the earth. God gave Adam and Eve “dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26). The human family was given responsibility to rule over God’s creation. In turn, Adam was to dress it and cultivate it. He and his descendants were to help in God’s creative work of enhancing and beautifying the earth.

Adam failed the test of obedience, and Satan the devil was able to ensnare and entrap all of humanity (Revelation 12:9). But through the work of the Messiah—Jesus’ life, sacrifice, resurrection, and second coming—the devil will ultimately be overthrown (Revelation 20:2, 10). At Christ’s second coming, the earth will be returned to an Eden-like state (Isaiah 51:3).

But whom will God use to restore the world? *The resurrected saints*. Scripture clearly describes their role: “[You] have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:10). God also instructs His saints, “But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and

keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations” (Revelation 2:25–26).

In the parable of the minas, Christ explained the leadership role the resurrected saints will be given as a reward for their faithful service: “Then came the first, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities’” (Luke 19:16–17). The saints’ role will be to rule over the earth with Christ (Revelation 3:12, 21).

But what will happen after the general resurrection, after the Millennium—the prophesied thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth—has ended (Revelation 20:4, 12)? What will the saints do after obedient and converted human beings have

## EVEN THOUGH ALL THINGS ARE NOT CURRENTLY UNDER HUMANITY’S DOMINION, THEY WILL BE. CAN WE GRASP THAT?

been glorified and the incorrigible have been reduced to ashes in a lake of fire (Malachi 4:3)?

### More Than the Earth

God inspired the Apostle Paul to write about our ultimate destiny: “For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: ‘What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands’” (Hebrews 2:5–7). The resurrected saints will not only help God rule over the earth; they will also “judge”—govern or manage—the angels (1 Corinthians 6:2–3).

And there is more. Paul wrote further, “You have put all things in subjection under his feet” (Hebrews 2:8). What did Paul mean by “all things”? The Greek used here, *ta panta*, is all-inclusive, meaning “all, any, every, the whole” (*BibleHub.com*). All things will be put under the dominion of the resurrected saints, working through God’s Kingdom.

In other words, even though all things—the whole universe—are not currently under humanity’s dominion, they *will* be (Hebrews 2:8). Can we grasp that? Just as God originally gave human beings dominion and rulership over the earth, His ultimate goal is for us to rule over *the entire universe*. In the same way that we were meant to work on and beautify the earth, God has also called us to assist Him in refashioning and “planting” the desolate planets throughout the vast universe (Isaiah 51:16).


### A Job That Won’t End

When God created man and woman, He created them “in His own image” (Genesis 1:27). While the animals were made after the various animal kinds, human beings were made after the *God kind*. All members of the human family, created by God, are rightly called His children. But through His working within us through the indwelling of His Spirit, human beings can become part of God’s *spiritual* family. As Jesus told Nicodemus, “unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

When does this “second birth” occur? *At the resurrection*. Jesus Christ became the “firstborn” from the dead at His resurrection (Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5; Romans 8:29). His being the “first” implies that *others will follow*. Paul explained that Christ is “declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4).

God wants to share His “family business”—rulership over the entire universe—with His children. Human beings’ purpose is to be born into the Family of God as the “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17).

Eternal life—the greatest gift God could bestow on His children—will bring with it a great and awesome purpose. It is not merely for indefinite human existence. It is not for joining the “world soul.” It is not to pursue sensual pleasure or even to achieve “heavenly bliss.” As members of the divine Family of God, obedient, faithful, resurrected saints will share in the work and mission of the Family—governing and beautifying the entire universe in peace and righteousness—*forever*.

Thank God for our awesome destiny, and may God speed the day when His plan for each of us is complete. 



# Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return

## Are you ready for the end of the world as we know it?

**Y**ou might want to consider that question, because it has become abundantly clear that humanity cannot last in its current state. Although some still naïvely assert that civilization can evolve to the point of establishing worldwide peace, most recognize that, now more than ever, we need a hero. And that hero truly needs to be greater than all of us, because who among us fault-ridden humans could possibly rise to the challenge of repairing the millennia-old damage done to this world and its people?

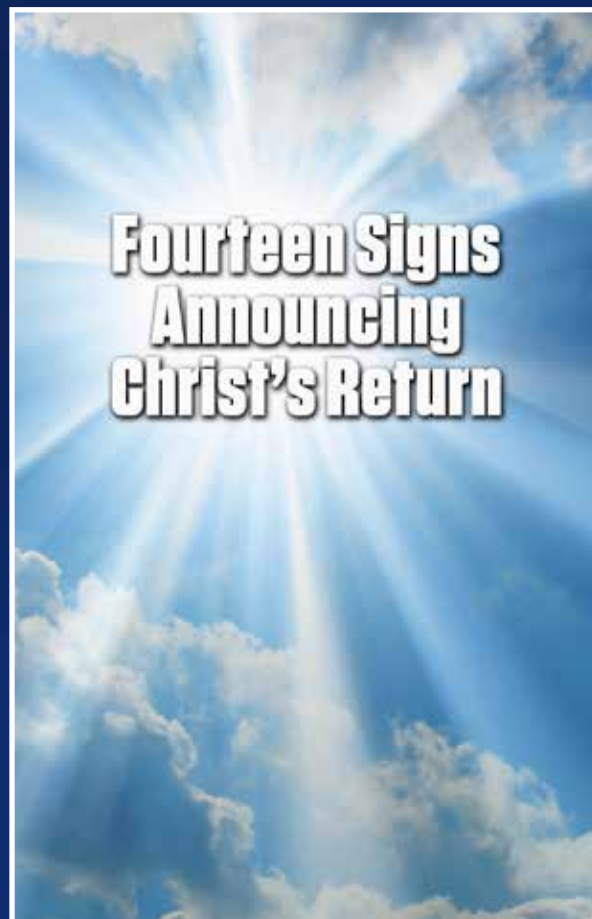
Our only hope is the Hero who *created* this world and its people—the Hero who not only is great enough to solve all the problems of this life, but is the Source of life itself. If you take the Bible at its word, you believe that this Hero, Jesus Christ, promised to return just in time to save humanity from destroying itself and to replace this corrupted world with a utopia forever beyond the reach of human effort. But is that still the plan? Has He changed His mind, deciding that we're not worth the trouble? How can you be sure that He is, even now, preparing His triumphant return to rescue humanity and rule the earth?

### The Plan Hidden in Plain Sight

You don't have to wonder. Jesus Christ *will* return, and He has made the signs of His return easy to see—if you know what to look for. Signs that His return is imminent are evident on every news channel and website, and you can learn how to point them out. Our Hero has hidden the signs of His coming in such plain sight that, once you are taught to see them, you will never wonder again.

Let *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return* help you make sense of the surrounding chaos.

It is completely free; you can read or order it at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org), or you can contact any of our Regional Offices, listed on page 4 of this magazine, and request that a copy be mailed to you. Take advantage of this understanding as soon as you can—you have nothing to lose, and incredible knowledge, wisdom, and peace to gain.



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# The New Racism



# Critical Race Theory and related philosophies are stirring passionate controversy and debate. But what does the theory really mean? What does the Creator of mankind think of its central ideas? And when will humanity finally see an end to racial strife and inequality?

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By **Wallace G. Smith**

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**I**n September 2020, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order intended to reduce its influence. As of July 2021, 26 state legislatures had introduced bills seeking to limit its teaching or ban it from education outright. As the new school year begins for children across the United States, it remains a source of passionate and fiery speeches as parents storm local school-board meetings. And news programs on multiple channels feature policy wonks, activists, and ideologues debating whether their on-screen opponents even understand it.

How did *Critical Race Theory*, once considered an obscure philosophy confined to academic circles, become a household phrase and one of the most hotly debated topics in the U.S.?

While few had even heard of it until quite recently, Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been an influence on activists and “experts” for years. Many principles behind last year’s Black Lives Matter protests were largely informed by CRT. The “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” training and educational efforts spreading through major corporations, college campuses, and even primary schools are rooted in CRT concepts. Identity-based policies and the politics of “intersectionality” find natural common ground in CRT—in fact, the term “intersectionality” was coined by one of its leading scholars. The *New York Times*’ hotly debated 1619 Project, seeking to place slavery and racism at the very center and foundation of 400 years of American history, was pro-

foundly influenced by CRT. And intensifying cries of “systemic racism” and “white privilege” reflect ideas at the heart of CRT.

So, is CRT the final answer to the racism of America’s past? Or is it simply a new racism that comes disguised as a solution to the old? And how does the theory fare when it is exposed to the light of truth from God’s eternal word (John 17:17)?

We will tackle those questions in this article. But first, it is important to recognize that while the U.S. is indeed a land of blessings for many, America still faces important racial issues in need of solutions.

## **Worrying Racial Disparities**

The U.S. may be one of the freest and most democratic nations on earth, but startling differences emerge when its citizens’ life experiences are examined according to race. The U.S. Federal Reserve’s *2019 Survey of Consumer Finances* found that the median net worth of white families that year was \$188,200, while the median net worth of black and Hispanic families was \$24,100 and \$36,100, respectively. Around 30 percent of white families received some sort of inheritance, while only 10 percent of black families and 7 percent of Hispanic families did so. And the percentage of young families owning homes also differed greatly among the races: 46 percent of white families, 17 percent of black families, and 28 percent of Hispanic families.

Beyond the world of finance, consider children and family life. The Institute for Family Studies estimates that more than 80 percent of Asian-American children lived with two married parents in 2018, as did more than 70 percent of white children. Just 55



percent of Hispanic children, and barely more than 30 percent of black children, lived in such families.

Crime rates differ dramatically for different races, as well. A January 2021 statistical brief released by the U.S. Department of Justice found that white Americans made up about 60 percent of the population but only 46 percent of the non-fatal violent crime arrests. However, while black Americans made up about 13 percent of the population, they made up a disproportionate 33 percent of those arrests.

Anyone with a sense of compassion should care about the differences in these outcomes. What causes such disparate results? A mistaken few might try to claim that some races are inherently “better” than others. That would be *racism*—treating a person’s race and the color of a person’s skin as the first and most important determinant of a person’s potential and ability—and racism is a *lie* and a *sin*. All human beings are made in the image of their Creator (Genesis 1:26–27), with equal capacity for a relationship with Him (Galatians 3:28) and the potential to become children of God—*regardless* of race, ethnicity, or sex. Skin color is *not* destiny.

Yet these statistics are not imaginary, and many individuals of different skin colors often *do* experience life in the U.S. very differently. Why? And what can be done?

Many of today’s “social justice” activists believe they have the answer: *Critical Race Theory*.

### Understanding Critical Race Theory

Early seeds of what we now call Critical Race Theory can be found in Critical Legal Theory, which itself grew out of the Marxist critical theory of the (in)famous Frankfurt School. In his book *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, one of the founding intellectuals of the CRT movement, legal scholar Richard Delgado, notes several influences on the theory, including the work of Marxist Antonio Gramsci and Western-culture deconstructionist Jacques Derrida.

CRT’s Marxist heritage often unmask itself in its practitioners’ words and deeds. For instance, race historian Ibram X. Kendi claims in his best-selling book *How to Be an Antiracist*, “To love capitalism is to end up loving racism. To love racism is to end up loving capitalism. The conjoined twins are two sides of the same destructive body.” (See “What’s Behind the War on History?” in our July 2021 issue for more on the pervasive influence of Marxism in academia.)

Defenders of CRT often accuse its detractors of not understanding the theory. However, even one of the theory’s early leading scholars, law professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, has stated—in the approving words of the American Bar Association—that CRT “cannot be confined to a static and narrow definition but is considered to be an evolving and malleable practice” (“A Lesson on Critical Race Theory,” *AmericanBar.org*, January 12, 2021).

Malleable or not, several principles and themes run throughout the work of Critical Race Theory scholars and others whose theories are related but are not strictly CRT:

**Race:** CRT sees race as a social construct for maintaining white dominance over non-white people. This dominance is not necessarily sought consciously, nor is it perpetuated exclusively by people who think of themselves as white. The role of race in CRT *cannot be overstated*—the theory turns race into the singular lens through which *every other aspect of life* is examined, measured, and critiqued. Race in CRT is the defining feature of individuals, determining whether or not they receive the benefits of the favored class or the oppression of the disfavored classes.

Unlike much of the Civil Rights Movement of the ’50s and ’60s, which sought to ground laws and relationships in an ideal of “colorblindness,” CRT seeks to ground *everything* in race and skin-color.

**Racism:** Instead of the usual sense of “racism”—e.g., a belief in the superiority of one’s race or the inferiority of another—CRT *redefines* “racism” as existing inevitably in *systems and social structures*, not necessarily in people. Even if those systems (e.g., laws, hiring practices, economic policies) are designed to treat people of all races equally, they are considered racist under CRT unless all races achieve the same outcomes in all circumstances.

CRT calls its very specifically defined version of “racism” *normal* and *pervasive* in society and says that systems will *by default* perpetuate racism unless they actively fight against it.

**Anti-racism:** “Anti-racism” is defined by CRT as the act of striving against the “racism” of systems and institutions by working to transform or destroy them to create *equity*—understood to be equal results for all.

Since being “neutral” is considered impossible in CRT, one is considered either an active anti-racist or, by default, complicit in racism. As Kendi writes, “There is no such thing as a nonracist or race-neutral policy. Every policy in every institution in every community in every nation is producing or sustaining either racial inequity or equity between racial groups.”

**Whiteness:** While definitions vary, many in CRT work define “whiteness” as the collection of cultural attitudes, values, characteristics, preferences, and societal structures that they believe help white people remain the dominant culture—even when non-white people believe in those values, as well. Many CRT advocates, like Dr. Kendi, teach that no cultural difference is actually “good” or “bad” and all are equally valid. (See “Cultural Relativism, ‘Whiteness,’ and Racism” on page 20.)

Using the above-described perspectives, proponents of Critical Race Theory claim they seek to create and maintain a world that, in Delgado’s words, no longer “merely affords everyone equality of opportunity” for all races, but instead “*assures equality of results*” for all races. Discarding practically the entire structure of Western civilization is considered a necessary price to pay. As Delgado, again, describes, “Unlike traditional civil rights discourse, which stresses incrementalism and step-by-step progress, critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law.” CRT advocates see all such systems as “power structures” that must be targeted for radical transformation or even eradication.

Kendi has even proposed a U.S. “Department of Anti-Racism” with the power to evaluate “all local, state and federal public policies” and ensure they produce equal outcomes for all races, to “monitor public officials” to ensure that they express no racist ideas, and to wield “disciplinary tools” against public officials who refuse to comply with anti-racist directives (“Pass an Anti-Racist Constitutional Amendment,” *Politico.com*).

Put simply, the philosophies driving this movement seek to make *race* the single most important organizing factor in society and the measuring stick

by which all efforts, systems, and values are judged. This ironically brings us right back to “old-fashioned” racism—a system in which people’s most important feature is their racial identity. It is, in a sense, a deceleration of *race über alles*. Welcome to the *new* racism.

### More Harm Than Good?

Given the vast, civilization-altering designs of Critical Race Theory advocates, one might assume their confidence is based on solid data showing that application of the theory effectively produces good in the world when applied. But that assumption would be wrong. In fact, a growing collection of data indicates the opposite.

When University of London professor Eric Kaufmann asked individuals to read a paragraph of text by popular CRT advocate Ta-Nehisi Coates, he found that—based on reading that paragraph alone—the percentage of black readers who felt that they had power to control and direct the course of their lives *dropped 15 points*, from 83 to 68 percent (“The Social Construction of Racism in the United States,” *Manhattan-Institute.org*, April 7, 2021). Rather than empowering those individuals, the paragraph demoralized them.

Columbia University sociologist Musa al-Gharbi looked at two decades of training given by universities, corporations, and other institutions seeking to fight racism, and found that CRT-inspired anti-racist training often achieves the *opposite* of its intended goals—further marginalizing minority staff members, reinforcing biases instead of erasing them, demoralizing employees, and making them less productive (“Diversity-Related Training: What Is It Good For?,” *HeterodoxAcademy.org*, September 16, 2020).

John McWhorter, a linguist and interdisciplinary professor at Columbia University, has been outspoken against CRT. As a black man, McWhorter decries the “anti-racist” movement: “In supposing that Black people have no resilience, you are saying that Black people are unusually weak. You’re saying that we are lesser. You’re saying that we, because of the circumstances of American social history, cannot be treated as adults. And in the technical sense, that’s discriminatory” (*NPR.org*, July 20, 2020). At a Soho Forum debate, McWhorter in 2018 defended the proposition that “anti-racism” has become as harmful a force as racism itself. Indeed, scholars, intellectuals, artists,

journalists, and others from diverse walks of life, races, and backgrounds have come together to form FAIR—the Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism—to peacefully yet passionately push back against the growth of CRT and similar ideologies, which they see not as a “solution” to societal artifacts of old racism, but as little more than a new racism.

Credit where it is due: Critical Race Theory *has* inspired a large collection of diverse individuals of different worldviews and ethnicities to unify—*against* Critical Race Theory.

### The Only Evaluation That Matters

Yet there is a deeper, more fundamental flaw that plagues Critical Race Theory—a fatal flaw that guarantees it can only *fail* to provide positive outcomes for the society and peoples it is intended to serve.

Dexter Wakefield, writing in *Tomorrow's World* soon after Barack Obama's 2008 election to the U.S. presidency, put it simply, noting that “when we look at racism solely through the eyes of power and politics, we exclude God from our analysis” (“Racism in America: A Thing of the Past?,” January–February 2009).

He had it *exactly right*. As a human philosophy that seeks to address human power structures, hu-

man political tools, and human policymaking, while utterly ignoring the wisdom, insight, and commands of the *Creator of humanity*—and every *race* of humanity (Acts 17:26)—CRT scholars and activists *cut themselves off* from the only Source that truly understands the human condition!

God's word does encourage sympathy for some of the concerns of CRT advocates, if not for their proposed solutions. For instance, Scripture serves as a rebuke to Americans who paint their “founding fathers” in only the most heroic light and refuse to acknowledge the more shameful parts of their nation's history. The Almighty recorded not only ancient Israel's successes and victories, but also its losses, immoral actions, and even periods of depravity. The divine record shows us not only David's faith as he fought Goliath, but also the sordid tale of his adultery and murderous betrayal of a loyal friend—and the sad consequences his actions brought upon his nation. God is a “God of truth” (Deuteronomy 32:4), and truth demands *accurate* history, biased neither to the good nor the evil.

And those who care passionately about human suffering and the condition of their fellow man reflect their Creator's *own* compassion and concern.

## Cultural Relativism, “Whiteness,” and Racism

One of the key principles of Critical Race Theory is *cultural relativism*—the idea that no culture is better or worse than another. Calling cultural relativism “the essence of cultural antiracism,” Ibram X. Kendi says, “To be antiracist is to see all cultures in all their differences as on the same level, as equals. When we see cultural difference, we are seeing cultural difference—nothing more, nothing less.”

This perspective lets CRT theorists disparage as unwanted “whiteness” any number of characteristics that have traditionally helped people of all races

succeed, and then label as “racism” any suggestion that those characteristics are objectively beneficial.

This cultural relativism was given wide exposure in a 2020 infographic published briefly by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, listing several “aspects of white culture” that minority cultures had “internalized” because of the “institutional power” of white culture. The list included such characteristics as “the nuclear family,” “objective, linear rational thinking,” “plan[ning] for the future,” “delayed gratifica-

tion,” and “hard work [as] the key to success.”

Thus, pointing to single motherhood or out-of-wedlock childbirth as an objective source of financial and social hardship is labeled as racism, and teaching that men and women should marry before having children (part of the “nuclear family”) is considered enabling racism.

After an uproar, the museum took down the infographic, explaining that it was not helping discussions about race as effectively as the staff had intended (*Washington Post*, July 17, 2020). <sup>[TW]</sup>

God declares Himself protector and provider for the poor, disenfranchised, and needy, and He rewards those who care for them like He does (Psalm 12:5; 41:1–2; 113:5–8).

Yet *how* we act on that compassion and concern *matters!* And, when we compare the Bible—the mind of God in print—to the new racism fostered by CRT and its ideological cousins, the new theories fall appallingly short.

For instance, consider the goal of “assur[ing] equality of results.” Ibram X. Kendi has written that, in practical terms, such a goal will require a virtually *endless* chain of racial discrimination throughout time: “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”

God, however, is *impartial* in His dealings: “For there is no partiality with God” (Romans 2:11). He warned ancient Israel to avoid showing partiality not only to the wealthy, but also to the poor (Exodus 23:3; Leviticus 19:15). Rather than fight racism with *more* racism, the Almighty demands that we be unbiased and impartial, as He is. Those who show partiality “are convicted by the law as *transgressors*” (James 2:9). “You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country,” the Eternal commands, “for I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 24:22).

Also, the idea of cultural relativism, so crucial to CRT, is utterly foreign to the mind of God. He gave His people “statutes and righteous judgments” to create a culture objectively *better and healthier* than others—not to demean other peoples, but to be a *light* to them (Deuteronomy 4:5–8). For instance, God does not see having children out of wedlock and other chaotic alternatives to family-building as being “on the same level, as equals” with His *own* design of the family: two married parents raising children together. He knows His way is best, and He *condemns* leaders who let people suffer by refusing to teach that truth (Ezekiel 22:26)!

Finally, rather than making race and skin color the organizing property of society, the Almighty makes *His righteousness* that measure (Matthew

6:33). Giving us His laws and the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, to exemplify that measure, God promises that *all* who strive to live His way will receive His blessing, regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality (Acts 10:35; Isaiah 56:2–6).

### Hope for Tomorrow, Guidance for Today

Advocates of Critical Race Theory—and other “anti-racist” concepts—do raise important issues. Many sincerely seek to address heartbreaking outcomes that should cause concern among anyone with compassion. And they expose a prideful theme of American “triumphalism,” which often deemphasizes the nation’s darker moments and fails to make uncomfortable connections between past misdeeds and current conditions. But those saving graces do not make up for CRT’s glaring errors, which risk damaging race relations instead of improving them, building bitterness and resentment instead of bridges and restoration.

And we must be frank—Jesus Christ plainly prophesied that, before His return, “nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” during a time He calls “the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:7–8). The Greek word translated “nation” here is *ethnos*, which provides the root for the English word “ethnicity” and includes in its broad meaning the various races and tribes of man. Sadly, the scourge of racism will ultimately grow worse before things get better.

The real solutions to the problems posed by past, present, and future racism will only come with the return of Jesus Christ. Until then, we must recognize that any “solutions” that ignore the vital truths revealed by our loving Creator are *not* solutions—and that embedded within them are the seeds of the next generation’s problems.

Until the great day of Christ’s return, the Bible holds out the same advice to governments and individuals: “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:8, 10). Any real solution to the scourge of racism must begin there. TW

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

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# The EU After Brexit: Better Without the Euro?

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By **John Meakin**

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**I**n the July 2021 issue of *Tomorrow's World*, the “London Calling” article looked at the United Kingdom’s prospects following its “Brexit” from the European Union. In this article, we will consider the other side of the matter by asking, *How is the European Union (EU) doing after Brexit, and what are its prospects—especially in light of biblical prophecy?*

At the time of this writing, outward appearances suggest that the EU is relatively stable. But, behind the headlines, all is not well. The debt burden in the eurozone, in common with many other areas of the world, ballooned as a result of the struggle to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. EU general government debt has dramatically increased—from 84 percent of GDP in 2019 it is expected to exceed 98 percent by the end of 2021.

Perhaps even worse is that individual member nations’ debts are mounting on bank balance sheets. For example, Italian banks’ holdings of government debt in February amounted to 124 percent of their usable reserves, rendering them extremely vulnerable in the event of further distress. Some financial commentators are warning that the EU is heading towards a new financial crisis. It all has to do with the viability of the euro, the single currency that lies at the heart of the European project (see “Europe Is Heading Toward a New Financial Crisis,” *Bloomberg.com*, April 12, 2021).

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## **Brexit Ended “Ever Closer Union”**

Brexit marked a turning point in the history of the European Union. For 60 years, the EU has continually grown in power, scope, and size. Yet, even as the EU has gained member nations, those nations have diminished in power and sovereignty. What began as an organisation intended to contain and control Germany has ended up as an organisation *controlled by* Germany, its largest member. At a stroke, Brexit shattered the EU’s founding principle of “ever closer union.” It sent shockwaves throughout the EU and fuelled the need for self-examination and reflection about the way ahead. The EU is being forced to transform itself—or *die*.

Throughout its history, the EU has been dogged by serious issues that detract from its levels of effectiveness and success. What was first envisaged as a supranational *economic federation* morphed over the years into a politically driven superstate. Its goal was to become a kind of “United States of Europe” to rival the United States of America. Along the way, what was lost was the vision of one of its founders, Robert Schuman, who envisaged a much greater level of democracy in the way the EU functioned.

Internal dissatisfaction and tensions have progressively grown as the EU has expanded. Unsurprisingly, these factors influenced the UK’s decision to leave. Any discussion about the future of the EU must address the impact of globalisation and the outsourcing of jobs, a democratic deficit in functioning, external immigration into the EU and internal movement

within the union, corruption, failure to adequately audit EU expenditures, and a rigidly bureaucratic “Gallic” mindset overarching all EU activity. *That’s quite a list.*

### A Disunited Union

All of this suggests a union that is ineffective in serving the needs of its populace—and not at peace with itself. For example, during her 16 years in office, Angela Merkel, the outgoing Chancellor of Germany, has, more than anyone, influenced the development and progress of the EU. Prominent German journalist Wolfgang Münchau excoriated Merkel and claimed that “the mess she has created is becoming horribly apparent. She leaves behind a split EU that is not just unled but might now be unleadable” (“Angela’s ashes: Merkel is leaving the EU in chaos,” *SpectatorWorld.com*, July 1, 2021).

Two of the various examples Münchau’s article lists are Merkel’s 2015 “spontaneous executive act” allowing a million Middle East refugee immigrants into Europe, and her decision after the 2008 financial crisis to block the adoption of EU-wide “Eurobonds” intended to mutualize national debts across the multinational EU. Her immigration decision was made without consulting coalition partners or other EU member states, and caused enormous tensions and controversy across the entire EU. Her decision to kill the Eurobonds proposal could very well have caused the entire eurozone to collapse, were it not for the intervention of Mario Draghi of the European Central Bank (ECB). Münchau concludes his article with a lament that the EU could have become strong and united but instead “we see bedlam”—uproar and confusion.

### The Conference on Europe’s Future

As the EU faces up to its challenging future, it is having to deal with a whole lot more than the loss of the UK, which comprised 15 percent of the EU’s economy, 20 percent of its exports, and 12.5 percent of its population. In June, the EU embarked on a year-long series of debates and discussions instituted to “enable people from every corner of Europe to share their ideas to help shape Europe’s future” (“Conference on the Future of Europe: Engaging with citizens to build a more resilient Europe,” European Commission, March 10, 2021). Called the Conference on the Future

of Europe, the aim of this programme is to produce a better-functioning European democracy.

The goal is to give citizens a greater role in shaping EU policies and ambitions. A list of possible themes includes the EU’s role in the world, how to strengthen democratic processes, and improving the Union’s resilience to crises. The Conference aims to be inclusive, open, and transparent. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promises that “we will listen. And then, we will act.”

Whether or not this will succeed remains to be seen. The task of taking 27 disparate countries and creating one cohesive Union that is effective, thoroughly democratic, honest, and prosperous is a mammoth undertaking. Some would say it is impossible.

### A Fatal Flaw Revealed

Which brings us to one topic the Conference will probably not discuss, though it is the proverbial “elephant in the room” and seems to be the problem with the greatest potential to doom to failure the EU project in its current form: Europe’s shared currency, *the euro*. Does Europe really need a common currency, or would it be better off without it?

Economist Nickolai Hubble in his book *How the Euro Dies* discusses with rare clarity what he views as the fatal flaw of the EU’s reliance on a shared currency. This flaw involves centralized monetary policy, a fixed exchange rate for all member nations, and the risk of capital readily flowing *en masse* to a currency perceived as safer if things go wrong. He explains that, together, these three factors create an impossible dilemma.

Why does it matter that all EU countries, despite differing economies, are forced to share the same interest rate? Because this means that member countries are denied an important safety valve to control their own interest rates, if and when circumstances arise that demand a change. This is especially true when one struggling country could benefit from a lower interest rate while another needs a higher interest rate to curb speculation, inflation, and excessive debt. The needs of northern Europe are different from those of southern Europe, which in turn differ from the needs of eastern Europe. A “one size fits all” approach just does not work in practice and is the cause of continual tensions and crises within the EU.

This is why all currency unions like the euro inevitably come unstuck. Political policy comes into conflict with economic reality, and eventually the former must give way in the face of capital flight. Hubble succinctly expresses his conclusion: “Monetary unions do not fail because of economics. They fail because economics drives politics to abandon them” (p. 79). The UK, for example, learned that the hard way when it was briefly part of the EU’s Exchange Rate Mechanism, and in order to retain control over its currency and monetary policy it decided not to join the euro.

According to Hubble, this is why the eurozone is likely to fail. He quotes Ralf Dahrendorf, former Director of the London School of Economics, saying what many others believe: “The currency union is a great error, a risky, reckless and mistaken goal that will not unite Europe, but divide it” (Hubble, p. 30). Similarly, Professor Francois Heisbourg—a former Chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies—wrote, “The dream has given way to nightmare. We must face the reality that the EU itself is now threatened by the euro. The current efforts to save it are endangering the union yet further” (Roger Bootle, *The Trouble With Europe*, 2015, p. 231).

### Italy at the Brink

Italy is the eighth-largest economy in the world. However, it is mired in debt and has no hope of resolving those debts as long as it stays inside the eurozone. It is essentially on life support from the ECB, which has bent the rules and artfully come up with clever schemes in order to keep Italy afloat. But this cannot go on indefinitely, and a hefty number of loans to Italy are set to come due for payment in 2021. The big question is, how is Italy going to resolve its predicament? Ambrose Evans Pritchard of *The Telegraph* wrote that “Italy must choose between the euro and its own economic survival” (May 11, 2016).

Roger Bootle, Chairman of Capital Economics, is one of the UK’s best-known economists as well as an acclaimed financial columnist and writer. He writes that “the euro has been a disaster from the beginning. It shows the quality of EU decision-making at its worst, driven by national politics, horse trading, considerations of national prestige and childlike visions of future European unity—with scant regard for eco-

nomic reality. One of the most important issues... is what the euro’s survival or break-up would imply for the future growth of the EU. Could the end of the euro be part of the EU’s salvation? And if not, what could?” (*The Trouble With Europe*, pp. 168–169).


### Realignment of Nations

As the 27 countries of the EU attempt to come to grips with what amounts to an existential challenge, it would be wise to remember the biblical context within which they function. Biblical prophecy has some powerful things to say about the European project.

The book of Revelation pictures a short-lived power arising just before Jesus Christ returns to rule the nations of this world. It is characterised as a ten-nation construct with a strong leader who is in league with a great religious figure (Revelation 17). It reigns for a short time and even fights Christ at His return (v. 14).

Importantly, the geographical context of this power lies within the historical area of the Roman Empire, though its short-lived spiritual and trading influence dominates much more widely before its eventual demise (Revelation 18:2–3, 9–11). The arena is Europe; *Tomorrow’s World* understands from Scripture that there will arise a ten-nation power within Europe that will eventually seek to dominate and control the world. The EU that we see now is not this prophesied entity, but may well be seen as a precursor to it.

This situation is fascinating to observe at a time when existing structures are showing serious signs of impending failure. It seems highly unlikely that the EU will voluntarily abandon the euro, but economics may yet determine that it must. Europe, without the suffocating straitjacket of the euro as currently configured, could actually prosper like never before. This is worth keeping in mind as we watch how Europe—and, in particular, Italy—progresses through these existential crises.

If you would like to understand more about the message of the book of Revelation and how it relates to events in today’s world, please request our free booklet *The Beast of Revelation: Myth, Metaphor, or Soon-Coming Reality?* or read it online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org). 

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Did Jesus Go to Paradise on the Day He Died?

**Question:** Jesus promised one of the thieves crucified with Him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). What and where is “Paradise”—and did the thief really go there with Jesus that day?

**Answer:** The Bible shows that the dead are in the grave, awaiting the resurrection; they are not in heaven. The Apostle Peter said, “David did not ascend into the heavens” (Acts 2:34), and Christ said, “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven” (John 3:13).

Does this mean that the thief is in a special place called “Paradise” that is not “heaven”? No—the Bible clearly shows where Paradise is located. The Apostle Paul tells of a man who was taken to God’s throne in a vision—“how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” (2 Corinthians 12:1–4). Paradise is located in the presence of God’s throne.

### Biblical Paradise?

What is Paradise? Paradise means a “garden, pleasure ground: grove, park... a grand enclosure or preserve... shady and well-watered... enclosed by walls” (“Lexicon—Strong’s G3857—*paradeisos*,” *BlueLetterBible.org*).

The Bible describes what Paradise is like: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7). Now notice Revelation 22:1–2: “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

These verses refer to “the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:2). The New Jerusalem will come out of heaven after the earth is made into a “new earth” (2 Peter 3:10–13; Revelation 21:1) and it will contain

the Tree of Life. The Paradise of God, near or in the presence of His throne, is a park or garden that will ultimately be found on the new earth. But it was *not* yet available to human beings when Christ made His statement to the thief, nor is it yet today.

### The Ascension

So, did the thief go there with Jesus on the day of his death? Note that Jesus Himself did not go to Paradise or heaven on the day He died. Paul wrote, “I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians

**Jesus Himself did not go to Paradise or heaven on the day He died. He was sealed in the tomb for three full days and three full nights.**

15:3–4). Christ was sealed in the tomb for three full days and three full nights. Notice what He told Mary when she came to the tomb after He had risen: “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father... and your Father, and to My God and your God” (John 20:17).

What did Christ really say to the thief? Readers of many popular English-language translations are misled by improper punctuation that does not reflect the meaning of the inspired Greek text. These translations wrongly place a comma between “you” and “today.” As one commentary explains, “The interpretation of this verse depends entirely on punctuation, which rests wholly on *human* authority, the Greek manuscripts having no punctuation of any kind till the ninth century, and then it is only a dot (in the middle of the line) separating each word” (E.W. Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*, Appendix 173).

Punctuated correctly in English, Luke 23:43 reads, “Assuredly, I say to you today, you will be with Me in Paradise.” In this verse, Jesus did not make a promise that He failed to keep; rather, He stressed that *when Paradise comes to the earth*, the thief will be there with Him. TW





# Toys and Us

**H**ave you walked into a toy store recently? The experience is overwhelming for an adult and absolutely intoxicating for a child! There are brightly colored dolls, action figures, games, building sets, sports equipment, electronics—brilliant and colorful displays on every shelf in every aisle.

Toys are big business. According to *ToyAssociation.org*, Americans spent \$32.61 billion on toys in 2020. But toys are not just an American obsession. Children from every nation and culture are fascinated by toys. In fact, toys have intrigued children from mankind's earliest days; toy dolls and animals have been excavated in the environs of ancient Sumer, dating to 2600 BC, and the children of ancient Greece played with a type of yo-yo at least as early as 500 BC ("When Children Came out to Play: Ancient Toys and Games," *Ancient-Origins.net*, June 21, 2019).

## The Power of Toys

In Proverbs 22:6, we're commanded to "train up a child in the way he should go." We may easily think about following this instruction in a very formalized way, giving them Bible studies and explaining important biblical principles. But are we teaching through toys?

Toys may not seem very important for a Christian. In fact, the topic may seem quite silly. Yet the reality is that **toys give parents an invaluable opportunity to teach children godly principles in very practical ways.** The way we deal with toys can either help or harm their understanding of God's way of life.

Do you recognize the impact of the toys that you buy or accept as gifts for your children? When it comes to toys, are you teaching them the right lessons? You may unintentionally be teaching the wrong lessons just by not thinking about it. One way or another, our children learn from everything around them, including their toys, which come in different shapes and sizes, from a simple hanging object above a baby's cradle to a box of Legos that let older children construct almost anything their growing minds can imagine. Toys at various stages of life teach invaluable lessons—and can expose growing minds to important godly principles.

## Self-Control

One of the most important principles a child learns is the importance of self-control. A young child's mind at first revolves around its own wants and needs. But, as they grow, children learn that the world is not an "instant-gratification machine." Toys can help teach this lesson. There is nothing that most of us parents want more than to give our children every possible thing we can—but if a child demands a toy and you say "No," you aren't just acknowledging what you can or can't afford; you are teaching the important lesson of self-control.

It may simply be a matter of timing; a noisy toy may disrupt a needed adult conversation, or a toy may disrupt the mood at the dinner table. Children who are told "No" in a firm but loving way will learn to manage disappointment and to obey instead of rebel. If there is one lesson that reverberates throughout the Bible—beginning with Adam and Eve—it is the

lesson of how to respond to “No.” If we teach our children the right way to respond, we’ll be doing them a service that will positively impact their whole life. A wise parent will recognize that toys are not only fun for kids, but also a means to teach self-control.

## Responsibility

Responsibility may sound like a very adult concept, but it can be taught at a young age. When parents instruct their children to pick up and organize their toys, they are doing more than ensuring that the room is neat. They are teaching that God is a God of order, not confusion; although parents might not *quote* 1 Corinthians 14:33 to their children, they are effectively *teaching* it. They are also teaching the godly principle of responsibility.

Luke 16 records Christ’s parable in which a steward is chastised for wasting the goods of his master (Luke 16:1–10). Giving the moral imperative of the parable, Christ explained, “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much” (v. 10). In other words, taking responsibility for the little things in life sets in motion a pattern—a habit—that affects how we deal with bigger things. Caring for toys so they are not damaged or destroyed is not just about the toys; it’s about a child learning to value and care for things, accepting responsibility.

## The Human Element

When children are taught to share their toys, they learn to be unselfish and they experience the joy of giving. Few things touch the heart as much as watching a little child voluntarily give a toy to another little child. But it takes consistent and loving coaching and



practice to give our children the ability to overcome their human nature by practicing these joyful acts of kindness. Another lesson is learning the proper expression of appreciation. When children are taught to say “thank you” when given a toy, they are creating a habit that helps to form their character.

Finally, using toys to allow boys and girls to enjoy and express their God-ordained roles is a wonderful way to help them prepare for those roles as they mature. In a world that is hostile to the very idea that there are separate but complementary roles for men and women, as expressed in Scripture, it is politically incorrect to view children’s toys in this way. However, if we are willing to acknowledge Paul’s words honoring and valuing the woman who devotes herself to her family (Titus 2:4–5), we will be pleased to see little girls holding and caring for baby dolls, as they are naturally inclined to do.

## Good Toys, Bad Toys

God commanded the Israelites to diligently teach His ways to their children (Deuteronomy 6:6–7). From the time that our children begin to draw their own breath, they are watching and listening. And their learning is not limited to the times when we sit down together and read the Bible. Every moment builds a pattern for their future.

If we give them toys that can help to develop their motor skills and hand-eye coordination, expand their imagination, and develop their understanding of how the world around them works, we’re benefitting them. We can short-circuit that benefit by giving them toys that glamorize hurting others. Addictive screen-time toys that may keep children quiet in the short run, but sap their interest in real-life activities, can work against parents in the long run. And, sometimes, the simplest toys are the best; balls, building blocks, and baby dolls have stood the test of time.

But even if we use wisdom in buying toys for our children, we cannot expect that the toys themselves will teach them all that they need to learn. Take the time to play with your children and their toys. Savor the moments of playing, building, and imagining with them. And don’t forget the value of those toys and the part they play in teaching practical, godly principles. Those are lessons that will last for a lifetime.

—Jonathan McNair



## Global Preparation for Future Pandemics?

The *EU Observer* reported on March 31 that more than 25 world leaders signed an open letter calling for the creation of an international treaty on pandemics. Signatories include the director-general of the World Health Organization and the president of the European Council. The letter states, “The question [of future pandemics] is not if, but when.”

The letter calls for a “global approach” to any future pandemic. The proposed treaty would need to outline a framework for preparedness and cooperation across nations worldwide. The letter emphasizes that “the time to act is now,” while the concern about future risks is firmly in the minds of people in all countries. Yet notably absent from the letter’s list of dignitaries were the leaders of the United States and China, as well as EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen—illustrating how difficult global cooperation on such an issue might be.

Whether or not a treaty on global pandemic preparedness will ever be adopted remains to be seen. However, the idea put forth by this group of leaders—that the next pandemic is inevitable—is certainly in line with biblical prophecy. The sixth chapter of

the book of Revelation describes the famous “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.” The fourth of these horsemen pictures a time when a quarter of the world’s population will die by various means—including devastating disease (Revelation 6:7–8). God will ultimately use disease and death to get the attention of the world and help humanity realize that the way to true and lasting peace is not through human means, but by the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth.

## Is Belief in the Bible Becoming a Crime?

While it might seem preposterous, preaching from the Bible is now subject to persecution and threats of criminal charges in several nations that once were considered part of “Christendom.” Recently, a 71-year-old preacher in London was arrested, handcuffed, and jailed for publicly preaching from the book of Genesis that marriage is between one man and one woman (*Newsweek.com*, May 2, 2021).

Also in England, a school chaplain was reported to a government counter-terrorism agency as a “potentially violent religious extremist” and dismissed for preaching a sermon in

a chapel service in which he informed students that they could disagree with new LGBT policies contrary to their beliefs that were promoted by an activist and being implemented at the school (*ChristianConcern.com*, May 9, 2021). And in Finland, a prominent politician who is also a medical doctor and a mother faces imprisonment for expressing her biblically based views on marriage and homosexuality (*ADFIInternational.org*, April 30, 2021).

Western nations have not only entered a post-Christian age; they are moving rapidly into an *anti*-Christian age. Yet this should not surprise any who read the Bible. Jesus said that one of the signs of the approaching end of this age would be the persecution of those who follow His teachings (Matthew 24:9). The prophet Isaiah also foretold that the time would come when good would be called evil and evil would be called good (Isaiah 5:20).

## Chemical Pollution and Plunging Fertility Rates

New research by Shanna Swan, an epidemiologist with Mount Sinai Medical Center, projects that “by 2045 most men may no longer be able to reproduce because of the impact

of hormone-altering chemicals” in their environment (*Politico*, March 10, 2021). This research also suggests that female fertility rates are falling by about one percent each year.

Swan observed that these hormone-altering chemicals are present in products from “plastics, electronics, food packaging and pesticides to personal care products and cosmetics... and as such are in the bodies of just about everyone on the planet.” These chemicals impact both male and female reproduction and are also known to pose a danger to babies developing in the womb. Other factors like obesity, smoking, and changing cultural values also contribute to the plunging fertility rates.

The declining ability to reproduce affects men and women around the globe. Interestingly, in His covenant with Israel—a covenant with powerful prophetic implications—God speaks of one of the consequences of disobedience as being related to reproduction: “Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks” (Deuteronomy 28:18). However, God also promises blessings for those who obey Him, including an abundance of children (vv. 4, 11).





The way of life outlined in the Bible brings peace and happiness, as well as health and safety.

### Three Dads and a Baby

*Three Dads and a Baby* is the title of a newly published biography chronicling the story of three polyamorous men who decided to engender two children through surrogate mothers (*CNN*, March 6, 2021). It tells of their court struggle to have the names of all three men put on the birth certificates, in what may be the first-of-its-kind legal parenting situation in the U.S.

Polyamory—groups of more than two people in “committed” sexual relationships—is increasingly prevalent in the United States and around the globe. Some suggest that polyamory is rooted in the cultural shift sought by advocates of “free love” in the 1960s and that modern dating apps, social media, and the portrayal of the lifestyle in twenty-first-century media all contribute to its acceptance.

In a world that has rejected God and His instruction book for life—the Bible—there is no longer a single morality and everyone does what is “right in his own eyes,” as in the chaotic and dangerous early days of ancient

Israel (Judges 17:6). Today, many have forgotten that the God of the Bible is the one who created man and woman and the institutions of marriage and family. As well as rejecting God’s instruction book, human beings have perverted what God created to be sacred and special. Scripture also reveals that this has happened as a result of the influence of Satan, whom the Apostle Paul called “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). In spite of how well-intentioned people may be, prophecy warns of serious consequences for those who refuse to live by the laws of God (Deuteronomy 28:15–20; Romans 1:18–32).

### Meaning in Life Protects Against Depression

Globally, about 4.4 percent of the population suffers from depression, and in the United States that number is nearly double, at eight percent (*Big Think*, March 22, 2021). Due at least in part to the COVID-19 pandemic and its collateral impact over the last year and a half, depression is rising around the globe.

However, new research from Brazil suggests an interesting defense against depression. Noting old

findings that religious people are less likely to suffer depression, scientists analyzed survey data from more than 270 volunteers and found that the positive impact of religiosity was only indirect. The real source of protection against depression seemed to be whether or not the individual’s faith gave them a *sense of meaning in life* (*Trends in Psychology*, August 2, 2020). For those who were religious but had no sense of meaning in life, there was no significant protective effect against depression.

The truth about God’s plan and the purpose for human life outlined in the Bible makes it clear that biblical religion should permeate all aspects of the life of Christians. The true religion taught in God’s word reveals not just a meaning in life, but *the* meaning and purpose of life and the incredibly positive and exciting future that God has in store for all of humanity. This future is full of hope and can bring a remarkable peace of mind and encouragement in a world filled with doom and gloom. God has provided a way to fight depression in the pages of the Bible—a book that is viewed as irrelevant by many today.

### Brexit Weakening United Kingdom Ties

In recent years, voices have been raised in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to break up the United Kingdom, become independent, and possibly rejoin the European Union (*The Economist*, April 17, 2021). Brexit

has put pressure on the seams of the UK, increasing the risk of splits in the ancient union. Many Scots in particular see leaving the UK and returning to Europe as a way to escape the Brexit-related shackles being imposed by the EU.

Actually leaving the UK could take years, but all the talk about potential departure serves to weaken the island nation now. Indeed, we are watching the “pride” of once-powerful Great Britain continue to erode (Leviticus 26:19). Boris Johnson was elected as Prime Minister to “get Brexit done” and save the UK. However, in the wake of Brexit, some warn he could instead preside over its breakup into separate nations. The outcome remains to be seen.

Few today realize that many of the British are descended from the Israelite tribe of Ephraim—one of the patriarch Joseph’s two sons. God promised remarkable blessings to Joseph’s descendants because of Abraham’s obedience (Genesis 12:1–3; 48:17–20; 49:22–26), but the indefinite continuation of those blessings was conditioned on obedience to God’s laws. The Bible also contains powerful warnings for all Israelite-descended nations, including Ephraim, that reject God and follow their own ways (cf. Deuteronomy 28). The prophet Hosea foretold that because Ephraim has turned away from God, its glory “shall fly away like a bird” (Hosea 9:10–11). This is now happening and will continue unless the nation repents. TW





# LETTERS TO TW

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



Thank you for your program "The Seven Laws of Success." We have just had one of the most stressful months ever as a family. I wrote these laws out for our family. We prayed. On the last day of the month, we gained hope. Thank you, thank you! I have also found great blessings coming my way since changing to worship on Saturday, following the Sabbath law. Thank you! I always wondered why my previous religion never adhered to the Sabbath. Now I know that you are right. I am truly looking forward to the program "Cold War Secrets Revealed!" I believe this is still happening. We are getting so many news propaganda shorts on UFS (United Front System) about American warships and our military bases. A couple of years ago, our military forces even predicted WWII within the next 20 years.

—Subscriber in Australia

**Editor's Note:** *That is wonderful news, and we are delighted to have been a help to you and your family! Anyone interested in a Sabbath-keeping congregation of the Living Church of God, sponsor of Tomorrow's World, can find information on our website. Just click on "Meet the Church Behind TW." You can also reach out to the Regional Office in your area using the contact information on page 4 of this issue.*

Thank you for all the materials you send me. They are very interesting and better than the evening news. The *Tomorrow's World* magazine is great, and the DVDs are very straight and to the point. I've learned lots just from reading and watching them. This world is indeed going crazy. It's nothing like when I was young. It's a weird feeling to turn on the TV and see what's happening now. Usually, I turn it off and go plant flowers.

—Subscriber in West Virginia

Mr. Weston, I appreciated the article on the Sabbath and "The Subtle Art of Canceling the Bible" [in the June 2021 issue]. In our free country, it is becoming more challenging to say, as Paul did, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Every distraction seems acceptable nowadays except the Bible. Thank you for the eye-opening articles in your publication.

—Subscriber in Washington

I have been the lucky recipient of *Tomorrow's World* magazine and several videos for years. Your scriptural interpretations and the prophetic relevance to current world events has offered me inspiration, encouraged my belief, and bolstered my faith. God's gift of love and sacrifice is a message vital to Christians and unbelievers alike. Your organization is exemplary in delivering that message to the world. You well deserve my (and many others') appreciation and heartfelt thanks. Keep up the excellent service.

—Subscriber in Missouri

The letters from Mr. Weston and *Tomorrow's World* magazine have brought much hope so many times in my life these past few years, when I had no hope left and nothing to truly live for. I pray that God will continue growing your ministry as there are many "lost sheep" that need to be found.

—Subscriber in New Mexico

I look forward to watching your TV broadcast every week. You help to strengthen the spiritual life for me and countless other people, I'm sure. Don't change. Don't compromise with the world. God bless all who work there.

—Subscriber in Illinois

<b>Editor in Chief</b>	Gerald E. Weston
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All scripture references are from the *New King James Version* (©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted. Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine, or send email to [Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org](mailto:Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity.



# TOMORROW'S WORLD

## TELEVISION LOG



### AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7two SU 7:00 a.m.

### BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 2:00 p.m.

### JAMAICA

Kingston TVJ SU 7:00 a.m.

### NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 TH 9:30 a.m.  
Nationwide TVNZ2 +1 TH 10:30 a.m.

### PHILIPPINES

Nationwide TV5 MO 11:30 p.m.

### SOUTH AFRICA

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

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 8:00 a.m.

### UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 SU 11:00 a.m.  
Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 a.m.  
Sky TV 590 FR 12:00 a.m.



### CANADA

#### Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SA 3:30 a.m.

The Cowboy Channel SU 8:00 a.m.

FAITH TV SU 5:30 p.m.  
MO-FR 10:30 p.m.  
TU 5:00 p.m.

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.  
SU 7:30 a.m.  
CTV (Maritimes) SU 1:30 p.m.  
CTV (Alberta)

V-Télé (en français) SU 6:30 a.m.

### UNITED STATES

#### Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

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

FOLK TV SU 9:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 11:00 p.m.  
MO 10:30 p.m.

NewsNation (formerly WGN) SU 6:00 a.m.  
WE 6:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.  
SU 7:30 p.m.  
FR 7:00 p.m.

The Walk TV SU 10:30 a.m.

Z Living SU 7:30 a.m.

#### DISH Network\* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 268 SU 11:00 p.m.

#### DIRECTV\* (All times Eastern)

Word Ch. 373 SU 6:00 a.m.  
SU 7:30 p.m.  
FR 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date listings please go to:

[TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in](http://TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in)

AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.  
Fairbanks KATN SU 7:00 a.m.  
Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.

AL Birmingham WABM SU 10:00 a.m.  
Dothan WTVY (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.  
Huntsville WHDF SU 7:30 a.m.  
Huntsville WAMY SU 9:30 a.m.  
Montgomery WBMM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.  
Opelika WLIZ SU 7:30 a.m.

AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.  
Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.  
Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:00 a.m.  
Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.

AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.  
Yuma KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.

CA Bakersfield KGET (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Chico KHSL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
El Centro KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.  
Eureka KECA-LD/KVIQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Salinas KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
San Luis Obispo KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Santa Barbara KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Santa Maria KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

CO Colorado Springs KXTU SU 10:30 a.m.  
Grand Junc. KJCT (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

CT Hartford WWLP (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

DC Washington DC WDCA SU 7:30 a.m.

DE Harrington WMDT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

FL Gainesville WCJB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.  
Miami WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.  
Ft. Lauderdale WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.  
Gainesville WCJB SU 6:00 a.m.  
Panama City WJHG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.  
Tallahassee WTLF SU 8:00 a.m.  
Tampa Bay WTOG SU 8:00 a.m.

GA Albany WALB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Albany WALB SU 11:00 a.m.  
Augusta WAGT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.  
Columbus WLTX SU 7:30 a.m.  
Thomasville WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Des Moines KCWI SU 7:00 a.m.

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

IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.  
Moline Mediacom MO 5:00 p.m.  
Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.  
Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.  
Springfield Insight TU 5:00 a.m.  
Springfield Insight TU 1:00 p.m.  
Springfield Insight TU 10:00 p.m.

IN Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.  
Fort Wayne Comcast SU 9:00 a.m.

KS Parsons TWPAP WE 7:00 p.m.

KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.  
Latonia PEG WE 6:30 p.m.  
Latonia PEG TH 10:00 p.m.  
Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lexington Various SU 9:30 a.m.  
Louisville WBNA SU 9:30 a.m.

LA Alexandria KBCA SU 7:00 a.m.  
Alexandria KLAX SU 9:30 a.m.  
Baton Rouge WBRZ SU 10:00 a.m.  
Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lake Charles KVHP SU 9:30 a.m.  
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.  
New Orleans WNOH SU 7:00 a.m.  
Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.  
West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Malden Access SU 11:00 a.m.

MD Baltimore Community SU 9:00 a.m.  
Westminster Adelphia TH 10:00 a.m.  
Westminster Adelphia FR 10:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.  
Brunswick TV3 SA 8:30 a.m.  
Brunswick TV3 SU 6:30 a.m.  
Presque Isle WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.  
Lansing WLAI SU 11:00 a.m.  
Marquette WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet MEDCLO SU 8:00 a.m.  
Duluth KDLH SU 7:00 a.m.  
Minneapolis MTN TH 12:00 a.m.  
Minneapolis NWCT SA 10:30 p.m.  
Minneapolis NWCT SU 4:30 a.m.  
Minneapolis NWCT SU 10:30 a.m.  
Rochester NWCT SU 7:00 a.m.  
Roseville KTTK WE 4:00 a.m.  
Roseville CTV WE 12:00 p.m.  
St. Paul CTV SU 8:30 p.m.  
Nbhd. Network

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

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

MT Billings KTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.  
Butte KBZK SU 7:00 a.m.  
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.  
Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.  
Great Falls KRTV SU 7:00 a.m.  
Helena KMTF SU 7:00 a.m.  
Missoula KPAX SU 7:00 a.m.

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

NM Albuquerque KWBO SU 8:00 a.m.  
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 p.m.  
Albuquerque KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.  
Albuquerque KCHF MO 7:30 a.m.  
Santa Fe KCHF FR 9:00 p.m.

NV Reno KREN SU 8:00 a.m.

NY Albany-Troy Spectrum MO 3:00 p.m.  
Binghamton Spectrum WE 10:00 p.m.  
Binghamton Spectrum FR 8:00 p.m.  
Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.  
Brooklyn BCAT MO 4:30 p.m.  
Canandaigua Finger Lakes SU 11:30 a.m.  
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.  
Oneida Access TH 2:00 p.m.  
Oneida Access TH 7:00 p.m.  
Queens Public Access MO 11:00 p.m.  
Queens Public Access TU 4:30 p.m.  
Riverhead Cablevision SU 7:00 p.m.  
Rochester Finger Lakes SU 7:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.  
Cincinnati Spectrum TH 8:30 a.m.  
Cincinnati Spectrum TH 8:30 a.m.  
Cincinnati Spectrum TU 1:00 p.m.  
Cincinnati Spectrum TU 1:00 p.m.  
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.  
Fairborn CAC TU 12:00 p.m.  
Lima WBOH SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lima WBOH MO 7:00 a.m.

OK Ada KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.  
Tulsa KQCW SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.  
Eugene KMTX SU 8:00 a.m.  
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.  
Portland Community SU 12:30 p.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.

Johnstown WPSG SU 7:00 a.m.  
Philadelphia WPSG TH 12:00 a.m.  
SA 10:30 p.m.  
SU 4:30 a.m.  
SU 10:30 a.m.  
SU 7:00 a.m.  
WE 4:00 a.m.  
WE 12:00 p.m.  
SU 8:30 p.m.

SC Charleston WCBT SU 8:00 a.m.  
Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.  
Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.  
Greenville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.  
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.

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

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

TX Amarillo KVIH SU 7:00 a.m.  
Amarillo KVII SU 7:00 a.m.  
Beaumont KBTU SU 6:30 a.m.  
Beaumont KFDN SU 7:00 a.m.  
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.  
Dallas KDAF SU 8:30 a.m.  
Laredo KTVL SU 7:00 a.m.  
Laredo KTXW SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.  
Lufkin KTRT SU 7:00 a.m.  
McAllen KCWT SU 7:00 a.m.  
Midland KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.  
Odessa KOSA/KWAB SU 7:00 a.m.  
San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.  
San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.  
Sherman KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.  
Tyler KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.  
Tyler KTRT SU 7:00 a.m.  
Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.  
Victoria KVCT SU 7:00 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVR SU 8:00 a.m.  
Charlottesville WVR SU 6:30 p.m.  
Chesterfield ADELVA WE 6:30 p.m.  
Fairfax Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.  
Fairfax Public Access MO 5:30 p.m.  
Fairfax Public Access FR 1:00 a.m.  
Fairfax Public Access SA 10:00 a.m.  
Fairfax WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.  
Norfolk WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.  
Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Bennington CAT WE 9:30 a.m.  
Bennington CAT WE 12:00 a.m.  
Bennington CAT TH 9:30 p.m.  
Bennington CAT TH 12:00 a.m.  
Bennington CAT SA 8:00 a.m.  
Bennington CAT SA 4:30 a.m.  
Bennington CAT WE 2:30 a.m.  
Burlington Access TH 11:00 a.m.  
Burlington Access

WA Everett Kennewick Spectrum WE 4:30 p.m.  
Pasco Spectrum SU 8:00 a.m.  
Richland Spectrum SU 8:00 a.m.  
Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.

WI La Crosse WXOW SU 7:00 a.m.  
Milwaukee WMLW SU 8:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA SU 8:00 a.m.  
Charleston WQCW SU 7:00 a.m.  
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Cheyenne KGWN SU 8:00 a.m.

\*Check local listings for additional airtimes throughout the week

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### Five Keys to Answered Prayer

Do you ever feel like you're praying to the wall? These keys can change that.

September 2-8

### Your Questions, the Bible's Answers!

You can know the answers to many tough Bible questions if you let Scripture speak for itself!

September 9-15

### What Does God Want of Me?

Many wonder what God expects of them. Thankfully, the Bible makes the answer plain.

September 16-22

### Who Is the Real God?

Though this world will collapse into confusion, you can come to know the real, unchanging God!

September 23-29

### New Gods, New Sins

Modern society has invented new, false gods and sins. You can learn to recognize them!

September 30-October 6

### Will God Forget Your Children?

The consequences of our society's choices will last for generations to come.

October 7-13

Schedule subject to change

## TOMORROW'S WORLD Bible Study Course

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Sundays 8:00 a.m. E.T.

Mondays 2:00 a.m. E.T.

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