

**GOD** DEAD OR ALIVE?

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

September-October 2013 | [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org)

## CHINA'S CENTURY?



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DETAILS ON BACK COVER

## Enjoy It While You Can?

**T**housands across America are *rejoicing* in recent Supreme Court decisions that seemingly validate the homosexual anti-God lifestyle. The liberal media are jumping in with both feet in proclaiming how **wonderful** it is that men can supposedly “marry” men.

Frankly, a whole wave of unbiblical, anti-God behavior is sweeping across our Western nations. Over in Britain, *BBC News* reported: “Thousands of people have joined the Pride parade through central London. The parade began in Baker Street, passing through Oxford Street, Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square before ending at Whitehall. Organizers said this could be the biggest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender event in London over the last decade” (“Thousands march in London Pride parade,” June 29, 2013). People all over are *rejoicing* in their opportunity to completely alter the biblical concept of marriage and family—formerly understood as the basis of all decent society.

### *Where is all this leading?*

Concurrently with this homosexual rejoicing and the so-called “gay pride” celebrations, a new **monument** to our *direct rebellion* against the God of the Bible was recently put in place near Jacksonville, Florida. As *TIME* magazine’s Olivia Waxman reported:

“Following a lawsuit and more than a year of controversy, at noon on Saturday a group called the American Atheists will unveil the United States’ first public monument to atheism in a square outside the Bradford County courthouse in Starke, Florida, near Jacksonville. The five-foot-long, grey granite bench and connecting pillar, which were built and engraved by local masons using granite quarried in Georgia, will feature secular quotes from the Founding Fathers as well as a statement from the organization’s founder, Madalyn Murray O’Hair, encapsulating the 50-year-old group’s views:

‘An atheist believes that a hospital should be built instead of a church. An atheist believes that deed must be done instead of prayer. An atheist strives

for involvement in life and not escape into death. He wants disease conquered, poverty banished, war eliminated.’

As a rule, atheists aren’t big on monuments, due to their religious symbolism. But the

4000-member group decided to erect one anyway after it lost a lawsuit in March that would have forced a local Christian group to remove its own monument—two stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments—located in the same public square. Once the atheist bench and attached pillar are in place, the two monuments will stand just a few yards apart in the square’s ‘Free Speech Zone,’ where private citizens are allowed to erect displays.... The point... is to shed light on the ‘hateful’ side of the Bible” (“Unveiling America’s First Public Monument to Atheism,” June 28, 2013).

This growing antagonism against God is so blatant that even formerly communist nations are now scorning America. Consider these comments published by Russia’s *Pravda*: “The US is broke and Russia is the world’s largest oil producer with a growing economy. Russia is not backing down and they have China to back them up. Who will back the US? Tiny Britain? Americans are turning gay and Russian men are looking more like the Klitschko brothers. The US is the modern day Sodom and Gomorrah while Christianity triumphs in Russia. No ACLU in Russia suing Christians to be sure” (Lerma, Xavier. “Putin Throws Down Obama,” June 18, 2013).

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My friends, have we sunk so low that even nations like Russia can rightly “make fun” of our obvious **rebellion** against the God of the Bible?

Frankly, yes!

God’s word clearly shows that He hates the sin of homosexuality (Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:27). God clearly did not “make” people this way. God made us free moral agents, able to **choose** between good and evil, regardless of fleshly urges. His inspired word tells us, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). So, according to the Bible, man is **capable**—with God’s help, of course—of overcoming **any** temptation or sin.

God hated the Corinthians’ sins. Yet Paul also reminded the Corinthians that “such were some of you” (1 Corinthians 6:11). The difference, Paul explained, is that the Corinthian Christians were

*Those who seek to “enjoy” their sins today will soon find out that “their time is up”*

“washed”—they were “sanctified” and “justified”—by the Spirit of God. For God’s Holy Spirit is **powerful**. If we genuinely *repent* and accept Christ’s sacrifice for our sins, we are **promised** the “gift” of God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). No matter if you have the *tendency* toward alcoholism, violent temper or behavior—or **any** temptation to break God’s law of love—you can be totally *forgiven*, as were these Corinthian Christians. And you can be *helped* and **empowered** to overcome any aspect of your human nature that pulls you away from God.

God’s inspired word tells us, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). You, personally, can receive spiritual *strength* and **power** from the very Spirit of God! You **can** overcome yourself, overcome the world around you and overcome Satan the Devil. If you are willing to “go all out” to honor and obey your Creator and zealously *do your part*, you will be among those “overcomers” who inherit all things. But

the Eternal God does **not** allow people in His eternal Kingdom who would make themselves and everyone around them *absolutely miserable* by constant rebellious attitudes and behaviors. He will not allow those who are spiritual “**cowards**” and continually “**water things down**” into His glorious Kingdom. For God’s Word powerfully states: “He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:7–8).

As Thomas Jefferson warned: “Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever” (*Notes on the State of Virginia*). For Isaiah 66:2 tells us, “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” God help every one of us to have that deep respect and awe of the great God who gives us life and breath and be willing to do what He says. Anything else is much less than the Christianity of Jesus Christ and of the Bible. Those who seek to “enjoy” their sins today will soon find out that “their time is up” and it is those who obeyed and served the true God who have laid a foundation to enjoy eternity as part of God’s Family.

Truly, each of us needs to deeply *appreciate* God’s offer of eternal life in a *whole new society*, which will be based on joy, peace and outgoing concern for those around us (Psalm 72). As God told our forefathers, we need to genuinely “seek” God *while we have the*

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**What Is a  
True Christian?**



*opportunity and not wait until our peoples are taken into the coming captivity that is definitely prophesied.*

God told our ancestors just before they were taken into captivity, “But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deuteronomy 4:29).

*Ronald C. Neudelth*

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With the United States waning as a superpower, is China poised to take its place? Bible prophecy offers an answer that may surprise you!

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We live in a world of instant gratification at Internet speeds. Pornography is easy to find, and many find it hard to escape. With God's help, you can be free!

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IS THIS  
**CHINA'S**  
CENTURY?

With about one-fifth of the world's entire population, the nation of China remains an enigma to many in the West. Thousands of years ago, China was an imperial nation with grand ambitions of regional and even world domination. Though it was naked by war and economic catastrophe throughout the 20th century, the opening decades of the 21st century are seeing new attention paid to China as an economic and political superpower in the making. What does your Bible reveal about China's future and its place in end-time prophecy? The answer may surprise you!

By Roderick C. Meredith

**T**he Chinese government recently organized an investors' conference titled, "The Chinese Century: From Wall Street to the Great Wall," few had heard the term "the Chinese Century" as a description of that mysterious nation's ascent to a new level of world power.

Today, with the United States in rapid decline, and investors such as Warren Buffet openly predicting the 21st century will be "China's Century," more are taking notice. With the nation of China working hard to overtake the West in both economic and military power, is it soon destined to dominate the world in the 21st century? Will it be able to do what it did to dominate the last century? Will the 21st century, in fact, be "China's Century?"

With its estimated 1.4 billion citizens, China is the most populous nation on earth. It has by far the largest financial reserves of any nation—now estimated at more than US\$3.5 trillion! Its military and naval forces are increasingly being developed. China's leaders have been clear that they have plotted a deliberate course in which it joins economic growth to military power. China's average annual growth of roughly 9 percent over the last 20 years has led to a 10-fold increase in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a 21-fold increase in purchasing power for military expenditure. So, China is slowly but surely working to transform its armed forces into a full-spectrum military, able to project Chinese power around the world.

**Economic Growth**

China now has the second-largest economy in the world—only the United States of America (and the European Union if its member states are counted together as a bloc). Wherever you live, if you use a computer or a smartphone, there is a very good chance that it was made in China. China's Ministry of Commerce recently reported that it had reported that in the first 11 months of 2012 alone, Chinese factories made more than a billion mobile phones, more than 314 million computers, 116 million televisions, and 100 million PCs. These figures do not include the estimated 120 million tablet PCs made in China last year. China's global presence in the automotive industry continues to grow.

Decades ago, "Made in China" was a label sought for shoddy and cheap workmanship. *But no more!* Chinese industry is now at the forefront of the world economy; nations like Vietnam and Thailand take on the role of cheap competitors. Today, in China, the entrepreneur or businessman has much to be thankful for.

Yet, it is important to realize that for many decades the Chinese viewed themselves as outsiders on the world scene—a terrible embarrassment for a nation that valued its historical past as a great world power. Despite China's past glories, the nation had for many centuries been seen as a weak, backward, and weak government and misguided efforts. China was constantly finding itself dominated by the Americans or the British. Then, the communist revolution began, and the people of China began to have a sense of pride in their own government, which they had lacked before.

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# IS THIS **CHINA'S CENTURY?**

With about one-fifth of the world's entire population, the nation of China remains an enigma to many in the West. Thousands of years ago, China was an imperial nation with grand ambitions of regional—and even world—domination. Though it was racked by war and economic catastrophe throughout the 20th century, the opening decades of the 21st century are seeing new attention paid to China as an economic and political superpower in the making. What does your Bible reveal about China's future and its place in end-time prophecy? The answer may surprise you!

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Today, with the United States in rapid decline, and investors such as Warren Buffett openly proclaiming the 21st century as "China's Century," many more are taking notice. With the nation of China working hard to overtake the West in both economic and military power, is it soon destined to dominate the world in the way that America and Britain were able to dominate the last century? Will this 21st century, in fact, be "China's Century"?

With its estimated 1.4 billion citizens, China is the most populous nation on earth. It has by far the largest financial reserves of any nation—now estimated at more than US\$3.5 trillion! Its military and naval forces are increasingly being developed. China-watchers have noted that the nation has plotted a deliberate course in which it joins economic growth to military power. China's average annual growth of roughly 9 percent over the last 20 years has led to a ten-fold increase in per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a 21-fold increase in purchasing power for military expenditure. So, China is slowly but surely working to transform its armed forces into a full-spectrum military, able to project Chinese power around the world.

## **Economic Growth**

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Decades ago, "Made in China" was a code-word for shoddy and cheap workmanship. *But no more!* Chinese industry is now at the forefront of the world economy, as nations like Vietnam and Thailand take on the role of cut-rate competitors. Today, in China, the entrepreneur or businessman has much to be thankful for.

Yet, it is important to realize that for *many decades* the Chinese viewed themselves as also-rans on the world scene—a terrible embarrassment for a nation that valued its historical past as a great world power. Despite China's past glories, the nation had for many centuries been held back by a series of weak governments and misguided efforts. China was constantly finding itself dominated by the Americans or the British. Then, the communist revolution began—and suddenly, millions of Chinese began to have a sense of pride in their own

government, which they had lacked before. Today, even the Chinese have recognized that communism is **not** the answer. China's senior leader, Xi Jinping, now talks of the "Two 100s"—the goal of making the nation's entire vast population "moderately well off" by 2020, the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, and the goal of making China a **fully modernized and developed** nation by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. As China expert Robert Lawrence Kuhn puts it, Xi's vision of the "Chinese Dream" has four parts: "Strong China (economically, politically, diplomatically, scientifically, militarily); Civilized China (equity and fairness, rich culture, high morals); Harmonious China (amity among social classes); Beautiful China (healthy environment, low pollution)" ("Xi Jinping's Chinese Dream," *New York Times*, June 4, 2013).

### **From Farms to Cities**

One striking example of this fervent desire for modernization is the plan by Chinese leaders to move 250 million Chinese citizens from their ancestral farmlands into new urban residences, where they will work in offices or factories instead of on the land. "The government, often by fiat, is replacing small rural homes with high-rises, paving over vast swaths of farmland and drastically altering the lives of rural dwellers. So large is the scale that the number of brand-new Chinese city dwellers will approach the total urban population of the United States—in a country already bursting with megacities" ("China's Great Uprooting," *New York Times*, June 15, 2013).



By 2025, the plan is to have 70 percent of China's population—about 900 million men, women and children—living in cities. As the *New York Times* reports, "This will decisively change the character of China, where the Communist Party insisted for decades that most peasants, even those working in cities, remain tied to their tiny plots of land to ensure political and economic stability. Now, the party has shifted priorities, mainly to find a new source of growth for a slowing economy that depends increasingly on a consuming class of city dwellers" (*ibid.*).

It would be hard to overstate what a dramatic change this will be for China and its people. Chinese communism, practically from the beginning, differed in one dramatic way from orthodox Marxism, which looked to the industrialized working class as the bulwark of revolution. By contrast, Chinese communism gave a special emphasis to peasant farmers as the main populist force that was expected under "Mao Zedong Thought" to foment and support the revolution against capitalism that would lead the Chinese nation toward socialism and communism.

At a time when millions in the United States are worrying about their own nation's loss of prosperity and traditional values, and its seeming move away from personal liberties long taken for granted—as seen in the revelation of National Security Agency recording of personal phone conversations—it is easy to understand why many around the world are sensing a coming shift in global superpower dynamics. Will an urbanized, economically powerful China become the world's leading superpower, just as the United States loses its long-held positions of economic power and moral leadership around the world?

*Where will all this lead? What is truly going to happen? What does the inspired word of God indicate?*

### **Another View: From God's Word**

In several places in your Bible, God clearly indicates that He is in charge of all major world events. In the book of Daniel, we read that ancient King Nebuchadnezzar was driven out of power for seven years and made to eat grass like oxen in order to teach

*him a lesson.* What was that lesson? God answers, “Seven times shall pass over you until you *know* that the Most High **rules** in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Daniel 4:32). Even most professing Christians **do not** understand the **reality** of God’s ultimate authority and how **real** God is. But, *in this generation*, they will begin to understand—since God is beginning to intervene powerfully in human affairs as never before. Again, the inspired

- Two legs of iron, symbolizing the Roman Empire, with ten toes on feet of iron mixed with clay symbolizing the Roman Empire and its final revival with ten national rulers united under a single leader (31BC–Christ’s return).

The final world-dominating revival of the Roman Empire will be relatively short-lived, and will be uprooted by a “fifth kingdom” that will be the *literal*

government of God under Jesus Christ (Daniel 2:36–45). Describing that “fifth kingdom,” God’s word tells us that in “the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;

and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever” (v. 44).

This final powerful empire is not a Chinese Empire! But how can it be a “Roman” Empire, when we know the Roman Empire fell in 476AD? Remember that although Rome’s empire was felled by a “deadly wound” in 476AD, successive emperors have in effect “revived” it for brief periods. The first was Justinian in 554AD, followed by the Carolingian Empire (of the famous Charlemagne, crowned in 800AD), then the Holy Roman Empire, the Hapsburg Dynasty and the empire of Napoleon. In the 20th century, Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler made a brief attempt to revive the empire through the Axis Powers.

This is the empire the world will see rise once more at the very end of this present age. The Apostle John further describes this empire: “So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (Revelation

**CHINA'S CENTURY?** CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

## WILL AN URBANIZED, ECONOMICALLY POWERFUL CHINA RISE TO BECOME, IN A FEW YEARS, THE WORLD'S LEADING SUPERPOWER?

word of God tells us, “The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations” (Psalm 33:10–11).

Although China is becoming—and will increasingly continue to become—one of the most powerful and influential nations in the world, your Bible clearly reveals that it will **not** become the major threat to America. And our 21st century will **not** be “China’s century.”

Rather, God’s inspired word tells us that a powerful empire will arise in Europe—one that will, in fact, *dominate the entire earth* in economic and trading matters. And—if we let the *Bible interpret the Bible*—we do not need to “guess” who this power is, or where it might arise.

For, as nearly all Bible students know, Almighty God revealed through Daniel a series of *four kingdoms* that would arise on the world scene. Interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, Daniel prophesied (see chapter 2 of the book of Daniel) the following:

- A head of gold, symbolizing the Babylonian Empire that fell in 539BC.
- Chest and arms of silver, symbolizing the Medo-Persian Empire (558–330BC).
- Belly and thighs of bronze, symbolizing the Hellenistic empire established by Alexander the Great (333–31BC).

# Oh Canada!

## CONSIDER THE BEAVER

"In most places, a world without beavers is a world without water and the life it supports"  
(Glynnis Hood, *The Beaver Manifesto*, p. 5).



**For more than a hundred years**, almost every Canadian 5-cent piece has carried the image of a 60-pound rodent. Some Canadians question why we mint a coin with a rodent, instead of perhaps a magnificent polar bear. Yet *Castor canadensis*—the beaver—prevails. It remains a symbol of hard work, tenacity and duty. So, what can we learn from this unlikely teacher?

In the early days of European settlement across Canada, no single factor had as great an influence as the beaver. For centuries, beaver pelts drove the exploration, settlement, wars and politics of the land. The beaver was valued for its fur, yet reviled as a pest because its natural habits caused flooding, road washouts and loss of valuable trees.

In recent years trapping has diminished, so beaver populations are resurging. Many parts of Canada have adopted beaver-suppression programs to address the problems caused by the growing beaver population. Yet new voices are rising in defence of this oft-maligned rodent, pointing to the beaver's valuable role in creating sustainable environments.

### Furry Hydro-Engineers

Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to permanently alter the environment to meet their needs. Beavers modify landscapes, bringing water back to previously dry areas. These furry hydro-engineers start in a small stream with vertically placed sticks, then weave branches through the sticks and pack them with mud or other debris. They position larger logs parallel to the water flow, fix them in place with more mud and debris, then continue the process to expand the structure's width and height. Without the aid of



mathematics, they may instinctively arc a widening dam to absorb increased water pressure as their work causes the water to deepen.

They are incessant workers. In northern Alberta, a beaver dam more than half a mile long has been found. Several generations of beavers have worked on that project for more than 40 years ("World's largest beaver dam 40 years in the making." *The Star*, May 7, 2010).

Beavers are well designed for their role. They have teeth that never stop growing, bodies perfectly made for swimming, eyes with built-in swimming goggles and the ability to stay submerged for 15 minutes. They are built to lift many times their own weight, pulling heavy logs to the water. They could not have been better engineered for their job.

The sound of running water motivates them, indicating a threat to their lodge. Since a beaver lodge must be in water deep enough to permit entry below the ice in winter, any flowing water must be stopped. In one case, a tape recorder playing the sound of running water was left in an area populated by beavers. Within hours, the device was "dammed"—buried in mud!

### Sustaining the Ecosystem

An adult beaver can cut down more than 400 trees per year for dam and lodge construction—and for food, as tree bark is the beaver's primary diet. Their work is not just destructive, as their cutting down sections of forest near a pond actually opens the area for lush new growth of grasses, shrubs and young trees, thus increasing the food supply for wildlife that also benefit from the increased abundance of pond water. The beaver's work renews and sustains the ecosystem. When the pond eventually fills with silt and plant debris, the beavers move on, having created a new meadow. Their old dams,

hidden from sight by the overgrowth, cause water to be trapped under the new ground surface, which helps to protect the area from future drought.

Dr. Glynnis Hood has spent years studying and documenting the activities of beavers and their impact on landscape. Alberta's Elk Island National Park was a perfect laboratory, providing 54 years of records on beaver populations and open water in times of rain surplus and drought. Her work, published in a book entitled, *The Beaver Manifesto*, documented the

**When people build dams it requires environmental studies, lengthy engineering reports and pricey labor contracts. Beavers do the job for free in a matter of days.**

impact of the beaver in drought-proofing the ecosystem. She found that long-standing ponds and lakes with beavers had a staggering nine times more open water than ponds where beavers were not present, regardless

of rainfall amounts. In 2002, Alberta had one of the worst droughts in its history. In Elk Island Park, the only places with much ponded water were those with beaver populations (p. 47).

Despite the good the beavers do, some still consider them a problem. Michel Leclair, manager of Gatineau Park in Quebec, for years tried to control beaver activity by dynamiting dams and killing beavers. Yet the efficient and industrious rodents would quickly rebuild, blocking culverts and flooding roads. So, as depicted in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation documentary *The Beaver Whisperer*, Leclair decided to work with the beavers. Since the sound of moving water motivates them to build dams, he produced the sound of running water by placing posts in streams, directing the beavers to build in locations where he wanted a dam to be. Today, he runs an efficient water management system in a huge park—with hundreds of beavers serving as his willing, eager, non-union, unpaid civil servants! As



Leclair describes in *The Beaver Whisperer*, the process of human dam-building—even for a small dam—requires expensive and time-consuming design, engineering reports, environmental assessments and construction contracts. Instead, Leclair coaxes the beavers to do the job for free in a matter of days, once he directs them to the work site.

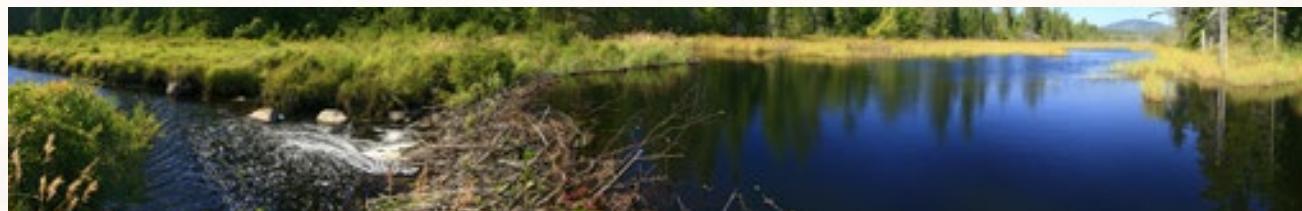
### **The Wilderness a Pool of Water**

Scripture describes the quality of life in the Kingdom of God, when Jesus Christ returns to the earth. God says, "I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water" (Isaiah 41:18). In the beaver, God has created and programmed with instinct a furry hydro-engineer to serve His creation. Leclair's example illustrates what can be accomplished by working with God's creation, rather than against it.

So, let us appreciate this symbol of Canada, the industrious beaver—an environmental superhero whose work stores water for other life forms, protects the ecosystem from drought, filters water pollutants, opens forests for new growth, turns desolate areas and small streams into fertile meadows, and restores ground water.

When the returning Jesus Christ sets up His kingdom on the earth, the planet will be restored to its intended state. No doubt the industrious beaver—beloved symbol of Canada—will be making its contribution.

—Stuart Wachowicz



# PORNOGRAPHY: THE DIRTY LITTLE SECRET

PORNOGRAPHY IS ROTTING THE SOUL OF THE WESTERN WORLD.  
IS THERE HOPE FOR A WORLD INCREASINGLY HOOKED ON LUST?  
IF YOU ARE ENSLAVED TO PORN, IS THERE HOPE FOR YOU?

By Rod McNair

**A**t first it starts out so “innocently.” At least it seems so. Just a glance, a quick look—a jolt of excitement. And then another look. A moment of curiosity turns into a fascination. It pulls you in, until you are sinking in a quicksand of shame and guilt. One time becomes two, then three. One minute becomes an hour. A momentary diversion becomes a habit that recurs over months and years. You lose some of the most valuable things in your life. Maybe your job. Maybe your wife or husband, girlfriend or boyfriend. But most painful of all, you lose your integrity and self-respect.

It is “the new drug” in Western culture: *pornography*. In the United States alone, four million people are addicted—roughly as many as are hooked on cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines combined. And 40 million Americans admit to viewing porn regularly. And it is not just a problem in the United States. Two thirds of Australians admit to viewing pornography occasionally, with many heavily addicted. Seventy percent of British men aged 18–34 admit to using porn at least once a month. In a UN report on the sexuality of teens in Ireland, 78 percent of teen boys and 40 percent of teen girls reported watching porn on the Internet (“Changing the Future: Experiencing Adolescence in Contemporary Ireland,” UNICEF, December, 2010).

*What is going on? Is there hope for millions being swallowed up by a lifestyle of lust?*

## Why No “War on Porn”?

There is no celebrated “war on porn” as there is against drugs. There is no concerted effort by governments and agencies to fight this cancer. And yet it affects the brain in *exactly the same way* that illicit drugs do. When a person views pornographic material, the brain is over-exposed to pleasure chemicals like dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and epinephrine. The brain rewires itself to accommodate the extra chemicals. You build up a tolerance and a dependency on the chemicals. You go from wanting the pleasure chemicals in order to feel good to “needing” them. Pornography is the new drug epidemic. And it is taking the world by silent storm.

Just as with any other drug, thousands brazenly profit from its victims. Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry. Pushers of this perverted form of “free speech” unabashedly fight attempts to curb illicit material, no matter how vulgar or debasing it may be. Television and movies portray it as harmless fun. Some misguided counselors have even encouraged couples to watch porn to help solve their marital problems. What a tragic and horrible mistake!

Some will argue that looking at a few erotic images is no big deal—a “victimless crime.” But what about the people—overwhelmingly women—who sell themselves, or are sold, to fuel the porn industry? And what about the addicts themselves? Are they really fulfilled and contented by a habit that chains them to a cycle of uncontrolled lust followed by the downward spiral of self-loathing?

More and more research is showing the *absolutely devastating effects* of pornography on those who fall under its spell: increased chance of severe clinical depression, feelings of loneliness, loss of jobs, financial loss, marital infidelity and divorce. Perhaps the most surprising effect of porn is that it causes many addicts to lose their ability to enjoy or even engage in sex with a real person.

In their book, *The Porn Trap*, authors Wendy and Larry Maltz describe the devastating effects of pornography. “Because using porn often involves high levels of dishonesty and secrecy, those who are caught up in it often say they feel isolated, ashamed, depressed, phony, morally compromised, and even in some cases, suicidal.... **Most porn users we've counseled or spoken with are surprised at how easily porn transformed from an occasional diversion or fantasy to a habitual problem that has the potential to destroy almost every aspect of their real lives...** dragging down their relationships, their jobs, their self-esteem, and even their dreams and desires” (pp. 2–3). So, what is the solution?

#### Ancient Advice

Thousands of years ago, the patriarch Job wrote that he was *very careful* about where he allowed his eyes to stray: “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?” (Job 31:1). Proverbs 6:23–25 continues, saying, “The commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman... **Do not lust after her beauty in your heart**, nor let her allure you with her eyelids.” The Apostle John echoed the same warning: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, **the lust of the eyes**, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15–17). Sexual lust and covetousness are not new at all, but a very old temptation that has cast down many “strong men” (Proverbs 7:26).

The Apostle James explained how temptation occurs and where it leads: “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed” (James 1:14, KJV). The next verse says that lust leads to sin, and sin leads to death (James 1:15). What type of death does pornography cause? Death of your character and self-esteem. Death of trust and integrity. Death of honor and self-confidence. Death of enjoyment of normal, healthy relationships. Potential physical death from sexually transmitted diseases through promiscuity. And ultimately, death in the lake of fire, the “second death,” where the “unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars” will be burned up (Revelation 21:8). God does not want anyone to die, but rather to repent and live. “As I live,” says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways’ (Ezekiel 33:11). God hates porn because it destroys the lives of His children, whom He wants to be in His Kingdom.

If you are hooked on porn but want to change, there is good news—you can! But first you have to understand you have a powerful, spirit enemy, Satan the Devil, who does not want you to change. He has deceived the whole world and led people into sin (Revelation 12:9). It is *he* who wants you to be swallowed up by addiction. But the Apostle Peter warns us to be aware of his attacks. He said, “Be



sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Peter 5:8–9).

Satan capitalizes on shame. He wants addicts to feel overwhelmed. If you are addicted to porn, Satan wants you to feel that you are the *only one* battling such a problem. He wants you to feel alone, isolated, and unworthy of God's forgiveness. But nothing could be further from the truth! As the Apostle Paul wrote, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as

## SATAN CAPITALIZES ON SHAME. HE WANTS ADDICTS TO FEEL OVERWHELMED. SATAN WANTS YOU TO FEEL ALONE.

is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:13–14).

Addiction is *idolatry*. When you are addicted, you crave something or someone to the exclusion of all else. When the craving comes, it becomes all-consuming, impossible to stop. And it is never

enough, as Proverbs 27:20 tells us. One of the *lies* that addicts tell themselves is "I can quit anytime" or "it's not a big deal." If you are addicted to pornography, *stop lying to yourself and get help!* If you are trapped in the sin of covetousness and idolatry, you are putting your desire for "a created thing" before the God who made your life and gives you every breath you take! He takes that very seriously! Paul says, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**" (Colossians 3:5). Being addicted to sexual images is really no different than bowing down to an idol of stone or wood. It is just idolatry of the heart.

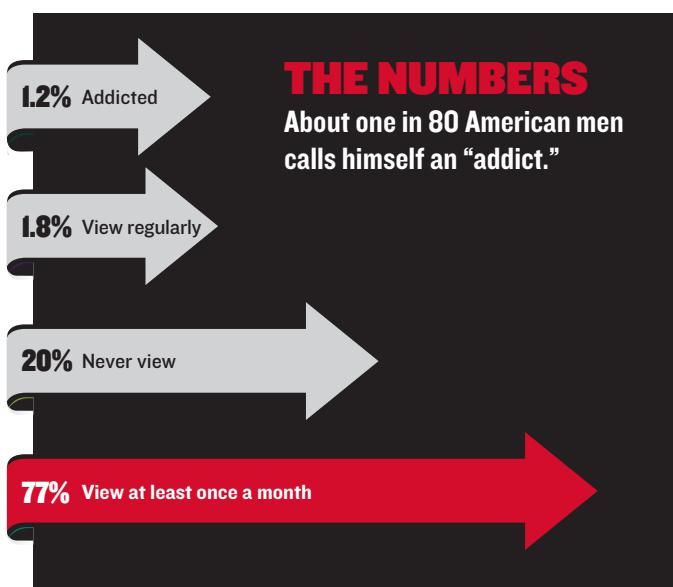
God wants us to be free. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). He continued, "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (v. 34).

The Apostle Paul echoed the same teaching: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16). Paul explained that God wants us to be free from the chains of sin, and become "slaves of righteousness for holiness" (v. 19). He wants us to have "fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (v. 22).

### Come Clean!

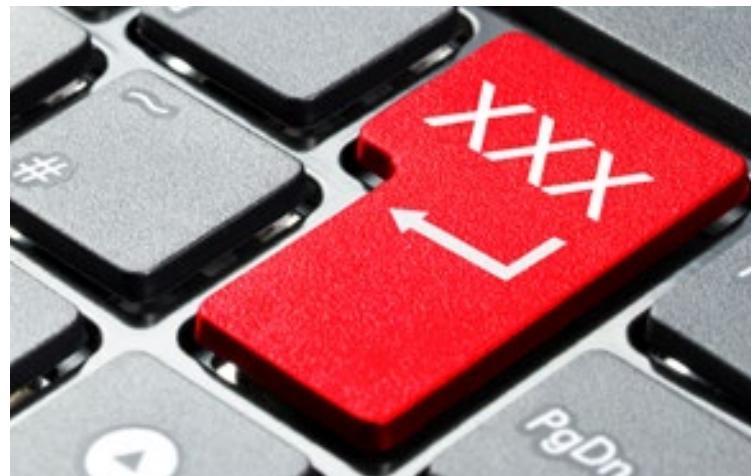
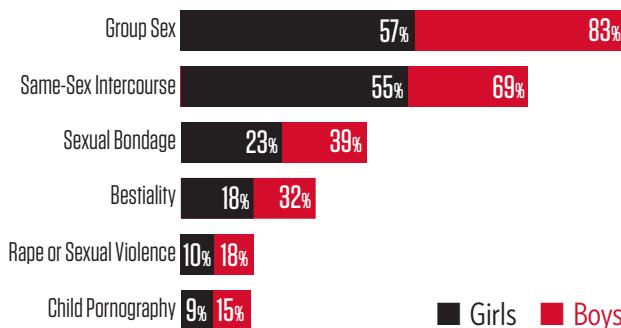
If you have been enslaved by sexual lust but want to be free, you can! Turn to God with all your heart—everything you have. Submit to Him in every part of your life. All of it belongs to Him anyway, for He made you! Humble yourself before the ever-living God. As James writes, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:7–10).

Ask God to grant you repentance, and to have a *real* relationship with Jesus Christ. Your Savior became flesh, so that He would understand what it is like to



# What's Online?

Teenage exposure to Internet pornography



be human. He felt the temptations of the flesh, yet He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). Since Jesus Christ was on earth and felt temptation, He can encourage and comfort those who are striving to overcome. And He can give them power, through His Spirit, to really overcome! “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). In other words, there is hope to overcome!

If you really want to overcome addiction, you will need to make some concrete changes in your life. You will have to stay away from environments that put you in compromising positions (Proverbs 7:25). If old friends cause you to fall into old habits, it is time to find new friends (Proverbs 1:10)! Your old acquaintances may not be thrilled by your new standards (1 Peter 4:4)—but eternal life is worth the sacrifice!

Having personal rules of conduct which keep a person well away from “the cliff” are wise. For the porn addict, it means Internet filters and accountability partners—someone you can trust that can check up on you from time to time. It is worth it! God does not just counsel us to resist immoral conduct—He says to *flee far from it* (1 Corinthians 6:18)! Learn your addiction “triggers.” When do you fall into temptation? When you are under stress? Depressed? Bored? When you have not been praying or studying, and are not close to God? By knowing yourself, and analyzing the patterns of your behavior,

you can be better equipped to know when you are in danger, and take steps to avoid “falling off the cliff.”

## Be Filled with God’s Spirit!

The ultimate solution to addiction is greater spiritual depth and purpose—a deeper relationship with God. And to really overcome forces as powerful as addictions, it takes God’s help. As Paul wrote, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20, KJV).

Porn is *not* an insurmountable enemy. But victory requires commitment to yourself and your relationships. As authors Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker write in *Every Man’s Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time*: “**The battle for purity is... about becoming your wife’s hero and not her nightmare, and proving you’re man enough to make your commitments to her stick.**” (p. 229). The Christian life is a fight—all the way to the end! “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” (1 Timothy 6:11–12). If you are struggling, do not lose heart! Jesus Christ *living in you* can change your thoughts. He can change your life! *But you need to choose!* TW

**MAY WE  
SUGGEST?**

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# THIS IS London CALLING

## MODERN LESSONS FROM ANCIENT POMPEII



This summer, tens of thousands of Britons have marveled at the British Museum's "Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum" exhibit, which powerfully depicts the conditions in 79AD just before those ancient Italian cities were destroyed by a massive volcanic eruption from Mount Vesuvius.

The exhibit will close on September 29, but its lessons should remain with us. What parallels exist between Pompeii and modern-day Britain? Does Britain's future in any way resemble Pompeii's past?

### A Day of Terror

For some time prior to the eruption, tectonic plates rumbled underfoot, yet the inhabitants of Pompeii and Herculaneum were indifferent to the dangers lurking within Mount Vesuvius, just a stone's throw away. Finally, after about 16 years of rumbling, Mount Vesuvius could no longer contain the mounting pressure caused by superheated gases, pumice and other rocks. On August 24, 79AD, the volcano belched forth an eruption column of scorching material that rose and hovered 19 miles aloft—visible for hundreds of miles around.

When the column collapsed, 2,000 lives were reduced to ashes within a day. The once-thriving cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried under a mountain of incinerated residue and rock. Millions of tons of debris encased the cities in a time capsule waiting to be uncovered 17 centuries later.

What was life like for the citizens of Pompeii and Herculaneum before those dark hours? What can the destruction of these cities teach us about today's Britain, and the rest of the world? How is it relevant today? The answers to these questions are vital.

### Frozen in Time

In 1748, a surveying engineer began to unearth the area around the destroyed cities. What was found has



since astonished the world. Beneath thick layers of ash and sediment, 13 to 20 feet deep, slept these ancient cities—*frozen in time*—appearing just as they did nearly 1,700 years before.



This summer, the British Museum in London partnered with the Archaeological Superintendence of Naples and Pompeii to display more than 250 objects unearthed from Pompeii and Herculaneum. Record crowds came to learn from this detailed unveiling of first-century Roman life.

### Drunkards of Ephraim

Is it fair to draw a parallel between ancient Pompeii and modern Britain? Consider what the prophet Isaiah wrote about the nation of Ephraim. As regular readers of *Tomorrow's World* know, modern Britain can trace its heritage to the ancient Israelite tribe of Ephraim, named after a son of Joseph (Genesis 35:22–26; 41:51–52). Isaiah wrote: "Woe to the crown of pride, to the **drunkards of Ephraim**, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower which is at the head of the verdant valleys, to those who are **overcome with wine!**" (Isaiah 28:1). This

is an apt description of Britain today, where, according to the British National Health Service, 24 percent of adults in 2007 were classified as hazardous drinkers. More than **one million** alcohol-related hospital visits were recorded in 2011 alone.

One of Pompeii's primary gods was *Bacchus* (known alternatively as Dionysus or Dionysos), a Greek god of wine and of **drunkenness**. Historian Mary Beard writes that "the god Dionysus (or Bacchus), [is] a well-known symbol in the ancient world of wildness, intoxication and lack of restraint" (*Pompeii: The Life of a Roman Town*, p. 134).

Pompeii's culture of intemperance is legendary, yet it seems modern-day Ephraim is stumbling down much the

same path. God said Ephraim was drunk with wine and, as the latter part of Isaiah 28:7 explains, "they err in vision, they stumble in judgment." Britain has lost its way and its purpose. The once great and mighty colonizing empire has been reduced to a mere shadow of its former glory. Indeed, Britain's birthright blessings are diminishing!

### Trembling Under Our Feet

The root of Britain's national decline is a condition that mirrors key aspects found in the ancient city of Pompeii—a condition noted even by outside observers. A *Russia Today* article recently asserted, "UK men

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are in the grip of a 'crisis of masculinity' fuelled by boozing and consumerism amid the financial crisis...

Pornography and 'hyper-masculinity' are propagating a 'Viagra and Jack Daniels' culture" ("Economic crisis sparks 'heartless' culture in British males," May 15, 2013). The British are turning away from the God of the Bible and—by going after other gods of materialism,

lust, greed and drunkenness—hastening a day of reckoning.

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ on the Mount of Olives delivered what is known as the "Olivet Prophecy," describing the signs that would precede His return to the earth. He said, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (v. 37).

So, how were the days of Noah? "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking,

marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (vv. 38-39).

In the days of Noah, the people were doing ordinary

things until, out of nowhere, everything changed. Water swallowed the ungodly. Something similar happened to the inhabitants of Pompeii, when a fiery flood rained down from Vesuvius' sky and destroyed their famed city.

### Will You Heed the Warning?

Bible prophecy reveals a similar destruction awaiting Ephraim, modern-day Britain. Unless modern Ephraim repents of its personal and national sins—of transgressing God's law, the Ten Commandments—its destiny is bleak.

Thousands in Pompeii and Herculaneum felt *trembling under their feet* years in advance of Vesuvius' fury. They had warning, but did not heed. You, as a reader of this magazine, are reading a warning message of a time of trouble set to unfold at the end of this age. Will you heed that warning? Will you repent and change?

Or will you turn a blind eye and ignore the warning, like those who perished in Pompeii? The choice is yours. May God help us remember—and learn from—the destruction of Pompeii.

—Adam J. West



# Is God ALIVE?



A FAMOUS APRIL 1966 MAGAZINE COVER ASKED,  
“IS GOD DEAD?” WHAT IS THE ANSWER?  
CAN YOU PROVE GOD’S EXISTENCE FOR YOURSELF?

By Richard F. Ames

**T**IME Magazine was not the first to inquire about—or even to strongly proclaim—the death or non-existence of God. German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, whose philosophy was not merely atheistic but was strongly anti-God, had boldly asserted more than 80 years earlier, “God is dead; but given the way of men, there may still be caves for thousands of years in which his shadow will be shown. And we—we still have to vanquish his shadow, too” (*The Gay Science*, Nietzsche, 1882, section 108).

Now, **Nietzsche is dead**, but his philosophy lives on to our day in the minds of millions who not only disbelieve in God, but who **hate** the very idea that God exists!

Some atheists will challenge, “If you say God has existed forever, why can’t we just say the universe has existed forever, and eliminate the need for God?” Well, according to the most up-to-date scientific theories, the universe **has not** existed forever! In the words of noted astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, “The universe has not existed forever. Rather, the universe, and time itself, had a beginning in the Big Bang, about 15 billion years ago.” Yes, modern astrophysics reveals that there was a time when the universe did not exist—and that there was a time when time itself did not exist!

Another researcher puts it this way: “All the great cosmological discoveries of the twentieth century fly

in the face of materialist notions about the infinite, random universe. On the contrary, they support the fact of a finite beginning caused by and guided by a divine, personal, caring designer, who exists before and beyond the universe” (*The Creation Date Controversy*, Hugh Ross).

So, is there a living, caring God who was involved in the creation of the universe and the life within it—and who intervenes in human lives and world events today? Can you refute the critics who say, “God is dead”? Can you prove that God is alive? Yes, you can!

## Creation Demands a Creator!

Scientists have tried to create life from non-life, yet they have utterly failed! The law of biogenesis states that life can only come from life. Is it reasonable to believe that life can arise from non-life, and that law can arise from lawlessness and random chance?

Scientists know there are intricate mathematical laws that determine the motion and expansion of the universe. What accounts for those laws, and for their expression in our universe? Scientist Patrick Glynn writes that everything had to be “just right” from the very start—everything from the values of fundamental forces like electromagnetism and gravity, to the relative masses of the various subatomic particles, to things like the number of neutrino types at time 1 second, which the universe has to ‘know’ already at  $10^{-43}$  second. The slightest tinkering with a single one of scores of basic values and relationships in nature would have resulted in a

universe very different from the one we inhabit—say, one with no stars like our sun, or no stars, period” (*God: The Evidence*, p. 7).

Yes, the laws of physics existed from the very beginning of the universe. Scientists admit that this had to be so. And those laws are finely tuned to allow our universe to exist the way it does today—with us in it! Mathematically, it is beyond improbable that such a universe would randomly come into existence with just the right properties to allow human existence.

Consider this fundamental proof of God: The existence of natural law in the universe requires a lawgiver! Scientists depend on the predictability and reliability of natural law for their calculations and search for truth. When science examines the smallest particle to the expanding universe, what does it find? It finds predictable, natural laws in action. But it also finds intelligent design. Consider the human eye. Could such complexity evolve? Now scientists can examine structures small and large, near and distant, from quarks and DNA to quasars and whole galaxies. And what do we see? We see a demonstration of perfection and design.

Anti-God scientists, determined to come up with explanations that exclude divine creation, have invented fanciful theories to explain the complexity around us. Yet many of them require huge leaps of logic, or assumptions that a mathematically improbable event “just happened to happen.”

Even Charles Darwin, father of the modern theory of evolution, admitted that complex organs such

	"I don't believe in God"	"I know without doubt that God exists"
Germany (East)	52	8
Czech Republic	40	11
France	23	16
Great Britain	18	16
Australia	16	25
New Zealand	13	26
Germany (West)	10	27
Japan	9	4
Russia	7	31
Israel	6	23
United States	3	61
Philippines	1	84

(Percentages from “Beliefs about God across Time and Countries,” University of Chicago, April 18, 2012)

immune-system response. They exhibit what he calls ‘irreducible complexity,’ meaning that all their parts are necessary for them to function at all. This, he says, is the hallmark of intelligent design” (“Doubting Darwin,” February 7, 2005, p. 48).

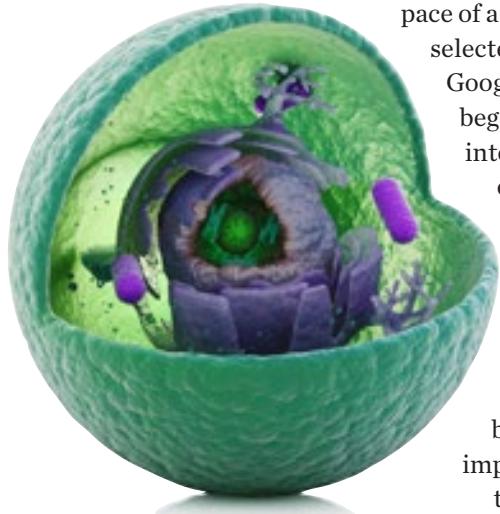
Perhaps you took a high school biology class, years ago, in which you learned that the cell is a very simple organism. In fact, however, as Discovery Institute Senior Fellow George Gilder points out in a *Wired* magazine interview, it is not so simple after all: “It’s a complex information-processing machine comprising tens of thousands of proteins arranged

in fabulously intricate algorithms of communication and synthesis. The human body contains some 60 trillion cells. Each one

## SCIENTISTS HAVE TRIED TO CREATE LIFE FROM NON-LIFE AND UTTERLY FAILED! THE LAW OF BIOGENESIS SAYS LIFE CAN ONLY COME FROM LIFE!

as the eye would be difficult to explain in terms of his theory. *Newsweek* writer Jerry Adler described evolutionists’ attempts to “show how a series of small improvements could eventually build the complete organ. With the publication of ‘Darwin’s Black Box’ in 1996, biochemist Michael Behe moved the argument to the cellular level, using examples such as the

stores information in DNA codes, processes and replicates it in three forms of RNA and thousands of supporting enzymes, exquisitely supplies the system with energy, and seals it in semipermeable phospholipid membranes. It is a process subject to the mathematical theory of information, which shows that even mutations occurring in cells at the gigahertz



**The complexity of the “simple” cell reminds us that design demands a designer**

is an embarrassing cartoon of modern science” (“Biocosm,” October 2004).

Critics sometimes call this a “God of the gaps” explanation—their criticism is that because we do not understand something complex, we attribute it to God. Yet this criticism ignores the fact that even when scientists present an “explanation” for something complex such as the human eye, their explanation may rely on supposedly random mutations or adaptations, which according to probability theory would not occur in trillions of trillions of years—in our merely 14-billion-year-old universe!

### The Mystery of Consciousness

Materialist evolutionists, faced with the phenomenon of human consciousness, find many of their assumptions challenged. Dr. John Searle, author of the book *The Mystery of Consciousness*, says this about human consciousness: “We don’t know how to explain it. Compare consciousness to physics. We’re doing pretty well in physics, even though we have some puzzling areas, like quantum mechanics. We don’t have an adequate theory of how the brain causes conscious states, and we don’t have an adequate theory of how consciousness fits into the universe” (“What Is Consciousness?,” *Close to Truth*, p. 6).

Dr. Searle points out that the traditional explanations for consciousness are dualism and

pace of a Pentium 4 and selected at the rate of a Google search couldn’t beget the intricate interwoven fabric of structure and function of a human being in such a short amount of time. Natural selection should be taught for its important role in the adaptation of species, but Darwinian materialism

materialism. He states, “So the big choice today is between dualism, which says that we live in two separate worlds, a mental world and a physical world, and materialism, which says no, it’s all physical” (*ibid.*).

Dualism relies much on the belief in the idea of an immortal soul. Yet, as regular readers of this magazine know, the Bible teaches that human beings **are** living souls—and that souls can die, as they are not inherently immortal (Ezekiel 18:20). Is it possible that **the Bible** can explain the questions that trouble scientists such as Searle? The answer is: **Yes!**

Not only is the dualist wrong in his belief, but the materialist is also wrong, because he denies the existence of the non-physical dimension, the existence of spirit. What does the Bible reveal? The Apostle Paul discusses the relationship of spirit to humans, asking, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” (1 Corinthians 2:11). Paul is not discussing an immortal soul, but the human spirit. The human spirit enables humans to know “the things of a man.” Animals cannot know “the things of man.” Animals cannot think on the human level. The qualitative difference between human mind and animal brain is enormous. Animal instinct is often remarkable, but only human beings can conceive of multiple physical dimensions beyond the visible. And if scientists can theorize about 10 or 11 invisible physical dimensions, how hard should it be for an objective observer to consider the spiritual dimension?

Physicists use massive instruments such as the Large Hadron Collider to understand physical dimensions beyond our view. What do we need to understand the spiritual dimension? We need the Spirit of God! Only then can we truly and deeply understand “the things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:11). So, how do we receive the Spirit of God? On the day of Pentecost, when the New Testament Church began, the Apostle Peter preached to thousands. He proclaimed to his audience, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

**IS GOD ALIVE? CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Are Halloween celebrations a treat—or a trick—for Christians?

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

**Answer:** Halloween is anything but a Christian holiday, despite periodic efforts to adopt and transform its practice. Sometime after 601AD, following a letter written by Pope Gregory I to a bishop in England, efforts were made to “Christianize” pagan festivals such as the Celtic *Samhain*, a festival steeped with fear of wandering spirits, demons and fairies (Evans-Wentz, W. Y. *The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries*, p. 288–290). Throughout medieval times,

*Christ and His disciples told converts to “cast off” their old ways and “walk in newness of life.”*

this festival, held on or around the beginning of November, was considered a time when supernatural divination and communion with the dead, and even the devil, was most possible *and acceptable* (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, vol. 5. “Halloween.” p. 646).

The Bible, however, nowhere countenances the adoption or “Christianization” of practices that were clearly labeled as abominations. God frowned on His people taking the practices and beliefs of pagan peoples as their own (Deuteronomy 12:30–31). Instead, His admonitions against witchcraft and divination are quite pointed (Deuteronomy 18:10; 1 Samuel 15:23; 2 Kings 17:17; 21:6; Galatians 5:20; Revelation 18:23).

The Bible also contains clear indication that worshiping, venerating or otherwise seeking the aid of the dead goes against the instructions of

God Almighty (Deuteronomy 14:1; Isaiah 8:19), and superstitions born out of the fear of wandering spirits or departed souls are illogical assumptions that are refuted by the teachings of Christ and the apostles. Christ taught of a coming *resurrection* (Matthew 22:31–33) and the apostles

likened the state of death to sleep, wherefrom people cannot be contacted before their resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:6, 12–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

Any edict or letter “consecrating” pagan sites and holy days was a tactic devised to accumulate converts and power to a *different religion* than the one Jesus taught—not an inspired or approved practice according to the God of the Bible. It has been the opinion of some professing Christians throughout history that converts might not be expected to give up all of their non-Christian celebrations at once, and so a means must be devised to “gradually” convince them to let go of their customs (Bede. *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation, Book I.* “A Copy of the Letter Which Pope Gregory Sent to the Abbot Mellitus, Then Going Into Britain.” Chapter 30). However, this “tactic” was and has continued to be a dismal failure: “The old beliefs associated with Samhain never died out entirely. The powerful symbolism of the traveling dead was too strong... the practice of retaining traditional customs while attempting to redefine them had a sustaining effect: the traditional beliefs and customs lived on, in new guises.” (Santino, Jack. “The Fantasy and Folklore

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of All Hallows,” loc. gov). As an example of the “blind leading the blind,” this was to be expected (Luke 6:39).

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

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





# WATCH AND WARN

## Hope for a Suffering World

**T**hose who believe the Bible understand that Jesus revealed that our world will face very traumatic times in the years leading to His Second Coming. Today, hundreds of millions of people around the world are suffering, and although many agencies and individuals try to help, the suffering continues.

Jesus warned of end-time religious deception and persecution, followed by regional wars and ethnic violence, then unprecedented famine and worldwide disease epidemics (Matthew 24:4-7). These prophesied events are found in Revelation 6 in symbolic language as the infamous "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse."

Though countless millions are in need today, Scripture warns that humanity's sufferings will become **much** worse in the years before Christ's return. Understanding that so many in the world *need* help in their time of trouble, what should our attitude be today? And what is our hope for tomorrow?

### People Need Help Now

From America to France, from Japan to Africa, human suffering is a worldwide phenomenon. According to a June 19, 2013 BBC news report, there are currently more than 7.6 million displaced refugees—the most since 1994, not even including the more than *one million* people who fled Syria in 2013! But it is not only those fleeing war, violence, weather or poverty in developing nations who need help. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there are nearly 100,000 chronically homeless individuals sleeping on the streets across the United States. According to *The Economist*, in Paris, France "a growing number of homeless are stretching the limits of the

city's generosity" ("Down and out in Paris," October 13, 2012). The World Food Program estimates that 870,000,000 people worldwide do not have enough to eat (WFP.org, "Hunger Statistics," July 10, 2013). The list goes on.

Since the human picture is sometimes lost in the statistics, two brief examples from Japan may help illustrate the pervasiveness of need, regardless of where or how "modern" a nation may be. Homelessness in Japan—especially among older people—has surged in recent years. According to Reuters, people older than 55 years accounted for 73.5 percent of Japan's homeless in 2012. The story of Toshiyuki Ishioka, a 50-year-old ex-businessman, is all-too-common: "'The company I used to work for went bankrupt, so I've been living on the streets for eight years now,' said the 50 year-old, whose tanned, leathery skin made him look older than his age. 'It's also difficult for older people like me to find jobs because we're just not as strong.'" Kyoko Machiya tells a similar story. The slender 64-year-old woman lives in a makeshift cardboard box structure and reports that although she tried to live in a homeless shelter, she eventually decided to move out: "'It's not their fault, but it's pretty difficult being surrounded by those with severe mental illnesses,' Machiya said, 'It wasn't a pleasant environment, so I ended up on the streets again'" (Reuters, "Old age far from gentle for Japan's graying homeless," March 1, 2013).

From war to tsunamis, from droughts to mudslides, from disease to economics, human suffering has many causes. And the Bible reveals that these problems will worsen before Christ's return, especially affecting the modern nations descended from ancient Israel.

To those who are blessed to live in Western nations, the worst of the suffering has always seemed to be "somewhere else." However, prior to Christ's Second Coming, Scripture warns that, because of modern Israel's sinfulness, the "Western" nations identified in Scripture as the "House of Jacob" will enter into a time of terrible calamity beyond what we today see even in the nations that are suffering the most (Isaiah 48:1-12; Ezekiel 5:11-17). This punishment will culminate in the Great Tribulation spoken of by Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:21).

### **Godly Compassion**

In a world with so much suffering, what should a Christian do? If we neglect or despise the poor, we sin (Proverbs 14:21). Being charitable does not mean that we should be unwise or allow ourselves to be exploited (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12), but God does want us to help those who truly are in need, whether by giving of our time, talents, prayers, encouragement or money (Romans 12:6-11). James 1:27 instructs that pure religion is to visit the widows and fatherless in their time of need. Faithful Christians will not neglect to do good to all people as they are able, especially serving their brothers and sisters in the faith (Galatians 6:10). Scripture is clear that if we see those in need but have no pity on them, we do not have the love of God in us (1 John 3:17).

Whether we are wealthy or poor, we must remember that all we have is a *gift* from God—the food we eat, our



clothing and life itself (Leviticus 26:4; Matthew 6:25, 33). God expects our appreciation, and He commands our generosity toward others. But there is an additional truth that we must understand. There is a kind of hope and help that we can provide to those who suffer that is *significantly more important* than anything we can offer physically.

Ultimately, there is no way that any of us—individually, or any agency or human government—can solve this world's problems. In fact, the Bible warns that conditions will grow much worse in the years

**Being involved in the proclamation  
of God's coming Kingdom  
is one of the most  
profound ways  
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God's will!**

ahead. Solving this world's problems will require *the return of Christ*. This truth is a foundational part of the vital message of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. This message is what the Church of God is commissioned to preach until the end of the age. Praying for, supporting

and participating in the proclamation of the true gospel of the coming Kingdom of God is one of the most profound ways you can do God's will and help people today—help them repent from sin, be blessed as they begin to live according to God's laws, have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and have **real hope** for a better future for *all* mankind!

As Jesus commanded, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). The gospel is the **good news** of Jesus Christ's return, when God will wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who follow Him (cf. Revelation 7:17) and when Christ will establish peace and abundance throughout the earth for all humanity (Isaiah 2:2-4; Amos 9:13; Micah 4:4; Revelation 19:11)! This is the hope for a suffering world!

—Wyatt Ciesielka

# THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

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## Will lasting peace come through human effort?

The United Nations General Assembly, in November 1981, unanimously passed a resolution establishing an annual “International Day of Peace.” As of 2002, September 21 has been made the permanent date of this annual observance.

According to a United Nations Web site, “Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples... Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace.”

Peace is certainly something we must seek. And, as Christians, we understand that peace and the fear of God—not terror, but rather an irresistibly motivating awe and compelling respect for Him—go hand in hand. Throughout the Bible, we find that true peace is rooted in obedience to God’s laws and His ways (Ecclesiastes 12:13). True knowledge and wisdom are only attainable if we start with a fundamental respect for our awesome Creator as our foundation (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10). Without such reverence for our God, our “planetary progress toward peace” will be an exercise in futility.

Helpfully, the UN Web site promoting Peace Day has a search function. Searching the site for “Proverbs” or “Bible” or “Jesus” brings the message: “No results.” Search for “God” brings only a curious reference to a “Global Oneness Day” scheduled for October 24.

So, let me contribute my own “two cents” to Peace Day by reminding us all of this plain truth about humanity: “The way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:17–18). This has been a fact of human nature since long before Peace Day was established, and it will still be true this year on September 21.

Is there no hope? What, if anything, can we do to advance the cause of real peace? What will God’s people be doing on September 21? God’s annual Feast of Tabernacles this

year begins in the evening on Wednesday, September 18, and continues to sunset on Wednesday, September 25. During this time, many thousands of people from all over the world will be gathering to celebrate what is, in essence, God’s very own “International Days of Peace”—the celebration picturing a near-but-yet-future time when Jesus Christ will rule planet Earth, assisted by His saints, giving our world true peace at last. During the Feast of Tabernacles, God’s people not only anticipate this wonderful future; they learn how to live God’s laws of peace more fully themselves.

They picture a time when men will beat their swords into plowshares, as depicted by Evgeniy Vuchetich’s famous statue, which stands outside the United Nations building in New York City. No longer will this statue represent an elusive ideal. It will become reality. “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to

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*The way of peace they have not known.  
There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

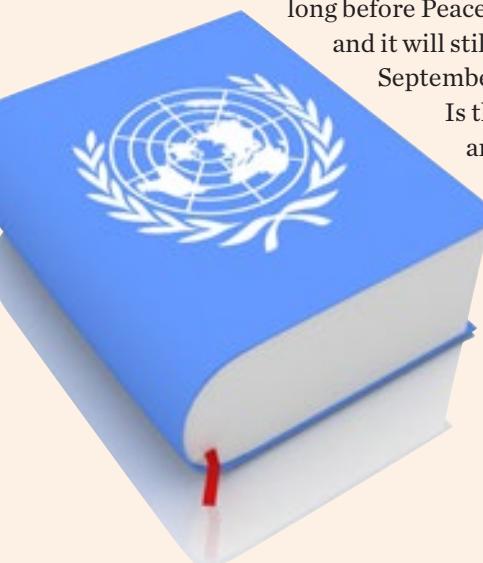
**Romans 3:17–18**

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the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 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 anymore” (Isaiah 2:2–4).

When the International Day of Peace comes, this year, will you be doing something that actually advances the cause of real peace? If you are developing a genuine fear of God—awe and respect for His wondrous plan—I hope you will be praying fervently that His promised Kingdom will be established soon here on the earth. God speed that day!

—Wallace G. Smith





**Large Hadron Supercollider**

## IS GOD ALIVE? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Yes, God's existence is sure, and He has revealed to us the way we can know it and understand it. We can know that God is alive! The Apostle Paul wrote that those who deny the evidence "are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). Yet evolution cannot explain, and often even denies, the existence of spirit—even though the greatest reality is not material existence, but the existence of spirit. We read, "For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). The Apostle John also proclaims this truth, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

### God's Spiritual Creation

Many who puzzle over the physical creation of the universe are missing out on the most astounding aspect of God's creation. Not only has God created the physical universe; He is creating in human beings the spiritual masterpiece of His creation—His very own holy and righteous character, which becomes the character of humble, yielded, genuine Christians. Not only has God created finely tuned physical law to form the universe; He has given spiritual law to form the character of Christians. Jesus gave the two "great commandments" in Matthew 22:37–39; these magnify the Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. These spiritual laws are just as real as the physical laws that govern the universe.

We are created in God's image for a great and awesome purpose. God wants us to think like He thinks. He wants us to become like Him in nature and character. And so He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to give us an example of **godly** life and character, and to save us from our sinful nature. God wants us to be conformed to the very loving image and nature of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Philosophers claim that God is dead. But many of those philosophers themselves are dead, and God is alive. Psalm 14:1 gives us a clear perspective on that reality: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

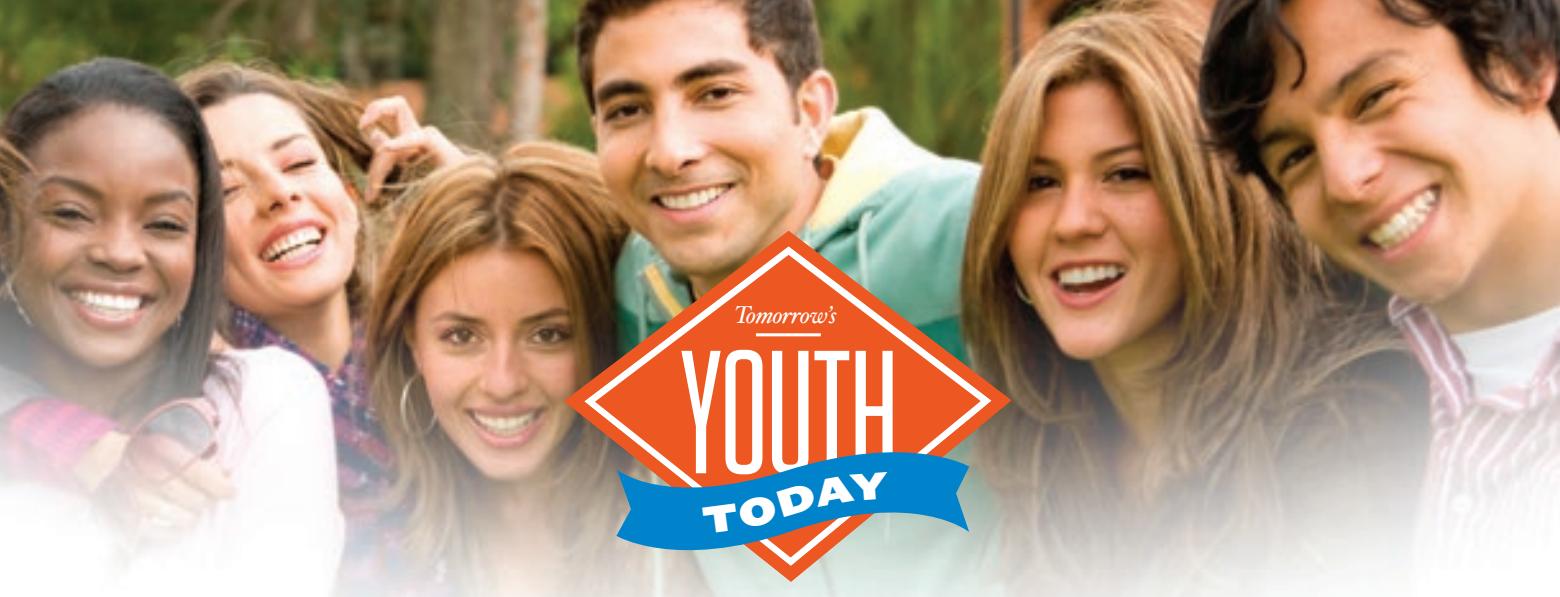
Can you prove that God exists? Yes, you can! Not only can you **know** God exists, but you can "know that you know" that He is alive! How can you have this certainty? "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:3). You can prove God's existence by living the way of life He has revealed through the Bible, and through the Son of God, Jesus Christ. You can know for yourself that God is alive, and He rules supreme—not only the vastness of the universe, but also over the tiniest details of our lives (Matthew 10:29–31).

Finally, there is another very important aspect to proving God's existence for yourself. "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul" (Deuteronomy 4:29). Seek the living God with all your heart and with all your soul, and you **will** find Him! [TW]

### MAY WE SUGGEST?

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## Learning from Mistakes

**H**ow do you know when you have made a mistake? Sometimes, you find out from your own experience. But sometimes, another person has to tell you that you were wrong. When we are young, most correction comes from our parents. How well did we—or do we—take it?

Scripture commands parents to: "Train up a child in the way he should go" because "when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Bringing up children to revere and obey God is the greatest God-ordained responsibility given to parents. As part of this process, parents are instructed to discipline their children. We read: "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24). If parents are properly fulfilling their role, we should expect them to discipline and correct in a firm and loving manner.

It is very important for young people to understand that parents have more experience and wisdom than do children. Therefore, wise children are receptive to their parents' instruction. "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke" (Proverbs 13:1). More pointedly, wise King Solomon wrote, "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1).

Correction, however, does not come only from parents. Correction comes from teachers, coaches and counselors at summer camp, ministers, our boss at work and many others. All of us will see God's hand in correcting us throughout our lives. We read: "My son,

do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Proverbs 3:11-12).

### We All Make Mistakes

We all sin and err in judgment from time to time. As human beings, we are prone to stumble spiritually. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). So we all need to develop the habit of acknowledging our mistakes and correcting them. This willingness to admit our mistakes is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of the strong character absolutely required of a true Christian. And it is what the process of conversion is all about.

Christian growth occurs when we confess our sins and faults before God and turn from them. We must constantly strive to overcome the pulls of human nature, the negative pulls of the society around us, and the temptations of Satan and the hosts of wicked spirits, and bring our lives into harmony with God and His way of life. This will not be easy, but it is the path that leads to eternal life!

When we sin, correction follows. Why? "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11). Accepting correction and admitting our mistakes brings growth! This is what life is all about. We were created mortal flesh and blood human beings, yet our Maker is building within us His

own character as we submit every aspect of our lives to Him. Overcoming and growing is what God desires of us, and this is what happens when we change as a result of correction.

Throughout our lives, correction will come in many forms, from many people—not just our parents. Sometimes it will come in a godly manner and we will recognize it as valid. But what should we do if we feel that we were corrected unjustly? Even in these circumstances, we can still benefit—and our character can be strengthened—if we handle the situation correctly. If the correction was valid, but delivered in an unkind or ungodly way, a wise person will nevertheless consider it and seek to grow.



Furthermore, even if the correction was not valid, the wise will not forget the Christian's commitment—even in a potentially confrontational situation—to seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14; 1 Peter 3:11). Even in a confrontational situation, we must not allow others to dictate our emotional state, and we ought to objectively consider the correction we received. Doing so reflects a truly teachable and humble attitude. That is why the psalmist was inspired to write: "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165).

### **Do Not Be Oversensitive**

However, while we must be receptive to correction—eager to repent and change and grow—we must not

become fearful and constantly afraid of every potential criticism. We must remember the often-overlooked principle that God does not want us to be oversensitive to correction. Consider this priceless counsel: "Also do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others" (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22).

Solomon is reminding us of a common fact of human nature—a fact that should help us be much more merciful toward others, if we understand it. If people say something hurtful about you, consider forgiving them—just as you would want their forgiveness if they heard every unkind word you might have said (or thought) about them! As Christians, we understand how much we need God's mercy and lovingkindness. This should motivate us to avoid "getting offended" by someone else's words.

Being "teachable" does not mean cowering at every unkind word you may hear from a parent or a peer. It means being honest with yourself, about yourself. It means desiring to become the person God wants you to be—even if it requires sometimes-painful change. God possesses perfect, holy and righteous character—no one and nothing even remotely compares to Him and His magnificence. And yet He wants to develop His very character in you!

But He can only develop His character in those who are humble and receptive to correction. "For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with

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him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Isaiah 57:15). He confirms this when He states, "...But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2).

Ultimately, only those who remain teachable will enter the Kingdom of God. So, learn to value correction, and grow from it! The rewards are certainly worth it: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6)!

—Sheldon Monson

13:4-7). This empire was a very powerful empire, which—under the influence of the papacy—horribly *persecuted* the true saints of God and virtually stamped out the Church of God during the Dark Ages.

#### **Deceptive Religious Power**

But then, in his inspired vision, John sees “another beast coming up out of the earth” (v. 11). This beast looked like a “lamb”—as Jesus Christ is described as a Lamb throughout the Bible. And yet this beast “spoke like a **dragon**.” And the term “dragon” is used throughout this very book—the book of Revelation—to denote Satan the Devil “who **deceives** the whole world” (Revelation 12:9).

The “second beast,” described in Revelation 13:11–18, is clearly a great religious power that deceives all mankind. This power will also perform awesome miracles at the end of this age. “He performs great signs, so that he even makes **fire** come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he **deceives** those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived” (vv. 13–14).

The beginnings of this religio-political power are now occurring on the European continent. This power will appear to “do good” at first, but will ultimately *take over* the religious, financial and political reins of power in the Western world. And its dominance in trade and finances will even extend *all over the earth*.

Revelation 18 describes this power as a modern “Babylon.” For God’s word states, “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth

have become rich through the abundance of her luxury” (Revelation 18:3).

But finally, God describes the downfall of this system, when the “merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore” (v. 11). As God’s word states, “For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.” Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’” (vv. 17–18). So this mightiest political, military and trading power on earth will be found at the time of the end—a power dominated and heavily influenced by a *false* religious system: “And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth” (v. 24).

#### **Whose Century Will It Be?**

No, our 21st century will ultimately **not** be the “Century of China” that many political and economic forecasters are expecting. And, despite Europe’s brief



ascendancy in the years just ahead, neither will it be the “Century of Europe.” For the word of God makes

## THE WORD OF GOD MAKES IT CLEAR: JESUS CHRIST WILL SOON RETURN, MAKING THIS THE CENTURY OF JESUS CHRIST!

it clear: Jesus Christ will soon return, making this the *Century of Jesus Christ!*

Right after describing the total destruction of the final “beast” empire, God’s word tells us, “After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!’” (Revelation 19:1). And, in verse 11, God tells us through John, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (vv. 11–16).

### The Coming King!

So, where will it all end? It will end with the soon-coming return of the “King of kings”—the supreme Monarch, Jesus Christ, who will descend from heaven in magnificent glory!

MAY WE  
SUGGEST?

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Then, the “last trumpet” will sound and angelic voices proclaim, “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).

Throughout the Bible, God gives us clear indications that we should “watch” for the fulfillment of *His inspired*

*prophecies*. For He—and *He alone*—knows the end from the beginning. No Chinese naval force figures in Scripture’s end-time prophetic panorama—but could a 200 million-man land force from the east (Revelation 9:16) be amassed without China? Knowing Bible prophecy allows us to watch China’s build-up with information the world’s political pundits do not have!

While the world keeps its eyes on China, students of God’s word will know that the “real action” takes place in Europe and the Middle East. Ten nations or groups of nations will coalesce under a supreme dictator your Bible calls the “Beast.” A “King of the South” from south of Jerusalem—an area where we find the Arab Muslim nations—will lead its forces into a dramatic conflict with this European “Beast” power and usher in the final end-time sequence of wars that will culminate in the return of Jesus Christ!

Yes, this will take a number of years to come to pass fully. But while we wait and watch, we need to remain *alert* to the great **purpose** Almighty God is working out here below—teaching human beings that *our ways do not bring peace*. That the human race is *not capable* of governing itself. That a Spirit-led **World Government** under Jesus Christ is the **only** solution to the horrifying anguish and suffering that is increasingly affecting every nation on earth.

Truly, each of us must heartily and urgently **obey** Jesus Christ’s command: “**Watch therefore, and pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). TW





# PROPHETY

COMES ALIVE

## An Empire Rising Again?

**S**even centuries before Christ, the prophet Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream about a great image picturing four kingdoms that would dominate the Middle East (Daniel 2). The fourth kingdom is widely recognized as the Roman Empire, with its final phase (the feet and toes) composed of a loosely adhering mixture of iron and clay. This end-time phase with links to the Roman Empire will involve a federation of *ten kings* that forms just before Jesus Christ returns to this earth (Daniel 2:40-45). In Daniel 7 these same four empires are seen as "beasts."

Students of Bible prophecy know that the ten horns on the fourth beast picture ten revivals of the Roman Empire—nine of which have *already occurred in Europe*. The "little horn" refers to the dominant role a religious organization (the Roman church) has played, and will play, in the revivals of the Roman and Holy Roman Empire.

Revelation 13 foretells the appearance of an end-time beast (a political figure) and a miracle-working religious leader who points peoples of the world toward this European leader. Prophecies in Revelation 17 link these same two individuals and organizations to Rome. The woman (a powerful church with global influence) is pictured as "riding" [supporting and influencing] the political beast. Revelation 17:12-14 states the *ten horns* of this end-time beast "*are ten kings*" who "give their power" (surrender sovereignty) to the beast for a short time just before Christ returns. The *ten kings* and the beast will have "one mind" (pursue a common policy). Other prophecies refer to this end-time European beast as the "King of the North" (Daniel 11:40-44)—that will be led by Germany (or Assyria—see Isaiah 10:5).

The emergence of this European beast power will have serious negative consequences for modern Israelite nations (Hosea 5:5; 8:8-9, 14).

### Prophetic Developments in Europe

In light of these ancient Bible prophecies, it is remarkable to see what is occurring on the continent of Europe today. European leaders make no secret of their links to the heritage of the Roman Empire. Diplomat Robert Rothschild, an aide to Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak, recalled in a 1996 *BBC Television* documentary the striking comment Spaak made during the signing of the 1957 treaty that formed the European Economic Community. "Spaak turned to us and said: 'Do you think we have today been putting the first stone of a new Roman Empire, and this time without firing a shot?' We all felt like Romans that day" ("The Decline and Fall of Rome." *TIME Magazine*, June 13, 2005).

Roman popes have promoted a united Europe, just as popes of the Middle Ages crowned and formed alliances with emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. While many wonder how the prophecies about *ten kings* relate to the 27 nations of the European Union, the answer could emerge in the months ahead. Numerous articles point out how the financial crisis in Europe has *opened fissures* in the EU—between affluent northern nations and indebted nations in the south plagued with mounting unemployment. Britain appears on the verge of leaving, and France could. This would seriously reduce the number of nations in the EU.

Former German Defense Minister Joschka Fischer and others are proposing that the 17 members of the Eurozone should become the "core" of nations

that move ahead to form a deeper monetary and political union. Another idea sees the EU president selecting **ten** representatives from the 27 EU member states to form a council to lead Europe (*spiegel.de*, November 18, 2011). German Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle recently called leaders from **ten** European nations—the “Berlin group”—to discuss the future of Europe (*Presseuropa*, June 20, 2012). Their idea of giving sweeping control over the EU to an unelected bureaucrat who would be the equivalent of a modern day European emperor is viewed by opponents as an attempt to “go back to the days of the Holy Roman Emperor” (*Daily Express*, May 2013). The calls for “ten” nations to become the core of a “United States of Europe”—and ten leaders to guide Europe—*could fulfill* ancient prophecies about **ten** nations or leaders who give their power to an end-time beast that will arise in Europe.



Another significant development in Europe is that the financial crisis has “catapulted” Germany into the dominant position in Europe. Germany has the largest and strongest economy in Europe, which means it also has money to lend to financially strapped members of the EU. However, Germany has indicated it will set conditions for those loans. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has also stated that other nations of Europe need to surrender aspects of their sovereignty (control of their national budgets, etc.) to form a deeper economic and political union. One observer has commented, “Europe’s paymaster [Germany] wants

to be in the driving seat again” (Boyes, Roger. *London Times*, “Britain is left out of talks on the EU’s future,” June 22, 2012). German sociologist Ulrich Beck warns that Germany is ready to become the “schoolmaster of Europe,” and that talk about the imminent collapse of the euro and the EU could bring *dramatic changes* in Europe that were formerly “unthinkable” and “result in the birth of a potential monster” that could surprise the world (*German Europe*, pp. 3, 28). Bible prophecies in Revelation 13:3 have long warned this *will happen* in Europe as we approach the end of the age.

### One European Monarch?

Ideas are also circulating that what Europe needs is the return of a European monarch. European nations have a long history with monarchies—in fact many still have monarchs who function as ceremonial figureheads. In Berlin, the Germans are rebuilding the former Hohenzollern palace of the Prussian kings and German monarchs (“Germany lays new foundations for Berlin Palace rebuild,” *dw.de*, June 12, 2013). The great-great grandson of the last German Kaiser has stated that modern Germans would benefit from the “moral guidance” of a restored monarchy (*The Local*, June 16, 2013). Austrian monarchists have promoted the idea of restoring the Hapsburg throne for a central European monarchy (*earthtimes.org*, November 12, 2007). The former heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Otto von Hapsburg, whose siblings are active “public servants” in several European countries, indicated before he died in 2011 that there may yet be a role for the Austro-Hungarian throne and the crown of Charlemagne in the future of Europe.

Given this history, it is not surprising that Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg (of the Hapsburg line—and married to the great-granddaughter of Otto von Bismarck) became a rising star and Minister of Defense in Germany before his precipitous fall. He is currently a “distinguished statesman” at the prestigious Center for Strategic and International Studies with excellent contacts in Washington and Europe—with plans to return to Germany in a yet-to-be-determined role (*Die Welt*, March 14, 2013). In light of these developments in Europe, we need to remember Jesus’ command to “watch” for prophetically significant events that will indicate the end of the age and His return are near!

—Douglas S. Winnail

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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I have been reading the *Tomorrow's World* magazine, as well as several of the booklets that you offer. I have been praying and studying my Bible to find out if and when the seventh-day Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday, and I could not find out when it was changed in the Bible, which never was changed, since God is the same yesterday, today and forever, so His laws do not change. I am glad to be able to learn so much about what is happening in the world today. God bless you for everything that you are doing and telling everyone about the end times and what they can do to repent of their sins and be saved.

J. L., Milwaukee, WI

Thank you for your feature story on the truth about homosexuality. I have been serving as an elder of the C of S (Church of Scotland). However today, I informed the minister at my church I could no longer support the C of S. The main reason for taking this decision now has been their inability to speak the biblical truth in regard to same-sex relationships and the ministry. I would, by way of this note, say thank you for your feature story, and with your kind permission I will attach it to my letter to my minister and church elders, to allow them to read it.

M. K., Montrose, UK

I have started to read the booklet, *Where is God's True Church Today?* I have read and studied the Bible and yes I wonder what Jesus would say if He came today. I find it rather refreshing that you people do preach what the Bible really says.

C. B., Trail, British Columbia

Thank you so much. I am looking forward to this valuable teaching on DVD, which I can also share with others. I am in my 85th year and do not have computer or Internet access and probably wouldn't understand

how to work one, or make an utter mess of it. Thank you again.

N. D., SA, Australia

I am 28 years old and I am from Mississauga, Ontario. I would like to personally thank all the contributors that make the program and magazine run on a daily basis. I receive the magazine and you all have done a tremendous job serving the Lord and bringing awareness to the public on the events of this world and how it parallels to the Bible. Please continue sending magazines and continue doing the Lord's work. God bless you all.

A. S., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

I would just like to thank *Tomorrow's World* for the highly educational informative booklets I receive. They are a great inspiration and an eye opener on many biblical concepts. Thanks again.

A. M., Harare, Zimbabwe

Hi, I want to thank *Tomorrow's World*. I have received the free literature I ordered for. This ministry has been of a blessing to me and my family, so I want to say once more, thank you.

O. E., Palma, Mallorca, Spain

Our Lord's blessing to all... My wife and I are overwhelmed with your television program, your consistency, your conviction and your true devotion. We are one of your long time viewers and in our opinion *Tomorrow's World* is by far on the top of the list in every way or in any category we may fit it in. It is very difficult for us to find a proper expression that would precisely express our appreciation for the presentations you all let us enjoy and learn from. Therefore, the only commonly used simple words we can apply are thank you, which is absolutely from the bottom of our hearts.

H. B., Courtice, ON, Canada

Editor in Chief	Roderick C. Meredith
Editorial Director	Richard F. Ames
Executive Editor	William Bowmer
Managing Editor	John Robinson
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Art Director	Donna Prejean
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All scripture references are from the New King James Version (©Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

P. 12: Source: Pamela Paul, author of *Pornified*

P. 13: Source: "The nature and dynamics of Internet pornography exposure for youth," *CyberPsychology and Behavior* 11 (2008)

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

## TELEVISION LOG



### AUSTRALIA

Capital Cities & QLD	TV4ME 74	SU 7:30 a.m.
COUNTRY VIC & NSW	TV4 64	SA 7:00 a.m. AET
		SU 7:30 a.m.

### BARBADOS

St. Michael	CBC 8	SU 9:30 a.m.
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### UNITED STATES

#### Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Angel One	SU 8:00 p.m.
	WE 7:00 p.m.
	TH 9:00 a.m.
CW Plus	SU 8:00 a.m.
IMPACT	SU 11:00 p.m.
WGN	SU 6:00 a.m.
THE WORD Network	SU 7:30 a.m.
	TU 1:00 a.m.

#### LOCAL STATIONS (All times local)

AK Anchorage	GCI	SU 10:00 p.m.
Anchorage	KIMO	SU 6:00 a.m.
Fairbanks	KATN	SU 6:00 a.m.
Juneau	KJUD	SU 6:00 a.m.
AL Dothan	WDFX	SU 7:30 a.m.
Dothan	WTYY	SU 7:00 a.m.
AL Montgomery	WBMM	SU 7:00 a.m.
AR Fayetteville	KHOG	SU 7:00 a.m.
Fort Smith	KHBS	SU 7:00 a.m.
AZ Phoenix	KASW	SU 7:30 a.m.
Phoenix	KASW	SA 5:30 p.m.
Prescott	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.
Prescott	Community	SA 11:30 p.m.
Tucson	Access	SU 7:00 p.m.
CA Bakersfield	KGET	SU 8:00 a.m.
Chico	KHSL	SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka	KUVU-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.
Eureka	Sudden Link	SU 8:00 p.m.
Fresno	KFRE	SU 7:30 a.m.
Garden Grove	Time Warner	SU 9:30 a.m.
Garden Grove	Time Warner	SU 6:30 p.m.
Monterey	KION	SU 8:00 a.m.
Orange County	Adelphia	MO 5:00 p.m.
Palm Springs	KCWF	SU 8:00 a.m.
Palm Springs	KCWF-LP	SU 8:00 a.m.
Sacramento	RCTV	MO 5:30 p.m.
Salinas	KION	SU 8:00 a.m.
San Diego	Time	SU 6:00 p.m.
San Francisco	Access	WE 8:00 p.m.
CO Grand Junc.	KJCT	SU 7:00 a.m.
CT Naugatuck	Tele-Media	MO 9:30 p.m.
New Haven	WZME	SU 11:00 p.m.
DC Washington	WPXW	SU 10:30 a.m.
IA Des Moines	KCWI	SU 7:00 a.m.
FL Gainesville	WCJB	SU 8:00 a.m.
Panama City	WIHG	SU 8:00 a.m.
GA Albany	WBSK Cable	SU 8:00 a.m.
Augusta	WAGT	SU 8:00 a.m.
Macon	Cox	SU 5:00 p.m.
Macon	Cox	TU 7:30 a.m.
Macon	Cox	FR 2:00 p.m.
Macon	WBMN	SU 8:00 a.m.
IA Dubuque	Mediacom	MO 3:30 p.m.
Dubuque	Mediacom	MO 7:30 p.m.
Dubuque	Mediacom	TU 10:00 a.m.*
ID Boise	KNIN	SU 7:00 a.m.
Boise	TVTV	SU 9:30 p.m.
Boise	TVTV	MO 11:30 a.m.
Idaho Falls	KPIF	SU 7:00 a.m.

### JAMAICA

Kingston	TVJ	SU 7:00 a.m.
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### NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide	Prime TV	SU 8:30 a.m.
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### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Port of Spain	CNC3-TV	SU 7:00 a.m.
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### UK & NW EUROPE

Believe-TV	Sky TV 593	SU 10:00 p.m.
Gospel	Sky TV 588	MO 7:00 p.m.
WORD (TWN)	Sky TV 590	WE 6:00 a.m.
	Sky TV 590	SU 12:30 p.m.
	Sky TV 590	SA 12:00 a.m.

IL Chicago	CANTV	Various*	Greenwood	WBWO	SU 7:00 a.m.	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SU 8:00 a.m.
Chicago	WGN	SU 6:00 a.m.	Hattiesburg	WBH	SU 7:00 a.m.	Oregon City	Access WFTV	SA 8:00 a.m.
Moline	Mediacom	MO 5:00 p.m.	Jackson	Time Warner	SU 10:00 a.m.	Portland	Community	SU 12:30 p.m.
Peoria	Insight	SU 7:30 p.m.	Jackson	Time Warner	WE 4:00 p.m.	PA Allentown	SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.
Quincy	WGEM	SU 7:00 a.m.	Meridian	W TOK	SU 7:00 a.m.	Bethlehem	SETV2	FR 4:30 p.m.
Springfield	Insight	TU 5:00 a.m.	MT Billings	KTVQ	SU 7:00 a.m.	Erie	WBEP	SU 8:00 a.m.
Springfield	Insight	TU 1:00 p.m.	Butte	KBZK	SU 7:00 a.m.	Johnstown	Atl. Broadband	MO 10:00 p.m.
Springfield	Insight	TU 10:00 p.m.	Glendive	KWZB	SU 7:00 a.m.	Scranton	FOX	TH 5:00 a.m.
Springfield	Insight	SU 9:00 a.m.	Great Falls	KRTV	SU 7:00 a.m.	Charleston	WCBD	SU 8:00 a.m.
IN Fort Wayne	Comcast	SU 9:00 a.m.	Helena	KMTF	SU 7:00 a.m.	Myrtle Beach	WWMB	SU 8:00 a.m.
KS Parsons	TWPAR	WE 7:00 p.m.	Missoula	KPAK	SU 7:00 a.m.	SD Rapid City	KWKB	SU 7:00 a.m.
Salina	SCAT	TH 5:00 p.m.	WAXN	WAXN	SU 7:00 a.m.	TN Jackson	WBJK	SU 7:00 a.m.
Salina	SCAT	FR 5:00 p.m.	Greenville	WNCT	SU 8:00 a.m.	Knoxville	WBXX	SU 7:30 a.m.
Salina	SCAT	SA 9:00 a.m.	Hickory	WHKY	MO 7:30 p.m.	La Follette	Comcast-WLAF	WE 6:00 p.m.
KY Bowling Green	WBKO	SU 7:00 a.m.	Fargo	WDAY	SU 7:00 a.m.	Nashville	WZTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
Latonia	PEG	WE 5:30 p.m.	Bismarck	KWMK	SU 7:00 a.m.	TX Abilene	KTXS	SU 7:00 a.m.
Latonia	PEG	TH 12:00 a.m.	Minot	KWMK	SU 7:00 a.m.	Amarillo	KVIH	SU 7:00 a.m.
Lexington	Insight	SU 7:00 a.m.	NH Hanover	CATV8	TH 7:00 p.m.	Austin	KNVA	SU 6:30 a.m.
LA Alexandria	KBCA	SU 7:00 a.m.	Hanover	CATV8	FR 7:00 a.m.	Beaumont	KBTM	SU 6:30 a.m.
Baton Rouge	WGMB	SU 9:00 a.m.	Hanover	CATV8	FR 1:00 a.m.	Beaumont	KFDM	SU 7:00 a.m.
Lafayette	KLWB	SU 7:00 a.m.	Hanover	CATV8	MO 6:00 a.m.*	Corpus Christi	KRIS	SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe	KNOE	SU 7:00 a.m.	Ohio	CVNJJ	SU 8:00 a.m.	Dallas	Community	SA 1:00 p.m.
MA Cambridge	CCTV	SU 3:00 p.m.	Rio Rancho	Cable 1	SU 7:00 p.m.	Dallas	Community	SU 11:00 a.m.
Cambridge	CCTV	WE 9:00 a.m.	Rio Rancho	Cable 1	SU 7:00 p.m.	KTXD	Community	SU 8:00 a.m.
Everett	ECTV	FR 11:00 a.m.	Reno	KREN	SU 8:00 a.m.	Houston	KPXB	SU 9:30 a.m.
Everett	ECTV	TU 1:00 p.m.	Albany	WCWN	SU 7:00 a.m.	Laredo	KGNS	SU 7:00 a.m.
Everett	ECTV	SU 9:00 p.m.	Albany-Troy	Time Warner	MO 3:00 p.m.	Batavia	KLCW	SU 7:00 a.m.
Everett	ECTV	SU 11:00 a.m.	Batavia	Time Warner	SU 2:00 p.m.	Lubbock	KLFW	SU 6:30 a.m.
North Adams	NBCTC	WE 8:00 p.m.	Binghamton	Time Warner	TU 5:30 p.m.	Lufkin	KTR	SU 7:00 a.m.
MD Baltimore	Community	SU 9:00 a.m.	Binghamton	Time Warner	FR 7:30 p.m.	McAllen	KSF-LP	SU 7:00 a.m.
Westminster	Adelphia	TH 10:00 a.m.	Binghamton	Time Warner	MO 10:00 p.m.	Midland	KWWT	SU 7:00 a.m.
Westminster	Adelphia	FR 10:00 a.m.	Brookhaven	WBNG	FR 8:00 p.m.	Odessa	KWWT	SU 7:00 a.m.
ME Bangor	WABI	SU 8:00 a.m.	Brooklyn	Brookhaven	SU 8:00 a.m.	Temple	KPLE	SU 7:30 p.m.
Brunswick	TV3	SA 8:30 a.m.	Canandaigua	Cablevision	SU 11:00 p.m.	Tyler	KLTV	SU 6:30 a.m.
Brunswick	TV3	SU 6:30 a.m.	Elmira	BCAT	SU 7:30 p.m.	Bluefield	WE 8:00 a.m.	SU 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle	WBPO	SU 8:00 a.m.	Finger Lakes	BCAT	SU 11:30 a.m.	Charlottesville	Comcast Cable	TU 8:00 p.m.
MI Alpena	Charter WBAE	SU 8:00 a.m.	Glenn Falls	WENY	SU 8:00 a.m.	Charlottesville	WVIR	SU 8:00 a.m.
Detroit	Comcast	SU 7:30 a.m.	Glenn Falls	Time Warner	FR 8:00 p.m.	Chesterfield	Comcast	TH 6:30 p.m.
Kalamazoo	CACTV	SU 9:30 a.m.	Glenn Falls	Time Warner	MO 8:00 p.m.	Fairfax	Public Access	MO 12:00 p.m.
Kalamazoo	CACTV	MO 5:00 p.m.	Hauppauge	Cablevision	TU 8:00 p.m.*	VT Bennington	CAT	WE 9:30 a.m.
Lansing	WLAJ	SU 8:00 a.m.	Manhattan	MNN	SU 11:00 p.m.	Bennington	CAT	TH 9:30 p.m.
Marquette	WBKP	SU 8:00 a.m.	Oneida	Access	SU 7:00 a.m.	Kennewick	Charter	SA 8:00 a.m.*
MN Cloquet	MEDCLO	FR 10:00 a.m.	Oneida	Access	SA 7:00 p.m.	Kennewick	Charter	WE 2:30 a.m.
Cloquet	MEDCLO	SA 4:00 p.m.	Queens	Public Access	TH 2:00 p.m.	Vancouver	Community	TH 11:00 a.m.
Duluth	KDLH	SU 7:00 a.m.	Queens	Public Access	MO 11:00 a.m.	Vancouver	Community	MO 7:00 a.m.*
Duluth	Public Access	SA 11:00 a.m.	Riverhead	Cablevision	TU 8:30 p.m.	Vancouver	Community	TH 10:00 p.m.
Duluth	Public Access	SU 7:00 p.m.	Rochester	Finger Lakes	SA 10:30 p.m.	Vancouver	Community	MO 12:00 p.m.
Duluth	Public Access	TH 12:00 a.m.	Rochester	RCTV	SU 11:30 a.m.	Wausau	Charter	WE 8:00 p.m.
Duluth	Public Access	TH 12:00 a.m.	Rochester	RCTV	SA 8:30 a.m.	Wausau	Charter	FR 7:30 a.m.
Rockford	KTTC	SU 7:00 a.m.	Rockland Cty.	Cablevision	TU 10:00 a.m.*	WI La Crosse	WQOW	SU 7:00 a.m.
Roseville	CTV	TU 8:00 p.m.	Staten Island	Community	TH 9:30 p.m.	Wausau	Charter	TH 9:00 p.m.
Roseville	CTV	WE 4:00 a.m.	Schenectady	Community	SA 7:30 p.m.	Wausau	Charter	FR 7:30 a.m.
Roseville	CTV	WE 12:00 p.m.	Staten Island	Community	SA 7:30 p.m.	Bluefield	WVVA	SU 8:00 a.m.
St. Paul	Nbhd. Network	SU 8:30 p.m.	Staten Island	Community	SA 7:30 p.m.	Clarksburg	WVFX	SU 8:00 a.m.
MO Columbia	KOMU	SU 7:00 a.m.	Syracuse	Time Warner	SA 7:30 p.m.	WY Casper	KGWC	SU 8:00 a.m.
Jefferson City	KOMU	SU 7:00 a.m.	Webster	Cable Access	SU 9:30 a.m.	Casper	KTWO	SU 11:00 a.m.
Joplin	KFJX	SU 8:30 a.m.	Woodbury	Cablevision	SA 7:30 p.m.	Cheyenne	KGWN	SU 8:00 a.m.
Kansas City	KCWE	SU 7:30 a.m.	Fairborn	CAC	SA 7:30 p.m.	Cheyenne	KLWY	SU 7:00 a.m.
Kansas City	KCWE	SU 7:30 a.m.	Lima	WBOH	TU 12:00 p.m.	Cheyenne	KLWY	SU 11:00 a.m.
Springfield	KRBK	SU 7:30 a.m.	WBOH	Various*	SU 8:00 a.m.			
St. Louis	WRBU	SU 9:00 a.m.			SU 8:00 a.m.			
MS Biloxi	WBGP	SU 7:00 a.m.	OR Bend	KTVZ	SU 8:00 a.m.			
Columbus	WCBI	SU 7:00 a.m.	Eugene	KMTR	SU 8:00 a.m.			
			Medford	KTVL	SU 8:00 a.m.			

\*Check local listings for additional airtimes throughout the week





## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### What Happens After Death?

Will you go to heaven? To hell? To oblivion?  
How can you be sure? You need to know!  
September 19–25

### Vital Keys for Bible Study

How can you make Scripture relevant and meaningful for your life today?  
September 26–October 2

### AFTER Christ's Return

What will planet Earth really be like after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?  
October 3–9

### How To Watch World Events

Jesus told His disciples to “watch” for His return, and He told them how.  
October 10–16

### Is God Alive?

Nietzsche said, “God is dead!” Can you prove him wrong?  
October 17–23

### Will You Recognize the Antichrist?

This mysterious figure will deceive countless millions. Will he deceive you?  
October 24–30

Schedule subject to change

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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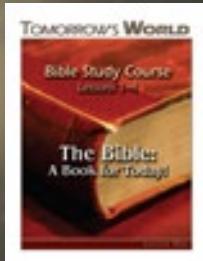


**TOMORROW'S**  
**WORLD**

**HONG KONG**

NATIONWIDE NETWORK (H.K. TIME)

ATV World SA 9:00 a.m. | [www.TomorrowsWorld.org](http://www.TomorrowsWorld.org) 24/7



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