

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

midnightcall.com

July 2021—\$4.75

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Oligarch Billionaires
- Jerusalem Trodden Down
- Jesus Movies

P. 40

Congregational Singing— Forbidden? Part 1

P. 20

Is Hell Eternal? – Part 1

P. 13

The Most Important Word in World History: Part 1

WORLD FOCUS Decline of World Population • Europe to Become World's Super-Regulator in AI

Witnessing Tools: Great messages in these small booklets!



THE COMING MUSLIM INVASION?

“Our Bible does not speak of a Muslim invasion, nor does it indicate that there will be such a danger, but it does speak of the invasion and dominance of Churchianity. Satan, the father of lies, the murderer from the beginning, has been very successful at deceiving the nations of the world into believing that if they can defeat their imagined enemy—in this case, international terrorism—then the world can live in peace and security.”

– Arno Froese

ITEM #1071 • 24 pgs.

~~\$2~~ Sale \$1



DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS OF YEARS

“The deepest meaning of prophecy is that God portrays Himself to man as the incomparable One, the true One, the One who offers security and certainty, in whom man can find salvation. The greatest part of all the prophecies, however, are those that refer to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, for in Him God came to a lost and wandering humanity, and through Him He brings the people back who accept His offer of salvation.”

– Norbert Lieth

ITEM #1073 • 32 pgs.

~~\$3.50~~ Sale \$2



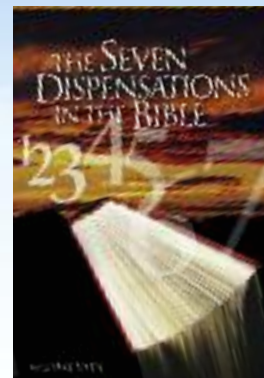
THE GREATEST TURNING POINT

In recent history, there have been various great turning points. We are now in the midst of an economic turning point, and for some time a political turning point has been taking place all over the world. Yet the Bible speaks of a turning point which will characterize society in the last days.

– Norbert Lieth

ITEM #1075 • 16 pgs.

~~\$2.75~~ Sale \$1.50



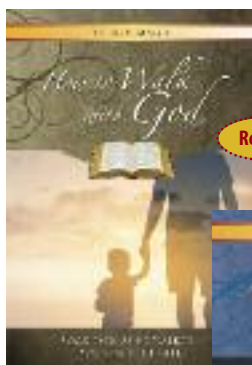
THE SEVEN DISPENSATIONS IN THE BIBLE

“God cannot be taken by surprise at anything. He has His plan and will pursue it until its fulfillment, however much man fails.”

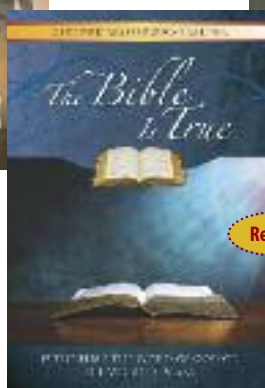
This booklet was created to combine Norbert Lieth's four articles on “The Seven Dispensations in the Bible” into one handy resource.

ITEM #1069 • 52 pgs.

~~\$4~~ Sale \$2



Revised



Revised



HOW TO WALK WITH GOD

The simple Bible message contained in this booklet has become a powerful tool in the hands of many believers. In easy-to-understand terms, Dr. Wim Malgo defines the good, the acceptable, and the perfect will of God for the believer.

ITEM #1003 • 32 pgs. ~~\$3~~ Sale \$2

THE BIBLE IS TRUE

We know the authenticity and dependability of the Word of God, but do we know why the Bible is true? Could we Scripturally defend it if we had to? Dr. Gertrud Wasserzug-Traeder delves into the truth of God's Word in a brilliant defense of its inspiration and reliability.

ITEM #1059 • 32 pgs. ~~\$3~~ Sale \$2

SEVEN SIGNS OF A BORN AGAIN PERSON

“Many church members will go to hell unless they experience the new birth. It is my earnest prayer, dear reader, that your eyes may be opened today, so that you will see the true state of your soul. The Bible gives us unmistakably clear signs of a born again person.” – Wim Malgo

ITEM #1030 • 32 pgs. ~~\$2~~ Sale \$1



6 COVER STORY

The Most Important Word in World History: Part 1

By Stephan Beitze

The Law's demands are fulfilled through Jesus. And, because of this, the righteousness He blankets us in is complete. We are justified before God because the debt is paid.



10 Money: Ends and Trends

World Geopolitics by the Bible: Whither America? – Part 2

By Wilfred Hahn

13 Is Hell Eternal? – Part 1

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

17 Waiting for Jesus? Determining Where You Stand

André Beitze

20 Congregational Singing—Forbidden? Part 1

By Dr. Roger Liebi

23 What Is the Lord's Double-edged Sword?

By Wim Malgo

36 Covid Anxiety, Climate Panic, and

Apocalypse Phobia: Part 2

By Johannes Pflaum



DEPARTMENTS

4 Editorial By Norbert Lieth

32 Action for Israel By Arno Froese

34 Fellow LaborersBy Jonathan Malgo

35 The Ebenezer Home – Haifa, Israel By David Phillips

40 Letters to the Editor By Arno Froese

OLIGARCH BILLIONAIRES...JERUSALEM TRODDEN DOWN...JESUS MOVIES



25 WORLD

Decline of World Population

26 ECUADOR

'Darwin's Arch' Collapses

28 DRC

Children Exploited for Better Batteries

28 TURKEY

Dumping Ground for Plastic Waste



30 USA

Americans Leaving Religion

31 EU

Europe to Become World's Super-Regulator in AI





Pseudo-Happiness



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

Dear Friends,

Leviticus chapter 10 begins by relating a shocking event: two sons of Aaron the priest brought “strange fire” as incense before the Lord, and were met with immediate death. “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD” (Leviticus 10:1-2).

Why such a harsh verdict? They should have taken fire from the one already burning on the altar, which the Lord had lit (Leviticus 9:24; 16:12). Instead, they took fire that they had kindled themselves. The altar is a picture of Calvary, where God’s fire has been burning and mankind’s salvation was ignited. Whoever ignores Calvary, thinking he can approach God and obtain salvation on account of his own good works, is in grave error; in fact, he is in great danger of losing eternal life.

In various ways, our present time offers a pseudo-happiness which man can create himself, without God. Much on this subject is written and debated, and advice is freely given. A while ago, a magazine cover carried the following title: “How to Achieve Happiness.” The article states that happiness can be learned. For instance: “Make your bed every day—then, when the whole day goes wrong, you will have accomplished this one thing and have done it right.” So, this will bring happiness? “Dance in your kitchen to your favorite music.” But what if I don’t feel like dancing: the dirty dishes are piled high, the children are getting into some trouble, or I can’t get a particular worry off my mind. “Pause every so often and take some deep breaths, or contemplate another person or a specific object.” Just proper breathing or admiring that beautiful car and, bingo, I am happy? Really?

The question arises: isn’t all of this “strange fire”? Pseudo-happiness that will not stand the test of real life? One looks for happiness in many places in-

stead of at Calvary and the empty tomb. "Contemplate a person" was one of the suggestions given and, yes, I can accept that... But it has to be the right person: Jesus Christ! To many this will sound unreasonable, even ridiculous, but not to those who know Him. Happiness does indeed have a name, and it is found in our Lord Jesus.

Happiness is not a matter of exalted, noble emotions. Christians are familiar with grief; they know sadness. Happiness resides in the certain hope of a new life, here and now and for eternity. That is why Paul said: "Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them" (Rom 4:8, NIV). When man fell into sin, happiness was lost. It could only be retrieved by victory over sin, which Jesus Christ accomplished for us through His death and resurrection.

The famous physicist and philosopher Blaise Pascal was a devout believer, and is quoted as saying: "Happiness is not outside nor inside of us; it resides in God, and when we have found Him, it is everywhere." Allow me therefore to pass on the following observation: good, Christ-centered literature helps find the way to happiness. And the best source is the Bible. (MC)

In light of the times, *News From Israel* is a necessary monthly magazine that will keep you updated on breaking developments throughout the Middle East. *News From Israel* uncovers hidden information the news media leaves out!



To start or renew your *News From Israel* magazine subscription, use the order form in the insert or pg. 47, call 800-845-2420 with your credit card ready, or order online at midnightcall.com/nfi

• 32 pages • \$ 18 for a one-year subscription • 12 issues

Published 12 times a year by
MIDNIGHT CALL, INC.

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

Physical Location:

4694 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

Founder — Dr. Wim Malgo (1922–92)

International Editor — René Malgo

Executive Editor — Arno Froese

Contributing Authors — Norbert Lieth,
Wilfred Hahn, Dr. Ron J. Bigalke,
Johannes Pflaum, Samuel
Rindlisbacher, René Malgo,
Stephan Beitze and Thomas Lieth

Layout Designer: Michelle Kim • **Text Typists:** Joel Froese and Susi Steiger

• **Copy Editor:** Kimberly Farmer • **Customer Service:** Andrea
Giles, Kimberly Farmer, Debbie Hale

• **General Manager:** Simon Froese • **Production Manager:** Brian Corbett

• **Pre-Press:** Alec Rucker • **Pressroom:** James D. Bond, Jeff Bowers
and Chad Vining • **Post Press:** Teresa Vining, Melissa Martin, Andrea
Giles, Cyndal Sweet, Stone Hughes and Silas Steiger

• **Special Order:** Andrea Giles • **German-English Translators:** Barbara
Lavery, Melanie Makin and Helga Tirrell

• **Webmasters:** Ricardo Rempel and Matias Steiger

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA, \$28.95 • Canada, \$34.50 • All other countries, \$48

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS
OR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRY**

Please send your new address and the name and address *exactly* as it appears on this magazine or envelope for best service. Please send all changes and inquiries directly to our US address.

MAILING ADDRESS

USA and Canada:

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

PHONE

Toll free phone: 1-800-845-2420

Local and International: +1 (803) 755-0733

WEBSITE

midnightcall.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

"Mitternachtsruf" (German) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600
Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Middernachtsroep" (Dutch) Postbus
193, 3940 AD Doorn, Netherlands; "L'Appel de Minuit" (French)
Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Chamada de
Meia Noite" (Portuguese) Obra Missionaria Chamada de Meia
Noite, Caixa Postal 1688, 90001-970 Porto Alegre RS, Brazil;
"Llamada de Medianoche" (Spanish) PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC
29073; "CDM Italia" (Italian) Via Monte Rosa 88 D, IT 10155
Torino TO; "Ejfele Kialtas" (Hungarian) HU 1135 Budapest, Pálóc
utca 2; "Miezul Noptii" (Romanian) O.P. 3, CP. 136, 310540 Arad,
Romania

OUR TASK

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization, dedicated to proclaiming the entire Bible as the unfailing and eternal written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the unerring guide for the Christian faith.

The object of Midnight Call is to call people everywhere to Christ, to proclaim the return of Christ, to prepare Christians for His coming, and to uphold the faith and warn of false doctrines. *Midnight Call* magazine is available in twelve languages. All work done through radio, literature and missionaries is supported entirely by the gifts and free will offerings of God's people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therefore with the infallibility of the Holy Scripture, which is God's Word, and in the eternal Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day and later ascended into heaven.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of each individual sinner and that all who believe in Him as their personal Savior are justified through His shed blood and have become children of God.

WE BELIEVE that Israel is God's chosen people, and that the restoration of the Jews to their own land is the fulfillment of the Word of God.

WE BELIEVE in the pre-tribulation appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

WE BELIEVE in the immortality of our souls and the resurrection of our bodies, and in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.



The Most Important Word in World History: Part 1

Stephan Beitze

Our Lord's shout on the cross, *Tetelestai!* or, "It is finished!" is the most important word in world history. But what does it actually mean?

Several aspects are recognizable in the cry, "It is finished!" The Law had been fulfilled. Jesus fulfilled the entire Law, without ever having sinned Himself—from His obedience to His earthly parents, up to and including the last moment of His life. In Galatians 4:4, the Apostle says that Jesus had been "born under the law." Although He was above it as the Giver of the Law, he placed Himself under it. Although He was the only one who fulfilled the

whole Law, He had to bear the punishment of the Law—that is, death—because He took our guilt upon Himself. The innocent One was judged as one who was guilty, "to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (v. 5).

The only just One bore the guilt of all the others who could never fulfill the Law and stand under God's judgment. The Law's demands are fulfilled through Jesus. And because of this, the righteousness



Over 300 prophecies have been fulfilled through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

He blankets us in is complete. We are justified before God because the debt is paid. Nobody needs to be far from God any longer, because the debt of all people has been paid, once and for all. If a person accepts this in faith, he becomes a child of God because, "It is finished!"

Christ also fulfilled Old Testament prophecy on the Cross. John 19 even says, "to fulfill the Scripture" (vv. 24, 28) twice. Fulfillment of Scripture was accomplished in the life and death of the Lord. Over 300 prophecies have been fulfilled through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. There is nothing remotely like it in all of secular literature or other religions. The Bible is unique, and continually speaks of the One who is unique. The Lord's mandate and will from the beginning was the fulfillment of the Word. In His last days before His death, the Lord said to His disciples, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise" (Luke 18:31-33).

The Lord Jesus was always concerned with fulfilling the Scriptures. Just consider Psalms 22—69 and Isaiah 53, and we can see how—and how many—Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled. Even indecisive Pilate didn't allow himself to be dissuaded from naming Jesus as "King of the Jews," so that various Scriptures would be fulfilled that said the Messiah would come as King.

With His statement, "I thirst," the Lord fulfilled Psalm 69:21, where it is written, "They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to

drink." One would think that this was just a minor detail. After everything that had already been fulfilled, would it even matter if such a small (and perhaps unclear) prophecy went unfulfilled? Of course, the Lord was extremely thirsty, but just before His death He was still fulfilling prophecy with the last of His strength.

When He appeared to the disciples on the way to Emmaus after His resurrection, He said, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44). In Acts 13:29, Paul says, "And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb."

When you see how precisely the statements were fulfilled in Jesus, hundreds and sometimes thousands of years after they were made, you can't help but believe in the God of Scripture and in Him of whom these prophecies speak. The Old Testament was fulfilled in Jesus because, "It is finished!"

Not only were the direct prophecies fulfilled, but also prophetic images (so-called typologies of the Old Testament) which pointed to Jesus' death. The lamb, the serpent raised up in the desert, sacrifices, Jonah, and more are all examples. The Passover festival offers a special preview of what Jesus accomplished on the Cross, down to the last detail (for example, the use of hyssop). When Jesus said, "I thirst," a sponge with vinegar was attached to hyssop and held to His lips. We can find this idea earlier in Exodus 12:22. In order to be protected from the plague of the death of the firstborn, carried out by the angel of judgment, the Israelites had to spread the blood of the Passover

The Most Important Word in World History: Part 1

Although He was above it as the Giver of the Law, He placed Himself under it. Although He was the only One who fulfilled the whole Law, He had to bear the punishment of the Law—that is, death—because He took our guilt upon Himself.

lamb on the doorframe with a “bunch of hyssop.” This was the only way that judgment would pass them by. The parallel to the Passover lamb is obvious: judgment will pass by anyone who applies the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, to his life by believing in Jesus’ work of redemption on the Cross. Such a person is saved.

All typological sacrifices found their fulfillment in Jesus’ death, and since then have no longer been necessary.

We find this foreshadowing of Jesus’ work at the very beginning of humanity. For the Lord to clothe Adam and Eve, an animal had to die. This is a symbol of the garment of righteousness that we are able to receive through Jesus; or, if we are believers, have already received.

Abel’s sacrifice was a fragrance before God, like that of the Lord Jesus.

On the basis of a sacrifice, there was an eternal covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants. Jesus’ death is the eternal promise that everyone who enters into the covenant with Him will be God’s possession for all eternity.

The Passover lamb alone should suffice for us to understand salvation. Just as the Israelites under the protection of the lamb’s blood, were the only ones saved from the judgment of death, so today only those who identify with Jesus’ sacrifice are actually saved from the judgment of death and will live forever.

Since the time of Moses, countless thousands of innocent animals have died. Every day the priests had to slaughter all kinds of animals. Imagine this situation: An Israelite comes into the tabernacle (or later, the temple) dejected, and the priest asks, “What’s wrong?” The Israelite replies, “I have sinned, and I’ve brought this lamb so that God may forgive me of this sin.” While the Israelite places his hands on the animal’s head as a sign of identification,

the priest draws out the knife and the blood flows... The Israelite goes on his way relieved. An innocent animal died for his guilt. But it may not even be a few days before the same Israelite is back, leading another animal. He has sinned again. The priest may be asking himself, “Will this killing never end?”

These sacrifices were ordained by God Himself, because only blood could atone for sin. The Israelites saw how seriously God takes sin, and how the guilt of sin could only be lifted by the death of an innocent creature, whose blood was shed. Rivers of blood have flowed since then.

The Day of Atonement was very special. The high priest had to slaughter a male goat for the sins of the entire people, and sprinkle the blood into the Holy of Holies before God on the Mercy Seat, the lid of the Ark. The people were reconciled to God in this way, but it had to be repeated over and over, year after year. The bloodshed never stopped. It was monstrous.

The prophet Isaiah references Jesus as the Lamb of God. The familiar passage in the book of Isaiah reads: “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we [you and I] have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth” (Is 53:4-7).

Centuries later, when John the Baptist saw the Lord Jesus, he exclaimed twice in admiration: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29, 36).



Hyssop

When Jesus said, “I thirst,” a sponge with vinegar was attached to hyssop and held to His lips.

We can find this idea earlier in Exodus 12:22.

In order to be protected from the plague of the death of the firstborn, carried out by the angel of judgment, the Israelites had to spread the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorframe with a “bunch of hyssop.”

Do we recognize how seriously God takes sin? Do we see how necessary it was for the Lord to shed His blood? The Apostle John writes, “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

Then we can understand the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews, who repeats the words, “once for all” with relief. For example, in Hebrews 9:12-14: “he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

Bearing this in mind, we can understand the Apostle Peter so much better when he shows us the great value of Jesus’ blood: “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot” (1 Pet 1:18-19). The bloodshed has come to an end because, “It is finished!” The Lamb of God bore our guilt. Jesus had to be separated from the Father so that we could have fellowship with Him. He had to die so that we could have eternal life. John 19:30 clearly testifies to His death: “he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” Through His death we can have life, and life abundantly because, “It is finished!”

But the Lord Jesus did not just fulfill the Word of God; He Himself is the Word (John 1:1), and He gave it to us. He is the incarnate Word of God, through whom the world was created and salvation accomplished. This Word is God’s last revelation to mankind: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world” (Heb 1:1-2).

One might think that this isn’t entirely true, since after Jesus’ life, speeches, and work on this earth, the apostles came, who gave us the New Testament. But they too received what they wrote from the Lord. Jesus Himself foretold this: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:13-14).

This also includes the Book of Revelation. We often think that Revelation’s main theme is prophecy of what will happen in the future. Although this is partly true, we are told right at the beginning of the book: “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw” (Rev 1:1-2).

(MR0420/1130)



WORLD GEOPOLITICS BY THE BIBLE: WHITHER AMERICA? – PART 2



In the previous Part I of this series, we made a claim stating that there will be only seven major world Gentile rulerships before the endtime Tribulation begins. These are all depicted as heads in the visions shown in Revelation 12, 13, and 17. This is the geopolitical chronology set by the Bible with respect to the timeline of the Hebrews ... historically and prophetically.

By Wilfred Hahn

Where are we on that timeline today? Our generation is currently living at the tail end of the 6th “head’s” rule ... and the 7th is about to be unveiled in the near future. There is yet one more world ruler that follows the 7th head (but not shown as a head). This one is very evil and will be discussed briefly at a later time.

Knowing the times, just what are the implications? A period of rapid tumult yet lies ahead. And there will be some major impacts upon America, as we will reveal at the end of this series.

The “heads” that have had their time of rulership to date in our view are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome (pending). The reader may have noted that these only add to a total of six. Have we miscalculated? No, because there are yet two following forms of Roman rule to unfold. The first of these is denoted by the 7th head with the 10 horns. (See the prophecies and visions regarding these heads found in Revelation 12, 13, 17 and the book of Daniel 2, 7.)

As we proceed with our examination of the topic of the 7 heads and 10 horns of Bible prophecy, let’s adopt a few naming conventions. There are a con-

fusing array of kings and heads and beasts mentioned in Daniel and Revelation, to which we will refer in this study.

For the sake of expediency, let’s then agree to name the 7 historical kings that are shown as 7 heads (Revelation 12, 13, 17) as the Ruler Kings (RK), and the last-day 10 kings (shown as horns) as the 10K.

Correcting Wrongheadedness

Before launching into our study of the 7 heads, may we clear a few misconceptions at the outset. A most misleading and frequent error is to assume that the period of rulership for each of these 7 unfolds contemporaneously rather than sequentially. This is wrong. The seven hegemony follow each another. Once one is vanquished, the next comes on the scene. Those who are superseded are then allowed to remain on earth as lesser nations. For example, Persia once ruled the known world at one time. Today, called Iran, it is a relatively weak power player geopolitically.

Much prophecy interpretation has gone wrong (faltered) exactly on this very point. Many have tended to see these 7 heads as existing at the same time. The con-

The Bible can corroborate some historical aspects of the world, but we must remember that the narrative of the Bible is focused on chronicling the salvation plan of God.

sequences have been disastrous for the credibility of Bible prophecy. Countless candidates have been cited down through the centuries ... all of them incorrect.

Maintaining a correct heading, we must mention that some prophecy teachers identify the 7th head (ruler) as the Revived Roman Empire. We do not hold this view. Rather, we are more accommodative to the perspective that a revived Roman influence upon the world takes place during the latter period of the sixth head's reign.

This is the “head” that is shown as being wounded by a sword “as unto death,” and which then recuperates (this being mentioned three times—Revelation 13:3, 12, 14). In our interpretation, this near-death wound has already long been healed. The Roman systems continue to strongly dominate much of the world today.

Before we move on with our topic of World Geopolitics by the Bible, we make one last comment about the Roman ruler that will be revealed very near the onset of the Tribulation Period. Revelation 17:11 says that “[...] even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.”

He is the Antichrist. He is depicted in many forms in the Bible—for example, as a small horn (Daniel 7:8; an imposing horn [v. 20] and other identities).

When he finally does come on the world scene, the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns, shown in Revelation 17, will no longer be in power. It will have become superseded by the Antichrist. As such, “the great prostitute, who sits by many waters” and comfortably rode the beast, has been “burned” (Revelation 17:16) and bucked off.

This is a study for another occasion. Our focus at this point in the series remains the 7 heads on the beast in Revelation 12, 13 and 17, and the counterpart Scriptures in the Old Testament.

Why Study the Seven Heads?

The heads in Bible prophecy are a symbol of rulership ... especially so if depicted as having golden



crowns on their heads. For example, Revelation 12:3 shows the beast (red dragon) as having its seven heads crowned. This is the beast that represents the geopolitical, Satan-driven persecution of the Hebrews down continuously through Bible history.

Earlier, we claimed to know the identities of all the ruler heads (rulers). We had not yet presented the supporting Biblical proofs for our opinions. We will do so now.

Just what qualifying criteria should one use to identify a “major world rulership,” in the geopolitical timeline that the Bible presents? Just where do we find proofs for the identity of these seven major kingdoms in the Bible?

Of course, all these answers are found in Scripture. As was mentioned at the start of this series, we are studying a narrow timeline partial to the Jews—what is presented in the Bible—not the total width and breadth of secular history.

Of course, the Bible can corroborate some historical aspects of the world, but we must remember that the narrative of the Bible is focused on chronicling the salvation plan of God. That is why the Bible tracks the history of the Hebrews (the servant Israel) and buttresses this with prophecy (past, present and future).

As such, we can prove the identities of the 7 historical oppressors of the Hebrews from the Bible. A



Many claim that the word “rapture” is not mentioned in Scripture. Does that then invalidate this doctrine? Not at all. Other Bible prophecy also falls into this same category.



shallow or incomplete study of the Scriptures on these matters will lead to possible inconclusiveness. As an example, we recall a vitriolic reply directly to this question, received some years ago from a reader. He insisted that because many of these kingdoms (heads) were not specifically named in the respective apocalyptic literature of the Bible, that their identity therefore was not valid.

In specific, he claimed that the Roman Empire was not expressly named ... nor the fourth kingdom mentioned in Daniel. Actually, all the specific names of the 7 RK shown in Revelation 12, 13 and 17 are not mentioned by name. The heads are numbered but not named.

But that does not mean we cannot deduce their identity.

When combining the various facts, references, and actions of these kingdoms throughout the entire Bible, the conclusions become compelling. In fact, we would even say that the interpolated conclusions are ineluctable.

After all, the Bible is a “miraculous” book. One is awed by its interconnectedness, considering it is comprised of 66 separate books, written by some 40 separate authors, who may not have even

known of each other. Yet, it all intertwines neatly. This is the wonderous reality of the Bible (Old and New Testament).

It must be also said that the Bible does not give up all its deeper, hidden pearls capriciously, choosing instead to reward those that diligently seek and study its pages. This is to say that much Bible study is required. For example, the Book of Revelation was never meant to open up effortlessly, nor for that matter Daniel and other substantial amounts of prophecy in the Bible.

In fact, we are told by Daniel that when the Jews finally come into the “knowledge” of Jehovah’s plan and their Messiah, it would require a lot of “running to and fro” (Daniel 12:4, KJV) and searching the Scriptures anxiously.

Some things mentioned in the Bible are deductive. Though things may not be specifically identified by name, this does not mean that they do not exist. Just because a capitalized title is not used does not mean that a head cannot be identified.

For example, the Trinity is never mentioned as a term. Do we therefore not accept that there is a Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

Or, many claim that the word “rapture” is not mentioned in Scripture. Does that then invalidate this doctrine? Not at all. Other Bible prophecy also falls into this same category.

Consider also that there are more than a hundred prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Not one mentions His civil name in advance, other than Him being called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) and other symbolic names. Yet, He did come in the literal sense and fulfilled many of these prophecies (others yet to be fulfilled in the future).

In the next part, we will reveal the identities of five of the seven Ruler Kings. The reign of these strike right into our times. (MC)



Is Hell Eternal?

– Part 1

Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

The witness of Scripture is that unbelievers will suffer eternally in hell. The church has traditionally affirmed this doctrine, yet this belief has become quite contested in the present age.

For nearly two thousand years, there has been little opposition to the traditional doctrine of hell. Disbelief in a literal, eternal hell as punishment for those who reject God, has not become popular because of new exegetical discoveries in modern biblical scholarship; rather, “These truths have become awkward and disconcerting to hold not because of new light from the Bible but because of new darkness from the culture.”¹

The darkness from the culture is a reason why many people are rejecting the teaching of everlasting damnation and torment. Some of the various beliefs concerning the doctrine of hell include the following: (1) life after death is unlikely; (2) universalism; (3) the possibility for unbelievers who did not hear the gospel to believe after death; (4) annihilationism; and, (5) the traditional view. British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) advocated the notion that life after death is

unlikely. He believed the idea of an afterlife was created to provide comfort for those who may fear death. Russell thought that the goal of modern science is to dispel the myth of an afterlife, either heaven or hell. Belief in an afterlife is not empirical, meaning heaven and hell cannot be subjected to the five senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch); therefore, it should be denied. Russell also believed the doctrine of hell was absolutely cruel.

Universalism is the belief that all persons will be saved. The notion that salvation will be universal necessitates denying belief in an eternal hell. Universalists believe that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection apply to all humanity; that this union with Christ will lead to the fullness of time, in which every person will be liberated from the penalty of sin and be reconciled to God.

The possibility for those who did not believe the gospel during their earthly

Is Hell Eternal? – Part 1

Adam’s soul was separated from God the moment he rebelled, and his body began to die. Both physical death and spiritual death entered the world when Adam sinned.



lives, to be given an opportunity to believe the gospel after death (and so be saved), is known as postmortem evangelism. The idea is that every person’s destiny is not determined at death. Clark Pinnock, who served as professor emeritus of systematic theology at McMaster Divinity College, was a noted proponent of this view. Mormonism denies that postmortem evangelism is “second chance” soteriology, by arguing that only people who never heard their “restored” gospel will receive a chance after death, to determine whether to believe it or not.

The doctrine of annihilationism is that people who reject the gospel message of faith in Jesus Christ will be annihilated (entirely destroyed). God will judge the wicked and cast them into the lake of fire, where they will cease to exist. Some annihilationists propose that this destruction will occur instantaneously, while others suggest that unbelievers might experience a brief time of consciousness. Every annihilationist believes that unbelievers will not suffer an endless, conscious torment in hell at the hands of an angry God.

The traditional (and biblical) view is that the lost will suffer eternally in a lake of fire. While the doctrine of eternal retribution is not a pleasant teaching to proclaim, the overwhelming evidence of Scripture is in support of it. It is certainly a truth that people desperately need to understand with all their emotional, mental, and volitional faculties. Certainly, the ultimate disaster is to suffer eternal condemnation at the hands of the almighty God, when one’s earthly life is brought to an end, which is why clarity is needed regarding this important topic.

The Biblical Concept of Death

Death is separation of the soul (spirit) from the body, resulting in the cessation of animal or natural life. Scripture refers to death in a threefold manner. *First*, physical death is separation of body and soul (Jas 2:26). This is the most common use of the word “death.” Adam began to die physically (“return to the ground,” Gen 3:19; cf. Eccl 12:7) when he violated the prohibition to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam’s sin is imputed to all humanity (Rom 5:12-21), and thereby every person incurs the penalty of physical death as a consequence (Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12; 6:23; Jas 1:15).

Second, spiritual death is the separation of unregenerate humanity from God as a result of the sin nature. Adam’s soul was separated from God the moment he rebelled, and his body began to die. Both physical death and spiritual death entered the world when Adam sinned. Physical birth results in physical life; however, only the second birth (rebirth) results in one being made alive (regenerated) spiritually.

Spiritual death is overcome by spiritual regeneration (John 3:3-8; 1 Cor 2:12-13; Tit 3:5-7; 2 Pet 1:4).

Third, eternal death is the ultimate separation from God of those who die physically without ever being regenerated, or born again. In their natural state, human beings are “dead in sins and trespasses” (Eph 2:1) and are progressing toward this ultimate spiritual death, unless made alive together with Christ Jesus (v. 5). Eternal death is contrasted with eternal life (John 5:28-29; Rev 20:6), and is imposed as the “second death” subsequent to the judgment at the “great white throne” (Rev 20:11-15). The eternal destiny of the unregenerate is determined at the time of their physical death; whereupon they are lost in hell (hades), and will remain there until the second resurrection (v. 13), where they will eventually and eternally be confined to the lake of fire.

All people will live forever somewhere, yet the destinies of the lost and the saved are vastly different. While the unbeliever is confined to hades (a place of torment according to Luke 16:23), the believer is immediately united with Christ (2 Cor 5:1-10) in a place of bliss, known as heaven (2 Cor 12:2; Heb 12:23) or paradise (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 12:4). Presently, if a believer dies, he or she will experience what is termed the intermediate state, which is a person’s condition between physical death and the resurrection of the body. For the believer, it is an experience of conscious bliss in the presence of the Lord; however, for the unbeliever, it is a state of conscious torment. Contrary to popular thought, Christians do not become angels during the intermediate state, nor will they ever become angelic beings.

Believers will “inherit the imperishable” at the future resurrection of the body (1 Cor 15:50, 52). Presently, however, believers who have died prior to that time will

be in a disembodied state. Scripture reveals that this intermediate state is preferable to earthly life (2 Cor 5:2-5) because, presently, the believer groans: “being burdened” not only with the stresses of life, but also with physical ailments and limitations. Scripture describes this disembodied state as being “naked” (v. 3) and “unclothed” (v. 4), which implies that it is an imperfect and temporary existence. Yet it is still preferable “to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord” (v. 8). To be “at home” with the Lord is “pleasing to Him” (v. 9), which is meaningless if the soul is in a state of unconscious sleep. The immaterial being of the believer will never lose consciousness; though the intermediate state is a disembodied, incomplete condition, the believer is conscious of being “at home with the Lord” and enjoying the bliss of that experience. Truly, “to depart and be with Christ . . . is very much better” (Phil 1:23).

Platonic teachings are sometimes said to have unduly influenced the idea of a disembodied soul. Plato did believe in the immortality of the soul and the mortality of the body. At death, the body released the imprisoned soul for eternity. Christianity and Platonism agree that the soul continues to exist without a body; yet the Bible distinctly teaches that humanity is incomplete without a body. The doctrine of the intermediate state is derived from the revelation of Scripture, not ancient Greek thought. Moreover, the human soul is not to be regarded as naturally mortal, as if a human being is a radical unity with no components (viz. when a person dies, so does the entire person: body and soul).

Monism is a theological perspective that considers humanity as having only one component or element. This means that even though the soul is identified as an aspect of human nature, it is not considered to be a separable part. In other words, hu-

Is Hell Eternal? – Part 1

The believer has two prospects of hope awaiting him or her: (1) the resurrection of the body should death occur; or, (2) translation from corruption to incorruption if alive at the coming of the Lord.

man beings are not composed of separate entities or parts, but should be regarded as a radical unity: a self. According to a monistic understanding, human beings are not dichotomous (body, soul/spirit) or trichotomous (body, soul, and spirit)—which are the normal evangelical understandings of human nature—but rather should be viewed as an essential unity. The following quote is an example of the viewpoint that the soul is not conscious when the physical body dies: “The Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, represent individual personality as a complex and totally mortal monism, a unity that can be viewed from different perspective, but that cannot be broken into separately existing parts.”²

Contrary to this perspective, the resurrection involves the entire person. While Scripture does reveal that human beings are unified, it is not an absolute, radical unity, because the Bible indicates that the body is dead without the soul, yet the soul has a conscious existence without the body (cf. Isa 14:9-11; Matt 17:1-8; Luke 16:19-31; 20:38; Acts 7:59-60; Phil 1:23; Heb 12:23; Rev 6:10). One of the primary reasons to oppose a monistic understanding of humanity, is the inability to explain the biblical distinctions between the body and the soul. Jesus, however, did make a distinction between the body and soul when He said, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt 10:28).

Conclusion

Scripture reveals that the soul is conscious when the body dies, because though disembodied, it has not immediately received its complete and final condition. The body and

soul must be united again, in order for the entire person to inherit the imperishable. The intermediate state for the believer is described as a condition of bliss, in contrast to the torment of the unbeliever. The biblical revelation concerning the distinct state of the faithful is truly interesting, for it is described as “a state of rest, a state of consciously living to God, a state of being with Christ, a state of Paradisiacal bliss, a state of mutual recognition and of holy fellowship, a state of victory and of assurance of reward, a state of earnest expectation; [thus] how abundantly is the Apostle’s declaration proved, ‘To depart and be with Christ is FAR BETTER’ (Phil. i. 23).”³

The believer has two prospects of hope awaiting him or her: (1) the resurrection of the body should death occur; or, (2) translation from corruption to incorruption if alive at the coming of the Lord. Paul said he was reluctant to die and thus be temporarily disembodied (“found naked,” “unclothed,” “absent from the body”). His hope was to receive the new, glorified body without having to experience death, which will be true for those believers who survive to the coming of the Lord for His church. At the rapture, the living will receive glorified bodies through translation (transformation), and the deceased through resurrection.

(1151)

ENDNOTES

- 1 David F. Wells, “Foreword,” in Robert A. Peterson, *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1995) x.
- 2 Christopher M. Date, Gregory G. Stump, and Joshua W. Anderson, eds., *Rethinking Hell* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014) 128.
- 3 E. H. Bickersteth, *Heaven and Hell* (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1869) 43.



Waiting for Jesus?

Determining Where You Stand

André Beitze

In some ways, our response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic shows where our priorities really lie. Are we waiting for the Lord, or longing for a comfortable life?

What kind of Christians are we? Maybe we're the kind who made a decision for Jesus once, were cleansed from our past sins, and began the Christian life...but didn't continue in devo-

tion to the Lord. There are times when a Christian invokes salvation from his sins, but still wants to live his own life without placing himself under the rule of Jesus Christ. His love for the Lord is insincere, so

Waiting for Jesus? Determining Where You Stand

God wants us to set ourselves apart, to be either one or the other; there is no grey area with Him.



this type of person isn't really looking forward to His coming.

Even if we're not praying this way, there's a danger that our actions will express to God: "Lord, wait a little longer; I'm not in any hurry to come to You in heaven. Let me enjoy life here on earth, and when I'm old and frail, You can come and bring me home, so I won't have to suffer very much. But until then, give me a quiet life, with an abundance of earthly possessions and health."

Or, taking it a step further, we may actually be aware of our soul's need for redemption, but we still want to enjoy life on this earth, and love to wallow in the mud of this world. We may be thinking: "God is gracious and merciful and so kind. He understands my weaknesses. I can always repent and ask forgiveness for my mistakes later. I know He loves me and forgives me. Nobody is without sin, so it can't be that big a deal."

We should ask ourselves, "What would our priority be if we were living this way?" Does our love really belong to the Lord, or is He just our safety net? Yes, when we're in trouble, we quickly come running to ask for His help. But when the storm has passed, do we give ourselves over to our own will again? If this is the case, the words of the prophet Elijah apply: "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21).

The people of Israel didn't reply; they were confused. The Israelites didn't have a clear opinion about Baal or about Yahweh, because they didn't have a personal friendship with God. They worshiped both God and Baal, because they were obviously lacking clear teaching about the God of the Bible. Parents were failing to teach their children God's ways, so faith was growing smaller with each generation. They knew that Yahweh was the God of Israel and the God of their ancestors, but they didn't have a living relationship with Him. They only knew His name.

They served Baal because the whole world was doing it; it was in fashion at the time. Consider that there were a total of 850 prophets of Baal and Astarte, and only Elijah remained from the prophets of the God of Israel. The majority had been killed by Jezebel, except for those who had hidden themselves. That's why the dominating mindset in Israel was: "If everyone's doing it, it can't be so bad. I'm not so different from everyone else. I need to conform to societal developments and do what the majority of people are doing. If most people are doing it, it can't be so wrong. And society respects me this way."

They were living in a kind of grey area, that was growing bigger and bigger. There was no clear line between good and evil. Evil can't be that bad if everyone is doing it. But what was Jesus' judgment on the church at Laodicea? "So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth" (Rev 3:16).

God wants us to set ourselves apart, to be either one or the other; there is no grey area with Him. Ultimately, God's judgment won't be according to society's ideas, but what is just and true according to His standard. As Paul said to the Galatians, "I

have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20).

Jesus Christ paid the price for our lives, our salvation. If we call ourselves Christians, it is because we are His followers, His disciples. We are His property, and that is why we love Him and want to obey Him.

This is where we see the difference: Christians love Jesus not only as Savior, but also as their Lord and King. Take the biblical image of the bride and groom. What is a bride’s wish? To be with the groom. She wants to have fellowship with him, communicate with him, and show him her feelings. The true bride goes out of her way to please her bridegroom. She seeks to do his will; she seeks his closeness, and she wants to hear his voice. Yes, she would like to go out to meet the bridegroom when he comes to take her home. Her deepest wish is that he will come soon.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews calls out to us, “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb 12:14). If we love the Lord, we will seek peace with everyone and pursue sanctification. And that’s how we’ll see Him. Do we have this desire for the Lord’s coming? That will also have its reward, as Paul testified at the end of his life: “Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing” (2 Tim 4:8).

Especially in these days, we want to love Jesus’ coming, and not belong to those who say, “Wait a little longer! Let me enjoy life and achieve my earthly goals, and then You can come.” So, what is

our priority in life? Is it really pleasing the Lord Jesus, loving Him and His coming?

It’s good if we are consistently reflecting and evaluating ourselves: if the Lord came for His church today, would I be included? Would I have pleasure in His return? We know better than anyone else where we may be hiding our “Baals,” what our life’s priorities are. Is our life pleasing to the Lord, or are we limping between God and the world like the Israelites in Elijah’s day? The position of God’s Word is this: “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).


If we want to live forever and have life in abundance, we do not need to focus on the current course of the world, but instead approach the Lord, surrender ourselves completely to Him, and follow His will.

Perhaps we belong more to those who have played at Christianity very successfully so far, but for all intents and purposes, we’re not waiting like a bride for her bridegroom. The coronavirus pandemic has revealed where our priorities really are and what our hearts are really set on. Then have the courage to say today: “Enough of appearances! Lord, I give my life completely to You. Be the Lord of my life. I want to wait for You.”

He’s waiting for us with open arms, and doesn’t refuse anyone who comes to Him with a sincere heart, as He also said to the doubly-limping church at Laodicea: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price” (Rev 22:17).

(MR0321/1148)



Congregational Singing— Forbidden? Part 1

Roger Liebi gives his view on the question of how we as Christians and churches should respond to a ban on congregational singing. The biblical principles are derived from corresponding passages on submission to authorities, examined in connection with principles from Old Testament law and its interpretation in the Gospels. A timely topic for our current discussions about the coronavirus.

Romans 13:1-7

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to

good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore

At the time Romans 13 was written, the emperor Nero was in power in the Roman Empire. He was a terrible and bloodthirsty tyrant. Nevertheless, this tyrant ensured stability in a huge empire, alongside all the terrible injustices he also committed.

one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed."

Romans 13:1-7 clearly shows the following principles:

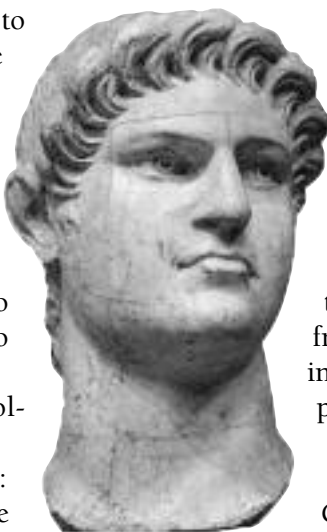
1. Obedience to the government: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities" (v. 1a).

2. The authorities are appointed by God (v. 1b).

3. Whoever opposes the authorities are opposing God's order (v. 2). Interestingly, at the time this passage was written, the emperor Nero was in power in the Roman Empire. He was a terrible and bloodthirsty tyrant. Nevertheless, this tyrant ensured stability in a huge empire, alongside all the terrible injustices he also committed. But still, in principle, the government—even a terrible one in this case—was legitimized by God.

4. Furthermore, the basic purpose of government is to deter evil and promote good (see v. 3). We can also see that even in unjust regimes, injustice is punished and justice is promoted—albeit to a limited degree—alongside everything done wantonly and maliciously. For the latter, the government will one day be held accountable by God.

5. Verse 5 emphasizes that a person should be obedient for the sake of his conscience, and not simply out of fear of punishment. Disobedience to authority violates the Christian conscience; you don't get to choose whether it matters, as though the principle is a question of preference.



In this context, Matthew's report about the Lord Jesus is interesting (Matt 26:57-67). He stood before the Jewish authorities' highest judge, the high priest Caiaphas. But it's important to recognize that Caiaphas was actually occupying this position in violation of God's law. During the time of the Maccabees, a family who didn't come from the lineage of Zadok (the high priest in David's time) usurped the office of high priest. This was against the biblical order, according to which only Zadok's descendants were allowed to be high priests. Clearly, Caiaphas was not a descendant of Zadok; he was actually holding this office illegitimately. Even so, the Lord Jesus recognized his authority as ruler. The Lord Jesus gave no answer to the Sanhedrin's questions, but when the high priest put Him under oath (which was permissible according to Numbers 5:21, and obliged the accused to answer), the Lord answered.

All of this is helpful to us in our dealings with regimes that can rightly be criticized. We can also think of King Saul, who was a king according to human mentality, but not God's plan. Nevertheless, David recognized Saul as "the Lord's anointed," and never resisted him to the point of attempting to unseat him, or even laying hands on him. Quite the contrary; his conscience was immediately convicted when his men tried to urge him to do so.

Further Passages: Titus 3 and 1 Peter 2—"Human Institutions"

Beginning in verse 1, Titus 3 also clearly states that Christians must be subject to the authorities and the "powers that be," and obey them. Paul connects it to our testimony as born-again Christians. The point is to show that, as Christians, we're no longer like the people of this world and no longer what we were be-

Congregational Singing—Forbidden? Part 1

The ban on singing in church, related to coronavirus, isn't about making us sin.

fore our conversion. Then we read in 1 Peter 2:13-17:

“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.”

Peter also says very clearly that we are commanded to submit to “every human institution.” The adjective “human” is very important here, because to err is human. And yet we must still obey, even if the government proves to be human. For example, say I’m driving my car on a road with a 35 mph speed limit. I could easily be convinced to drive 50 mph, since it would pose no problems or risks. But because the responsible governing authorities have decided that drivers are permitted to drive on this road at a maximum of 35 mph, I have to bow to this human establishment, even if I could justify traveling at 50 mph.

Another connection with the phrase “human institution” is important. We can disagree with the restrictions related to our fight against the coronavirus. We might classify the crisis differently, weigh it differently, prefer other measures be taken, or declare certain government-issued regulations to be ineffective. But we are not the government! The government is the government, and it makes the decisions. We can’t exchange our positions, but must accept what has been humanely decided and decreed by the government.

If we ignore this point, then we’re paving the way for the destabilization of our country. Anarchy is



everyone doing what is right in their own eyes. That just won't work, and that's why God established government: so that anarchy won't arise. Even bad government is better than total anarchy. Anarchy is absolutely terrible—the total willfulness of each individual reigning in society.

Ban on Congregational Singing— Time to Obey God Rather Than Men?

The New Testament calls us to sing together in church, as well as on other occasions:

“Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20).

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

Some areas have restricted singing in churches. Is the principle of limiting obedience to the state per Acts 5:29 applicable in this circumstance? “We must obey God rather than men.” Some have used this Bible verse to argue that because God has said that we should sing, the state must not forbid us to do so.

Refusal to Sin

But this is an absolute fallacy. This passage speaks of the state requiring something sinful; in this case, forbidding the disciples from preaching the Gospel. In such a case, we have the right not to obey the state, because the state cannot force us to sin against God. The ban on singing in church, related to coronavirus, isn't about making us sin.

(MR0421/1152)

What Is the Lord's Double-edged Sword?



Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 21. Revelation 2:12.

Located twelve miles north of Smyrna, the church at Pergamos was the northernmost of the seven churches. The city of Pergamos mentioned here once belonged to the kingdom of Lydia, under the immeasurably wealthy King Croesus, and fell to the Persian Empire after his defeat. The city later went to Macedonia in 264 BC, and from that time onward was the widely-known and richly-decorated capital of the Kingdom of Pergamon. In 133 BC, it fell to the Roman Empire upon the death of the last Pergamene king, Attalus III, according to his will. It was famous above all for

the Aesculapian Temple and the huge Altar of Zeus. The much-mentioned library, with a quarter of a million rolls of parchment (the word “parchment” also comes from Pergamos), was no longer there at the time of the Apostle, but science and art remained in their prime. This city is still preserved today. It bears the name Bergama and is part of Turkey.

Although the letters from heaven are concise, they're not abridged. As we read the letters, we must bear in mind that these are the last words we have directly from our Lord Jesus Christ. Revela-

What Is the Lord's Double-edged Sword?

The Third Letter from Heaven

“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it” (Revelation 2:12-17).

tion also mentions the restoration and salvation of Israel, but it is mainly directed at the church. According to 1 Corinthians 10:11, the church of Jesus is the one upon which the end of the world is coming.

The Lord speaks to His disciples (and through them, to us) in the Gospels. But here He is addressing Himself directly to His church, and thus also to us, from the right hand of the Father. This directness is underscored because John, as the Lord's Apostle and member of the body of Jesus,

The sharp, double-edged sword is identical to the Word of God.

receives the messages. That's why every word must be carefully noted, and considered through prayer and questioning: what does the Lord mean by it?

He introduces Himself to the church in Smyrna as the first and the last, as the absolute Victor over death. This church, which was experiencing severe hardship, needed that as comfort; they needed to know who their Master was. But He reveals Himself to Pergamos as the one “which hath the sharp sword with two edges” (Rev 2:12). In the Lord's self-portrayal, we can see this letter's subject with unmistakable clarity: no commingling at all! Hebrews 4:12 says the same thing: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

God doesn't want any commingling! In Revelation 19, we see the exalted Lord sitting on a white horse, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword...which sword proceeded out of his mouth” (vv. 15, 21). He judges the anti-Christian nations with it. The sharp, double-edged sword is identical to the Word of God. Indeed, He Himself is the Word of God: “And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14a).

The Lord reveals Himself as the sharp, double-edged sword that goes out from His mouth; not just to Pergamos, but through all of redemptive history to this day. He will also put an end to the Antichrist with this sword.

In ancient times, when Joshua was at Jericho and was first given the great responsibility of leading the people of Israel into the Promised Land, he suddenly noticed that he was facing a man “with his sword drawn in his hand” (Josh 5:13)—the Word of God. The Word of God convicts, judges, and divides, thus protecting against commingling. That's why we have to pass the Word of God on!

(MR1220/1128)




WORLD FOCUS

WORLD

Decline of World Population

All over the world, countries are confronting population stagnation and a fertility bust, a dizzying reversal unmatched in recorded history that will make first-birthday parties a rarer sight than funerals, and empty homes a common eyesore.

 Maternity wards are already shutting down in Italy. Ghost cities are appearing in northeastern China. Universities in South Korea cannot find enough students, and in Germany, hundreds of thousands of properties have been razed, with the land turned into parks.

A planet with fewer people could ease pressure on resources, slow the destructive impact of climate change and reduce household burdens for women. But the census announcements from China and the United States, which showed the slowest rates of population growth in decades for both countries, also point to hard-to-fathom adjustments.

Expectant mothers in many areas can no longer find obstetricians or postnatal care centers. Universities below the elite level, especially outside Seoul, find it increasingly hard to fill their ranks; the number of 18-year-olds in South Korea has fallen from about 900,000 in 1992 to 500,000 today. To attract students, some schools have even offered iPhones.

Many demographers argue that the current moment may look to future historians like a period of transition or gestation, when hu-



A family eating hotpot at a restaurant in Beijing. China's population is projected to contract sharply this century.
Gilles Sabrié for *The New York Times*

mans either did or did not figure out how to make the world more hospitable—enough for people to build the families that they want.

Surveys in many countries show that young people would like to be having more children but face too many obstacles.

-*www.nytimes.com*, 24 May 2021

Commentary: We remember the alarmists from the 1960s and 70s, speaking of population explosion. Quite apparently, that is no longer the case. Although there is substantial population increase in some countries, in virtually all rich nations (that is, industrialized) the birth rate continues to fall.

Governments the world over desperately try to hold off the decline, but in most cases they are not successful.

While generous compensation is granted for parents and their newborns—for example, in Germany—it does not seem to work. Depending on the type of employment, mothers can take up to two years off, and sometimes father are included for six months. Their jobs are fully protected. Child support has been standard procedure



Even in countries like India that have long been associated with rapid growth, birth rates are falling toward, or are already below, the replacement rate of 2.1 children per family.
Poras Chaudhary for *The New York Times*

throughout much of Europe and part of Asia.

What is the reason for the decline? The answer is almost too simple: materialism and possessions. The more one owns, the less he is inclined to have more children.

Not too long ago, it was said that the Muslim population in Europe would one day outnumber the original inhabitants. That, however, also did not materialize, as immigrants—legal and illegal—are absorbed into the prevailing European culture. Their birth rate has seen a noticeable reduction, mostly based on the prosperity experienced in the new country.

The Bible has this to say: “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward...Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall

not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Psalm 127:3, 5).

7521


(See *End-Times Super Trends*, Item #2342, \$15.99.)



 **ECUADOR**

'Darwin's Arch' Collapses

One of the most famous rock formations in the Galapagos Islands has collapsed into the sea.

 The top of Darwin's Arch, located in the northern part of the archipelago, fell as "a consequence of natural erosion," according to the Ministry of Environment for Ecuador.

Named after English biologist Charles Darwin, the arch is considered one of the best diving spots in the Pacific Ocean archipelago that's part of Ecuador and located hundreds of miles off the country's coast.

The UNESCO World Heritage site, known for its many endemic animal and plant



Darwin's Arch, before and after it collapsed.
Composite: Alamy; Facebook

species, famously inspired Darwin's theory of evolution.

"Some in the dive & travel industry are already referring to this now as 'The Pillars of Evolution.' We will miss this iconic site," said tour company Aggressor Adventures.

-www.cnn.com, 18 May 2021

Commentary: One cannot help but note the irony of "The Pillars of Evolution" collapsing due to "natural erosion." This brings to mind the story of Samson, where "the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand" (Judges 16:23). After praying, "Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up...And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein" (verses 29-30).


(By K. Farmer) 7512

(See *Replacing Darwin*, Item #2331, \$24.99.)

 **FRANCE**

Bernard Arnault Richest Man in the World

French fashion tycoon Bernard Arnault is the world's richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$186.3 billion—putting him \$300 million above Jeff Bezos, who is worth \$186 billion, and Elon Musk, worth \$147.3 billion. [Since publication, Bezos has recaptured the top spot.]

 Arnault's fortune has jumped from \$76 billion in March 2020 to \$186.3 billion, a massive rise of over \$110 billion in the past 14 months, thanks to a pandemic-defying performance by his luxury group LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy).

LVMH and Arnault represent the remarkable rise of Europe's luxury and fashion houses during the lockdown.

For a number of years at the start of the century, the richest Europeans were Aldi founders Theo and Karl Albrecht of budget supermarket fame. They made it to the top 10

but never claimed the No. 1 spot. Bernard Arnault debuted among the top 10 in mid 2005, with a \$13 billion fortune. Arnault has been in the top 5 since 2018 and was No. 11 the previous year. He became the third-richest person in 2019, with a \$76 billion fortune.

Since the start of the pandemic, the net worths of the world's richest people have fluctuated wildly, with many jumping by billions.

-www.forbes.com, 24 May 2021

Commentary: The rich and super-rich usually originate from rich countries. As the article indicates, the rich got richer, even during the pandemic. Often, it is said, "...and the poor get poorer." That, however, is not really the case when one checks the various statistics from international perspectives. The world is growing in riches—and peace, which has become a reality in the so-called European world (Europe, North and South America, Australia). Between those nations, war is virtually out of the question. However, the rest of the world is growing at an amazing rate too. A recent article we

published showed that communist Beijing is now the billionaire capital of the world, replacing New York. Furthermore, China claims to produce more millionaires than the US.

This tendency will and must continue.

Speaking of riches and power, we are reminded of the first world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar: "At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Daniel 4:29-30). But Nebuchadnezzar was humbled after he had become an animal-like person. He later proclaimed, "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of

heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase" (verse 37). 7520


(See *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*, Item #1053, \$3.)



WORLD

Overwork Kills People, Says WHO

Working long hours poses an occupational health risk that kills hundreds of thousands of people each year, the World Health Organization says.

 “No job is worth the risk of stroke or heart disease,” WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, calling on governments, businesses and workers to find ways to protect workers’ health.

The global study, which the WHO calls the first of its kind, found that in 2016, 488 million people were exposed to the risks of working long hours.

In all, more than 745,000 people died that year from overwork that resulted in stroke and heart disease, according to the WHO.

“Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths from heart disease due to working long hours increased by 42%, and from stroke by 19%,” the WHO said as it announced the study, which it conducted with the International Labor Organization.

“Teleworking has become the norm in many industries, often blurring the boundaries between home and work,” Ghebreyesus said. “In addition, many businesses have been forced to scale back or shut down operations to save money, and people who are still on the payroll end up working longer hours.”

-www.npr.org, 17 May 2021

Commentary: The World Health Organization (WHO) is part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and is composed of representatives from all its 194 member states.

While work is good, overwork—according to this global study—is detrimental to health. Holiday (vacation) pay is somewhat universally accepted. European law requires that workers be entitled to at least four weeks of paid vacation. In contrast, *USA Today* writes, “The United States is the only developed



The highest health burdens from overwork were seen in men and in workers who are middle-aged or older, according to a WHO study. sturti/Getty Images

country in the world without a single, legally required paid vacation day or holiday.”

There are several reasons for the lack of free time in the US—mainly an unregulated labor force, which allows the employer to keep businesses open literally 24/7.

Why overwork? The generally acknowledged reason—to buy merchandise; in most cases, things one does not actually need. Productivity, i.e. making profits is apparently king. Never before in history has mankind traveled so much, worked so effectively, and produced merchandise of such high quality.

What does it all mean? Simply, mankind becomes a slave to economic wellbeing; hence, the accumulation of riches is almost mind-boggling. Not surprisingly, when the global economy collapses, we read in Revelation 18:15: “The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.”

Jesus warns: “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). That advice should be heeded by all people on planet earth. At the very end, there will be no difference between the great and the small, the rich and the poor, the intelligent and the simple. Revelation 20:15: “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

7513

(See *You Can Understand the Book of Revelation*, Item #2306, \$16.99.)

 **ISRAEL**

Defense Sales Soar in Last Five Years

International arms transfers are going strong in the Middle East, even if they are leveling off in other regions, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, a group that monitors arms transfers.

 “International transfers of major arms stayed at the same level between 2011-15 and 2016-20,” it said in a report. “Substantial increases in transfers by three of the top five arms exporters—the USA, France and Germany—were largely offset by declining Russian and Chinese arms exports.”

Israeli exports represented 3% of the global total between 2016 and 2020. Israel’s big three defense giants, Elbit Systems, IAI and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, are world leaders in the industry.

Israel’s exports were 59% higher over the past five years than in the 2011-2015 period. For example, IAI is cashing in on new interest in loitering munitions.

Elbit Systems is picking up contracts in Europe, and Rafael’s Iron Dome and Trophy are getting new recognition. Iron Dome was sent to the US, and Trophy is now being used by Germany. Both systems celebrate 10 years of operation in Israel this year. In addition, Israeli companies have made major inroads in India and other countries.

-www.jpost.com, 16 March 2021

Commentary: Israel is the only industrialized, functioning democracy in which defense is essential to its existence. While most other countries just “play games” (military exercises, war games), Israel has to be alert and ready 24/7 throughout the year.

But there is a future coming, according to Bible prophecy: “The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run” (Joel 2:4).

7522

(See *Prophecy for Judah*, Item #1084, \$17.50.)

DRC

Children Exploited for Better Batteries

“Our children are dying like dogs.”

That is the sorrowful statement of one Congolese mother whose son and cousin died while working the cobalt mines in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She and other parents like her are part of a class-action lawsuit filed in U.S. federal court in Washington, D.C., in 2019 seeking to hold Apple, Alphabet (the parent company of Google), Dell Technologies, Microsoft and Tesla accountable for what they allege is profiting off the misery of child labor in their quest for cobalt.

“Cobalt is a key component of every rechargeable lithium-ion battery in all of the gadgets made by defendants and all other tech and electric car companies in the world that has brought on the latest wave of cruel exploitation fueled by greed, corruption and indifference to a population of powerless, starving Congolese people,” the suit reads.

The companies have argued the case should be dismissed, asserting they have no control over the mining practices in a foreign country and that the families lack standing to bring the suit on U.S. soil. Furthermore, they stressed they have no direct connection to mining on foreign soil.

Apple over the years has cracked down on its global supply chain of cobalt and at one point said it would stop buying cobalt mined by hand in the Congo.

Child labor practices in the Congo have been widely reported in media outlets throughout the world and documented by human rights experts.

In 2016, Amnesty International published a major report on the conditions for child laborers mining cobalt in the DRC.

The report, called “This Is What We Die For—Human Rights Abuses in the Democra-



A young man carries wet cobalt on his back at the Shinkolobwe Cobalt mine, near Likasi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2004. A class action lawsuit filed in U.S. federal court in Washington, D.C., in 2019 is seeking to hold Apple, Alphabet (the parent company of Google), Dell Technologies, Microsoft and Tesla accountable for profiting off the misery of child labor in their quest for cobalt.

Schalk van Zuydam, Associated Press

tic Republic of Congo Power the Global Trade in Cobalt,” said it is widely recognized on an international scale that the involvement of children in mining constitutes one of the worst forms of child labor, which governments are required to prohibit and eliminate.

Although companies like Apple have promoted voluntary programs in which human rights abuses in the supply chain for cobalt can be reported, the lawsuit contends these programs are mere lip service.

-www.deseret.com, 23 May 2021

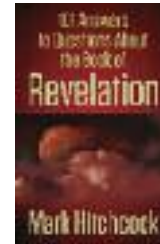
Commentary: Money is still king, and the love of money is the root of all evil, the Bible says. Will the lawsuit succeed? Mostly likely not—at best, only cosmetic changes will occur. Poverty and human rights abuses go hand-in-hand, and will continue to the very end. Revelation 6:15 reveals: “And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains.” Notice the words, “and every bondman.” That simply means those

who are forced—out of necessity—to be subject to unusual cruelty, all for the sake of profit.

Here we are also reminded of James 5:4: “Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.”

7518

(See 101 Answers to Questions About the Book of Revelation, Item #2295, \$15.99.)



TURKEY

Dumping Ground for Plastic Waste

Turkey received nearly 40% of the UK’s plastic waste exports in 2020—an increase by a factor of 18 since 2016, when 12,000 tons were sent.



UK plastic waste is being exported to Turkey and then illegally dumped and burned, according to a report.

European Union member states also sent 20 times more plastic waste to Turkey last year compared to 2016.

Nihan Temiz Atas, biodiversity projects lead from Greenpeace Mediterranean, based in Turkey, said: “Around 241 truckloads of plastic waste come to Turkey every day from across Europe and it overwhelms us.

(continued next page)

Plastic Waste (continued from page 28)

“As far as we can see from the data and the field, we continue to be Europe’s largest plastic waste dump.”

Many wealthy countries send recyclable waste overseas as it is financially cheap, reduces domestic landfill and can help areas achieve recycling targets.

Last year, Malaysia’s environment minister said the government had sent back 150 shipping containers of illegally imported plastic waste to their country of origin—42 of which belonged to the UK.

-www.bbc.com, 17 May 2021

Commentary: Environmentalists the world over have pegged plastic to be a major polluter of earth, air, and oceans. The abundance of trash testifies to the economic prosperity of a nation.

Another report by e360.yale.edu states: “The recycling crisis triggered by China’s ban could have an upside, experts say, if it leads to better solutions for managing the world’s waste, such as expanding processing capacities in North America and Europe, and spurring manufacturers to make their products more easily recyclable.”

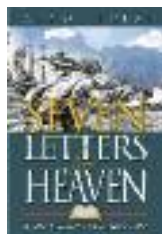
Problems are meant to be solved; thus, the industrial world will find avenues more compliant to Greenpeace’s critique, for example.

What seems significant is the abundance—or better said, over-abundance—of merchandise.

Here we are reminded of the Church in Laodicea, whom the Lord warns: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and

knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17). 7514

(See Seven Letters from Heaven, Item #1081, \$4.50.)



CHINA

Digital Currency New Tool for Global Dominance

Even as China grows in economic and military power, perhaps nothing reveals Beijing’s weaknesses more than the U.S.’s control of the global financial system.

 China has recently sought ways to counteract U.S. sanctions after the Trump administration targeted Chinese officials and companies over policies from the South China Sea to Xinjiang.

The digital yuan appears potentially more geopolitically significant as leverage over multinational companies and governments that want access to China’s 1.4 billion consumers. Since China has the ability to monitor transactions involving the digital currency, it may be easier to retaliate against anyone who rebuffs Beijing on sensitive issues like Taiwan, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

So far China has mostly resisted hitting foreign firms in response to U.S. actions on companies like Huawei, holding off on releasing an “unreliable entity list” designed to punish anyone who damages national security. Any move to cut off access to the digital yuan would carry similarly high stakes, potentially prompting foreign investors to pack up and leave.

China’s ability to see every transaction may make it difficult for foreign banks to use the digital yuan and still comply with confidentiality rules in their home countries, according to Emily Jin, a research assistant at the Center for a New American Security. But, she added, the currency might appeal to some regimes that prioritize control over privacy protection.

Any serious challenge to the dollar’s position as the world’s reserve currency would also require significant policy changes from China, including lifting capital controls that help the Communist Party keep a lid on sudden outflows that could trigger a financial crisis. Even if the



digital yuan could be transacted more cheaply outside of U.S.-controlled global payment systems, it’s unclear if anyone would use it.

China began research on the digital yuan back in 2014, right after the price of Bitcoin surged from \$13.40 to more than \$1,000, raising the risk that digital currencies could impact Beijing’s control of monetary policy. It has begun technical testing with Hong Kong for cross-border payments, and is working with Thailand and the United Arab Emirates on real-time foreign exchange settlements. Authorities are also studying how the digital yuan can be combined with 5G networks and the internet of things.

This kind of research allows China a greater say in how other countries across the globe design digital currencies, particularly when it comes to questions of surveillance, privacy and anonymity, according to Josh Lipsky, director of the Atlantic Council’s GeoEconomics Center.

-finance.yahoo.com, 21 April 2021

Commentary: China is relentless in its pursuit to replace the US dollar. Most experts in this field see little to no chance of that to occur. After all, the Chinese currency only makes up about 2% of global foreign exchange, compared with nearly 60% for the US dollar. However, the potential for a significant increase in usage of Chinese currency, and at the same time, a significant US dollar decrease is not out of the question in the long run.

We learn from Revelation 18 that the end-time system is global. Subsequently, either a global world reserve currency will be established, or other currencies will become on par with the US dollar. Neverthe-

(continued next page)

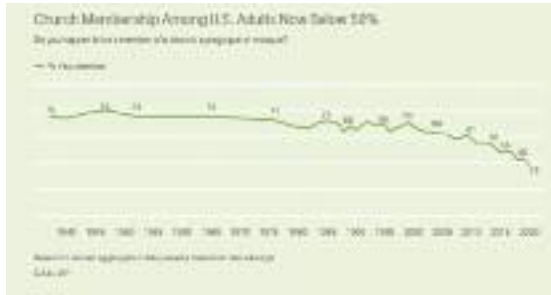
USA

Americans Leaving Religion

Only 47 percent of American adults said they were members of a church, mosque or synagogue, according to recently released polling that was conducted by Gallup throughout last year.

It marked the first time that a majority of Americans said they were not members of a church, mosque or synagogue since Gallup first started asking Americans about their religious membership in the 1930s. Indeed, Gallup’s finding was a kind of watershed moment in the long-chronicled shift of Americans away from organized religion.

What’s driving this shift? In part, it’s about people who still identify with a religious tradition opting not to be a member of a particular congregation. Only 60 percent of Americans who consider themselves religious are part of a congregation, compared to 70 percent a decade ago, according to Gallup. But the bigger factor, Gallup said, is the surge of religiously unaffiliated Americans—people who are agnostics, atheists or simply say they are not affiliated with a religious tradition. The rise of this group—sometimes referred to as “nones” because they answer “none” when asked about their faith (and, you know, it’s a play on words)—isn’t new. But the Gallup sur-



vey is part of a growing body of new research on this bloc (that includes a recent book by [Ryan P. Burge titled] “The Nones: Where They Came From, Who They Are, and Where They Are Going”).

People are leaving mainline Protestant churches and Catholicism in particular.

There are about as many evangelicals (22 percent of American adults), Jewish Americans (2 percent), Black Protestants (6 percent) and members of smaller religions in the U.S. like Islam and Hinduism (6 percent) as there were a decade ago, according to GSS data. It’s really two groups in particular that are declining: mainline Protestants (think Episcopalians or Methodists) and Catholics.

-fivethirtyeight.com, 16 April 2021

Commentary: We have reported on this trend numerous times now. It is important to realize that a decline of people responding “Christian” to a survey is not the same thing as a decline in actual, born-again, believing Christians. It simply shows that unbelievers from a Christian background no longer feel compelled to check the box for Christianity. If we are disheartened by news like this, we must ask ourselves: are we concerned about the loss of influence of cultural Christianity in our society, rather than the individual souls of the lost?

The final paragraph notes, in fact, that the number of evangelicals (admittedly, an imperfect proxy for born-again believers) is steady, and that the decline is mostly seen in the mainline Protestant and Catholic population. Remember, Jesus said, “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). Therefore, let us not worry about demographic changes and the societal influence of nominal Christianity, but concentrate on spreading the Gospel of



Jesus Christ, so that “the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” (Romans 11:25).

(By J. Froese) 7495

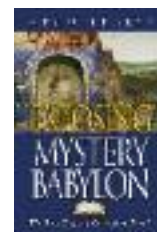
(See *Religion or the Gospel?* Item #9120, \$3 for 100.)

Digital Currency (continued from page 29)

less, in the end, what is written in Revelation 17:12-13 will be fulfilled: “And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Who are these kings? Obviously, they are diabolical entities, because the

next verse clearly identifies them as non-earthly, “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them.” There is no power structure on earth that can challenge the Lamb of God. Why? Because He is not an earthly, physical identity; thus, not subject to physical opposition from planes, guns, bombs, tanks, or even nuclear weapons.

Who is this woman? Revelation 17:18 answers: “And the woman which thou sawest




is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” What is this “great city?” Mystery Babylon. 7502

(See *Exposing Mystery Babylon Part 1*, Item #1078, \$4.50.)

EU

Europe to Become World's Super-Regulator in AI

Most laws are local—except in the digital realm. When the European Union comes up with some new tech regulation, it can quickly spread around the world.

 Global companies adopt its typically strict rules for all their products and markets in order to avoid having to comply with multiple regimes. Other governments take more than one page from the EU's rule book to help local firms compete. The textbook example for what has been dubbed the "Brussels effect," is the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which went into force in 2018 and swiftly became the global standard.

Small wonder, then, that all eyes were on Brussels when the European Commission on April 21st published proposed regulations on artificial intelligence (AI)—making it the first influential regulator to craft a big law on AI. Will these rules be as widely adopted as GDPR?

With little existing legislation on AI to draw on, the commission opted for a bottom-up approach. It created a 52-member "high-level expert group" to develop its proposals, collected further input via an "AI alliance" of interested parties and published a white paper on which everybody could comment online (1,250 groups and individuals did so). The result is a document of more than 100 pages with 85 articles and no fewer than nine annexes that tries both to mitigate the potential harm of AI and to maximize its opportunities—almost to a fault, as the many exceptions and exceptions to exceptions show.

Rather than regulating all applications of AI, the EU's rules are meant to focus on the riskiest ones. Some will be banned outright, including services that use "subliminal techniques" to manipulate people. Others,



such as facial recognition and credit scoring, are considered "high-risk" and so subject to strict rules on transparency and data quality. As with GDPR, penalties for violations are stiff: up to €30m (\$36m) or 6% of global revenues, whichever is higher (in the case of a firm as big as Facebook, for example, that would come to more than \$5bn).

Yet the fate of the "Artificial Intelligence Act" (AIA), as it could end up being called, may well be decided in America. If GDPR took the world by storm, it was partly because Congress not only failed to come up with any data-protection legislation of its own, but also did not bother to co-operate with lawmakers in Brussels. The new administration wants to do better, but so far the transatlantic rapprochement in AI and other things tech is off to a slow start. Only if both sides work together will they beat back China's ambitions for tech supremacy and keep digital authoritarianism at bay.

-*www.economist.com*, 24 April 2021

Commentary: As the article mentions and we have previously reported, the European Union has already become the de facto global regulator in terms of privacy and data protection. They were the first to implement a comprehensive privacy law, which global social media companies and online retailers must comply with for their

European customers. In practice, this often means they are applied across their platforms and thus to everyone worldwide. Incidentally, this has been generally positive for us as individual consumers, albeit a burden for large, multinational companies.

Now the EU is set to take the lead again, this time establishing regulation on artificial intelligence (AI). As we've mentioned before, this is nothing like real human intelligence; it is just a new paradigm for computer programming that—while being substantially more sophisticated and, quite frankly, amazing—still is just a long string of deterministic steps taken by a computer to calculate an answer.

Nevertheless, this demonstrates another step in the inexorable march to globalism, whether it be due to global trade or the inherently global nature of the Internet.

(By J. Froese) 7498

(See *Aftershocks*, Item #2375, \$14.99.)



Visit midnightcall.com/pn

Need More
Up-to-Date
News?



Prophetic News



Sign up for our
FREE Newsletters

Subscribe **FREE** to *Prophetic News*
Prophecy-Related NEWS Emails **5** Times a Week

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
(Psalm 133:1).

BY ARNO FROESE

The Luther Bible titles this three-verse Psalm, “Blessings of Brotherly Unity.” The exact date of the composition of this Psalm seems to be unknown. However, in the context of the previous and following Psalms, it becomes clear that it was the time when the tribes of Israel favored David, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 12. David became the undisputed favorite to be the “captain” for the children of Israel.

The twelve tribes were united under David. “How good and how pleasant it is that brothers dwell together,” says the *Tanakh*. This unity was designated for one people: the children of Israel, whom God led out of bondage from Egypt into the Promised Land.

Let’s go back to the time of Abraham. The Lord had blessed Abram and his nephew Lot. Genesis 13:6 reports: “And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.” How did Abram deal with this conflict? He surely could have requested that his will be done; he was the older one, and he was the one God called. Let’s read verse 8: “And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.”

This unity should also be exemplified within the Church. That’s why Paul admonishes us in 1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together

in the same mind and in the same judgment.” That indeed fulfills our introductory verse: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

This type of spiritual unity is not brought about through an institution, an organization, or a system; it is a reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit within the Church—which, we emphasize, consists only of born-again believers. This unity is preserved by the Lord Himself. The work He has begun in us, He will also complete and perfect in due time.

A recent article by the World Jewish Congress states:

As part of its 16th Plenary Assembly, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) partnered with the Muslim World League (MWL) for a joint Muslim and Jewish celebration of Ramadan. The convening, featuring the MWL Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, WJC President Ronald S. Lauder and over 100 senior Jewish and Muslim community leaders from around the world, demonstrated a shared dedication to global interfaith collaboration and the cultivation of good relations between Muslim and Jewish faith communities.

Lauder opened by citing Psalm 133: “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony.”

He reflected on the significance of building interfaith relations, stating, “Relationships between communities, especially communities of faith, are sadly not always easy to foster and maintain. In fact, we all know that there has been strife among different faiths throughout history.”

Echoing Lauder’s emphasis on interfaith dialogue and cooperation, Al-Issa noted that religion should be used

as a tool to promote peace and unity rather than division: "We know that religion has always been used as an excuse for conflict, or that religions have been used to serve political purposes. I would like to say that this is against the essence of religion because religion promotes peace. I would like to stress that this friendly meeting is an opportunity to promote our common values, our human values."

-www.worldjewishcongress.org, 27 April 2021

We are reminded here of the EU motto, "United in Diversity." That is in the works, and it will come to fruition when religion becomes increasingly political—as politics becomes religion.

Israel's tendency toward unity with the world is self-evident. First Samuel 8 reports that the elders of Israel came with a request to Samuel: "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (verse 5). After hearing warnings enumerated against having a king like the Gentiles, the elders were determined: "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" (verses 19-20). Note the words, "like all the nations."

In modern times, when Israel declared its independence, they appealed to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in building their own state: "to admit Israel into the family of nations."

As of 2020, Israel has diplomatic relations with 164 nations out of 192 members of the UN.

Israel is given to the Church as an example. We are a different nation, with no political attachments; we have no country, no capital city, no government, no military force. We reside on all continents and are present in every nation on the face of the earth. We speak hundreds of different languages, practice diverse cultures, yet we are perfectly one in Jesus Christ our Lord. We are the spiritual habitation of God. The apostle Peter writes: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). When this spiritual house is completed, the Lord our God will take possession of it and remove us from planet earth.

Israel will experience a national rebirth, and then will be fulfilled what was proclaimed by Zechariah the prophet: "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain" (Zechariah 8:3). (MC)

Action for Israel



MIDNIGHT CALL

"I will bless them that
bless thee..."
(Genesis 12:3).

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073

MC0721

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support "Action for Israel."

monthly one time \$_____

Name: _____

With credit card
ready, call:
800-845-2420

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Web:
midnightcall.com/afi



Fellow Laborers



MIDNIGHT CALL



Preach the Word!

BY JONATHAN MALGO

Director of Operations, Midnight Call Ministries International

Dear Friends,

Recently, I read that the word Laodicea (name of a geographical location in the Middle East) can mean, among other things, "People's Rights." Laodicea, the seventh church addressed by the Lord in Revelation (3:14-22), is a picture of how Christianity today busies itself with a variety of social concerns. An amazing amount of energy is spent protecting our Constitutional Rights. It is, of course, good for us as Christians to go out and vote. That is one of our fundamental rights, which we should exercise. But what I am thinking about are protests and demonstrations, organized and carried out in the name of Biblical principles. That is sad, because it expends a great deal of effort and is not our mission: we cannot change the world.

What did Paul write to Timothy? "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus

Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word" (2 Tim 4:1-2a). And that is precisely what we aim to do with our *Midnight Call* magazine: proclaim the Gospel in view of our Lord's soon return.

Today, I want to ask all our readers to support us in that mission. First of all, with prayer, for we do need prayer support as we carry out our work. And secondly, if possible, to win a new reader to the *Midnight Call*. Why that request? Well, not in order to gain a higher number of subscriptions, but simply because we want to convey the following message to many more people: Jesus will return very soon! Let us put all our energy, not into safeguarding our "Rights," but into the privilege of spreading the Gospel.

Heartfelt thanks for all your support.

MC0721

Midnight Call Ministries

PO Box 84309
Lexington, SC 29073

Phone:
1-800-845-2420

Web:
midnightcall.com/mcgift

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION CERTIFICATE

PLEASE ENTER A FREE 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO *Midnight Call*
FOR THE PERSON LISTED BELOW (PAY POSTAGE ONLY, \$9.95; CANADA \$15).

GIFT FOR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

GIFT FROM: _____

MAKE THIS ANONYMOUS

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PAYMENT: CHECK/MONEY ORDER CREDIT CARD

MY CARD #: _____ EXP.: _____

SEC. CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



Midnight Call



Operation “Guardian of the Walls”

By David Phillips *Project Manager*

“When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 20:1).

On 10—21 May 2021, the operation called “Guardian of the Walls” was occurring in Israel.

This conflict, whatever the trigger may have been, has taught us again how sensitive our region here in the Middle East is. From missiles being shot into Israel, to violent demonstrations and riots within the country, we have learned once more of our Heavenly Father’s grace and protection over His children.

Here at the Home, it was like a spiritual battle zone. Many of the elderly found themselves gathering together and praying more intensely “than in normal days.” Although we “only” had 4 rockets fired into our area, about 5 miles away, we have seen very violent riots around the Home during a couple of the days, with the mobs damaging everything that came in their path. The Lord really protected us in a special way. Except for 3 youth who tried to escape the police and climb our fence, we had no harm. We have seen burning tires and trash bins all over the place here in downtown Haifa, but were kept by His grace, with nothing happening to us.

Thank you for your prayers for Israel, the Home, the residents and team. You have been part of the Lord’s protection. We have seen again how true these verses are:

“Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul” (Psalm 121:4-7).

I think you have seen enough pictures and videos on the news, but experiencing it yourself is a completely different thing. This is how many of the residents describe it: some of the Holocaust survivors, and those who have gone through wars here in Israel, feel it and explained that many of the trembling moments of 80+ years ago, of a destroying mob going around in Nazi-occupied Europe, came flooding back. They would look at me and ask, “When will this stop?” The only thing I could do was quote verses from the Bible and encourage them, “Do not be afraid of them, for the Lord God who brought you out of Egypt is with you.”

Right now, all is quiet. The war is over, and we press on. This time of conflict has showed us once more how we desperately need a new, larger Home for those who have no place to stay and be taken care of. Thus, this month’s donations will be dedicated toward the new building.

Thank you for your help, prayers, encouragement and support! All the residents and team greet you.



Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073

MC0721
EH

Yes, I wish to support the Ebenezer Home Project.

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

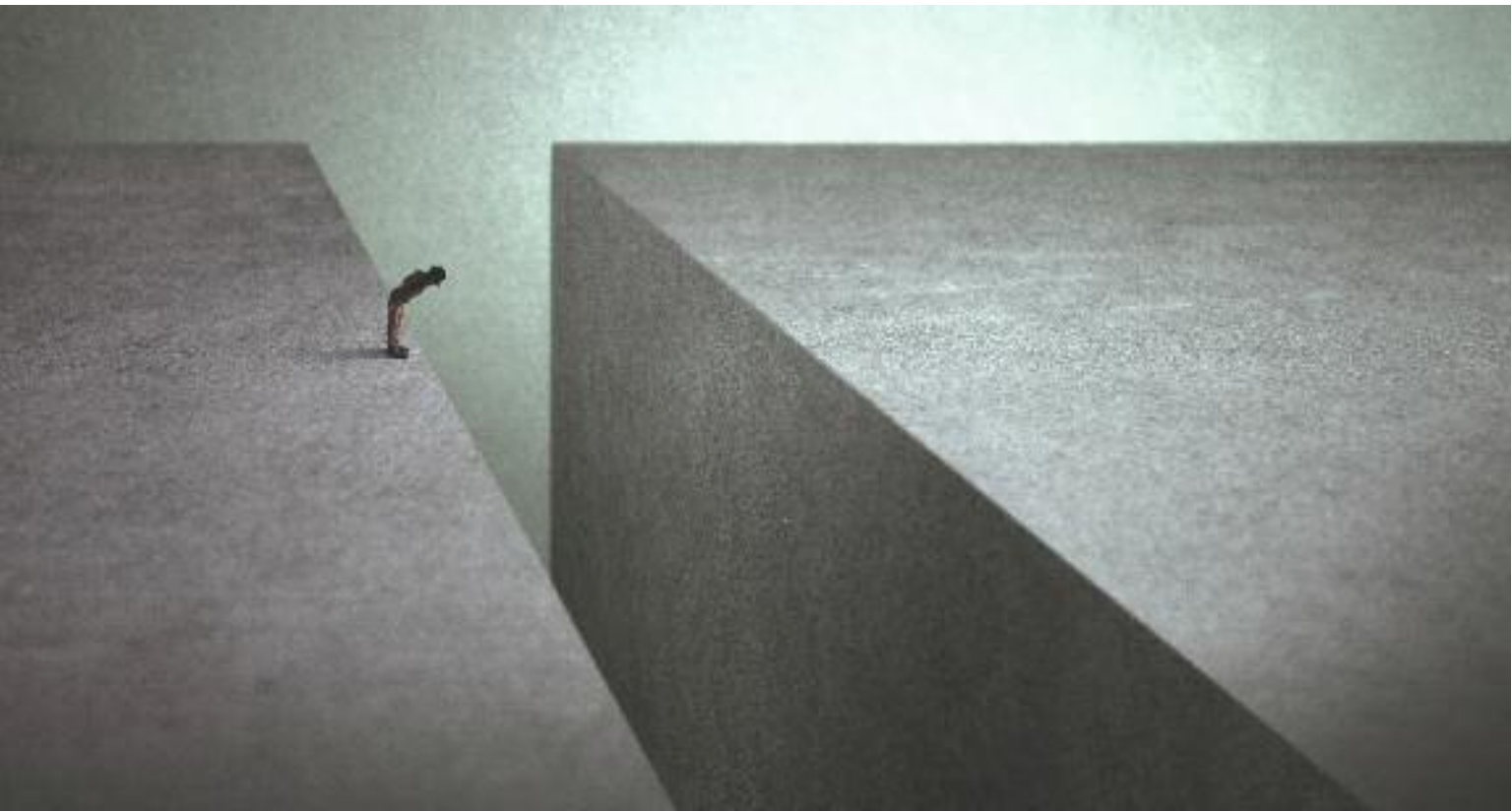
Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Web: midnightcall.com/ebenezer



Covid Anxiety, Climate Panic, and Apocalypse Phobia: Part 2

By Johannes Pflaum

People's growing perplexity in the face of current crises was prophesied by Christ Himself. It is intensifying as His second coming approaches. An investigation.

The labor pains that our Lord speaks of in His end-time discourses will accelerate and grow stronger (cf. Matt 24—25). This also increases fear and helplessness. Events will come that humanity will be utterly helpless to face. But this isn't about nature or Mother Earth ("Gaia") taking revenge on people. The Old Testament prophets and the book of Revelation show us that these occurrences

If we read the book of Revelation, things are going to wind up being completely out of hand politically, economically, and in nature.

originate with God—as a call to conversion for mankind! It’s a wake-up call and an announcement of what’s to come.

The messianic Psalm 2 speaks of the Lord terrifying the nations (v. 5).

Isaiah 2:19 and other passages also mention this. There are pending tremors that will overturn every climate model and forecast. Dangerous viruses, pandemics, and other diseases can also occur completely unexpectedly (cf. Matt 24:7). If we read the book of Revelation, things are going to wind up being completely out of hand politically, economically, and in nature. Humanity will no longer be any match for this. The last world empire of the Antichrist, the supposed problem solver, will also be shaken to its foundations.

Against this backdrop, we read in Luke 21:25-26 of the fear and perplexity of the peoples in the face of the roar of the sea and its waves. The term for waves of water (*salos*) is only found in this one New Testament passage (as are four other terms in these two verses). It describes being tossed back and forth by ocean waves. This could even be fulfilled literally if we just consider the events of Revelation 6—16. But it’s also meant figuratively, showing the complete helplessness of the nations in the end. They will be shaken by the events like floating objects in the sea become the waves’ plaything. Gerhard Maier called it the shaking of the whole system of coexistence between peoples. The fear relates to actual, real events.

There is one more thing to consider. Just think of the already-forgotten topic of swine or avian flu, or currently, the coronavirus. I’m not downplaying these events; each death caused by these viruses is tragic, especially the ones resulting from



Covid-19. The long-term consequences that some are having to bear after surviving the coronavirus can also be dire. However, it should be noted that despite all the hardship and suffering, some of the horrible calculations, death rates, and scenarios never materialized as predicted. Likewise, in the case of swine flu and avian flu, the fear of the threat was far greater than what ultimately happened.

And yet, unfortunately, there still were and are nonsensical speculations and conspiracy theories among some Christians. For example, some are claiming that viruses (or their associated vaccines) are a means of reducing the world’s population and better controlling it. But, I have to mention that not everything branded a “conspiracy theory” by politicians and in the mainstream media actually is one. The club of “conspiracy theories” is unfortunately being used more and more to silence legitimate professional criticism of assessments and measures, particularly during this coronavirus pandemic.



Today, the flood of digital information reinforces the constant fear, horror, and helplessness.

Or consider the subject of ecological collapse.

In the spring of 2007, a secret climate report hit the press, according to which we only had 13 years until collapse. Those 13 years expired nearly a year and a half ago (at the end of February 2020). Even if ecological problems increase and the forces of nature falter, we know for sure from the Bible that there will be no global climate collapse. This is our consolation and our confidence, especially in view of Covid anxiety and climate panic!

Let's also remember the fear of a global nuclear war of annihilation during the Cold War. In some global political situations of the time, we came close to initiating a nuclear war (although the public only learned this in retrospect). But it never got that far. Today, the flood of digital information reinforces the constant fear, horror, and helplessness—whether or not the thing we fear actually happens. We see both: on the one hand, there is fear and impotence in the face of actual events that are increasingly shaking the nations, and Jesus' second coming draws closer. But on the other hand, there is also fear and shock over scenarios that never actually occur.

The cosmic terrors of which Christ speaks in Luke 21:25ff., in which everything slips away from humanity and fear and horror spread, are not the end. They're only the preface to a mighty event: Jesus'

visible return to this earth in power and glory. Yes, even we Bible-believing Christians can get scared sometimes, but we are walking toward the “great light” at the end of the tunnel. And we are walking in the knowledge that, at no time does Christ lose control of these frightful events. All the contractions that are shaking mankind in the end, creating fear and terror, are heralding Jesus' second coming. After all the darkness of world history, His bright day will come. That is the only hope we have for our planet and for humanity.

Theologian Adolf Schlatter wrote: “The sea serves as a herald of the coming judgment with a mighty roar. But the peoples do not know what this roaring means, what it proclaims as it resounds over the earth. They only feel the majesty and dreadfulness of what is now approaching, but they do not know who is coming.”

Jesus Christ is coming again. He will put an end to all hardship, all the misery caused by sin and darkness. But He is also coming to judge a human race that remains hostile to God—hence, the pains and fears that precede His second coming (cf. Rev 6). If we were aware of this, the tremors and the associated fear would be an incentive for us: an incentive to pray that people will be saved and come to know Christ as their Savior; a driving force to bear witness to the gospel and support the spread of the Good News. We don't have to get carried away by fear of the end of the world, like humanity detached from God. But we also don't need to gloss over or downplay anything. Rather, in the midst of the age of fear, we should bear testimony of the living hope we possess. We should recognize these possibilities and

Our fleeting earth hasn't had its best days since the Fall, but they're still to come.



take advantage of them. Just as the Apostle Peter wrote to the churches, "...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pet 3:15, KJV).

Let's be a testimony in word and in deed.

Let's meet people in love and help them in very practical ways, when everyone else is just looking out for themselves. Not with our heads in the clouds, thinking that everything will get better, and we can create the visible kingdom of God. But to be a sign of hope for what will come with Jesus' return. The fear, anxiety, and helplessness that is surrounding us, should also encourage us to direct our lives toward the goal, toward the coming of our Lord. As followers of Jesus, we are also in danger of being gripped by the climate of fear and despair, of losing ourselves in things that are temporary.

A Christian's path through this world can be very rocky and steep, but that's never the final word. In the end, neither despair nor an imaginary, terrestrial "happy ending" awaits us, but perfection and visible communion with Jesus. Saved people, real Christians, never have their best days behind them, but before them—even if their

path goes through the dark valley of tears and the shadow of death first. Our fleeting earth hasn't had its best days since the Fall, but they're still to come. This best time, the millennial kingdom, will begin tangibly with Jesus' return and the associated judgment of humanity.

I'd like to close with verses from a song:

Jesus is coming! O sing the glad word!
Coming for those He redeemed by His blood,
Coming to reign as the glorified Lord!
Jesus is coming again!

Jesus is coming! The dead shall arise,
Loved ones shall meet in a joyful surprise,
Caught up together to Him in the skies
Jesus is coming again!

Jesus is coming! His saints to release;
Coming to give to the warring earth peace:
Sinning and sighing, and sorrow shall cease.
Jesus is coming again.

Jesus is coming! The promise is true;
Who are the chosen, the faithful, the few,
Waiting and watching, prepared for review?
Jesus is coming again!

-D. W. Whittle

(MR0321/1147)



Address letters for publication to: Letters to the Editor, Midnight Call, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073. Include full name, address, and daytime phone number or email. Without name and address, letters will be discarded unread. All material is subject to editing. Midnight Call assumes all publishing rights on letters sent to the Editor.

Note: All letters will be answered by the Executive Editor, Arno Froese.

OLIGARCH BILLIONAIRES... JERUSALEM TRODDEN DOWN... JESUS MOVIES

Oligarch Billionaires

Dear Arno Froese,

I was disappointed by your answer to L. Tallman in the May "Letters to the Editor." *The Epoch Times* is not a conspiracy theory newspaper publication. Your homework should be to stick to the Bible.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and his father's affiliation to the now-named (un)Planned Parenthood have not been researched. Neither has research been accomplished as to oligarch billionaires, i.e. global financial wizards: Bezos (Amazon), Musk (Tesla), Gates (Microsoft), Zuckerberg (Facebook), and Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway). These people, plus others around the globe, are involved in robotics, AI, solar and electrical power, medical maneuvering, and more. Their financial gains from the "pandemic" have placed them over the top.

-S. Suran, PA

Answer: You instruct me to "stick to the Bible," yet you mentioned several famous CEOs who "are involved in robotics, AI, solar and electrical power, medical maneuvering, and more." Actually, that's what multiple million scientists and engineers are involved in around the globe.

Here is my homework: "the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19b). We live "in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" (Philippians 2:15). As Christians, we pray "that he might deliver us from this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). What the world does or does not do; what mighty men or political leaders are involved in, is secondary—of little to no interest to the true Church of Jesus Christ. It is for that reason that I kindly decline your request to do research on the various names listed.

Incidentally, the owners of *The Epoch Times* are involved at the highest levels of the Chinese cult Falun Gong, a spiritual movement combining Buddhism and Taoism to harness cosmic energy, according to Wikipedia.

Jerusalem Trodden Down

Dear Editor,

Greetings in the name above all names, Yahshua. In the April "World Focus," "Face-mask Skepticism Fades," your commentary states, "The Church...will be taken out of the way when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." Don't you think this is the same time that Romans 11:25 is talking about? Is it not the same time that Yahshua told us about in Luke 21:24? And if it is, then what about what hap-



pened on June 7, 1967? For that is when Yahualem was taken out of Gentile hands.

I believe we are now in a transition stage, much like the time when Yahshua was declared to be the Messiyah by the Kodesh Spirit in Simeon, in the Temple in Yahualem. And we all know what happened to the Temple and the House of Yahdah 70 years hence.

-J. Dunkelberger, PA

Answer: Jerusalem is still subject to the Gentiles. Where once the temple stood, there is the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. On 7 July 1967, Israel captured Jerusalem, but until this day the city is still “trodden down of the Gentiles.”

We are not required to use a specific language. That was made clear in Acts 2, when Jews from 16 different areas came and heard the Gospel preached in their own language. That means Hebrew is not required, but all languages on planet earth are acceptable.

Jesus Movies

Brother Froese,

I was wondering what your favorite movie about Jesus Christ is. I realize that the movie industry and Hollywood in general is a haunt of demons and cage of every unclean bird (Rev. 18:2). However, I value your opinion and that of your staff, as shepherds of the flock.

I thought *Jesus of Nazareth* (1977) had an authentic feel of time and place. In *Passion of the Christ* (2004), the portrayal of Satan’s rage after the crucifixion was theologically perfect. The raising of Lazarus from the dead in *The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965) was a scene worth dying for (no pun intended). *The Gospel of John* (2003) used the Bible word for word as its script. Hard to mess that up!

Anyway, your thoughts, sir. Thank you.

-M. Hoxmeier, CA

Answer: I cannot recall ever watching a movie about our Lord. If my memory serves me correctly, the last time I went to see a movie with my wife in a theater must have

been over 40 years or more ago. I think it was *Fiddler on the Roof*, which was quite interesting because we could identify with the story, being refugees ourselves.

Requirements to Be Saved

Our community home has reopened the door for Sunday church services, and I have been asked if I would conduct one of the services.

May I ask your response and advice that will assist me in my given topic, “What Does Christ Require of Us to Fully Gain His Acceptance?”

According to Scripture, we know that baptism is a must (Mark 16:16). Christ Himself was baptized by John the Baptist to fulfill all righteousness.

Secondly, we know that Christ met with His apostles in the Upper Room and presented the sacrament (Matthew 3:16; 28:19; Mark 1:8; 16:16) for His body and blood.

May I ask for your thoughtful response as to what is required by Christ to gain full salvation.

-S. Bennett, WA

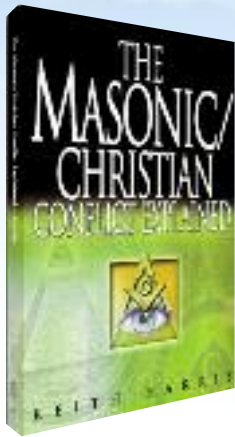
Answer: The answer is in John 3:15-16 and 36. Believing is the key.

Mark 16:16a: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” does not mean water baptism. The next sentence makes it clear: “but he that believeth not shall be damned.” No mention of baptism. The thief on the cross was saved without water baptism.

We do not attach sacramental value to water baptism. Innumerable souls have broken through to a living faith in Jesus—being born again of His Spirit—but have never been baptized by immersion.

This also applies to the Lord’s Supper; it is an example, and not a sacrament. In John 6:53, Jesus says: “Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.” That would be cannibalism—totally forbidden in Scripture. Thus, we must read verse 63 as the answer: “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” It’s a spiritual matter, not flesh and blood. (MC)

Midnight Call's July Resource Guide



Biblical Analysis of a Controversial Subject

THE MASONIC/CHRISTIAN CONFLICT EXPLAINED
ITEM #1058 • 176 pgs.
Paperback

~~\$12~~
Clearance \$3

Author: Keith Harris

Soothing Piano Hymns



Pat Frazier's *Windows of Worship* piano medleys will stir your soul as you hear the old-fashioned, greatly beloved and enduring hymns of times past.

WINDOWS OF WORSHIP
ITEM #9062 CD • 46 min.

~~\$14.95~~
Clearance \$4



When God Is Silent...

Have you ever felt that, because your prayers were not immediately answered, God was disregarding you?

You are about to enter the lives of many great men of God who made requests of the Lord, petitions God chose to deny for His reasons, His purpose, and ultimately His glory.

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR NOT ANSWERING MY PRAYER ITEM #1047

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$12.99~~ **Clearance \$3**

Authors: Arno Froese & Dieter Steiger



The Key to Revival

Revival will take place in our lives, families, churches and the world when we pray honestly and with a complete dedication. Chapters include:

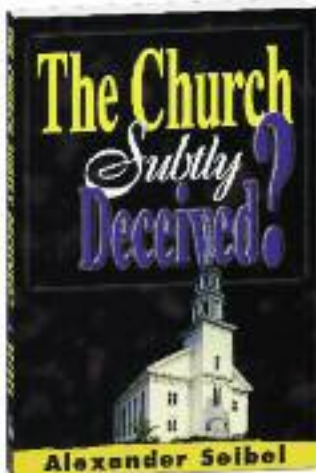
- Pathway To Revival
- What Is Our Calling?
- The Importance Of Giving Thanks
- And Much More

PRAYER AND REVIVAL ITEM #1002

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$10.99~~ **Clearance \$2**

Author: Dr. Wim Malgo



Signs and Wonders Today?

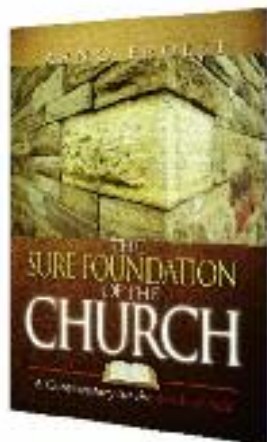
THE CHURCH SUBTLY DECEIVED?

ITEM #2091 • 128 pgs.

Paperback

~~\$9.99~~
Clearance \$4

Author: Alexander Seibel



A refreshingly different view of the book of Acts!

THE SURE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH ITEM #1066

544 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$18.50~~
Clearance \$6

Author: Arno Froese



Understand the Battle Before You Enter It

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE END TIMES ITEM #2370

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~
Sale \$12

Author: Ron Rhodes



Scripture-Based Knowledge About the End Times

- In what basic order will the end times unfold?
- How do we know Jesus is literally returning to earth?
- How should Christians live if Jesus might return any day now?

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE END TIMES ITEM #2371

64 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5**

Authors: Jeff Kinley and Todd Hampson



Everything you need to know about fighting—and winning—your spiritual battles

Discern between cultural myths and biblical facts about the supernatural.

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE ITEM #2368 • 224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$17.99~~ **Sale \$14** Author: Todd Hampson



Everything You Wanted to Understand About the Book of Revelation Explained

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION ITEM #2361

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$16.99~~
Sale \$12

Author: Todd Hampson

midnightcall.com/specials
Sign up for FREE weekly special offer emails.



I Believe Jesus Will Return... What More Do I Need to Know?

Combines engaging illustrations with down-to-earth explanations to help you navigate the ins and outs of Bible prophecy.

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO THE END TIMES ITEM #2353

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$16.99~~ **Sale \$12** Author: Todd Hampson



New to Our Ministry



The answer to life's most important question

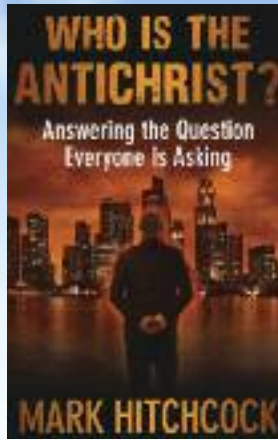
Every thinking person must wonder where they will go when they die and where they will spend eternity. What will be your final destiny? This booklet will help you find out. Read it carefully. It could change your life and your destiny—forever.

FINAL DESTINY ITEM #2377

32 pgs. • Full-color Booklet

~~\$5.95~~ Sale \$4

Author: William MacDonald



The Antichrist Explained

Where will the antichrist come from? How will he rise to power? Will we know who he is before the rapture occurs? Using an easy-to-follow Q&A format, Hitchcock separates biblical fact from human speculation as he takes you on a fascinating tour of Scripture verses about the antichrist—and applies them to life in today's world.

WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?

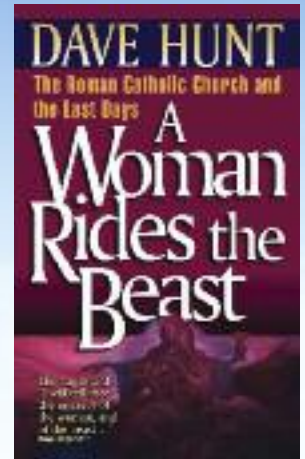
ITEM #2254

200 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~

Sale \$10

Author: Mark Hitchcock



Are you missing half the story about the last days?

A WOMAN RIDES THE

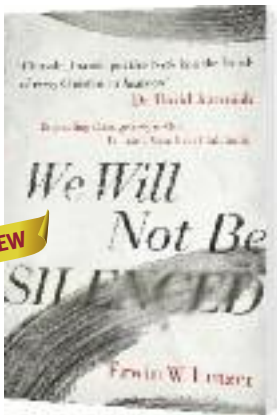
BEAST ITEM #2296

580 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$17.99~~

Sale \$14

Author: Dave Hunt



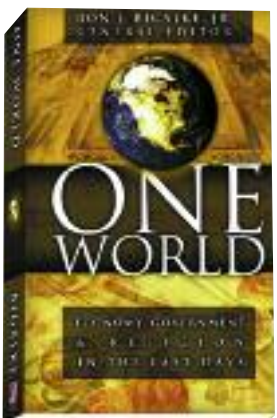
How can you not only stay rooted in your faith but also continue to publicly testify for Jesus?

We Will Not Be Silenced will ready you to move beyond fear and boldly accept the challenge of representing Christ to a watching world that needs Him now more than ever before.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED ITEM #2372

288 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$17.99~~ Sale \$14 Author: Erwin W. Lutzer



Economy, Government, and Religion in the Last Days

ONE WORLD ITEM #2203

520 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~ Sale \$12

Editor: Ron J. Bigalke



Understand the depth of Scripture that speaks of HELL more than HEAVEN.

HELL IS FOR REAL ITEM #2291

171 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$12.99~~ Sale \$10

Author: Gary Frazier



Rethinking Commonly Misused Bible Verses

Does it ever feel as though Bible verses have been repeated so often they have lost their meaning? Like a game of Bible Mad Libs where bits and pieces of Scripture are pulled and patched together to fit a fill-in-the-blank narrative that strays from what God *really* said?

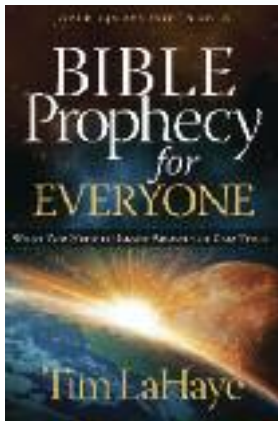
Misquoted dives into the most commonly misused verses from the Bible—verses that are well worth reclaiming because of the significant impact they can have on your life. You will discover that Scripture, when you consider the context...

**is not all about us, but Christ and the forgiveness of our sins
is an ever-flowing fountain of true hope and lasting comfort
is not all that mysterious, but when properly understood, has real life-changing power**

MISQUOTED ITEM #2360

208 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$10** Author: Dan Suelzle



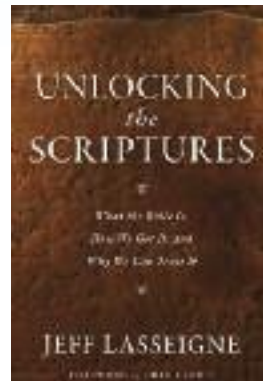
You can understand Bible prophecy!

BIBLE PROPHECY FOR EVERYONE ITEM #2305

248 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~
Sale \$10

Author: Tim LaHaye



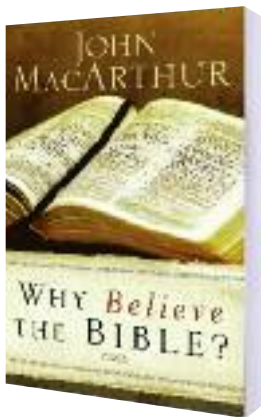
Discover the Origins and History of the Holy Scriptures

UNLOCKING THE SCRIPTURES ITEM #2315

320 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$16.99~~ **Sale \$14**

Author: Jeff Lasseigne



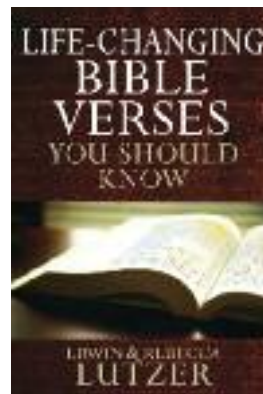
Is the Bible the Word of God? Can we prove the Bible is true?

WHY BELIEVE THE BIBLE? ITEM #2292

206 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14~~ **Sale \$10**

Author: John MacArthur



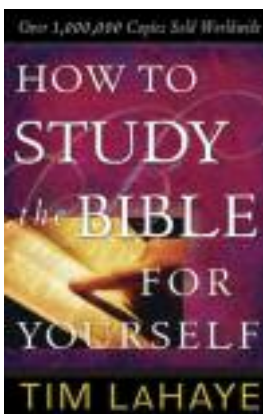
Unleashing the Power of God's Word in Your Life

LIFE-CHANGING BIBLE VERSES YOU SHOULD KNOW ITEM #2299

200 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$10**

Authors: Erwin W. Lutzer and Rebecca Lutzer



Making God's Word Your Own

Bestselling author Tim LaHaye was a nationally recognized Bible teacher who wanted each reader to know that the Bible was written for them—they need not rely on scholars and teachers to interpret it. In this 30th anniversary edition of his bestselling *How to Study the Bible for Yourself* (more than 850,000 copies sold) readers will discover how to:

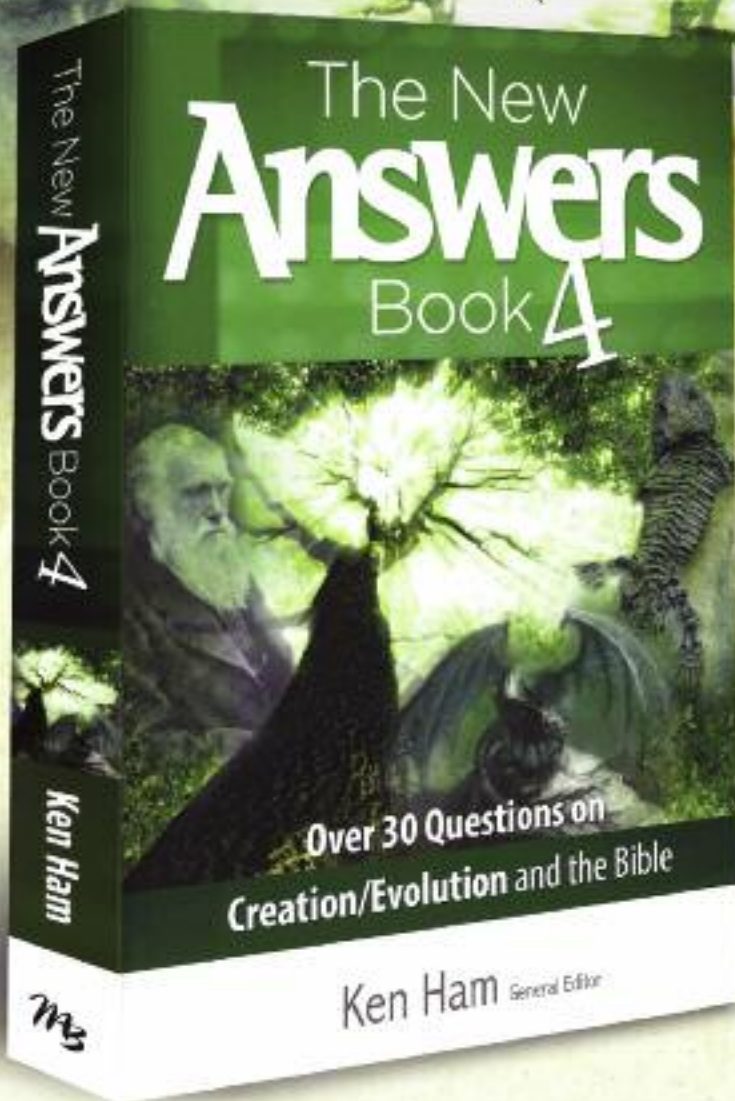
- locate the Bible's major principles, promises, and commands
- understand key verses and themes
- achieve an enriching, lifelong habit of Bible study

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF ITEM #2308

~~\$13.99~~ **Sale \$10** Author: Tim LaHaye • 192 pgs. • Paperback

Cavemen...Really? Was Charles Darwin a Christian?

Dragons... Were They Real?



You, your family, and your church can be prepared to answer the questions of friends, and skeptics, and to defend against the prevalent humanist culture that is invading our schools, government, and even the Christian community.

From the lies of evolution to genetic engineering, this powerful team of apologists will inspire you, and give you answers about:

- The truth concerning climate change
- How the Ark could survive all the tsunamis, storms, and upheavals during the Flood
- Evolution being the bloodiest religion ever
- The best evidences for a young creation
- Tactics of new atheists
- The intelligence of ancient man
- Whether there are transitional fossils in the fossil record
- New genetically-modified organisms
- Whether dragons were real

Many have walked away from their faith because they sought answers for what seemed a contradiction in Christian belief and scientific teaching. For those who desire a deeper walk and thriving faith in the face of growing cultural adversity, here is a book to spur the heart and mind to give glory to God.

THE NEW ANSWERS BOOK 4 ITEM #2280

410 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12** Editor: Ken Ham

THE NEW ANSWERS BOOK 3 ITEM #2247

384 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12** Editor: Ken Ham

THE NEW ANSWERS BOOK 2 ITEM #2240

380 pgs. • Paperback

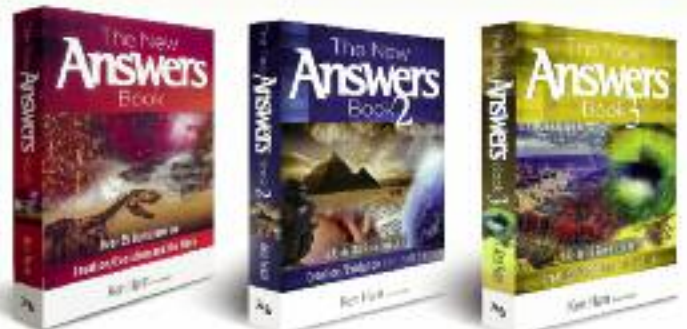
~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12** Editor: Ken Ham

THE NEW ANSWERS BOOK 1 ITEM #2232

384 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12** Editor: Ken Ham

The New Answers Books 1, 2 and 3 will complete your Answers Series collection. They hold over ninety faith-affirming answers to some of the most challenging questions about faith, science, and the Bible!



PO Box 84309 • Lexington, SC 29073
midnightcall.com/store
with Visa/Master/Discover/Amex call TOLL FREE
1-800-845-2420 (8-5 EST, M-F)

Visa Master Discover Amex Check/Money Order

Card#: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

St/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Credit card orders call 800-845-2420. Send check or money order to:
Midnight Call Ministries • PO Box 84309 • Lexington, SC 29073
Online: midnightcall.com/store

ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY.	COST	TOTAL
* Large items marked with star require \$30 per item surcharge when sent outside USA.		Flat Rate Shipping Cost US Addresses \$4.95 USA Priority \$10.95 Canada \$15 All Other Countries \$25		Total for Order S&H (see box, left) Extra Gift to MC Total Enclosed

A Christian's Guide to the World's Most Prominent Religions

Meeting people from other religions is an incredible blessing and a unique challenge. As Christians, what do we need to know about their beliefs to effectively interact with them? And how can we share about Jesus with sensitivity for someone's relationship to their current faith?

A compilation from some of today's top religion scholars, *The Popular Handbook of World Religions* is a clear and insightful guide to understanding and conversing with followers of the world's major belief systems. You will...

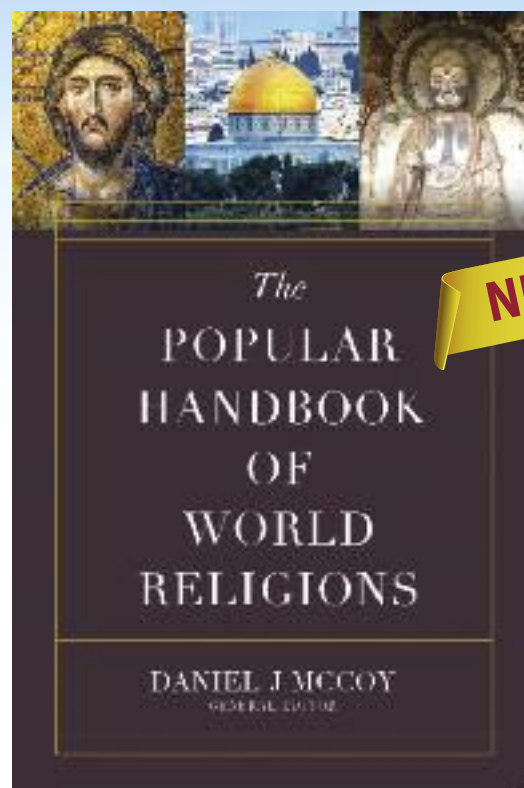
- gain a balanced, nuanced comprehension of what followers of other religions believe, and see how those beliefs compare with those of Christianity
- develop deeper respect for different cultures and appreciate their unique traditions and ideas
- learn how to share about Christ with true compassion and a recognition of other people's individuality and heritage

THE POPULAR HANDBOOK OF WORLD RELIGIONS

ITEM #2380 • 448 pgs. • Paperback

\$24.99 New

Editor: Daniel J. McCoy



Your Subscription

Important Notice

When phoning our office (800-845-2420 or 803-755-0733), please note that we have limited staff answering the phone Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm Eastern Time. If someone has stepped away from the desk or is on another line, your call may not be answered. Please just try again in 15-20 minutes. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Clear Answers to Complex Questions

In a field often clouded by confusion and sensationalism, keeping track of what the Bible says about the end times can be challenging even for seasoned believers. That's why the bestselling authors behind the *Prophecy Pros Podcast* are here to bring you a comprehensive and user-friendly guide to the most need-to-know facts about what is to come.

Packed with charts, timelines, and infographics, *The Prophecy Pros' Illustrated Guide to Tough Questions About the End Times* delivers speculation-free, biblically sourced answers to your questions on one of the Bible's most significant topics. You'll learn about imminent events like the rapture, Jesus' second coming, and life in heaven, while understanding exactly what Bible prophecy is, where it's found in Scripture, and why Christians should study it.

As you grow in your understanding of God's plans for history still-to-come, your trust in Him will be transformed. Whether you're new to your faith or a longtime student of Bible prophecy, this approachable handbook will provide helpful, straightforward answers to your queries and concerns about the end times, inspiring you to face the future with confidence!

THE PROPHECY PROS' ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE END TIMES

ITEM #2379 • 208 pgs. • Paperback

\$17.99 New

Authors: Jeff Kinley and Todd Hampson

