

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

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Five Indications of the Return of Jesus

From Ex Nihilo to Hedonistic Nihilism – Part 1
P. 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Timely Tracts for Gospel Outreach



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By Norbert Lieth

When Jesus returns for the resurrection of the dead and the Rapture of the living church, eternal life becomes real. Everyone who believes in Jesus already has it, but it isn't yet visible. We should prove our love by constantly awaiting Jesus' return.



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Things Must Change



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

There are plenty of good New Year's resolutions, especially considering everything that has gone wrong in the past. Recently, a friend of mine asked me about what was, or still is, the greatest danger in the time of corona. And then he immediately gave the answer himself: "That of all people, Christians quarrel with one another in such a heated way." Yes, in many respects believers have failed at being a good witness for Christ. The vaccinated complained about the unvaccinated, and vice versa. If one wrote an article to express his opinion, it didn't take long before a counter article appeared. Instead of simply leaving the other person and his viewpoint alone, everything had to be countered. Names were mentioned, assertions were made. Knives were sharpened, and precious time was lost in the corona-war. Christians who used to write and speak about edifying subjects, who evangelized and furthered the church, appear to have exchanged the shoes of "the gospel of peace" (Eph 6:15) for combat boots. People talked behind others' backs, gossiped, and made disparaging remarks. At times, it even came to church division.

So you will understand me correctly, not everything was bad. After all, one is allowed to voice criticism, to warn, and to communicate important and needed information. But it must be done with brotherly love and respect. Thus, I am not just concerned with the corona period: in general and in any sphere, unkind talk and unspiritual behavior is an issue. Every congregation, every home, every relationship is negatively affected by it...and that must change! While saying this, I also point the finger at myself.

Again and again in countless Biblical passages, the apostles call for unity. They warn against the spirit of strife and division, and urge one to practice active love. Why? Because they know about the great danger. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil 4:8). Once I read an apt saying: "People only hear half; of that they understand a quarter, and then gossip twice as much." A Bible verse makes a fine point about this: "Thou shalt hide them in

the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues" (Psalm 31:20).

One of the most successful and powerful weapons of the coming Antichrist (the beast arising out of the sea) will be his mouth (Rev 13:5-6). Convincing propaganda has always been able to achieve a lot. All evil and hurtful talk about others is destructive and Antichrist-like. James warns about the tongue, which is a small part of the body but can bring about terrible things. If a man can't restrain his tongue, his worship is in vain. The tongue is "a world of iniquity" and "defileth the whole body" (James 1:26; 3:5-6).

David suffered greatly due to the evil tongue of others, who attacked and maligned him. He spoke about this in Psalm 52:2-4: "The tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue." Without our being aware of it, our tongue can be provoked by hell or by heaven. Which do we choose for the year 2022?

Wishing you a richly blessed and edifying New Year! (MC)

Note: We are pleased to offer a larger typeset beginning this issue, after multiple requests from readers.

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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 com-

ing, 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 there-

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-tribulational 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.

Five Indications of the Return of Jesus



Norbert Lieth

The Holy Scriptures are full of references to Jesus' return. Five of them are found in Jude. Read here what they mean for redemptive and world history, and for our own lives.

One Bible lexicon says, "The theme of the Messiah's return occupies the broadest part of the New Testament." The Epistle of Jude deals with it in great detail, and Christ's return should also occupy a great deal of space in our hearts.

I once heard a Bible teacher say during a lecture that, in his opinion, every preacher of the

Word should be obligated to speak about Jesus' return 10-15 times a year, since this topic is so frequent in the Bible.

1. The Expression "Last Time." "How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts" (Jude 18). The entire church age (the time since

Jesus first came to earth or since Pentecost) is, in a general sense, the end time:

- “Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor 10:11).

- “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Heb 1:1-2).

- “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (1 Pet 4:7).

- “Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days” (James 5:3).

- “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Pet 1:20).

But there is also an end time in the narrower sense, an imminent end time. This relates to the establishment of the nation of Israel. For the Jews, the “last days” mean the time of the appearance of the Messiah in glory: “...in the latter days ye shall consider it. At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest” (Jer 30:24—31:2; cf. Gen 49:1, 10; Num 24:14; Jer 33:7-8, 14-15; Dan 7 et

al.). At the end of days, the Jewish people who have escaped the sword (Holocaust) will find mercy after a long period of global dispersal and persecution. They will rebuild their devastated home (cf. Ezek 36:33-36). They will ultimately be brought to rest in the messianic kingdom through these events (cf. Heb 4:8-9). In other words, Israel will be gathered in unbelief first, and then later led to faith (cf. Jer 33:7-8; Ezek 37; Hos 3:4-5; Zeph 2:1-3).

Israel’s physical restoration (literally a Jewish state in Jewish land) is a sign for the nations. They would do well to discern this and fear God instead of taking action against Israel: “And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isa 11:12). And, “Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock” (Jer 31:10).

The return of the Jews into their own land means:

- The preface to final, end-time events.
- The fulfillment of God’s prophetic Word.
- Preparing the way for the Tribulation, the 144,000 who are sealed (cf. Rev 7), the two witnesses (cf. Rev 11), the two anti-Christian beasts (cf. Rev 13), and the return of Jesus in glory (cf. Matt 24).

- Repentance: they will see whom they have pierced and repent (cf. Zech 12:10; Isa 53; Dan 9). When Jesus returns, the last Jews will also be led by angels back into the land of the patriarchs (cf. Matt 24:31).

Five Indications of the Return of Jesus

“Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”



At the time of Jesus' return, conditions must be similar to those of His previous ascension: Jews have a geographical home (the nation of Israel), and Jerusalem is in Jewish hands. Some Israelis are committed to building a temple.

At the “end of the end time,” there will be more mockers walking according to their godless desires. The things that are holy and true will be scoffed at and dragged through the mud worldwide.

2. The Archangel Michael. “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee” (Jude 9).

Michael is the angel who exclusively takes Israel's side: “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings

of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days...But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince...And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan 10:13-14, 21; 12:1; cf. Matt 24:21).

Seen in this light, it's interesting that the archangel Michael is mentioned again in the Epistle of Jude, and later in Revelation 12. There is certainly a deeper reason. Finally, Jude describes the end times (a time when Israel exists as a nation once more). Michael will probably be active in the Rapture of the church: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thess 4:16). There is only one archangel named in the Bible: Michael. So, it is possible that he will raise his voice during the Rapture. From that moment on, he will again vouch for Israel, which must go through the Tribulation: “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their

Enoch was the first person to be raptured—before the Flood—because he was walking with God (cf. Gen 5:24).



place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night (Rev 12:7-10). The church of Jesus, though, will be in heaven before the Tribulation period begins: “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the

earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev 12:12).

The reference to Michael in the Epistle of Jude, could therefore indicate that the end times mentioned there coincide with the return of the Jews to the land of their fathers. The Jews in Israel form a people who will experience the return of its Messiah: “Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come... This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD” (Ps 102:13, 18). The Lord’s people are very dear to Him because He has called them back into His plan for the end time. Shouldn’t we also have this people in our hearts? After all, Jesus Himself is a Jew.

“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel” (2 Tim 2:8).

3. Enoch. “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints” (Jude 14).

Enoch was the first person to be raptured—before the Flood—because he was walking with God (cf. Gen 5:24). He is a likeness of the true church of Jesus, who follow the Lord and will be caught up. Noah, on the other hand, represents Israel, which will be saved through the “Great Flood” of the Tribulation. The myriads

Five Indications of the Return of Jesus

Israel's physical restoration is a sign for the nations. They would do well to discern this and fear God instead of taking action against Israel: "And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isa 11:12).

depict, among other things, the raptured believers who will return to earth with the Lord for judgment. Read the following Bible verses as well:

- "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory" (Col 3:4).

- "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints" (1 Thess 3:13).

- "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (2 Thess 1:7).

- "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place" (Ps 68:17).

- "And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee" (Zech 14:5).

- "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Rev 19:11, 14).

Enoch lived shortly before the Great Flood, and was the first to foresee Jesus' return. His son Methuselah died in the year of the Flood. Why hadn't Enoch been commissioned to preach about the coming Flood? Enoch looked even further, to the most important of all goals: the return of Jesus for the establishment of His kingdom. The Lord's return will end all judgments and disasters, and achieve God's kingdom of peace. God's goal isn't the world's downfall, but His Son's kingdom.

4. Expectation. "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21).

When Jesus returns for the resurrection of the dead and the Rapture of the living church, eternal life becomes real. Everyone who believes in Jesus already has it, but it isn't yet visible. We should prove our love by constantly awaiting Jesus' return. This kind of attitude always has practical implications for our earthly life. The young church in Thessalonica is also praised, because it was strongly focused on Jesus' return: "For they themselves show of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus,

which delivered us from the wrath to come” (1 Thess 1:9-10).

Likewise, James underscores the importance of waiting for Jesus’ return: “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door” (James 5:7-9).

And John writes, “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev 3:10). Steadfast persistence means constantly, patiently waiting for Jesus’ return. The Christian Standard Bible translates this verse as follows: “Because you have kept my command to endure, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is going to come on the whole world to test those who live on the earth.”

Enoch describes Jesus’ return with His own as if it had already happened—in the present tense: “...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” (Jude 14-15). We should anticipate the Lord as vividly as if He were coming today!

Some time ago, I met a Christian brother who works in real estate. He once had a job in an upscale hotel in southern Germany. He noticed that the top three floors were restricted and guarded by security personnel. The hotel belongs to an Arab sheikh, and the upper floors are reserved for him. And not only that, but the sheikh’s living quarters are always kept meticulously clean. Every day the tables are set and then cleared, fresh fruit is put out, the lawn is manicured, etc., even though the sheikh only comes around once every few years. But in case he were to suddenly arrive with his friends, everything needs to be ready. And this is by no means an isolated case; sheikhs had bought numerous properties in the mountains, and the same procedures apply to them as well.

C. S. Lewis wrote the following about the hope of Christians for the world to come, which directly relates to Jesus’ return:

“Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Chris-

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“All the scriptural imagery (harps, crowns, gold, etc.) is, of course, a merely symbolical attempt to express the inexpressible. Musical instruments are mentioned because for many people (not all) music is the thing known in the present life which most strongly suggests ecstasy and infinity.” – C. S. Lewis



tians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

“Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither...”

“There is no need to be worried by facetious people who try to make the Christian hope of ‘Heaven’ ridiculous by saying they do not want ‘to spend eternity playing harps.’ The answer to such people is that if they cannot understand books written for grown-ups, they should not talk about them. All the scriptural imagery (harps, crowns, gold, etc.) is, of course, a merely symbolical attempt to express the inexpressible. Musical instruments are mentioned because for many people (not all) music is the thing known in the present life which most strongly suggests ecstasy and infinity.

“Crowns are mentioned to suggest the fact that those who are united with God in eternity share His splendour and power and joy. Gold is mentioned to suggest the timelessness of Heaven...” (from *Mere Christianity*).

Paul Gerhard Mink poses the question: “Does our heart tremble from joy when we think of that glorious day, or are the Bible verses that tell us of it simply information to us? If we truly believe in Jesus’ return, then we should gladly approach this day, and the belief in this glorious fact must fun-

damentally influence, change, and rule our lives. May the Lord open our eyes and warm our hearts for this wonderful Maranatha message, because “Maranatha” means, ‘Our Lord is coming!’ (1 Cor 16:22).”

Psalm 98 gives us an interesting sequence of events that leads to the return of Jesus:

- Verse 1 = The first coming of Jesus and His victory on Calvary: “O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.”

- Verse 2a = The spread of the Gospel: “The LORD hath made known his salvation...”

- Verse 2b = The formation of the church from the nations: “...his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.”

- Verse 3 = The restoration of Israel: “He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.”

- Verse 9 = The Lord’s return: “Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.”

5. Preservation. “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you fault-

The church is kept from the hour of the Antichrist, who will tempt the whole world.

less before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 24-25). In parallel, the Apostle Paul writes: “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6). Revelation also speaks of “keeping”: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev 3:10).

The church is kept from the hour of the Antichrist, who will tempt the whole world. The temptation pertains to the first half of Daniel’s 70th week of years (cf. Dan 9:27). Paul writes of this: “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess 2:9-12).

May we preserve the Lord Jesus, His Word, His return, and His people Israel in our hearts! Then He will preserve us through the power of His Word!

What follows is a short, fitting story: “In 1731, 20,000 Protestants were forced to leave the region of Salzburg. They found refuge in

East Prussia. One family left their believing son behind, in the hope that things would change. He read from the old Bible, which he always had to hide. But when he realized that he was being betrayed, he bundled the big Bible into his backpack and fled to his parents. God preserved him throughout his dangerous journey. It was winter, and the snow was meters high. Finally, on Christmas Eve, he came to a place where he was given the last clues for where to find his parents. The wolves were howling in the distance; it was getting dark, and he still hadn’t arrived. He saw a light in the distance, and steered himself in that direction. Then he stumbled and fell into the snow. A huge wolf lunged at him from behind. He cried out; the backpack with the Bible fell over his head, and the young man lost consciousness.

“The light was coming from a Salzburg farm. Christmas Eve was over, but the farmer heard a shout and dashed outside with his shotgun. He saw a wolf pounce on a figure lying in the snow. He struck the animal and dragged the helpless young man into the house. Inside, the mother recognized her son! When they removed his backpack, they noticed that the wolf had sunk his powerful teeth into the hard cover of the Bible.”

The Word of God is our protection. If we live with it and by it; if it is our constant companion; if we put it in the backpack of our life, the enemy will always fail and we will arrive safely home.

(MR0720/1088)



FROM EX NIHILO TO HEDONISTIC NIHILISM – PART 1



We are dealing with the topic of the end time roles of money ... deliberate strategies hatched a long time ago, which carry out the dark intentions of a Conspirator. It is a topic that is not well understood nor acknowledged ... especially so in the prosperous, developed nations.

By **Wilfred Hahn**

As readers of this column will already know, money plays a key and necessary role in the cosmological agenda that is aimed at the entrapment of mankind. The reader therefore understands that were there no such thing as money—in all of its guises, its financial systems and roles—the Conspirator would have little means (possibly none at all in our view) of implementing a scheme that successfully entraps and enlists mankind in his final and great (pre-Millennial) conspiracy to rebel against God.

Critically, mankind's proclivities to worship Mammon instead of God greatly aid the agenda of the Conspirator.

And, by the way, does the reader know that God Himself has designed His Creation in such a way that it enables the universe to choose to rebel? Mankind (and also the angels) is free to make choices and is enabled

to use various means to organize a controlling, universe-wide insurrection against God.

Very few recognize that there are malign spirits behind Money (Mammon).

As such, Mammon (Money) has a metaphysical and spiritual dimension. (That is why we always capitalize its names. A number of Bible translations use the terms Money and Mammon.)

In conclusion, Money is grossly misunderstood in our societies today. This may be even more so the case in nations that have had Christian influence.

Current Financial Affairs

Indeed, unprecedented times are upon the world's financial markets and economies. Many professionals are bewildered as to what has happened ... and what will yet occur.

Satan needs to disguise his horrible agenda with the appearance of broad prosperity—for example, by rising financial markets—and smug humanism. This is the key deceiving tactic that hoodwinks most of the world. False prosperity is the main bait in the end-time Money trap.

Very definitely, we are persuaded that what is being experienced today is an unprecedented expression of the “signs of the times.” Indeed, developments are of “biblical” scale. Why is two-thirds of the world’s bond market suddenly paying negative interest rates?

This in turn has contributed to a massive rise in the value of financial and real assets. Just in recent months, more than \$10 trillion in paper value has been inflated. Indeed, the stocks of several companies are now valued in excess of a trillion (USD). In these treacherous times, therefore, market observers are deceived by this specter of false prosperity.

Much of the financial perversion and warping we witness today is really of no surprise. It is, for the most part, a direct cause of the choices that mankind has made.

These do not happen randomly or by accident. No, they are a direct function of human wants and decisions. Consider that there has been a massive “humanist” shift in values and wants for the human race (i.e., godlessness, lusts, independence from God, etc.) in recent decades.

These value shifts have consequences. Why? Because God exacts that there will be consequences. These cannot be escaped. “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7). Clearly, these consequences can already be identified today.

Indeed, endtime financial and economic market conditions are unfolding before our eyes, we argue.

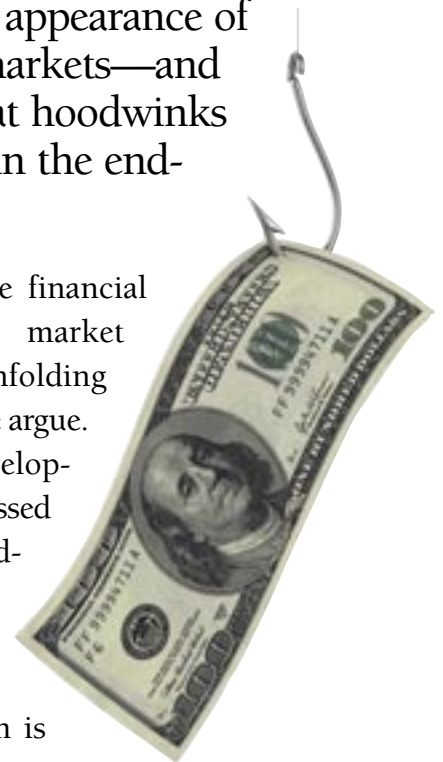
Some of the developments being witnessed today are foreshadowed in the Bible.

The ultimate outcome will be grave ... much of which is prophesied in Scripture.

In our understanding of the Word, a major world financial collapse will not happen until sometime during the Tribulation period. Why?

The answer is very simple: Satan needs to disguise his horrible agenda with the appearance of broad prosperity—for example, by rising financial markets—and smug humanism. This is the key deceiving tactic that hoodwinks most of the world. False prosperity is the main bait in the end-time Money trap.

Satan is the primary spirit behind Mammon and Money. He has been given control over Mammon as well as all the kingdoms of the world. He is the god of this world. When he sought to tempt Christ, the Bible records the following: “The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, ‘I





will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to” (Luke 4:5-6).

Clearly, Satan has authority over all the worldly kingdoms on earth, these being enmeshed with Mammon. As such, the long-term courses of financial markets and economies are commandeered by the devil, though not directly. He has many human minions that aid him in this endeavor. The Bible suggests that many, if not all, will be either wealthy or globally influential.

This writer sees these elites mentioned in the Bible. Consider Daniel’s account of those who will be honored by the Antichrist. “He [...] will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price” (Daniel 11:30). These individuals are definitely motivated by price (Money).

An insightful perspective on the dynamics of these elites was mentioned to this writer by the

Fear sells. This writer (being in his fifth decade of managing money globally) will attest to that statement. Unfortunately, we also witness this type of sales tactic being endorsed in so-called Christian forums.

late Dave Hunt (a well-known Bible teacher and Christian apologist). Just as Jesus Christ will discipline those He loves (Hebrews 12:6), Satan must also discipline his greedy minions.

However, these latter actions must be done for different reasons. If Satan did not do so, global financial markets would likely have witnessed even greater manias and destruction ... running far ahead of Satan’s endtime agenda. There is no chastening like suffering a steep financial loss (physical health issues aside).

Elites under the influence of Mammon/Satan are not the only players aiding in the endtime agenda. The reader will likely be surprised to learn the identity of another major agent—doomsters both within and without the pulpit.

The Mission of Predicting Crisis

It is no surprise that the “doomster business” appears to be prospering in this time of perplexity. We identify many “anxiety merchants.” They see it as their mission to warn Christians (and others) about financial and economic crises. Some will even sell “emergency supplies.”

Fear sells. This writer (being in his fifth decade of managing money globally) will attest to that statement. Unfortunately, we also witness this type of sales tactic being endorsed in so-called Christian forums.

Doomsters tend to forget that the Destroyer must first lure as much of humanity as possible into the trap, before it suddenly snaps shut (Luke 21:34). That is best achieved through deceptively sweet (but deadly) entreaties and the warm glow of rising wealth.

I have sat through more than a few presentations of so-called “financial prophets” at Bible or prophecy conferences. All of them engaged in some measure of fearmongering. Some made outrageous claims—for instance, stating that they were in touch with “inside high contacts” who confirm that a financial collapse is planned to occur “within a month.” None of their predictions were accurate. Far from it.

Others who were financial advisers took advantage of their perceived legitimacy. After all, they were speaking at a conference, weren't they? They had staff ready on site with account opening forms. Assuredly, gold bullion has always been a good seller on this circuit. Especially so when the prices of said gold have already risen.

Anxiety Merchants Playing into Hands of Policymakers

Doomsters and crisis forecasters (whether in the pulpit or not) will be surprised to learn that they fulfill an important function for the Destroyer. After all, policymakers are not blind, realizing that the grimmer the outlook for global economies and financial markets, the more financial interventions and ruses will be required.

When policymakers around the globe are trapped and desperate, one must not forget that they can and will respond with virtually infinite monetary deceptions. These government officials are also vulnerable to fear. They choose to err on the side of caution . . . pouring whatever amount

of monetary liquidity (and government budget stimulus) into financial systems as may be needed.

This contributes to a perverse condition that we observe. The more negative or worrisome the outlook of fearmongers, the more prosperous assets will appear to be eventually. This indeed is a perversity that serves to deceive the masses. As mentioned, people assume that all is well, so long as financial markets and economies reach new heights.

In reality, however, the exact opposite is likely to be true.

In the meantime, global fragility is being fostered, indebtedness continues to soar, and global wealth distribution is becoming ever more extreme. As such, the wealthy of the world are becoming even more rich, thus concentrating global wealth and influence. These conditions are prophesied to occur in the end times worldwide.

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As the case may be, most people will actually be gladly deceived, so long as it offers the hope of more prosperity and serves to slake their lusts. That may sound perverse. It is.

Nevertheless, it is considered to be a good bargain for most people. Why? Because a mate-



Scripture makes clear that Satan ensnares the world through deception, taking advantage of traps, lies and conspiracy. He understands the behavioral biases and vulnerabilities of mankind like no other strategist.

Realistic humanity wants to hear that prosperity (as they may perceive it) will continue as far as the eye can see. They will not care that it is false wealth. This is the same type of mistake that people will make in the Tribulation period. They will take the mark in order to gain the promise of “buying and selling.”

As mentioned, mankind has made choices that have had and will have great consequences. It is apparent that this is already unfolding today in the most treacherous of ways. Conditions are far advanced.

Thoughts to Ponder

What is grievous most of all, is that the majority of Christians feel pressured and fearful. This is a serious malady, especially as we are specifically instructed not to fear.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7, KJV). Why then are Christians robbed of their God-given promises? The reader will be surprised to discover the answer.

Why should Christians be caught up in worries ... being cast “to and fro”? After all, we are charged to “be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).

Why has much of Christianity lost its peace, “[...] the peace of God, which passeth all understanding [and] shall keep [our] hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7)? Why are



Christians caught unawares by the Destroyer's tactics?

Who is to blame? There indeed is a great primordial conspiracy playing out in the cosmos. It is not a theory. Rather, it is the one major conspiracy that is fomented by Satan, as alluded to earlier. One should keep in focus the dark, primordial, “master” conspiracy.

Scripture makes clear that Satan ensnares the world through deception, taking advantage of traps, lies and conspiracy. He understands the behavioral biases and vulnerabilities of mankind like no other strategist.

Crucially, therefore, the Destroyer preys on human weaknesses, gullibility, and penchants. He expressly concentrates on manipulating human emotions of fear and greed.

To be sure, financial and economic crises and destructive developments are unfolding ... through many of these are deceptively masked.

In Part 2, we will resume this topic and point to the promises of peace found in the Bible. ©

Having a plan to read the entire Bible is a remarkable goal. Many begin well, yet do not finish the same. One of those reasons is the genealogies, which for most people are the most boring aspect of the Bible. The genealogies appear to be endless lists of unpronounceable names of ancient people.

Genealogies should not be dismissed so readily. The same people who consider a genealogy to be boring, will exhaust hours reviewing tiny numbers on a long list from the New York Stock Exchange. When I was in middle school, I spent countless hours reading (and memorizing) the back of my football cards for the statistics of my favorite and notable players. The truth is that lists are only boring if they are of no interest or relevance.

For those who may regard genealogies as boring and not offering much practical insight, it is important to be reminded that

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16). There are often noteworthy incidents in the middle of a list of names. For example, Methuselah lived “nine hundred and sixty-nine years” (Gen 5:27)!

What is remarkable concerning the first biblical genealogies is the longevity of life. Yet even they could not postpone the inevitable: death. The repetition of the words “and he died,” alert the thoughtless person to a sense of his or her mortality, and can even lead to repentance and faith in God

Cause and Effect

DR. RON J. BIGALKE



Cause and Effect

Cain's envy led to murder. He demonstrated what sin produces individually.



as Savior. Genesis 4:1—6:8 portray the inescapability of one's mortality. Nevertheless, these chapters also reveal the possibility to be recipients of God's grace while alive.

Origin (Root) and Outcome (Fruit)

Genesis 3 describes how sin originated with the human race and ruined the ideal conditions of chapters 1—2. Genesis 4 reveals that Adam and Eve began to obey God's command to "be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it" (1:28). Eve became pregnant "and gave birth to Cain" (4:1). "Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel" (v. 2). The remainder of Genesis 4 reveals the implications of a sinful humanity and the evils that are produced. Verses 1-15 show the effects of sin upon the individual. The impact upon society is evident from verse 16 and following.

Cain and Abel both had unique interests, as evident in their offerings to the Lord (4:3-5). There is no indication why God "had no regard" for Cain's offering, though it is reasonable to assume that the brothers were either directly instructed by God, or indirectly by their father

Adam, as to what kind of offering the Lord desired. Abel's offering closely parallels what was prescribed in Leviticus 3:16, and so would indicate that his offering was not based upon conjecture. God required that sacrifice would demand one life in exchange for another, because that would be the only means by which sin could be forgiven (cf. John 10:11; Rom 5:8; Eph 5:2).

Of course, no one enjoys rejection, especially when that involves not having favor with God. There are two options in such circumstances: either correct the situation, or become angry. Cain sadly chose the latter. He "became very angry" (Gen 4:5) with God, and then allowed his envy to become hatred toward the one (Abel) whom God favored (v. 8).

God does not abandon those who sin (Gen 4:6-7; cf. 3:21); rather, He gave Cain the opportunity to confess his guilt (4:9); sadly, he refused (v. 10). Without God as his Master, he became a slave to sin. God warned Cain of sin's destructive power. If he would have resisted sin, he could have found blessing; however, the decision to let his sin rule over him meant it would also devour him. God is just, which meant punishing Cain (vv. 11-12, 16). Yet even the penalty was gracious (v. 15), as God could have easily punished Cain with death. Cain responded to the Lord's gracious discipline with self-pity (vv. 13-14). He did not feel any sorrow for his sin, but only regretted the punishment.

Sin has so affected humanity that the depraved, fallen nature will be answerable to none. Cain's envy led to murder. He demon-

strated what sin produces individually. Beginning with 4:16, the depiction is the collective impact of sin upon society. The Cainite civilization was cultured, intelligent, industrious, and progressive, yet also proud and self-sufficient (vv. 17-24). It was a society that neglected the spiritual and remained estranged from God. As opposed to a life directed by God, the Cainite civilization (from its very beginning) gloried in humanity's achievements ("he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son": v. 17).

At this time, humanity consisted of two lines: that of an ungodly lineage descending from Cain (vv. 17-24), and a godly lineage originating with Seth (vv. 25-26). Genesis 5 presents the history of the godly lineage; it begins with God, who created mankind (v. 1). "He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man [literally, Adam] in the day when they were created" (5:2).

Human beings are unique in all creation, because the human race alone is created in the likeness of God (cf. 1:26-27). There is nothing inferior regarding either man or woman, because God "created them male and female" and blessed them as distinct genders.

What should be immediately noticed is the longevity of those in the genealogy. Many lived to be more than 800 years in age! The simplest explanation for such long lives is that atmospheric conditions prior to the Flood restrained environmental radiations, which would have enabled people to live longer. Subsequent to the Flood, the average life span is significantly less than prior to that event.

The genealogy of Seth is encouraging, because it reveals the godly descendants of Adam. Cain's line rejected God's Word and promoted polygamy and violence, yet there was another lineage through Seth, who called "upon the name of the Lord" (Gen 4:26). There are always some who will serve God. No matter how many bow the knee to Baal (cf. 1 Kgs 19:18), there will always be a faithful remnant who seek the Lord. In the midst of ungodliness and wickedness, there were those who were godly and righteous. The genealogy of Genesis 5 is a crucial background for understanding the mixed marriages of Genesis 6.

Subsequent to the record of population growth—which was consistent with God's will and purpose (Gen 1:28)—conflict intensified between the godly and the ungodly. The progeny of these unions were the "Nephilim," which literally means "fallen ones" (6:4). In response, God chose one man, Noah, to build an ark (vv. 7-8). The marriages that resulted from the two lines would climax in judgment upon nearly all humanity. The direct factor leading to the Flood (6:9—7:24) was the ungodly union between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men," resulting in great wickedness (6:1-6). God's decision not to "strive with man forever," but to lessen humanity's days to 120 years (v. 3), is the Lord's gracious provision that proves His immense patience (cf. 2 Pet 3:9).

By the time of the 24th century BC, humanity had degenerated entirely. The world had become a horrible place to live, because "the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and . . . every intent of the thoughts of his heart was

Cause and Effect

Another reason why God may have used the Flood as judgment, is that it would effectively purge the world in a most graphic manner. The earth would be cleansed, so that not a trace of wickedness could be found.

only evil continually” (Gen 6:5; cf. vv. 11-13). A more emphatic statement of human depravity is scarcely imaginable. The increased wickedness grieved the Lord, thus leading Him to choose one man (and his family) to save. Sin had so overtaken humanity that only Noah was said to be righteous (v. 9), which means he had fellowship with God and lived a life of obedience to the Lord. Noah did not merit the grace he received; rather, he “found favor in the eyes of the Lord” (v. 8). No person ever merits divine grace; the unmerited favor of God is always obtained exclusively through the imputed righteousness of Christ Jesus.

God declared that He would destroy the earth with a “flood of water upon the earth” (v. 17). Why would God use a flood as judgment? The answer may be that the sea was always regarded as a dangerous and stormy place to the land-loving Hebrews; it also symbolized the restlessness of the wicked (Isa 57:20), and the rebelliously raging nations of the world (Dan 7:2; Matt 13:47; Rev 13:1). Nevertheless, the God of the Holy Bible is sovereign over all creation (see Ps 29, which refers to God’s power “over many waters”), and He often uses nature in judgment of humanity.

Another reason why God may have used the Flood as judgment, is that it would effectively purge the world in a most graphic manner. The earth would be cleansed, so that not a trace of wickedness could be found. With this purification of the earth, only God’s remnant—Noah

and his family (Gen 6:10)—would remain. Later in time, the Law referred to washing with water as symbolic of the purging that was necessary prior to worship (e.g. Lev 8:6, 21). The New Testament likewise used similar language (e.g. Tit 3:5). God also used the Flood to begin a new creation.

Just as there was a transformation that destroyed the world of Noah’s day and resulted in the present world, the Bible prophesies a sudden future (eschatological) judgment (not a worldwide flood but a worldwide judgment of fire) upon this present world, which will result in “new heavens and a new earth” (2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1). The appeal of 2 Peter 3 is to have a purifying effect upon those who believe this message, as evident in those who are “diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation” (vv. 14-15).

Noah was in the lineage of Seth and Enoch (the godly line). He apparently had 120 years from the birth of his sons until the Lord sent the Flood (Gen 5:32; 7:6), assuming he was 480 years old when God first communicated His impending judgment. Even today, the entire human race can be divided into the godly and the ungodly, with the difference being whether a person identifies with God or not. With faith in the Lord God, you are never alone and just as safe as Noah was.

(1190)


WORLD FOCUS



CHILE

House Approves Same-Sex Marriage

Chile's lower house approved a bill that would permit same-sex marriage in the South American country of 19 million, sending the measure back to the Senate where it appears to have the support needed to become law.

 Chile has long had a conservative reputation, even compared to its deeply religious Latin American peers.

Civil unions have been permitted in Chile since 2015, which affords same-sex partners many but not all the benefits of married couples, like the right to adoption.

If the Senate approves the lower house version without changes, it will then go to President Sebastian Pinera. If signed, as expected, it would then become law 90 days after the bill is published in the government's official bulletin.

-www.reuters.com, 23 November 2021

Commentary: Chile, a nation with 19 million in population, is not often in the news. Approving same-sex marriage is noteworthy for this Roman Catholic country. Religiously, the

CIA Factbook counts 66.7% Roman Catholic, with about 16.4% Protestant. Life expectancy is listed as 79.6 years, on par with the USA. Per capita GDP is listed as \$23,500.

Chile joins 30 other nations that legally protect same-sex marriage.

In the past, virtually all countries in the world made same-sex behavior punishable by law. That is no longer the case. It was the 1st of April 2001, when the Netherlands became the first nation to legalize same-sex marriage. There is little to no doubt that many more countries will follow in the footsteps.

Genesis 19 reports of the event in the city of Sodom, where Lot had become a resident. Two angels sent by God were to warn Lot and his family of the coming judgment upon the city.

Lot pleaded with the men of Sodom: "And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly" (verses 6-7).

But the Sodomites took the law into their own hands: "And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now

will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door" (verse 9).

The Lord protected Lot; verse 11a reports: "And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great." Though blind, they did not give up: "they wearied themselves to find the door."

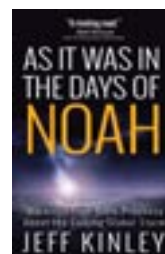
What does the New Testament say? "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds)" (2 Peter 2:6-8). Note the words "unlawful deeds."

Now, governments the world over are reversing God's law. Thus, we see another sign of the end times, which proclaims the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

7651

(See *As It Was in the Days of*


Noah, Item #2286, \$14.99.)



 **RUSSIA**

Closer Military Cooperation with China

During a video call, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe “expressed a shared interest in stepping up strategic military exercises and joint patrols by Russia and China,” according to the Russian Defense Ministry.

 Shoigu also noted a rise in the number of U.S. bomber flights over the Sea of Okhotsk where they practiced reaching the points for launching cruise missiles, saying that it poses a threat to both Russia and China.

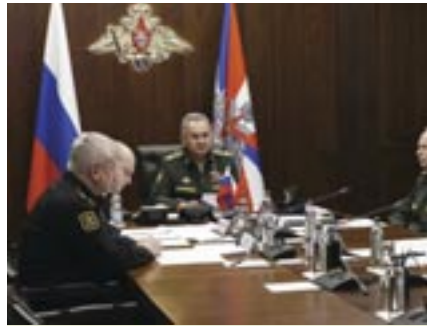
“In such an environment, the Russian-Chinese coordination becomes a stabilizing factor in global affairs,” Shoigu said.

Wei praised Russia for successfully countering what he described as U.S. pressure and military threats.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and China’s leader, Xi Jinping, have developed strong personal ties to bolster a “strategic partnership” between the former Communist rivals as they both faced tensions with the West.

Even though Russia and China in the past rejected the possibility of forging a military alliance, Putin said last year that such a prospect can’t be ruled out. He also has noted that Russia has been sharing highly sensitive military technologies with China that helped significantly bolster its defense capability.

-*www.usnews.com*, 23 November 2021



In this photo released by the Russian Defense Ministry Press Service, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, center, takes part in a video call with his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in Moscow, Russia. Shoigu and Wei signed a roadmap for military cooperation between Moscow and Beijing and called for intensifying joint drills and patrols. (Vadim Savitskiy/Russian Defense Ministry Press Service via AP)

Commentary: These developments remind us of the often-quoted verse Matthew 24:6: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

While these excerpts from the article seem to indicate the possibility of military confrontation, we realize that such would be an unprecedented global catastrophe.

It is our understanding that we have entered the time of peace, albeit a temporary, false peace. The type of peace that exists now is based on merchandise. China’s exports for 2020 stood at \$2.7 trillion, with imports \$2.4 trillion. China exports to all nations on planet earth, but also imports a gigantic volume of merchandise.

Russia’s exports are listed as \$380 billion, with \$305 billion in imports.

These figures are significant and show the progressive fulfillment of globalism. The world is so interconnected that upsetting these trade balances would cause economic devastation for the whole world.

What do we learn from it? First of all, that the god of this world wants to be equal to God. His desire is to produce his Antichrist, who will bring about peace for the entire planet, albeit temporary. During the final days, Antichrist’s global success with the false prophet is documented in Revelation 13:3b: “and all the world wondered after the beast.”

There will be worldwide enthusiasm for this promising new peace, which will lead to the fulfillment of



verse 8a: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.” 7652

(See Revelation 13: Satan’s Last Victory, Item #1067, \$11.95.)

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JAPAN

Climate Change Will Kill National Sovereignty

As we collectively hurtle into the era of climate change, international relations as we've known them for almost four centuries will change beyond recognition.

 This shift is probably inevitable, and possibly even necessary. But it will also cause new conflicts, and therefore war and suffering.

Since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, diplomats have—in peacetime and war alike—for the most part subscribed to the principle of national sovereignty. This is the idea, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, that foreign countries have no right “to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.”

The concept was born, along with the entire system of modern states, in the physical and psychological rubble of the Thirty Years War. Starting in 1618, the European powers intervened in one another's territories almost willy-nilly. Round after round of war left about one in three central Europeans dead. It was in that continental graveyard that statesmen (they were all men) stipulated that it was best if every state henceforth minded only its own business.

That insight has probably also dawned on many delegates to COP26, the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow. What's at stake in those negotiations is not any country's “national” interest as such, except insofar as it's part of the collective

interest of our species in preserving the global commons: the atmosphere and biosphere. And although aviation regulators might disagree, the borders around our territorial jurisdictions just don't extend up into the air.

But the creeping obsolescence of Westphalian sovereignty as the operating system of international relations would cause even more upheaval. And this looks inevitable. Some powers or alliances will in the future contemplate military interventions in other states to end what they will define as ecocide. Others may even go to war if they believe rival countries are taking unilateral measures against climate change that threaten their own interests.

The time to think about the demise of sovereignty is now. Maybe we'll need an ecological equivalent to what the World Trade Organization is to commerce: A new international body that makes the conundrum explicit and attempts to maintain order. Even then, the world is likely to become more unstable and dangerous, not only ecologically but also geopolitically. We all dread environmental Armageddon. But we don't want another Thirty Years War either.

-www.japantimes.co.jp, 5 November 2021

Commentary: Change is inevitable. Looking at the world today, we realize that merchandise is the binding adhesive for the nations of the world. One depends on the other. There is little to no doubt that sovereignty of individual nations will decrease, to be replaced by internationalism.

On a daily basis, the news media feeds us concerns about the environment. The sub-headline of this article reads, “All the world's people have a legitimate interest in the greenhouse gases emitted in any given jurisdiction.” It's no longer a secret that the three power structures—China, North America, and Europe—are forced by the sheer volume of merchandise to not upset one another.

We point with interest to the concluding remarks: “We all dread environmental Armageddon. But we don't want another Thirty Years War either.”

What will the future bring? The Bible says: “Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things” (Daniel 11:37-38). While we realize that “the God of forces” is the military—virtually worshiped in most countries—we must take note of the last sentence: “...he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.”

That is merchandise, and it is merchandise that will have the upper hand in these end times.

7639

(See Daniel's Prophecies Made Easy, Item #1057, \$12.)



WORLD

Global Wealth Surges

Global wealth tripled over the last two decades, with China leading the way and overtaking the U.S. for the top spot worldwide.



“We are now wealthier than we have ever been,” Jan Mischke, a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute in Zurich, said in an interview.

Net worth worldwide rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000, according to the study. China accounted for almost one-third of the increase. Its wealth skyrocketed to \$120 trillion from a mere \$7 trillion in 2000, the year before it joined the World Trade Organization, speeding its economic ascent.

The U.S., held back by more muted increases in property prices, saw its net worth more than double over the period, to \$90 trillion.

The ideal resolution would be for the world’s wealth to find its way into more productive investments that expand global GDP, according to the report. The nightmare scenario would be a collapse in asset prices that could erase as much as one-third of global wealth, bringing it more in line with world income.

-finance.yahoo.com, 14 November 2021

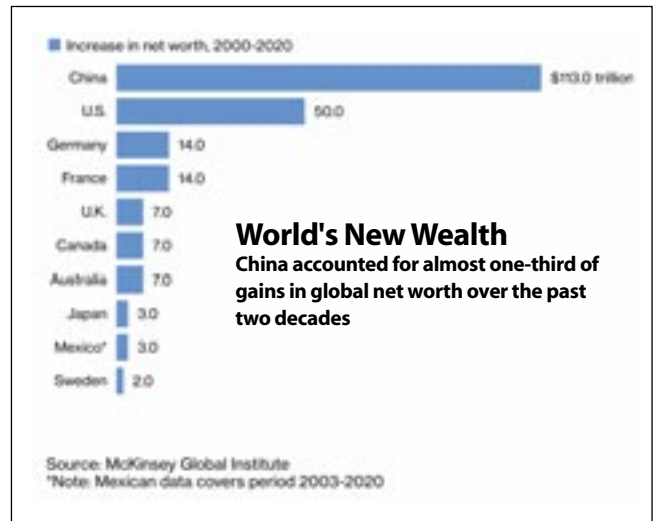
Commentary: In spite of dire predictions about the immediate future, facts and figures tell the opposite story. Jan Mischke rightly declares,

“We are now wealthier than we have ever been.” If we were to compare our individual wealth to that of someone 50 or 100 years ago, we would quickly find that indeed, “We never had it so good.”

Unfortunately, a large percentage of people still live in poverty, and many suffer from hunger. Yet some reliable sources state that world hunger has been reduced by 50% during the last few decades. According to FastCompany.com, “Hunger in the developing world has more than halved.” In China, for instance, the hunger level fell from 24% of the population in the early 1990s to 9% by 2016.

That is one side of the story. The other is the progressive fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Here we can look at several examples. Egypt is a good picture. After the seven years of plenty, came seven years of catastrophe.

Daniel reports of King Belshazzar: “They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone” (Daniel 5:4). After Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall, we read in verse 30: “In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.”



In Revelation 3:17, we read: “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.” That’s the statement of the church of the Laodiceans. But the verse continues, “and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” About Mystery Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, Revelation 18:7b states: “I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.”


At the height of King Herod’s power, we read: “And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost” (Acts 12:21-23). 7642

(See The Prophecy Pros’ Illustrated Guide to Tough Questions About the End Times, Item #2379, \$17.99.)

 SWEDEN

DNA Separates Humans from Primates

Stem cell researchers at Lund University in Sweden discovered that DNA shows differences in the brains of humans and non-human primates. Non-coding DNA was previously believed to have no practical function—even being deemed “junk DNA” in scientific circles—making the discovery of particular interest to researchers.

 Researchers grew brain cells from humans and chimpanzees using stem cells and compared the two cell types, finding that they use the non-coded part of their DNA in different ways, which appears to play a considerable role in the development of human brains.

“The part of our DNA identified as different was unexpected,” declared Jakobsson. “It was a so-called structural variant of DNA that was previously called ‘junk DNA,’ a long repetitive DNA string which has long been deemed to have no function.”

“Previously, researchers have looked for answers in the part of the DNA where the protein-producing genes are—which only makes up about 2% of our entire DNA—and examined the proteins themselves to find examples of differences,” explained Jakobsson. “Our results indicate that what has been significant for the brain’s development is instead perhaps hidden in the overlooked 98%.”

“Instead of studying living humans and chimpanzees, we used stem cells grown in a lab,” Jakobsson said.



The secret to healing what ails you lies within your own DNA
(photo credit: DREAMSTIME)

The new findings will potentially contribute to genetic research regarding psychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia, a disorder that appears to be unique to humans.

-www.jpost.com, 14 November 2021

Commentary: There is no end to research. It will continue at an even faster pace than ever before, utilizing sophisticated computer systems and other tools unavailable just a few decades ago.

While we highly regard science as helpful to enhancing the quality of life, we realize that behind it all stands the question of humanity: what is our origin? Evolution, now taught as science at all educational levels around the world, purports that life on earth originated with the so-called “Big Bang,” in which life was created out of nothing.

Here is what the Bible says: “And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:25).

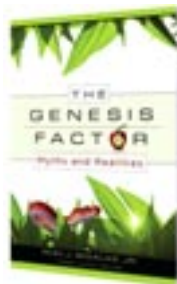
Note the words “after his kind...after their kind.”

Regarding mankind, we read: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (verse 26). Yes, mankind has dominion over the fish in the sea, the fowls in the air, and the cattle on the earth. All that was created in six days: “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And

the evening and the morning were the sixth day” (verse 31).

7647


(See *The Genesis Factor*, Item #2239, \$13.99.)



 FRANCE

Circus Animals and Mink Farms Outlawed

The French parliament voted to end wild animals being used in live circus shows and outlawed mink farming, in new animal-rights legislation hailed as a step forward by campaigners.

 Performances of wild animals such as lions, tigers or bears will be prohibited in two years, and owning them outlawed in seven years, under the wide-ranging law that has been under debate since 2020.

(continued next page)

Circus Animals (continued from page 27)

Circus owners denounced it, however, while some campaigners said it did not go far enough.

As well as the measures targeting circuses, the new law will raise the maximum penalty for mistreating animals to up to five years in prison and a fine of 75,000 euros (\$85,000), and will tighten restrictions on the sale of pets.

“There will inevitably come a day when ... we will debate sensitive issues such as hunting, such as bull-fighting, or some animal-rearing practices,” said the lawmaker, who is also a veterinarian.

Environmentalists and more radical animal rights groups had wanted the new law to improve the conditions inside industrial animal farms.

The group L214, which had sought protections for the “more than a billion intensely farmed animals” in France, welcomed the legislation but said it “lacked courage.”

The group has made a name for itself in France by sending its activists undercover into abattoirs and then publishing videos of the often shocking scenes of animals being mistreated or cut up while still alive.

-www.france24.com, 18 November 2021

Commentary: At the very beginning, we read in Genesis 1:26 that dominion over the animal world is given to man. Quite apparently, the first couple were vegetarians; verse 29 confirms: “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is



Consigned to history: The new law will ban use of lions such as these of the Amar Circus in 1946 Paris. - AFP

upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”

Later in history, the Lord commanded the Israelites to eat only certain animals. Some were designated clean, others unclean. However, in the New Testament, liberty is given: “Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake” (1 Corinthians 10:25).

The issue here, however, is cruelty to animals. Proverbs 12:10 says, “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.”

The article concerns itself with the misuse of animals, particularly in circuses. Mistreating animals can result in a fine of 75,000 euros (\$85,000) and up to 5 years in prison.

On the other end of the spectrum, however, stands human life. We note that as of November 2021, 64 nations have legalized abortion. Only in 24 nations is abortion completely illegal.

Abortion, which we can define as cold-blooded murder of an unborn

child, is legal in most of the progressive nations of the world. Some restrictions can be found mainly in South America, Africa, and a number of Southeast Asian nations.

Where is all this leading? From Scripture, we understand that two supermen will appear. Both are called beasts: one the false prophet, the other the Antichrist. Why beasts? Because of the absence of spirit. These two are totally and unconditionally dedicated to the god of this world, Satan. Subsequently, they do not appear before the Great White Throne in the end, but are cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. This will take place at the end of the battle of Armageddon. Revelation 19:19-20 states: “And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a

lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

7650

(See *Spiritual Warfare in the End Times*, Item #2370, \$15.99.)



“And by a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved” (Hosea 12:13).

BY ARNO FROESE

When reading our Bible, we notice that Israel is mentioned 196 times in conjunction with Egypt. The first time in Genesis 46:8: “And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob’s firstborn.”

The prophet was none other than Moses, of whom we read in Deuteronomy 34:10: “And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.”

Bible readers are familiar with God’s supernatural interventions on behalf of Israel: for example, the ten plagues upon Egypt, then crossing the Red Sea, and from there on, many, many more supernatural miracles.

We notice the word “prophet”: Israel was redeemed from Egypt, and by a prophet they were not destroyed. That simply means the spoken word of God, received by Moses, was the

absolute, deciding power on behalf of the children of Israel.

When the prophet Hosea writes about these things, he explains in verse 10: “I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.”

We know that there is some kind of understanding between Egypt and Israel today, but real, open peace does not exist between these two countries.

Syria, still at war with Israel, is also mentioned: “And Jacob fled into the country of Syria, and Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he kept sheep” (verse 12). Syrians, some Bible scholars state, are Israel’s closest relatives.

Before Israel entered the Promised Land, God gave to Moses the order of the first fruits. The Israelite was to confess his origin: “And thou shalt speak and say before the Lord thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and

We believe that the real reason for Syria and Lebanon’s turmoil, is primarily because these two nations occupy much of the Promised Land. In plain words, it’s Arab-occupied Israeli territory.

sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous” (Deuteronomy 26:5).

Thus, we may rightly ask: what is the future of Syria? Here it is helpful to read Isaiah 19:23-24: “In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land.”

Syria has been devastated by war for the last ten years. Government forces are fighting against those in opposition to President Bashar al-Assad. Presently, there is no end in sight.

We believe that the real reason for Syria and Lebanon’s turmoil, is primarily because these two nations occupy much of the Promised Land. In plain words, it’s Arab-occupied Israeli territory.

While we do not know how and when the entire Promised Land will be liberated, we know from Scripture that the border is set according to Genesis 15:18: “In the same day the

Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.” We note the past tense, “have...given this land.”

Back to Egypt. It was on 26 March 1979, when the peace treaty between these two nations was signed in Washington, DC, under the presidency of Jimmy Carter. That was about 42 years ago.

Now, some progress is being made. Yet when reading the *CIA Factbook*, under Egypt’s exports as well as imports, Israel is not mentioned—unusual for neighboring countries.

A recent article by Reuters highlights Israel’s gas exports to Egypt: Israel is considering the construction of a new onshore pipeline to Egypt in order to quickly boost natural gas exports to its neighbor in the wake of the recent tightening of global supplies, the Israeli energy ministry said.

A new onshore pipeline, coupled with plans to construct a second subsea pipeline to Egypt within a few years, will further cement Israel’s position as a key energy hub in the eastern Mediter-

ranean which has upended diplomatic relations with countries in recent years.

The new pipeline will allow to increase supplies into Egypt by an additional 3 to 5 billion cubic meters (bcm) per year, the sources said. They will supply Egypt's power grid and also go towards boosting liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from Egypt to Europe and Asia.

Israel's energy potential is reaching far and wide. An important Greek energy firm, Enorviam, who has taken full ownership of Energean Israel, is planning to boost the output.

Output will rise further when Energean starts production from the Karish/Tanin gas field, which is planned for the middle of 2022. Energean also plans to begin in February drilling five new wells that could further boost output in the coming years, the company told Reuters.

-www.reuters.com, 21 October 2021

This development clearly shows Israel's significance when it comes to energy. Not too long ago, Israel was an almost 100% energy importer; but now, the tables are being turned. They are becoming a major exporter—not only to their neighbors, but (as the article indicates) also to Europe and Asia as well.

What ties these countries together? In this case, energy. When it comes to being friends with energy countries, no country is exempt, regardless of ideology, political persuasion, or religion. One of the USA's closest Arab friends is Saudi Arabia, a nation practicing extreme discrimination and violating many of the cherished principles of the Western world, particularly human rights. Why is Saudi Arabia "friends" with the West? The answer is the oil from below. From Israel, however, we have the oil from above—God the Holy Spirit. (MC)

Action for Israel



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bless thee..."
(Genesis 12:3).

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MC0122

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Nurse Call System Malfunction Woes

By David Phillips *Project Manager*

“Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:14-15).

Four o'clock in the morning at the nurse's station, the nurse call system lights up for room 802. A second later, the alarm catches the nurse's attention, and she rushes off to the room of the calling resident. Entering the room, unaware of what she would face, she hears the resident snoring in a deep and sound sleep. Not knowing what else to do, she gently wakes the sleeping resident. Confused, he assures her that he didn't push the call button. Confused, the nurse apologizes and returns to her station. A moment later, the alarm goes off again; but this time, it's sounding for a completely different room. The same thing happens. The nurse rushes off, once again only to find the resident sound asleep. She wakes her up and asks why she called. Could the nurse help her with anything? Like with the previous resident, this resident assures the nurse she didn't call. So, once again, the

nurse assures the resident she can go back to sleep, apologizes for waking her up, and leaves the room. As she walks back to her station, she thought how strange this all was.

But this time, she barely makes it back to the station and *Oy vey* (Yiddish for “Woe is me”)! Two dozen emergency lights go off on the nurse call system! Understanding that something is terribly wrong, she calls me for help.

I wake to my phone ringing. Glancing at the clock, I realize it is only 4:15 in the morning. Answering the call, I hear an excited nurse exclaim, “David, the nurse call system is going crazy!!” And no doubt, I can hear the alarms all going off in the background. I assured her I was on my way and would be there as soon as I could.

As I drove to Ebenezer early that morning, I realized that this time, it would probably be impossible to fix. The nurse call system



had served us for over 45 years, and was simply at a breaking point. I had worked hard to keep it running as best I could, but would I be able to get it back to working once more? Praying for wisdom and help from our Heavenly Father, I set out to get the complex system running once more. Somehow, by the grace of God and hours of work, my team and I got it temporarily working, although we could not get it to work in all the rooms. But at least we could make it function a little for the time being. Alerting our elderly residents and team that the system was no longer reliable, I handed out bells to the elderly, instructing them to ring them whenever they needed help.

Yes, a nurse call system in our environment is crucial, and sometimes a matter of life and death. It reminds me of the introductory verse: how we often call upon the Lord, urgently needing His help. I can attest—as I’m sure you can as well—to how our Lord answers whenever we call upon Him,

whether day or night. We always know we can rely on Him being there for us, regardless of the time, and so it is with our residents. They expect that if they call, we will come running.

Understanding that we absolutely MUST replace this system, we asked for quotes about what a new, reliable system would cost. We were told that all said and done, we were looking at about \$56,808 USD. This is a huge endeavor, I know, but one we wanted to share with you, especially concerning the urgency of it. We simply cannot wait; thus, we have begun the preparations needed to install this system. We also ask for your prayers as we undertake this task before us. This new system is part of what we need to do as we renovate the Home, so it’s not for naught.

Because of the urgency of this need, we will use this month’s donations to purchase this system, as well as to go toward the building project.



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

MC0122
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Note: All letters will be answered by the Executive Editor, Arno Froese.

HEBREW NAMES... TEMPLE LOCATION... TEN LOST TRIBES

Hebrew Names

Dear Editor,

Yahweh is the name of our Creator, as it is written in the Hebrew Scriptures over 6,823 times. It is translated into most English Bibles as LORD or GOD. Lord and God are only titles and are not proper names.

Yahshua is the Jewish-Hebrew name of our Savior, as it is written in the Hebrew New Testament. Jesus is the English of the Greek-Latin form of the Hebrew name Yahshua. If Yahshua is the original Hebrew name of our Jewish Savior—and it is—why not use this name given to Him by His Father (Yahweh), which means “Yah-Salvation” (see Hebrews 1:4; John 5:43)?

The translators under pressure, substituted these titles in place of His name. If you want to be a restorer of

the original Scriptures, you only need to read “Yahweh” whenever you see LORD or GOD in all capital letters, and “Yahshua” whenever you see Jesus.

-J. Thompson, AL

Answer: Your emphasis on using Hebrew names has been promoted by many dear servants of the Lord.

My conviction is that any translation in any language is designed for the people reading and hearing to understand it. In Acts 2, Jews from 16 different geographical areas heard the Gospel in their own foreign language. Verse 6b testifies: “and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.” This is a very important issue, because Hebrew was the required language of Holy Scripture. For that reason, I believe the translation of the Word of God



in any language is made clear for those who believe: for those who have received God the Holy Spirit.

Joel Froese adds: “How can you be sure that the transliteration into the Latin script and modern English pronunciation for ‘Yahweh’ and ‘Yahshua’ is actually more accurate? I have heard native Hebrew speakers in Israel pronounce these very differently than how most Americans would read these transliterations. There are sounds (phonemes) in the Hebrew language that simply do not exist in English. Transliterations such as ‘Yahshua’ that you prefer, or ‘Yeshua’ as others do, attempt but can never fully capture the true Hebrew pronunciation of these words.”

Temple Location

Dear Friends,

I just received your booklet, “What About the Third Temple?” In it, you refer to the commonly accepted “Temple Mount” as the site of the Biblical Solomon’s Temple.

I wanted to share with you about a great book I read some time ago, which seems to me to prove that this is not the site of Solomon’s Temple, but rather the site of the Roman fortress. The actual site of the temple was below this site, in the old “City of David.”

This 208-page book was written by Robert Cornuke, an amazing archae-

ologist, explorer, and researcher, and was published April 30, 2014, by LifeBridge Books.

After reading of the discoveries made in the area of the old “City of David,” below the current “Temple Mount,” and seeing how these discoveries tie in with the Biblical information about the temple, I am convinced that Cornuke has found the true site. Therefore, nothing drastic has to happen to the mosque or other pagan structures on the currently accepted “Temple Mount,” in order for the third temple to be built on the correct site.

-S. Wilson, GA

Answer: The idea that the temple could have been built on the City of David has been debated for decades among Jewish scholars.

According to Wikipedia, in 2002 Cornuke claimed to have found the anchors from the Biblical shipwreck of the apostle Paul in waters near Malta. This claim has been disputed. In 2006, he claimed to have discovered Noah’s Ark. However, the Associates for Biblical Research produced a 7,800-word paper about problems with the Cornuke site.

For the last six or so decades, there have been many who claimed to have found the original place of Solomon’s Temple, Noah’s Ark, the site of the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites, the identity of the real Mt. Sinai, etc. But none



Letters to the Editor

was ever substantiated by archaeology. There is an abundance of information on several websites about claimed discoveries. Incidentally, such information has little to no spiritual value.

Ten Lost Tribes

Dear Workers for Christ,

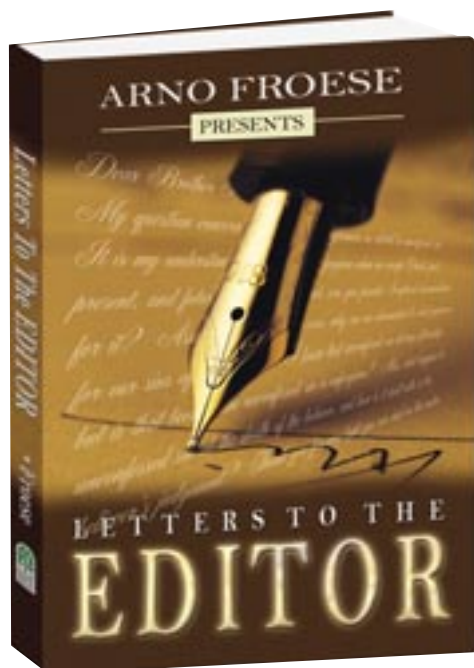
I recently received this booklet from a friend. I read it and it answered many questions I've had for a long time. One being, who were the lost ten tribes of the nation of Israel, and where are these multitudes now? We know that the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were in the southern area near Jerusalem and are still there. This booklet really opened my eyes and gave me a new perspective of Old Tes-

tament history and how it explains modern-day history.

-D. Manon, IL

Answer: Regarding the booklet, it is published by Tomorrow's World and follows the teaching of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, who believed that British Israelism is found in Scripture.

Where are the ten tribes? "And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the Lord God of their fathers" (2 Chronicles 11:16; see also 15:9; 31:1; 34:9). The remnant "out of all the tribes of Israel" joined themselves to the tribe of Judah-Benjamin and became Jews. There are no Ten Lost Tribes (cf. Acts 26:7; James 1:1). (MC)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ITEM #1045

438 Pages • **Hardcover** ~~\$22.99~~ **CLEARANCE \$10**
Author: Arno Froese



IS IT TOO LATE?



When one of our grandchildren almost drowned in the summer of 2004, I newly realized the power of prayer. The boy was underwater for several minutes; he was lifeless and not breathing when rescued. The emergency doctor who hastened to the scene, immediately ordered a medical helicopter. Would the little fellow wake up again? Was he alive? And if so, would his brain be damaged due to oxygen deprivation?

By Peter Malgo

Many of our friends who were notified started praying right away. God is able—that we knew. But *would* He do it? Yes, He did! He answered our prayers in a magnificent way. Within a few days, the boy was completely restored and allowed to leave the hospital.

Does God always listen when we pray? Many of us are probably familiar with the Bible passage James 5:17: “Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.” That Elijah was really like us can be clearly seen, when reading about the depression he suffered while sitting under the juniper tree in the desert (see 1 Kings 19:1-4). And just like us, he prayed a prayer which the Lord answered in a far more extensive way than Elijah could have imagined.

We are inclined to imagine certain events as the answer to our prayers, and then expect them to occur. But God says: “...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...” (Isaiah 55:8). For instance, we have a loved one who is suffering from a serious illness. We pray persistently, and think that God must finally intervene. But nothing happens. Could it be that God has something completely different in mind for us; that He lets us continue on this path in order to protect us from something else; or that He leaves us in this difficult situation, so we may be a wonderful witness to someone else? Jesus apparently delayed the answer to Mary and Martha’s request for their brother Lazarus. The reason for this becomes clear in John 11:4b: “...for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.”



“Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things that Jesus did, believed on him (v. 45). And in John 12:11, we read: “By reason of him [Lazarus] many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.”

God answers, but often in a totally different way than we expect. We are filled with impatience, but He has time. He will not be late; He will not delay His answer unnecessarily. He knows us; He knows what we need (Matthew 6:8, 32; Luke 12:30). His path with us will be glorious and much higher than we can even imagine (Isaiah 28:29; 55:9). This is our God, whom we trust!

Perhaps God even leads us into situations where we want to cease praying; where we think He will not answer us, or it is already too late. That is what the servants of the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus, thought when they said to him: “Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?” (Mark 5:35b). In other words, there is no longer any point in calling on Jesus. It is too late. The opportunity is gone. But it is at this point that Jesus can reveal Himself in all His glory, greatness, and power.

He also wants to do that with our concerns. That is why we should never let up in prayer. For our Lord Jesus, it is never too late. In His time, He will answer us, in a way we cannot imagine. When Lazarus had died and Jesus said to Martha: “Thy brother shall rise again” (John 11:23), she answered evasively, interpreting Jesus’ words to mean “the resurrection at the last day” (v. 24b). Somehow, she couldn’t believe that it should happen that very day. But Jesus is so very different; He is completely real; He lives and acts. Jesus’ resurrection of Lazarus (vv. 38-44) had far-reaching consequences: “Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things that Jesus did, believed on him (v. 45). And in John 12:11, we read: “By reason of him [Lazarus] many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.”

Could it be that God also has this goal in mind for our lives? “By reason of him [or her] many believed in Jesus...” (MC)

Who Is Jezebel of Thyatira?



Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 27. Revelation 2:19-20.

After the Lord reveals Himself to be the Son of God, He says to the church in Thyatira: “I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first” (Rev 2:19).

Although the Lord has serious criticisms of Thyatira, He offers great praise in advance. Such is our God! He is righteous and doesn't overlook anything you've done for His name's sake. He knows exactly how His love is working in you. He tests the measure of your faith; He records your patience. Externally, Thyatira was a wonderful church. The Lord even attests to the increase in her activity, saying that her current works are “more

than the first.” Unlike the church in Smyrna, which was passively suffering through tribulation, this church was actively serving the Lord. But this is precisely the point in which it becomes clear that increased activity can be hiding serious sin. Immediately afterward, the Lord continues:

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols” (Rev 2:20).

The exalted Lord's accusation against Thyatira is all the more serious because it is a hidden evil that far outweighs all of their

Who Is Jezebel of Thyatira?

When the prophetic Word, urging sanctification, is displaced from a church, another spirit moves in. Then comes the spirit of compromise and fornication.

existing devotion to the Lord. “A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” (Gal 5:9).

“That woman Jezebel” isn’t a reference to just one individual. Instead, she represents a system, a pernicious doctrine. A woman appears in Revelation four times in this kind of symbolic-prophetic representation, in both positive and negative ways. In a positive sense, “the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (Rev 19:7; 21:9). This refers to the whole of the church of Jesus. “A woman clothed with the sun” (Rev 12:1) is Israel in its redemptive-historical meaning; the remnant saved through the Tribulation. A symbolically negative representation is “a woman sit[ting] upon a scarlet colored beast,” “the great whore” (Rev 17:1, 3). The Great Whore is a metaphor for the apostate end-time Church, which engages in political prostitution with the rulers of this earth. And here in Revelation 2, we see the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.

False teachers always try to make a name for themselves and speak about themselves a great deal. Satan does that too. The Lord Jesus says of him, “...He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

The Lord criticized the church in Thyatira, “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel...” In other words, “You’re tolerating this teaching in the church.” The Lord is talking about disastrous tolerance!

We’re already familiar with the woman Jezebel from the Old Testament. She grew up in Tyre, the Phoenician port city. Her father, King Ethbaal, also served as the priest of Astarte and offered sacrifices to Baal. The Phoenicians, a seafaring people, traded in precious wood, gold, and precious stones. They lived in several thriving cities around the Mediterranean. By marrying Jezebel, a Phoenician, the Israelite King Ahab hoped to secure friendship with the region’s strongest trading power. But Jezebel was his undoing. She only brought misfortune, turmoil, and hardship upon the kingdom of Israel. She introduced idolatry and became the murderess of the prophets. At this, the prophetic Word in Israel was silenced.

“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest...,” says the Lord to Thyatira. The false prophetess Jezebel stifled the prophetic Word. That’s most likely the reason that the Lord speaks very little of His coming here. Only to those in Thyatira who “have not this doctrine” does He say, “But that which ye have already hold fast till I come” (Rev 2:25). When the prophetic Word, urging sanctification, is displaced from a church, another spirit moves in. Then comes the spirit of compromise and fornication. This spirit of tolerance is terribly widespread today. The psalmist aptly says, “Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?” (Ps 94:20).

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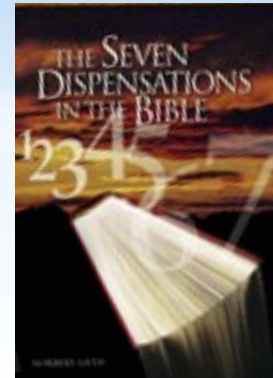
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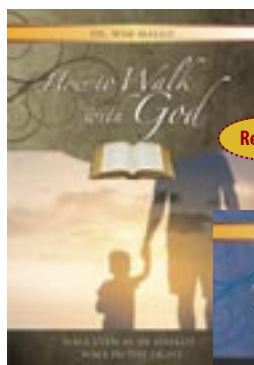
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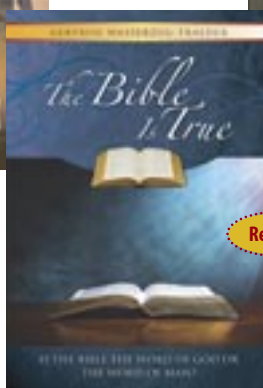
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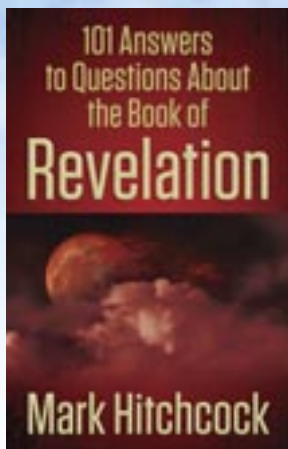
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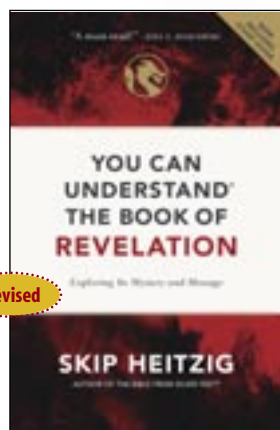
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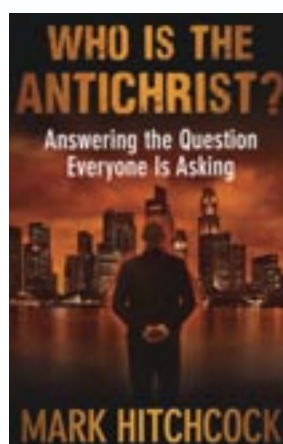
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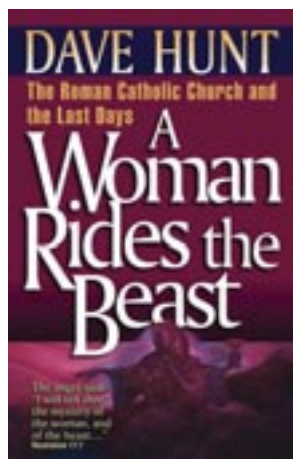
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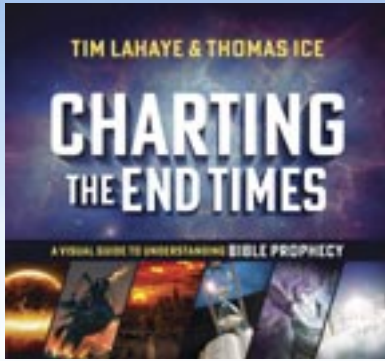
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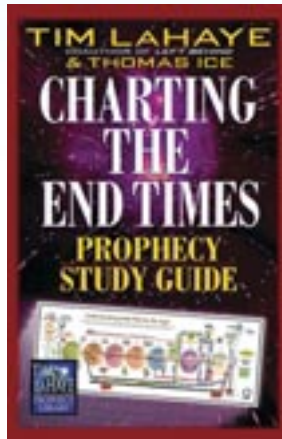
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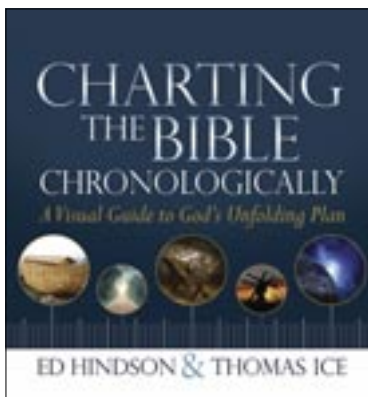
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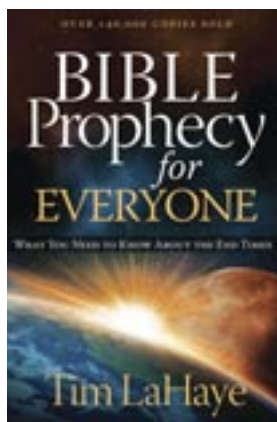
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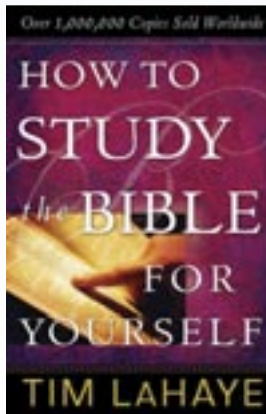
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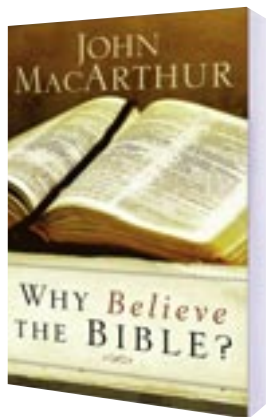
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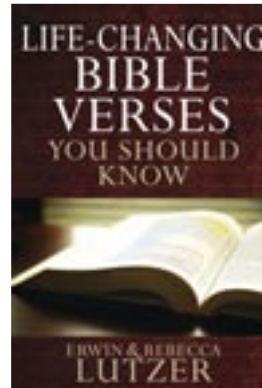
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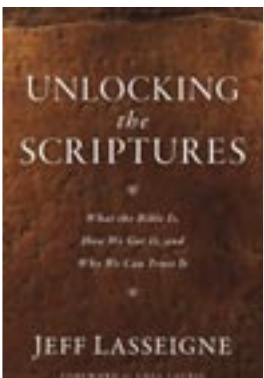
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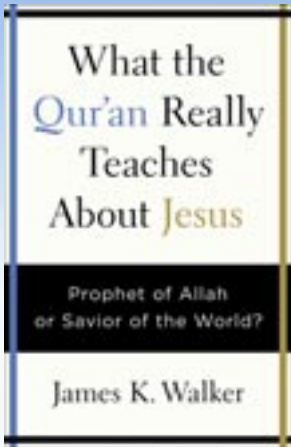
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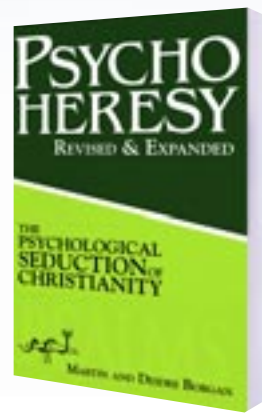
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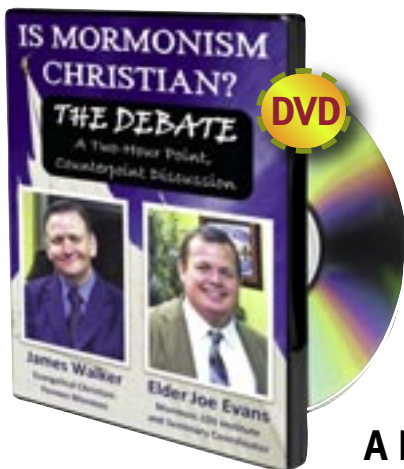
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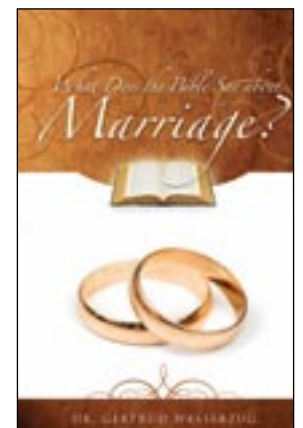
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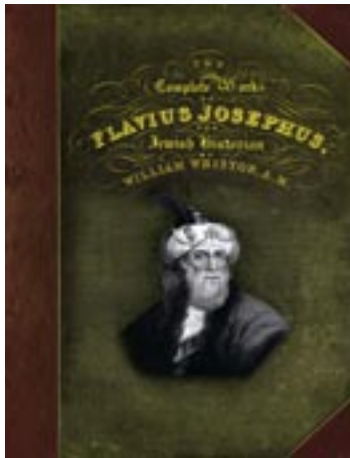
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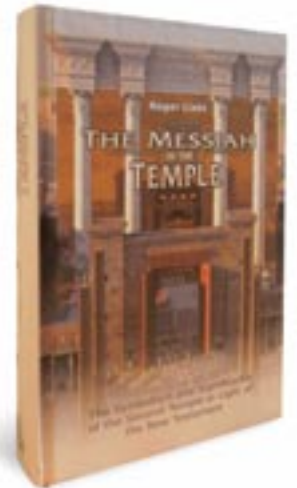
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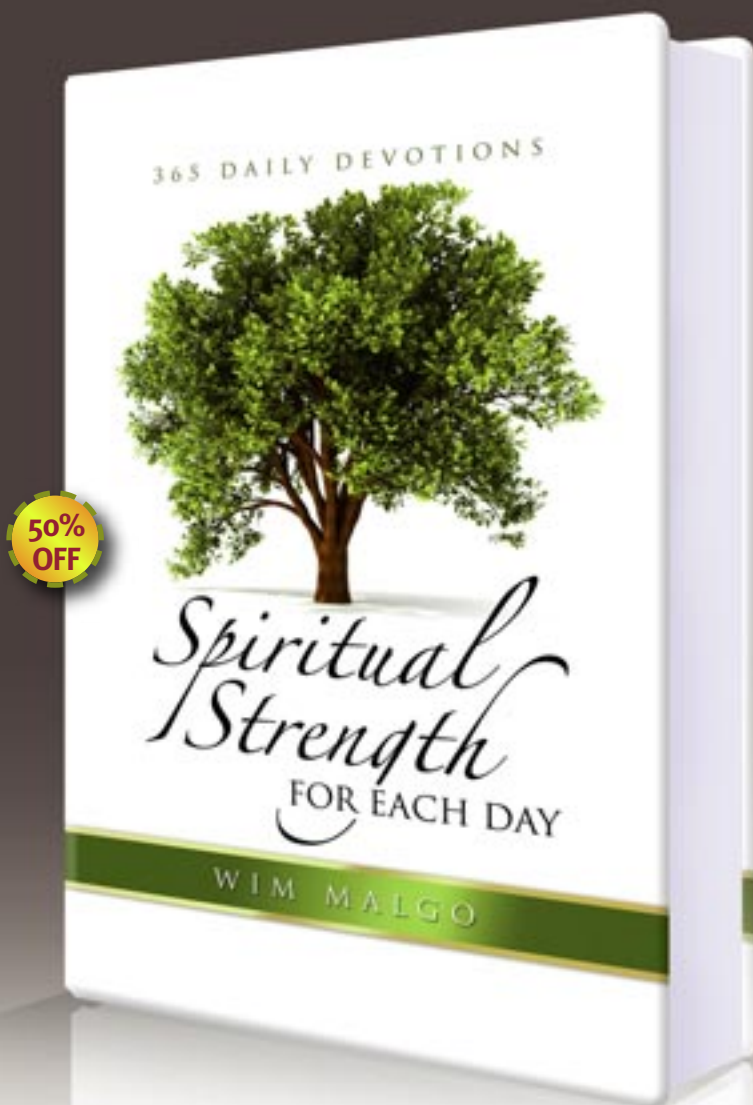
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