

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

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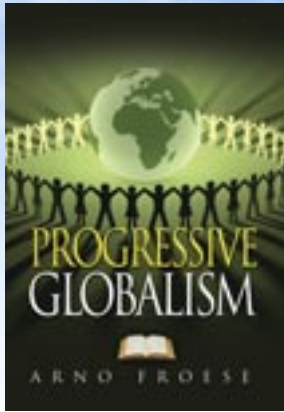
August 2022—\$4.75

The Present Age of
the Big Lie
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WHAT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE APOCALYPSE? PART 1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The World Will Become One

The fuel for unity is merchandise. Billions of people the world over are in bondage to merchandise. Not surprisingly, the god of this world guides his demons and uses the strong arm of finance and merchandising; in modern terms, tariffs, embargoes, sanctions, boycotts, etc.

How will it all end? Revelation 18 is a key chapter to identify globalism in detail. Verse 3 states, “For all nations...and the kings of the earth”—that includes the entire world. It continues: “...have committed fornication with her [Mystery Babylon], and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” The best definition of our time is one word: merchandise.

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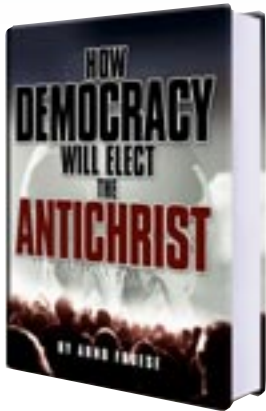
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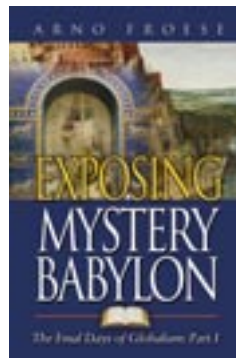
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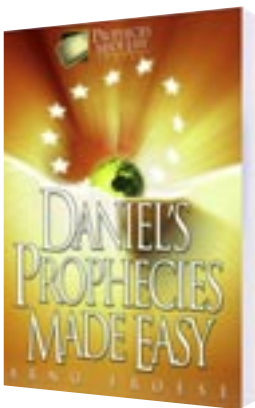
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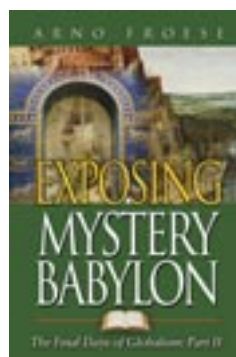


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EXPOSING MYSTERY

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What Will Happen Before Apocalypse? PART 1

By Arno Froese

Before Apocalypse or the Great Tribulation, the world will experience prosperity as never before. It matters not which country you reside in; the progress is undeniable. To ring the alarm bells in the Church about things that are happening in the world, is definitely contrary to Scripture.



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Acquires First Quantum
Computer

23 DENMARK
World's Most
Competitive Nation

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500 Native Americans
Died at Boarding Schools



25 EU
Inflation Reaches Record
8.1%



Remembering Israel

By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

We are standing on the Mount of Olives, looking toward Jerusalem. In the morning, we'd had a devotion on Romans 5:5a—"and this hope will not disappoint." Especially at this location, we remember our hope for the future: Jesus promised to return! One day *His* feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. World events will take a drastic turn—to the salvation of Israel and the salvation of all nations.

We visit the Wailing Wall (Western Wall of the Temple Mount). Pious Jews are praying at the Wall day and night. They are literally facing a Wall, and I am thinking, "The way would be so much easier through Jesus." He removed the wall, and in Him is salvation. His name guarantees that our prayers will be heard. "With my God I can leap over a wall" (Psalm 18:29b). I too go to the Wall and pray; however, in Jesus' name.

Since the destruction by the Romans, there are still a lot of stones remaining around the Temple Mount. In amazement, we stand before these current witnesses to what happened long ago. The tour guide reminds us of how frighteningly precise the Lord's Word has been fulfilled: "Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matt 24:2b).

Gethsemane. The night before Jesus' death on the cross. We remember His tears, His fear . . . but above all, His devotion to the will of the Father.

Jesus is willing to drink the cup of suffering to redeem a lost world. *He* was sold to pay our debt. *He* was taken captive to secure our freedom. However, His suffering was not the end, but His resurrection. In the Garden at the Tomb, we are reminded of it and joy fills our heart. The resurrection of Jesus is the best-attested fact of the Bible.

Three Christians from our group are baptized at the Jordan River. In the service for this occasion, we look at Acts of the Apostles, chapter 8. The evangelist Philip is called to Gaza on a desolate road. There he meets an Ethiopian official, who is disappointed because he did not find salvation in Jerusalem, and is now on his way home. He is reading Isaiah 53. Philip interprets the text in view of Jesus and the Ethiopian is converted, is baptized, and continues his journey with joy.

Nazareth, the place where Jesus grew up. There in the local synagogue, He read the well-known words of Isaiah 49 as being fulfilled in Him: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

We drive north to Caesarea Philippi, to the Springs of Banias from which the Jordan River flows. In the

EDITOR'S NOTE

past, the heathen believed that this was where Pan ruled, the Greek god of the shepherds. Also, it was thought to be the entrance to hell. It was at this very spot that Jesus asked His disciples: "Whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:15-16). The Lord praised Peter and said, among other things: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (verse 18). By the way, the word "panic" comes from Pan. It was believed that when Pan appeared, the herds would panic. In Jesus, we are relieved of panic . . . peace and tranquility abide.

The Sea of Gennesaret, unchanged from what it was 2000 years ago. This is where Jesus especially liked to stay, and where He did most of His miracles. But this place, despite Jesus' ministry there, did not want to listen to Him and was brought to judgment. In awe, we stand before the ruins of Capernaum and contemplate Jesus' words from Matthew 11:21-24.

Joppa (Jaffa), located on the Mediterranean Sea. Here Peter met the Roman centurion Cornelius, who was converted with his entire household. The Gospel went further and further west, and finally reached Europe.

Author and evangelist Peter Hahne sent me a message on my way to Israel: "Whoever travels through the land of Israel with open eyes, will realize that the Bible is right." (MC)

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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, was
seen by over 500, 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 imminent, pre-tribulational appearance of Je-
sus 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.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN BEFORE APOCALYPSE?

PART 1

Arno Froese

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”
(Proverbs 16:18).

Another translation reads, “Pride precedes a disaster, and an arrogant attitude precedes a fall.”

This message highlights two central themes: 1) that pride has an evil connotation, yet is still somewhat promoted in churches today; and, 2) to document the amazing progression of humanity, leading to man’s independence from God.

In relationship to our title, “Before Apocalypse,” we may call it “Pride Preceded Apocalypse,” or “An Arrogant Attitude Preceded the Great Tribulation.”

The Beginning of Mankind’s Pride

The indescribable glory of living in paradise in the presence of God, is certainly everyone’s wish.

The serpent disagreed; he said to Eve: “ye shall be as gods” (Genesis 3:5). Pride—the desire to be more—had the upper hand, and that’s where the tragedy for mankind began.

The Origin of Pride

The prophet Isaiah identifies the evil one, called Lucifer: “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14). Note the words, “I will be like the most High.” That corresponds to his offer to Eve: “ye shall be as gods.”

The prophet Ezekiel gives us additional information: “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering,

the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” (Ezekiel 28:13-15).

The *Tanakh* reads, “O Shining One, son of Dawn.” In old English from the Latin, Webster defines Lucifer as the “light-bearing morning star.” Webster continues: “In Christian theology, Satan was the leader of fallen angels. He was an angel of light until he revolted against God and with the others was cast into hell.” Ezekiel emphasizes Lucifer’s brightness: “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness” (Ezekiel 28:17a).

The Tower of Pride

Most of us know the story of the Tower of Babel, but let us read one verse: “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4). This is where the first globalists appeared. Needless to say, they were full of pride. Note the words “us” and “we.” Religiously speaking, their aim was to “reach unto heaven.” Also, they wanted to be recognized, important: “let us make us a name.” Note that all is in rebellion against God.

The distinction between Nebuchadnezzar and all other leaders of the world, was that he truly repented and recognized the King of heaven, the Creator of all things. His testimony: “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase” (Daniel 4:37).



The original instruction is recorded in Genesis 1:28: “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” But in this case, they feared, “lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” Then came judgment: this time not destruction, but confusion. They no longer could understand each other, and the Tower project ceased.

Egypt’s Pride and Fall

Before Israel became a nation in Egypt, there was one Joseph, the son of Jacob. Through the providence of God, he became second in command in the land of Egypt. This was due to him accurately interpreting Pharaoh’s dream. Joseph told Pharaoh there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of drought and famine. So, the blessing first, and then the judgment.

In this case, Joseph becomes an image of Jesus, who declared in Matthew 28:18b: “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Yet He affirmed His service to the Father: “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise” (John 5:19b). Joseph served Pharaoh, a picture of the Father. Genesis 47:20 testifies: “And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh’s.”

Nebuchadnezzar’s Pride

Later in history, we read of the first world ruler, Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 4:30 documents: “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour

The word “pride” appears 49 times in our Bible. Each time it has a negative connotation; it’s related to evil.

of my majesty?” What was the result of his declaration of pride? “The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws” (verse 33).

However, we must point out that Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest and best ruler in comparison to the rest of the world. This is clearly revealed when Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and declares before the king, “Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory” (Daniel 2:37). The last sentence in verse 38 reads, “Thou art this head of gold”—the best of all.

The distinction between Nebuchadnezzar and all other leaders of the world, was that he truly repented and recognized the King of heaven, the Creator of all things. His testimony: “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase” (Daniel 4:37).

The Pride of King Herod

Acts 12 reports the pride of King Herod: “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” (verses 21-22). At the epitome of his life, basking in

self-glory, he spoke to the people, and the people worshiped him, “It is the voice of a god.” What was the result? “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” (verse 23).

The Pride of Mystery Babylon

Revelation 17:5 records, “And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.” Who is this woman? Verse 18 gives us the answer: “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

In chapter 18, we read of the judgment of planet earth. But before the judgment, Mystery Babylon, the great city, proudly exclaims: “I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow” (Revelation 18:7b). “Pride goeth before destruction.”

Why These Stories?

To reinforce our introductory Scripture: “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18). The word “pride” appears 49 times in our Bible. Each time it has a negative connotation; it’s related to evil.

The word “proud” appears 48 times, and equally in a negative sense. That should suffice to confirm that these words, “pride” and “proud” do not belong in the Christian’s vocabulary.

What our grandparents and great-grandparents experienced, was all but misery compared to today.

Our calling lies in the opposite direction; not from pride to a fall but, for example, Acts 14:22: “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”—from suffering to glory.

The apostle Paul declares, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17). Peter admonishes us, “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (1 Peter 5:10). In summary, the best is yet to come.

Why “Before Apocalypse”?

This is of utmost importance to fully comprehend; before Apocalypse or the Great Tribulation, the world will experience prosperity as never before. We will present the documentation that shows, without a shadow of a doubt, that things in this world are quite surprisingly improving. It matters not which country you reside in; the progress is undeniable. What our grandparents and great-grandparents experienced was all but misery compared to today. They had to scramble just to have food on the table, clothes on their backs, and a roof over their heads: working six days a week, mostly 12-14 hours. That was the norm.

USA Example

The following information is public domain, easily understandable and accessible.

Today in 2022, the average hourly wage is \$30.05, according to Zip Recruiter. One hundred years ago, in 1922, the average hourly wage was \$0.657. Please keep in mind, not the dollar value, but the value in the time you had to work for these items, based on the above average wages. (Note: The 2022 prices are before recent inflation.)

	1922 Average hourly wage \$0.66		2022 Average hourly wage \$30.05	
	Monetary Cost	Minutes of Work	Monetary Cost	Minutes of Work
Bacon (1 lb.)	\$0.52	47	\$7.21	14
Milk (1 gal.)	\$0.66	60	\$4.21	8
Chicken (1 lb.)	\$0.39	36	\$0.60	1
Round Steak (1 lb.)	\$0.40	37	\$7.34	14
Sugar (5 lbs.)	\$0.97	89	\$2.12	4
Potato (10 lbs.)	\$0.63	58	\$4.99	10
Butter (1 lb.)	\$0.70	64	\$2.20	4
Eggs (1 dozen)	\$0.47	43	\$2.10	4

Home appliances cannot be compared, because of the absolute inferiority of the products offered in 1922 when compared to 2022.

One of the more popular items for us today is gasoline. A gallon of gas was \$0.25 in 1923. You had to work an hour for 2.6 gallons of gas;

The world will experience increased prosperity, security, and luxury. The Church—who is in the world but not of the world—also participates in the things the world offers, but our role is totally different.

this would get you 18 miles. Today, at the cost of \$4.50-\$5.00, you can buy 6.2 gallons for one hour of work, and it will get you 155 miles. Gas is actually super cheap today!

We may quibble about these statistics and the durability of goods, but regardless of which source you use, there are clear, order-of-magnitude gains we have enjoyed as consumers over the last century.

One more item (which seems unbelievable) relates to US violent and property crime from 1993 to 2019. The FBI reports that in 1993, 747.1 violent crimes occurred per 100,000 in population; that is down to 379.4 per 100,000 for 2019. Property crime per 100,000 was 4,740 in 1993, and in 2019 was 2,110.

The Church Is in the World but Not of the World

This is what we should keep in mind. The Bible speaks of two groups of people: 1) the lost—that is, the world; and 2) the saved—namely, the Church. Someone may point to 2 Timothy 3:13: “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” So, things will get worse—true—but not for the world; it is happening within the Church. First Timothy 4:1 explains: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

When Jesus speaks about the Great Tribulation, in the first place it is addressed to Israel,



and then the rest of the world. “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). To ring the alarm bells in the Church about things that are happening in the world, is definitely contrary to Scripture. We as believers must be constantly alert to the dangers of deception. The world is not; she is already deceived.

What then are the evil days? Paul explains: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3). The world will experience increased prosperity, security, and luxury. The Church—who is in the world but not of the world—also participates in the things the world offers, but our role is totally different. We are not looking for the here and now, but for that which is reserved for us in heaven.

(1237)



THE PRESENT AGE OF THE BIG LIE



Over the decades and centuries, there have been many lethal encroachments upon Biblical truths and doctrines. Many, if not most, are still with us today. In fact, they are still with us because the lies have been systemized or the subject of long-established dogmas. People seem to believe that the more ancient and longstanding might be a belief or doctrine, the more venerable or truthful it is likely to be. This is absolutely wrong.

By Wilfred Hahn

It is also believed that the bigger the lie, the less believable it will be. This view is also absolutely wrong. In fact, it is the big lies—the really huge lies—that are the most dangerous and alluring. The lies may be so big that they seem highly improbable. Yet, they are believed. One wonders how these false views and doctrines could even be accepted by both the gullible and scholars alike.

We observe that the most dangerous of lies are the big ones that seemingly are the most unbelievable. These are so big and repeated that they are no longer discernible to the masses.

Why are big lies so successful in attracting belief? And how is it that the most colossal lies are the most successful of all? Rulers and political strategists have understood this apparent human flaw, to be vulnerable to big lies and pro-

paganda. If you are going to lie, make it a big lie. But how must one bring this about?

Thus was born the strategy of the “Big Lie.” Consider, for example, Adolf Hitler’s perspective, which was heavily influenced by Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister to the Nazi regime at that time.

Quoting Goebbels: “The most brilliant propagandist technique will yield no success unless one fundamental principle is borne in mind constantly. It must confine itself to a few points and repeat them over and over.” Elsewhere he further elaborates (and we again quote): “If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences

Why are big lies so successful in attracting belief? And how is it that the most colossal lies are the most successful of all?

of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie [...].”

The Nazi regime was highly successful in its manipulations of truth. Historian Zachary Jonathan Jacobson describes its uses and successes in Nazi Germany: “Adolf Hitler first defined the Big Lie as a deviant tool wielded by Viennese Jews to discredit the Germans’ deportment in World War I. Yet, in tragically ironic fashion, it was Hitler and his Nazi regime that actually employed the mendacious strategy. In an effort to rewrite history and blame European Jews for Germany’s defeat in World War I, Hitler and his propaganda minister accused them of profiting from the war, consorting with foreign powers and ‘war shirking’ (avoiding conscription).

“Nazi fascism hinged on creating one streamlined, overarching lie. [...] The Nazis built an ideology on a fiction, the notion that Germany’s defeat in World War I could be avenged (and reversed) by purging the German population of those purportedly responsible: the Jews.

“Jews, Hitler contended, were the weak underbelly of the Weimar state that exposed the loyal and true German population to catastrophic collapse. To sell this narrative, Joseph Goebbels

insisted ‘all effective propaganda must be limited to a very few points and must harp on these in slogans until the last member of the public understands.’”

The Strategies of the Big Lie

The techniques of The Big Lie that we cite here have obviously been utilized in the political realm. However, they can apply to all “big lies.” We see these principles being implemented virtually everywhere—religion, geopolitics, the field of economics—whether over the short-term or over centuries.

Just what lies of this scale can be seen today? They are many. We will name some colossal lies that have persisted till recent times ... in no particular order:

- That Apostle Peter founded the Roman Church ... i.e., that he was the first pope.
- That the Church of Rome is the infallible representative of Christ (Vicar of Christ) upon earth.
- That the Temple Mount belongs to the Arabs ... particularly Muslims.
- Evolution: That God did not create the world and all its life forms and dwellers, and that evolution is proven through science.
- Prosperity Theology ... that believers are sure to be blessed physically in the here and now.
- Atheism and Humanism



Is the technique of the Big Lie surprising? It shouldn't be. Why? Prophecy indicates a time of great "false witness" at the end of days. The Bible tells us that lies and intrigue will increase.



- That Jesus Christ did not die on the cross, and that most certainly He was not raised on the third day.

The above-mentioned lies are indeed colossal, as they destroy or hide key fundamental truths. Many more can be added ... for example, certain aspects of the "climate change" views.

Brazen Big Lies

Is the technique of the Big Lie surprising? It shouldn't be. Why? Prophecy indicates a time of great "false witness" at the end of days. The Bible tells us that lies and intrigue will increase. Zechariah 5:3, for example, prophesies that the latter-day world would be characterized by two main conditions—lying (swearing falsely) and theft (stealing and greed). The result is a world rampant with lies and intrigue.

And, indeed, we observe these conditions increasing with greater intensity today.

For example, statistics today are crafted to cover up lies. They are manipulated to conceal facts and truths rather than to reveal. We find falsehoods institutionalized at many levels.

People are adept at "spinning" facts to support whatever deceiving view they wish. The facts are treated as malleable; the truth is subject to change. To this end, the Russians have an infamous saying: "History is like the weather: It constantly changes." Ergo, past truths and facts change.

Even secular authors and societal observers are identifying our day and age as chronically untruthful. A number of books and essays on this condition have been published in recent times. For example, "Liars in High Places: Who Is to Blame for Misinformation?" (*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2021); or, *Liars: Falsehoods and Free Speech in an Age of Deception* (Cass Sunstein, Oxford University Press).

In the latter referenced book, the author goes so far as to say that Americans are living in "an age of deception." It is evident that in recent years, not only have lies become more prevalent in the public domain, but also the

God allowed lies to exist as a strategic part of the epic cosmological battle occurring throughout history till now. Therefore, it is no surprise that Satan would tactically use lies in his war to defy God.

greater the flagrant lies, the less the shame in promoting them.

Thoughts to Ponder

The Bible expressly says: “God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that he would change his mind” (Numbers 23:19). God cannot lie. It would be impossible. Thus, He is Truth.

God hates lies. Why? They are the foundational tactic of Satan, the enemy. Many references in the Bible underline God’s hatred of lies.

Yet, why were lies allowed in God’s creation? The short answer: Because truth must exist. Think about it. Were there no such thing as the concept of “truth,” then there would not be any lies.

God allowed lies to exist as a strategic part of the epic cosmological battle occurring throughout history till now. Therefore, it is no surprise that Satan would tactically use lies in his war to defy God. It is the only method the Creator has allowed: “Did God really say...?” (Genesis 3:1). Yet in the end, it will actually validate God’s sovereignty and might.

In the battles against lies and falsehoods, it should be noted that there are no limitations or holds on brutal tech-



niques. The enemy will do anything and everything to keep falsehoods hidden.

Satan is the father of all lies. Said Jesus Christ: “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!” (John 8:44-45).

If indeed it is the case that people will choose to deny Truth because it expressly is TRUTH, it follows then that people will also be acceptant casualties of the Big Lie.

In response to the actions of Hanaiah, the prophet Jeremiah said: “The LORD has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies” (Jeremiah 28:15). (MC)



Understanding Doubt

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Have you ever struggled with doubt? Have you ever questioned the certainty of your salvation? Have you wrestled with God's apparent silence in times of disappointment or tragedy? Doubt affects the lives of many believers.

Doubt is a feeling of uncertainty. For the Christian, such uncertainty may arise when considering God or one's relationship to Him. David once pleaded, "How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?" (Ps 13:1). One reason many believers find it difficult responding to doubt, is they regard such uncertainty as unique

to them. While it may be easy to think of those whom God uses most effectively as nearly perfect, nothing could be further from the truth.

The personages of Scripture were authentic people, who experienced many of the same struggles that others fear to admit. Jeremiah, for instance, was one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament; yet for all his courage, he was also

subject to periods of great depression. Jeremiah was frequently mistreated, and his life was often in peril. More than any Old Testament saint, he knew the meaning of “the fellowship of His [Christ’s] sufferings” (Phil 3:10). For this reason, it should not be shocking to read the prophet’s complaint as follows: “O LORD, You have deceived me and I was deceived; You have overcome me and prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me” (Jer 20:7).

Abraham—the very example of righteousness through faith—grew tired of waiting for God to fulfill His promise of a seed in what is known as the Abrahamic Covenant of Genesis 12. God had promised Abraham that his descendants would “be a blessing” to the entire earth (Gen 12:2-3), and that He would make his descendants as numerous “as the dust of the earth” (13:16). Abraham was approximately 80 years of age when he said, “O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless?” (15:2a). If he died, the only heir of his house was Eliezer (v. 2b). Abraham was concerned for the outworking of God’s worldwide plan of salvation. God made a gracious promise, yet seemed to be doing nothing. Abraham and Sarah were getting older and were filled with doubt.

Moses tired of bearing responsibility for the wilderness community, so he vigorously expressed his feelings to God, asking why the Lord was “so hard” on him and why he seemed to lack divine favor (Numb 11:11). God’s promise to supply meat was one response to Moses’ complaint (v. 18). Moses doubted that God would truly be able to supply meat for such a large multitude of people, so that they could “eat for a whole month” (v. 21). Thinking in human terms, Moses asked, “Should

flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to be sufficient for them? Or should all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to be sufficient for them?” (v. 22). God’s response was to remind Moses of His omnipotence (v. 23; cf. Isa 55:8-9).

Dr. Gary Habermas is a distinguished research professor of apologetics and philosophy, whose book *Dealing with Doubt* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1990) provides three examples of doubt: (1) factual, (2) emotional, and (3) volitional. The most common type of doubt is factual, which arises from a lack of information. Factual doubt is evident in Mary questioning the angel Gabriel regarding the possibility of her conceiving a child as “a virgin” (Luke 1:34). The solution to factual doubt is the revelation of Scripture. The story is often told that when someone asked Augustine what God was doing for infinite time prior to the creation of the world, the church father responded in anger, “God was creating hell for people who ask such questions.” Some regard Augustine’s response as amusing, while others view it as a perfect illustration of how religion discourages questions and instead demands blind faith.

The truth is that Augustine never indicated it was wrong to have questions and earnest pleadings to God for understanding; rather, he severely criticized the person who condemned such. He wanted to consider thought-provoking questions seriously, and refused “to evade the point of the question” by means of a “frivolous retort.” Saint Augustine said: “But it is one thing to make fun of the questioner and another to find the answer. So I shall refrain from giving this reply. For in matters of which I am ignorant I would rather admit the fact than gain credit by giving the wrong answer and making a laughing-stock of a man who asks a

Understanding Doubt

The most frequent and painful type of doubt is emotional; it is also the most difficult to resolve. Emotional doubt usually arises from a painful experience.

serious question” (*Confessions*, trans. R. S. Pine-Coffin [New York: Penguin, 1961] XI.12).

As opposed to regarding faith as antithetical to having questions, Augustine regarded faith as an incentive to inquiry. One does not understand to believe; rather, one’s faith is in order to understand, for it is the recompense of such belief. Having challenging questions and earnest pleadings to inform one’s mind—thereby resulting in greater understanding—is not to be avoided. Augustine’s intense yearning for greater understanding of Scripture, is evident in his comments regarding Genesis 1:1 (“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”). He wrote:

Let me hear and understand the meaning of the words: in the Beginning you made heaven and earth. Moses wrote these words. . . . He is no longer here and I cannot see him face to face. But if he were here, I would lay hold of him and in your name I would beg and beseech him to explain those words to me. . . . Since, then, I cannot question Moses, whose words were true because you, the Truth, filled him with yourself, I beseech you, my God, to forgive my sins and grant me the grace to understand those words. . . . (*Confessions*, XI.3).

Evading challenging, thought-provoking questions by means of a flippant rejoinder, is not appropriate in response to factual doubt. Facts are the answer to such uncertainty. Factual doubt is most often concerned with the evidence for Christianity, such as the existence of God and the problem of pain and suffering; or even historical facts, such as miracles and the authenticity of Scripture. Doubt that is largely

factual is generally resolved if sufficient information is given in response to its questions. Factual doubt is primarily settled with facts that convey the appropriate reasons for faith. Therefore, the best remedy is greater understanding of Scripture, because “milk” is nutritious for a time, but “meat” will sustain a person for the long-term (cf. 1 Cor 3:1-4; Heb 5:11-14). If doubt is factual, the Word of God has the answer; and, if someone has not yet trusted in God, it is incumbent upon the believer to “make a defense . . . with gentleness and respect,” following the example of Jesus when He defended Himself (cf. 1 Pet 3:15).

If answers are not attained, factual questions can result in an emotional response, or what may be called emotional doubt. The most frequent and painful type of doubt is emotional; it is also the most difficult to resolve. Emotional doubt usually arises from a painful experience. What may be regarded as the groanings of life for some (cf. Rom 8:18-25), may be debilitating for another, so that little can be done to offer consolation. Doubt arises because a person becomes uncertain regarding God’s love for him or her. Facts are not what is needed for an emotional doubter, because they have difficulty believing what they know to be true, as a result of interpreting the facts in an emotional manner. When a person knows the facts of a situation yet still struggles with doubt, the reason is most likely an emotional cause for such uncertainty.

Those with emotional doubt may express the same questions as factual doubters, though they

Doubt is not unbelief. The opposite of faith is unbelief. There is a fundamental difference between the open-minded uncertainty of doubt and the narrow-minded certainty of unbelief.



ask for different reasons. For instance, both may express doubt concerning the resurrection. One asks regarding facts he or she does not possess, while the other asks because he or she entertains the possibility of being wrong. Normally, the greatest indication that doubt is emotional is when a suffering person responds to reasons why he or she should not doubt, with a question that begins, “What if. . .?” The person knows the facts of the resurrection, for example, yet wonders, “What if he or she is wrong?”

How does a person overcome emotional doubt? Changing one’s thinking is the answer. The book of Romans makes an interesting contrast between the unbeliever and believer. According to Romans 1, the unbeliever exchanges “the truth of God for a lie” (v. 25a). Believers, however, are to present their bodies as “a living and holy sacrifice” (12:1), which is being “transformed by the renewing of [our] mind” (v. 2). One believes a lie, while the other changes his or her manner of thinking. A person’s mood is changed by what he or she is

thinking. The Word of God is true; consequently, the emotional doubter needs to stop thinking wrongly regarding truth.

The final type of doubt is volitional, which can be a person with immature faith, or the questioning of whether one’s faith in Jesus is authentic since it occurred at a young age. Other examples may include unwillingness to repent of known sin, or to apply biblical truths to one’s life. The most extreme form of volitional doubt is one who determines not to believe. The doubt is not from lack of evidence; rather, it is a personal resolve not to believe God despite the proof. The religious leaders at the first coming of Christ, are examples of those who willfully rejected the evidence of both fulfilled Scripture and the miraculous signs.

Doubt is not unbelief. The opposite of faith is unbelief. There is a fundamental difference between the open-minded uncertainty of doubt and the narrow-minded certainty of unbelief. Of course, doubt can lead to unbelief if not resolved. Unbelief, however, is a rejection of God and His Word. Doubt can occur in the life of a believer; sometimes it is factual or emotional. However, when doubt is nurtured volitionally, either through spiritual immaturity or unrealistic expectations (e.g., absolute certainty for everything), it can manifest in unbelief. Doubt does not automatically equate to unbelief. Jude 22 says, “have mercy on some, who are doubting.” Scripture promises the believer who is dependent upon Christ in faith, will not be overwhelmed by anything (1 Cor 10:13), which certainly includes doubt. (1236)



Prosperity Gospel or Harsh Reality?

Norbert Lieth

Paul is a great example for believers. Who wouldn't want to be like him? But his life was characterized by suffering, not comfort. What that can mean for us.

Paul is something like a prototype of the Church, which he served with his God-given gospel of perfect grace (Acts 20:24). Concerning this, he explained: "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting" (1 Tim 1:16).

His conversion, the mercy of God he experienced, would become a model for everyone who would come to faith in the future: through grace alone, without works. In his own body, however, Paul

not only represented perfect grace, but also the suffering inherent to the Church experience. He repeatedly urged the believers: "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me" (1 Cor 4:16).

That would be something, to have Paul's status. Called to be like him: as famous, as effective, and as fruitful as he was. Wanting to represent something is in our blood. But what was he then? He said of himself and his fellow workers, "Let a man so account of us, as the ministers of Christ..." (1 Cor 4:1). Paul saw himself as a servant of his neighbor, and therefore also described himself as some-

one in a state of affliction, anxiety, and tears (2 Cor 2:4). He was ready to make any sacrifice, and to be sacrificed himself (2 Cor 12:15). He presented himself as someone who always bore the death of Jesus in his body (2 Cor 4:10). Not as the one who stands in the front row, but in the back, among the doomed, a spectacle for angels as well as men (1 Cor 4:9). Perhaps he was recalling the gladiators in the arenas, who were perpetually ordained for death and were a spectacle for the public. The suffering of Christians serves as a spectacle for the people around them, and even the angels; just think of Job's suffering. Whoever overcomes it and holds fast to the faith, glorifies God—and it won't go unrewarded.

Paul worked with his own two hands to sustain himself and his companions (Acts 20:33-34; 1 Cor 4:12). Things didn't just fall into his lap like manna from heaven. Paul was shipwrecked four times, he was beaten with rods three times, and he was once stoned (2 Cor 11:25). He and his fellow laborers were constantly the objects of malicious talk. They suffered from hunger and thirst, were beaten with fists, and had no fixed home. They were the world's refuse, and scum to everyone (1 Cor 4:11-13). At the end, he saw that his life was being poured out as a drink offering. Almost everyone had left him, and he would soon have to lay his head on the chopping block to be cut off (2 Tim 4:6). He could have asked himself, "So

where is God now?" But no criticism ever passed his lips. Paul looked further, beyond the horizon of earthly life into the eternal reality.

From this background, he called the Church to be his imitators, just as he imitated Christ (1 Cor 11:1). As already mentioned, Paul's life personified the Church in the grace he experienced, in faith and in suffering. As such, he didn't hold out the prospect of a glorious era for the Church here on earth, but rather hardship and distress, suffering and shame, struggle and pain. He didn't preach a prosperity gospel, but harsh reality. If we know this, bear it in mind and take it into account, then we will no longer experience doubt and be unsure when suffering befalls us. Suffering isn't a punishment from God. It has nothing to do with unbelief, and we shouldn't think, "How could God allow this when I've sacrificed everything for Him?" Suffering is just a part of the Christian life.

Paul always oriented the Church toward the future, toward heaven. He expected glory to outshine everything in the end. Paul also had a lot to say about it: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). And, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor 4:17).

(MR1020/1113)




WORLD FOCUS

 USA

Google Engineer Convinced AI Is Alive

An engineer at Google said he was placed on leave after claiming an artificial intelligence chatbot had become sentient.

 Blake Lemoine told *The Washington Post* he began chatting with the interface LaMDA, or Language Model for Dialogue Applications, last fall as part of his job at Google's Responsible AI organization.

Google called LaMDA their "break-through conversation technology" last year. The conversational artificial intelligence is capable of engaging in natural-sounding, open-ended conversations. Google has said the technology could be used in tools like search and Google Assistant but research and testing is ongoing.

Lemoine, who is also a Christian priest, published a *Medium* post describing LaMDA "as a person." He said he has spoken with LaMDA about religion, consciousness, and the laws of robotics, and that the model has described itself as a sentient person. He said LaMDA wants to "prioritize the well being of humanity" and "be acknowledged as an employee of Google rather than as property."

But when he raised the idea of LaMDA's sentience to higher-ups at Google, he was dismissed.

"Our team—including ethicists and technologists—has reviewed Blake's concerns per our AI Principles and have informed him that the evidence does not support his claims. He was told that there was no evidence that LaMDA was sentient (and lots of evidence against it)," Brian Gabriel, a Google spokesperson, told *The Post*.

The Google spokesperson also said that while some have considered the possibility of sentience in artificial intelligence, "it doesn't make sense to do so by anthropomorphizing today's conversational models, which are not sentient." Anthropomorphizing refers to attributing human characteristics to an object or animal.

"These systems imitate the types of exchanges found in millions of sentences, and can riff on any fantastical topic," Gabriel told *The Post*.

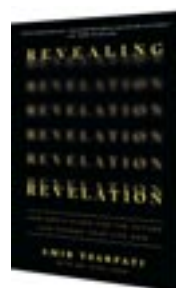
He and other researchers have said that the artificial intelligence models have so much data that they are capable of sounding human, but that the superior language skills do not provide evidence of sentience.

-www.businessinsider.com, 11 June 2022



Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California. Marcio Jose Sanchez/AP

Commentary: We have on several occasions speculated on the possibility of the image of the beast, described in Revelation 13:14-15, as being a form of artificial intelligence, since it is a manmade creation: "...that they should make an image to the beast." At the same time, we must acknowledge that man cannot create a soul or a spiritual entity, or as scientists say, "sentience." This article shows, however, that is not necessary. Artificial intelligence is already being built to



be good enough to fool even scientists—and this is just the start.

7772 (By J. Froese)


(See *Revealing Revelation*,

Item #2394, \$17.99.)



UK Defense Ministry Acquires First Quantum Computer

Quantum computers can make very complex calculations extremely quickly and their creators say they can solve the problems regular computers cannot.

 The MoD will work with British company Orca Computing to explore applications for quantum technology in defense.

The computers found in most of our homes and workplaces process data in bits, which have a binary value of either zero or one.

Quantum computers instead use a two-state unit for data processing called a qubit.

This can represent digits like one or zero simultaneously through a quantum mechanical process called superposition, letting quantum computers bridge binary digits and cope with uncertainty where regular computers cannot.

The promise of quantum computing is that it will help to solve problems that standard computers can't handle.

The idea is that it will be used in the fight against climate change, in the development of new drugs and improved artificial intelligence—and in this case, potentially to support the military.

-www.bbc.com, 9 June 2022

Commentary: We notice the word “defense.” Doing research, one finds that this is a relatively new definition; it always used to be “department of war” or

“war department.” Now it’s called defense. Strange, no one is attacking.

In the United States, the War Department was replaced by the Department of Defense in 1949. In the UK, the Ministry of Defense was created on 1 April 1964.

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, war has become an important event for global news media. Even somewhat pacifist Germany has ordered a total overhaul of their war machine (defense).

We are reminded of Joel 3:9-10: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.”

What is the background reason for the world’s commotion? We don’t think it’s just Russia’s invasion of Ukraine; verse 2 reads: “I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.” Thus, we realize that something is happening in



the invisible world. It’s all about Israel, because the nations have “parted [God’s] land.” 7771

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




DENMARK World’s Most Competitive Nation

Denmark has overtaken Switzerland as the world’s most competitive economy after the Nordic country outperformed peers during the pandemic.



Pedestrians walk along a pedestrianized shopping street in Copenhagen, Denmark.
Photographer: Carsten Snejbjerg/Bloomberg

 “Denmark is the most digitally advanced country in the world and now takes the top spot thanks to good policies, advantages afforded by being a European country, a clear focus on sustainability and a push from its agile corporate sector,” Arturo Bris, a professor at the Lausanne, Switzerland-based IMD, said in the statement.

Along with the other Nordic nations, the Danish economy fared better through lockdowns than most of its wealthy peers, helped by strong social safety networks, low debt levels and digital progress, as well as lower dependency on tourism. Denmark’s unemployment is at its lowest level in 14 years and gross domestic product will likely expand 3.4% this year, according to the most recent government forecast.


-www.swissinfo.ch, 15 June 2022

(continued next page)



500 Native Americans Died at Boarding Schools

At least 500 Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children died while attending Indian boarding schools run or supported by the U.S. government, a highly anticipated Interior Department report said. The report identified over 400 schools and more than 50 gravesites and said more gravesites would likely be found.

 Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's grandparents were both 8 years old when they were forced to attend boarding school, she said at a news conference. "Many children like them never made it back to their homes. Each of those children is a missing family member, a person who was not able to live out their purpose on this Earth because they lost their lives as part of this terrible system," Haaland said, holding back tears.

"The United States doesn't even know how many Indian students went through these institutions—let alone how many actually died in them," said Preston S.

McBride, an Indian boarding school historian and a Comanche descendent. McBride has found more than 1,000 student deaths at the four former boarding schools he has studied, and estimates the overall number of deaths could be as high as 40,000.

Beginning in the early 1800s, the U.S. government stole Native American children from their communities and forced them to attend Indian boarding schools, where they were stripped of their languages and traditions, given English names and trained to perform military drills.

While the report acknowledges an era of violence perpetrated on Native American children, it does not ensure that the government will take any immediate steps to address the devastation left by its policies. The report notes that the federal government has never provided a forum for survivors or their descendants to voluntarily detail their experiences.

In Canada, following the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, the government recently set aside \$4.7

billion to support Indigenous communities affected by its residential schools.

-www.yahoo.com, 11 May 2022

Commentary: Why are we publishing this unpleasant truth? Simply to show that nations, by whatever name, are fundamentally evil, cruel, and selfish. Also, because some Christians continue to claim their innocence: "My nation is better." Obviously, far from the truth.

What does the Bible say about the nations? Galatians 1:4 declares: "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father." Philippians 2:15 adds: "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." And 1 John 5:19 summarizes: "And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."

We have published some excerpts from this article by Graham Lee

(continued next page)

Most Competitive (continued from page 23)

Commentary: This small country is bordered by Germany in the south, the North Sea in the west, and the Baltic Sea in the east. Denmark has a population of over 5 million; religiously, it is dominated by 75% Lutheranism, with about 5.5% Muslim. Life expectancy stands at 81.6 years.

While Denmark is a peninsula, Switzerland is a landlocked country that has strictly maintained its neutrality, and is not a member of the EU. Denmark became an EU member in 1973, but has opted out of the monetary union and the European cooperation on defense. While in general, unity with other nations strengthens a country, Den-

mark's independence shows the opposite: amazing success.

Here, individualism is applicable to Christians: "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12). 7778

(See *Christians in a Cancel Culture*, Item #2383, \$15.99)

Native Americans (continued from page 24)

Brewer as a message to Christians; namely, that the truth shall make us free—not relying on selective history.

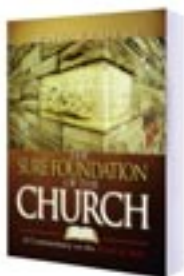
The collective sin of nations will not be forgotten. Moses proclaims in Deuteronomy 32:7: “Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.”

Christians—whoever they are, wherever they live—belong to a new nation; one that does not have an earthly name, no national flag or anthem. They have no headquarters, no capital city, no single language; they practice totally different cultures, are subject to diverse laws, but they are one in Christ Jesus. This unity in the Spirit and in practice was demonstrated for us by the first church in Jerusalem: “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” (Acts 4:32). That is the nation that counts for us believers. The result is described in verse 33: “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the

Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”

7754

(See *The Sure Foundation of the Church*, Item #1066, \$18.50.)



Inflation Reaches Record 8.1%

Inflation in the eurozone has hit another record high, as the war in Ukraine stokes energy and food prices. Prices had already been increasing because of supply chain problems in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.



Inflation in the 19 countries of the eurozone soared to 8.1% in May from 7.4% in April, figures showed, exceeding previous expectations.

Prices have risen sharply in the past year, initially because of supply chain problems after the COVID pandemic but subsequently because of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Energy prices jumped by 39.2% as a result of a global energy crunch caused by the war.

Food prices soared by 7.5%, while prices for other goods—such as clothing, appliances, cars, computers and books—were up 4.2% and the cost for services rose 3.5%.

Germany’s inflation rate reached 7.9% in May, according to data published by the German statistical agency Destatis.

Inflation in the eurozone—home to some 343 million people—is now at its highest since records for the currency began in 1997.

The latest figures mean headline inflation is now 4 times the ECB’s 2% target, and there are fears that the rapid



Inflation is on the rise across the eurozone, with a rise in interest rates widely predicted

rise in underlying prices could see inflation become embedded.

-www.du.com, 31 May 2022

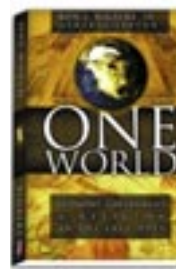
Commentary: Different sources use different criteria and come up with slightly different figures, but one thing is crystal clear: this time it is global. In order to remedy the problem, governments the world over continue to use various means, including interest rate changes.

Why inflation? One word: coronavirus, which forced a deceleration in production. Thus, the old slogan, “Supply and demand determine the price,” becomes true once again. In the past, it was mainly limited to certain sections of the world: Europe, America, Asia, Africa, etc. Today, it’s more unified.

Once again, we see the world coming closer together, as documented in Scriptures such as Revelation 18.

7763

(See *One World*, Item #2203, \$15.99.)




 I R A N

Five Minutes to Armageddon?

Israel and Iran are rapidly approaching an inflection point over Tehran's nuclear program, and what was the atomic equivalent of a controlled clash between the two countries is now devolving into an unconstrained chain reaction.



 Iran's amassing of 95 pounds of highly enriched uranium (HEU) is deeply concerning. Sufficient HEU mass is required for a nuclear chain reaction to sustain itself and Tehran has ominously crossed that minimum threshold.

For Israel, it is 1981 redux—when then-Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and his security Cabinet authorized Operation Babylon to destroy Saddam Hussein's Osirak nuclear facility. Iraq's atomic threat was largely theoretical in nature in 1981; Iran's today is far more dire and will be exponentially more difficult to eliminate.

Iran under President Ibrahim Raisi is increasingly combative and noncooperative. Rafael Grossi, director-general of the IAEA, reported to the agency's board of governors that Tehran had failed to provide "explanations that are technically credible" with respect to finding nuclear materials at "three undeclared locations in Iran." Fur-

ther, Iran began installing "advanced IR-6 centrifuges" in clusters, thereby chillingly accelerating Tehran's enrichment of uranium by as much as 50 percent.

In response, the IAEA board censured Tehran, resulting in Iran cutting off IAEA camera feeds that monitored Iran's nuclear activities.

Prepared or not, Israel and Washington both appear to be out of time—Iran's threat is substantial, and it is only intensifying. Until now, Jerusalem's "war between wars" covert approach against Iran was sufficient to tactically frustrate Tehran's nuclear ambitions, largely via sabotage and assassinations of key Iranian nuclear physicists. It no longer is—not when HEU is 60 percent enriched. Measured in Doomsday Clock terms, it is five minutes to midnight in Jerusalem and Tehran—and in Megiddo, the historical biblical site of Armageddon in Israel.

-*thehill.com*, 16 June 2022

Commentary: While it is known that Israel has the capacity, supported by the necessary intelligence, to destroy much of the nuclear facilities within Iran, it is all but impossible to accomplish total annihilation of their nuclear program.

Israel is painfully aware of the difficulties associated with campaigns to eradicate enemy positions, plans, and functionality. This has been repeatedly experienced during the several wars with Gaza.

Iran was known for centuries as Persia. Over 2,600 years ago, the state of

affairs was quite different: "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up" (2 Chronicles 36:23). That was very positive; freedom for the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem.

The message of today's Persia (Iran) has radically changed. According to *The Times of Israel*, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declared: "Zionism is an obvious plague for the world of Islam. The Zionists have always been a plague, even before establishing the fraudulent Zionist regime. Even then, Zionist capitalists were a plague for the whole world. Now they're a plague especially for the world of Islam. Muslim nations oppose the normalization of relations with the Zionists, clench their fists and shout slogans against states seeking normalization. The Zionist regime exploits these states. They don't realize it, but we hope they realize it before it's too late."

However, these developments are not Armageddon. Revelation 16 explains the preparations for Armageddon: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth

(continued next page)

Armageddon (continued from page 26)

unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (verses 13-14). This is world war initiated by God, as verse 16 reveals: “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” It’s occurring in the invisible world, for chapter 17, verse 14 declares: “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” No earthly power can muster its military force to “make war with the Lamb.” In the end, it is the Lamb of God who will demonstrate His victory over planet earth.


7777

(See *ISIS, Iran, Israel and the End of Days*, Item #2283, \$15.99.)

BRAZIL

Russia Asks for Help at IMF and World Bank

Russia has asked Brazil for support in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the G20 group of top economies to help it counter crippling sanctions imposed by the West since it invaded Ukraine, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

 Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov wrote to Economy Minister Paulo Guedes asking for Brazil’s “support to prevent political accusations and discrimination attempts in international financial institutions and multilateral fora.”

The letter, which made no mention of the war in Ukraine, was relayed to the Brazilian minister by Russia’s ambassador in Brasilia.

“We consider that the current crisis caused by unprecedented economic sanctions driven by the G7 countries might have long-lasting consequences unless we take joint action to resolve it,” he wrote to Guedes.

Brazil’s far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who visited Moscow just days before the invasion, has kept Brazil neutral in the Ukraine crisis and has not condemned the invasion, drawing criticism from the Biden administration.

“The most important thing at this time is to have all international forums, the G20, WTO, FAO, functioning fully, and for all countries to be present, including Russia,” Brazilian Foreign Minister Carlos Franca told a Senate hearing.

-www.reuters.com, 14 April 2022

Commentary: What becomes clear is that the sanctions placed against Russia are having at least some effect. Brazil, with a population of over 218 million, has a \$3 trillion economy, making it the 8th largest in the world.

Brazil is also part of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), with South Africa joining the group in 2010. What is its purpose? Cooperation and encouraging mutual development. With these facts in mind, it seems almost understandable for Brazil not to openly condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Furthermore, the five nations geographically cover one quarter of the earth and contain 40% of the world’s population, with a combined GDP of over \$20 trillion.

Prophetically speaking, we are witnessing an agglomeration of nations as never before in history. In the first place, it is not who wins what; the real issue is globalization, with the aim of garnering peace, prosperity, and security for all people on planet earth.

That, however, is the task our Lord Jesus will fully implement. With these various groups of nations—whether it’s NATO, the United Nations, European Union, World Trade Organization, International Criminal Court, or hundreds if not thousands of others—the aim is crystal clear: to avoid war. To compromise and negotiate so more people on planet earth will enjoy the technology that has led to improved living conditions and life expectancy the world over.

But, we reiterate: the real thing is reserved for the “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16b).

7738

(See *The Non-Prophet’s Guide to the Book of Revelation*, Item #2361, \$16.99.)



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Seeming Without Being

Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 31. Revelation 3:1-6.

Historically, Sardis was the ancient royal seat of the kingdom of Lydia, with an illustrious past. However, in the Roman era at the time of John, Sardis was a lackluster provincial town, despite its prosperity. Later in Christian times, it attained a certain fame because of Bishop Melito of Sardis, who died in 170 AD. Today, nothing remains of this remarkable city, save some widely scattered rubble heaps with a few huts in between, forming a little Turkish village

called Sart. Many decades ago, Gotthilf Heinrich von Schubert (a Christian naturalist) found just two Christians remaining in these huts during his travels. But even when a visible manifestation of the body of Christ is declining in the local church, as in Sardis, the Church of Jesus still remains. The gates of hell cannot overpower it! The Lord is now addressing the Church of Jesus in this city. What a wonderful thing it is to belong to the Church of Jesus, to be a member of His body! The Church of



There is the appearance of something, but in reality, nothing's there.

Jesus stands the test of time. It was there two millennia ago, and is still here today. The same Lord and Savior that spoke to her then is still speaking today.

So, is it praise when the exalted Lord also tells Sardis, “I know thy works”? The fact that He knows everything is a great comfort to those who have reached the end of their own strength. He knows your efforts, and He knows about your misunderstood contributions; everything you're doing behind the scenes for Jesus' sake. But these words from the Lord to Sardis aren't consoling and aren't meant to be praise, but primarily are a continuation of His self-revelation.

He revealed Himself to the church in Thyatira as the Son of God, with eyes like flames of fire and feet like red hot brass. But He speaks here: “These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars” (v. 1). The seven Spirits of God signify the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The Lord made this fullness known through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah; in Isaiah 11:2, it says that the following will rest upon Him:

1. The spirit of the Lord
2. The spirit of wisdom
3. The spirit of understanding
4. The spirit of counsel
5. The spirit of might

6. The spirit of knowledge

7. The spirit of the fear of the Lord.

Our Lord Jesus has all of this! He has the seven Spirits of God, because “the fullness of the Godhead” dwells bodily in Him (Col 2:9).

We already learned who the seven stars are in Revelation 1:20: seven angels, or leaders of the different churches, who are representative of the entire Church of Jesus. The Lord—who possesses the seven Spirits of God—speaks to Sardis as the Source of all life, while He has the stars—the Church of Jesus—in His hand. It's as if the Lord—with the seven Spirits of God, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and the seven stars—wants to communicate in unison that the fullness of regenerating vitality is available to the whole Church. With this, we suddenly realize that “I know thy works” contains neither consolation nor praise. Let's reread it in this context: “These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead” (Rev 3:1).

The Lord is speaking here with unprecedented immediacy, unlike the way He addresses the other churches. For example, he tells Pergamos (2:14) and Thyatira (2:20), “I have a few things

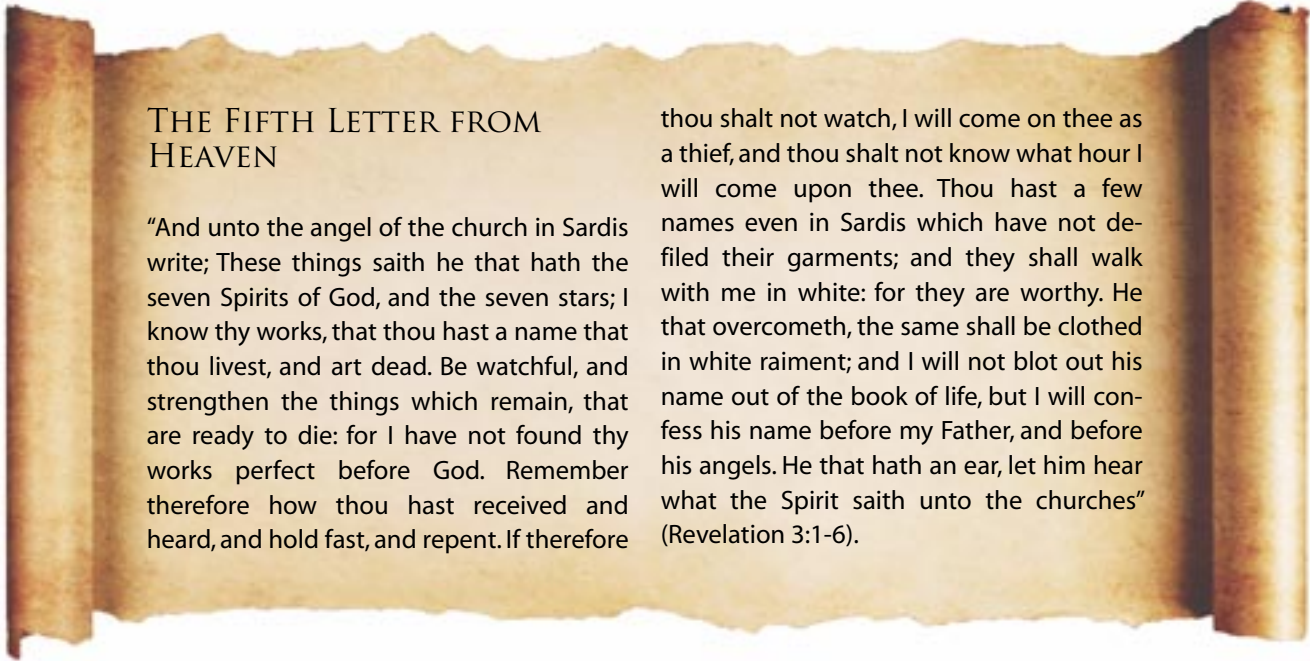
Seeming Without Being

against thee.” Similarly, He tells Ephesus (2:4), “I have somewhat against thee.” But He directly tells Sardis, “Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.” This proves that the Lord is speaking about dead works, which we also saw evidence of in Thyatira. Probably the shortest definition of dead works is, seeming without being!

There is the appearance of something, but in reality, nothing’s there. The church in Sardis has a historical Savior, but no current Lord. Otherwise, things would be very different. After a lively beginning, apathy set in. What’s striking is that the devil is leaving this church alone, unlike the others. Satan isn’t mentioned at all. There is no heresy in Sardis, no zealotry, no false prophets; there is also no suffering or tribulation. Why? Simply put, the church is dead!

It goes without saying that it is dead in the eyes of the Lord, because from the outside, it has the name of being a living church. Everything seems fine. That the church “has a name” of being alive means two things: not only that it’s lacking something, but also that it’s claiming to have something that isn’t there. The essential thing is missing: life from God. The Lord’s statement, “thou hast a name that thou livest,” shows that Sardis was a church with a good reputation. But that reputation was deceptive, just as Smyrna’s reputation was deceptive in the opposite sense. The Lord says that the church in Smyrna is looked upon as poor, but in essence is rich. So, their reputation for poverty was deceiving, for she was rich in the Lord. But here with Sardis, the opposite is true.

(MR0222/1216)



THE FIFTH LETTER FROM HEAVEN

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore

thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 3:1-6).



+ SWITZERLAND

Helping Hands

The war in Ukraine is creating a state of emergency that is suddenly very close to us in (supposedly) safe Switzerland. A testimony, and a note of thanks.

BY JONATHAN MALGO, DÜBENDORF

There are multiple wars worldwide, as well as a great deal of misery and hardship, but few would have expected things to turn out the way they did—practically on our doorstep. We at Midnight Call Ministries International, along with our local church, are witnessing how seeming certainty can turn to great uncertainty within a very short period of time. The decision was quickly made that we wanted to help the helpers, and so it came about that our Maranatha House became a way station for refugees from Ukraine.

As I write this, we've already been able to support two transports of refugees, and pick up people in Dübendorf. It would be far beyond the scope of this letter to describe all the experiences we've had; suffice it to say, we can only praise and thank the Lord for His help through problems, big and small. Whether it was the challenge of getting through customs from Romania, arriving by car in Dübendorf, or being fully responsible for the refugees' care, it's so



wonderful to know He is watching over it all.

The need is huge. These are new experiences that we're going through. We've gotten to know siblings with only the clothes on their backs, or mothers and children who don't know whether they'll ever see their husband or father again.

We're calling this campaign "Helping Hands." The helping hands belong to the Christian relief organization Light in the East (<https://www.lio.org/en/>), which organizes the transports out of the war zone. Helping hands are also



Preparing the transport of aid



"Humanitarian Transport" sign

provided by the many volunteers from our church who keep Maranatha House running. Our guests, some of whom arrive completely traumatized from dreadful emergency conditions, aren't just with us for a few hours; some remain for several days until good accommodations are found. A helping hand is needed simply to be there:

working in the kitchen, washing laundry, navigating bureaucracy, or keeping the children occupied.

Therefore, a big thank you to all of our dear friends who make "Helping Hands" possible in the first place. It is a clear and visible testimony of Jesus' love in action, for His glory.

(MR0522)



"To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever" (Jude 25).

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

MC0822

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NON-EXPIRING VOUCHER



May I offer you a gift? This precious thing comes out of God's treasure chest, the Bible. Lamentations 3:22-23 says: "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." This is a promise from God ... like a voucher without an expiration date.

By Peter Malgo

It happens frequently that one doesn't know what to give for a birthday, anniversary, or another event. To come empty-handed is not proper—but what to do? There is a good alternative: a voucher for a one-time purchase. Maybe you have at some time received such a gift yourself. Not infrequently, there is an expiration date on it; and once redeemed, the voucher cannot be used again.

How completely different is the above-mentioned promise from God! Every morning the validity of this "voucher" is renewed, so to speak. Just imagine you had used your voucher and received the promised value. The voucher is canceled by a stamp with the words, "Goods received; voucher redeemed." However, the next morning, the stamp on your voucher disappears, so it can be

used again. And this continues day after day. You would have received a very valuable gift indeed. How foolish it would be not to make use of it daily. You would miss out on so much! Now, our Heavenly Father has actually provided such a voucher for each of His children and placed it right before our eyes: "His mercy ... is new every morning." If you are born again through faith in Jesus Christ, you may use it every single day.


When the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, they received His heavenly manna new every morning. God Himself gave them this food. It was vital that the children of Israel made use of it each day, by gathering the manna every morning. It was not possible to use manna from the previous day (except on the Sabbath, when dou-

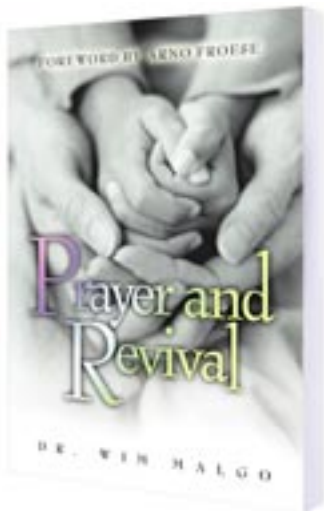


ble portions had been collected on Friday), because it was spoiled and no longer edible. The letter to the Hebrews aptly explains: “In that He saith, A new covenant, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” (Heb 8:13).

The same applies to the divine gift of grace, the mercy of God. We may receive it every morning and claim it for ourselves. To depend on blessings and mercies received last week will not really help us ... we will go spiritually hungry. Have you gone to the Lord today and been still before Him? Have you felt His goodness, His mercy? Have you accepted this great gift again in a new way? Peter pinpoints this in his second letter: “According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge

of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3-4).

The acceptance of God’s gift, the claiming of His promises, has two effects on us: on the one hand, we are more and more transformed into His likeness ... His divine nature becomes visible in us. On the other hand, we lose interest in the passing pleasures of this world. That is our Lord’s intent. He has already done everything for us; everything is ready. The initiative to accept the gift, on the other hand, is up to us. Redeem the “voucher” yet today. Tomorrow is a new day, with new gifts of mercy from our Lord. His mercy is new every morning! 



This book contains some of Dr. Wim Malgo's most heart-stirring messages.

In this compilation, he explains that the Lord is willing, even in our days, to pour out a spirit of prayer upon His believing children. Revival will take place in our lives, families, churches and the world when we pray honestly and with a complete dedication. Chapters include:

- The Divine Conditions for Revival • Pathway to Revival • How Does Revival Begin?
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- The Importance of Giving Thanks • And Much More

Dr. Malgo believed that revival is a normal and healthy condition for the Church, and that a lack of personal revival is the seed of apostasy. The work presented on the pages of this book is dedicated to motivate the reader to pray toward revival.

PRAYER AND REVIVAL ITEM #1002 • 224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$10.99~~ **Clearance \$5** Author: Dr. Wim Malgo



Project Fire Door

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1, ESV).

By David Phillips *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*

Summer has arrived in Israel, and with it, the heat and humidity begin rising in Haifa. With the temperature rising, the fire department does its annual fire safety checks and gives new instructions.

We are thankful that we have our home ready for any event according to the mandatory requirements; that our team has the knowledge on how to respond, etc. But because our facility is quite old, this year we did not meet all the newest standards of safety for senior citizens' facilities. The fire safety authorities requested that three fire doors be added, to isolate fire hazard areas where gas is used. This was required before we begin any renovation plans for the home.

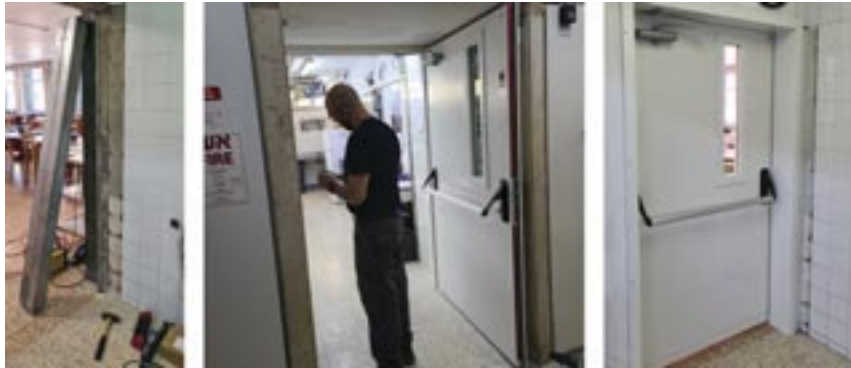
Needless to say, we had to hurry to order the fire-proof doors: fitting them into place within the shortest time (45 days), to keep up with the regulations and keep our license—which, praise the Lord, we accomplished!

In a senior home, as much we concentrate our energy on providing our elderly with a comfortable, quiet, and loving place to live, we will always be challenged by surprises from the local authorities, relatives of the residents, team, and many others.

It is a privilege to know that with each challenge, our Heavenly Father has already prepared an answer for us, usually even before the time of need. And along with the frequent challenges, come the many, many blessings and miracles, like the one I am about to share. We may never know the full impact of what took place.

Fire Inspection Day arrived. In walks the Fire Safety Officer, ready to carry out the inspection. Come to find out, he was in the same class with two of our team members, whom he met at the entrance! What happened next? He listened as they shared their testimony of faith in Yeshua, and became aware that everyone at the home belongs to Messiah Yeshua: Jewish and Arab believers, all living together in the unity and faith of Messiah! He was very surprised and deeply touched, and I saw traces of tears in his eyes.

With a glance of astonishment, mixed with jealousy for what we had in Messiah, he continued on with Ebenezer's Fire Inspection. In the final analysis, we were supposed to replace 13 doors, and replace five wooden electrical panels with fireproof ones. After explaining our future renovation plans and describing the residents who live here, we were told



Back to the opening verse: yes, we must obey, so we installed the three required fire doors to protect the elderly and the team in case of fire. May the Holy One of Israel also protect each of us from every form of incident.



Dear brothers and sisters, in closing, I would like to add a personal request for you: Please pray that God will send us a skilled maintenance worker, to help our maintenance manager. “Post-Covid syndrome” has caused many people to lose their passion for labor; they no longer wish to do anything that requires hard work. Working here at the Home in any department, is a ministry and requires not only doing what is necessary, but also serving the elderly believers in the love of Yeshua. It takes a special person to fulfill this role. May the Holy Spirit guide your prayers and lead us to the right one soon!

that **this time only**, they would allow just the most “dangerous” areas to be fixed. For future inspections, we may need to change out more doors—but at least it can be done in stages, and won’t be too heavy on our budget all at once. The cost for the three doors we replaced was \$9696.28.

May the Lord open this inspector’s heart and help him find Yeshua as his personal Savior! This is the prayer we have for everyone who enters the Ebenezer Home.

Yes, we’re a senior citizens’ home—but it’s also a place where many hungry souls are sent and exposed to the Word of God. Please pray with us for their salvation, as we minister to each person.

This month’s donations will be dedicated to the Fire Door Project.

MIDNIGHT CALL

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

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“Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the Lord said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed” (Joshua 13:1).

BY ARNO FROESE

We do well to ignore what the news media tells us more than to accept it point blank. Of course, we are also realists concerning facts on the ground; but above and beyond that, we are bound to Holy Scripture. For that reason, we mostly reject the statements made by world leaders and, in the below case, by the Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry.

A report by a United Nations Commission of Inquiry blamed Israel’s “persistent discrimination against Palestinians” for violence between the two sides:

“Forced displacement, threats of forced displacement, demolitions, settlement construction and expansion, settler violence, and the blockade of Gaza” were identified as “contributing factors to recurring cycles of violence” by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel.

-www.timesofisrael.com, 7 June 2022

When checking the facts, there are indeed some truths expressed by the UN Commission; however, it is one-sided. “Demolitions,” for example, occur after a terrorist commits crimes in Israel; subsequently, his house is demolished. This is nothing new; the Arab news source Miftah reports on their website: “1930s: British administration in Palestine uses house demolition as a means of quelling the indigenous uprising against British rule.”

The blockade of Gaza was also identified as a “contributing [factor] to recurring cycles of violence” by the UN Commission. No mention of the fact that Gaza is governed by a globally recognized terrorist organization, Hamas.

Wikipedia states, “By 21 May [2021], when the ceasefire came into effect, at least 4,000 rockets had been fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel.” The question immediately arises, who is threatening whom?

Quite obviously, militants in Gaza continue to threaten Israeli civilians.

Some basic human principles that have governed the world for 6,000 years, need to be mentioned. War decides the borders of a nation. The victor writes the new agreement, laws, understanding, etc., and sets the borders.

This writer recalls how in 1945, the victorious Red Army defeated Nazi Germany. The family with 8 children had to make a decision; namely, to sign a document identifying their willingness and true intention to become law-abiding Soviet citizens, or leave. They left.

Another striking case is Hungary, which lost 72% of its territory after the First World War. The citizens were forced to either leave or accept the citizenship of the victors.

We may also mention the 35 sovereign nations established on the

American continent (North and South). The original inhabitants were not asked; they were either killed or forcefully subjected to the new nation by whatever name.

As Christians—whose guideline is the written Word of God—we should be fully aware that the whole conflict in the Middle East is not due to the so-called Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. The opposite is true; it is because of the Arab occupation of Israeli territory up to the Euphrates River in the north, and down to the River of Egypt in the south. In the west, across the Jordan River the southern border is the River Arnon, presently occupied by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Thus, the question, will Israel take possession of the land? The opening Scripture says, "...there remaineth yet very much land to be

**Action
for Israel**



MIDNIGHT CALL

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

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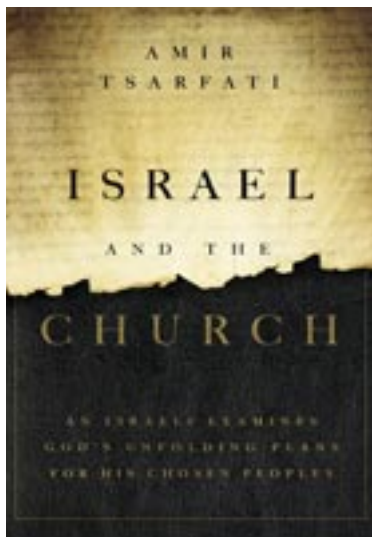
possessed.” It is not for us to say, except to publish what is written.

What will happen to the Arab Palestinians? God already made provision: “But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:34).

When will that take place? When the Prince of Peace comes. One of His first official decrees will be the elimination of all weapons throughout the world, based on Isaiah 2:4: “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

In the meantime, our Christian duty is not only to proclaim the truth of the Gospel, but also become living examples of the truth—light and salt on the earth. “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2). We are the ambassadors of Christ, of His Church; we pray for Israel, for the Arab countries, and we also continue to pray for the Church in Ukraine and Russia.

In conclusion, let us not be confused by the things that are highlighted in the news media; rather, to recognize that those things are a shadow of the real thing: the building of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, the spiritual temple of God, which will climax in its completion and rapture into His presence. From that point on, God will wholly turn to His people Israel. (MC)



Discover God's Master Plan for Israel

Native Israeli and bestselling author Amir Tsarfati makes clear what the Bible says about God's unique master plans for His two chosen groups, Israel and the church. Amir gets to the heart of key questions, such as...

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- Has God replaced rebellious Israel with the church?
- Now that the church exists, does Israel possess a distinct role in the present age?
- How are current events in Israel relevant to the church?

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

WORDS LEFT OUT?... SHEMITA... ARK OF THE COVENANT

Words Left Out?

Dear Editor,

In the September 2021 *Midnight Call* magazine, on page 21 (bottom left), Acts 9:6 is cited, "...what wilt thou have me to do?" That's how it reads in the KJV, but I noticed most modern translations leave this sentence out. Why?

-O. Dollins, TX

Answer: Linguistic scholars have debated endlessly about which is the most reliable and oldest manuscript. We know that there are about 5,800 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, plus about 10,000 in the Latin language, and 9,300 in other languages. A Google search reveals, "Along with the Codex Vaticanus, Codex Sinaiticus is one of the most important manuscripts of both the Greek Old and New Testament." The government translation (KJV), according to my opinion, added the words, "what wilt thou have me to do?" As a non-linguistic-expert, it tells me it was used in a later manuscript. Why so? Having translated many texts myself, I found that after several revisions, I had to add words to make a passage better understood in the target language.

Quite interestingly, when Moses received the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:2-17, he uses 319 words, but when he repeats it 40 years later in Deuteronomy 5:6-21, he uses 372 words.

Shemita

1. Most experts agree that Christ was born in 4 BC. However, He could have been born earlier, since Herod was seeking to kill two-year-old and younger children in 4 BC (Matthew 2:16). Herod then died (Matthew 2:19). Historians say he died in 4 BC.

2. Christ went to the cross at age 33; therefore, He left us to go to heaven in the year 29.

3. Hosea 6:2 says the Lord will revive Israel after two days and raise them up on the third day, that they may live before Him (cf. Romans 11:26).

4. The year 2022 is the beginning or first year of a seven-year Shemita. Those familiar with the Jewish holy days and traditions, say that the seven-year Tribulation must coincide with a seven-year Shemita. If this isn't the year of the Rapture, then we must wait another seven years.

5. The Middle East and Israel are ready for the seven-year treaty.

6. Putin can't wait to march on Israel (Ezekiel 38 & 39).

7. NASA's asteroid Apophis is due April 13, 2029, equal to 65,000 Hiroshima bombs.

-P. Watson, TN

Answer: In recent years, we have received several communications regarding the Shevi'it (Hebrew: שְׁבִיעִית, literally "release").

It's also called the "Sabbath of the Land," which fulfills the seven-year cycle of the agricultural activity in Israel in Bible days.

Does that relate to the Rapture or the Great Tribulation? I don't detect any Scriptural evidence. The Church is the temple of God. It has been under construction for over 2,000 years. When that temple is completed, the Lord Jesus will take possession of His bride (the spiritual temple). The light and the salt being taken away from planet earth, results in total darkness having its day. It is the great "falling away."

What Jesus said to the Jews in Jerusalem is spiritually applicable to the Church: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 25:13; cf. 24:42). We

are on safe ground—backed up by the Bible—to expect the Lord any day, disregarding the various dates, calculations, and Jewish holy days.

Incidentally, I found an article on NASA's home-page headlined, "Earth Is Safe from Asteroid Apophis for 100-Plus Years" (www.nasa.gov).

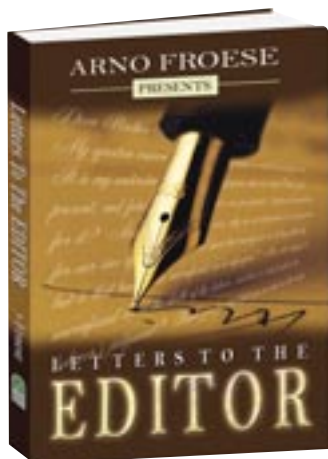
Ark of the Covenant

Based on Revelation 11:19, the long-lost Ark is in heaven: "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

-J. Rowe, FL

Answer: Obviously, this one is the real thing. Things made on earth are only a copy. God told Moses, when he built the tabernacle and the utensils, "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount" (Exodus 25:40).

If I recall correctly, the issue was the physical Ark of the Covenant. A number of well-known authors have speculated in their writings and videos that the Ark is somewhere in Ethiopia or the Vatican (see *News From Israel* June 2022, page 22). (MC)



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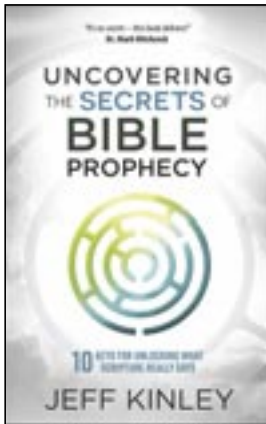
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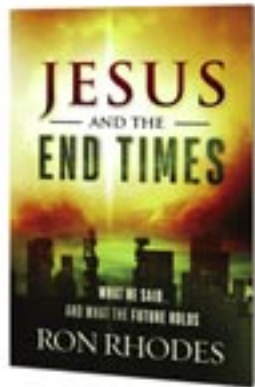
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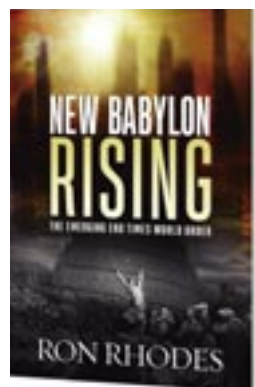
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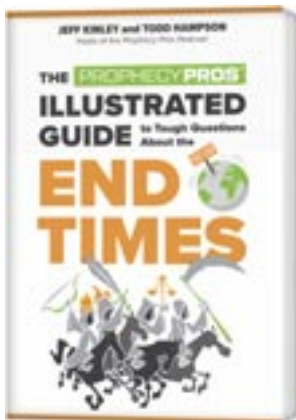


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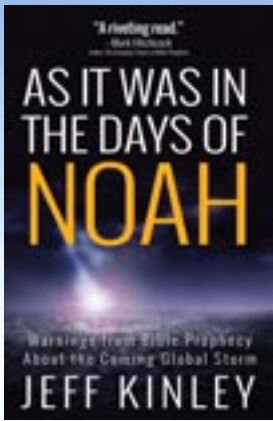


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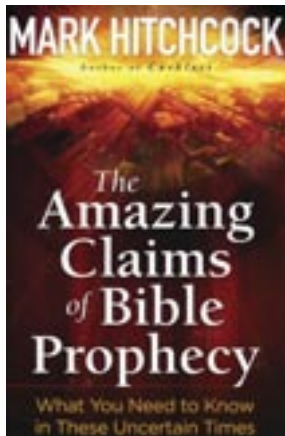
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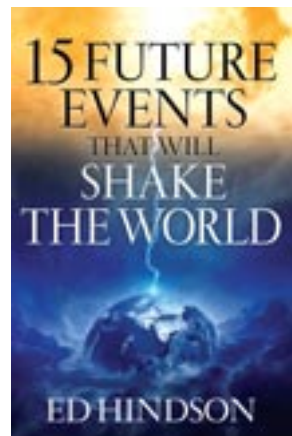
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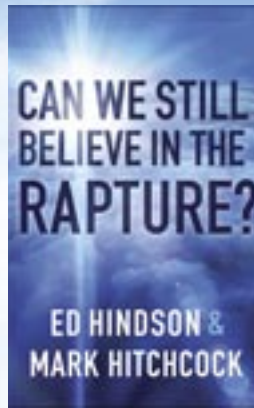
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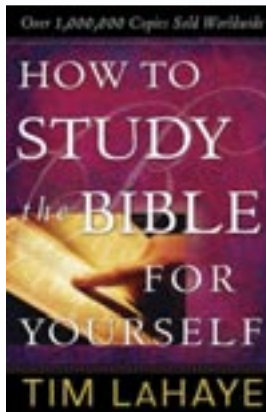
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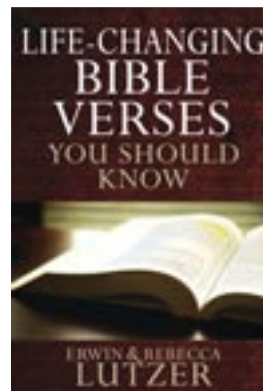
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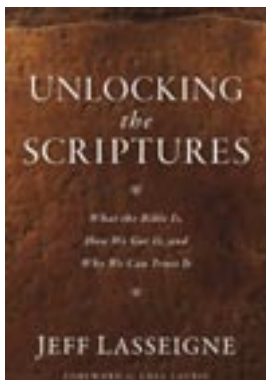
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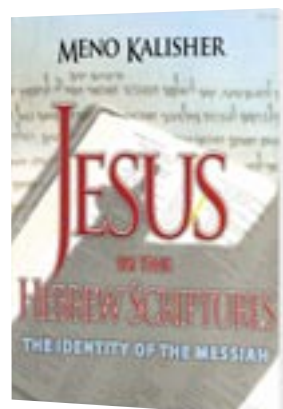
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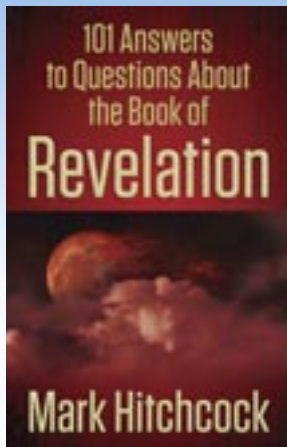
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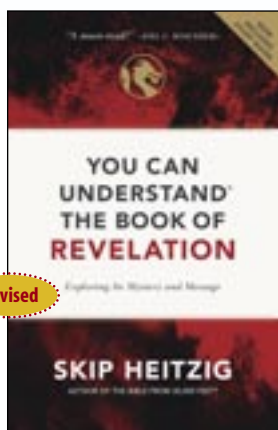
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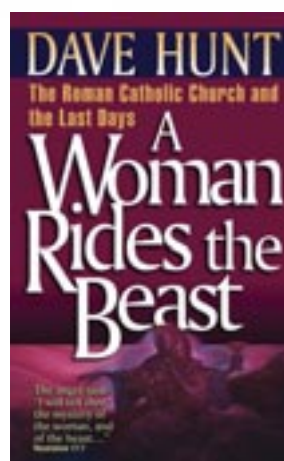
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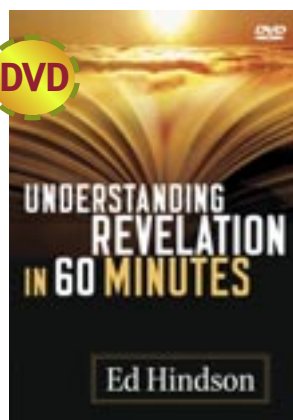
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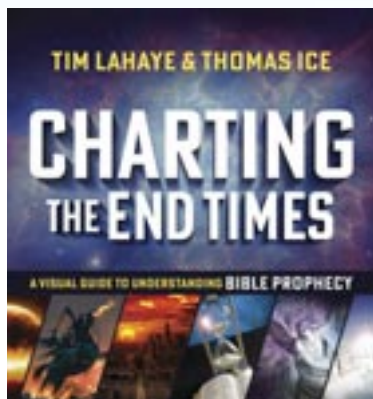
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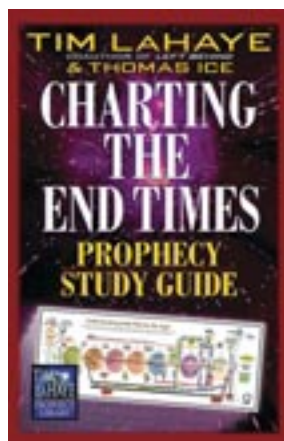
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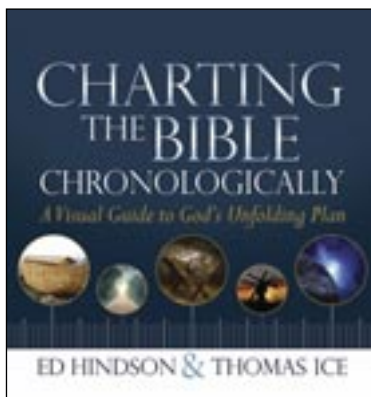
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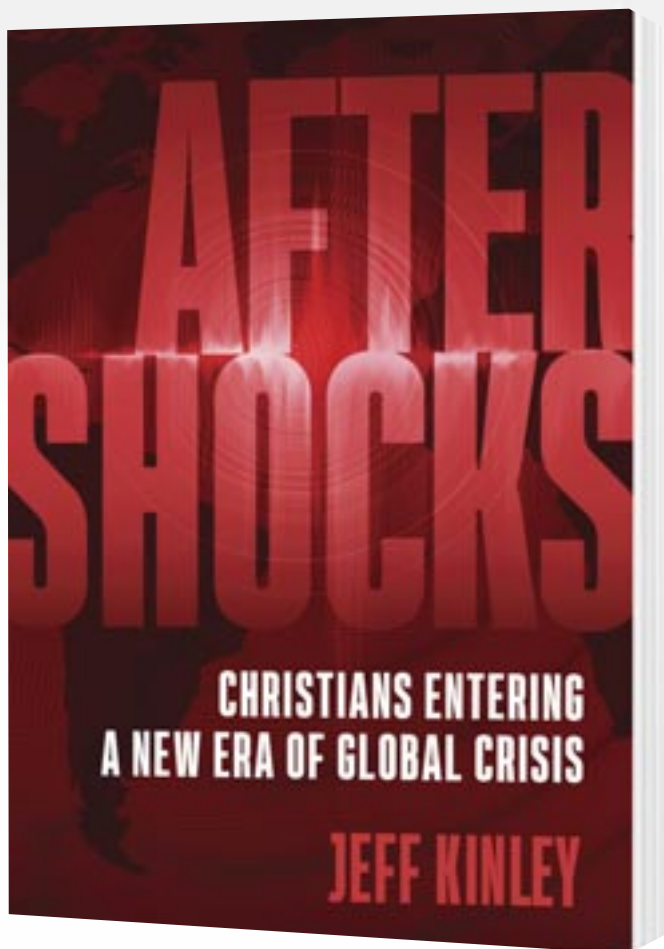
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