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# Midnight Call

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Living Victoriously  
P. 10

The Certainty of Jesus'  
Coming Kingship  
P. 22

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

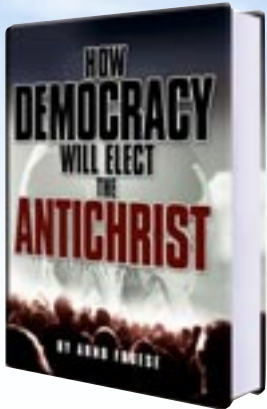
- Only Believe
- Sin in Heaven?
- Obey Government

P. 24

## What Is the Thousand-Year Kingdom?



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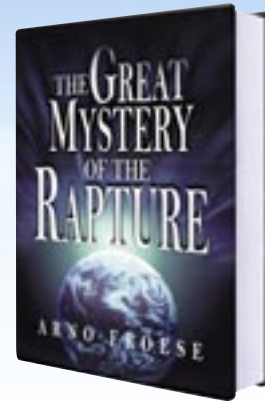
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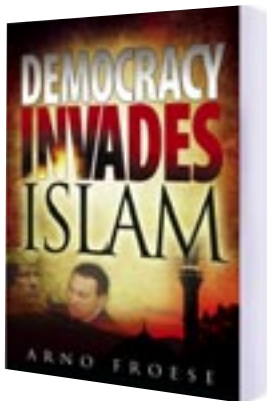
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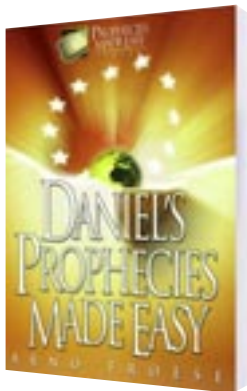
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## 6 COVER STORY What Is the Thousand-Year Kingdom?

By Eberhard Hanisch

The Thousand-Year Kingdom—the Millennium—is the promised Messianic Kingdom. With the appearance of the Messiah as King, the Kingdom will dawn. This refers to the epoch of history when Christ will return personally to bring world peace, God’s rule, complete righteousness, and blessings to the earth.

## 10 Living Victoriously

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

## 22 The Certainty of Jesus’ Coming Kingship

By Norbert Lieth



## 27 Just For You! Friendship

By Peter Malgo

### DEPARTMENTS

- 4** Editorial ..... By Norbert Lieth
- 18** Action for Israel ..... By Arno Froese
- 20** The Ebenezer Home – Haifa, Israel ..... By David Phillips
- 24** Letters to the Editor ..... By Arno Froese

ONLY BELIEVE...SIN IN HEAVEN?...OBEY GOVERNMENT

**14** VATICAN  
Those Who Sit on the Throne of Wealth

**14** USA  
Religion Declines During Pandemic

**15** UK  
Donating 10 Percent to Charity

**16** ISRAEL



Synagogue from Mary Magdalene’s Town Discovered

**17** EU  
40,000 Afghan Refugees Accepted





# “He Died on the Ascent.”



**By Norbert Lieth**

*Director of Missions, Midnight Call International*

**O**ur title is the text of a memorial plaque on a mountain in the Alps, erected in memory of a mountain guide who died while rescuing an injured person.

The Bible says of Aaron, “And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there...” (Num 33:38a). We also read that Moses was commanded to go up Mount Abarim, to look out at the land that the Lord had given to Israel. After seeing it, he too would die (Num 27:12-13).

The year is still young. There’s much to do, for which we’ll need to look up to where Christ is, at God’s right hand (Col 3:1). The very next verse reads, “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

There are vines that climb higher and higher to better develop. The bean, for example, belongs to this group of plants. The older it gets, the faster it spreads. The tendrils only coil once a day at first. But later on, they can coil as much as eight times in 24 hours, and always upwards.

One principle always applies: everyone has to climb up if they want to thrive. Climbing plants that don’t find support—instead having to crawl along the ground—are usually stunted, unsightly, and don’t bear fruit.

This is an apt example for our life. We must be oriented upward in order to bear fruit. Being earthly-minded inhibits our spiritual growth. We wither and don’t bear fruit. The Lord Jesus gives us support, so let’s orient ourselves to Him, clinging to Him and His Word in faith. That’s what will allow us to grow, prosper, and bear fruit. He alone is our support.

Don’t we sometimes (or all too often) focus our minds more on the earth than where Christ is? We let ourselves be captivated by worldly things, by worries, by pursuing wealth, by hoarding things, or even by lusts and desires. Many people are engrossed in conspiracy theories right now. The world seems to be spinning out of control, and they’re hypnotized like a deer in the headlights. They believe everything that is presented to them without

## EDITOR'S NOTE

fact-checking it, which is most alarming. Quite a few—Christians among them—are withering away. Some are only looking at the dark side and are falling by the wayside spiritually. Why? Because they are so tied to earthly things. Our earthly senses are captured by worries about the coronavirus, or fear of an economic crash or inflation. A friend wrote to me, “This daily red alert is making us afraid, and fear is the best breeding ground for irrational behavior.”

This certainly isn't what God wants. He wants us to raise our eyes to His Son, as the Author and Perfecter of our faith. He wants us to seek His kingdom, and to be heavenly beacons of hope for those trapped by the world. “He died on the ascent.” We want to keep ascending until we're with Him. (MC)

**Note:** Part 2 of Wilfred Hahn's series, “From Ex Nihilo to Hedonistic Nihilism,” will appear in the March issue.

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### OUR TASK

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

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

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

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

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

# What Is the Thousand-Year Kingdom?



**Eberhard Hanisch**

Opinions differ among theologians as to what, exactly, the Thousand-Year Kingdom is. A definition from the perspective of biblical prophecy.

**T**he Thousand-Year Kingdom—the Millennium—is the promised Messianic Kingdom. With the appearance of the Messiah as King, the Kingdom will dawn. This refers to the epoch of history when Christ will return personally to bring world peace, God’s rule, complete righteousness, and blessings to the earth. From Revelation 20, we learn that this time will last 1,000 years. And from First Corinthians 15, we learn that Jesus Christ, the King, will hand this Kingdom over to the Father and usher it into eternity.

The Kingdom is the subject of many prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments. We read in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

“It shall come to pass in the last days...he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more....The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid...the cow and the bear shall feed...the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp...They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea...The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing” (Is 2:2-4; 11:6-9; 14:7).

These verses show that this Kingdom will satisfy the deepest longings of all individuals and nations here on earth. It brings renewal of creation, changes in nature and, above all, a worldwide knowledge of God.

All of this will be possible because Satan will have been bound in advance and locked in the abyss. Temptation will no longer be a reality during this time. Jesus’ kingship will be God’s self-justification.

Although this Kingdom was discredited by sects or theologians as a “carnal Jewish expectation” due to certain exaggerations, and perverted by the world as some kind of Shangri-la, the biblical testimony is clear: the Kingdom of Jesus Christ brings a sweeping knowledge of religious truth to people that had never existed before. It will be a Kingdom full of spiritual goods, and will bring the visible reign of Jesus Christ on earth. Additionally, Scripture leaves no doubt that we as believers will have a share in it: “...they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Rev 20:4). The reign of the believers in the Millennial Kingdom will fulfill mankind’s mandate that had been given in Paradise.

### **The Millennium Is Forthcoming**

Although there are commendable Bible teachers who believe that the Millennium shouldn’t be taken literally, and that it will be identical to the time of the Church of Jesus (amillennialism), we believe (like nearly all the church fathers of the first two centuries) that Jesus will come again to establish His literal, visible Kingdom. In anticipation of the second coming of Jesus prior to the Millennium, we therefore call ourselves *premillennialists*.

There are many reasons for believing that the Millennium is yet to come:

First, Jesus prayed for the coming of this blessed time in the Lord’s Prayer: “Thy king-



## What Is the Thousand-Year Kingdom?

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The Kingdom of Jesus Christ brings a sweeping knowledge of religious truth to people that had never existed before.



coincide with the time of the Church: “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). They received a negative answer. So, they also believed that Israel still had a future as a nation in God’s plan of salvation! That’s why they preached to their own Jewish people that there was a requirement to fulfill both the Kingdom and

dom come.” In this way, he was signaling that the Kingdom—beyond the form of God’s Kingdom as it exists today—is the goal of all redemptive history, which still awaits fulfillment.

Second, Jesus was remembering the Kingdom when He spoke of judgment upon the nations. At the time of this judgment—which occurs at His Second Coming—He will say to His own, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt 25:34). If He will say this at His Second Coming, this Kingdom is still in the future and could never, ever be synonymous with the Church Age.

Third, the Apostles also demonstrated their expectation of a future Kingdom when they asked the Lord whether this Kingdom would

the future of Israel: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

Fourth, the Millennial Kingdom is in the future because it follows naturally from the course of redemptive history. Ephesians 1 describes the blessings for believers that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will give to His own at different times:

1. Before the world began, the Father determined the sonship of His own (vv. 4-6).



So, we can truly say that the Gospel is a “Gospel of the Kingdom,” because it leads to God’s reign. After thousands of years, God’s glory will be made great in the Millennium, and the Lord will be justified in all His actions.

2. During the time that Jesus lived on earth, the Son worked redemption (vv. 7-9).

3. In the future consummation, believers will be granted the blessings of the Holy Spirit in perfection. “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession...” (v. 14).

This includes both the future inheritance (vv. 11, 14) and that in the “fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth...” (v. 10). This expresses that one day, in the fulfillment of the times (plural!), everyone on earth will stand under one head; namely, the reign of Jesus Christ. To “gather together in one all things” actually means to bring it under headship; that is, to put it under one head. This will be the “fulness of times, [when] he might gather together in one all things in Christ.” And this has to be a reference to the Millennium because:

a) It obviously occurs in the future, and is therefore unfulfilled in the present Church Age.

b) It is a (salvation) economy or administration—that is, a redemptive time that brings all the others together or brings them to their goal; precisely, the “fulfillment of the [many] times.” Such (salvation) times (Greek *kairos*) are times in which God reveals Himself differently (e.g. under law, under grace). The word *kairos* characterizes a time according to its content and essence, as a kind of time of rev-

elation. Man must recognize this current time as a time of grace and opportunity for himself (cf. Tit 1:3).

c) The administration of the fullness of times brings us His Second Coming and the reign of the King. The “fulness of the time” (Gal 4:4; Gr. *chronos*, chronological time) was reached to some degree in the middle of history, when Jesus Christ was born as a human being at His first coming in order to accomplish redemption. And the Millennial Kingdom will advance the goal: “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ” (Rev 11:15).

d) We can also see from the Lord’s Prayer that the Millennium will be when the times will be fulfilled: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:10). Only in this future Kingdom will all people come under one head, and only in the Millennium will God’s will be obeyed in both places; namely, on “earth, as it is in heaven.” Only in the Millennial Kingdom will things in heaven and things on earth be united in Him, under His head (Eph 1:10).

So, we can truly say that the Gospel is a “Gospel of the Kingdom,” because it leads to God’s reign. After thousands of years, God’s glory will be made great in the Millennium, and the Lord will be justified in all His actions. In addition, the promises of the Old Testament covenants (namely, the return and spiritual restoration of Israel) will be entirely fulfilled.

(MR1021/1194)

**If a believer is to live a victorious (successful) Christian life—one that empowers him or her to avoid excesses of the flesh, to enjoy more of God’s peace, and to be strengthened to live an abundant life that glorifies the Lord—it is absolutely essential to depend upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

**D**wight L. Moody once illustrated this truth as follows: “Tell me,” he said to his audience, “how can I get the air out of this glass?” One man said, “Suck it out with a pump.” Moody replied, “That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass.” After many impossible suggestions, Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. “There,” he said, “all the air is now removed.” He then went on to show that victory in the Christian life is not by “sucking out a sin here

and there,” but rather being filled with the Spirit (Al Bryant, comp. ed., *Worship Services* [Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1992] 59).

To live a life pleasing to the Lord God is vastly superior to any other. The joy of living a life devoted to God—by grace through faith in Christ—is recognizing that the Lord’s divine commands are always satisfied with His divine provisions. Sometimes, “the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life” may be overwhelming, but the Holy Spirit—who abides

# Living Victoriously

**Dr. Ron J. Bigalke**



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within every believer—is greater than those sinful enticements (cf. 1 John 2:16; 4:4). Scripture teaches that if you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Victory is by God’s grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Deity of the Spirit**

If one is to remain faithful to the Word of God, one must confess that the Bible is unequivocal in its assertion that there is one God. Also, that there are three distinct personalities in the Old and New Testaments, who all possess the attributes, character, and nature of deity. The English word “trinity” is derived from the Latin *trinitas*, which means “three.” The word does not appear in the Bible; rather, it is a theological term for the one true God, who is self-revealed within the Bible as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Scripture reveals there is only one God (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10; 1 Cor 8:6). The true God is triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct, eternal, equal Persons, yet one Being. The Father is God (Rom 1:7; Eph 4:6), the Son is God (John 1:1; 20:28; Tit 2:13), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4; John 14:26; Heb 9:14). Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in the Godhead; thus, they have the same substance but are distinct in subsistence (Matt 3:16-17; John 14:16).

The present article will examine how the Holy Spirit empowers the believer in his/her battle with the “flesh.” Some New Testament expressions and texts will be noted, which reveal specific information regarding how the third member of the triune God, the Holy

Spirit, accomplishes His work in the life of the believer.

### **The Leading of the Spirit**

(Gal 5:16-17) The biblical expression “against the flesh” describes an aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work within the believer. The “desire” of the flesh is contrary to the Spirit’s work. The word translated “desire” is the Greek word *epithumian*, and indicates a “craving” that can be either good or evil. The “desire” of the flesh (v. 17) is to oppose the command to “not carry out the desire” (v. 16), and thus indicates what is sinful. When “desire” is used in reference to the Holy Spirit, it indicates what is good, because the intent is for the will of God to be accomplished.

The truth that the Holy Spirit is “against the flesh” indicates a tension (struggle) that exists within the life of the believer. Being “led by the Spirit” involves God’s work in creating a resistance to the desires of the flesh (viz. tendencies that remain from one’s prior unregenerate state). One aspect of the Spirit’s leading “against the flesh” is convicting the believer that a particular desire of the flesh is indeed sin (John 16:8). When the flesh resists the Spirit’s leading, this results in somewhat of an impasse. Effectually, the flesh’s desire prevents the believer, “so that you may not do the things that you please” (as a new creation in Christ). If the Holy Spirit did not provide conviction “against the flesh,” the believer would experience the precise condition described in Romans 7:14-24. This entails desperately wanting “the good,” yet not being able “to do good.”



# Living Victoriously

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The Holy Bible commands believers to “be filled with the Spirit,” which means to be controlled or influenced by God.

## **The Empowering of the Spirit**

(Rom 8:1-14; Eph 5:18-21) The impasse between the flesh and the Spirit can be overcome by walking according to the Spirit. “Walk” is a metaphor for one’s lifestyle. To “walk” in the Spirit means depending upon the Holy Spirit, so He will empower your actions and determination. Consequently, it will be possible to defy “the things of the flesh” and fulfill “the requirement of the Law” (viz. doing God’s will). To walk in the Spirit is to live (purposefully) relying upon God to empower you in persevering “to do good.”

The Holy Bible commands believers to “be filled with the Spirit,” which means to be controlled or influenced by God. Ephesians 5:18-21 implies that being filled with the Spirit is a quality of life, as opposed to a solitary, mystical experience. When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit” in connection with the baptism of the Spirit. Spirit baptism is not commanded in Scripture (since it is a sovereign work of God in response to our faith and repentance, leading to conversion: the “new birth”), and thus it is a solitary event in the life of a believer. However, “filling” by the Spirit is commanded and is to be characteristic of the believer’s life.

Spirit baptism is the work of Jesus Christ whereby the church receives and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which incorporates it into one body of Christ and identifies it with the Lord’s death and resurrection (John 14:16-17; Rom 6:1-11; 1 Cor 6:19; 12:13). At the ascension of

Christ (ca. spring, AD 30-33), the baptism of the Holy Spirit was still future (Acts 1:5). Pentecost (2:1-36) was the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise (cf. 11:15-16).

Another phrase related to the empowering of the Spirit involves “the mind set on the Spirit” (Rom 8:5-6). The expression indicates that we are significantly affected by our mental attitude. The believer’s determination is to allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish the will of God in our lives. “Being led by the Spirit of God” involves “putting to death the deeds of the body” (vv. 13-14), which means rejecting sinful impulses and submitting instead to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

## **The Illumination of the Spirit**

(1 Cor 2:6-16; 1 John 2:20-21) The Holy Spirit guides the believer with the Word of God by illuminating (making understandable) the Bible. First Corinthians 2:6-16 indicates that the Holy Spirit reveals “the thoughts of God” and enables the believer (“he who is spiritual”) to appraise “all things.” First John 2:20-21 explains that believers will “know the truth” when it is proclaimed, because they “have an anointing from the Holy One.” The believer is able to know the truth or will of God as it is revealed in the Holy Bible. The Holy Spirit guides the believer in every decision that needs to be made, by His work of revealing “God’s wisdom” in the Bible. He then makes that spiritual truth and wisdom understandable.

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“The fruit of the Spirit” is essentially the Christlikeness that is to be manifested in the life of a believer. The nine elements of the fruit of the Spirit should be understood as a whole (Gal 5:22-23).

Those whom the Spirit enlightens welcome God’s wisdom (1 Cor 2:10-11). The means by which God provides the knowledge of His thoughts is the Holy Spirit, who is the only One who completely understands the mind of God. The thoughts of God would be impossible to know without the working of the Holy Spirit. It was His task to supervise the writing of the Scriptures. The Bible is a record of the thoughts of God, and those who study it are able to know all the things that God has “freely given” (2:12).

The spiritual (mature) person is controlled by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:6-8), and thus enjoys the special privilege of being able to appraise all things. This means they can examine all things carefully and distinguish what is important. Someone who has “the mind of Christ” is able to make the right decisions concerning life. The wisdom needed today for life decisions is available through God’s revelation (the Bible).

### **The Fruit of the Spirit**

(Gal 5:22-23) The familiar passage of Scripture that lists “the fruit of the Spirit” immediately follows the section explaining how to “walk by the Spirit” (vv. 16-21). The believer walks by the Spirit when he/she obeys God, as opposed to heeding the desires of the flesh. The results of being led by the Spirit include: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”



Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is the means by which the “fruit” is cultivated, and how it attains maturity in the believer’s life. When people walk by the Spirit, they assent to the Holy Spirit’s power to change the behaviors of their sinful character and transform them into the image of Jesus, so that they are even able to “have the mind of Christ” (cf. 1 Cor 2:16).

“The fruit of the Spirit” is essentially the Christlikeness that is to be manifested in the life of a believer. The nine elements of the fruit of the Spirit should be understood as a whole (Gal 5:22-23). A person is not entirely under the control of the Holy Spirit unless there is evidence of all elements of the fruit. A person’s life is defective when one or more aspects of the fruit are absent, because Christ died to provide freedom from “the flesh with its passions and desires” (v. 24). The flesh is “crucified” when a person trusts in what Christ did for him/her on the cross, and becomes identified with Him. The Holy Spirit is the believer’s strength for living a life of victory to the glory of God (vv. 25-26). (1195)




# WORLD FOCUS

## VATICAN

### Those Who Sit on the Throne of Wealth

A German cardinal has claimed that the coronavirus pandemic has been used by the likes of George Soros and Bill Gates to create a global “surveillance state.”

 Gerhard Ludwig Mueller, a high-ranking Vatican court judge, has said in an interview with Austria’s St. Boniface Institute that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused “chaos” and “confusion” stemming not only from a “lack of knowledge” about the transmissibility and danger of the virus itself but from the willingness of the super-rich to “seize the opportunity to lure people in.”

“People, who sit on the throne of their wealth” see an “opportunity to push their agenda,” the cardinal said, naming Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, billionaire George Soros and Davos Economic Forum head Klaus Schwab among those behind the global control scheme.

The cardinal then accused the global financial elites of an attempt to give birth to “a new man” created “in their image and likeness,” adding that he would not wish such a fate for himself.

-[www.riotimesonline.com](http://www.riotimesonline.com), 14 December 2021

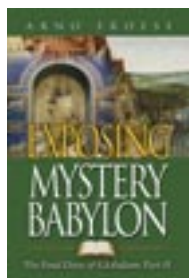
**Commentary:** The fact that the super-rich employ great influence in the world of politics is not in question. That’s how it was, it is, and will continue to be in the future. What’s interesting is the cardinal’s statement that the elite “give birth to a new man created in their image and likeness.” That has been so since the beginning in the Garden of Eden, and continues to progress until this very day.

However, our time is different, unprecedented. Why? Because we now can communicate with virtually all people on planet earth instantly. That’s one thing; the other is that no country can exist and function in a civilized manner unless they deal with the issue of import and export—in one word: merchandise.

In the last days, we know that the world’s super-rich mourn and weep because all has come to an end: “And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more” (Revelation 18:11).

7668

(See *Exposing Mystery Babylon Part 2*, Item #1080, \$4.50.)




## USA

### Religion Declines During Pandemic

Religious affiliation in the U.S. has continued to fall during the pandemic, according to a new survey from the Pew Research Center.



Survey shows the percentage of Americans with no religious affiliation rose to 29%, while Christians declined to 63%

 Many places of worship closed during the pandemic—some voluntarily, others as a result of state and local social-distancing rules—and in-person church attendance is roughly 30% to 50% lower than it was before the pandemic, estimates Barna Group, a research firm that studies faith in the U.S. Millions of Americans moved to worshiping online, and questions linger about how many will come back in person.

The share of Americans who pray daily fell to 45% in 2021, compared with 58% in 2007.

“The secularizing trends that have been evident for a long time show no signs of

(continued next page)



## Religion Declines (continued from page 14)

slowing, certainly no signs of reversing,” said Greg Smith, author of the study.

Though Protestants remain the largest group, most of the drop in religious affiliation has come from their ranks. Some 40% of Americans now identify as Protestant, compared with 43% in 2019 and 52% in 2007.

Other religious groups have remained relatively stable over the past two years. Catholics make up 21% of the adult population, up 1 percentage point from 2019. Non-Christian faiths, including Islam and Judaism, collectively make up about 6% of the adult population, down from 7% two years ago.

-[www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com), 14 December 2021

**Commentary:** While this survey is quite interesting, we must keep in mind that none is ever 100% accurate. However, it stands to reason that Christianity—better said, Churchianity—will and must decrease because of its former preeminence over the past several centuries. Besides, it’s not surprising: the US must follow in the footsteps of Europe, where religion has already taken a back seat in society. This will enable other religions to increase.

A Google search reveals the top 4 religions in the world: Christianity at 2.5 billion people, Islam 1.9 billion,

Hinduism 1.2 billion, and Buddhism 0.5 billion.

What is significant is that those who pray daily decreased from 58% in 2007 to 45% in 2021. But again, these are statistics, which really do not represent the Church of Jesus Christ, His body.

We are observing the slow integration of the religions of the world, which is in part fueled by merchandise. Never before in history has international trade been so significant as in these days.

Where will it lead? The whole world will unitedly follow the Old Serpent’s superman, Antichrist, who will create peace, prosperity, and security for all people in the world—although only temporarily.

7665  
(See *Who Is the Antichrist?* Item #2254, \$13.99.)



U K

## Donating 10 Percent to Charity

John Yan has decided to start giving away at least 15% of his annual salary, despite it meaning that he’ll have to work longer into his old age.



The 27-year-old software engineer began donating part of his wages in 2019, pledging 1% that year, before raising it to 3% in 2020, and then a big jump to 15% in 2021.

“In practical terms this commitment means I’m not going to retire early,”



**John Yan says he wanted to help people less fortunate than himself**

(Photo credit | JOHN YAN)

says Mr. Yan, who lives and works in New York City. “And maybe looking ahead, I won’t be able to send my kids to private [fee-paying] school.”

He is donating the money via a global scheme called Giving What We Can (GWWC). This encourages people to sign up as a member and pledge to give 10% of their earnings to charity.

Mr. Yan, who is the child of first-generation immigrants to the US, says he knows that he is “doing better than a lot of people in the world” and wanted to give something back—to help others.

But why encourage people to give away 10% of their income rather than higher or lower level?

“The amount was chosen because it strikes a good balance of being both significant and sustainable,” says GWWC executive director Luke Freeman. “It is a significant proportion of one’s income, but it is also within reach of most people in rich countries.”

He also points to the historical connection of the idea of tithing, a tradition in both Judaism and Christianity of giving 10% of your income to charity or the church.

-[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), 2 December 2021

*(continued next page)*

## Donating 10% (continued from page 15)

**Commentary:** It is striking how this secular organization has managed to convince people to donate 10 percent (or more) of their income, in line with traditional tithing in the evangelical world. The desire to “give something back—to help others” is a praiseworthy goal and should be commended.

Jesus states, “For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always” (Matthew 26:11). While He does encourage helping the poor whenever you can (see Mark 14:7), the most important task is always delivering the Gospel message: “Where-soever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her” (Matthew 26:13).

(By K. Farmer)

7656

(See *Heavenly Rewards*, Item #2357, \$14.99.)



## ISRAEL

### Synagogue from Mary Magdalene’s Town Discovered

A 2,000-year-old synagogue was discovered in the ancient Jewish settlement of Migdal in Galilee, the second synagogue from the Second Temple Period uncovered in the town, also known as Magdala. The location is prominently featured both in the Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus’ writings, and as the birthplace of Mary Magdalene in the Gospels.



**Magdala stone exhibited for the first time in Israel at Yigal Allon Center** (photo credit: EINAT AMBAR ARMON/ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY)



**Ancient synagogue uncovered in Migdal, Galilee.** (photo credit: COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA)



In the first century CE, Migdal was also the main base of Yosef ben Matiyahu (Flavius Josephus), who served as commander of the rebellion against the Romans in Galilee before he surrendered to them and eventually obtained Roman citizenship.

The first synagogue was uncovered in the Migdal in 2009, when an excavation by the Israel Antiquities Authority unearthed Jewish ritual baths (mikvaot), streets, a marketplace and industrial facilities. A unique artifact stood in the middle of the synagogue’s main hall: a large stone portraying the Second Temple of Jerusalem, with a carved seven-branched menorah on one of its

sides. It represented a crucial discovery because the depiction was engraved in the stone when the temple was still standing.

“The synagogue we are excavating now is close to the residential street, whereas the one excavated in 2009 was surrounded by an industrial area,” said Prof. Adi Erlich. “Thus the local synagogues were constructed within the social fabric of the settlement.”

The excavation was initiated as a salvage excavation prior to construction works at the Migdal intersection. According to Israeli law, all development projects need to be accompanied by such an excavation.

-*www.jpost.com*, 12 December 2021

**Commentary:** There is no end to discovering artifacts from two or more millennia ago in the land of Israel.

It is interesting to hear the name Mary Magdalene, who was a follower of Jesus. Mark 16:9 identifies her as one “out of whom He [Jesus] had cast seven demons.” She was one of the witnesses mentioned at Jesus’ crucifixion and burial, and she was the first person to see Him after His resurrection.




Again, the Bible confirms true archaeology. 7666

(See *The Red-Haired Archaeologist Digs Israel*, Item #2384, \$15.99.)



## 40,000 Afghan Refugees Accepted

A group of 15 European Union member states has agreed to take in 40,000 Afghans for resettlement, Commissioner Ylva Johansson said after meeting interior ministers of those countries.

 Germany will accept the bulk of the new arrivals, with 25,000, with the Netherlands accepting 3,159, Spain and France 2,500 each, and other countries in lower numbers, according to a document seen by the AFP news agency.

There are an estimated 85,000 Afghans who have fled their homeland into countries nearer the EU, and the Taliban's capture of power on August 15, coupled with a fierce drought, could trigger new flows.

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi has warned that 85,000 Afghans who are living in vulnerable situations outside the bloc need resettlement, and has urged Europe to take half.

-[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com), 9 December 2021

**Commentary:** The war has officially ended, with the Taliban celebrating victory. What comes next is difficult to predict. A designated terrorist organization barely qualifies to operate a civilized government.

It is of interest to see European countries ready to accept Afghan refugees fleeing oppression. Previous



**Allowing more Afghans to migrate in a controlled way would help prevent 'irregular arrivals,' European Commissioner Ylva Johansson said**  
[Olivier Hoslet/EPA-EFE]

acceptance of refugees from Syria and Iraq has caused the rise of extreme right-wing political philosophy in many European countries. Yet, there is no way around it; no civilized, functioning nation can allow itself to disregard the plight of refugees. This is enshrined in the laws of nearly all nations around the world that are signatories to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, first ratified in 1951.

What does the Bible say? Way back in the beginning, Israel is ordered, "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21). Leviticus 19:34 adds: "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." We, the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, are impartial. Third John 1:5 reads: "Beloved, thou doest faith-

fully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." Recent history clearly reveals that those who have lost their home, their family, their language, culture, traditions, and history, are often very receptive to the love shown to them by Christians.

During a recent conversation with someone in Germany, a question regarding new con-

verts was answered, "Virtually all the new converts in recent years are foreigners." That is fulfillment of the words of Jesus, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). We must take notice of the succession: our light—that is, our fellowship with Jesus—should reveal the "good works." Often, we make the mistake of showing off our "good works."

7667

(See *The Coming Muslim Invasion?* Item #1071, \$2.)



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“It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things” (Romans 15:27).

BY ARNO FROESE

Our relationship to Israel is exemplified in the above Scripture. We have been “made partakers of their spiritual things.” True: the Bible is a Jewish book from Genesis to Revelation. Jesus Himself stated, “Salvation is of the Jews.” There should be no question, no debate, no theological discussion. The Church, the one consisting exclusively of born-again people, owes its position to Israel. God was revealed in the flesh in Israel. He walked the land from the east to the west, from the north to the south.

While on earth, He told a Gentile woman who petitioned Him about her daughter, “It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs” (Matthew 15:26). At first glance, that seems heartless, cold, and extremely prejudiced to foreigners. Reading the story, we notice that this woman of Canaan did not act in accordance with her position. She addressed Him, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David.” That form of address was reserved for the Jews, not the Gentiles. Apparently, she realized her mistake; in verse 25b she cries out, “Lord, help me.”

It is not our task or calling to analyze Israel’s behavior and their political maneuvering—our relationship is spiritual. In proper alignment with Scripture, we also minister to them in carnal things. We are organically connected.

Israel has received multiple promises about their future, one being the borders of the Promised Land. No other country can be called the Promised Land—only the land of Israel. Yet we as Christians should never get actively involved in the political process of the nation of Israel.

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* stated, “129 nations ignore Jewish ties to Temple Mount.” The resolution was approved 129 to 11 by the United Nations General Assembly, stating that the Temple Mount should be called solely by its Muslim name al-Haram al-Sharif. But an EU representative said, “The EU reiterates that whenever referring to the Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif in the Jerusalem resolution, both terms, i.e., Temple Mount and al-Haram al-Sharif should be used.”

In view of these developments, something else is of great interest, revealed by another headline, “Israel signs Horizon Europe deal despite West Bank exclusion.” Here an excerpt:

Israel signed a major research and innovation agreement with the European Union known as Horizon Europe, despite the exclusion of West Bank settlements, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights from the program.

Horizon Europe, which will be in place through 2027, is the largest global research program in the world with a budget of €95.5 billion (\$106.8b.).

"Today's agreement will allow Israelis and European scientists, innovators and researchers to continue to work together on the solutions of tomorrow through cutting edge technologies," Science, Technology, and Space Minister Orit Farkash-Hacohen (Blue and White) said during a short virtual ceremony held between Jerusalem and Brussels. "This agreement gives a voice of recognition to Israeli innovation and reaches what is our most precious natural resource."

According to the European Commission, "Israel ranked third in terms of overall participation in the program [Horizon 2020] and was among the best performers." For the purpose of these programs, Israel is granted the same status as the 27 EU member states.

-*www.jpost.com*, 7 December 2021

This is the world's largest global research program, with a budget of 95.5 billion euros. Considering that most European nations are either neutral or somewhat anti-Israel, why was Israel invited to join this exclusive scientific club? A number of other countries have applied for asso-

ciate membership, but only Israel has been accepted into Horizon Europe.

Another gigantic European project involves over 10,000 scientists from around 100 countries. Under the leadership of 21 countries, all are European but one: Israel. The Large Hadron Collider is the world's largest and most powerful energy particle collider. Its location is the Swiss-France border just outside Geneva. It is home to the world's largest physics laboratory.

When we consider these facts, we first of all realize that Israel is special. But we also understand that the Europeans need Israel. Otherwise, Israel would not have attained membership in this prestigious European project. Is Israel's knowledge essential for these gigantic projects? Apparently.

But there is a different knowledge that Israel will seek after. Amos writes: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (8:11). Israel has not yet seriously searched for the Truth. They will find Him, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (MC)

# Action for Israel



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# Embracing a New Role in the Ebenezer Home

By **David Phillips** *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*



“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:17-18).

**T**he above verses are very inspiring and speak personally to us; I know they definitely have for me.

This year has started with a meaningful change in the history of the Ebenezer Home; particularly for me, as I will no longer be writing you as the Maintenance and Project Manager of the Ebenezer Home.

Most of you understand that serving in ministry often requires wearing multiple hats. This is not always easy, but definitely needed. It is usually the case because of a lack of people serving to the ratio of tasks needing to be accomplished. The same holds true at the Ebenezer Home. We accept whatever tasks the Lord puts in our path, gladly serving alongside our other co-ministers in whatever way is needed.

But now the time has come that our dear brother Johnny, the CEO of the Ebenezer Home, requires the help of a COO (Chief Operating Officer), to assist him with the running of the Home. With having longer “to-do” lists than hours per day, the Ebenezer Board of Directors has asked me if I would change roles and accept the position of the Chief Operating Officer. In order to advance and meet all the required regulations of the Home, and to continue meeting the needs of our beloved residents, team, and the community of believers in Israel, we all realized that this new position is now a must.

It is an honor and privilege to be the COO of the Ebenezer Home, although it is also an enormous responsibility. Your prayers are greatly





appreciated. We ask that you pray especially that I might have the wisdom, patience, and love required to fulfill this new role. We personally know many of you who daily pray and lift us up before the Lord, and we thank each one of you from the depths of our hearts for those prayers! Without you partnering with us in prayer, we know we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Each one of you is such a tremendous part of our ministry and team, and we count on your prayers brought before the mercy seat of our Heavenly Father. Toda raba raba! (Thank you very, very much!)

We are incredibly thankful to announce that we have found a new skillful maintenance worker, Tony, who will be overlooking this aspect of the Ebenezer Home. You will be able to read about him soon on our website: [www.ebenezer.co.il](http://www.ebenezer.co.il). I have known Tony for many years and find him to be both

reliable and professional, as well as someone who does his absolute best before God and man. Him being a dear brother in Christ to me, and Johnny's twin brother, gives all of us at the Home great peace, knowing he is perfectly suited for this role.

The question then arises, "What about the Ebenezer Building Project? Who will be handling this role now?" The answer: I will. This isn't changing: I will still be managing the Ebenezer Building Project, so no worries. Look forward to more interesting updates soon!

This month's donations will go toward Ebenezer's building and renovation project.

Committing you all into the hands of the Holy One of Israel, our Messiah Yeshua, we pray His blessings upon you in this New Year in a very special way, and that each of you will bring in much fruit for the kingdom.



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

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MC0222  
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# The Certainty of Jesus' Coming Kingship

**Norbert Lieth**

How Revelation 19, the *Hallel* Psalms, and the Lord's Last Supper point to Christ's future millennial kingdom in Israel.

**B**efore Christ visibly returns to begin His reign here on earth, a hallelujah rings out in heaven: “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth” (Rev 19:6).

How did Jesus teach His disciples to pray? The English Standard Version

translates it this way: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:9-10).

When Jesus Christ appears in glory, it is certain: “Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!” Jesus, as God the Son, brings divine rule to earth with His return.

When Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples and instituted

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Only in Revelation, the final book of the Bible which announces His rule over Israel, is the hallelujah sung again.

the Lord's Supper under the New Covenant, He sang a hymn with them. "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (Matt 26:30). This hymn was one of the so-called *Hallel* Psalms: the hallelujah Psalms from 113—118. For example, Psalm 116:13 reads, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD."

In this context, the Lord announces, "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matt 26:29).

With these phrases, the disciples gain the assurance that He will return to establish His kingdom. In the meantime, the church doesn't sound a single hallelujah (there isn't one to be found in any of the Apostles' letters). Only in Revelation—the final book of the Bible, which announces His rule over Israel—is the hallelujah sung again.

Just as the English king and all his attendants rose from their seats at the premiere of Handel's great "Hallelujah Chorus," it will also be at the Great Hallelujah at the end of redemptive history, when the Lord establishes His rule. The whole world will rise.

"Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:

Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD" (Psalm 148:11-14).

The Church Age, which exists between the Last Supper and His return, is bridged. Now the Lord will again drink of the fruit of the vine, because the marriage of the Lamb is taking place.

"And in this mountain [Zion] shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Is 25:6-9). (MR1120/1120)



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

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

## ONLY BELIEVE... SIN IN HEAVEN?... OBEY GOVERNMENT

### **Only Believe**

Dear Arno Froese,

I would like to talk about the article in the August 2021 issue, “Why We Can Have Assurance of Salvation,” by Johannes Pflaum.

No doubt every true believer would agree with the motive of the article. However, it’s a concern to me that there are too many who think that that’s all you have to do, and “anything goes.”

The Bible is clear that discipline is needed throughout our lifetime. We especially need to glorify Almighty God in the churches around the world.

The devil is working hard. When a weak person is told: all we have to do is “believe,” making him or her think they are born again, this brings to mind the adage, “Once saved, always

saved.” Just a phrase, but I think that discipline in the churches is urgently required, not just in our lifestyles.

*-J. Gramm, IL*

**Answer:** You are right: “anything goes” has become popular in the churches to a certain extent. That, however, is clearly prophesied in Scripture. At the end of his life, Paul writes: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock” (Acts 20:29). Second Peter 2:1 speaks of false teachers and damnable heresies, and in chapter 3, verses 3-4, he makes crystal clear what is to come.

However, when Paul writes to the Philippians, we read in chapter 1, verse 18: “What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.”





Of course, "belief" is the key to salvation. Why? Because Adam and Eve did not believe God, but believed the serpent. Therefore, the way back to God is through belief in Jesus Christ: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). True belief results in the rebirth; that is the work of God and cannot perish.

## Sin in Heaven?

Question:

I always believed that heaven is perfect. How did Satan sin there, when there's no sin in heaven? Does Satan have access to heaven even today?

*-S. Burghoffer, IA*

**Answer:** Satan is the originator of sin. Isaiah 14:14 reports of his fall: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Ezekiel 28:15 adds: "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Satan has access to heaven, because he is the god of this world. The Bible says, "He who sins is of the devil." What is his goal? To be recognized as equal to God. For how long? Until the Church is completed; until the last one from among the Gentiles is added to the body of Christ.

At that point, he will have lost his legitimate position in heaven, because Revelation 12:10b documents: "for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused

them before our God day and night." The Church is the light of the world and the salt of the earth. When that light is gone (raptured), total darkness will prevail. As a matter of fact, God supports this deception: "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

Satan infected heaven: for that reason, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, according to 2 Peter 3:13: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

## Obey Government

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article on congregational singing (Part 1, July 2021 issue), perhaps I can help you out here.

First Peter 2:9: "But you (that's me) are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people."

Question: why is that?

Answer: "(So) that you (that's still me) may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

I was "chosen" so that I would praise Him who called me out of darkness and into light.

If I don't do what God has for me to do, it is sin. It doesn't take much discernment.



## Letters to the Editor

Satan is the influence behind the government—that’s obvious. Jesus is the Head of the church, not the government. They don’t get to make rules for the church.

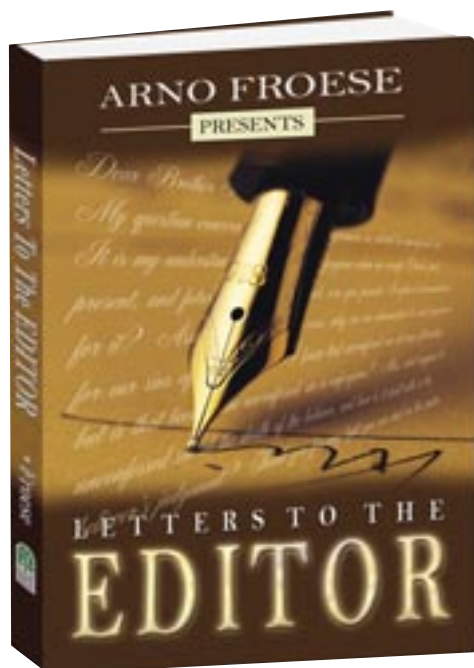
-M. Bradley, NV

**Answer:** Coronavirus is a national health issue. It’s not just the government, but medical scientists and organizations the world over who agree on certain rules: keeping distance, wearing a mask in public, getting vaccinated and, if needed, not assembling in large numbers to avoid the spreading of this deadly virus.

In Israel, for example, the ultra-Orthodox disregarded the instruction given by the health authorities, and they were re-

sponsible for spreading the coronavirus 8 times more than any other group. If a doctor were to say I have cancer, I will first tell it to my Lord, and then go to the medical facilities where they deal with such on a daily basis. I will not ask them what type of medication they will give, because I trust medical science to follow the strict rules they are obligated to.

Peter and John were commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus. However, not by the government, but by the religious leaders, as you can read in Acts 4:23: “And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.” That was a religious issue, not a political one. (MC)



## Midnight Call Magazine’s #1 Feature!

*Letters to the Editor* consists of 438 pages, divided into 22 chapters arranged topically, all from original letters that appeared in *Midnight Call* magazine. Discover what readers think about:

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## FRIENDSHIP



I often receive encouraging letters from readers, tokens of friendship. Someone wrote, “A friendship is worth more than gold and silver. It warms the heart and helps overcome many disappointments.” I agree.

By Peter Malgo

There’s an even more moving phrase in Proverbs 18:24: “A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Several passages of Scripture show us just how deep friendship can be. The relationship between Jonathan and David is illustrative of this, as well as prophetic: “And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul [...] Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle” (1 Sam 18:1, 3-4). If human friendship can be so profound,

how much more meaningful must friendship with our Lord Jesus Christ be! Jesus says in John 15:14-15, “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”

Our Lord didn’t leave us in the dark on this, but revealed the full counsel of God to us through His Word. As we learn through Paul, He has even entrusted us with secrets: “Behold, I show you a mystery...” (1 Cor 15:51; cf. Rom 11:25; 1 Cor 4:1). This kind of familiarity is only possible between true friends. Under the Old Covenant, there were only a few people the Lord could deal with intimately, such as Moses: “And the LORD spake unto



Our Lord didn't leave us in the dark, but revealed the full counsel of God to us through His Word.

Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend..." (Ex 33:11ff.). We find a similarly intimate relationship between God and Abraham: "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" (Gen 18:17). God calls Abraham "my friend" in Isaiah 41:8. And in James 2:23 it says, "Abraham...was called the Friend of God."

Under the New Covenant, Jesus wants to cultivate an equally affectionate friendship with us. He calls us "friends." He even called Judas, who was about to betray Him, "Friend" (cf. Matt 26:50).

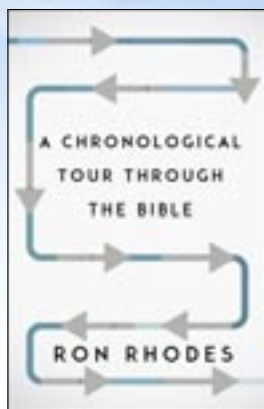
Jonathan's act toward David prophetically foreshadows what Jesus gave to us. Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David; Jesus allowed Himself to be disrobed (Matt 27:28), and in doing so, clothed us "with the robe of righteousness" (Isa 61:10). In an astonishing way, the other things that Jonathan gave out of love also

symbolize the things that are available to us as children of God and friends of Jesus. Read over Ephesians 6:11ff., where the armor of God is mentioned, with this in mind.

How are we to handle this precious friendship from our Lord? Friendship can never be one-sided! Jesus gives us a very important hint: "...if ye do whatsoever I command you." How are we doing in this regard? Or, to put it another way, have we also put on the girdle that Jonathan gave David, and that Jesus gave to us? He gave it with something very specific in mind: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth..." (Eph 6:14). Are we living in the light, and are we walking in the truth? Jesus Himself urges us, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord..." (Luke 12:35-36). That is friendship with Jesus. <sup>MC</sup>



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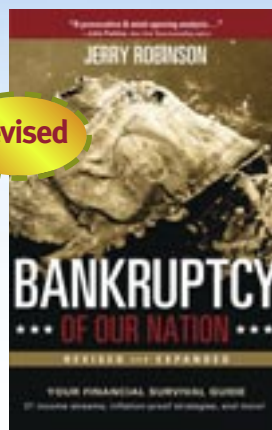
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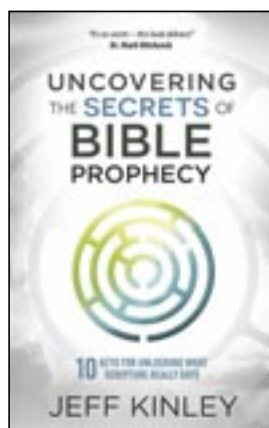
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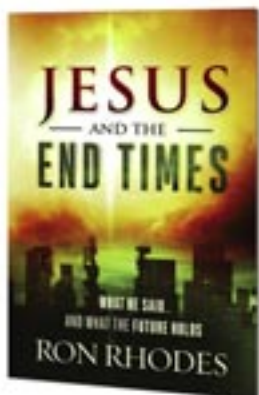
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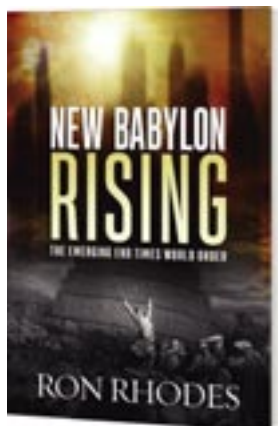
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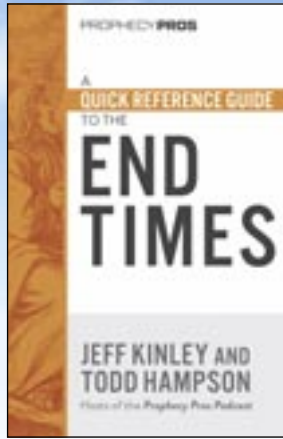
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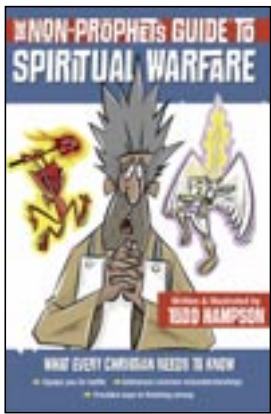
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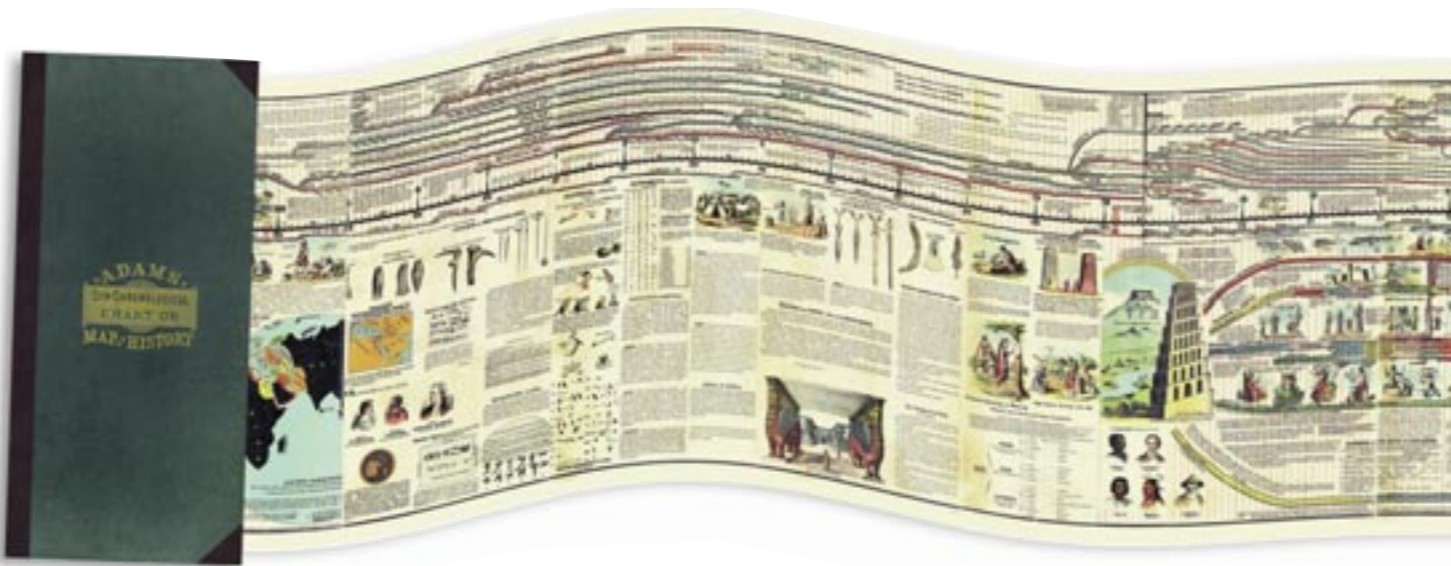
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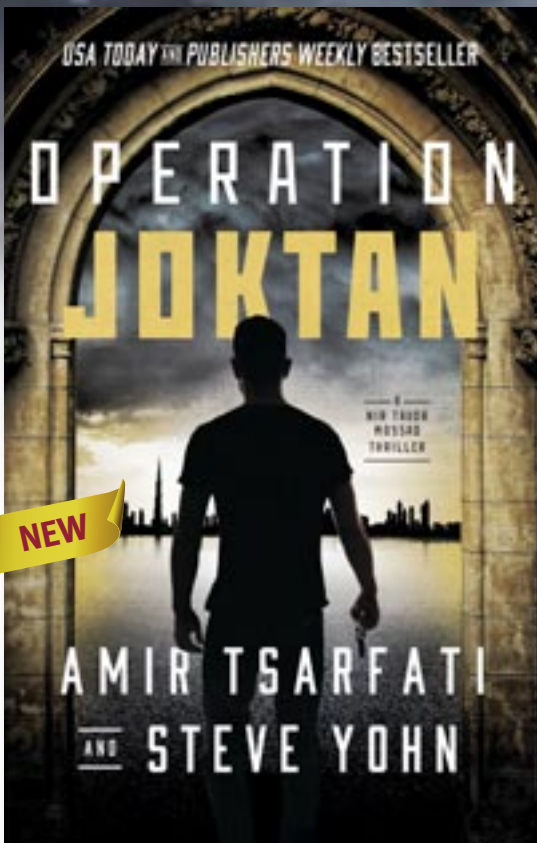
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