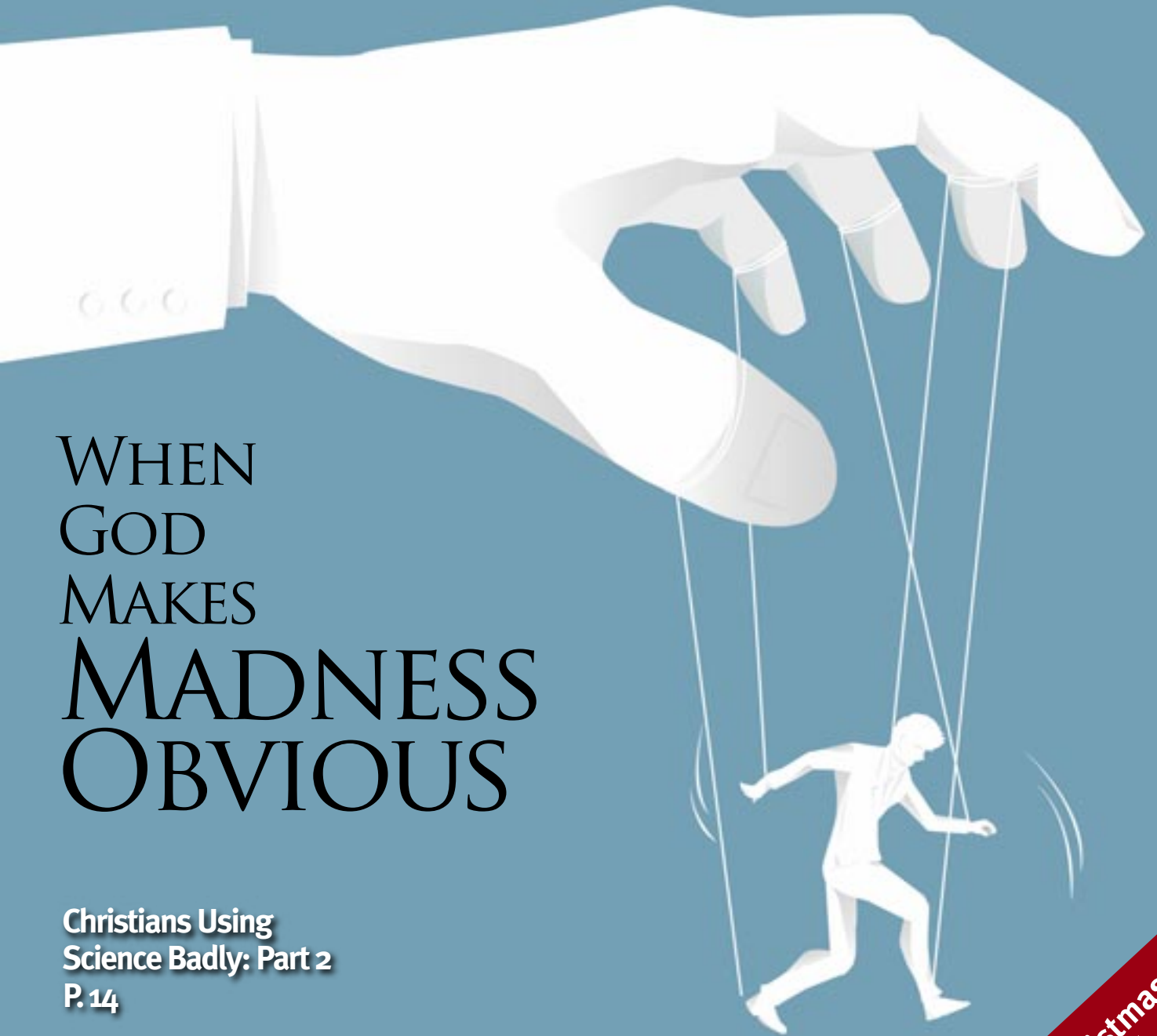


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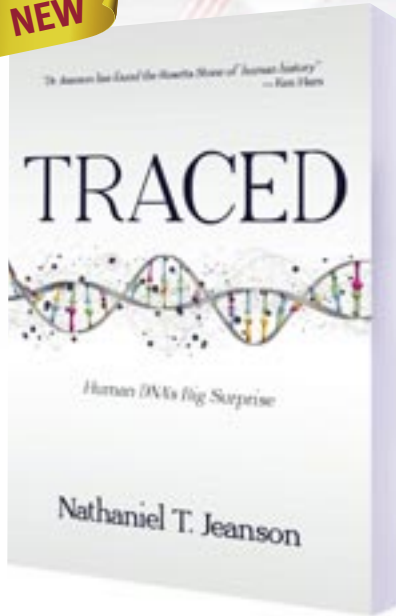
## WHEN GOD MAKES MADNESS OBVIOUS

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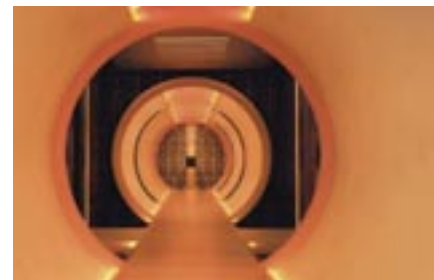
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# Look to Him!



**By Norbert Lieth**

*Director of Missions, Midnight Call International*

Those who travel a lot know the suitcase brand Samsonite. But probably only a few know that it was the son of a Polish-Jewish immigrant family in the USA, who founded the company in 1910. “To reflect the quality and durability of their luggage, the Shwaynders named their first products ‘Samson,’ after the powerful Biblical character” (referenceforbusiness.com). This then gave rise to the name Samsonite.

Athletes, in turn, know the brand Nike. This name is derived from the Greek work *nikao*, meaning “to overcome,” and was used in sports and the military of ancient Greece.

Despite all the negatives that may come to mind about Samson, he ultimately is still a picture of the Lord Jesus. We find his name within the list of heroes in Hebrews 11 (v. 32). Samson overcame the enemies through God’s strength, and won the greatest victory when he died. Jesus lived completely without sin, and it is said of Him: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” (Heb 2:14).

Jesus is the true Samson, the real hero in whom God is well-pleased. On earth He lived completely according to the will of the Father. Jesus is the true conqueror, for it is written: “And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals’” (Rev 5:5).

Both Samsonite and Nike make me think of Jesus, which makes me happy. Not because of the two brands, but the fact that we can look beyond everything to Jesus, who is above all.


We find ourselves in the dark, and for many often depressing, season in which things can seem quite gloomy. A year full of anxieties will soon be behind us. A year that left its mark on many and gave rise to great fears. A year of pandemic, war, and natural disasters, which taught one to be afraid. A year that left us looking to the future with anxiety. But we must not, and do not, remain discouraged. The heavenly Samson is here, God’s hero and strength. Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of the whole world: “He upholds the universe by the word of his power” (Heb 1:3b).



## EDITOR'S NOTE

All events are in His hands. Everything that happens leads to a glorious final goal. Your life is also held in His power: regardless of what happens, it has purpose and meaning. With all the challenges that confront and often oppress us, we do not have to be strong ourselves but may rely on His power. As Scripture tells us: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might" (Eph 6:10). Your power has a name: Jesus!

And concerning *nikao* (overcoming), there is no reason to be sad, no reason to despair. Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, suffered through everything and overcame it all. The entire history of the world belongs to Him, as well as all end-time events and our small lives. The Apostle Paul went through the greatest hardships. He was persecuted, accused, and condemned. He suffered in body and soul. He knew every kind of danger, pressure, fear, and famine; he felt like a sheep for slaughter. Yet in view of Jesus, he could exclaim: "...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Jesus is our strength in all our weakness. Jesus is the conqueror in all our battles. Jesus is the Light, even in this dark season. Look to Him! 

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### OUR TASK

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

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

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

**WE BELIEVE** in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therefore in 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-tribulation appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

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

# WHEN GOD MAKES MADNESS OBVIOUS



## Daniel Siemens

Power can become a drug. Political power can seduce a person into narcissism and megalomania. God and world politics: teaching for today from Daniel 4.

**N**ebuchadnezzar has become intoxicated by power. His power has reached its peak: he is the undisputed ruler of a huge empire. He has conquered peoples and nations, and they must all serve him. He's also a magnificent city planner: he made Babylon the largest, richest, and most impressive city in the world.

When God spectacularly reveals the future to him in a dream (and then communicates its interpretation through

Daniel), Nebuchadnezzar doesn't convert to Yahweh, the God of Israel. To the contrary: he himself wants to play God. He has a golden effigy of himself built and declares war on God. He wants to determine the course of history himself. However, he experiences defeat at the inauguration ceremony for this golden statue—public disgrace.

Daniel's three friends are thrown into the fiery furnace but remain unharmed. Nebuchadnezzar is impressed, and yet he still doesn't convert to the true and living God. His hubris and narcissism increase even more. He's convinced of his genius and omnipotence. The God of Israel—who appoints and deposes kings, who created him and revealed Himself to him—plays no role in his life. Nebuchadnezzar is godless, and his godlessness drives him mad.

When reading the story of Nebuchadnezzar, we marvel at God's patience, long-suffering, and mercy. God warns Nebuchadnezzar again through a dream. We'll let him tell it in his own words:

"I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the visions of my head alarmed me. So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the

dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation. At last Daniel came before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream..." (Dan 4:4-8).

Two things stand out here. Even though he has already experienced that only the God of Daniel can reliably reveal dreams and the future, the king still calls his magicians and fortune-tellers first. He is holding onto his occultism and idolatry. He hesitates to summon Daniel. He only allows him to be brought in when it becomes clear that he can't get what he needs any other way.

Second, he emphasizes that Daniel is called Belteshazzar, after the name of his own god. Nebuchadnezzar still clings to his belief in many gods; he is attached to his idols and serves them. Finally Daniel arrives, and the king tells him his dream.

"Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, 'Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.' Belteshazzar answered and said, 'My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of

When reading the story of Nebuchadnezzar, we marvel at God's patience, long-suffering, and mercy.

the heavens lived—it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, “Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,” this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules” (vv. 19-26).

No wonder Daniel was so horrified and disturbed! A worse humiliation for a king could hardly be imagined. But Daniel knows how to avert the disaster. He gives Nebuchadnezzar clear instructions: “Therefore, O king, let my counsel be

acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity” (v. 27).

The sins of godlessness and unbelief always bring more sins with them. There were undoubtedly grave injustices, abuses of power, and oppression of the poor under the reign of the Babylonian ruler. The king would need to grieve, repent, and confess his sins. He should replace his sinful practices with actions that please God, and allow justice to prevail. Daniel knows that God is gracious and will forgive a repentant sinner. The call to repentance and conversion is God's appeal to every transgressor. God calls us personally to change and repent when we persist in unbelief and godlessness. But Nebuchadnezzar is firmly in the grasp of his own power. He ignores the warning and rejects his godly advisor's counsel. God is still patient with this recalcitrant world ruler for twelve more months. Then His warning is fulfilled:

“All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king answered and said, ‘Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?’ While the words were still in



Nebuchadnezzar made Babylon the largest, richest, and most impressive city in the world.



the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.' Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws" (vv. 28-33).

Nebuchadnezzar goes mad. We can hardly imagine the horror and confusion at the royal court. And it was certainly thanks only to Daniel that the king

remained alive and retained his throne for the seven years to follow.

Nebuchadnezzar becomes an animal. This phenomenon is also known to science and has been described in clinical research. Jan Dirk Blom, a lecturer in psychiatry from Groningen, Netherlands, counted 13 cases of lycanthropy, a subtype of zoanthropy (the delusion that one is transformed into an animal). "The definition of lycanthropy through the ages is fairly universal, namely that once a man is changed into a wolf, he acquires its characteristics, roaming around at night, howling in cemeteries and attacking man and beast in search of raw flesh [...] This peculiar delusion tends to co-occur with clusters of signs and symptoms that allow for more conventional diagnoses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and so on. [...] This monothematic delusion

The call to repentance and conversion is God's appeal to every transgressor.

would appear to be even less prevalent than previously suggested. With 13 cases reported over a time span of 162 years, we should take heed not to cry wolf too often.”

That's the clinical diagnosis. The Bible says that godlessness is the greatest of all sins, and it always leads to madness in the end: through self-deception, overconfidence, megalomania, spiritual and moral confusion, and spiritual darkness. Every person who rejects and defies the Creator and His commandments reveals his own madness. The Bible calls this madness foolishness or dullness:

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good” (Ps 14:1).

It's fatal to think we can get away with wickedness and our own sinful way of life. Assuming that everything will continue to go well, just because it always has, is dangerous and naïve. God had already told His chosen people, the Jews, that if they don't obey Him but instead break His commandments—if they choose to go their own sinful way—then God's curse would come upon them. Among other things, the following would happen: “The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind” (Deut 28:28).

God doesn't necessarily have to directly intervene here. His action in cases like these is often more passive: He withdraws His protection and blessings, and gives up on

these individuals or this people. He lets them go their own way and reap what they've sown. They reap the fruits of their sinful life. The madness of the godless is being revealed today, just as Paul described in Romans:

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done” (Rom 1:21-28).

When a society distances itself from God, disregarding His commandments and

“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!”

trampling on His holiness, then God gives that society up to its sins. He lets them go their own way. And then the madness of godlessness becomes obvious. One way this madness is being expressed today, is man’s turning away from the divine order of creation. It becomes evident in the acceptance of homosexual lifestyles and the way people now assert, “Marriage is for everyone! We’re more progressive than God.” The Bible says that marriage is between a man and a woman, but society says, “Marriage is also between two men or two women.” The folly of godlessness is also evident in gender confusion. For example, now when you sign up for a Facebook account, you can choose from among 60 genders! God created only two sexes, and declared His creation very good. But today people say in their arrogance, “No, that’s not good enough! We know better. There are at least 60 genders, and everyone can choose their own. You are born neutrally and then choose your gender yourself, and you can change it anytime.”

Another example of human’s megalomania and its fatal consequence is the madness surrounding climate change. An apocalyptic doomsday scenario is being painted for the world’s citizens: The earth will perish from the consequences of man-made climate change, if we don’t intervene and save ourselves. Each person who leaves too large a carbon footprint is personally

responsible for climate change. Now mankind is preparing to save himself and the world, turning mankind into the savior of the earth. Saving the climate is the new religion of our day.

Some time ago, Beda Stadler wrote in the news magazine *Cicero*: “But what really makes me angry is how politicians have managed to turn CO<sub>2</sub> into a poison. Photosynthesis is like a real-life feeding of the 5,000 for every biology student. Sunbathing plants absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and use it to produce energy and oxygen. It’s wonderful, yes, fantastic! When pasta or french fries are created from this plant-based energy store, I go into raptures. To portray CO<sub>2</sub>—the food of vegetables, the cheapest fertilizer—as a poison is infinite slander.”

Luisa Neubauer is one of Germany’s most famous climate activists. In her book *From the End of the Climate Crisis*, she asks among other things: “Is having children being responsible toward our fellow human beings? Statistically, nothing leaves a greater carbon footprint than a child.” Parents who bring children into the world and raise them are branded carbon criminals!

Dr. Wolfgang Thüne, meteorologist and longtime weather moderator at a public television network, explains in his book *Prophets in the Battle for the Climate Throne*: “There is absolutely no chance of correctly predicting the weather more than nine days out. In terms of the climate,

The Bible says that marriage is between a man and a woman, but society says, “Marriage is also between two men or two women.”



however, an irresponsible guild of scientists is presuming to make forecasts for the next 90 years, and supported in it by uncritical political stakeholders. The climate catastrophe’s forecasters argue that CO2 is contributing to global warming by means of reflected radiation.”

Dr. Thüne makes it clear that this is physically impossible: “Ultimately, heat can only flow from warm to cold, and not the other way around. So how could an atmospheric layer with a temperature of  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  (roughly  $0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) heat the earth’s surface, which has a temperature of  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  (roughly  $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ )? Instead, what’s correct is that the earth has an atmospheric radiation window that’s always open, allowing the earth’s waste heat to escape. If this were not the case, the earth would never have cooled down and there would be no life on it today.”

When God makes madness obvious, it surfaces and can no longer be hidden. But it’s not just politicians, scientists, and other influential people in society who are at risk of God making their madness obvious. Every individual who defies God’s

commands and wants to be his own god, is in danger of God giving him up to his sin, and also making his personal madness obvious.

Descent into the madness of godlessness follows a pattern: 1. Ignoring God’s facts and signs. 2. Rebelling against God and His commandments. 3. Challenging God and practicing idolatry. 4. Ignoring God’s warnings. 5. Flouting God’s patience and the call to repent. 6. Glorifying oneself and not God.

When God makes madness obvious: 1. Man’s impotence and folly are exposed. 2. Sins are punished. 3. God’s judgment against man becomes evident. 4. The *imago Dei* (image of God) is lost. 5. God receives the honor that He is due. 6. The lesson that man didn’t want to learn is learned.

But, thanks to God’s goodness and mercy, seven years of madness weren’t the end of Nebuchadnezzar. God gives him one more chance to repent. We can admire God’s amazing grace in this ruler’s life. God has mercy on the Babylonian king, allowing him to become alert and sober up:

“At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all



## How Nebuchadnezzar must have wished he had converted to God sooner! Why would you wait any longer?

the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, ‘What have you done?’ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble” (Dan 4:34-37).

Nebuchadnezzar is converted. It’s a late conversion, but of course God has forgiven him and he can start anew. There are seven lost, wasted years behind him. But prior to that, how many decades were consumed in a frenzy of power, in his own self-love and arrogance? The things God could have accomplished through Nebuchadnezzar, if he had been converted immediately after the first dream! So much good could have been done if the king had humbled himself and repented, after the three friends’ spectacular rescue from the fiery furnace. But by this time, he’s probably old and frail. He may not have much time left to serve God. Nevertheless, the amazement in his court, in the capital city, and in his whole kingdom

must have been tremendous. After seven years of madness, the people were seeing their king back on the throne, regally dressed and of sound mind. He becomes a living testimony to God’s grace. And for the last years of his life—maybe even months—he is an evangelist to his people. At the very beginning of chapter 4, we read how Nebuchadnezzar fulfills his role as God’s messenger:

“King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation” (vv. 1-3).

How Nebuchadnezzar must have wished he had converted to God sooner! Why would you wait any longer? Nebuchadnezzar is God’s warning example to anyone who persists in sin and ungodliness, thereby flouting God’s words and patience. How many years, perhaps decades, have you already wasted? You ignored God. You wanted to be your own master. Don’t wait until your best years have been squandered and you are old and frail. Don’t wait until God makes your madness obvious.

(MR1021/1192)



## CHRISTIANS USING SCIENCE BADLY: PART 2



Reviewing the “facts” that we cited in Part 1, we noted the hyperbole and downright dishonesty in some instances to support global warming claims. Why is there such bias?

**By Wilfred Hahn**

### Money Precedes Truth

Global warming has become big business. Armies of global consultants are peddling false information, because it is profitable to do so. Many claimed urgencies are exaggerated by factors of 10X ... indeed, 200X in some instances and more. Governments are particularly susceptible to this hype, promising infrastructure programs estimated to cost upwards of trillions of dollars.

According to a new report,<sup>1</sup> an estimated \$3.4 trillion will be invested in renewable energy during the next decade, including \$2.72 trillion in wind and solar. By 2030, 54.1% of installed capacity will be renewable (including hydropower), and 37.9% will be a combination of solar and wind.

This is big business. As such, the dog will not easily give up his bone.

In recent decades, much corruption has come to the surface in the field of science. Scientists

do work under many pressures. For example, they must continue to attract funding for their research projects. Moreover, the field of science is very competitive.

We must give credit to the many scholars who do strive for valid and honest conclusions in their research. However, it must be admitted that people wearing white frocks are no more virtuous than anyone else. They are just as subject to the temptations of greed and ambition.

### Out of Doom: Is Good News Possible?

To this point, our focus has been on alarmism and the predictions of certain doom for earth. To be balanced, however, we should at least briefly identify some offsetting positives. We list six such trends—out of many more that we could cite. (Again, page references to Dr. Koonin's observations are shown in parenthesis.)

## Earthquakes are a biblically legitimate end-time trend, but misplaced chronologically.

**Good News #1:** “[...] Since 1961 [...] the per capita supply of vegetable oils and meat has more than doubled and the supply of food calories per capita has increased by about one third” (p. 172).

**Good News #2:** “[...] Deaths due to famine have averaged about two to four per 100,000 since 1980; the rate was ten to twenty times larger in the first half of the twentieth century” (p. 172).

**Good News #3:** “[...] In the fifty years from 1961 to 2011, global yields of wheat, rice, and maize (corn) have each more than doubled, and US corn yields have more than tripled” (p. 173).

**Good News #4:** “[...] The increasing concentration of carbon dioxide has been a significant factor in yield improvements, as it boosts the rate of photosynthesis and alters plant physiology to use water more efficiently” (p. 173).

**Good News #5:** According to the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), “weather-related death rates fell dramatically during the past one hundred years as the globe warmed 1.2° C (2.2° F); they’re about 80 times less frequent today than they were a century ago” (p. 169).

**Good News #6:** “Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> [carbon dioxide] in the atmosphere had also fertilized the natural world [...] During the past four decades the Leaf Area Index (the fractional area [of earth]

covered by leaves) observed by satellites has increased markedly (‘greened’) over 25-50 percent of the vegetated areas of [the] globe, while it has decreased (‘browened’) over less than 4 percent of the globe” (pp. 173-174).

Reviewing the above cited “good news,” readers will agree that conditions today are not as bad as they may seem. That’s not to say that the world is problem-free.

### Interpreting & Fitting Eschatological Facts

In Part 1, we first castigated Christians for misappropriating prophetic “signs of the times” (occurrences mentioned in the Bible but misinterpreted or chronologically misplaced) though there is no biblical evidence at all.

To illustrate, earthquakes are a biblically legitimate end-time trend, but misplaced chronologically.

Earthquakes are indeed mentioned in the Bible, with prophetic applications of several kinds. The most well-known reference is found in the Olivet Discourse. All three accounts of the Olivet Discourse or portions thereof (found in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21), confirm the future occurrence of earthquakes.

The Olivet prophecies mention other end-time phenomena occurring besides earthquakes. When the disciples asked Christ, “When shall these things be?” He said the following: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not



Despite this being very clear, some prophecy interpreters insist that an increase in earthquakes is already occurring today. This cannot be, as Christ's statement places the surge in earthquakes in the first half of the Tribulation.



yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8, KJV).

Definitely, the Bible states that an increase in the frequency of earthquakes yet lies ahead for the world. Actually, there are two distinct groups of earthquakes that are yet to occur. First, there is the heightened earthquake activity that unfolds in the first half of the Tribulation period ... namely, the time before the "beginning of sorrows," but after "the end" has started. This contrasts with the trends before "the end is not yet" ... which, for example, applies to increasing rumors.

The second period of earthquakes is comprised of five separate occurrences that are mentioned in the Book of Revelation. All of these follow the fifth seal, therefore falling

into the Great Tribulation period (namely, the latter 42 months of the 7-year Tribulation). Among this latter group, the biggest earthquake of all time is mentioned (see Revelation 16:18).

Despite this being very clear, some prophecy interpreters insist that an increase in earthquakes is already occurring today. This cannot be, as Christ's statement places the surge in earthquakes in the first half of the Tribulation. (There are intense debates about this topic.) Many overlook Scripture on this point and make their case on evidence of rising earthquake activity today. However, the facts say no.

The U.S. Geological Survey provides information on earthquake activity worldwide.<sup>2</sup> As we had noted in earlier examinations of its data, the frequency of large earthquakes is not increasing today. No statistically valid case can be made to support the conclusion that the number of big earthquakes is rising ... yet.

### Hot Winds?

Returning to our examination of the "global warming" trend today, the penultimate question that begs an answer is this: Are human beings causing climate changes ... and do any of these changes lead to "global warming" or other related manifestations? The honest answer from scientists must be this: Nobody knows for sure.



Christians must be similarly careful in their debates with “climate change” advocates. For one, we should be sure of our facts and Scripture. An example is this statement by Dr. Koonin: “Without a doubt, carbon emissions are indeed rising [carbon dioxide and methane mainly] and continue to do so. This cannot be denied.”

Many Christian opponents simply choose to deny this fact ... unnecessarily losing credibility. Yet the great debate remains: Do these emissions, which are floating around in the earth’s atmosphere, actually contribute to “global warming”? As mentioned, no one has a sure answer. The facts are inconclusive.

But these facts we can know: There indeed are trends that, if they should continue another 100 years or more, would be disconcerting. Yet, it is also obvious that global warming predictions have been shamelessly exaggerated.

For the time being, there is no global warming crisis.

The second fact we can know with certainty is this: The potential for the earth’s destruction due to climate changes, was apparently not deemed important enough to merit a place in the body of Bible prophecy.

Thus, is it logical for the entire world to be moribund with fear about a development that was not first told to the prophets? “Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

### Thoughts to Ponder

Can it really be that the multiplicity of stakeholders in climate matters—scientists, scien-

tific institutions, activists and NGOs, the media, politicians—are all contributing to misinformation in the matter of climate change? Yes, this is clearly possible.

To say otherwise assumes that one can present a case that mankind caused “global warming.” As the case may be, secular scientists to date have not been able to prove that just such a relationship exists. Yes, emissions continue to rise (as already mentioned), and the earth has warmed a very modest amount over the last century. But no linkages to warming can be proven.

What, then, does the Bible say about global warming? This writer believes the answer is “nothing,” simply for the reason that it is not mentioned in the Bible.

Many prophecy teachers have mistakenly become caught up in “global warming” exaggerations and untruths. They attribute what they see as “climate change” to be an end-time development. This is wrong .... in fact, twice over. First, they in effect agree with the contrived allegations and conclusions of “extremist” global warming advocates. Second, they incorrectly identify “signs of the times” and force them into their own alarmist and prophetic timelines. And, practically, if it were not for the effects of higher emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> over the past decades, just how many more people would have died from famines due to lower crop yields? (MC)

### ENDNOTES

- 1 Frost & Sullivan, “Growth Opportunities from Decarbonization in the Global Power Market,” 2019—2030
- 2 <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/earthquakes>



# Israel and Church Distinctions

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Much confusion occurs with the interpretation of biblical prophecy due to a failure (or refusal) to distinguish between Israel and the church, thereby denying any future to national Israel and equating the historical throne of David with God's heavenly throne.

**T**he former rule (the throne of David) could be called the single, unified, mediatorial kingdom that existed historically under the Mosaic Covenant, and was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets to be restored in its former glory at the second coming of Jesus Christ. The latter rule (God's heavenly throne), which is eternal, would be understood as involving aspects of God's universal and spiritual kingdoms.

Christians who are keen to appropriate and assert the future blessings that belong to a redeemed and restored national Israel (through-

out the kingdom reign of Christ from David's throne in Jerusalem), are not willing in any manner to accept the curses and judgments that are associated with those blessings and which have been fulfilled literally. For example, throughout the book of Isaiah there are consistent references to a future King. He is depicted as the One who will fulfill the Davidic Covenant, in addition to sitting forever upon David's throne—the existence of which has always been historical.

To assert that the numerous kingdom prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the present spiritual blessings of the church, is to

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abandon the literal meaning of prophecy without a basis or standard for interpretation. For instance, Isaiah 13—23 contain a series of messages that are primarily oracles or judgments against various Gentile nations. The emphasis within the prophecies is judgment, and thus the oracles should be given careful attention by all nations. One can be fairly certain it was not intended that foreign nations would read the judgments that God had decreed for them; rather, the intent of the messages was primarily to grant prophetic hope for the people of God. The expectation would be immediate for the original recipients of the divinely inspired messages (in the days of the prophet Isaiah), and would also inspire future generations as they observed the fulfillment of the prophecies.

Within the eleven burdens (oracles) upon the nations, the prophet Isaiah demonstrated what would occur throughout the ensuing several generations in the Near East as a consequence of the Assyrian invasion force, whose armies were marching westward with a yearning for conquest and vengeance. Isaiah's contemporaries would be able to evaluate the accurateness of his message, and thereby determine whether or not God had indeed revealed the burdens against the nations and was speaking those oracles to His people through the prophet.

The only consistent hermeneutic is one that regards—with utmost literalness and solemnity—the numerous and sometimes extended Old Testament prophecies that reference Israel's eternal possession of the land and the Davidic dynasty's eternal occupancy of the historical throne. Indeed, the New Testament commences with the demonstration that Jesus Christ is “the Messiah,

the son of David, the son of Abraham,” and thus the fulfiller of both the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants (Matt 1:1). Consequently, when one heeds a literal interpretation that grants the recognition of dispensational distinctions, one may then achieve a reasonable deduction.

Interpretative views that confuse general terms like “elect” and “saints” (which apply to saints of all ages) with specific terms like “church” and those “in Christ” (which refer to believers in the church age only) are misinterpretations of Scripture. Ryrie also noted the importance of this distinction. “The nature of the church is a crucial point of difference between classic, or normative, dispensationalism and other doctrinal systems. Indeed, ecclesiology, or the doctrine of the church, is the touchstone of dispensationalism (and also of pretribulationism).”<sup>1</sup>

In covenant theology,<sup>2</sup> however, the church and Israel are not distinguished biblically, but combined as the one people of God. Covenant theology teaches that the New Testament church is a continuation of those of faith within Old Testament Israel. In terms of God's plan of salvation, they are both regarded as being under the benefits of the new covenant of grace. Consequently, both the church and Israel comprise the one people of God. Covenant theology, which *essentially* is replacement theology,<sup>3</sup> teaches that the promises made to the nation Israel in the Old Testament are now fulfilled spiritually in the New Testament church. Therefore, it is common for covenant theologians to refer to the church as the “new Israel.”

Dispensational theology teaches the biblical distinction between Israel and the church.<sup>4</sup> Both the church and Israel have special relationships with God, but they must be distinguished. The

## Israel and Church Distinctions

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Theologically, only one church exists in regard to the body of Christ universally.

distinction between Israel and the church is the natural result of interpreting the Bible historically and grammatically (i.e. literal, plain interpretation). One must interpret the words of the Bible in their normal or plain meaning. The opposite would be a spiritualizing (allegorizing) of the biblical text. Since Israel and the church are distinct entities, the unfulfilled prophecies to Israel of both blessing and curse have *not* been transferred to the church. Indeed, as the cursings to Israel were fulfilled literally, so will the future restoration blessings be fulfilled literally.

Theologically, only one church exists in regard to the body of Christ universally (1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:4-6). The reason is that Christians are currently fellow citizens and saints of the household of God (Eph 2:19). The church is not the consequence of human organization; rather, it is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (v. 20). Furthermore, the church is God's workmanship (v. 10), created in accordance with His eternal purpose in Christ (1:4), so God may demonstrate the exceeding riches of His grace (2:7).<sup>5</sup> The church is invisible only in regard to those of the body who are already present with the Lord. The local gathering of believers in the service of Christ, is as a part of the universal church. It is essential to distinguish the universal and localized elements for a complete understanding of the New Testament doctrine of the church. Accordingly, the plural "churches" is used in the New Testament as a description of multiple assemblies in a city or territory. Those who are Christians by grace through faith in Christ alone are

expected to be members of both the universal and local church.<sup>6</sup>

The church includes all—and only—those who have been regenerated (born again). The new birth by the Holy Spirit comes through repentance and faith in the completed redemptive work of Christ, and results in union with Him and with fellow believers (Acts 2:47; 20:28). The church is unique to this age (dispensation). The origin of the church was still future in Matthew 16:18. Members are placed in the body of Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13). After His resurrection, Christ said the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit was still future (Acts 1:4-5). The church excludes believers of the Old Testament and those who trust in Christ for salvation after the church has been raptured.

The unity of believers in a local church (community) is only a part—not all—of the universal church. The local church is a voluntary assembly of Christians and is the sphere where the Holy Spirit manifests His gifting and edifying to make Christ known to a lost world. The local church should be a microcosm of the unity and purity that is the reality of the universal church. The universal church is instructed to evangelize/disciple, serve, teach, and worship, but the expression of this instruction is fulfilled by the local assembly through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are not the exclusive privilege of the local church, but are universal expressions of the believer's identity with and remembrance of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:36-38; 18:8; 1 Cor 11:23-26).



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The church is the regenerate of this age, both in heaven and on earth, who have been redeemed by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ.



The church is the regenerate of this age, both in heaven and on earth, who have been redeemed by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ. They are united with Him and each other by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. They assemble voluntarily in any local community for the express purpose of edification, making disciples, worship, and administration of the ordinances. The nature of the church as a new entity that originated at Pentecost—founded upon the New Testament apostles and prophets, with “Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone” (Eph 2:20)—is a fundamental doctrine of Scripture. Christ’s headship over the church distin-

guishes the relationship of the church as unique (Eph 1:22-23). Therefore, the church should not be confused with Israel, the kingdom of God, or another phase in salvation history. The church is exclusive and unique to this age (dispensation). The church has a holy calling that is distinct from Israel, as evident from an understanding of the foundation and origin of the church.

(1256)

#### ENDNOTES

- 1 Charles C. Ryrie, *Dispensationalism* (1966; Chicago: Moody Press, 1995) 123.
- 2 Covenant theology is the system of theology that teaches God instituted the covenant of works and the covenant of grace in the history of creation. The covenant of works was with Adam, as representative of all humanity, and prior to the Fall. God then established the covenant of grace through the second Adam, Jesus Christ, in response to Adam’s disobedience. The covenant of grace promises eternal life to all those who trust in Christ. Covenant theology also teaches that the true Israel, the church, is one people of God.
- 3 Theonomists are also covenant theologians who not only believe the church and Israel are combined, but also argue that the Mosaic Law is still in effect. Therefore, one of the responsibilities of the church is to institute Mosaic Law in society, which will then introduce the conditions of the millennial kingdom.
- 4 Progressive dispensationalism teaches erroneously that the church is less distinct than Israel; rather, this *essentially* non-dispensational view affirms Israel and the church as two embodiments of a single people in salvation history.
- 5 Geoffrey W. Bromiley, “Church,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, rev. ed., 4 vols., gen. ed. idem (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-84) 1:693.
- 6 Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Wheaton: Victor, 1986) 395.



# The Most Important Seasoning

Elia Morise

The most important seasoning is the expression of a Spirit-filled Christian life. What its characteristics are and what weakens it. An overview.

**T**he Lord told His disciples, “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet” (Matt 5:13).

“You are . . .” is a divine invitation to us personally: “who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began” (2 Tim 1:9). Christians have a divine value, for they are the “salt of the earth.” Peter writes: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9). But this high calling also has a serious divine truth associated with it; namely, that bland salt is worthless. “But if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again?” (Mark 9:50). The Greek

word for “bland” also means stupid. Let us beware of becoming bland through spiritual stupidity!

## **The Properties of Salt**

We are called to be salt because God has endowed us with divine worth through salvation. But why is Jesus even comparing us to salt? Because this most important of seasonings has qualities that represent the fruitful Christian life.

1. Salt is available everywhere: “And Jesus went through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction” (Matt 9:35). Like our Lord, we go through all towns and neighborhoods to spread the Gospel.

2. Salt is inexpensive: “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose

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## The beauty of salt crystals symbolizes a heart filled with the Holy Spirit.

what is weak in the world to shame the strong” (1 Cor 1:27).

3. Salt is irreplaceable, and also very unique: “Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt?” (Job 6:6a). Christians with the Good News on this earth are just as irreplaceable and unique.

4. Salt has a great impact, even in small amounts: “And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases ... And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere” (Luke 9:1-6).

5. Salt is white, symbolizing purity: “But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct” (1 Pet 1:15). Christ has cleansed and sanctified us through His blood, so that we may live clean and holy lives for Him.

6. Broken grains of salt symbolize meekness: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22-23a).

7. The beauty of salt crystals symbolizes a heart filled with the Holy Spirit: “Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit ... But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” (Acts 6:5; 7:55).

8. Salt is also a preservative, and so it represents the ministry of Christians in and to the world:

“And he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you’” (Acts 27:24).

9. Salt works silently. God appeals to His people in this way: “in quietness and in trust shall be your strength” (Isa 30:15b). That is how we imitate Christ: “He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets” (Matt 12:19).

10. Salt dissolves; that is a metaphor for self-denial, which those who are modeled after the Lord are called to. “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” (Matt 16:24).

11. Salt causes thirst. Like the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, Christians awaken a thirst for living water in others: “So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?’ ... They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world’” (John 4:28-29, 42).

12. Salt absorbs: “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal 6:2).

13. In the Bible, salt is also a symbol of gratitude. We are thankful for the gift of salvation: “Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king’s dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king” (Ezra 4:14).

# The Most Important Seasoning

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Salt is also a preservative, and so it represents the ministry of Christians in and to the world.

14. Salt also served as a symbol of the covenant with God in the Levitical sacrificial laws: “You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt” (Lev 2:13).

## Why Salt Becomes Bland

These wonderful characteristics of salt should also become increasingly visible in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, there are times when a believer’s testimony may become weak. Why is that? When does salt become flavorless?

1. If it is stored improperly: “Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you” (2 Cor 6:17). This means that we should not be “storing” our lives where impurity and sin reign.

2. Salt becomes bland when it is mixed. This is a depiction of mixing with false doctrine. One example of this is the godly king Jehoshaphat, uniting with the ungodly king Ahab through marriage (2 Chron 18:1). Indeed, “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals’” (1 Cor 15:33).



3. Salt becomes bland when unclean things are added: “Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone” (Hos 4:17).

A sad example of flavorless salt is the life of Lot. He initially goes with Abraham (Gen 12:4) and becomes very rich (Gen 13:5). He then departs from Abraham and pitches his tent in the godless city of Sodom (v. 12). When God

judges Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:24), Lot is forced to flee and loses his wife, who looks back and becomes a pillar of salt (v. 26). Lot’s daughters turn out to be morally depraved (v. 31), and his grandchildren are wicked: Moab (meaning “from the father”) and Ben-Ammi (meaning “son of a relative”). Like the flavor of salt in one’s mouth, Lot’s journey began well, with Abraham and great wealth. But it ends in powerlessness, like salt that is good for nothing more than being trampled underfoot.

Still, there is hope for bland salt. When our salt has gone stale, we need a new bowl to store it in. This is called obedience: “[Elisha] said, ‘Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.’ So they brought it to him” (2 Kings 2:20). Therefore, let us heed the Word of our Lord and imitate Him, so that we can be the most important seasoning in this world: “Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another” (Mark 9:50b).

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# WORLD FOCUS



## 'Our World Is in Peril'

After two years when many leaders weighed in by video because of the coronavirus pandemic, now presidents, premiers, monarchs and foreign ministers have gathered almost entirely in person for diplomacy's premier global event.

 "We are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, adding that "our world is in peril—and paralyzed."

He and others pointed to conflicts ranging from Russia's six-month-old war in Ukraine to the decades-long dispute between Israel and the Palestinians. Speakers worried about a changing climate, spiking fuel prices, food shortages, economic inequality, migration, disinformation, discrimination, hate speech, public health and more.

"We live in an era of uncertainty and shocks," Chilean President Gabriel Boric said. "It is clear nowadays that no country, large or small, humble or powerful, can save itself on its own."

[...] Despite the fragmented state of the international community, the United Nations remains the key gathering place for global leaders. Nearly 150 heads of state and government have signed on

to speak during the nearly weeklong "General Debate."

As Jordan's King Abdullah II noted, well-off countries that are having unfamiliar experiences of scarcity "are discovering a truth that people in developing countries have known for a long time: For countries to thrive, affordable food must get to every family's table."

*-apnews.com, 20 September 2022*

**Commentary:** Based on Bible prophecy, solutions will come—albeit temporary ones.

We must not be confused by the many negative and often diametrically opposed news reports, fueled by a fear of the unknown.

In many countries, the UN organization has often been denigrated with the repeated statement, "It's only a paper tiger." That may be true, but we must agree that words are better than war.

The Russia/Ukraine war has caught world leaders by surprise. Yet no other significant war is in the works at this time. For those who think conditions are really chaotic, just open the nearest history book and you will find it was ten times worse less than a century ago.

One may ask, why are we confident that resolutions will be placed on the table and finally accepted? Our answer is simple: the Bible tells us that the world will experience peace. That can only come about when differences are leveled by negotiation. There is the give and take principle which Ukraine, for example, will be forced to accept as well as Russia.

The process toward world unity, world peace, world prosperity, and world security must continue, until the words of Chilean president Gabriel Boric come to fruition: "no country, large or small, humble or powerful, can save itself on its own."

A global economy is not merely in the future, but already here. Each country depends on another and all, without exception, are racing toward the same goal; namely, true globalism. The aim is to create an international family, ready to accept the one who comes in his own name, as Jesus prophesied in John 5:43: "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

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



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## A Rich Death Trap

The National Center for Health Statistics alerted Americans to two facts about life and death in the U.S.

 The first fact was sadly unsurprising: The coronavirus pandemic killed so many people that U.S. life expectancy fell from roughly 79 in 2019 to 76 in 2021—the largest two-year decline in nearly a century. The drop was sharpest among Native Americans and Alaska Natives, whose life expectancy fell to 65, close to the national average during World War II.

Life expectancy is perhaps the most important statistic on the planet, synthesizing a country's scientific advances, policy errors, and social sins into a single number.

The second fact was perhaps more alarming: The U.S. fared worse in life expectancy than other high-income countries. While most of the developed world saw conditions improve in the second year of the pandemic, more Americans died of COVID *after* the introduction of the vaccines than before their invention.

The American mortality mystery clearly goes much deeper than the pandemic, however. The U.S. suffers from a raft of local epidemics that have turned America into the death trap of the wealthy world.

Some of the most immediate causes of America's high death rate are guns, drugs, and cars. The U.S. has more

Peter van Agtmael / Magnum



guns and gun violence than any other rich country. We have more drug-overdose deaths than any other high-income country—both overall and on a per capita basis. Even before the pandemic, life expectancy in the U.S. declined for consecutive years in 2015 and 2016, largely because of the opioid epidemic and drug overdoses.

This has all been quite gloomy, so let me end with two somewhat optimistic observations. The U.S. has world-class health care in some categories, such as cancer treatments. American men have the lowest rate of deaths from prostate cancer among rich countries, due in part to aggressive screening. And breast-cancer mortality rates are falling faster in the U.S. than in similar nations. These facts suggest that the U.S. is not utterly incompetent but rather *selectively competent*, and that if we refocus our health-care policies on certain tangible outcomes, we can improve quickly.

Another stunning fact is that immigrants to the U.S. live as long, or longer, than just about any group of people in the world. In fact, foreign-born Ameri-

cans live so much longer than native-born Americans—seven years longer for men, and 6.2 years longer for women—that immigration alone accounted for roughly *half* of America's total life-expectancy gains from 2007 to 2017.

-[www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com), 7 September 2022

**Commentary:** One thing virtually all progressive countries have in common: foreign-born residents.

According to WorldPopulationReview.com, the top five rich, industrialized countries have a foreign-born population as follows: Australia 30.1%, Switzerland 28.8%, Israel 22.6%, Germany 18.8% and, surprisingly, the US at only 15.3%. Quite interestingly, the foreigner's destination of choice is clearly Australia, followed by Switzerland and Israel.

Something else one must take careful notice of is the Word of God. Here a helpful source is OpenBible.info. Leviticus 19:34 reads: “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

(continued next page)

 **NETHERLANDS**

## First City to Ban Meat Ads

The Dutch city of Haarlem is set to become the first in the world to ban advertisements for most meat because of its impact on climate change, officials said.

 The city of 160,000 people near Amsterdam has agreed to outlaw ads for intensively farmed meat on public places like buses, shelters and screens from 2024.

“It will be the first city in the Netherlands—and in fact Europe and indeed the world—to ban ‘bad’ meat ads in public places,” Ziggy Klazes, councillor for the GroenLinks (Green-Left) party who drafted the motion, told AFP.

The ban would target all “cheap meat from intensive farming,” Klazes said, adding, “as far as I’m concerned that includes ads from fast food chains.”

Amsterdam and The Hague have already banned ads for air travel, petrol-[gasoline] driven cars and fossil fuels but now Haarlem is set to add meat to that list.

## Death Trap (continued from page 26)

were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” And the New Testament speaks of strangers: “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:2).

But there is wondrous news for the believer. Ephesians 2:19 documents: “Now therefore ye are no

Some 95 percent of Dutch people eat meat, including 20 percent every day, according to the Dutch central statistics office.

Other countries are banning advertising for certain types of food, including junk food, although for health reasons rather than climate.

*-www.rfi.fr, 7 September 2022*

**Commentary:** The Netherlands is an extremely rich, successful, and liberal country. In 1970, they were first to grant women the right to vote, and on 1 April 2001, same-sex marriage was enacted.

The country of 17.5 million people has a life expectancy of 82.2 years and is among the world’s top exporters of food. Howlongtocook.org lists the Netherlands in 7th place in food export value, with a volume of almost \$27 billion annually. The world’s second largest country, Canada, is at \$23.8 billion in food export value.

But no meat? There is opposition: “The Dutch meat industry body, the *Centrale Organisatie voor de Vleessector*, said Haarlem authorities were ‘going too far in telling people what’s best for them,’ the *Trouw* newspaper said.”

What does the Bible say? “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat” (Genesis 1:29). The original diet was vegetarian.

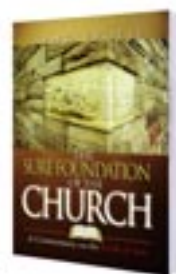
Later, meat was included: “Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things” (Genesis 9:3). The New Testament adds: “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days” (Colossians 2:16).

7834

(See *Creation to Babel*, Item #2390, \$21.99.)

more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” From a Biblical perspective, it matters not what country you live in or were born; you are a “stranger and alien.” Yet that’s not the end, for there is a “but”: we are now “fellowcitizens ... of the household of God.” We have a future, glorious and unspeakably bliss-

ful, and our task is to let His light shine through us, so many who are still in darkness may come to the light and be liberated from the bondage of whatever country they may live in.




7837

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

 **USA**

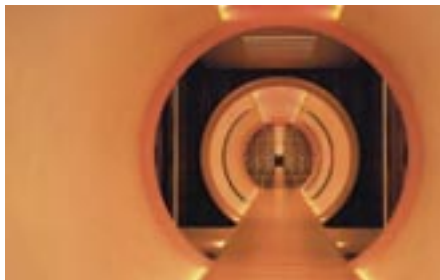
## Billionaire Preppers Planning for Apocalypse

Tech billionaires are buying up luxurious bunkers and hiring military security to survive a societal collapse they helped create, but like everything they do, it has unintended consequences.

 [The author was asked] Which was the greater threat: global warming or biological warfare? How long should one plan to be able to survive with no outside help? Should a shelter have its own air supply? What was the likelihood of groundwater contamination? Finally, the CEO of a brokerage house explained that he had nearly completed building his own underground bunker system, and asked: “How do I maintain authority over my security force after the event?” The event. That was their euphemism for the environmental collapse, social unrest, nuclear explosion, solar storm, unstoppable virus, or malicious computer hack that takes everything down.

Their extreme wealth and privilege served only to make them obsessed with insulating themselves from the very real and present danger of climate change, rising sea levels, mass migrations, global pandemics, nativist panic and resource depletion. For them, the future of technology is about only one thing: escape from the rest of us.

Yet this Silicon Valley escapism—let’s call it The Mindset—encourages its ad-



**Time to bunker down... if you've got the cash.**

Photograph: Terravivos/Observer Design

herents to believe that the winners can somehow leave the rest of us behind.

The Mindset also includes a faith-based Silicon Valley certainty that they can develop a technology that will somehow break the laws of physics, economics and morality to offer them something even better than a way of saving the world: a means of escape from the apocalypse of their own making.

*-www.theguardian.com, 4 September 2022*

**Commentary:** This fascinating tale from Professor Douglas Rushkoff—of billionaires preparing for an apocalypse—caught our attention in part because of the use of language such as, “faith-based Silicon Valley certainty that they can ... escape from the apocalypse of their own making.” This, of course, reminds us of the verse, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). Professor Rushkoff tried to dissuade his billionaire audience from their faulty logic with practical considerations, such as the unfeasibility of paying

guards after money becomes worthless.

Yet we know there is a coming Great Tribulation, with only one way of escape—the Rapture: “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This is the message we proclaim to all, great and small: the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His imminent return.

Unfortunately, this prepper mentality has captured certain parts of evangelical Christianity. Merchants of bunkers, bullets, and beans have perverted the spiritual lesson of verses such as Matthew 24:13—“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”—into selling physical survival techniques. But our Lord has assured us, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” (Matthew 6:31-32). Likewise, we do not need to build bunkers; Jesus said in John 14:3, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

(By J. Froese)

7831

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




  **CHINA/RUSSIA**

## A Balanced Picture?

Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked Chinese leader Xi Jinping for his “balanced” approach to the Ukrainian crisis and blasted Washington’s “ugly” policies at a meeting that followed a major setback for Moscow on the battlefield.



 Speaking at the start of talks with Xi in Uzbekistan, Putin said he was ready to discuss unspecified “concerns” by China about Ukraine.

“We highly appreciate the well-balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis,” Putin said, facing Xi across a long table.

Observers say Russia will likely grow increasingly reliant on China as a market for its oil and gas as the West moves to establish a price cap on Russian energy resources and potentially cut their imports altogether.

“The tandem of Moscow and Beijing plays a key role in ensuring global and regional stability,” Putin said. “We jointly stand for forming a just, democratic and multipolar world based on international law and the central role of the United Nations, not rules invented

by some who try to enforce them on others without explaining what they are.”

-*abcnews.go.com*, 15 September 2022

**Commentary:** One does not need to be an expert in international politics to realize that these are simply words, not backed up with action. In Russia’s case, the invasion of Ukraine was not to recover some lost territory, but to overrun the country with the intention of installing a Moscow-favored government.

What next? After having virtually no support from the West, Putin turns to the East. China is clearly on the way to being the number one country in the world when it comes to manufacturing and merchandising—especially compared to just a few decades ago.

Regarding conflict between Russia and China, Wikipedia writes: “China and Russia currently enjoy the best relations they have had since the late 1950s. Although they have no formal alliance, the two countries do have an informal agreement to coordinate diplomatic and economic moves, and build up an alliance against the United States.”

When analyzing this situation today, we see shadows of danger lurking in every corner. It seems that these two giants cannot be tamed by the West. Yet we believe that in the end, political negotiations will su-

persede all else. With the tremendous natural resources of Russia and the ever-increasing economic power of communist China, the West will need the East as much as the East needs the West. Thus, the new power blocs will eventually unite to create a one-world



unity government. That must be expected, according to the prophetic Word.

7845

(See *Foreshadows*, Item

#2393, \$17.99.)

 **EGYPT**

## United Arab Power in the Works

The leaders of five Arab countries held a summit in the coastal town of El Alamein, Egypt, to discuss the economic and social consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict as well as cooperation on energy and food security and other issues.

 Western sanctions against Russia have blocked shipments from the world’s largest gas and second-largest oil exporter, causing prices of energy and food to soar across the globe.

“The economic challenges, and food security in particular, have intensified after the war in Ukraine started. These new developments make cooperation in the region more important than ever,” said Ibrahim al-Assil, geopolitical

*(continued next page)*

## Arab Power (continued from page 29)

scholar and senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington. Nevertheless, the efforts on energy cooperation precede the war.

“The summit initially began in 2019 as a trilateral meeting to foster economic cooperation between Egypt, Jordan and Iraq, notably in the areas of energy and power generation,” said Dr. Hasan Alhasan, research fellow for Middle East policy at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Bahrain, adding that the three states have since signed an agreement to connect their power grids, to allow “power-starved” Iraq to purchase electricity from Egypt and Jordan starting in early 2023.

He pointed out that much of the natural gas that Egypt would use to generate the electricity would be supplied by Israel, which has recently approved the sale of additional quantities to Egypt via a new route that passes through Jordan.

*-www.jpost.com, 24 August 2022*

**Commentary:** How interdependent the world has become is being increasingly revealed through international media. As the article states, soaring costs of energy and food are creating the impetus for various countries to negotiate—in this case, Middle East nations. Interestingly, Israel is becoming a supplier, which only a few decades ago was unthinkable. That is another step toward cooperation be-

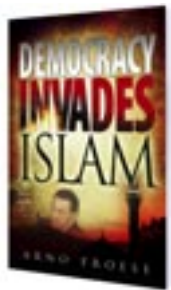
tween nations formerly at odds, even those involved in war.

While we do not belittle the tragedy of Russia’s war with Ukraine, it becomes self-evident that this has caused more and more countries to unite in commercial cooperation—thereby contributing to the growth of

peace which, we so often mention, will envelope the entire world.

7846

*(See Democracy Invades Islam, Item #1072, \$12.95.)*



## GERMANY Israel Ready to Sell Anti-Satellite System

Israel is looking to bolster Germany’s air-defense system through the future sale to Berlin of its Arrow 3 anti-satellite system. Jerusalem also plans to help replace Russia as a gas supplier to Europe starting next year.



“The future possible deal [on the Arrow 3] has to do with our total commitment to the safety of Germany,” Prime Minister Yair Lapid said during a joint press conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz as he confirmed that the two countries were in talks about such a purchase.

Arrow 3 interceptors are designed to fly beyond the Earth’s atmosphere, where their warheads detach to be-

come “kamikaze” satellites, or “kill vehicles” that track and slam into targets. Such high-altitude shoot-downs are meant to safely destroy incoming nuclear, biological or chemical missiles. The Arrow 3 can intercept ballistic missiles at an altitude of 62 miles and has a range of 1,490 miles.

Lapid also spoke of Israeli plans to deliver to Europe next year about 10% of the gas that the continent had received from Russia last year.

*-www.jpost.com, 12 September 2022*

**Commentary:** Another virtually unthinkable prospect only a decade ago. While there are many other missile defense systems, the one with the most battlefield-tested experience is Israel’s. Gaza’s repeated rocket attacks on Israel’s population, have turned into a blessing.

Genesis 50:20 declares: “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

7841

*(See Operation Joktan, Item #2389, \$15.99.)*

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# Those Who Have Not Defiled Their Garments

**Wim Malgo (1922-1992)**

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 34. Revelation 3:4-5.

**I**t's no coincidence that Sardis also means "remnant," because the Lord Jesus told Sardis through John's letter, "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" (Rev 3:4).

These "few" were living in complete sanctification. This means that in the church in Sardis, there was a radical division between life and death, between light and darkness, between holy and unholy. The idea wasn't that the garments of these few were just a little unclean, but—and this was a praise to God!—they had not stained them at all.

Jeremiah saw the same illustration of Judah and Israel in chapter 24, verses 2-8 of his book. Israel is compared to two baskets of figs. Scripture records that some of these figs were very good, while others were so bad that they couldn't be eaten. Here too, it doesn't say that there were "good and less good" figs. But there were very good figs, which represented the captives from Judah who had repented. They were preserved by the Lord and brought back to Israel. And there were also very bad figs that couldn't be eaten, which represented the royal line of Judah that had been rejected. They were

those in Jerusalem who wouldn't bow under God's mighty hand, and therefore fell under judgment.

The Lord does not tolerate darkness. The small remnant who have not defiled their garments will walk with Jesus, clothed in white robes. The white robes aren't robes of righteousness, but the robes of those who overcome, because the Lord says, "they are worthy." They overcame. And then comes the promise for the overcomer:

"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."

These few, dressed in bright robes and equipped as conquerors, will accompany the Son of God on His triumphal march through heaven. This will occur after the first resurrection: after the opening of the books and the revelation of those who are recorded among the faithful. If you are an overcomer, then the Lord will confess your name before His Father and His angels. You will be called by a new name, which will be yours for all eternity.

(MR0622/1246)



 **BOLIVIA**

# A New Start

BY DANIEL AND NADIYA SCHÄFER, RIBERALTA



On our way to do some gardening

The family of Daniel and Nadiya Schäfer (our missionaries from Argentina) have been at the mission in Bolivia, helping fill the gaps left by the departure of Mathias and Doro Rindlisbacher (to a new mission site in Santa Cruz, Bolivia) and the Fürst family. A short testimony and prayer request from Daniel Schäfer.



A group of children



Daniel with son Jonathan, both headed to school. One to learn, the other to teach.



Nadiya with daughters Johanna and Sarah, under a papaya tree



Tropical downpour



Daniel teaching



Serenade in honor of Daniel's 43rd birthday

“He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (1 Thess 5:24). When we’d been in Riberalta for about a week and a half, it already felt like we’d been here for ages. Since pictures speak

louder than words, I’d like to let some of them do the speaking here.

We can say with a grateful heart that all of our family’s expenses were covered by God in the form of donations received: our annual visa costs of Bs 23,544 (roughly \$3,411), airfare, SIM card rental, living expenses, and more!

Regarding our children, it’s important to us that the school authorities in Argentina certify Jonathan’s report cards (no progress has been made despite our making repeated formal complaints since February). After this, we’ll need the Ministry of the Interior to certify them, as well as Evelyn’s report cards. Hopefully all of these report cards (as well as Johanna’s) will be apostilled very soon, so that we won’t have to worry about the school year.

Greetings from our new mission in Bolivia. A huge thanks to everyone who is praying for us regularly and with their donations, enabling us to stay here and serve the Lord. May God bless you richly!

(MR0722)

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# JOY IN HEAVEN



When Philip came to Samaria, he preached about Jesus in one of its cities. We find this in Acts chapter 8. Which city it was is not mentioned, but we are told of its inhabitants: “And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did” (verse 6).

**By Peter Malgo**

**A**nd then in verse 8, it says: “And there was great joy in that city.” What a profound effect from Philip’s preaching: an entire city was stirred and rejoiced greatly!

It is still the goal of our ministry to awaken joy through our literature—joy in heaven over people who find the Lord Jesus. “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:7a). But also among people who hear, read, and diligently absorb His Word, joy should break forth.

What about you? Does the joy of the Lord dominate your life, or do others see deep furrows of worry in your face? If you have become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ, you have every reason to rejoice. Jeremiah declares: “...thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart...” (Jer 15:16). God’s Word con-

tains the most glorious promises. All the sorrows and grief that want to imprison us, are cleared away by the great joy that is ours through Jesus Christ. He who seeks God finds joy. If Jesus has become our joy, we have the joy that is eternal. Then our earthly life, whatever difficulties it may contain, will be merely a vestibule to heaven. The most perfect joy we may feel here on earth, is only a taste of the eternal joy that awaits us. As God’s children, we can know: the best is yet to come!

The Lord Jesus gives us an example of this: even though He knew that He would have to die on the Cross, He spoke several times of His own joy and about the perfect joy He wants to impart to His disciples:

1. “These things I have spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:11).





2. "...Your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (John 16:22b).

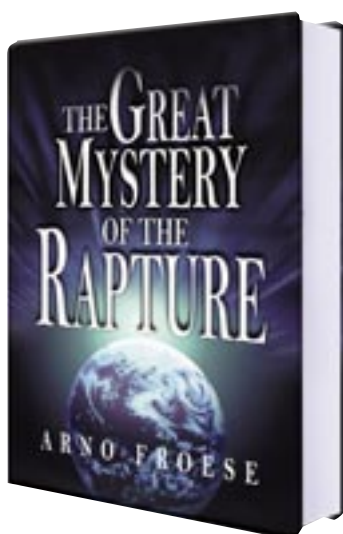
3. "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

4. "...Now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (John 17:13).

The Lord Jesus cares deeply that the joy of His own be made perfect! How sad He must be when He sees God's children so often go through life worried and grumpy. Jesus has left us an indescribably valuable legacy of joy. Anyone who can experience joy today should not wait until tomorrow. Peter summarizes the future eternal joy in these few words: "ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet 1:8b). Are you looking forward to the

future of our Lord's return, when "we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2b)? The Apostle Paul put into words the unfathomable future glory of the redeemed: "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor 2:9). The one whose sins are forgiven by "the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:7b) and who is pure of heart, will one day see God (Matt 5:8). That will be unspeakable joy!

When we read the Lord's words in the Bible—especially those about perfect joy—we must accept them in our heart like legitimate heirs who listen to the lawyer reading the testator's will. Born again believers are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17), and thus allowed to rejoice at each promise they encounter in the Bible: "All of this is for me!" ☺



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## Saying Goodbye to Ebenezer's CEO

**“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye” (Psalm 32:8).**

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



**T**oda Raba (thank you) so much for upholding and supporting us in prayer! We certainly feel your prayers and greatly appreciate you, our dear Ebenezer family, for standing with us through each turn of events—including the upcoming one.

This year has definitely had its challenges and milestones, but with each one, we can see the faithfulness of our Father carrying us through. How I love the verse above! What a promise we have that our Heavenly Father will

instruct, teach, and guide us in the way we should walk. Our prayer as believers in Yeshua, is that we will follow and obey Him each and every step of the way.

One of the milestones Ebenezer recently crossed is, for the first time, we had a resident turn 100 years old in September! Happy Birthday, Tsnuia! It was a beautiful day of celebrating God's faithfulness and watching Tsnuia sing out to her Lord. We created a highlight video from this celebration of life for you, which can be viewed on the Ebenezer Senior Citizens' Home **YouTube channel**. We pray you will greatly enjoy watching this and other videos about the Home that we post there for you.

Another milestone in the history of the Ebenezer Home is, after serving Ebenezer for the past 24 years, Johnny Khoury, the CEO, is stepping down from management at the end of this year. He is beginning a new chapter in




his life in a way God has shown him. Although we are sad to see him leave after so many years, we release him in prayer and look forward to what God has in store for him. THANK YOU JOHNNY for all those years; may the Holy One of Israel reward you!

Please keep us in prayer as the Home undergoes these changes and the torch is passed onto the next leader.

As we reflected on this past year and all the challenges, we thought about all of our faithful workers and team who pour their hearts into the work. We know it has not been easy for them, especially as we faced different challenges like coronavirus in the Home. So, with this month being the one in which we celebrate

Thanksgiving, we thought about how we could bless them in a special way for their love and care for these elderly believers. Without their love, sacrifice, and service, these elderly brothers and sisters wouldn't have a place to call home.

This is why we would like to do something we've never done before and dedicate part of this month's donations to a special "end of the year" bonus for the team, with the rest going to the building project. But not only this, if any of you have it on your heart to write the team, we will be collecting all notes, voice recordings, and cards and will read/play them before the team, to encourage and bless them for this upcoming year. Please send all notes to my assistant, Samantha at: support@ebenezer.co.il or call/text: 803-281-0535.



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“Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish” (Isaiah 41:11).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

**W**hen we concern ourselves with Israel, we are approaching the vicinity of God’s presence. Why? Because Israel is chosen by God for a specific purpose: to reveal His salvation to the world—Emmanuel, “God with us.” Often, we have pointed to verse 17 in the previous chapter, which speaks of the nations of the world: “All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.”

Is Israel perfect? Far from it. But that does not give us the jurisdiction to judge or condemn. Here an example: we read in Numbers 14:22, “Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice.” Israel received the Ten Commandments through Moses, yet they rebelled “ten times”: “. . . these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice.”

A few chapters later in the book of Numbers, we read of the Gentile prophet Balaam. He is instructed to curse Israel, which would bring him great riches, as promised by the king of the Moabites, Balak. The report is found in Numbers 22—24.

When Balaam finally agreed to inquire about Israel and to curse them, we read: “He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them . . . Surely

there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!” (Numbers 23:21, 23). Quite interesting: in Numbers 14, we noticed that they were excessively rebellious and disobedient, yet here the prophet Balaam reveals them as a virtually perfect nation. An intellectual contradiction?

Here is the lesson. The Gentile prophet could only see Israel from God’s perspective, in which His unconditional grace and blessings would follow that nation. Balaam was not allowed to look into the family of Israel—the controversies, the rebellions, the stiff-necked disobedience. He only received what God gave him; namely, His promises to His people.

All of us have experienced at one time or another how our parents, relatives, or siblings protected us. It’s a family issue; neighbors or the outside world have no right to interfere. I would never tolerate a neighbor coming to my house to punish my children. It’s my responsibility, not theirs.

### **Israel’s Hiding Place**

Concerning anti-Semitism—which, by the way, also includes anti-Zionism and anti-Israelism—how safe are the Jews outside Israel? An article from the *Jerusalem Post* on 22 June 2022 reads:

The countries were ranked in the following order, from best to worst: Italy, Hungary, Denmark, the UK, Austria, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Spain, France, Poland and Belgium. The rankings took into account all the categories that were measured.

“Negative sentiment against Jews is unequivocally tied to Israel,” said Rabbi Menachem Margolin. “When Israel is attacked, the Jews are attacked. Israel knows how much it needs other countries, particularly through the strong Jewish communities in those countries. Most European Jews don’t even identify as Jewish—85%. But whilst they are here, we need to keep them safe.”

Quite a shocking statement, “Most European Jews don’t even identify as Jewish—85%.” However, that all changes when they return to the land of their fathers: the Promised Land.

Something remarkable then happens: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26). Note very carefully the words “new heart” and “new spirit.” One needs to read the entire chapter to see how God works with His people in a rather mysterious way.

He begins by addressing the topographical area of the land of Israel, for a very specific reason: “...yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come” (verse 8b). It started in 1882 with the first Aliyah (return of Jews to Israel) and continues to this day, but that’s not the end.

What is the reason for the return of the Jews to the land of their fathers? Not just to receive a new heart and a new spirit, which is self-evident and can be proven without a shadow of a doubt. AEI.org documents Nobel Prizes that were awarded from 1901 to 2020, showing that 22.4% of the recipients were Jewish. Yet Jews make up only 0.2% of the world population. That is the new heart and the new spirit.

Again, this is not the end, because we read in the next verse: “And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” (verse 27). Note, not the new spirit, but “my spirit.” That, friends, is yet to come. When God puts His Spirit in the heart of the Jew, verse 28 will be fulfilled: “And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (MC)

# Action for Israel



MIDNIGHT CALL

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

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

# COVID-19... GAZA... DENOMINATIONS

### Covid-19

Dear Arno Froese,

I am very disappointed in your position regarding the worldwide Covid-19 response, as revealed in your article “The Source of Truth” in the April issue of *Midnight Call*. Your total trust in the globalist ruling authorities regarding the Covid mandates, reveals a lack of spiritual discernment that brings into question virtually everything you write.

There are a wide variety of sources available to anyone who takes the time to look more than skin-deep, bringing into question both the effectiveness and safety of the Covid vaccines.

The lockstep global response to Covid and the aggressive intolerance to any dissenting voices or alternative treatments, reveal this to be a significant end-times development that you are totally missing. The vaccine mandates foreshadow the Tribulation unbelievers who fail to “repent of their pharmakeia” (Revelation 9:21),

and condition people to be more receptive to the Mark of the Beast when it is imposed on the world.

-S. Huckaby, TX

**Answer:** When I do research, I often focus on Israel. For example, the Sheba Medical Center in Tel HaShomer, Tel Aviv; Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa; Hadassah Anchoring Hospital, Jerusalem; and several other excellent medical facilities. Furthermore, there are the best global universities for clinical medicine in Israel, which include Tel Aviv University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, and so on. What these medical scientists have in common is their support of vaccination, whether it's the BioN-Tech/Pfizer or Moderna, which are fully approved by the FDA and recommended by the CDC.

I have no doubt in my mind that some people are being hurt by vaccines. That is always the case with any medicine or other therapy approved by authorities. However, the number of prevented deaths and serious illness dwarfs the adverse effects.





## Gaza

Mr. Froese,

Be assured that your request for prayer has been answered long ago. How often I wish I could speak to each of the writers of the wonderful articles and thank them. I'm so blessed! And thank you for each Scripture you share at your letter's closure.

I do have a comment regarding the "Gaza Strip Barrier" (*News From Israel*, February 2022, pages 16-18). That was a sad article. The figures alone were hard to even imagine. My first thought was of the wall of partition Christ came to destroy, "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" (Ephesians 2:14).

Another question: when one gives to Action for Israel, what is that used for? Thank you for the AFI articles—so enlightening.

-R. Cooper, WA

**Answer:** Regarding the Gaza Wall, Israel tries everything in their power to hinder terrorist entry. Obviously, this is a prophetic warning to us Christians, because the enemy—the devil—tries desperately to confuse members of the Lord's Church. He is chalking up quite a number of successes, but in the end, we know with Jesus we are on the victorious side.

Action for Israel began in 1973, after the nation was attacked on their most holy day, Yom Kippur. From that point on, multiple projects have been undergirded or funded by Action for Israel; for exam-

ple, the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center (now Shamir Medical Center).

Frankly, I have no idea how much has been sent to Israel through the AFI fund over the decades—the Lord knows. Since the passing of our founder, Wim Malgo, we have focused our intention more on the Church in Israel, because believers are multiplying. To assist and undergird churches became essential.

## Denominations

I am a long-time subscriber of *Midnight Call*, and it has given me lots of clarifications and understanding of the Book. It appears that the magazine does not have an affiliation to any denomination. Having just moved, I would like to know which church denomination is best to join, for it will be the last one in view of my age.

I also wish to know if the publications will become available in the Korean language anytime soon.

Thank you for your work.

-B. Maechler, TX

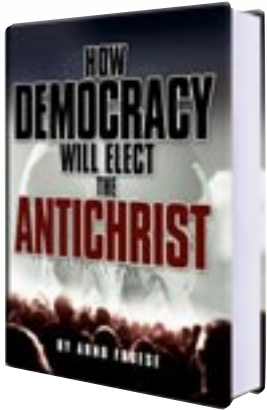
**Answer:** There are a number of denominations that preach the gospel. Some emphasize grace, others works. While we do not adhere to any denomination, many of us attend Baptist churches, mainly because of their simplicity in proclaiming the gospel of grace.

It's been several decades since we last published the Korean-language *Midnight Call*. But it was never confirmed by our Lord, and therefore publication ceased. (MC)

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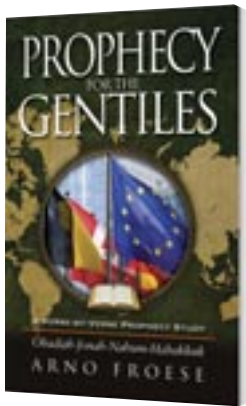
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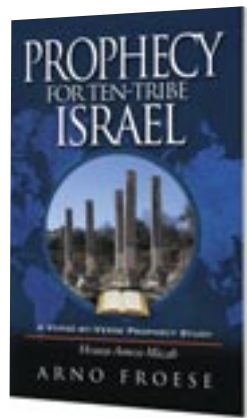
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## A Message for All People of All Times

We included the following four prophetic books for these reasons: Obadiah primarily speaks of judgment against Edom. There is no question about Jonah; he was sent to the Gentiles, and Nahum likewise thunders his message against Nineveh. While Habakkuk does speak of the deliverance of Judah, he also declares his message against the Chaldeans. However, the message of the prophets is applicable to all people of all times.



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The ten-tribe Israel is distinctly different from Judah-Israel. We read, "So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day" (1 King 12:19). The three prophets, Hosea, Amos and Micah, expose Israel's sin in an unmerciful manner, which leads to God's declaration, "I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away" (Hosea 1:6b).

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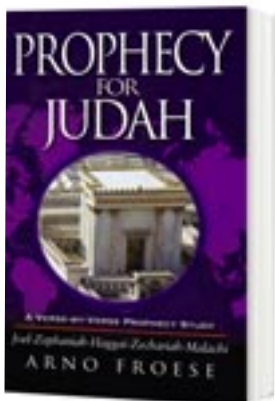
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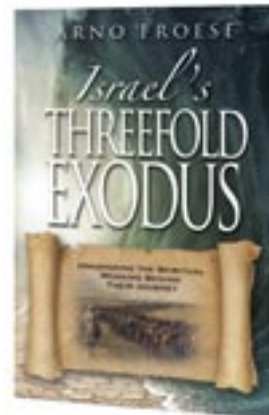
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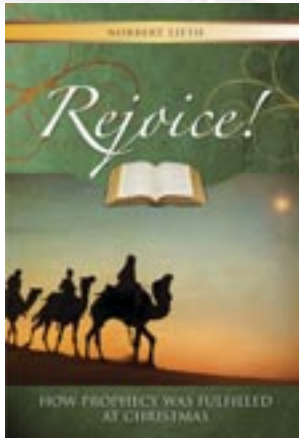
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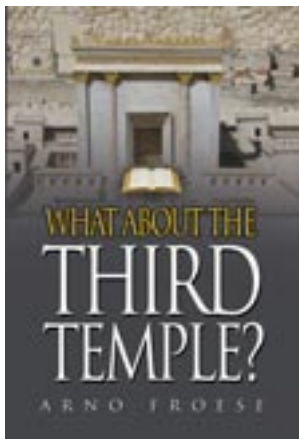
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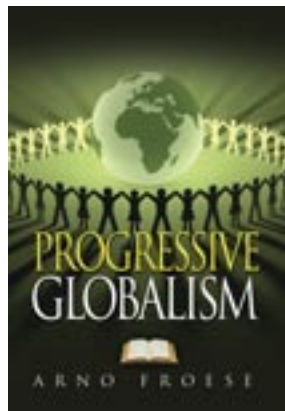
## A Closer Look at the Third Temple

Only when that temple is completed—when the last from among the Gentiles has been added to it—will the Church, the body of Christ, the spiritual temple, be raptured into the presence of the Lord. Furthermore, the Church—in which dwells the Holy Spirit—is also the hindering element for the salvation of Israel, as Paul documents: "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25b).

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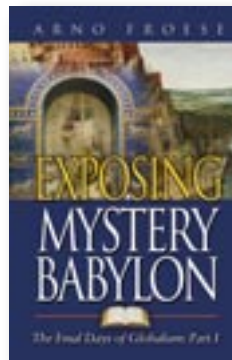


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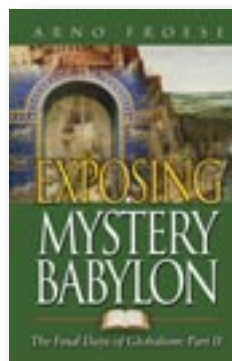
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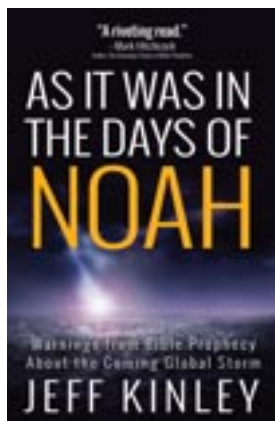
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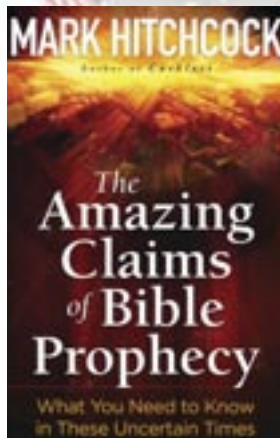
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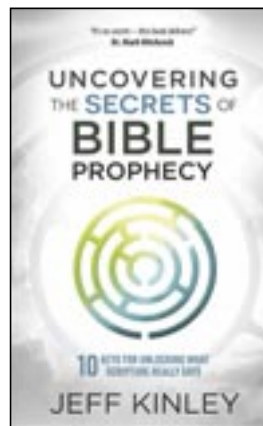
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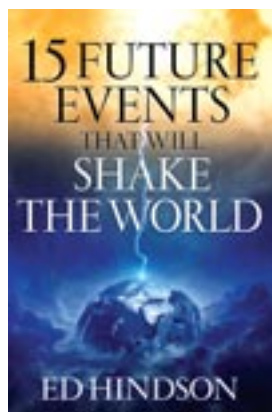
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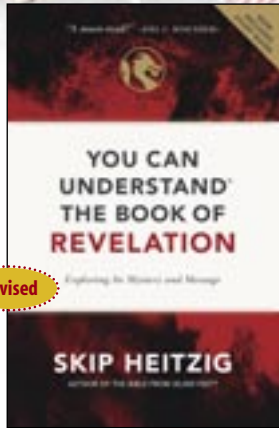
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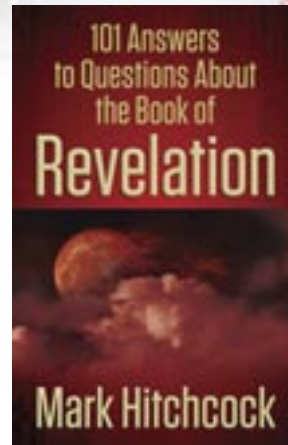
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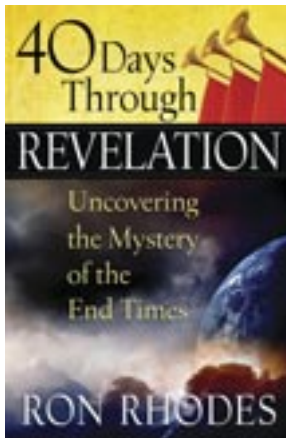
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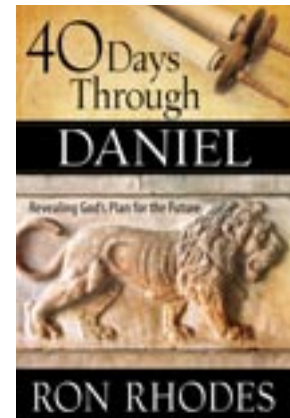
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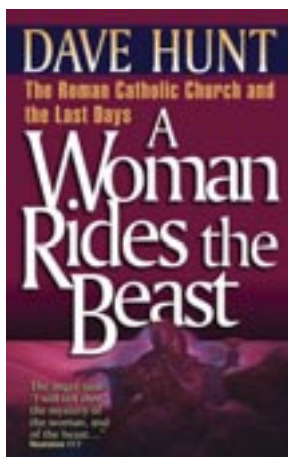
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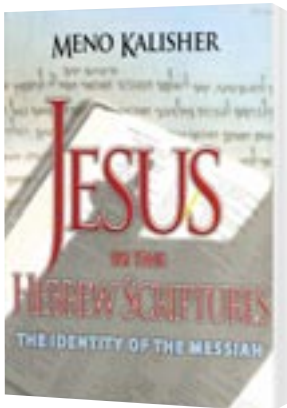
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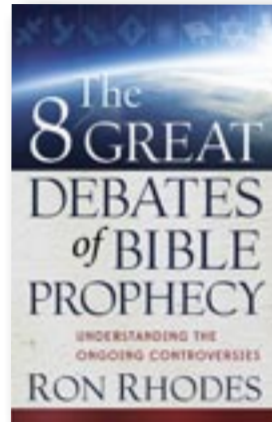
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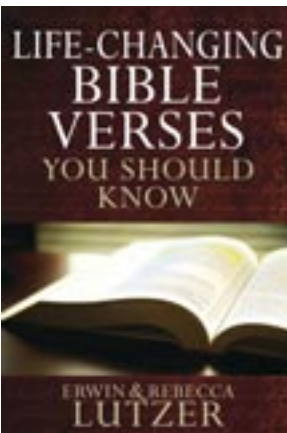
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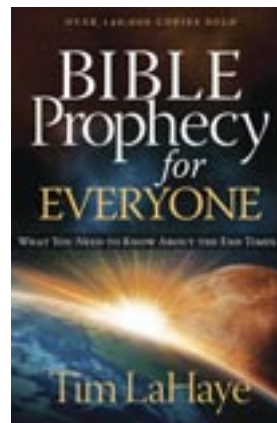
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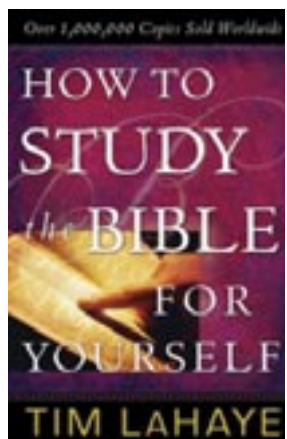
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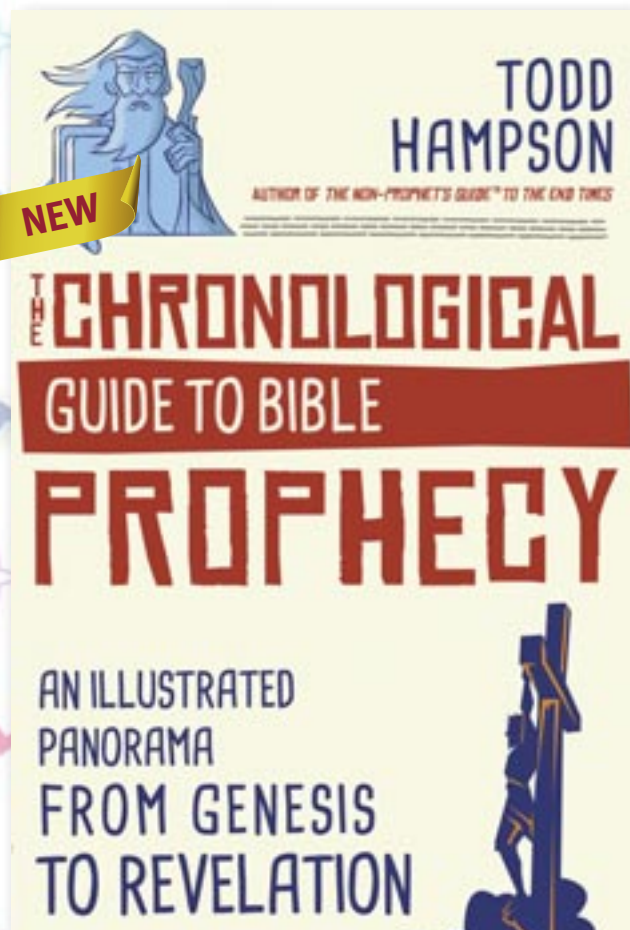




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