

LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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What has happened to our nation?

AMERICA

A SHINING CITY UPON A HILL



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Observations by the Editor

The "Lesser Evil"

My editorial last month stirred up some anger. Why it did is beyond me.

All I did was emphasize that if we end up having to choose between Clinton and Trump, we will be faced with a horrible choice. How could any Christian deny that conclusion?

It seems that the part of my essay that upset the most people was my statement that if I am faced with a choice between Clinton and Trump, I will probably write in a name, like Franklin Graham.

I was lectured about the political consequences of such a vote, as if I am unaware of them. Keep in mind that I taught political science at the university level for 20 years before entering the ministry full time in 1980. Also, I ran for Governor of Texas in 1972. So, I know politics, inside and out.

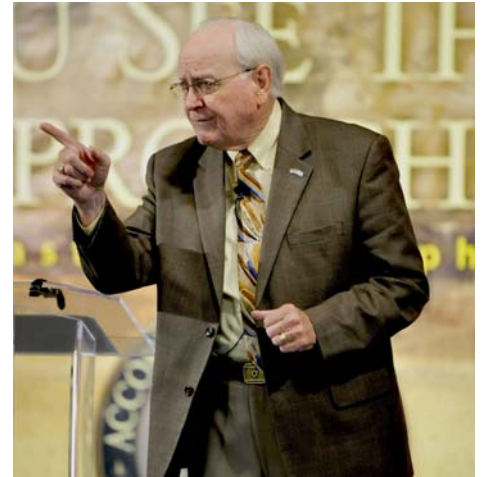
Several expressed anger over my "trying to tell people how to vote." I did no such thing. I only told how I might vote, and I went out of my way to say that I respect those who differ with me.

Then there were those who presented argument after argument in behalf of voting for the "lesser evil." Which leads me to ask, "Who is the lesser evil?" I'm sure all those who presented the argument for the "lesser evil" would answer: "Donald Trump."

But is Donald Trump really the lesser evil? I could not say so with any confidence because he has held every side of every issue at some point in his lifetime. Who knows, therefore, what he really believes about anything? And do you really want a President who is a supreme narcissist and an ego-maniac?

Also, keep in mind that Trump's claim to be a "political outsider" is a farce. He is, in fact, the ultimate insider who has been influencing politicians all his life with his money. Trump represents one of the things that is wrong with our political system.

You vote for whom you please. But I will say again that if I am faced with Clinton vs. Trump, I could not in good conscience vote for either one. Nor do I



Dr. David R. Reagan

believe that one or the other is the "lesser evil." Both are tragedies. Either one, if elected, will preside over the continuing disintegration of our nation, as I point out in the lead article in this issue.

I think it would be most interesting if we were to end up with four choices in November — Clinton, Sanders, Trump and a main-line Republican. After all, Sanders is not a Democrat. He was elected to Congress as an Independent, and I would not be surprised if he were to decide to continue his presidential campaign as an Independent.

Nor would I be surprised if some disenchanted Republican leaders decided to run a candidate of their own as an Independent. In that case, we could end up with no one getting a majority of electoral votes, in which case, our next President would be selected by the House of Representatives — as was the case in 1824 when there were four candidates and no one received a majority of electoral votes. The U.S. House of Representatives ended up electing John Quincy Adams although he had won fewer votes than Andrew Jackson in the popular election.

Who knows what lies in store for us? All I know for sure is that if I am faced with a choice between Clinton and Trump, I will choose neither.

Meanwhile, I will be praying, "Maranatha!"

The cover artist is Anthony Hawkins.

America's Final Years: The Death of a Nation

Dr. David R. Reagan

Donald Trump's campaign slogan is "Make America Great Again!" He claims he can do that because he is "The Great Deal Maker." He promises to create jobs, stop illegal immigration, bring American corporations back home and rebuild our military.

It sounds great, but there is no way he can succeed. The reason is simple. We as a nation have turned our back on God. We are in the process of thumbing our nose at the very One who made our nation the greatest one the world has ever known.

The Origin of a Slogan

The "shining city upon a hill" has become a darkened slum whose light has gone out.

The characterization of America as the "shining city upon a hill" has been traced to the Puritan leader, John Winthrop. He used the phrase in a sermon he delivered in 1630 on the ship *Arbella* while it was en route to the New World. He told his future Massachusetts Bay colonists that their new community would be "as a city upon a hill," that would be watched by the world. It was one of the earliest examples of what would come to be known as the concept of "American Exceptionalism."

The concept proved to be true as God poured out His blessings on the fledgling new nation. America became a shining example of freedom, prosperity and hope. People came from all over the world seeking an opportunity to escape from tyranny and poverty. And Americans responded to their blessings by sending out Christian missionaries all over the world and by printing and distributing Bibles in many languages.

As the 20th Century dawned, we became the "Arsenal of Democracy" as we came to the rescue of Europe in World War I and then fought in both Asia and Europe during World War II to defend the world against German and Japanese Fascism. By the end of the Second World War, we were the dominant power in the world.

But at the height of our glory, we took our eyes off God and began to revel in the pride of our accomplishments. The decade of the 60s proved to be the turning point as we thrust aside God's Word and launched a sexual revolution. The free grace of God was surrendered to the free love of Man. Then came the plague of homosexuality which ultimately led to the abomination of same-sex marriage.



The Judicial Assault

Meanwhile, our Supreme Court became determined to secularize our nation. Whereas the Court had ruled in 1892 (in the case of *Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States*) that "this is a Christian nation," in the last half of the 20th Century, the Court made several crucial decisions designed to put a wall of separation between Christianity and society.

Prior to the mid-20th Century, the ruling principle had been separation of church and state, in the sense that there could be no official state church. But the Court suddenly began to interpret the Constitution to mean there must be a separation of religion from the state. The crucial decisions were as follows:

- 1) *Engel v. Vitale* in 1962 — The Court outlawed prayer in the public schools.
- 2) *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 — The Court legalized abortion.
- 3) *Stone v. Graham* in 1980 — The Court outlawed the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools.

4) *Lawrence and Garner v. the State of Texas* in 2003 — The Court struck down anti-sodomy laws and thus legalized homosexual behavior.

5) *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015 — The Court legalized same-sex marriage.

The Court, in effect, declared war on the Judeo-Christian heritage of our nation which is the reason we became "a shining city on a hill." The clear intent of the Court was made plain in its declared reasoning for outlawing the posting of the Ten Commandments:

If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps venerate and obey the Commandments. This is not a permissible state objective under the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

Unbelievable! The Ten Commandments have served as the cornerstone of Western civilization and law, and yet our children are denied exposure to them on the basis that they might obey them!



“One Nation Under God” by Jon McNaughton.

For a detailed explanation of every aspect of this remarkable painting, see:
<http://jonmcnaughton.com/content/ZoomDetailPages/OneNationUnderGod.html>.

It is illuminating to consider the fact that ever since prayer and the Ten Commandments were banned from our schools, our educational institutions have become jungles of violence.

Rampant Apostasy

Meanwhile, The Church began adapting to the paganization of our nation as it sought the approval of society. So-called Evangelical leaders launched the Emergent Church Movement which is designed to bring about a Second Reformation by abandoning the authority of the Bible, elevating the importance of feelings and denying the existence of absolute truths.

Concurrently, the Seeker-Friendly Movement sought to downplay the offensive nature of the Gospel by camouflaging the Church as a social organization designed to provide entertainment and social services.

The overall result was the abandonment of biblical preaching in favor of warmed-over inspirational talks from the *Reader's Digest*. Church members were rendered biblically ignorant, and thus they became sitting ducks for all sorts of apostasy. Before long, Christians were embracing homosexuality, same-sex marriage, gambling and even abortion. And churches began to ordain practicing homosexuals and persons who did not even believe in the deity of Jesus.

In summary, the Church got in bed with the world, and it ceased to have any meaningful impact on society — all of which contributed to the acceleration of the secularization and paganization of our society.

The irony is that none of this seemed to placate the haters of Christianity. In fact, as they witnessed Church leaders giving in

to their demands, they lost all respect for them and started accelerating their demands. Whereas the Judeo-Christian faith had always been the foundation of American society, by the end of the first decade of the 21st Century, it had been abandoned in favor of a Humanist and Hedonistic culture.

The Significance of Rebellion

What the vast majority of Americans do not understand is that when a nation that is favored with God's blessings decides to rebel against the One that has blessed it, there are severe consequences that will result because “to those to whom much is given, much is expected” (Luke 12:48).

The average American voter today seems interested only in the economy and jobs. There appears to be little, if any, interest in social and moral issues like abortion and sexual perversion, but God is very interested. He is a God of righteousness and holiness, and He will not stand idly by when a society wallows in sexual perversion and spills the blood of the innocent.

That's why Donald Trump, or any other politician, cannot promise to improve the economy and create more jobs. God will not allow it as long as we are rebelling against Him.

God in His grace and mercy has sent prophetic voices to call this nation to repentance — voices like Dave Wilkerson, David Jeremiah and Franklin Graham. But we have shut our ears to their pleas for repentance, and so God has also sent remedial judgments like the Vietnam War, the 9/11 terrorists attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

But we have stiffened our resistance to God and have dug in our heels, determined to have our own way.

The Tipping Point

Now it appears that we have reached the point of no return. Be assured that there is such a point. Romans 1:18-28 explains it in detail.

This passage of Scripture tells us that when a nation commits itself to ungodliness and unrighteousness, it provokes the wrath of God (verse 18). It then reveals that God's first step is to lower the hedge of protection around the nation, allowing a sexual revolution to break out (verses 24-25). This occurred in our nation in the decade of the 1960s.

If this does not prompt repentance, then God will take a second step back, lower the hedge further, and a plague of homosexuality will be inflicted (verses 26-27), as happened in our nation in the 1980s.

If the nation persists in its rebellion, God will take a third and final step back, lower the hedge again, and the nation will be delivered over to a "depraved mind" (verse 28). That is where we are now as our national government tries to force us to provide transgender restrooms.

Just think for a moment about the insanity of this new pagan demand. Transgenders are mentally ill people who are delusional, like a person who thinks he is Napoleon or Elvis. Instead of trying to get them mental and spiritual help, our society has decided that their insanity must be applauded and enforced upon all of us.

There is a point at which God delivers a rebellious society from judgment to destruction. The Bible reveals that God will destroy a nation when its rebellion reaches a point of no return. The trigger point that motivates God to deliver a nation from judgment to destruction is revealed in the book of Nahum.

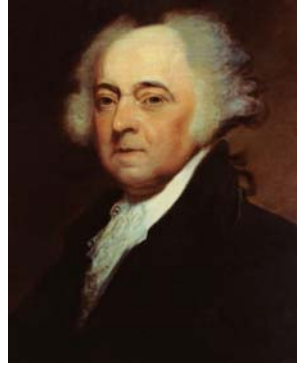


"The great pillars of all government and of social life [are] virtue, morality and religion. This is the armor . . . and this alone, that renders us invincible."
— Patrick Henry (1736-1799), first governor of Virginia and member of the Continental Congress.

The prophet Nahum came on the scene 150 years after Jonah. Like Jonah, he was called of God to preach to Nineveh. But, unlike Jonah, he was not sent to call the people to repentance. Rather, he was told to inform them that the time had arrived for their destruction. This warning was in accordance with God's character, for He never pours out His wrath without warning.

In Nahum 1:11 God reveals the reason for His unalterable decision to destroy the city and its empire: "From you has gone forth one who plotted evil against the Lord, a wicked counselor." Thus, the trigger point of God's wrath is when neglect or

"We have no government armed in power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." — John Adams (1735-1826), member of the Continental Congress, one of the drafters of the Declaration of Independence and the second President of the United States.



rejection of Him turns to war against Him. In response, God declared, "Your wound is incurable" (Nahum 3:19). In short, their fate was sealed.

A contemporary of Nahum's, the prophet Jeremiah, spoke of the same principle regarding God's relationship to Judah. He proclaimed that the nation's wound was "incurable" (Jeremiah 30:12). He added, "There is no one to plead your cause, no healing for your sore, no recovery for you" (Jeremiah 30:13).

The Point of No Return

One chilling point is that the Bible teaches that when a nation reaches this point of no return — this point where "the wound becomes incurable" — prayer is no longer of any avail. Thus, Jeremiah was told by God that he was not to pray for the deliverance of Judah! "Do not pray for this people, and do not lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you" (Jeremiah 7:16). Later, God made this same point again in even stronger terms: "Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go!" (Jeremiah 15:1).

Ezekiel was told the same thing when he tried to pray for Judah, but in even stronger terms. God named three of the most righteous men who had ever lived — Job, Noah, and Daniel — and He told Ezekiel that even their prayers could not deliver the nation from His wrath (Ezekiel 14:12-21). "I have set My face against them," the Lord concluded (Ezekiel 15:7).

God is patient and longsuffering. But He cannot be mocked. "Whatever you devise against the Lord, He will make a complete end of it" (Nahum 1:9). God will ultimately deal with the sin of every nation. "The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished" (Nahum 1:3). Some nations will be destroyed before the Great Tribulation begins, but all nations will taste God's wrath during that terrible period of international judgment.

America's Current Position

I believe our nation has reached the point of no return. We have the blood of 54 million aborted babies on our hands. We are polluting the world with our violent, immoral and blasphemous television programs and movies. We have become obsessed with

“The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.” — John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), member of the House and Senate and sixth President of the United States.



sex, and we are hooked on drugs.

To illustrate how bad the situation is, let me share with you the story of a prayer. The story began in 1995 when a great prayer was written by Bob Russell who, at the time, was pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, one of our nation's largest churches. The prayer was written in response to an invitation to pray at a breakfast hosted by the Governor of Kentucky.

A year later on January 23, 1996, Joe Wright, who at the time was pastor of Central Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas, decided to deliver the same prayer, with some minor changes, before the House of Representatives of the Kansas Legislature. It garnered nationwide attention when the Democrat leaders in the legislature called a press conference and condemned the prayer! Later, when it was read by Paul Harvey on his radio program, it prompted the largest response in the history of the program as thousands wrote in requesting copies of the prayer.

Here is the prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, “Woe to those who call evil good,” but that’s exactly what we’ve done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it “moral pluralism.”

We have worshiped other gods and called it “multi-culturalism.”

We have endorsed perversion and called it “an alternative lifestyle.”

We have exploited the poor and called it “the lottery.”

We have neglected the needy and called it “self-preservation.”

We have rewarded laziness and called it “welfare.”

We have killed our unborn and called it “freedom of choice.”

We have shot abortionists and called it “justifiable.”

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it “building esteem.”

We have abused power and called it “political savvy.”

We have coveted our neighbors’ possessions and called it “ambition.”

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it “freedom of expression.”

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it “enlightenment.”

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas and who have been ordained by You to govern this great state. Grant them Your wisdom to rule, and may their decisions direct us to the center of Your will.

I ask this in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Can you imagine political leaders publicly condemning such a prayer? And that was over 20 years ago! Since that time, our nation’s moral deterioration has greatly accelerated.

I believe we have reached the point where evil has become so entwined in the fabric of our nation that “our wound has become incurable.” I see no hope for us because we have turned our back on our only Hope — the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

The “city on a hill” is no longer sending forth any light. This point was emphasized by Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Cahn of New Jersey in the sermon he delivered at the Presidential Inauguration Breakfast in 2013 (which President Obama skipped). Here’s what he had to say:

The “city on a hill” has grown dark. Its lamp has grown dim. Its glory is fading. For God is not mocked. No nation can war against the very source of its blessings and expect those blessings to remain. And as it was with ancient Israel, the city on the hill now stands under the shadow of judgment.

If we end up in the next election having to choose between a dishonest, power-hungry Jezebel and an ego-maniacal, gutter-mouth Clown, it will be because God has given us the kind of leaders we deserve.

In the meantime, let’s pray earnestly for the Rapture. ✚

The Black Moses

Dr. David R. Reagan

In April, Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew, announced that Harriet Tubman will replace Andrew Jackson on the face of the new \$20 bill. The Treasury Department had sponsored a national poll online in 2015 to select a woman to replace Jackson, and Tubman received more than half a million votes.

Harriet Tubman is certainly deserving of this high honor. She was born to slave parents in Maryland sometime between 1820 and 1825. Her birth name was Araminta Harriet Ross. She was nicknamed, "Minty."

She grew up in extreme poverty and suffered considerable violence. For example, on one morning she received five lashes on her back before breakfast. On another occasion, her slave master hit her in the head with a two pound weight. That injury resulted in seizures and severe headaches for the rest of her life.

In 1844 Minty married a free black man named John Tubman. It was around this time that she started using her middle name, Harriet, as her given name. Little is known about her husband or their marriage.

Harriet escaped from slavery in 1849, using the Underground Railroad to flee nearly 90 miles to Philadelphia. She later wrote about how she felt when she reached Pennsylvania:

I looke at my hands to see if I was de same person now I was free. Dere was such a glory ober everything, de sun came like gold thru de trees and ober the fields, and I felt like I was in heaven.

Within a year after her escape, Harriet had become an active "conductor" on the Underground Railroad. She began by assisting her family members to escape from Maryland — all of them except her husband who declined to make the journey because he had married another woman. She then began making trips into the South to rescue slaves from plantations.

She was so successful that she was given the nickname of "Black Moses." The plantation owners became so incensed that they offered a reward of \$40,000 for her capture (that's 1.2 million dollars in today's currency!). But she was never apprehended.

Those who knew her best claimed that her strength came from her faith in God as deliverer and protector of the weak. "I always tole God," she once wrote, "I'm gwine to hole stiddy on You, an You've got to see me thru." When asked how she could be so brave, she responded, "I can't die but once" — a statement that became her motto. Over time, she was able to guide more than 300 slaves from the South.



"I freed a thousand slaves I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."

Harriet Tubman

In 1850, the very year she became an active conductor on the Underground Railroad, the Fugitive Slave Law was passed, making it legal for escaped slaves from the South to be recaptured in the North and returned to slavery. Harriet responded by re-routing the Underground Railroad to Canada, where slavery was prohibited.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked for the Union Army as a cook, nurse, scout and spy. She became the only woman to lead an armed expedition in the war when she was selected to guide the Combahee River Raid in 1863 which liberated 700 slaves in South Carolina. This incident fulfilled a nickname that the abolitionist, John Brown, had given her in 1858 before the war started. He dubbed her "General Tubman."

After the war, Harriet settled on a piece of land outside Auburn, New York, which she had bought in 1859 from abolitionist Senator William H. Seward of New York. In 1869 she married a Civil War veteran named Nelson Davis, and in 1874 they adopted a baby girl named Gertie.

In 1903, she donated a parcel of her land to the African Episcopal Church, and it was used to build The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged, which opened in 1908.

Meanwhile, the head injury she had suffered as a slave began to cause her greater problems, resulting ultimately in brain surgery to relieve her discomfort. She was eventually admitted to the rest home named in her honor where she died in 1913 at about the age of 88.

She was buried with full military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York. Throughout the 20th Century, she was honored in many other ways, with many schools being named after

her. At the end of the century, a survey named her as one of the most famous civilians in American history before the Civil War — third only to Betsy Ross and Paul Revere.

I grew up like a neglected weed — ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it. ❖



Understanding Revelation

Dr. David R. Reagan

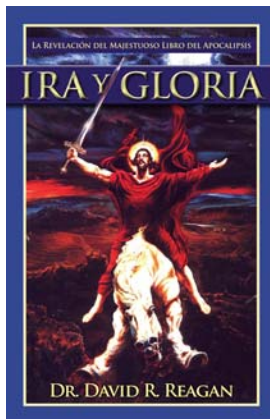
My commentary on the book of Revelation, titled, *Wrath and Glory*, was first published 15 years ago in 2001. It has since gone through many printings and has been published in more than a dozen languages worldwide. Its distribution and impact have been blessed more than any other book I have written.

It has now been published in a second edition in English.

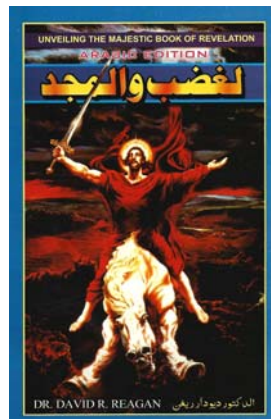
The book of Revelation contains flash-backs, but what makes it rather unique is that it contains flash-forwards. That's because it was written by the Holy Spirit who has supernatural knowledge of the future. The chronology of the book can be very confusing if the reader is not aware of the flash-forwards and how to recognize them.

The third chapter is called, "Systemizing Revelation." It attempts to relate the end time prophecies in Revelation to those contained in the rest of the Bible — both the Old and New Testaments. I present an analysis of the four major viewpoints of end time prophecies, and I make the case for the plain sense interpretation called Premillennialism. This is the view that advocates a future one thousand year reign of Jesus over all the earth.

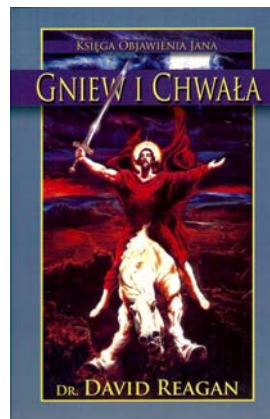
The fourth chapter, titled, "Probing Revelation," has proved



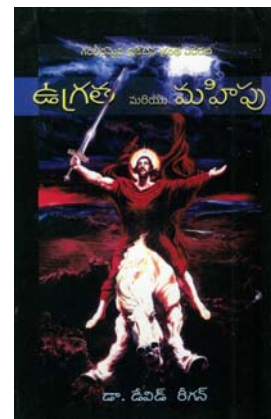
Spanish



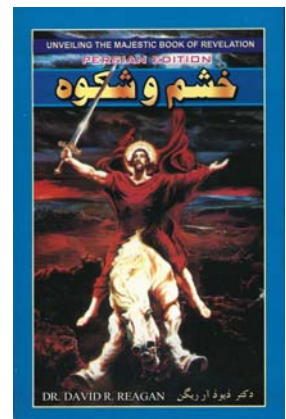
Arabic



Polish



Telugu



Persian (Farsi)

The section of the book titled "Probing Revelation" has been expanded and now includes answers to 33 of the most commonly asked questions about the meaning of various aspects of Revelation.

The lengthy appendix of "Prophecy Study Resources" has been updated to include all the key materials published since 2001. This is an annotated bibliography that is organized by subject matter — such as Prophecy Surveys, the Interpretation of Prophecy, Symbolic Prophecy, Old Testament Prophets, Israel in Prophecy, the Books of Daniel and Revelation, Millennial Viewpoints, the Antichrist, the Rapture, Signs of the Times, and many other such topics, including the Great Classics of Prophecy.

The first chapter of the book focuses on the keys to understanding the book of Revelation. I present a total of eight keys, but my theme throughout is that the book of Revelation is not hard to understand. Rather, it is hard to believe. If you will believe it, you will understand it.

The second chapter, titled, "Interpreting Revelation," takes the reader through the book chapter by chapter, providing the big, overall picture and the central biblical message.

It is during this overview chapter that I illustrate one of the most important keys to understanding — one that people normally overlook. I'm speaking of the literary device I call the "flash-forward." Most folks are familiar with flash-backs that are used in fiction books and movies. But few have ever encountered a flash-forward.

to be one of the readers' favorites. In it I attempt to provide answers to over 30 of the most frequently asked questions about the book of Revelation. Some of the questions I respond to are as follows:

- Is Revelation prophecy or history?
- Who are the 144,000 in Revelation 7?
- Do the seven churches of Revelation have any prophetic significance?
- Is the Rapture in the book of Revelation?
- Will people be saved during the Tribulation?
- Are the Tribulation judgments chronological in order?
- Who are the Two Witnesses who will preach in Jerusalem during the first half of the Tribulation?
- Where will the Antichrist come from and where will his headquarters be located?
- Will the Redeemed live forever in the presence of God on a new earth?

Certainly, one of the most frequently asked questions concerning Revelation is why the number 666 is used in chapter 13 as a symbol of the Antichrist. Here is how I respond to that question:

There are three good reasons this number was used. The first is the fact that in the Scrip-

tures, the number of Man is six because Man was created on the sixth day. In contrast, the number of God is seven because it represents completion and perfection, since on the seventh day of creation, God rested from His work which He declared to be good or perfect.

Now, in the Hebrew language, superlatives are expressed by repeating the word or phrase, the ultimate being its repetition three times. Thus, when Isaiah saw the Lord lifted up and exalted in the Temple, he heard Seraphim singing, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts” (Isaiah 6:1-3). The number 666 therefore represents the number of Man carried to its zenith.

The use of this number is most appropriate because during the Tribulation Satan will work to exalt his man, the Antichrist, as the world’s Messiah. Further, on the earth at that time there will be a demonic trinity who will represent the Humanistic aspirations of Man — Satan masquerading as God, the Antichrist pretending to be the Messiah, and the False Prophet mimicking the role of the Holy Spirit by pointing people to the false Messiah.

The second reason the number 666 is used is because of its symbolism in Jewish thinking. The Bible tells us that in the year in which King Solomon received 666 talents of gold, he turned his back on God and became obsessed with women, horses, and money (1 Kings 10:14 and 2 Chronicles 9:13). Thus, in Jewish history, the number 666 came to stand for apostasy.

The third reason the number is used is related to the fact that in both Hebrew and Greek, the letters of the alphabet also stand for numbers. This makes it possible to add up a numerical value for every name. The Antichrist’s name will add up to 666 in either Greek or Hebrew (or perhaps both) and will thus be an expression of the ultimate apostasy — presenting one’s self as a substitute for the real Messiah.

The last chapter of my book is titled, “Applying Revelation.” In it I attempt to provide the reader with a summary of the fundamental insights that the book of Revelation provides about Man and God — and how these relate to triumphant Christian living in the here and now.

I also emphasize that the basic message of the book is that Jesus is going to be totally triumphant over Satan and that those of us who have put our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior are going to win in the end with Him. Here’s how I put it at the end of the book:

The pagan view of history is that it is a meaningless cycle of events. The book of Revelation screams, “No!” to this concept.



Revelation affirms the thesis presented in Genesis, and reiterated throughout the Bible, that God has a master plan and that He has the wisdom and the power to see that plan through to consummation . . .

The world as we know it will come to a screeching halt when Jesus returns to reign. Politics as usual will come to an end. Social injustice will cease. Iniquity will give way to righteousness. Despair will be converted into hope. Sadness will be replaced with joy. The Lord will provide “a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting” (Isaiah 61:3). ✚

The new second edition of *Wrath and Glory* sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com or by calling 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm Central time. See the back cover of this magazine for a special offer when this book is purchased together with Nathan Jones’ new book about the Minor Prophets.

Meeting the Minor Prophets

Dr. David R. Reagan

The church I grew up in called itself “A New Testament Church.” As such, we seldom ever heard any preaching from the Old Testament. The great stories in the Hebrew Scriptures, like Noah and the Ark, were considered appropriate only for the teaching of children. The Major and Minor Prophets were irrelevant because our preachers took the position that all prophecies in the Old Testament had been fulfilled in the First Coming of Jesus.

Many times I heard our preachers declare, “The Old Testament was nailed to the Cross.” In their way of thinking, it had no continuing relevance. We were now “New Testament people.”

A Myth

Nothing, of course, could have been further from the truth. There is no way, for example, to understand the purpose of life and history apart from a careful study of Genesis. Nor can we even begin to understand the nature of God and Man apart from the insights which the Holy Spirit gave to the writers of the Old Testament books.

The book of Revelation in the New Testament contains over 300 references to Old Testament passages, not a one of which is specifically identified. How can Revelation be understood apart from a knowledge of the Old Testament? In fact, the book of Daniel fits together with Revelation like a hand in a glove.

And the idea that all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in the First Coming of Jesus is absurd. The Old Testament contains literally hundreds of prophecies about the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Many Christians today read the Psalms on a daily basis for spiritual enrichment and inspiration. Most are at least familiar with the Old Testament historical books and the Major Prophets. But how many have ever read a single one of the 12 Minor Prophets? Most know the story of Jonah, but how many could identify Jonah as being one of the Minor Prophets?



A Wonderful Discovery

I didn't discover the Minor Prophets until I was 30 years old. And, Oh!, what a discovery they proved to be. Their messages jumped off the pages and grabbed me by the throat and shook me until my teeth rattled! What they had to say was as fresh as if the books had been written yesterday. And that was because the nature of Man, as well as his struggles and his needs, have not changed one iota since the books were written over 2,000 years ago.

It suddenly dawned on me that *the Minor Prophets are relevant!*

Hosea contains one of the greatest love stories in the Bible — a story that illustrates the unmerited love that Jesus portrayed on the Cross. For that reason, I refer to Hosea as “The Gospel in the Old Testament.”

Joel is a prophet of repentance who is crying out for his nation of Judah to repent of its sins. As the nation mourns the devastation of a locust invasion, Joel warns that if they do not repent, God will send something worse than the locusts — namely an army that will destroy the nation. It is a message our nation needs to hear and obey.

Amos is God's prophet of social justice. He rails against the evils of the societies of his day and time. He focuses in particular on the sin of hypocrisy, condemning those who pretend to be spiritual but who live like pagans.

Obadiah speaks out against national arrogance, reminding people that God is the one who is in control, and He can bring down the mightiest nation overnight, just as He did the Soviet Union in 1991 and just as He will do to our nation if we do not humble ourselves before Him.

The story of the prophet **Jonah** reveals a God of mercy who is always willing to respond to repentance with forgiveness and compassion.

Micah assails political irresponsibility and corruption, and cries out for justice and righteousness, which he promises will one day flood the earth when the Messiah comes to reign from Jerusalem.

Nahum is a prophet of judgment who assures us that God is very concerned about evil, and although He may appear to be

slow in responding to it, He ultimately will do so by pouring out His wrath, and thus vindicating “those who take refuge in Him.”

Habakkuk is God’s prophet of faith who must deal with the difficult reality that God sometimes punishes those who are evil with those who are more evil.

Zephaniah spits words like bullets as he condemns idolatry and social injustice and then guarantees that God will ultimately deal with all of it in a most decisive way when the Messiah returns as a “victorious warrior.”

Haggai is God’s prophet of priorities. He calls the restored remnant of Judah to get their priorities in order by putting God first in their lives.

Zechariah is a prophet of hope. He speaks words of encouragement to the discouraged remnant, assuring them of God’s love for them and His determination to spiritually refresh them and then make them the prime nation of the world during the reign of their Messiah.

Malachi is a prophet of God’s faithfulness as he assures the Jewish people that God will never forsake them and that one day “all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land.”

A New Book

Since discovering the Minor Prophets over 30 years ago, I have made it a point to read as many books about them as I could find — both academic and popular books. And I can say without hesitation that the new book by Nathan Jones and Steve Howell — *12 Faith Journeys of the Minor Prophets* — is by far the best popular type book I have ever encountered. (See the feature advertisement for this book on the back cover of this magazine.)

When Nathan came to me over a year ago and told me that he and his colleague, Steve Howell, wanted to write a book about the Minor Prophets, I was, of course, intrigued, because of my love of these prophets. But I am sorry to say that I was not encouraging because I knew that the average Christian could care less about these prophets, and it would, therefore, be very difficult to promote and sell such a book.

I am so glad that Nathan and Steve decided to proceed with the book. What they have produced is a down-to-earth, easy-to-understand book that contains practical lessons about faith that will help the reader live a more triumphant life for Jesus.

One of the cleverest and most unique features of the book is the way the authors introduce each of the prophets with a brief but fascinating story of historical fiction that gives you insights into the prophet’s personality.

I want to urge you to get a copy of this remarkable book and use it to get better acquainted with the portion of God’s Word that has been most ignored throughout history. I can guarantee that you will be blessed.

Because the Minor Prophets are so obscure, I asked Nathan if he would put together a special essay on why he thinks it is important to study them. ♦

Why Read the Minor Prophets?

Nathan Jones

Outside my upstairs office stands a tiny, three-foot tall door. It’s not this little, rarely used entrance to a dusty attic that really catches my eye, but the laminated paper sign pinned to the top of its frame. It simply reads: “Minor Prophets.”

This strange sign is likely the result of someone’s wry wit, but to me it speaks volumes about how people perceive the 12 books of the Bible labeled just like that sign — the Minor Prophets. Minor. Strange.

Little. Unimportant. Unused. Dusty. These are all words so many people of the Christian faith think of when they encounter these Old Testament writings.



Nathan Jones

Excuses, Excuses

The excuses for skipping these books are plentiful. For starters, the Minor Prophets’ writings are short, merely a brief few chapters or just a chapter, hence the designation “minor.” The Old Testament is comprised of thirty-nine books, but the combined 12 books of the Minor Prophets comprise less than 7% of the entire Old Testament. Because of their short length, these books are often deemed of little value, and so are easily overlooked.

Then there’s the fact of popularity. They are “fringe” by almost any definition of the word, trapped on the outskirts of the Old Testament and written by a dozen guys who would be considered by today’s standards strange and unpopular.

Sure, since grade school we’ve all learned about the runaway Jonah who was swallowed by a “whale.” But, other than Jonah, who has heard of these other oddly named men: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi? Try even pronouncing Habakkuk! And so, because we believe we cannot possibly feel any connection to such “fringe” men, their names are never spoken from our pulpits.

In addition, while other well-known Bible heroes have compelling stories, a number of the Minor Prophets seem to have missed the memo when it comes to personal narrative. With the exception of a few brief examples, the Minor Prophets can seem like faceless mouthpieces for God, not interesting individuals in their own right.

Role of the Prophets

To better appreciate these spokesmen and their impact, let’s start by understanding their role. At certain periods of time, Yahweh God made clear both His intentions and plans through the work of individuals He called in the Hebrew, *nabi*, which we today call prophets.

While that job title currently causes most people to think about telling the future, a prophet’s main role wasn’t prediction. Prophets were simply individuals who would receive and then declare God’s messages. These twelve authors were, as the

Apostle Peter explained, “holy men of God [who] spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

In the prophetic books, we best find God’s motivations for the actions He takes involving justice, as well as His nature of compassion and forgiveness. As God is speaking through these men, we are granted a breathtaking, bay window-sized view into our Heavenly Father’s heart.

Yahweh called the prophets to share important messages because He cares about His people. There were messages for the nations of Judah, Israel, and the surrounding nations of their time. They contained dire warnings of coming judgment for their moral failings and emphatic calls to repentance.

God even pointed out events that would occur in the far distant future, such as the coming of the Messiah and the events of the end times. Each message was delivered through the filter of the prophet’s language, style and situation, but all of the messages poured forth God’s heart.

Prophets of Faith

When one truly digs into the lives of the Minor Prophets, one will discover not something minor, strange, little, unimportant, unusable and dusty, but the real-life stories of 12 men who were thrust into quite perilous situations. You will discover that these guys were everyday people just like so many of us. They hailed from diverse backgrounds such as farmers and construction workers, some clergy and a few aristocrats — and a mix of ages from teen up to senior citizens.

Minor Prophets: Major Messages

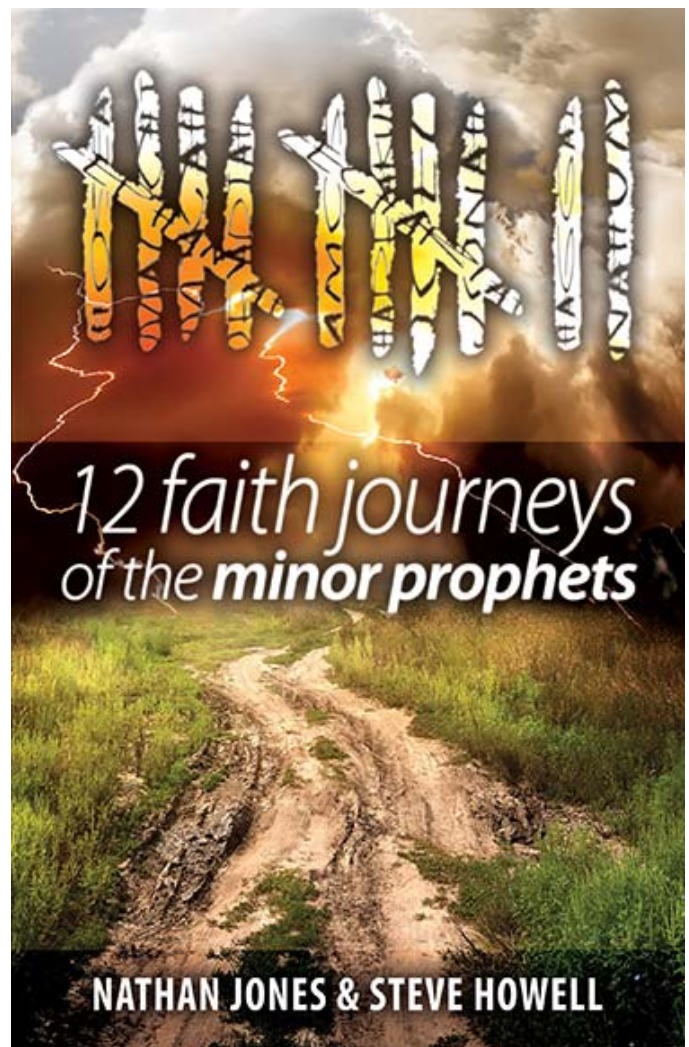


What tied them all together was a specific call by God to wear the burdensome mantle of prophet and deliver His messages. And what messages they were! So full of fire from the pain of betrayal to the joy of fatherly love that their ears must have burned upon hearing them.

Those impassioned messages revolved like the planets around the sun, all around one key subject — faith. Faith is that strong or unshakable belief in something, especially with little or no proof of evidence. The Bible itself defines faith simply as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Confidence. Reliance. Credence. Belief. Trust. We could all use some of that in our relationships with God. And so, too, did the Minor Prophets. The Minor Prophets needed a healthy dose of faith in God, for despite their position of honor in being chosen to relay the Lord’s oracles, these messengers were often treated quite badly by the very people God had sent them to. Because of this treatment, the prophets gained a unique perspective into the challenges surrounding faith, and that makes them highly relevant to us today. ✚

Nathan Jones’ New Book



Nathan’s co-writer is a long time friend, Steve Howell, who serves as the Associate Minister of Discipleship and Education at Tonganoxie Christian Church in Tonganoxie, Kansas, located on the western outskirts of Kansas City. The two of them first met when they served together on the staff of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, one of the largest churches in our nation.

Steve recently visited our headquarters to videotape a television program about the book. He is shown below on our TV set with Nathan.

The book runs a total of 313 pages. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call us at 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm, Central time, Monday through Friday. See the back cover for a special offer when this book is purchased together with the second edition of Dr. Reagan’s book about Revelation. ✚



Marriage Madness —

“Good morning. We want to apply for a marriage license.”

“Names?”

“Tim and Jim Jones.”

“Jones? Are you related? I see a resemblance.”

“Yes, we’re brothers.”

“Brothers? You can’t get married.”

“Why not? Aren’t you giving marriage licenses to same gender couples?”

“Yes, but we haven’t had any siblings. That’s incest!”

“Incest? No, we are not gay.”

“Not gay? Then why do you want to get married?”

“For the financial benefits, of course. And we do love each other. Besides, we don’t have any other prospects.”

“But we’re issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples who claim they have been denied equal protection under the law. If you are not gay, you can get married to a woman.”

“Wait a minute. A gay man has the same right to marry a woman as I have. But just because I’m straight doesn’t mean I want to marry a woman. I want to marry Jim.”

“And I want to marry Tim. Are you going to discriminate against us just because we are not gay?”

“All right, all right. I’ll give you your license. Next.”

“Hi. We are here to get married.”

“Names?”

“John Smith, Jane James, Robert Green, and June Johnson.”

“Who wants to marry whom?”

“We all want to marry each other.”

“But there are four of you!”

“That’s right. You see, we’re all bisexual. I love Jane and Robert, Jane loves me and June, June loves Robert and Jane, and Robert loves June and me. All of us getting married together is the only way that we can express our sexual preferences in a marital relationship.”

“But we’ve only been granting licenses to gay and lesbian couples.”

“So you’re discriminating against bisexuals!”

“No, it’s just that, well, the traditional idea of marriage is that it’s just for couples.”

“Since when are you standing on tradition?”

“Well, I mean, you have to draw the line somewhere.”

“Who says? There’s no logical reason to limit marriage to couples. The more the better. Besides, we demand our rights! The mayor says the constitution guarantees equal protection



Food for Thought

under the law. Give us a marriage license!”

“All right, all right. Next.”

“Hello, I’d like a marriage license.”

“In what names?”

“David Anderson.”

“And the other person?”

“That’s all. I want to marry myself.”

“Marry yourself? What do you mean?”

“Well, my psychiatrist says I have a dual personality, so I want to marry the two together. Maybe I can file a joint income-tax return.”

“That does it! I quit! You people are making a mockery of marriage!!”

(Don’t laugh, it’s just a matter of time.)

Being Shaped Into the Image of Jesus —

One of the greatest American sculptors was Gutzon Borglum who died in 1941. It was he who made the great carvings of the heads of some presidents of the USA — Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt — on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

At one time he worked for many months on a six ton block of marble. A woman who cleaned his studio every day wondered what that great block was for. Finally, after much toil and labor the features began to emerge from the marble. When the cleaning lady saw them she exclaimed, “How did Mr. Borglum know that Abraham Lincoln was in that stone?”



Gutzon Borglum

Oh, how did God know that Jesus Christ could be seen in you and me, rough blocks that we are? He did! That block of marble would still be only a block, were it not for the fact that Gutzon Borglum’s mind, heart, chisel and artistry had worked upon it to form that amazing head of Lincoln which is now housed in the Capitol in Washington, D.C. My sincere prayer these days is, “Lord, keep chiseling on me until someone recognizes that Christ Jesus lives in me.” (Ken Humphries, Treasured Truth Ministries in Northern Ireland.)



Bathroom Battles —

Earlier this year, several municipalities in North Carolina began to pass city ordinances that would allow transgender persons to use the public restrooms of their preference. The governor, Pat McCrory, responded to this utter nonsense by calling a special session of the Legislature to deal with the problem.

The one day session, held on March 23, passed a law that nullified all local ordinances around the state that allowed transgenders to choose to use a public restroom opposite from their biological sex.

This act of common sense provoked deranged liberals to hysteria. The rock musician, Bruce Springsteen, who had a concert scheduled in North Carolina, cancelled it immediately. In what has to be one of the most inane statements in modern times, Springsteen declared that preventing men from using women's restrooms and locker rooms is "going backwards instead of forwards." Franklin Graham, who resides in North Carolina, responded by saying, "Well, to be honest, we need to go back! Back to God. Back to respecting and honoring His commands. Back to common sense."

This controversy was quickly overshadowed by a greater bombshell on May 13 when President Obama shocked the nation by issuing a "directive" to all public schools to allow transgender students to choose the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity and not their biological sex.



Once again, Franklin Graham was quick to respond. He blasted the President's immoral decision: "Who does President Barack Obama think he is? The sultan of Washington? Does he think he can just make a 'decree' and we will bow down and simply obey?"

The White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, responded by explaining that the "decree" was just "guidance" and not a threat. But Graham pointed out that if schools don't comply with the decree, then they could lose federal funding. Graham then called for public defiance:

The President obviously must have no fear of God, who made us and created us male and female. I hope that school districts across this nation will defy President Obama and his administration's progressive agenda to promote and advance the sin of homosexuality and the LGBT agenda.



In like manner, Representative Steve King, a Republican from Iowa, proclaimed that American public schools "are not required to comply with a law that is unconstitutional." He added, "There is no reason for us to follow an unconstitutional edict from a president who is on his way out the door."

Robert Jeffress, the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, spoke about the issue in one of his sermons in May. He declared:

The Bible says, "God made them from the beginning male and female," not male, female and question mark. God has determined how many sexes there are — there are two, not three.

Jeffress went on to explain that gender identity confusion is an emotional disorder that should be treated professionally and compassionately. He concluded by denouncing Obama's directive as "a rebellion against God's plans."

Relevant quotes:

- "The greatest question of our time is not communism versus individualism, not Europe versus America, not even East versus the West; it is whether men can live without God." — Will Durant (1885-1981), American historian, writer and philosopher.
- "America has become a cut flower civilization. Our culture is cut off from its Christian roots like a flower cut at the stem. Though the flower will hold its beauty for a time, it is destined to wither and die." — D. Elton Trueblood (1900-1994), American Quaker author and theologian.
- "When God is dead, anything is permissible." — Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881), Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist, journalist and philosopher.
- "Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.' Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: 'Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.'" — Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), Russian novelist, historian, and short story writer. ✚



Six Scriptures That Summarize The Current Moral Crisis

Bob Russell

(Editor's note: Bob Russell is the former pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, one of our nation's largest churches. He now heads up a speaking and writing ministry in Louisville which can be found on the Internet at www.bobrussell.org. This article was published on April 24, 2016.)



Bob Russell

“Have we gone stark raving nuts?” Senator Ted Cruz asked that rhetorical question in response to a statement made by Donald Trump, Republican presidential front-runner. Trump said that transgender people should, “use the bathroom that they feel is appropriate.” He added that North Carolina’s so-called “bathroom law” which directs transgender people to use the restroom that matches the gender on their birth certificates, has caused unnecessary strife.

What in the world is happening to us? While pursuing tolerance and compassion have we lost all common sense? . . .

I think the answer to Senator Cruz’s question is “Yes! A good portion of our society has gone stark raving nuts.” If you think it’s a good idea for people to have the freedom to use whatever facility they desire, chances are you don’t have a teenage daughter.

If you think coed restrooms is a sign of progress and won’t lead to complex problems you either are “nuts” or you have been brainwashed by what Dr. Ben Carson calls “politically correct nonsense.”

What’s happening to us? Following are six scriptures that provide some insight into the moral freefall that is taking place in our culture.

1 Judges 17:6 — “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”

When there was no recognized authority in Israel, every person was free to determine right and wrong on their own. What followed was chaos; idol worship, intense conflict, gross immorality and brutal violence (read Judges 17-19).

The same downward spiral toward anarchy is occurring in America. When people reject God’s authority and disregard their own constitution, the result is the kind of confusion and civil unrest we’re witnessing today. When a train leaves the track the result is not freedom and adventure but chaos and pain.

2 Romans 1:22 — “. . . their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. . .”

A godless culture initially prides itself in intellectual superiority. But without divinely revealed wisdom even the most intelligent become irrational.

A seventeen-year old male, who identifies as female, wears skirts, makeup and a long wig to high school in Hillsboro, Missouri. He is permitted to use the girls’ locker room to change for gym class. Since he has male anatomy many students and parents are very uncomfortable with the situation. But the school’s administration refuses to stop extending locker room privileges to this confused teenager lest they be viewed as intolerant. Really? How bizarre!

The Message paraphrases Romans 1:22 to read as follows: “. . . they have trivialized themselves into silliness.”

3 Isaiah 5:20 — “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.”

The carnal nature of Man is such that when morality is determined individually, it’s not long before moral values are inverted; what was formerly good becomes evil and vice versa. Those who stand for traditional Biblical values are now labeled as hateful and judgmental, while those who champion same-sex marriage, cohabitation and transgendering are applauded for their compassion and tolerance.

Methodist bishop Hazen G. Werner (1895-1988) once said: “There is no more startling phenomenon in our day than the ‘respectabilization’ of evil.”

4 Hosea 9:7 — “Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac.”

Any preacher who dares stand for Biblical truth and warn of God’s impending judgment is mocked as an irrelevant fool and a bigoted madman in today’s upside down culture.

Courageous Christian leaders like Franklin Graham, Ravi Zacharias and Dr. Albert Mohler are lampooned in the mainstream press and social media as haters and bigots.



A message that should be on every church sign in America. This particular church is located in Clearwater, Kansas.

5 2 Corinthians 4:4 — “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel . . .”

Satan is the god of this age. Scripture identifies him as the “prince of this world.” He tempted Jesus by showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and claiming, “I can give them to you if you just bow down and worship me.” Temporarily, until Christ returns in power, Satan rules most of the world’s kingdoms.

Why would the NFL, with all its internal problems, threaten to pull the Super Bowl out of Atlanta because the Georgia state legislature passed a religious liberty bill? Why would Dow Chemical, Pay Pal, Target and other major corporations threaten to boycott the State of North Carolina if they don’t approve of gender-neutral restrooms?

It’s because the god of this age is in control and he has cleverly blinded unbelievers to the truth. Corporate executives are so focused on making money, so intimidated by the bullying tactics of the LGBT lobby, so fearful of unfavorable press and so desirous of approval by liberal-minded peers that they are easily swayed by Satan’s lies. The god of this age has blinded them to truth and common sense.



6 Revelation 12:12 — “But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short.”

Followers of Christ are stunned at how rapidly spiritual values have been abandoned. Just fifty years ago stores were closed on Sunday. Only twenty-five years ago sodomy was illegal. Less than ten years ago Barak Obama declared that marriage should be between a man and a woman only. Five years ago a socialist had no credibility in America. How could we lose so much ground in such a brief period of time?

I think it’s because Satan knows his time is short and is filled with fury knowing he is destined for a fiery pit. A football team becomes more intense in the final minute of a close game, especially if the stakes are high. Satan is aware he is nearing the end and is intensifying his efforts to kill, steal and destroy.

The stakes are high for those of us who are believers also. There is a heaven, there is a hell and there is a hurry. Indications are we are drawing near to our “blessed hope,” the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to earth. The late Adrian Rogers used to say, “The world is getting gloriously dark.”

This is no time for lukewarm or cowardly Christianity. This is a time for spiritual intensity and boldness.

Be very careful then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is” (Ephesians 5:15-17). ❖

Focus on Israel



“Last Call” for Israel in 2016

Tim Moore

(Editor’s note: Tim Moore is a commercial pilot, a reserve military officer and a member of the Kentucky State Legislature. He serves as an Assistant Evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries on weekends.)

As I write this column, 30 folks have already signed up for Lamb & Lion’s November Holy Land Pilgrimage. We anticipate filling our group well before the August deadline. If you are considering joining us, now is the time to sign up.

This is a critical year in so many ways. America’s official support for Israel is at an all-time low. The current U.S. Administration has made it clear that they can barely tolerate our most reliable ally in the Middle East.

The Obama Administration’s determination to find fault with every Israeli initiative and apartment complex — while excusing and appeasing anti-Israeli radical governments throughout the region — has not gone unnoticed. And, the nuclear agreement with Iran (recently confessed as an Administration obsession for the past seven years) has sown what will become a whirlwind of grief and terror.

This tendency to disregard traditional American support for Israel has also manifested itself in a callous disregard for Christians throughout the region and around the world.

I came to understand how dramatically this is true when a pastor from India spent Christmas with my family in 2014. Although we did not specifically pursue political discussions, that pastor shared that the current Prime Minister of India is a militant Hindu who oversaw the passage of a law mandating that all non-Hindus must leave India by 2021. The pastor voluntarily observed, “That would never have happened in the past, because your American President would have spoken out against such a policy. But your current President has not said a word, so 24 million Christians will have to leave our country or face increas-

ing persecution.”

Even as Israeli leaders recognize that their most important international ally is a “frenemy” at best. They watch as Americans are gravitating toward policy options that range from unpredictable to hostile. This means that Israel will feel increasingly isolated in the world — and will be forced to take actions to defend itself instead of relying on benefactors to argue its cause.

It is against these backdrops that we see steady fulfillment of ancient Bible prophecies. Scripture says in Zechariah 12:2-3 that in the end times, all the nations of the world will come against Israel:

2) Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the people around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

3) It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And *all the nations of the earth* will be gathered against it. (Italics added)

Over just the past 70 years, most Christian nations have been supportive of Israel and its regathered Jewish people. Our own nation has been at the forefront of Israel’s international support. The United States was the first nation in the world to offer recognition to the state of Israel following its Declaration of Independence in May, 1948.



But, after years of Satanically-inspired propaganda denouncing Israel, those same nations have one-by-one softened in their support for Israel and even become actively hostile. That is why the Lord told Zechariah that in the end times *all the nations of the earth* would be gathered against Israel. Can any believer deny that we are on the cusp of the fulfillment of that prophecy?

The one thing that causes even our own leaders from abandoning Israel altogether is the collective force of millions of voting Christians and Jews. (Even on this note, many Christians have been led astray with Replacement Theology and some Jews are amazingly hostile toward Israel as a Zionist state.)

But, Bible prophecy tells us that there will come a time when all the nations will manifest hostility toward their own Jewish citizens — meaning that at some point persecution against Jews even in the United States will motivate most of

them to return en masse to their ancient homeland. Similarly, Christians are already seeing their own impact blunted in America, as our nation rushes toward increasing secularism.

That trend will reach its culmination when the Lord calls His Bride to Himself at the Rapture. With no Christian remnant left in the United States or any other nation, there will be nobody to serve as salt and light relative to national policy concerning Israel.

So, if you are a Christian living in America in 2016, realize that the window of opportunity is closing. Your ability to speak out for Christ will become increasingly marginalized. Your ability to impact national policy on behalf of Israel will inevitably wane. And, your ability to personally share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ will end when He calls us to Himself.



For the past year, I’ve shared a presentation called “Living in the Midnight Hour.” The metaphor is based on the sense that we live in an era of gathering darkness. Evil is on the rise all around us, but we are called to be alert and ready — for as the Parable of the Ten Virgins demonstrates, it is likely that the Bridegroom will come at the darkest hour, at midnight.

There is a phrase often heard in businesses that close in the wee hours: “Last Call!” In so many ways, 2016 represents a “Last Call” for Israel, for Christians in America, and for those people who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Soon, and very soon, Jesus will burst from the Heavens and call us to Himself. We really are living on borrowed time. Are you willing to make the most of that time fulfilling the mission He gave us?

If you discern that the Spirit of the Lord is providing signs that practically shout out, “Last Call!” take heed. Be about the Lord’s business and cross the finish line at a sprint.

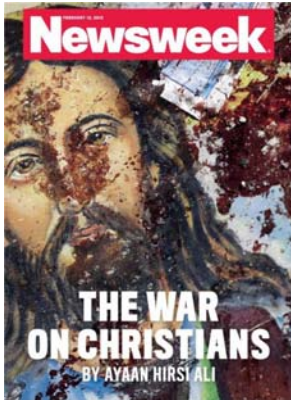
As commanded by Scripture, do not grow weary of advocating for Israel and the Jewish people. Look for and seize every opportunity to share the Gospel with the unbelieving world. And finally . . . “look up and lift up your heads, because your Redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28 NKJV). ✚

Our next pilgrimage to Israel is scheduled for November 12-23. Tim Moore will be leading it. For detailed information, check out our website or call our office at 972-736-3567 between Monday and Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time.

What Christians Are Facing

Dr. David R. Reagan

The Sunday after the Supreme Court's horrendous decision affirming the legality of the abomination called same-sex marriage, my pastor, Glenn Meredith,* proclaimed that we as Christians need to face up to the fact that we have lost the culture war that has been raging in our nation for the last 60 years.

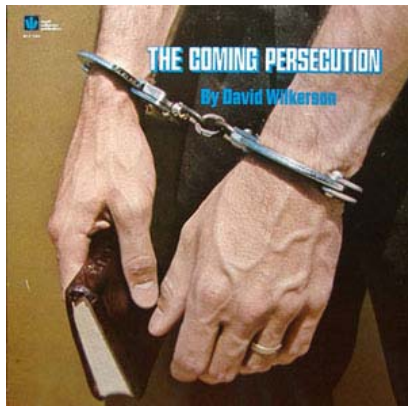


The loss of that war is a reality that is hard to face up to, but it is the truth. We will, of course, continue to speak out against the ram-paging immorality in our society. We have to. Jesus Himself called us to be salt and light. But increasingly, we are going to be pushed aside and written off as marginal and irrelevant. Worse still, we are going to have to face increasing persecution for our biblical beliefs.

Christian beliefs have been producing persecution in our public universities for some time now. All across our nation university professors are being refused jobs or they are being passed over for tenure because of their Christian beliefs. Christian students are likewise suffering systematic discrimination in grades because of their biblical beliefs.

But this problem is not confined to the universities. Job discrimination based on Christian beliefs has become commonplace. A classic example of what I am talking about is the case of Dr. Eric Walsh in Georgia. Dr. Walsh is a renowned public health expert who also serves as a lay minister among Seventh Day Adventist Churches. He was hired by the state of Georgia to serve as a district health director in May of 2014. Soon thereafter some state officials ordered workers within the Department of Health to start investigating Dr. Walsh's sermons! As a result of their review of what he had preached regarding sexuality, world religions and creationism, he was fired. And this was done despite the fact that the Department's own counsel twice warned that "under federal law Dr. Walsh's religious beliefs could play no role in any employment decision by the Department of Health."

Think about this incredible story for a moment: public officials assigned to review the sermons of a colleague! What has this nation come to? I can answer that question. Because of our persistent rebellion and our refusal to repent, God has delivered us over to a depraved mind (Romans 1:28).



Churches are going to come under increasing attacks. Demands that they host same-sex marriages are going to increase and lead to expensive lawsuits. We are headed toward the total secularization of marriage — as is the case in most nations of the world where only the state can perform a legal marriage, and any follow-up at a church will be only window-dressing.

Pastors and ministry staffs are going to be stripped of their tax-exempt housing allowances. Demands will be made for all ministries and churches that refuse to endorse sexual perversion to be deprived of their tax exempt status. And pastors and evangelists who have the audacity to speak out against sexual perversion will be threatened with prosecution for engaging in "hate speech." It is already illegal in Canada to speak out against abortion or homosexuality on the public airwaves.

This coming wave of persecution was made clear recently in a stunningly candid essay by Dr. Mark Tushnet, a professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School. The essay was prompted by the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In the essay, Dr. Tushnet declared a total victory for liberals in the culture war. His message to Evangelical Christians was, "You lost, deal with it."



Dr. Mark Tushnet

He then proceeded to advocate a hard line toward the "losers." He argued that being nice to losers does not work, as evidenced by what happened when that approach was used after the Civil War and after the Brown Decision mandating an end to segregation in the public schools.

Instead, he called for moral conservatives of all types to be treated like Germany and Japan at the end of World War II — a demand for unconditional surrender.

So, forget our constitution and its guarantee of protection of freedom of religion. The best interests of a secular and pagan society must prevail. Forget also about the original meaning of our constitution. After all, for our constitution to be relevant, it must be a "living document" that is constantly adapting to changes in the basic nature of our society.

Actually, we have already arrived at this point because our Supreme Court has made it very clear that our constitution means whatever the Court says it means.

Will we as Christians stand firm for the Word of God in the midst of increasing persecution, or will we seek popularity and acceptance by crawling in bed with society and endorsing its sins? Each professing Christian is going to be faced with this dilemma in one way or another. We need to decide now whether we are going to stand for the Lord or surrender to the god of this world.

Pastor Freeman Weems in Atoka, Tennessee has made his decision, as you will see in the next article. ❖

*Glenn Meredith is the pastor of the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas.

“How long will you hesitate between two opinions?”

Freeman Weems

(Editors' note: Freeman Weems is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Atoka, Tennessee. He is a regular commentator on national and international events from a biblical perspective.)

In the book of First Kings, chapter Eighteen, Elijah asked the people of Israel this question: “How long will you hesitate between two opinions?” He then challenged them to choose between Yahweh or Baal. At that time Israel had seemingly forgotten the God who had blessed them and made them the envy of surrounding countries.

The Jewish people had sunk into gross idolatry and heathen practices. Elijah was calling the nation back to the true worship of Yahweh. As a part of that challenge, he had the hundreds of prophets of Baal meet him on Mount Carmel to settle who was God and who wasn't. God answered Elijah and fire fell from heaven proving that Yahweh was the God of Israel.

The terminology, “hesitate between two opinions,” has the idea of someone in a tree trying to balance on two different limbs, one foot each on limbs of differing sizes and, therefore, highly unstable.

It is hard to imagine a clearer picture of America today. We did not get to be the envy of the world by riding the coattails of religious liberalism. Bible-denying preachers and churches did not build our country morally and ethically. Those values were



Freeman Weems

thundered from the pulpits of churches and people who held dearly to the inspired Word of God. Nearly all denominations, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and others preached similar messages on holy living and separation from the world. In fact, many pastors supported the American Revolution both from the pulpit and the field, actually joining in the fighting or exhorting the men to stand fast.

Fast forward to today: we are told that preachers should not engage in politics nor be too controversial. And what has this soft-soap approach given us? A federal government, a President, and many state legislatures that are now obviously treading into the areas we thought were reserved for the churches. I have shuddered as our President said, “God bless you,” to a Planned Parenthood group that commits over 300,000 abortions a year. In stark contradiction to the Word of God, we have watched as our Supreme Court has declared that same-sex marriage is a civil right.

We sure have come a long way, haven't we? When the occasional pastor speaks up, he is labeled a rabble-rouser, an antique, or some other pejorative term. We never dreamed that prayer would be removed from our schools, that abortion would become the law of the land, not by vote, but by judicial fiat, that sodomy would be considered normal, but here we are. Time to make a decision.

If the Bible is true, and I firmly believe that it is, then my decision has already been made. God and not government will decide for me what is right and what is wrong. In fact, it is our right to tell the government where to find morals, and it won't be in some law school journal, a psychology class or in the halls of Congress.

The Bible is the only sure guide for morality and true spiritual life. There is no other name under heaven among men whereby we must be saved than that of Christ Jesus. The political landscape of our country is in disarray because the churches of our country have left their roots. How long will we hesitate between two opinions? Is government going to take the place of God in our hearts and minds or will we stand fast? ❖

In Memory

A Great Man of God

Dr. David R. Reagan

One of my dearest friends and colleagues in ministry, Dr. Marco Samaniego, died in April due to complications following neck surgery. He was 65 years old.

In the fall of 1987 Dr. Marco was working for the Southern Baptist River Ministry as a physician. He was overseeing four medical clinics in Juarez, Mexico, none of which had electricity or running water. That was when one of our Lamb & Lion trustees, Buddie Ball, came in contact with him. Buddie was looking for a Mexican ministry to support, and when he met Dr. Marco, he knew immediately he had found the man he was looking for.

Buddie and I worked together with Dr. Marco to help him establish his own ministry which he decided to call Hands of

Luke Ministries — naming it after the biblical Luke who was also a physician.

Over the years since that time, God has greatly blessed the ministry as it established medical clinics, homes for orphans, housing units for single moms, and a seminary for aspiring pastors. In addition to providing housing, clothing and medical services, the ministry feeds breakfast to over 300 children each day. Additionally, they feed 20,000 each Thanksgiving and provide food and gifts for 5,000 children every Christmas.

Dr. Marco's wife, Carmen, is uniquely qualified in many ways to take over the direction of all aspects of the ministry's outreach. Messages of condolences and encouragement can be sent to her at handsoluke@aol.com. ❖



Marco & Carmen Samaniego

Experiencing a Setback

One of our finest television networks — The Church Channel — has announced that it is going to transform itself into a whole new music network aimed at young people. It is being taken over by the Hillsong Church in Australia and will be called The Hillsong Network. The Hillsong Church is considered to be the world's leading creator of inspirational praise and worship music.

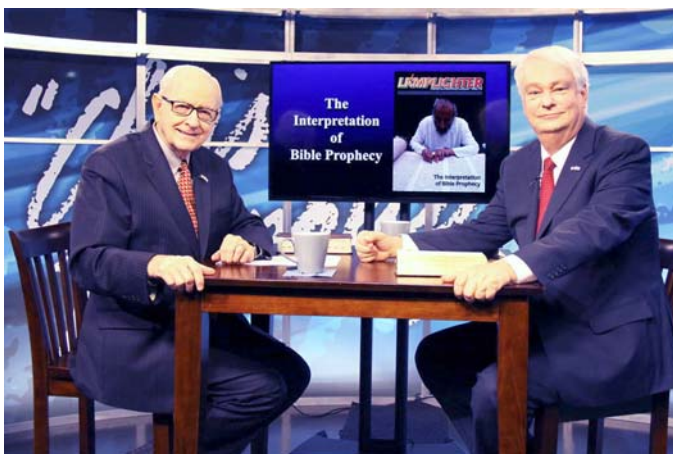
Although the new network will broadcast some teaching programs, all of them will be the type that are aimed at young adults. Since our program does not fall into that category, we have been given notice that our program will not be included in the schedule of the new network. This is a disappointing setback for us because we had many viewers on The Church Channel. Furthermore, the administrators of the network liked our program so much that they gave us two free plays each week in addition to the time slot that we paid for.

To make up for this loss, we have started searching for other outlets for our television program, including local stations and regional networks. We will be announcing these to you as we add them.

Video Production

Meanwhile, we have been focusing on video production. We have issued a very popular new video album called "The End Times Focus on Israel." You will find it advertised on page 22.

Dr. Reagan is also working on the production of an in-depth response to the slanderous anti-Pre-Trib Rapture video that was produced recently by a ministry in California and which was featured in the January-February 2016 issue of this magazine. Thus far, he has conducted video interviews with Tommy Ice, Andy Woods, Mark Hitchcock and William Watson. It is hoped that this important video album will be ready for distribution at our July Bible conference.



Dr. Reagan with Tommy Ice

While shooting the interviews about the Rapture, Dr. Reagan took advantage of the opportunities to videotape footage for programs about the interpretation of Bible prophecy and the nature and necessity of a Millennial reign. These programs will be broadcast later this year. ✚

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks:

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, DISH 263, Cable, AT&T U-verse 563, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming (daystar.com).

TBN (The Trinity Broadcasting Network) — Tue. 3:30 CT, DirecTV 372, DISH 260, Cable, AT&T U-verse 560, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites & Web Streaming (www.tbn.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, & Web Streaming (tct.tv). **NEW!**

NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 & Web Streaming (http://nrbnetwork.tv).

Regional Networks:

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas. Tues. at 10:30am CT and Sat. at 2:00pm (vntv.com). **NEW!**

Family Vision Network — Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, Three Broadcast Stations and Cable throughout Southern Louisiana (familyvisiontv.com).

KSCE — Sun. 10:30am MT, Broadcast Station in El Paso, TX. DirecTV & DISH Local 38, Cable, AT&T U-verse 38, & Web Streaming (kscetv.com).

Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

HisChannel — HisChannel.com

LightSource — LightSource.com

YouTube — YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

Vimeo — Vimeo.com

GodTube — GodTube.com via LightSource.com

DailyMotion — (European equivalent of YouTube.) Daily Motion.com/us

Lamb & Lion Ministries — LambLion.com

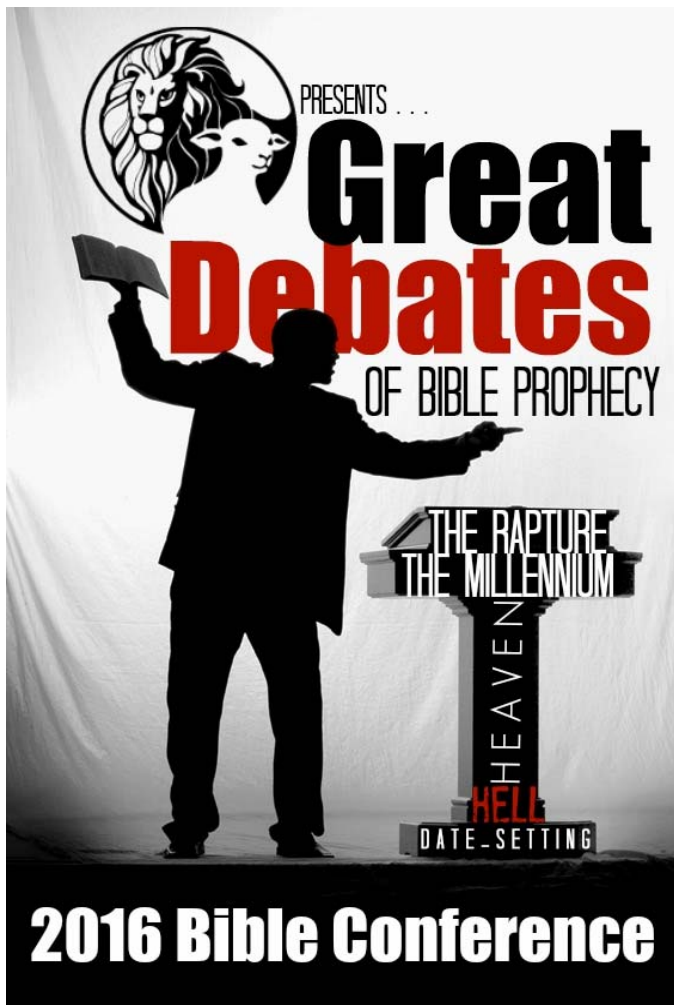
We Need YOU As A Prophecy Partner!

Our Prophecy Partners serve as the financial foundation of this ministry. They are also our prayer warriors. Their faithful and generous donations and their fervent prayers are what make it possible for us to proclaim the soon return of Jesus worldwide.

We would like to invite you to become one of our Partners. All you have to do is make a commitment to pray for us regularly and provide us with a donation of \$25 or more per month. In return, Dr. Reagan will send you a letter each month about the ministry's activities, together with a gift like a video program or a publication related to Bible prophecy. Prophecy Partners also receive a complimentary subscription to this magazine.

Please help us continue to expand our outreach via television and the Internet. You can sign up as a Prophecy Partner through our website or by calling our office at 972-736-3567. Thanks! ✚

Final Notice! Bible Conference and Israel Pilgrimage



Our 2016 annual Bible conference is scheduled to be held on July 15 and 16. The site will be the Marriott Convention Center in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

The conference will begin on Friday evening with a banquet featuring a concert and a keynote address. The featured musician will be Chuck Girard, the legendary founder of the group called Love Song, and one of the pioneers of Contemporary Christian Music. The keynote speaker will be David Hocking, a renowned Christian author, speaker and broadcaster who heads up a ministry in Tustin, California, called "Hope for Today."

There is a charge of \$50 per person for the Friday night banquet, concert and keynote address. The seating is limited to 400. The Saturday sessions are free of charge, and there will be seating for 800. There will be five speakers on Saturday, and their topics will be related to the overall theme, "Great Debates of Bible Prophecy."

Registration is required for the Friday banquet and also for the Saturday sessions. You can register at our website (www.lamblion.com) or by calling 972-736-3567.

In addition to the anointed music and the highly qualified speakers, two of the highlights of every Lamb & Lion conference are the rich fellowship among the attendees and the great variety of exhibits. ❖

Our 2016 Holy Land Pilgrimage is scheduled to depart for Israel on Saturday, November 12 and return back home to the States on Wednesday, November 23, for a total of 12 days.

The pilgrimage will be hosted by our Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore and his wife, Amy. The group will spend 2 nights in Tel Aviv on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, 2 nights in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and 6 nights in Jerusalem.

Accommodations have been arranged at first class Jewish hotels. Air transportation will be supplied by Lufthansa, with stops in Frankfurt both going and returning. The cost per person is \$3,925. This price includes all transportation, lodging, meals, taxes and a fuel surcharge. The only thing it does not include is tips of \$144 per person (\$12 per day).

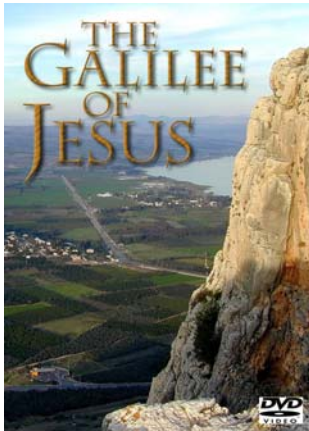
We have also arranged to have a Messianic guide whom Dr. Reagan considers to be the best he has ever had the privilege of using.

This is a spiritual pilgrimage and not just a tour. Devotionals will be held at each site, and there will be biblical insights provided concerning both the First and Second Comings of Jesus.

The reservation deadline is August 12. ❖

Bible Prophecy Resources

Special Dual Offer



These two DVDs are filled with fascinating programs about Israel and the life of Jesus.

The Galilee of Jesus contains four programs that produce a sweeping overview of the ministry of Jesus in the Galilee of northern Israel. Following an in-depth introduction to the whole area of the Galilee, the presentation focuses on Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, His miracles in the Galilee, and His transfiguration. All footage contained in the album was shot on site in the Galilee. The commentary is supplied by Dr. Reagan and his former colleague, Dennis Pollock. 80 minutes in length.

Insights from Jerusalem contains three programs shot on location in Jerusalem. In the first, Dr. Reagan explains the prophetic significance of the Eastern Gate. In the second, he tells the remarkable story about how Eliezer Ben Yehuda revived the Hebrew language from the dead in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. The third program presents a fascinating walk through the Old City of Jerusalem. It is one of the most popular TV programs we have ever produced. 75 minutes in length.

Both DVD albums can be yours for \$20, including the cost of shipping. Ask for offer 722. ✚



A New Video Presentation

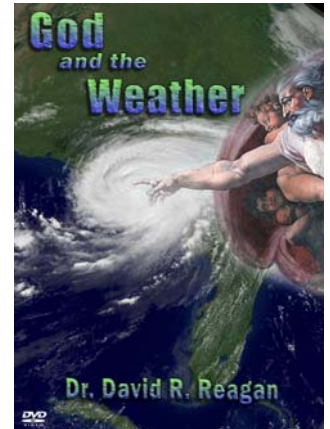
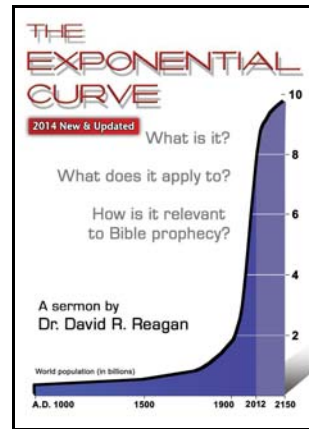
- How does Israel fit into the end time pattern of prophesied events?
- Do the Jewish people have any legal or biblical right to the land of Israel?
- Can Israel continue to exist in the midst of the sea of Arab peoples who surround it?
- Is there any hope for a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East?
- Where does ISIS fit into the end time biblical picture of events?
- What is the relevance of events in the Middle East to the Church and the average Christian today?
- What do events in the Middle East tell us, if anything, about the timing of the Lord's return?

These and many other questions about Israel and the Middle East are answered in this one hour presentation by Dr. Reagan that was videotaped before a live audience. \$20, includes shipping.

To order any or all of the resources featured on this page, go to our website at lamblion.com, or call us at 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. ✚

Another Dual Offer

These two DVD albums contain two of Dr. Reagan's most sought after presentations.



The Exponential Curve concerns the impact of modern technology on both every day life and world events. In the process, Dr. Reagan shows how all of life was on the exponential curve during the 20th Century, in fulfillment of end time Bible prophecy. The presentation clearly demonstrates that there are modern day signs of the times that have never existed before and that these point to the soon return of Jesus.

God and the Weather addresses a series of difficult questions related to God and the weather:

- Are all natural disasters a result of Man's sin?
- Can a natural disaster be a remedial judgment from God?
- Is Satan the one who is in control of natural disasters?
- Could U.S. treatment of Israel play a role in the natural disasters that America has recently suffered?
- Are weather disasters a sign of the Lord's soon return?

Both DVD albums run 50 minutes, and both can be yours for \$20, including the cost of shipping. Ask for offer 216. ✚

Ministry News

Speaking Schedule —

July:

- Dr. Reagan at the national conference of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America in Grantham, PA (4-5).
- All three Lamb & Lion evangelists will be speaking at the ministry's annual Bible conference in Allen, TX (15-16).
- Dr. Reagan at the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX (evening service on the 31st).

August:

- Dr. Reagan at the David Hocking prophecy conference at the Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA (5-6).

September:

- Dr. Reagan and Tim Moore at Maranatha Ministry's annual Bible prophecy conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA (9-10).
- Nathan Jones at a prophecy conference sponsored by Calvary Chapel in Tyler, TX (10).
- Tim Moore at Priest River Church in Newport, ID (17-18).
- Dr. Reagan at Believer's Bible Class at First Baptist Church in Forney, TX (25).

October:

- Dr. Reagan at First Baptist Church in Alma, AR (1-2).
- Dr. Reagan at the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX (evening service on the 30th).

Bible Prophecy Teachers —

Due to the illness of his wife, Ann, Dr. Reagan can only accept one out-of-town speaking engagement per month. He has no limit on the number of speaking engagements he is willing to accept within the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.



Nathan Jones, Dave Reagan & Tim Moore

Our other two evangelists, Nathan Jones and Tim Moore, are available for speaking engagements anywhere. Please consider inviting one of these men to speak at your church. You can find detailed information about them on our website at www.lamblion.com/about/staff. Either one can conduct a weekend Bible prophecy conference, or they can come and speak at your Sunday morning services plus a teaching session consisting of all your adult and teen classes.

Recovering from Surgery —

On May 3rd Dr. Reagan had his left hip replaced. The operation went smoothly and there were no complications like blood clots. He has been recuperating rapidly. This was his third joint replacement. One of our supporters declared, "At the rate he is going with these joint replacement operations, he will end up leaving more behind than is taken when the Rapture occurs!" We very much appreciate all your prayers, cards and emails.



Dr. Reagan departing the Rehab Center with his oldest daughter, Ruth.

Spreading the message —

This magazine is currently being distributed to 5,000 addresses by mail and to 35,000 by email. We would like to get the email distribution list up to 100,000 as quickly as possible. You can help us by letting your friends and family members know about our magazine. Send them a digital copy by email and tell them that the email version is free of charge. If you are not receiving the digital copy, you can download one from our website.



A typical day's work in the Lamb & Lion mail room. From left to right, Tony Privitt, Joyce Shurtleff, Cathie Grubb and Jana Olivieri.



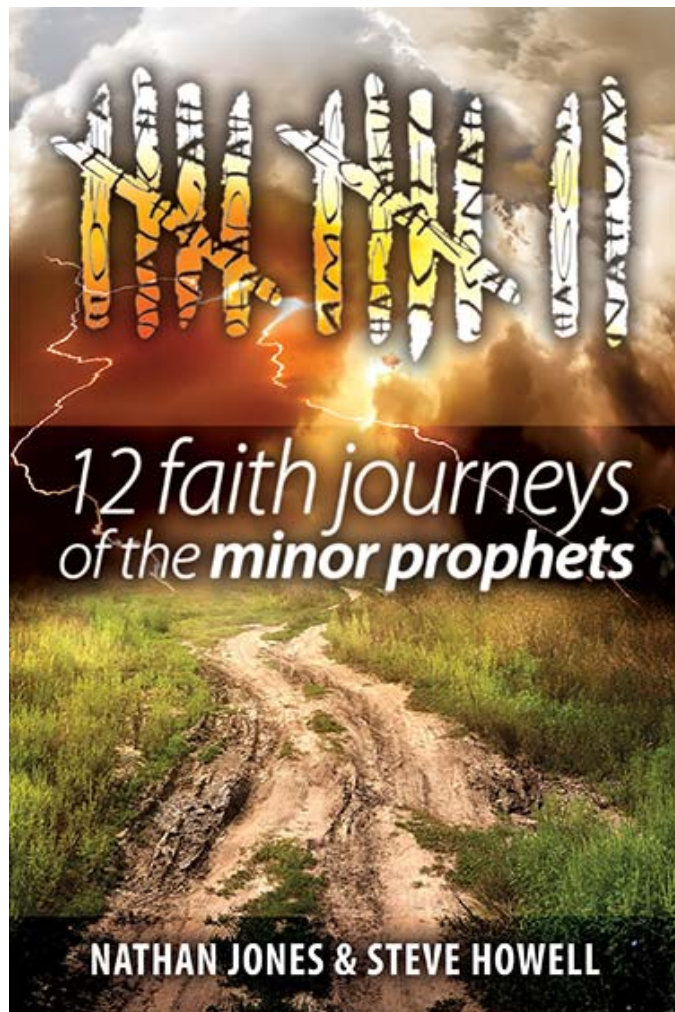
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Two New Books Ready For Distribution



The second edition of Dr. Reagan's commentary on the book of Revelation, first published in 2001. See pages 8-9 for details.



Nathan Jones' first book is full of valuable spiritual insights from the Minor Prophets. See pages 11-13 for details.

Each book sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. If you order both books, ***the combined price is \$35***, including the cost of shipping. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm, Central time. Ask for offer #412.

Both books are available on Kindle and Nook. ✚