

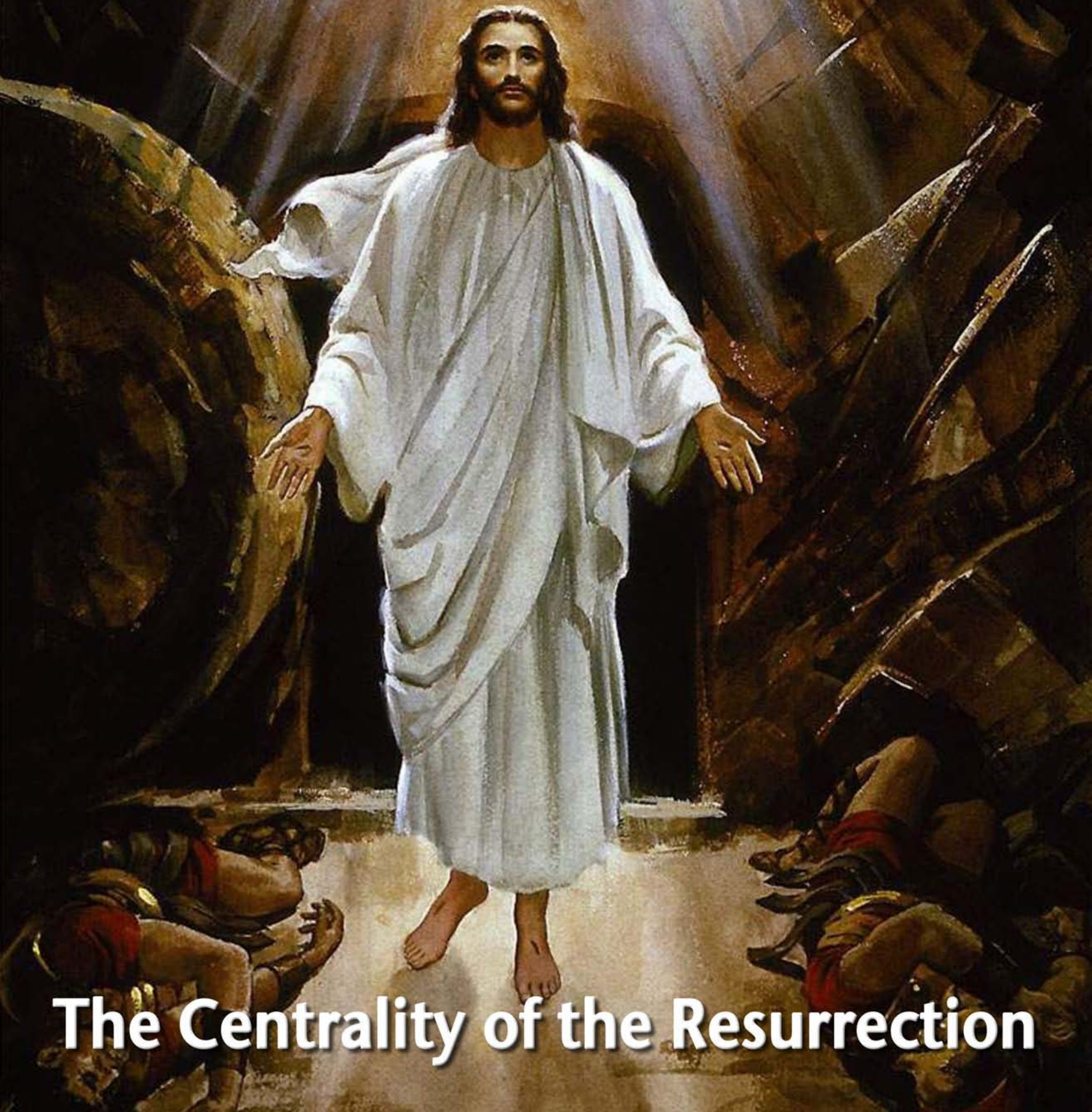
LAMPLIGHTER

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

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The Centrality of the Resurrection



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Observations by the Editor

Many Roads?

For years I have been emphasizing that one of the most dangerous trends in Christianity today is the rapidly spreading teaching that there are many roads to God. In a society like ours, which has elevated tolerance to its highest value, this teaching sounds so good. After all, it relieves Christians from having to judge other religions as inadequate.

But the problem is that it is a teaching straight from Hell. I wrote in depth about this unbiblical concept in the May-June 2010 issue of this magazine which can be found on our website at lamblion.com.

This apostate doctrine was catapulted to the forefront in recent weeks when the Vatican released a video presentation in mid-January by Pope Francis in which he proclaimed his belief that all the major religions constitute different roads to the same God! He stated that while the different faiths may be "seeking God or meeting God in different ways," what is important to keep in mind is that "we are all children of God."

To drive his point home, the video contains testimonies by various leaders of non-Christian faiths. "I have confidence in Buddha," a female lama declares. "I believe in God," a rabbi proclaims. "I believe in Allah," an Islamic believer declares. Following these assertions, all of these religious spokespersons affirm their common belief in the power of love.

But love is not our salvation, and the Islamic holy book, the Quran, does not teach love. Rather, it teaches hatred toward those who refuse to put their faith in Allah.

This brief video, which can be found all over the Internet, is just the most recent example of how Pope Francis has abandoned any notion that a salvation relationship with God can be established only through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

In March of 2013, shortly after his election to the papacy, Pope Francis declared that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. In June of 2014, he authorized Islamic prayers and readings from the Quran at Vatican services. And in November of 2015, he denounced

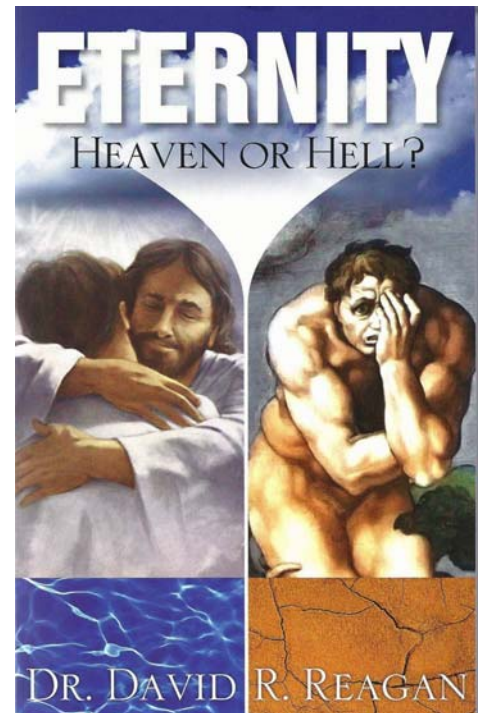


Dr. David R. Reagan

the "fundamentalists" in Christianity who "believe in absolute truth."

Why is all of this so important? Because the Bible teaches that the Antichrist will use a one world religion to help establish and consolidate his worldwide, anti-God kingdom. Pope Francis is obviously being used by Satan to clear the path for that apostate religion — and that development, in turn, is just one more sign that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

For more detailed information and arguments related to the "Many Roads" apostasy, see my book, *Eternity: Heaven or Hell?* (To order, see page 6.)



Cover illustration: The cover painting of Jesus after His resurrection is found on multiple pages throughout the Internet, but none of them ever identify the name of the painter.

The Centrality of the Resurrection

Is it the essence of the Gospel?

Dr. David R. Reagan

I grew up in a legalistic and sectarian church that considered itself to be the one and only true church. The church had several distinctive doctrines. The use of instrumental music in worship was condemned as unscriptural. The Holy Spirit was viewed as being an inanimate object — namely, the Bible itself. The concept of a future reign of the Lord on the earth was held in contempt. And baptismal regeneration was the group's concept of salvation. Or, to put it another way, they believed you were saved by the rite of baptism. Accordingly, one of our favorite slogans was, "You meet the blood in the water" (speaking of the blood of Jesus).

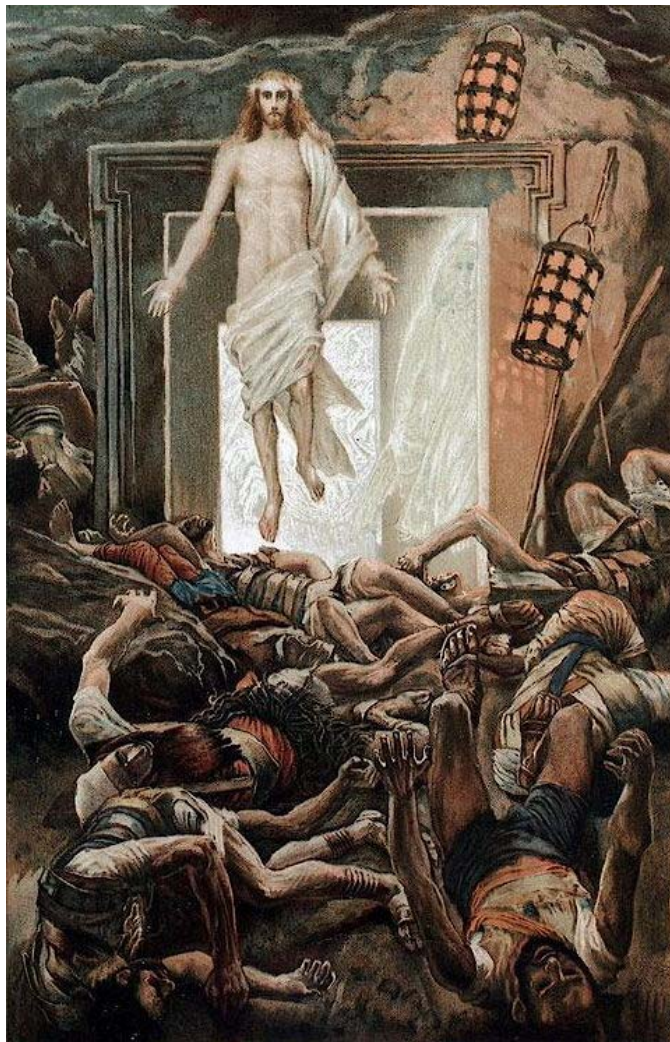
We heard only two kinds of sermons. Most were related to what we called "the plan of salvation." The rest were devoted to proving why we were the one and only true church.

Our plan of salvation consisted of five steps. As kids, we were taught to memorize it while counting the steps on our fingers. It thus was known as "the five finger exercise." The five steps were "hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized."

Preaching a Plan

Our ministers preached this plan over and over again, devoting a full sermon to each step. The culminating sermon — the tour de force — was always the one on baptism. Our preachers were judged by the power of their sermons on baptism. And they were often so moving in their eloquence that members who had already been baptized would march down the aisles during "invitation time" to be baptized again and again — just to make sure they had "got it right."

Every verse in the Bible that mentioned water was applied to baptism, whether it was applicable or not. As our critics often put it, we were a people with "water on the brain." The only scripture about baptism that we never heard quoted was the one found in 1 Corinthians 1:17 where the apostle Paul wrote, "Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel." That verse was anathema to us because, as far as we were concerned, baptism was the gospel.



The Resurrection by French artist James Tissot (1836-1902).

Now keep in mind that this convoluted preaching of the plan of salvation was presented Sunday after Sunday to an audience in which 90% of the people had already responded to the plan — and the rest were pre-teen children who would do so as soon as they reached "the age of accountability" (which for us was about 13). The tragic result was that there was no spiritual growth in the Lord. How could there be? We were fed only pabulum — and it was fed to us over and over again.

We learned nothing about spiritual warfare or any of the deeper things concerning the Lord and our walk with Him. We had no concept about how to apply the Bible to our daily lives. We were left to live in the power of our flesh since we knew nothing about the Spirit of God.

As our ministers droned on and on about the plan of salvation, we became "dull of hearing" (Hebrews 5:11). We needed solid food. All we got was milk (Hebrews 5:12). We were stuck on the elementary principles, unable to press on to spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1).

Even worse, we had the elementary principles all wrong. We were urging people to put their faith in a plan rather than a Savior. We did not understand that salvation is a matter of a relationship with a person — Jesus of Nazareth. Rather than pointing people to this Man, the Son of God, we asked them to place their faith in a mechanical plan.

A Personal Turning Point

The breakthrough (and break away) for me began during my senior year in college in 1959 when my mom and dad gave me a very special Christmas present. It was a copy of *The New Testament in Modern English* by J. B. Phillips (Macmillan, 1958).

Phillips was an Anglican clergyman who tried to teach the Bible to British teenagers during World War II. He noticed that the Shakespearean language of the King James Bible turned off the kids. So, he decided to prepare his own translation of the assigned scripture passage each week. The kids loved his fresh and modern rendering which was really more of a paraphrase than a translation.



Although I had been taught great respect for the Bible as the Word of God, I too had been turned off by the stilted and archaic language of the King James Version. The Phillips' Version changed all of that. It brought the Bible alive for me. For the first time, Bible reading became enjoyable — so much so, in fact, that I could not put it down. I read and read and read, and then I would re-read.

I have never been the same since. It's one of the reasons that I rush to purchase a copy of every new version of the Bible. I always gain fresh insight from each one.

Preaching the Man

The life changing insight I received from the Phillips' Version came from my reading of the book of Acts. I began to notice that I had never heard any sermons like the ones recorded there.

Take, for example, the first gospel sermon ever preached — the one Peter preached on Pentecost following the Ascension of Jesus (Acts 2:14-42). From beginning to end, the focus of the sermon is Jesus.

Peter began with an assertion that "Jesus of Nazareth was a man proved to you by God himself through the works of power, the miracles and the signs which God showed through him here amongst you . . ." (Phillips' Version). In other words, Jesus was God in the flesh. Then Peter boldly asserted that those listening to him were responsible for the murder of Jesus. He then moves to the heart of his sermon:

God raised him to life again — and indeed there was nothing by which death could hold such a man . . . Christ was not deserted in death and his body was never destroyed.

Christ is the man Jesus, whom God raised up — a fact of which all of us are eyewitnesses!" (Phillips' Version)

As these words make clear, the gospel is not baptism. It is, instead the Resurrection — the triumph of Jesus over death — for this event is what validates Jesus as who He said He was; namely, the Son of God.

The issue of baptism does not come up until after the sermon is finished. In response to the sermon, the people cry out, "What shall we do?" Peter responds by calling upon them to repent and be baptized.

Focusing on the Resurrection

The certainty and glory of the Resurrection, and the hope provided by it, is the central focus of all the sermons recorded in the book of Acts (all quotes below are from the NASB, with emphasis added).

- 1) Peter's second sermon (delivered on the Temple Mount):

. . . Men of Israel . . . you put to death the Prince of life, **the one whom God raised from the dead** . . . (Acts 3:12,15).

- 2) The Apostles' initial preaching in Jerusalem:

. . . As they [the Apostles] were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they [the Apostles] were teaching the people and **proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead** (Acts 4:1-2).

- 3) Peter before the Sanhedrin Council (the spiritual leaders of the Jews):

... let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, **whom God raised from the dead** — by this name this man stands here before you in good health (Acts 4:10).

- 4) The Apostles preaching in Jerusalem as persecution of the Church increased:

And with great power the apostles were giving testimony **to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, and abundant grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

- 5) Peter before the Sanhedrin again:

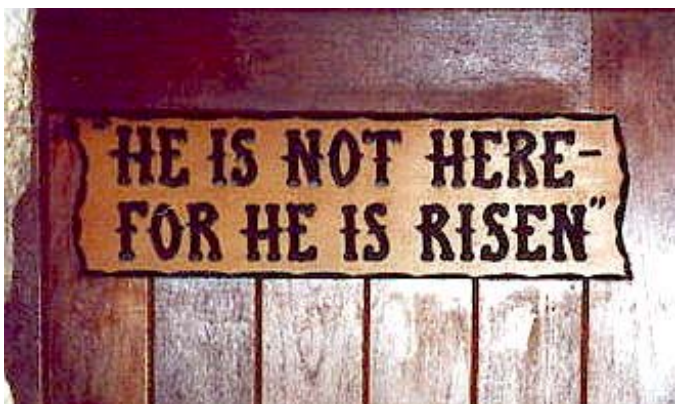
The God of our fathers **raised up Jesus**, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross (Acts 5:30).

- 6) Stephen before the Sanhedrin:

... Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God** (Acts 7:56).

- 7) Peter preaching to Cornelius and his household at Caesarea Maritime:

You know of Jesus of Nazareth ... They put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. **God raised Him up on the third day** ... **He arose from the dead** (Acts 10:38-40).



This sign is on the door of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

- 8) Paul at Antioch in Pisidia (during his second missionary journey):

Men of Israel ... God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus ... **God raised Him from the dead** ... God has fulfilled His promise to our children in that **He raised up Jesus**. ... (Acts 13:16,23,30,33).

- 9) Paul in Athens (during his second missionary journey):

... he [Paul] was **preaching Jesus and the resurrection** (Acts 17:18).

- 10) Paul's sermon on Mars Hill in Athens:

He [God] has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men **by raising Him from the dead** (Acts 17:31).

- 11) Paul's defense before King Agrippa (at Caesarea Maritime):

... I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of **His resurrection from the dead** He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles (Acts 26:22-23).



A sign on the grounds of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

The Centrality of the Resurrection

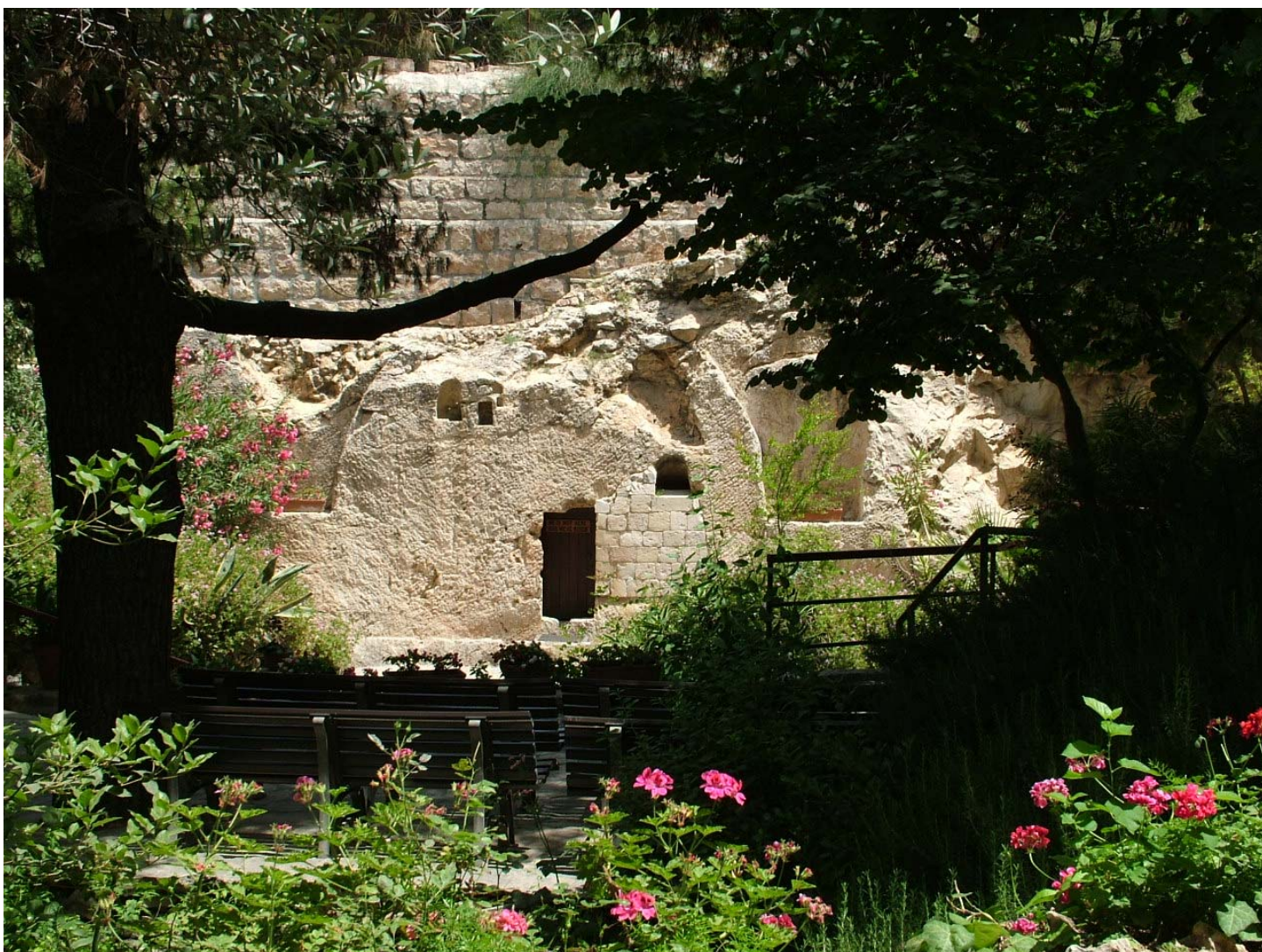
As you can see, the central message, repeatedly, is that "Jesus is risen!" In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul asserts dogmatically that "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain" (verse 14). He then states the same truth again in similar words with great force: "... if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins" (verse 17). He then declares: "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (verse 20).

The bottom line, as Paul so succinctly puts it in Romans 1:4 is that Jesus "... was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead ..." In short, the Resurrection is *the* validator of Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Peter echoes this sentiment in 1 Peter 1:3 — "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ..."

Jesus Himself emphasized the significance of His resurrection when He appeared to John on the island of Patmos 65 years after His ascension to Heaven. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades" (Revelation 1:17-18).

What incredible words! And how assuring they are for all who have placed their faith in Jesus. He is saying, "I am the



The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. (Photo by Jack Smith)

beginning of history. I am the end of history. I am the meaning of history. I was dead, but now I am alive. And because I have conquered death, I have authority over it.”

One day soon, Jesus will exercise that authority by resurrecting all the dead who have put their faith in Him. Those alive at that time will be translated — changed from mortal to immortal — in the twinkling of an eye (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Will you be one of those? You will if you place your faith in Jesus. You cannot be saved by placing your faith in a church, a creed or a “plan of salvation.”

Jesus said to her [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.” (John 11:25 — spoken by Jesus to Martha at the tomb of Lazarus) ✚

Further Information

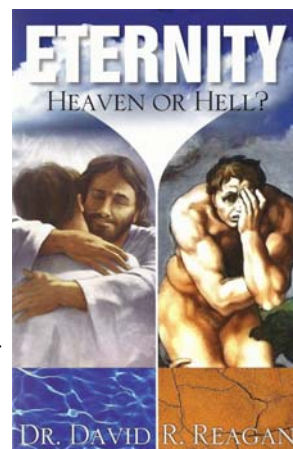
You can find much more detailed information about the Resurrection of Jesus, including decisive proof that it actually occurred, in Dr. Reagan’s book, *Eternity: Heaven or Hell?*

The book also provides in-depth information concerning what the Bible says about life after death. Do believers go directly to Heaven when they die? Do believers have any kind of body after they die? Do believers become angels? When unbelievers die, do they go directly to Hell? Is there a place called Purgatory? Will souls be reincarnated? Will you face a judgment before God? Will you be given a second chance to get right with

God? Will your body ever be resurrected? What is a glorified body? Is there such a thing as soul sleep, and if so, what is it?

Dr. Reagan also deals with questions pertaining to salvation: Are there many roads to God? Can salvation be earned through good works? Can salvation be lost?

The book runs 197 pages. It costs \$20, including the cost of mailing. You can order it by calling 972-736-3567. ✚



From Communism to Christianity

A remarkable story of change.

Dr. David R. Reagan

Some stories are so amazing that they are truly stranger than fiction. The story I want to share with you is true, but it would be beyond the imagination of a novelist or screen writer. It is the story of the life of Helen Joy Davidman.

Joy, as she was always called, was born in the Bronx in 1915 to second generation Jewish immigrants from Poland and Russia.

Her parents were both educators in the New York City public school system. Her father was a principal, and her mother was an elementary school teacher.

A Bright but Rebellious Girl

They naturally took a special interest in Joy's education from the moment she was born, and they very quickly discovered that she was a child prodigy with a photographic memory. She was a voracious reader and had read H. G. Wells' *Outline of History* by the time she was 9 years old. At age 12 she announced to her parents that she was an Atheist. That didn't upset them because they had both become secular Jews who were more interested in being Americanized than in maintaining the religion of their forefathers.

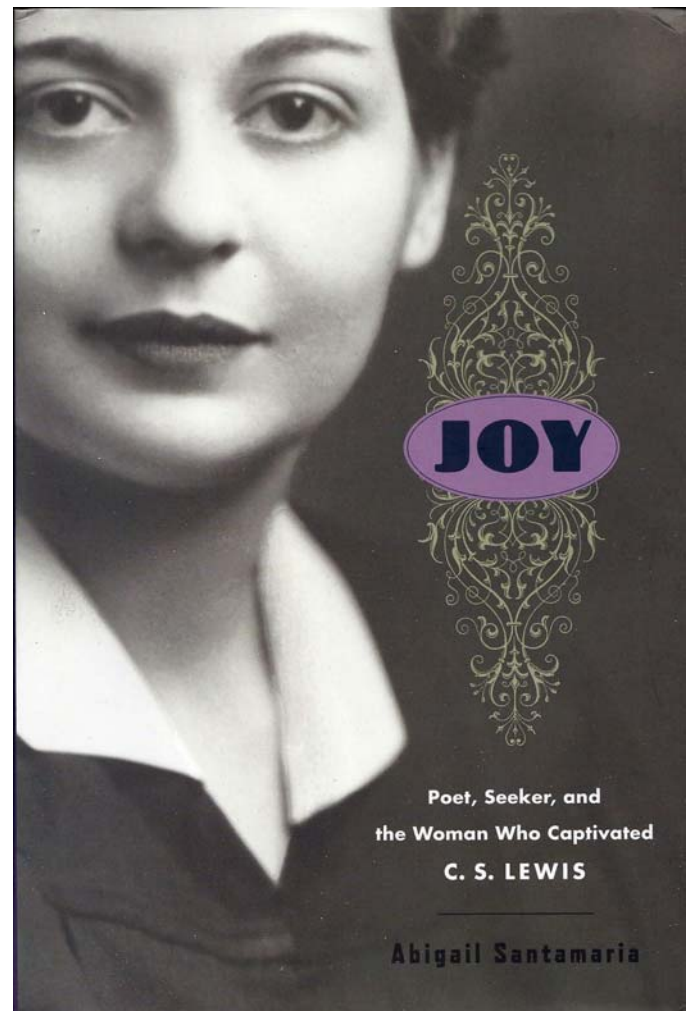
Joy started writing poetry and short stories at an early age and was becoming an accomplished writer by the time she entered Hunter College at the age of 15. Within a year she had her first sexual liaison with a professor who was old enough to be her father. Shortly after that encounter, she announced that she no longer believed in standards of right and wrong. She referred to moral codes as "ugly things" and declared, "I've converted to Hedonism."¹

At age 19 Joy was accepted as a graduate student at Columbia University where she began working on a Master's degree in English Literature, with a minor in French. She completed that degree in a year's time.

Spectacular Literary Success

Upon graduation, Joy began teaching high school — a job she hated. She poured herself into writing and had several of her poems accepted for publication in the prestigious *Poetry* magazine. During this time, she developed a friendship with the renowned poet, Stephen Vincent Benét.

Benét was so impressed with her poetry that he nominated her to spend the summer of 1938 at the highly regarded MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. This was a rural haven where artists of all types could work in seclusion, free from routine distractions. She was accepted by the colony, and she spent the summer writing and interacting with 62 other writers, composers, painters and sculptors.



This is the only in-depth, secular biography of Joy Davidman that has been written. It was published in 2015 and was written by Abigail Santamaria. The picture featured on the cover is a photo of Joy that was taken when she graduated from Hunter College in New York City in 1934 when she was 19 years old.

When Joy was at the colony she received word from Yale University that she had won the Yale Younger Poet's Award for 1938. The judge had been her mentor, Stephen Vincent Benét. This award brought her national attention and confirmed her intention to become a professional writer.

But an even greater accolade was to come. In January of 1939, at age 24, she was given the poetry prize by the National Institute of Arts and Letters. The first recipient of this prize had been Robert Frost in 1931.

A Difficult Person

Joy had always been a socially awkward person. Combine that with her rebellious spirit and condescending intellect and you end up with a personality that was intolerable to most people. The awards made the situation even worse as her ego got out of hand.

Words people used to describe her included aggressive, impertinent, intolerant, opinionated, rebellious, pompous, impudent, uninhibited, abrasive, hot-tempered and brash. Joy was fully aware of how she was perceived, but she could care less.

Additionally, Joy was a person who cared very little about

her external appearance. She was usually described as frumpy or matronly.

Her Commitment to Communism

Joy's demeanor fit well with her new-found passion for Communism and its rejection of normative values. She had become a member of the party early in 1938. She always claimed that her decision to become a Communist was spurred by her compassion for the suffering masses of the Great Depression.

As is the case with most converts to anything, Joy threw herself passionately into her newly discovered secular religion. Consequently, before long, she was added to the staff of a Marxist weekly literature magazine called *New Masses*.

Her Marriage

Through her activities in the Communist Party, Joy met a writer named William (Bill) Lindsay Gresham. They started dating and ended up getting married in August of 1942 when Joy was 27 years old.



The Gresham family in 1950.

The marriage was in trouble from the start. Bill proved to be an abusive alcoholic and a serial adulterer. He never tried to cover up his extra-marital affairs, nor did he try to defend them. He simply could not see anything wrong with them.

The couple gave birth to two boys — David in 1944 and Douglas in 1945. The stress of dealing with an alcoholic, unfaithful husband and two small boys caused Joy to start drifting away from her heavy involvement in the Communist Party.

An Unexpected Conversion

The turning point for Joy came in 1946 at age 31 when she came to the end of herself. She felt completely defeated and emotionally depleted. In the midst of this personal crisis, she had a spiritual experience which she described as follows:²

... for the first time my pride was forced to admit that I was not, after all, "the master of my fate" and "the captain of my soul." All the defenses — the walls of arrogance and cock-sureness and self-love behind which I had hid from God — went down momentarily — and God came in.

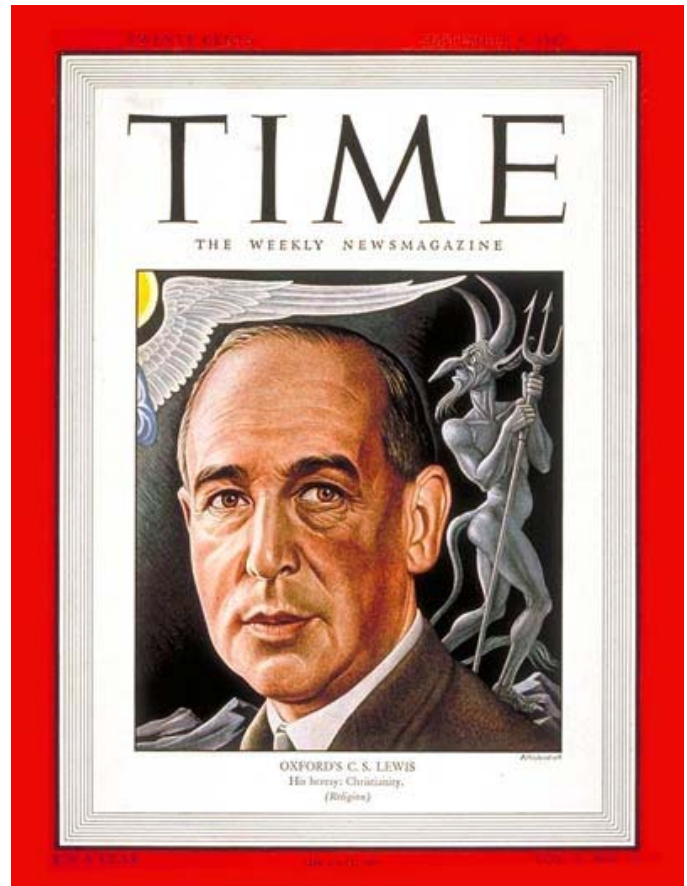
She suddenly found herself on her knees in prayer and confessed, "I must say I was the world's most surprised atheist."³ Amazingly, she had almost instantaneously made the transition

from Atheism to Theism. But that did not make her a Christian. She still had a long way yet to go.

Discovering C. S. Lewis

She immediately began to search for some way to manifest her newly found belief in God. She went to a Presbyterian church where she was baptized. But it was only a religious rite that she felt she ought to do as a manifestation of her rejection of Atheism.

Proof of this is the fact that she soon stumbled across L. Ron Hubbard's book, *Dianetics*, which was published in 1950. The book claimed to be a manual for mental health, but Hubbard very quickly developed his teachings into a religious cult called Scientology. Both Joy and her husband became practitioners and teachers of Dianetics.



C. S. Lewis on the cover of *Time* magazine, September 8, 1947.

But Joy kept searching, and when she realized that Hubbard was converting his fans into a cultic group, she started pulling away from Scientology and began reading Christian writings. That's when she encountered C. S. Lewis, who had been featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1947 as one of Christendom's foremost defenders of the faith. Lewis at that time was a renowned professor of Medieval Literature at Oxford University in England.

In January of 1950, when Joy was 35 years old, she wrote her first letter to Lewis. It was full of theological questions. Lewis had never heard of her, but he was deeply impressed by her intellect and erudition — also her humor. He responded in depth to her questions, and they soon became "pen-friends."

A Family Crisis

In 1952, Joy's cousin, Renée Pierce (the daughter of her father's sister) came to live with Joy and her family. Renée's husband was also an abusive alcoholic, and she fled from him, seeking protection for herself and her two children with the Gresham family.

Meanwhile, Bill's lifestyle was so out of control that Joy felt the need to separate from him for a while and seek counsel. She decided to go to England to meet her "pen-friend" and seek his insights. She arranged for Renée to keep her children and look after Bill, and she departed for England in August 1952. She had arranged to stay with another of her pen-pals — a lady in London.

Meeting Lewis

Upon arrival, she contacted Lewis and invited him to have lunch with her and her friend. Lewis accepted the invitation and brought his brother Warren, with him. Both Lewis and his brother (who lived together) found Joy to be "enthralled," and Warren noted in his diary that she kept Jack (as Lewis' family and friends always called him) "laughing uproariously."⁴ Additional luncheon meetings finally led to an invitation for Joy to spend a fortnight (two weeks) with Lewis and his brother before her return to the States. This period of time included Christmas of 1952.

During her time at the Lewis household, Joy read the manuscript of a book on prayer that Jack was writing, and she made suggestions for improving it. In return, Jack gave her suggestions for editing the book she was working on called *Smoke on the Mountain*, which was her commentary on the Ten Commandments.

Another Family Crisis

Before Joy departed for the States, she received a letter from her husband in which he informed her that he had fallen in love with her cousin, Renée, and they had decided to get married. He asked Joy for a divorce. Joy shared the letter with Jack and asked for his advice. He strongly advised her to divorce Bill because of his infidelity.

When Joy returned home in January of 1953, Bill was drunk. He beat her up and choked her. That was the last straw for her. She decided to return to England with her sons. Bill proceeded to divorce her and marry Renée.

Her Return to England

Joy arrived back in England in November 1953. She rented an apartment, put her boys in boarding school, and set about to revive her relationship with the Lewis brothers. Jack and Warren continued to be enthralled with her. But Jack's professor friends were not the least bit impressed. They considered her to be a typical "ugly American" — pushy, abrasive, over-bearing and vulgar.

She and Jack began to see each other regularly. They would take long walks together, debate theology and discuss English literature.

Jack was 55 years old at the time, 17 years older than Joy. He had been a lifelong bachelor. His mother had died of cancer when he was only ten years old. His only female companionship had been a woman named Mrs. Jane Moore, the mother of his

deceased war buddy, Paddie Moore. Lewis had made a pact with Paddie that if either of them were killed in the war, the survivor would take care of the other's family. True to his word, Jack ended up caring for Mrs. Moore for the rest of her life. She died in 1951. She was 27 years older than Jack, and he always referred to her as "mother."

Joy filled a void in Jack's life. Despite all her overwhelming faults, he deeply enjoyed her profound intellect and he fell in love with her mind. Gradually, he began to fall in love with her emotionally. Nor was she the only one he cherished. That's because Jack had become very attached to her two sons who were 12 and 13.



Joy and her boys in their passport photo in 1953.

A Legal Crisis

In 1956 another crisis arose in Joy's life when the British Foreign Office informed her that they were not going to renew her permit to remain in England. Jack could not face the possibility of losing the trio he had grown to love so much. His response was to propose a civil marriage which would enable Joy and her boys to remain in England. The marriage took place on April 23, 1956. The act was, in effect, a naturalization process for Joy.

Jack and Joy had decided that for the time being their marriage would remain a secret. Joy continued to live at her house and Jack at his. But they visited each other frequently, and before long, rumors began to circulate. Jack decided that to avoid malicious gossip, he would seek to have their marriage blessed by the Church. But the Bishop of Oxford refused because Joy had been divorced.

A Health Crisis

Meanwhile, in June of 1956 Joy began experiencing pain in her left hip. In October, the hip suddenly gave way and she took a bad fall which produced excruciating pain. She was rushed to a hospital where it was discovered that she had cancer in her left femur and a malignant tumor in one of her breasts.

In December, as her condition grew steadily worse, Jack decided to announce their marriage in the newspaper.

By late January of 1957 it was clear that her radiation treatments were having no effect. Her pain was constant, and there were signs of imminent death. Jack asked an Anglican priest friend of his to pray for Joy's healing. He agreed.

When the priest arrived at the hospital and saw Joy's pitiful condition and learned of her desperate desire for a church wed-

ding, he agreed to conduct the ceremony then and there. And so, Jack and Joy's marriage was consecrated by the Church on March 21, 1957. He was 59 and she was 42.

Joy was now ready to die. The doctors gave her two months to live, at most. But, instead, she suddenly began to improve. Throughout the summer and fall, she continued to gain strength, and in January 1958 her cancer was proclaimed to be "arrested." The doctors were amazed.

Days of Happiness

She moved into Jack's house and immediately set about to remodel it inside and out — something it badly needed. As they settled into life as husband and wife, Jack began experiencing the happiest days of his life.

In the Summer of 1959 they began traveling throughout England and Ireland, but in October, exactly two years after her diagnosis, the cancer returned with a vengeance. They sensed there was little time left, so they decided to take one last trip to the place Joy had always dreamed of visiting — Greece. They went in April of 1960, and by the time they got back home, Joy was very weak. Tests revealed that the cancer had spread throughout her body.

Death

In July of 1960, at age 45, Joy had to be hospitalized again. And on the evening of July 13, with Jack at her side, she smiled and said, "I am at peace with God."⁵ Those were her last words.

Jack later summarized his wife and their relationship with these remarkable words:⁶

Joy was a splendid thing; a soul straight, bright, and tempered like a sword. But not a perfected saint. A sinful woman married to a sinful man; two of God's patients, not yet cured.

Jack's words for her tombstone were put in poetic form:⁷

Here the whole world (stars, water, air
And field, and forest, as they were
Reflected in a single mind),
Like cast off clothes, was left behind
In ashes, yet with hope that she,
Reborn from holy poverty,
In lenten lands, hereafter may
Resume them on her Easter Day.

Jack died three years later on November 23, 1963. His death went almost unnoticed because that was the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

And so you have it — the incredible story of how an American Jewish Communist became the wife of a British professor who was Christendom's greatest defender of the faith.



Joy and Jack photographed during one of their frequent walks — most likely in the Summer of 1959 when he was 61 and Joy was 44.

Some Summary Thoughts

The life of Joy Davidman is just another example of how God can transform anyone through the power of His Holy Spirit — and how He desires to do so. The Bible says that God does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). No matter how repulsive a person may be in his or her beliefs, personality or lifestyle, God desires for that person to come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

There are three other points I would like to make, and then I will draw this story to a close.

First, in 1948, Jack began writing his spiritual autobiography which he titled, *Surprised by Joy*. That was two years before he received his first letter from Joy Davidman. The title of this remarkable book, which was finally published in 1955, turned out to have a double meaning.

Yes, Jack was overwhelmed with spiritual joy when he came to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior at the age of 33. But, later, he was also impacted with mental and physical joy when Joy Davidman came into his life.

My second point relates to the remarkable parallels in the lives of Joy and Jack. Just as Joy announced at age 12 that she was an Atheist, Jack did the same thing at age 15. At age 31, Joy had a deeply spiritual experience that transformed her from an Atheist to a Theist. The same thing happened to Jack at the same age. And his description of the event sounded just like Joy's: "I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."⁸ Joy did not become a Christian until two years after her conversion to Theism and the same was true of Jack.

Spiritually they followed exactly the same path. But their personalities were as different as night and day.

My third observation relates to the powerful book that C. S. Lewis wrote in response to Joy's death. It was titled *A Grief Observed*. The book is a daily journal of Jack's thoughts as he grieved over the loss of his wife.

A Chronicle of Grief

All of Jack's previous books related to religion had been intellectual exercises in which he applied his profound logic to theological problems. But this book was produced out of raw emotion, speaking from a broken heart.

It was published in 1961 under the pseudonym, N. W. Clerk. Its true author was not revealed until 1963 after Jack's death. It is believed that Lewis felt like the book would be too great a shock to his admirers — the reason being that the book lays bare his anger with God over Joy's death.

For example, the book begins with Lewis asking, "Where is God?"⁹ He then asks another profound question: "Why is He so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?"¹⁰

Keep in mind that this is the foremost defender of the Christian faith who is asking these questions.

Lewis follows up these questions by quickly stating that he is not in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. "The real danger," he explains, "is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him."¹¹ For example, is He truly a God of love, grace and mercy, or is He a "Cosmic Sadist"?¹² Lewis concludes this section by saying he feels like God has slammed a door in his face.

But as Jack begins to emerge from his grief, he looks back

over his struggle with God and says that he can see that God was with him all along, but that God was unable to comfort him because he was like a drowning man flailing around and pushing away anyone wanting to help.¹³

At one point in the book, Jack observes that throughout his ordeal, people have been telling him, "God is testing your faith." But he concludes that they have been wrong. He writes:¹⁴

God has not been trying an experiment on my faith or love in order to find out their quality. He knew it already. It was I who didn't . . . He always knew that my temple was a house of cards. His only way of making me realize that fact was to knock it down.

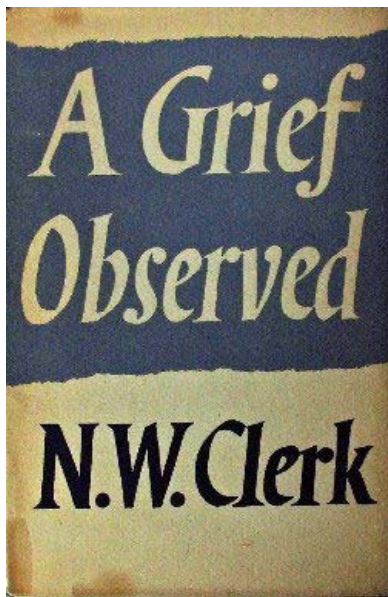
This book has often been characterized as a "crisis of faith." I can understand how it could be viewed that way. But in actuality, it was a demonstration of Lewis' deep faith. For throughout the book he is talking with God, not denying Him.

Like King David in his psalms, Jack was just being truthful with God. His heart was hurting, and he said so, not mincing any words. And that is what I love about David's psalms. When he hurts, he says so. When he's angry or doubtful, he says so. When he encounters joy, he cries out to God in thankfulness. He had an honest and open relationship with God.

So did C. S. Lewis. Do you? ✚

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- 1) Abigail Santamaria, *Joy: Poet, Seeker, and the Woman Who Captivated C. S. Lewis* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015), page 33.
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- 3) Ibid.
- 4) Santamaria, page 229.
- 5) Dorsett, page 156.
- 6) C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, originally published under the name of N. W. Clerk in 1961 in England by Faber & Faber, Limited. The quotation is found on page 35 of the fourth American edition by The Seabury Press in New York.
- 7) Dorsett, page 158. A photo of the tombstone appears on page 107.
- 8) C. S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* (London: Harvest Books, 1955), pages 228-229).
- 9) Lewis, *A Grief Observed*, page 9.
- 10) Ibid.
- 11) Ibid., pages 9-10.
- 12) Ibid., page 27.
- 13) Ibid., page 38.
- 14) Ibid., page 42.



Top Bible Prophecy Stories of 2015

Jan Markell

(Editor's note: Jan Markell is the Messianic Jewish founder and leader of Olive Tree Ministries in Maple Grove Minnesota. You can find her website at www.olivetreeviews.org. She established the ministry in 1982. In the year 2000 she began broadcasting a radio program which presents a biblical view on national and international events. In 2004, the program was syndicated nationally and is heard internationally on the Internet. She published this article in December of 2015, and it is being reprinted here with her permission.)



Jan Markell and Dave Reagan in 2014.

It's been an amazing year. If you follow any of the Bible Prophecy sites, blogs, and media programs, you know they have been overwhelmed with stories that are foreshadowing the time the Bible calls the "Time of Jacob's Trouble," also known as the Tribulation.

I know there are those who believe there are no signs for today. I was called on the carpet by a seminary professor — a Baptist, no less — for heralding signs. He says there are no signs until the Tribulation. Nothing that is happening today is relevant. How tragic. What a disservice he is doing to his seminary students who will be ill equipped to deal with very dark headlines.

So after sifting through hundreds, in fact, thousands of headlines in the last year, I have come up with 18 stories that I feel most represent the herald of His coming:

1) Israel's worsening isolation (Zechariah 12:3). The Left in America under Barack Obama abandoned Israel some years ago. With the defeat of Canada's Stephen Harper, Israel was left only with some Evangelical Christians spread around the world. She has no superpower backing.

2) The "days of Noah" are back (Matthew 24:37). Everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6). Lawlessness is the order of the day. Evil is glorified. The White House was adorned with the colors of the homosexual rainbow and Hillary Clinton has a campaign ad with homosexuals engaged in debauchery as she celebrates their actions.

3) The disillusionment with today's politicians is setting the stage for a "man with a plan" who will not be a politician but who will have the answer to all the world's problems. We don't know his name. We know his title is Antichrist. He may be the only one who can stabilize the ISIS crisis being planned for a naive Western world.

4) The rise of strong delusion (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Simply put, God sends a strong delusion to those who choose not to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who take delight in mocking and rejecting Him, He will condemn, confuse their thinking, and cause them to believe fables. And they do! Islam is good and peaceful; guns are evil; climate change is more dangerous than jihadists; Israel is the bad guy and the Palestinians are the new heroes in the Church today; ISIS isn't Islam; Muslim refugees are peaceful and will help the Western world. This is an "Alice-in-Wonderland" world. Christians don't fit. The Mad Hatter rules.

5) The further decline of America. Our nation is not in the Bible in the end-times. Russia and Iran are the primary players in the Mideast. America's influence for good is vanishing under Barack Obama. America will blend into global government.

6) America is being given over to paganism. A few months ago the Hindu goddess Kali was projected onto the Empire State Building in New York City. Twenty years ago this would have been unthinkable. It is now considered cool.

7) Israel is being prepared for the Antichrist. She is surrounded by enemies. She has Hezbollah, ISIS, Russia and Syria to the north and east and Hamas to the south in Gaza. Iran boasts daily that she will dump nukes on Israel. At some point Israel will cave in to these threats and call on the Antichrist to make a peace treaty — particularly in light of the loss of American support.



8) Gog is now on the move. If Gog is Russia, Vladimir Putin has re-built her from the days when Ronald Reagan reined her in. Russia is advancing in many places. All the Gog-Magog nations are aligning and are in the news: Iran, Russia, Turkey, Libya, and more. Prominent Bible-players are moving around as though they



were on a chess board (see Ezekiel 38-39).

9) Israel has been bombing the suburbs of Damascus, taking out concealed weapons. The Bible foretells a time when Damascus will become a ruinous heap (Isaiah 17:1).

10) Christians are mocked as never before and Jews are fleeing to Israel at a pace not seen since post WW II (Matthew 10:22). Only Islam is glorified, honored, and protected. In the Iraq/Syria region, a Christian is slaughtered every 5 minutes, yet few show any concern. Christianity is being erased from the region of its birth. All of this intensified in 2015.

11) The technology giants want to suppress the truth and marginalize Christians. From YouTube, to Google, to Facebook, to Twitter, and more, the gospel message is censored and evil is glorified. They are preparing the way for “Mark of the Beast” technology. This was on overdrive in 2015. This ministry came under the gun and was censored more than once . . .

12) There was a cry for a global religion from Pope Francis to the Parliament of World Religions in Utah in late 2015. If the world is ever to be one, religions also must be united. Pope Francis revealed himself to be an apocalyptic figure in 2015. We cannot “pin the tail of the False Prophet” on him quite yet, but even conservative Catholics are troubled by this Jesuit Pope. In fact, this Pope represents Marxism, environmentalism, the new world order, global government, sustainable development, the Jesuit agenda, unity of faiths, a global constitution, a global court, and a departure from Catholic traditions. He is surely a harbinger of a global religion.

13) Globalism shifted into overdrive thanks to Barack Obama, the United Nations, Pope Francis, and a consortium of worldwide Leftists. John Lennon, who “imagined” all of this decades ago,

would be proud!

14) The push to make cash illegal intensified in 2015. The move to a cashless society won’t happen overnight. Instead, it is being implemented very slowly and systematically in a series of incremental steps. All over the planet, governments are starting to place restrictions on the use of cash for security reasons.

15) Israel’s Temple Mount has been a focal point for turmoil this year. With stage-setting for fulfillment of Bible prophecy during this Church Age winding up, it should be of no surprise that there has been tension on Mount Moriah. That may be the most contested 35 acres on the planet.

16) This was the year Bible prophecy was mocked and attacked more than ever! Believers in our “blessed hope” were called “End-time Eddies and Esthers.” While this has always existed, now more and more prominent teachers are telling us not to waste our time on doom and gloom.

17) Liberal, godless Europe imploded. Leaders like Germany’s Angela Merkel lost their minds by putting their people at huge risk as terrorists took advantage of the “refugee” situation, and have made Europe a time bomb. The Antichrist will take advantage of this as well.

18) This was the year Evangelicals began accepting the gay agenda, and some asserted that Allah and Jehovah are the same. The voices from the religious Left encouraged this. The great end-time falling away has much of the Church going over a cliff with results that cannot be rectified. Finding a solid church became a believer’s biggest challenge in 2015.

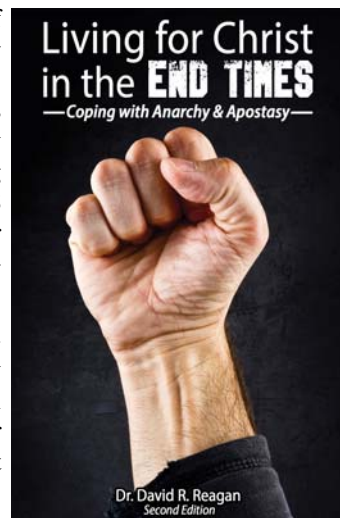
Things are not falling apart — they are falling into place. Can you hear the hoof beats of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse in the distance?

I won’t be silent about the signs of the times. If Jesus chastised the Pharisees for not knowing the signs of His First Coming, why would we not be expected to be aware of today’s apocalyptic signs? ✚

How Should You Respond to These Events?

The second edition (2015) of Dr. Reagan’s book, *Living for Christ in the End Times*, will give you many guidelines for coping with the anarchy and apostasy that are engulfing our world. The book runs 328 pages in length and sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

To order a copy, call 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm Central time. Or, you can place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com.



Pre-Trib in My Inbox

Nathan Jones

As Web Minister, I get the blessing of responding every day to an inbox full of questions related to Bible prophecy. Many of these questions come from people anxious to know when the catching up of the Church to Heaven, called the Rapture, will happen. Will it occur before, during, or at the end of the seven-year Tribulation? I believe the Bible overwhelmingly argues for *before*, called a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. The following are a few of the arguments for my viewpoint.



Imminency

One of the most powerful arguments for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture is the imminent return of Christ for His Church. The verses on the Rapture (Jn. 14:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18) provide no indication that anything is required to happen beforehand for the Rapture to occur. But, when we look at the Second Coming verses (Zech. 14:1-12; Matt. 24:29-31; Mk. 13:24-27; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 19), all sorts of events have to happen before Jesus returns to the earth — the revealing of the Antichrist, worldwide devastation, a one-world government, and so on. The imminency of the Rapture requires a Pre-Trib Rapture.

The Last Trumpet

Four major timing views concerning the Rapture exist. One such is the Mid-Tribulation Rapture view. It equates the sounding of the “last trumpet” of 1 Corinthians 15:52 to the Seventh Trumpet Judgment of Revelation 11:15 which is blown half-way into the Tribulation. But since the Corinthian trumpet is for the blessing of believers and the Revelation trumpet is for the punishment of unbelievers, they are clearly two different trumpets and separate events.

Wrath

Then there is the Pre-Wrath Rapture view, which places the timing of the Rapture about 5½ years or so into the Tribulation. This view’s foundational point is that believers in Christ must endure the Seal and Trumpet Judgments because they claim those judgments are from Man and Satan, and not from God. Believers will be exempt only from the Bowl Judgments of Revelation 16 because they say those judgments alone are from God.

And yet, isn’t it Jesus who opens up the very first seal that starts the judgments? Revelation 6:1 tells us this is so. And, Revelation 8:2 tells us that the trumpets of the Trumpet Judgments are handed out before God, clearly indicating that the wrath again comes from God Himself. Revelation 15:1 actually tells us that the Bowl Judgments complete God’s wrath, not begin it. Revelation makes it crystal clear that the wrath poured out on the Earth from the very beginning of the Tribulation comes from God, making null the foundational point of the Pre-Wrath Rapture view.

Millennial Population

Then there is the timing view that places the Rapture at the

end of the Tribulation, called the Post-Tribulation Rapture. This view doesn’t see the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ as two separate events.

The most glaring problem with this timing view is that when Jesus returns at the Rapture He will transform all believers’ earthly bodies into eternal, glorified bodies. If this is also the Second Coming, then all non-believers will be consigned to Hell. Who then lives on into the Millennial Kingdom in human bodies that are capable of bearing children and repopulating the planet? Glorified bodies are like angels’ bodies in that they will never reproduce (Mk. 12:25), so nobody then would be capable of bearing children in the Millennial Kingdom. Such a stark discrepancy makes the Post-Trib Rapture timing impossible.

Promised Deliverance

Concerning God’s wrath, 1 Thessalonians 1:10 instructs Christians “to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” The Church is promised here and in other verses (Lk. 21:36; Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 3:10) that we are going to be delivered from God’s wrath that is to come. Since the Tribulation is all about the pouring out of God’s wrath upon the earth, Christians will have to be raptured beforehand in order to be saved from God’s wrath.

Suffering

Opponents to the Pre-Tribulation view of the Rapture point out that Christians have been suffering terribly for 2,000 years and so “justly” should go right on suffering into the Tribulation. They’d do well to remember that the Tribulation, just like the Flood, exists as the pouring out of God’s wrath upon the world as judgment for Man’s continued rebellion against Him. Both God’s wrath in the Flood and in the future Tribulation are especially set-apart time periods for divine judgment. This is in contrast to the everyday suffering all Christians experience.

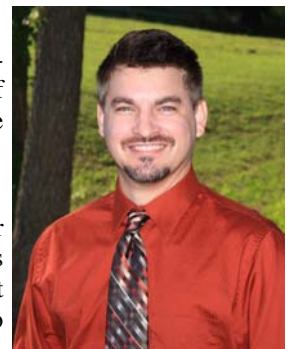
It’s true that believers in Christ are not promised we will be free of suffering and increasing persecution. But, there are tribulations we all face to varying degrees and then there’s THE Tribulation when half of humanity will die just in the first 3½ years. That’s an important difference!

Escapism

Supporters of the Pre-Trib Rapture view are often labeled as “escapists” who are unwilling to truly suffer for the Lord. Nothing is wrong with that label, for Jesus Himself instructed us to pray to escape, saying “be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen” (Luke 21:36). If we had to remain to endure the Tribulation, what would be left to escape from?

Find hope that the Bible overwhelmingly supports the timing of the Rapture as happening before the Tribulation. ✚

Note: Nathan Jones is available for speaking engagements at churches and conferences. You can contact him by email at webminister@lambdalion.com.



Nathan Jones

Bible Prophecy Nuts

Camilla Smith

(Editor's Note: Camilla Smith lives in Lee's Summit, Missouri, a suburb of Kansas City. She has worked in the medical field for 30 years, the last 15 as a medical transcriptionist. She says she became "obsessed with Bible prophecy" about four years ago and felt led of the Lord to start writing articles about end time prophecy. When she submitted this article, she wrote, "Writing about prophecy has been a great blessing in my life, and I hope that my simplistic style and stories about our everyday struggles in our walk with Jesus will touch somebody's heart.")



Camilla Smith

Two mornings ago, I awoke after having read a great deal the night before. My book of choice right now is Dr. David Reagan's phenomenal writing, *Living on Borrowed Time, the Imminent Return of Jesus*. Before I went to sleep, I prayed very earnestly and asked God to fill me with the Holy Spirit, and I vowed to make time for Him every morning when I first get up.

So that next morning, I woke up, eyes still closed, but conscious enough to remember my vow, and I mumbled in my mind, "Good morning, Lord Jesus." I will never forget what happened next. I distinctly heard (not audibly, but mindfully), "My kingdom is at hand, My kingdom is at hand." I can still hear it plainly in my mind as I write this. Softly, but firmly the words echoed in my head. Obviously they stuck with me all day. I had not read those words, I had not heard those words on anything that I can remember, but they were very clearly coming into my heart and my spirit. It was a precious moment for me, and I will never forget it.

A Strange Encounter

Fast forward to a couple days later. Our government is about to strike Syria. Our own country is in financial, moral and spiritual chaos. The very earth we live on seems to be self-destructing. And my mind is clouded once again with thoughts of why is this happening, why can't we stop it, and who is in control?

So out to dinner we go, my husband and myself. And I hear our waiter at the next table, casually chatting with the couple about his plans for the weekend with his kids and his work schedule. Then he comes to our table. Within three sentences, he begins talking about Bible prophecy and the powers that are running the world and the significance of Syria/ Damascus and studying the Scriptures. I kid you not, I wanted to jump out of my seat and shout, "Hallelujah!"

He wasn't talking about this with the other folks. Why us? Here's what is really bizarre: We go to this restaurant often, and on Friday night it is usually too crowded to find a place to park,

let alone get in, so we usually go with plan B. But tonight, even though the place was packed, we got front row parking and were seated in front of ten people waiting in the corridor. What? Strange!

Of course, I felt like God had sent me to that restaurant to that very waiter's table, and at that very moment in time to clarify my mind a little. "Thank you blessed Lord, for that waiter, who had the courage to begin a conversation about the end-times out of nowhere and for no reason." That conversation renewed and confirmed my entire belief in just a few brief minutes. I hope that waiter reads this article.

Dealing with Doubts

You see, even those of us who know deep in our souls that Jesus is coming back soon, have those wretched feelings of doubt (read Satan) creep in and try to confuse us. And as much information overload that we have coming at us on a daily basis, it is no wonder we get a little baffled at times. I think the enemy works it that way — keep'em so busy they won't know whether they're coming or going.

And then there is the Bible prophecy world itself, sometimes extremely overwhelming — so many books, so many thoughts, so many opinions and doctrines. I pray for just a few minutes of clarity and discernment!

What's It All About?

So the moral to this story, my fellow Bible prophecy nuts, is that we are not really nuts at all. We know what we know. And even though people may make us feel like we are crazed lunatics, all we really want to do is show them the way to salvation, and warn them of the Lord's soon return. What extraordinary times we live in! We witness the fulfillment of prophecy day after day, and we are living in the very last days of the unveiling of God's plan. It is a wondrous thing to watch unfold and as I heard a guest speaker on a Christian channel say earlier this evening, "It is really about the kingdom of God and winning souls."

He voiced his opinion that we can debate and debate and debate our theories about what is going to happen before this and that, and when a certain event will occur, but none of it matters more than that person we care about who may not be going to Heaven when Jesus calls us home. What are we doing to further God's kingdom?

Jesus is coming soon. The excitement and anticipation in our Bible prophecy community is palpable. Never before has there been a time when so many scholars are coming together and sounding the warning! We must use every precious second to spread the message. Bible prophecy is astonishing. It is God's promise to us, but it is also the fire that is lit within us to get out there and finish the job — so we can be with our Lord all that much sooner.

And that is what we should be striving for, don't you think? God will give us strength in these final days. He knows we are weary and He knows we are apprehensive of what is ahead. He will guide us through the battle and soon we will be shouting "Glory Be To God On High" when we will forever be in His awesome presence. ✚



Christian Singer Wins *The Voice* Contest

Dr. David R. Reagan

This past December, an incredibly gifted young man from Kentucky by the name of Jordan Smith won first place in NBC's *The Voice* television program.

What made his win so astonishing is that the program itself is a very secular one with secular judges, yet Jordan won it singing spiritual and inspirational songs like "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "Hallelujah." His renditions of both of these songs placed number one on the Christian Songs Chart for two straight weeks each.



Jordan Smith

His final song, which clinched his victory, was "Mary, Did You Know?" Appropriately, he sang it on the program that aired on December 14 — just 12 days before Christmas. The lyrics of this wonderful nativity song were written by Mark Lowry, one of Christendom's finest comedians, who is also an accomplished song writer and singer.

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, did you know your baby boy would one day
walk on water?

Mary, did you know your baby boy would save our
sons and daughters?

Did you know that your baby boy had come to
make you new?

This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver
you.

Mary, did you know your baby boy would give
sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know your baby boy would calm a
storm with his hand?

Did you know that your baby boy had walked
where angels trod?

And when you kiss your little baby, you have
kissed the face of God?

Oh Mary, did you know:

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead
will live again.

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises
of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know your baby boy is Lord of
all creation?

Mary, did you know your baby boy would one
day rule the nations?

Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's
perfect Lamb?

This sleeping child you're holding is the Great I
Am.



At the completion of *The Voice* contest in mid-December Jordan had become the highest selling artist ever to compete on the program. One week after his victory, he had made history on Billboard's Christian Songs Chart by becoming the first artist ever to hold the top two positions concurrently.

Jordan Smith was born in November 1993 in Whitley County, Kentucky, making him 22 years old at the time of his victory. Both of his parents are musicians, and they started him singing in their church's choir at a young age.

Jordan's victory on *The Voice* program earned him a prize of \$100,000 plus a recording contract with Republic Records. He is currently preparing his debut album, which is scheduled for release early this year.



You can find a video of Jordan singing "Mary, Did You Know?" by typing into an Internet search engine these words: Jordan Smith, Mary Did You Know? ❖

Will Wheaton College Stand Firm?

Dr. David R. Reagan

For a long time now I have been saying that the two great issues facing Christianity in today's world are homosexuality and the Church's attitude about the exclusiveness of Christianity. The overwhelming pressure of our increasingly secular and pagan society is for Christianity to accept two unbiblical ideas: first, that homosexuality is a legitimate lifestyle that should be embraced by the Church, and second, that the Church should admit that there are many roads to God. Both are rooted in the most highly esteemed value in modern society — namely, tolerance. And both ideas are totally contrary to the Word of God.

The homosexual issue was raised to the top by the Supreme Court's horrible decision legalizing same-sex marriage. And already, the old mainline denominations have caved in. Even more tragic is the number of so-called Evangelical leaders who have decided to throw in the towel and embrace a lifestyle that is thoroughly and plainly condemned in the Bible.

Now, the exclusiveness of Christianity as the one and only road to God has been elevated to the forefront by the crisis that has developed at Wheaton College, located in a suburb of Chicago.



Wheaton College is a private, non-profit, four-year Christian liberal arts college "in the evangelical Protestant tradition." The college was founded by abolitionists in 1860. It has long had a reputation for being one of the best Evangelical colleges in America.

In recent times the college has come under attack for harboring one of the leading anti-Semites in our nation today, a professor of New Testament named Gary Burge. He is the leader of the Christian Palestinian Movement that blames Israel for all the ills of the Middle East while coddling Palestinian terrorism.

But evidently the college has been tolerating viewpoints that are even worse. This came to national attention last December when a female professor of political science by the name of Larycia Hawkins posted a picture of herself on her Facebook page wearing a Muslim hijab. Together with the picture she

posted the following statement:

I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book . . . And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God.

The negative response to this statement by both Evangelical leaders and Wheaton alumni was fast and furious. And that response was completely justifiable because the God of Islam is not the God of the Bible. He is, in fact, Satan himself. Further, Islam, like all the religions of the world except Christianity, teaches works salvation. Only Christianity teaches that one cannot work his way to Heaven.



Larycia Hawkins
(photo by USA Today)

The response of the Board of Trustees of Wheaton and its President was to place the professor on a leave of absence and institute proceedings to dismiss her from the faculty. That is exactly what they should have done.

But the reactions of others at the school demonstrated a deep-seated problem. For example, the Provost of the College said in an email that he considered her statement to be "innocuous"! He further indicated that the only reason action was being taken against her is because her remarks had created a public relations disaster for the college.

Gary Burge jumped into the middle of the fray by declaring, "I have seen no theological argument from the college that would deem her comments unacceptable . . . [Hers] is a clear, compelling affirmation of what we believe in Wheaton's Statement of Faith." (Which is sheer nonsense.)

Then to make matters worse, the Faculty Council voted **unanimously** to keep the errant professor on the faculty.

It sounds to me like Wheaton needs a thorough housecleaning like the one that Albert Mohler gave the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary when he took over as president in 1993. When he demanded that the faculty members take the seminary's statement of faith seriously, he was told in no uncertain terms that the faculty had always been allowed to interpret the statement as they pleased. He responded that those days were over, and he proceeded to fire those who would not take the statement to mean what it said.

Let's pray that the President of Wheaton and the Board of Trustees will stand firm. If they give in on this issue, Wheaton will go the same way as Harvard, Princeton and Yale — all of which were founded as Christian institutions and which today are as pagan as any state university. Harvard's stated goal in 1646 was:

Let every student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life (John 17:3) . . . ✚

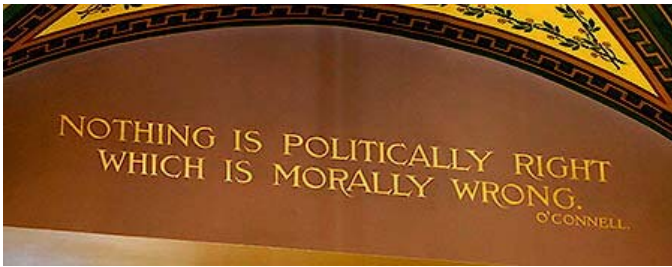
Quick Quotes —

“It’s time that we join hands and pray for the leaders of our nation. The greatest threat to America is not ISIS, Obama, debt or Hillary Clinton. America’s greatest threat is that we fail to acknowledge God as our leader.” — Franklin Graham.

“Divine division over truth is infinitely better than Satanic unity in error.” — Unknown.

“Israel is viewed by the world as a toothache, and the world wants to perform a root canal!” — Don McGee of Crown & Sickie Ministries.

“A little science estranges a man from God; a lot of science brings him back.” — Francis Bacon (1561-1626), a British scientist who is considered to be the father of the scientific method.



Words on the Capitol Building in Des Moines, Iowa.

“We have exchanged prayer and Bible reading in school for metal detectors.” — Unknown.

“Not one statement in the Bible is a majority decision.” — Unknown.

“A liberal’s paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive healthcare, free education, free food, free housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. And believe it or not, such a place does indeed already exist — it’s called prison.” — Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Phoenix, Arizona.

“The next great event on God’s calendar is the Rapture, and for some, more of them will be left behind here than will go. They will leave behind their false teeth, hearing aids, glasses and artificial hips and knees.” — Mark Hitchcock, Bible prophecy expert and pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma.

“All-powerful God, may Your strength be revealed in our weakness, Your wisdom in our folly, and Your boldness in our fear.” — Vladimir Ditmar, a Christian in Kirov, Russia.

“We can take comfort that our God sees the future as clearly as the past. He seldom gives us all we need in order to understand, but He always gives us all we need to obey.” Wayne Stiles — Executive Vice President of *Insight for Living* Ministry.

“It is the office of faith to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith to see what we do believe.” — Thomas Adams (1839-1888), a southern American Methodist clergyman and poet.

“Our relationship with the living God must remain a matter of obedience before convenience.” — Wayne Stiles.



The Power of the Gospel —

On October 2, 1886, Charles Darwin returned to Falmouth, England, ending a five year surveying expedition of the southern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. He described the cannibals who lived in the South Sea Islands as primitive creatures and was convinced that nothing on earth could possibly lift them to a higher level. He thought he had indeed found a lower stratum of humankind which would fit his theory of evolution.

However, when he returned 34 years later to those same islands, to his amazement, he discovered churches, schools and homes occupied by some of those former cannibals. In fact, many of them were clothed and frequently gathered in church to sing hymns, pray and hear preaching.

The reason was soon learned: Christian missionary John G. Patton had been there preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Darwin was so moved by the transformation of those dear people, he made a very generous donation on his return home to the London Missionary Society under whose auspice J. G. Patton had gone as a missionary to that part of the world.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 1:16 that the power of the Gospel is such that no man or people are so low or primitive that it cannot bring about a marvelous transformation in every life who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ and is saved, from the highest to the lowest. In any land, the Gospel can bring complete change. (Supplied by Ken Humphries, founder of Treasured Truth Today Ministries, a Bible prophecy ministry in Northern Ireland.)

America’s Most Bible-Minded Cities —

The American Bible Society has produced its annual ranking of America’s most Bible-minded cities for the year of 2015. Its conclusions were based on respondent statements about Bible reading habits and beliefs. Nationally, only 27% of the population is considered to be Bible-minded. The cities that were ranked most and least Bible-minded during 2015 were as follows:

Most Bible-Minded Cities:

- 1) Birmingham, Alabama
- 2) Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 3) Tri-Cities, Tennessee
- 4) Roanoke/Lynchburg, Virginia
- 5) Shreveport, Louisiana

Least Bible-Minded Cities:

- 1) Providence, Rhode Island
- 2) Boston, Massachusetts
- 3) San Francisco, California
- 4) Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Human Arrogance —

“I’m telling you if there is a God, when I get to Heaven, I’m not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in Heaven. It’s not even close.” — Former NYC mayor, Michael Bloomberg.



Expanding Our Outreach

Last year we had to cut a number of our regional networks when we added our television program to the TBN network. TBN is the largest of all Christian TV networks, and it is the most expensive.

Since that time we have been able to absorb the cost of TBN through the generous support of our Prophecy Partners and those who responded to our \$50,000 challenge grant. So, we decided to begin this new year by adding back some of the regional networks we had to cancel.

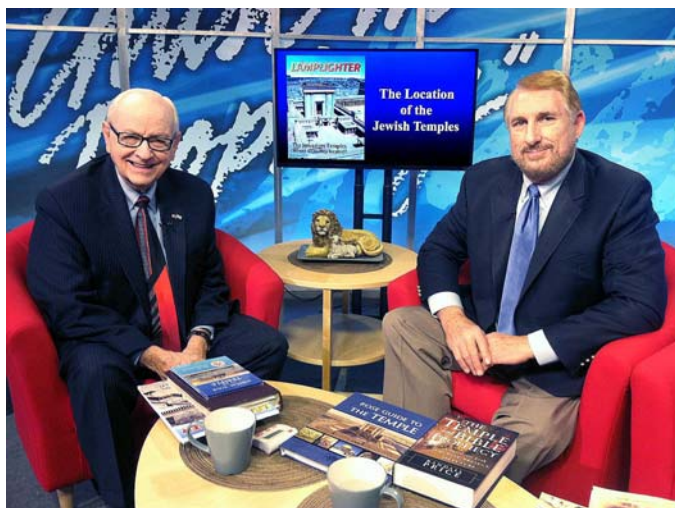
The first one we are rejoining is the outstanding VTN network in Arkansas that covers nearly all the state as well as the city of Memphis. We began our broadcast on this station in early February with a morning time on Tuesdays and an afternoon time on Saturdays. Please pray for the Lord to bless this new outreach.

Currently, it is costing us \$100,000 per month to broadcast our program on 5 national Christian networks, 3 regional ones and 7 Internet websites. To continue expanding our outreach, we are going to need more Prophecy Partners. We currently have around 2,700. We need to get that up to 3,000 by the end of this year.

To become a Prophecy Partner, you need to commit to praying for the ministry regularly, sharing the ministry with friends and providing a gift of \$25 per month or more for a year. In return, you will receive a special letter each month from Dr. Reagan together with a gift — like a copy of this magazine, or a video program on a DVD, or a booklet, or a copy of our annual calendar.

You can sign up to be a Prophecy Partner at our website (www.lamblion.com) or by calling our office (972-736-3567). If you call, please do so between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

Discussing the Ancient Jewish Temples



Dr. Reagan with Randall Price

Dr. Reagan recently interviewed Dr. Randall Price who is considered to be one of Christendom's greatest experts on the

ancient Jewish Temples. This interview is scheduled to be broadcast in April.

The interview focused on a recent book by Robert Cornuke in which he argues that the Jewish Temples were located in the original City of David and not on the Temple Mount that exists in Jerusalem today. We featured this bizarre thesis in the November-December 2015 issue of this magazine, giving many reasons why it cannot be true. You can find a copy of that magazine on our website at lamblion.com.

A copy of the TV program with Dr. Price is available on DVD for \$10, including the cost of mailing. ✚

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

TCC (The Church Channel) — Sat. 8:30pm CT, DirecTV 371, DISH 258, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming (churchchannel.tv).

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

WHT (LeSea World Harvest TV) — Sun. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 367, AT&T U-verse 578, Galaxy Satellite 15 & Web Streaming (lesea.com/wht).

Regional Networks:

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).

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

Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

HisChannel — HisChannel.com

LightSource — LightSource.com

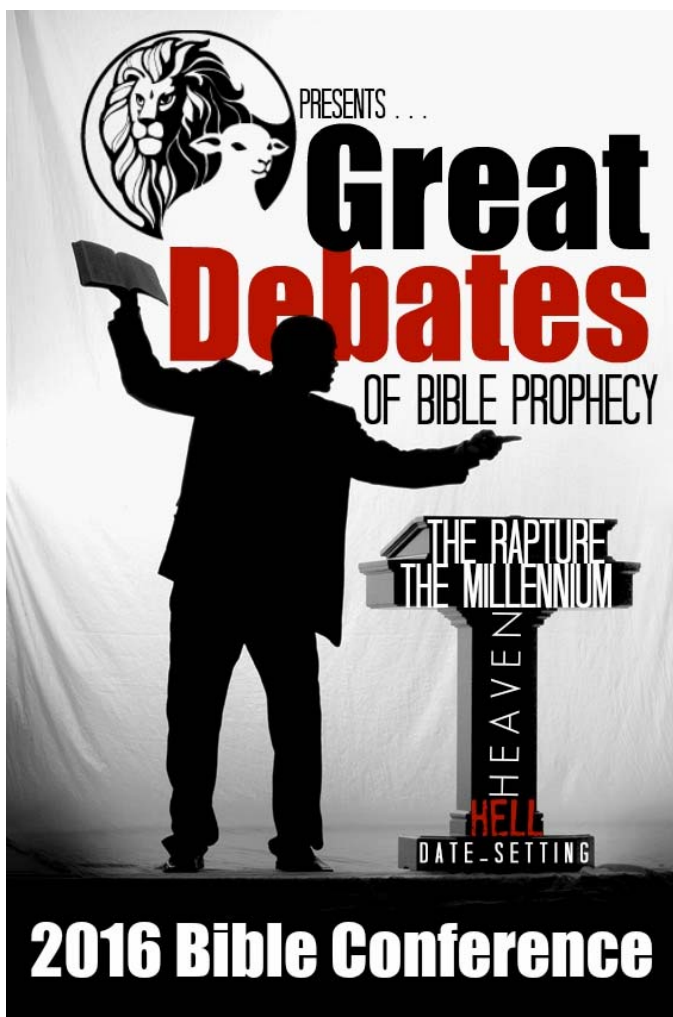
YouTube — YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

Vimeo — Vimeo.com

GodTube — GodTube.com via LightSource.com

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

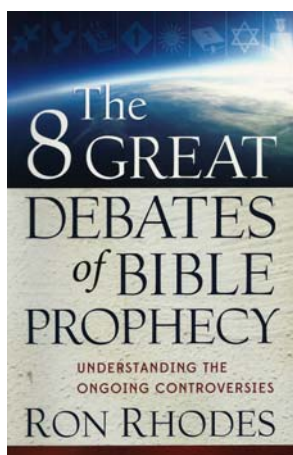
Lamb & Lion Ministries — LambLion.com



Our 2016 Bible Conference opened for registration on January 1st. You can register through our website at www.lambdion.com or by calling our office at 972-736-3567.

The conference is scheduled for Friday evening and all day Saturday on July 15 & 16. The conference site will be the Courtyard Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Allen, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas.

The conference will begin on Friday evening with a banquet featuring a concert by Chuck Girard and a presentation by David Hocking. The banquet seating is limited, and the cost of the banquet will be \$50 per person. The five conference presentations on Saturday are free of charge, but seating is limited, so registration is required for both the banquet and the Saturday sessions.



tions on Saturday are free of charge, but seating is limited, so registration is required for both the banquet and the Saturday sessions.

The conference theme for 2016 will be "Great Debates of Bible Prophecy." The theme was inspired by an outstanding book titled, *The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy*. The book's author, Ron Rhodes, will be one of our featured speakers. Copies of the book are available from our ministry for \$20, including the cost of shipping and handling.

The Featured Speaker

At the Friday evening banquet, Dr. David Hocking will speak on "Israel Today: The Jews or the Church?" Dr. Hocking has been preaching and teaching the Bible for over 50 years. He is the author of more than 30 books, and he has been broadcasting on the radio since 1970. His current radio ministry is called Hope for Today and is headquartered in Tustin, California. Dr. Hocking is an internationally recognized expert on Israel in Bible prophecy.



Dr. David Hocking

His topic is a crucial one. The vast majority of churches today teach that God washed His hands of the Jewish people when they rejected Jesus as their Messiah. These churches further argue that the Church has replaced Israel and the Church will ultimately receive all the blessings that God promised to the Jews. These teachings have led to terrible persecution of the Jews for the last 2,000 years. They have also produced great misunderstandings about what is going to happen in the future to both the Church and the Jews.

The Featured Musician

The featured musician at our 2016 conference is going to be a remarkable man named Chuck Girard. Chuck is one of Christendom's most gifted song writers, recording artists and worship leaders. He is recognized as one of the pioneers of the Contemporary Christian Music Movement that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s.



Chuck Girard

We are delighted to announce that not only will Chuck be giving a concert on Friday evening, but he has agreed to stay over and be with us all day Saturday, singing a song before each speaker and leading us in a time of worship at the end of the day.

Chuck says he was raised in a legalistic church and had burned out on religion by the age of 15. When he discovered rock and roll, he decided to leave the church and enjoy life to the fullest.

During the decade of the 1960s he went from one band to another and quickly got involved in drugs and alcohol. He became disillusioned with life, and he began searching for meaning through LSD, eastern religion, and a committed "hippie" lifestyle.

His search ended in 1970 in California at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa when he found true spiritual reality through accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. The pastor at that remarkable church was Chuck Smith, the founder of the Calvary Chapel Movement.



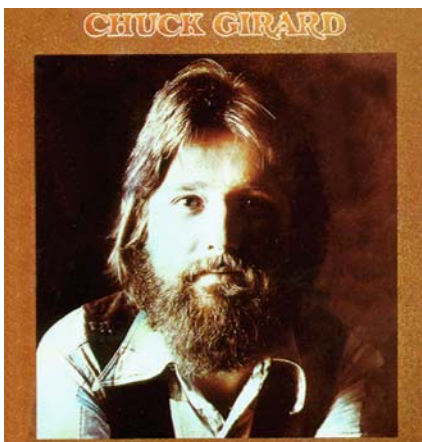
Chuck Smith (1927 to 2013)

Here is how Pastor Smith described his first encounter with Chuck Girard and his hippie band:

I will never forget the day some hippies walked into Calvary Chapel, announced that they were musicians, and asked if they could share their music at a Monday night Bible study for youth. Since we had so many in those days who were coming and sharing their music, we would usually audition them before allowing them to share.

And so they went out to their van, got their guitars, and came in and played a demo number for me — the song entitled, “Welcome Back.” It was so beautiful, I began to weep. I asked them what they called their group, and they answered, “Love Song.” When they played that night, their music had the same dynamic effect in the crowd of young people that it had on me. For many years God used them in a vital way in the great revival the press called “The Jesus Movement.”

Girard and his band proceeded to produce a series of albums that helped blaze the path for the beginning of what would become known as Contemporary Christian Music. Chuck played with *Love Song* for the next three years before launching a solo career with his first album, *Chuck Girard*. This album contained



1975

what was to become his most renowned song “Sometimes Alleluia.”

Since that time, Chuck has continued to serve the Lord faithfully, and his music has continued to witness to non-believers and enrich the lives of those who know and love Jesus.

Here is a testimony from the pastor

of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California — Greg Laurie:

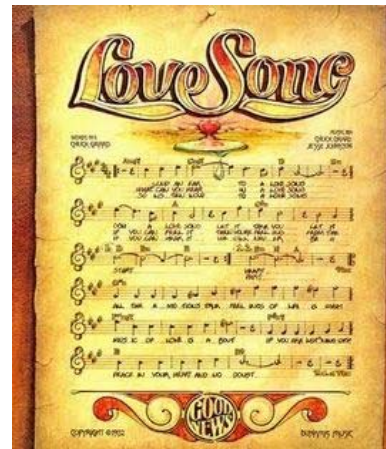
Love Song: The band that changed music for me and for everybody else. too. I remember it like it was yesterday. I was a newly-minted believer in Jesus Christ, and had found my way to Calvary Chapel.

I have always been a diehard music fan. Like so many of my generation, I immersed myself in the melodies and philosophies of Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors, Buffalo Springfield, and of course, the Beatles.

But now, as a follower of Jesus, I expected that I would have to give up my worldly music and just read the Bible and pray. I was prepared to sing ancient hymns with droning melodies, if that’s what it took to get close to God.

I’m so glad that God had other plans. I was sitting in church one night when a band was introduced that called themselves, *Love Song*. They walked out to the stage with their long hair, armed with a couple of acoustic guitars, a mandolin, and bongo drums. I did not know what to expect. Then they began to sing, “Welcome Back”. . .

I had never heard anything quite like this before. The complex melodies, the beautiful guitar chords, and the soaring vocals of Chuck Girard — to put it in the vernacular of the 1960s, it was “mind-blowing.” But what made it special is that the Lord was in it.



The cover of the first album by *Love Song*, issued in 1972.

Again, Chuck is going to be singing and leading in worship throughout our conference, and he will begin on Friday evening at our kick-off banquet when he will present a 50 minute concert.

Don’t miss this opportunity to experience the anointed music of one of Christendom’s pioneers of Contemporary Christian Music.

In the next issue of our magazine, we will provide you with more detailed information about our conference speakers and the topics they will be speaking about.

In the meantime, please register to attend. You can do so through our website at www.lamblion.com or by calling our office at 972-736-3567. Also, keep in mind that our block of reserved rooms at the conference center always goes quickly. A special \$99 discounted room rate is available at the Marriott Hotel by calling **214-383-1151**. Be sure to request the “Lamb & Lion Ministries Block,” or give them the group code, “LALS.” A room reservation link is available on our website.

Hope to see you at the conference in mid-July! ❖

1) Television and Video

Broadcast 52 weeks of *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs over five national networks with access to over 110 million homes inside the United States. Also provided access to our programs on demand on seven Internet websites.
 Started broadcasting again on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), the world's largest Christian television network.
 Broadcast via Daystar and TBN satellites to almost every nation in the world.
 Produced 36 new *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs and revised 12 others.
 Broadcast our 694th television program at the end of December.
 Produced 4 new video albums.
 Reproduced and distributed thousands of DVD video programs.

2) Internet and Website

Sent out 29 e-newsletters to 30,200+ subscribers, sharing biblical messages and the electronic *Lamplighter* magazine.
 Experienced an average of 425,000 unique visitors monthly downloading 1.7 million pages per month.
 Launched a completely revised website that is mobile-friendly (lamblion.com or christinprophecy.org).
 Exceeded 34,000 downloads of the Lamb & Lion App.
 Upgraded our online store with downloadable resources.
 Live-streamed our annual Bible conference to over 10,000 viewers.
 Posted 212 new articles on "The Christ in Prophecy Journal" blog.
 Streamed over 300 different "Christ in Prophecy" TV shows.
 Ministered to 9,300+ Facebook group members.
 Podcast over 100,000 mp3s per month.

3) Preaching and Teaching

Completed a total of 41 speaking engagements:
 26 Weekend conferences at churches.
 15 Bible prophecy conferences.
 Participated in 57 media interviews.

4) Publications

Published a Holy Land calendar for 2016.
 Continued publishing our books as e-books.
 Continued publishing many of our materials in Spanish.
 Continued publishing a version of our magazine in India.
 Reprinted *A Prophetic Manifesto*.
 Reprinted *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*.
 Published an audio version of *Wrath & Glory*.
 Published a 2nd edition of *Living for Christ in the End Times*.
 Produced 6 issues of the Ministry's magazine, *The Lamplighter*.
 Published *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide in Urdu*, the language of Pakistan.
 Started sending out email blasts to advertise meetings, conferences and other events.



5) Missions

Supplied \$50,800 for relief aid to Nigerian Christian refugees who were fleeing from Muslim terrorists.
 Provided regular monthly financial support to 19 missions — 9 domestic and 10 foreign.
 Donated a total of more than \$270,000 in cash and services to missions.

6) Israel

Conducted one Holy Land pilgrimage.
 Provided financial assistance to several ministries in Israel.

7) Conferences

Conducted our annual Bible conference with 900 attendees.
 Participated in 14 Bible prophecy conferences sponsored by other ministries.

8) Finances

Received 23,296 gifts from 4,797 donors.
 Experienced growth in Prophecy Partners to a total of 2,608.
 Received re-certification as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.
 Received a four star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for the tenth year in a row.
 Ended the calendar year with all bills paid in full for the 35th year in a row.



Ministry News

Speaking Schedule —

April:

Dr. Reagan at the Mid-America Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, OK, sponsored by Prophecy Watch Ministries (14-16).

May:

Dr. Reagan at First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, TX (6-7). Note: Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas will also be speaking at this conference.

CHALLENGE GRANT! —

We have received a \$35,000 challenge grant from one of our Prophecy Partners. The grant will be given to us when we have received designated donations totaling that amount. Please help us meet this challenge. Any special donations in response to this challenge should be labeled, "Challenge Grant." Thanks!

Holy Land Pilgrimage —



Our next trip to Israel has been changed from mid-June to mid-November. The exact dates are November 12 - 23. By changing the date from June to November, we were able to reduce the cost from \$5,500 to \$3,925! The cost includes air fare out of Dallas, three meals a day in Israel, and all lodging and transportation in Israel. The only thing not included in the cost is \$144 for tips. Email us or call for a detailed brochure. The pilgrimage will include two nights in Tel Aviv,

two nights in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee, and six nights in Jerusalem.

Our Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore, will host the trip. He is a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve, a commercial pilot and a member of the Kentucky State Legislature. He is also a very experienced pilgrimage host. Also, our Israeli guide will be Erez Bar-David, a Messianic Jew who Dr. Reagan says is the best guide he has ever used.

Annual Bible Conference —

The registration for our annual Bible conference opened on January 1st. The conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 15-16 in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. You can find complete information about the conference on pages 20-21 of this magazine.

Finances —

We are praising God for the fact that we completed the past year with all our bills paid in full for the 35th year in a row. Our annual audit has been completed and should be posted on our website in early March. We also produce monthly financial statements, and you should feel free to request a copy at any time. We praise God for those of you who provide us with financial support.

Prophecy Partners —



Scott & Teresa Huckaby are Prophecy Partners who live in Alpine, Texas.

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner! We have around 2,700 Prophecy Partners, and we need to get that count up to 3,000 before the end of the year if we are to continue expanding our television outreach. For the details about the program, see page 19.

Meetings and Conferences —

Due to the illness of his wife, Ann, Dr. Reagan is trying to limit his out-of-town speaking engagements to one a month during 2016. He has no limit on the number of speaking engagements he is willing to accept within the Dallas - Fort Worth area.



Tim Moore and Nathan Jones (left to right) are shown above on our TV set when we recently shot a program featuring Tim's views about Christians involved in politics.

But our other two evangelists are available for speaking engagements anywhere. They are Nathan Jones and Tim Moore. Please consider inviting one of these men to speak at your church. You can find detailed information about Nathan and Tim on our website at www.lamblion.com/about/staff.

Missions —

Standfast Oyinna, the Nigerian Christian leader we have been supporting for many years, has been supplying relief aid to around 900 Christians who have fled from Muslim terrorists. He recently decided that he must move the people to a safer location. With our financial help, he was able to re-locate 750 of the refugees to a neighboring state that is much safer. He needs a total of \$4,000 to rent a headquarters building for his ministry for a year. He also needs funds in order to continue supplying food, clothing and housing for the refugees. And most of all, he needs your prayers. ✚



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Defending the Deity of Jesus

The increasing attacks on the divinity of Jesus, both from inside and outside the Church, have grown in frequency and intensity in recent years. The reason, of course, is that we are in the season of the Lord's return, and Satan, who can read the signs of the times, knows that his time is short. Accordingly, he has launched an all-out attack to undermine the credibility of Jesus as the Savior of the world.

This attack is what motivated Dr. Reagan to produce this book. He garners the overwhelming evidence of fulfilled prophecy to prove that Jesus was really who He said He was — namely, God in the flesh. He discusses the First Coming of Jesus in Bible prophecy, Jesus in symbolic prophecy, prophecy and mathematical probability, and Daniel's cornerstone prophecy of the 70 weeks of years.

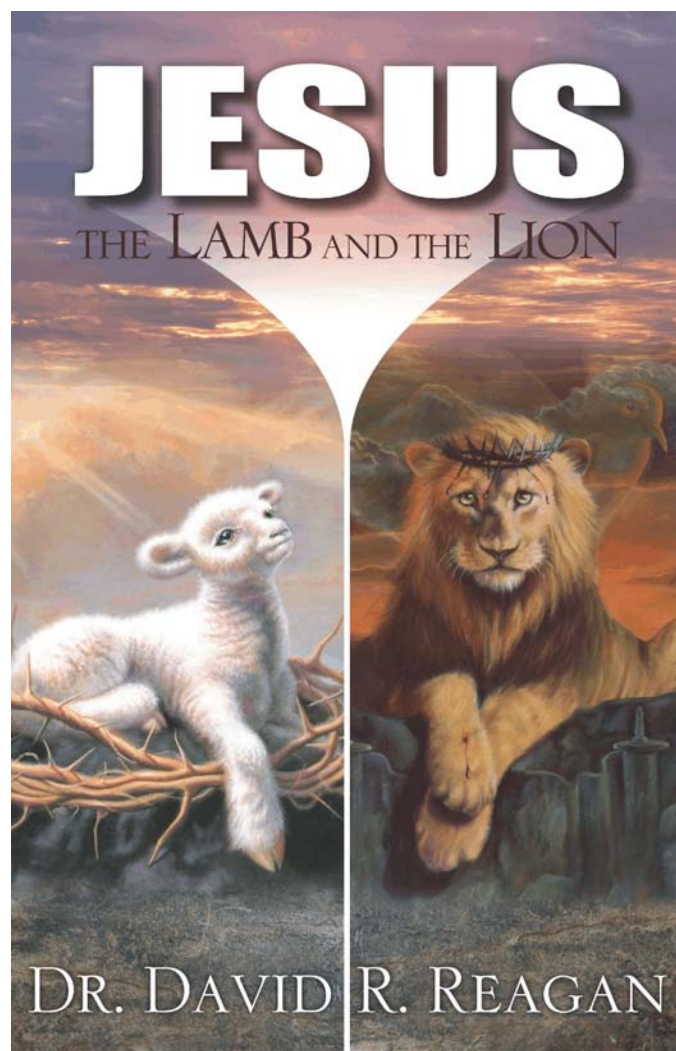
He focuses in on the birth of Jesus in prophecy and presents in detail the evidence that points to the truth of the virgin birth. He also explains the necessity of the virgin birth.

The key chapter is the one that specifically addresses the issue of the divinity of Jesus. Piling scripture on top of scripture, Dr. Reagan presents witness after witness to the truth that Jesus was God incarnate.

He then presents chapters about the preincarnate Jesus, the miracles of Jesus, the death of Jesus in prophecy, the resurrection of Jesus in prophecy, and the Second Coming in prophecy. One entire chapter is devoted to the evidence of the resurrection of Jesus.

The book concludes with one of Dr. Reagan's most frequently requested essays: "Living for Christ in the End Times."

This is a book for both believers and unbelievers.



For believers, it will assist them in defending the faith. For unbelievers, it will present the evidence that Jesus is both Lord and Savior and is therefore the only hope for our world.

The book runs 238 pages in length. It is illustrated with charts and diagrams. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 between the hours of 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Or, you can order it through our website at lamblion.com. ✚