

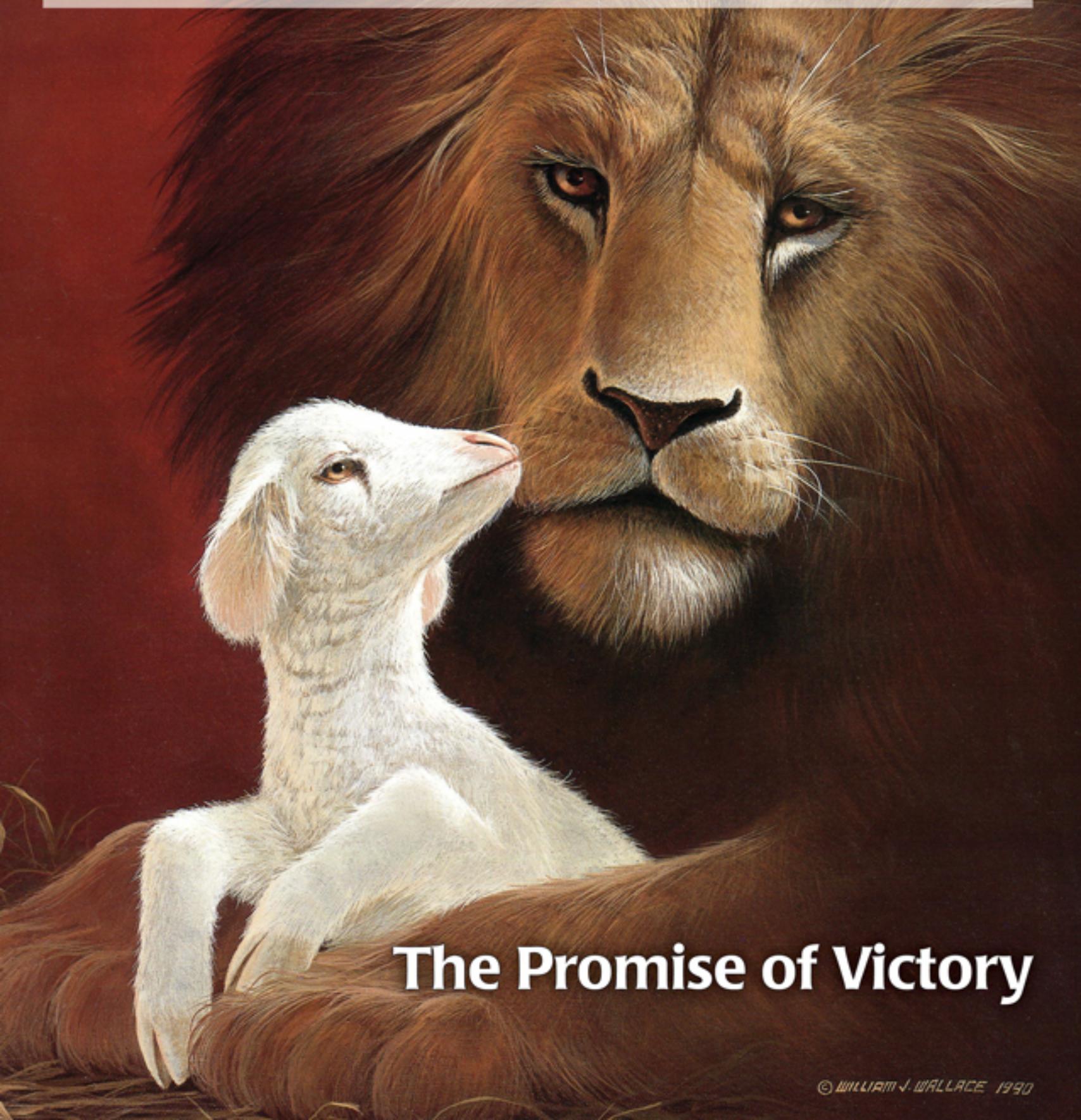
LAMPLIGHTER

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

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The Promise of Victory



Observations by the Editor

An Urgent Message!

Jesus is Coming soon! I have been preaching that message for 31 years ever since I gave up my academic career in 1980 and stepped out in faith to form Lamb & Lion Ministries. At the time, I had become overwhelmed by the Signs of the Times that seem to be shouting from the heavens that Jesus is coming soon. I felt an urgency to proclaim that message to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

During the first seven years of the ministry I often felt a sense of frustration. My outreach was limited to a handful of radio stations, meetings at churches, and audio tapes.

The first breakthrough in reaching a mass audience came with the publication of two books in 1987 and the production of a video program that same year about Israel in Bible prophecy. Still, the outreach was greatly limited. Then, in 1995 I was introduced to the Internet and discovered to my amazement that I could reach the whole world through it.

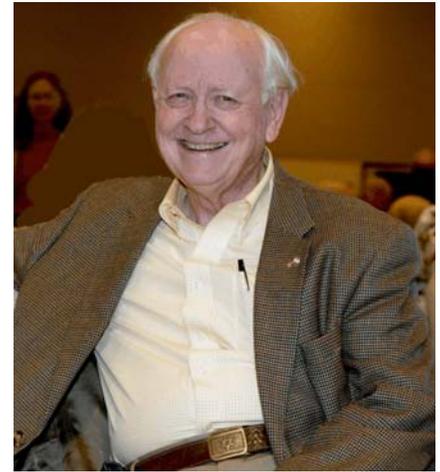
The next great breakthrough occurred in 2002 when our Board of Trustees decided to switch our media outreach from radio to television. At the time, I had no inkling of what an important decision that would prove to be.

Today, 9 years later, our TV program is being broadcast over five national Christian networks that have access to more than 80 million homes in the United States. And through the satellites of two of those networks, we can reach every country in the world.

Additionally, we decided in 2007 to hire a full time Web Minister, Nathan Jones, to make our website interactive and thus responsive on a daily basis to inquiries from all over the world.

In short, after a slow start, God has provided us with a worldwide outreach that far exceeds anything I ever anticipated. And as I look back now on those "slow years," I can see that God used them to develop my message and to shape me as a messenger.

People often ask if I have become tired of proclaiming the same message for so long. The answer is an emphatic



Dr. David R. Reagan

"NO!" And that's because the Signs of the Times are even more urgent today than when I began.

Take Israel, for example. There are many prophecies regarding Israel in the end times, many of which are being fulfilled today before our eyes. The four most important are:

- 1) The regathering of the Jews in unbelief. This started in the early 20th Century when there were only 40,000 Jews in Israel. Today there are almost six million who have returned from over 100 nations.
- 2) The re-establishment of the state of Israel — accomplished on May 14, 1948.
- 3) The re-occupation of the city of Jerusalem — accomplished on June 7, 1967.
- 4) All the nations of the world coming against Israel — happening now.

We are on the threshold of the Tribulation when God will pour out His wrath on all the rebellious nations of the world. Fortunately for all of us, God never pours out His wrath without warning because He does not wish that any should perish.

The time is short, and I will continue to proclaim the soon return of Jesus as long as I have breath. Victory is on the horizon. And I can hardly wait.

Maranatha!

The painting featured on the cover is by William J. Wallace (www.wallacepathwaysart.com).

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The Promise of Victory!

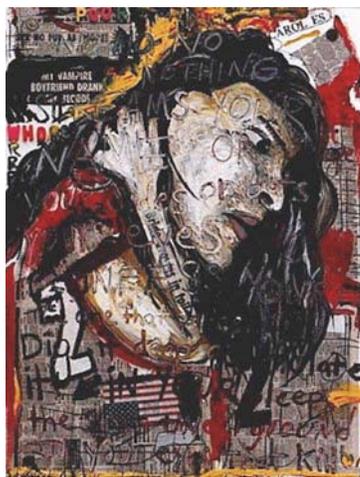
Dr. David R. Reagan

In his great novel about the French Revolution, called *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens began his story with some of the most memorable words in all of English literature:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair . . .

These words have never been truer than they are today. Everywhere we look, in every direction, the world appears to be falling apart.

- We are racked by wars and rumors of wars.
- Immorality and violence are rampant.
- Our money is being devalued and debased.
- Our educational systems have been hijacked by Humanists and Atheists.
- Our political systems are gridlocked by value wars and corruption.
- All of nature seems to be reeling out of control, producing one calamity after another.
- Our churches are being destroyed by rampant apostasy.
- True Christianity is under attack from all sides, and Christians are being marginalized as intolerant bigots.



Yet, despite all this economic, social, political and religious chaos, **it is the best of times** because all these developments are a fulfillment of end time prophecies that point to the imminent return of Jesus!

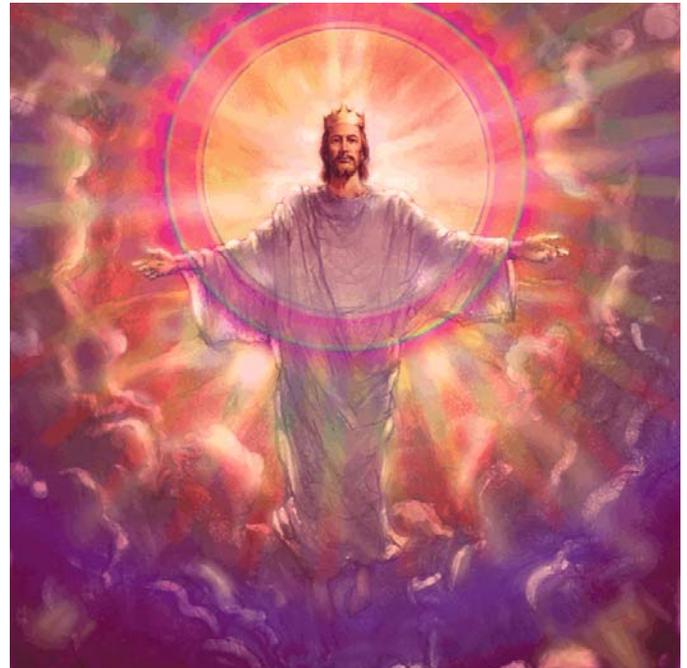
Jesus Himself said that society would become as immoral and violent as in the days of Noah. And He said that when we see that happening, we are to “look up and be watchful, for our Redemption will be drawing

near” (Luke 21:28).

Those of us who have committed our lives to Jesus may see all that is dear to us disintegrate before our very eyes, **but we are going to win in the end.**

We may suffer terrible persecution, **but we are going to win in the end.**

We may see the collapse of the dollar and the fall of the



“... the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). (Internet picture. Artist unknown.)

United States as a world power, **but we are going to win in the end.**

How can I be so confident? Because the Bible promises us ultimate victory, and I know for certain the Bible is true.

Our Promised Victory

What is our promised victory? Let me summarize it for you.

- 1) We are promised that at any moment now we will be taken out of this world in the Rapture of the Church.
- 2) We are promised that God will then pour out His wrath on the wicked world leaders who currently thumb their noses at Him.
- 3) We are promised that Jesus will then return to reign over all the world in glory and majesty from Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and all the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness, and justice.
- 4) We are promised that we will ultimately be given an eternal home on this planet after it has been refreshed and perfected by God.
- 5) We are promised that we will live eternally on that new planet in glorified, immortal bodies in the presence of our Creator and Savior.

Again, how can I be certain of these victorious promises? Because the Bible tells me so. And the Bible can be trusted as the infallible Word of God.

How do I know that?

Because it is the only book in the world that contains

fulfilled prophecies.

And, because all the prophecies concerning the First Coming of the Messiah were literally and precisely fulfilled, we can be confident that all the prophecies about the Messiah's return and triumph will be literally and precisely fulfilled.



Let's take a quick, overview look at God's Plan for the Ages. There are four major prophesied triumphal events on the horizon that we as born again children of God can look forward to: The Rapture / The Second Coming / The Millennium / Heaven.

The Rapture

Our first promise of victory is the Rapture of the Church.

This is an event that is often confused with the Second Coming — but they are not the same. A careful study of the Scriptures reveals that the return of Jesus is going to be in two stages — first, the Rapture, and then later, the Second Coming.

The fact that these are two separate events can be easily demonstrated.

There are only two detailed descriptions of the Lord's return in the New Testament — 1 Thessalonians 4 and Revelation 19.

And these two passages are as different as night and day. The two passages have nothing in common except that they both focus on Jesus Christ.

Figure 1 illustrates how different they are.

Solving Another Problem

This reconciliation solves another problem.

The Bible says repeatedly that the Lord's return is imminent — that is, it can happen at any moment (Matt. 24:36 & 44). But how can it be imminent if there is only one future coming?

The Point: If there is only one future coming, then the Lord's return is **not** imminent because there are many prophecies that must be fulfilled before He can return to earth:

- 7 Years of Tribulation
- The Rebuilding of the Temple
- The Revelation of the Antichrist
- The Killing of the Two Witnesses
- The Desecration of the Temple
- The Institution of the Mark of the Beast
- The Salvation of the Jewish Remnant

The Point Again: The only way the Lord's return can be imminent is for there to be a Rapture that is separate and apart from the Second Coming — and which can occur at any moment, without the fulfillment of any prophecies.

Another Problem Solved

This reconciliation also solves another problem.

The Bible says that no one can know the date of the Lord's return. But the date of the Second Coming can be calculated precisely. The book of Revelation says it will take place exactly 2,520 days or 7 prophetic years from the day the Tribulation begins.



Therefore, the statement about not knowing the date must apply to the Lord's appearing in the Rapture. Again, the solution is two future comings — an Appearing and a Return.

Figure 1

1 Thessalonians 4	Revelation 19
1) Jesus appears in the Heavens	1) Jesus returns to Earth
2) Jesus appears for His Church	2) Jesus returns with His Church
3) Jesus appears as a Deliverer	3) Jesus returns as a Warrior
4) Jesus appears in Grace	4) Jesus returns in Wrath
5) Jesus appears as a Bridegroom	5) Jesus returns as a King

How can these passages be reconciled? I believe the only way to reconcile these two accounts is to conclude that they are talking about two different events and that the Lord's return will be in two stages — first, the Rapture, and then the Second Coming. First Thessalonians 4 describes the Rapture of the Church. Revelation 19 presents the Lord's return to this earth.

The Second Coming

This brings us to the second great prophetic event of triumph that we can look forward to — the Second Coming.

The Bible says Jesus will return to this earth at the end of the seven years of the Great Tribulation. He will return to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem from which He ascended into Heaven

(Zechariah 14:1-9).

This will occur when the Jewish people have come to the end of themselves through the persecution of the Antichrist, motivating them to turn their hearts to God (Zechariah 12:10).

When Jesus comes, they will look upon Him whom they have pierced, they will recognize Him as their Messiah, they will repent of their rejection of Him, and they will cry out, "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 23:39).

At that point Jesus will speak a supernatural word and the Antichrist and his forces will be instantly annihilated in the Valley of Armageddon (Zechariah 14:12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8). Jesus will then resurrect the Old Testament Saints (Daniel 12:1-2) and the Tribulation Martyrs (Revelation 20:4), giving them their glorified bodies.

He will proceed to judge all those still living, both Gentiles and Jews (Matthew 25:31-46 and Ezekiel 20:33-38). The Saved will be allowed to enter the Millennium in the flesh. The Un-saved will be consigned to death and Hades.

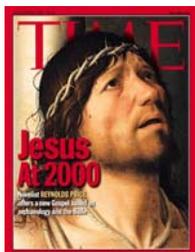


The Millennium

This brings us to the third great triumphal event Christians should be looking forward to — the Lord’s Millennial reign.

The Bible says that those of us in glorified bodies will reign with Jesus over those in the flesh for a thousand years, during which time the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness, and justice.

During those thousand years, God is going to fulfill four promises He has made, as outlined below.



1) To Jesus — God has promised that the day will come when Jesus will receive honor, glory, and power.

Jesus was humiliated the first time He came. He was rejected by His own people. He was mocked, scourged, and murdered.

During the Millennium He will receive the honor He is due, and He will be glorified

in history.

Isaiah describes it this way (Isaiah 24:23):

Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders.

Paul, in 2 Thessalonians 1:10, makes the same point:

[Jesus is returning] to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed . . .



2) To the Creation — Restoration to its original perfection.

Repeatedly in the Hebrew Scriptures, the promise is made that God will one day redeem His creation. Isaiah 11 says the wolf will dwell with the lamb and the lion will eat straw with the ox (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Peter affirmed this promise in his sermon to the Sanhedrin Council when he declared (Acts 3:19-21):

19) Repent . . . in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

20) and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

21) whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

God is going to redeem all of His creation, returning it to the original perfection that existed when He created it.



3) To the Nations — Peace, Righteousness and Justice.

Again, the Hebrew Scriptures speak of this promise many times. One example can be found in Micah 4:3 where the prophet emphasizes that the Messiah will bring peace:

He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.

The prophet Isaiah emphasizes the righteousness and justice that the Messiah will bring to the world (Isaiah 11:4-5):

4) But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth . . .

5) Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.



4) To the Jews — Primacy among the nations.

God will regather all the believing Jews in the world who are left alive at the end of the Tribulation, and they will be established as the prime nation of the world (Deuteronomy 30:1-9). He will then fulfill all the promises He has ever made to them.

Consider, for example, the incredible promises of Isaiah 60 which God made to the Jewish people — promises that have

never yet been fulfilled:

2) The glory of the Lord will appear upon you [Israel].

3) And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

5) The wealth of nations will come to you . . . And the sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, and all who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet.

15) Whereas you have been forsaken and hated . . . I will make you an everlasting pride, a joy from generation to generation.

20) . . . the days of your mourning will be finished.

21) Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever.

The prophet Zechariah describes the Millennial glory of Israel with some remarkable imagery (Zechariah 8:22-23):

22) Many peoples and many nations will come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord.

23) Thus says the Lord of hosts, "In those days, ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

What a statement that is! It means the centuries of persecution of the Jews will finally come to an end. No longer will they be the butt of jokes or the target of harassment or the victims of murder.



5) To the Church Age Saints (you and me) — Ruling power over the nations.

This is a promise made many times in the Scriptures, both in the Old Testament and the New.

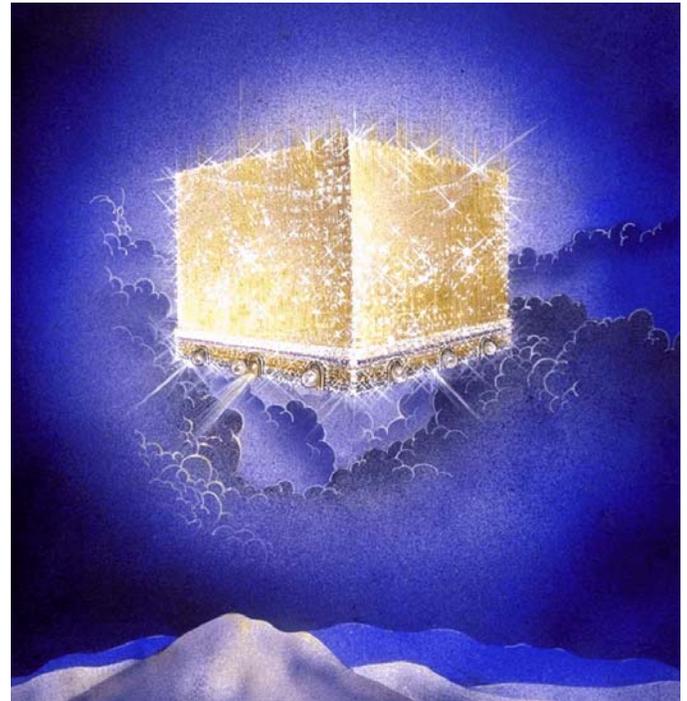
Here is one example from Daniel 7: 27 in the Old Testament:

Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

And here is confirmation in the New Testament (Revelation 2:26-27):

26) He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;

27) and he shall rule them with a rod of iron, as I also have received authority from My Father . . .



"The New Jerusalem" by Pat Marvenko Smith
(www.revelationillustrated.com)

Heaven

The final stage of God's Plan for the Ages will come at the end of the Millennium, when we will be presented with our Heavenly home.

The Redeemed will be removed from this planet to the New Jerusalem which Jesus has been preparing for us. And I suspect that from that vantage point, we will be able to watch the greatest fireworks display in history as God superheats this earth to burn away the pollution of Satan's last revolt.

Out of that fiery inferno will come a new heaven and a new earth that will serve as our eternal abode.

That's right, Heaven will be on a new earth. We will be lowered down inside the New Jerusalem to the new earth, and God Himself will come to earth to live among us.

Here's how it is described in Revelation 21:

1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away . . .

2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

4) and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

5) And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

6) Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

7) “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”

Notice the one to whom all these promises are made: **the overcomer**. In 1 John 5 we find a definition of an overcomer:

1) Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God . . .

5) And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

If you have put your trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you are an overcomer, and you are an heir of all these promises.

According to Revelation 22:4, we will “see God’s face” — which means we will have intimate fellowship with our Creator eternally.

And Revelation 22:3 says we will “serve Him forever.” Yes, we are going to have meaningful and fulfilling things to do in service to our Creator.

Conclusion

In summary, let’s look at an overview of God’s Plan for the Ages as illustrated in Figure 2.

- The end times began on Pentecost in about 30 AD when the church was established.
- We have now been in the Church Age for 1900 years plus.
- The Church Age will come to a halt with the appearance of Jesus in the heavens, followed by the Rapture of the Church Age Saints, both the living and the dead.
- The Church Age will be followed by the Great Tribulation which will last 7 years.
- We will be in Heaven with the Lord during the Tribulation, but we will return with Him at the end of the Tribulation to reign with Him over all the world.
- Then will come the Millennial reign of Jesus, lasting 1,000 years.
- The final stage of history will be the eternal state or Heaven when we will live eternally in glorified bodies in a New Jerusalem located on a New Earth.

The Glory of the Victory

Now I hope you can better understand the meaning of two great passages written by the Apostle Paul.

First, Romans 8:18: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

He repeats this sentiment in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 where he writes: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of Man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” But in the next verse, he adds that these glorious things have been revealed to us through His Spirit — speaking, of course of His Word.

In like manner, the Apostle Peter referred to the events we have surveyed as “God’s precious and magnificent promises” (2 Peter 1:4).

Application

When you consider the details of God’s Glorious Plan for the Ages, how can you possibly be passive or apathetic?

We are promised victory, and it will be achieved with:

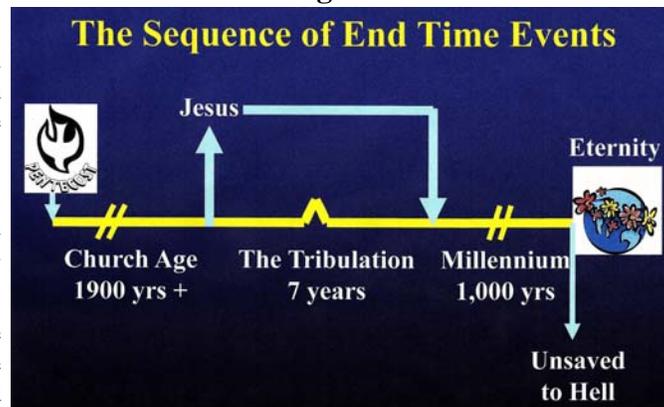
The Rapture
The Second Coming
The Millennium
and Life Eternal with God in
Glorified Bodies on a New
Earth

Clouds of darkness may be gathering around us, but the Light is about to break through.

It is the worst of times, **but** it is the best of times, for the signs of the times are shouting the good news that Jesus is coming soon!

In response, you and I should be shouting, **MARANATHA!** Come quickly, Lord Jesus! ✚

Figure 2

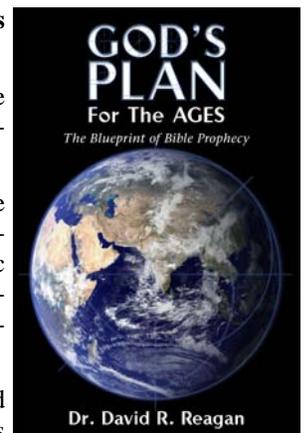


An In-Depth Book About God’s Plan For The Ages

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THE ERROR OF AMILLENNIALISM

Andrew D. Robinson



Andrew D. Robinson

(Editor's Note: Amillennialism is the belief that Jesus will never return to this earth to reign for a thousand years. It is the belief that is held by the vast majority of professing Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. It is based on a spiritualization of Scripture. This outstanding refutation of Amillennialism was written by the Senior Pastor of Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church located in Stockport, England, a town located near Manchester. The article first appeared in the journal of the Prophetic Witness Movement

International. It is reprinted here in abbreviated form by permission of the author.)

Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone and I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer divided into two kingdoms ... And they will be my people, and I will be their God" (Ezekiel 37:21-23).

Writing from the depths of exile, Ezekiel foresaw the glorious day when the divided kingdoms of Judah and Israel would be reunited in their ancient homeland, under the Kingship of the Lord . . .

History teaches us that Israel and Judah were never restored to their predicted nationhood in Bible times, and this has led some scholars to conclude that Ezekiel's prophecy failed. But we must look beyond the biblical horizon to the present day, some 2500 years later, to see the fulfilment of God's Word.

In our day, the world has witnessed scenes of unprecedented historical significance, as Jews in their hundreds of thousands have returned to the land of Israel. They have made *aliyah* (the Hebrew term for emigrating to Israel) from over one hundred nations . . . Judah and Israel, the "twin sticks" of Ezekiel's prophecy (Ezekiel 37:15-23), are fast becoming one in God's hand, and it is only a matter of time before Messiah makes His own *aliyah* and establishes His throne in their midst in Jerusalem.

Man-Made Doctrine

Amillennialists view the belief in Israel's literal restoration and Messiah's thousand-year reign as the stuff of storybooks or an object of redundant ridicule . . .

Amillennialism owes its existence to Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD), one of the Church's most influential theologians, revered by Catholics and Protestants alike. Augustine drew his ideas from Tyconius (d. circa. AD 400) a Donatist theologian whose writings had the profoundest effect on him. He was also heavily influenced by the philosophical doctrines of Plato

(427-327 BC), many of which helped shape his theological schema.

What is perhaps surprising to learn is that Augustine once walked in the footsteps of the Premillennial fathers; as he says, "I myself, too, once held this opinion." Augustine is the Charles Darwin of the Church, who abandoned biblical literalism in favor of allegory, and pioneered a survival-of-the-fittest theological system which centered on the Church as the "New People of God." He believed Israel was finished and that all unfulfilled Old Testament prophecies were to be reinterpreted spiritually or allegorically in favor of the Church.

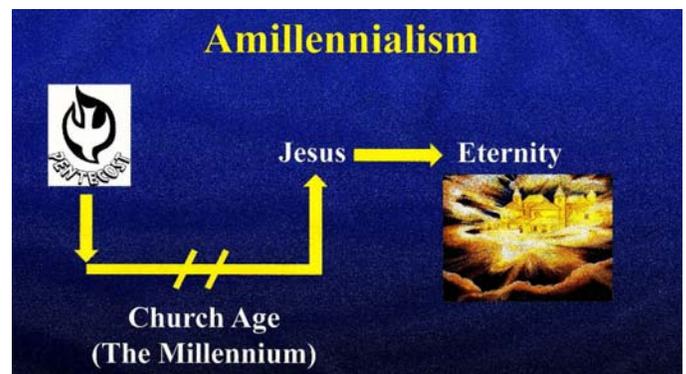
Consequently, references to Israel, Zion and Jacob, with their attendant promises, were no longer interpreted as referring to the Jewish nation. Here's how Augustine explained his approach to prophecies about the Jews:¹

And therefore we ought to take this saying, "And I will bring you [the Jews] into your own land . . . And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers," not literally, as if they referred to Israel after the flesh, but spiritually, as referring to the spiritual Israel. For the Church, without spot or wrinkle, gathered out of all nations, and destined to reign forever with Christ, is itself the land of the blessed, the land of the living.

This "doctrine of demons" has led generations of unsuspecting Christians astray. Spiritual application is important, but not at the cost of the plain, primary meaning of the text. The great 19th Century bishop of Liverpool, J. C. Ryle, protested against the allegorizing of the Bible and wrote, "I believe the habit to be unwarranted by anything in Scripture, and to draw after it a long train of evil consequences."²

I made this point to one Amillennialist preacher who argued that not only did the Church inherit Israel's promises, but that Christ fulfilled every geographical land feature recorded in the Bible. This is allegory at its shoddiest, and is nothing short of cowboy exegesis. It is little wonder that God's House lies in such a dilapidated state today.

Historical Development



Augustine's Amillennialism quickly became the accepted view of the Church, and was formally adopted at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431. At that meeting, the bishops also condemned Premillennialism as superstitious, which ostensibly outlawed it from the Church. This was a black day in the history of biblical interpretation, and one that has cast a dark shadow over

the Church to the present day. So decisive and influential was Augustine's coup on the Scriptures that his doctrines formed the bedrock upon which the Protestant Reformers built their theologies.

Lutheranism and Calvinism in particular owe a huge debt to Augustine, as does the monolithic Westminster Confession with its zero tolerance of Premillennialism.³ Indeed, those who espouse Premillennialism are condemned as heretics by the Greater Westminster Confession.⁴ In fact, all the Reformed creeds are expressly Amillennial, and repudiate the major tenets of other millennial positions . . .

The Westminster Confession towers over the Protestant Church, commanding obeisance from Presbyterians, Anglicans and Episcopalians alike. It houses the great doctrines of the Bible which have buttressed Evangelicalism in its centuries-long stand against Rome, and for that we thank God. However, in its stony rejection of Premillennial truth, it has cast Israel's promises into the dust of history, and this is cause for serious concern.

Amillennialism, which is embedded in Reformed Covenant Theology, makes no distinction between Israel and the Church, asserting wrongly that there is only one people of God and one overarching covenant, the Covenant of Grace. Amillennialism further asserts that the Millennium is symbolic of the Church Age, in which Christ reigns in the hearts of believers on earth and over the souls of the saints in heaven. The Millennium is therefore seen as that indeterminate period between Christ's First and Second Advent, which closes with His return. Then come the judgements, resurrections, and the eternal state . . .

Amillennial Anti-Semitism

In his book, *The Momentous Event* (1945), Amillennialist W. J. Grier scurrilously denounces as "extravagant and absurd," any belief in Premillennial doctrine.⁵ He follows the example of his mentor, John Calvin, who, in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, vilified the Premillennialists of his day with equal venom: "Either such persons are utterly ignorant of everything divine, or they are trying by a devious malice to bring to nought all the grace of God and power of Christ . . . Even a blind man can see what stupid nonsense these people talk . . ."⁶

I encountered this clichéd attitude in a theology lecture some years ago. My lecturer, an eminent theologian, was charting the Church Age from the Incarnation to the Second Advent. I noticed the Millennial Kingdom was missing from his chart and questioned the omission. With a look of utter astonishment he turned to me and said, "No one believes in the Millennial Kingdom today!" My desk-mate and I assured him that we did, and pointed to the fact that so did many of the early Church Fathers, a point he duly conceded.

In spite of clear biblical and historical evidence to the contrary, Amillennialists, like their Postmillennial cousins, believe that the Church is the New Israel of God. Popular author and speaker, R. C. Sproul, argues the case with his much publicized statement: "We believe that the Church is essentially Israel. We believe that the answer to, 'What about the Jews?' is 'Here we are.'"⁷ [In other words, today's Jews are those who are Christians. *Editor's note*] Jewish Bible teacher, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, responded to Sproul's outlandish statement with this

"Amillennialism is a laundered system,
which has bleached out the plain meaning
of Scripture."

piercing riposte: "Too bad you were not declaring this on the streets of Berlin around 1941."

Although it is hotly denied by Amillennialists, there is no question that Amillennialism is rooted in the soil of Augustinian Roman Catholicism, and as such has a tendency towards anti-Semitism. The Jewish people have been twice robbed by the Amillennial Church: first of their prophetic Scriptures, and then of their land. If Amillennialists want to protest their innocence, then I invite them to tell the Jewish community that the biblical Land promises still apply to Israel.

One Amillennialist who is certainly not willing to do that is Stephen Sizer, vicar of Christ Church in Surrey, England. He is outspoken with his virulent anti-Zionist position. Sizer speaks for the Amillennial academia when he argues that "it is fundamental that Christians read the Scriptures with Christian eyes."⁸

When we consider that approximately 80% of the Bible relates to Israel, of which at least 26% is predictive, and that the name "Israel" is used over 2,000 times in Scripture, one wonders how Sizer can possibly believe that it all refers to the Church. Even when Israel occurs in the New Testament (over 70 times) it always refers to ethnic Israel, and that includes the much-disputed Galatians 6:16 text, which even the Amillennial translators of the *Geneva Bible* footnoted as referring to the Jews.⁹ It is a fact of theological history that the Church was never identified as Israel until about AD 160 (the time of Irenaeus), by which stage Replacement Theology was becoming well established at the heart of mainstream Christian belief.

Amillennialists have been described as the "greatest magicians of spiritualizing Scripture found anywhere," which is a fitting description of those who trade the counsel of the Lord for the opinion of man. Paul spoke of such men when he warned the Ephesian saints not to be carried away "by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14) . . . There are great dangers in contorting the Word of God, as J. C. Ryle points out: "Never does a man take up an incorrect principle of interpreting Scriptures without that principle entailing awkward consequences and coloring the tone of his religion."¹⁰

The "Unauthorized" Version

Amillennialism is a laundered system, which has bleached out the plain meaning of Scripture. The doctrine cannot be deduced from Bible study but must be taught. It is my belief that anyone reading the Scriptures for the first time, without tutoring, would never arrive at an Amillennial position. Conversely, I know people who came to the Bible for the first time, and instantly understood God's purposes for Israel.

One of the most successful pieces of Amillennial replacement propaganda the Church has ever produced appears in the *King James Version of the Bible*. First published in 1611, and enjoying its 400th anniversary this year, it dominated the English speaking Church (and still does in many parts) for nearly three hundred years, until the emergence in 1881 of the *Revised Version*, which was followed in quick succession by a number of other translations. Contained in the KJV are numerous unauthorized allegorical chapter headings which have brainwashed generations of readers into believing the Amillennial lie. Some Amillennialists regard these insertions with almost canonical

reverence, and tenaciously defend their inclusion.

Although some of the more recent KJV editions do not contain these chapter headings, it is essential to note that they formed an integral part of the fabric of the 1611 edition and subsequent editions right into the 19th Century. The following chapter titles show the extent to which Amillennial dogma permeates the *King James Version*:¹¹

Isaiah 30: "God's mercies towards His Church."

Isaiah 33: "God's judgments against the enemies of the Church."

Isaiah 43 & 44: "God comforteth the Church with His promises."

[Keep in mind that the Church had not even been established when these chapters were written. They are addressed to Israel, not the Church — unless, of course, you spiritualize them by applying them to the Church. *Editor's note.*]

[During the time of King James] those who held to a literal fulfillment of prophecy concerning the restoration of Israel took their lives in their hands. Take, for example, Sir Henry Finch (1558-1625), a lawyer who declared that where "Judah, Zion, Jerusalem . . . are named . . . the Holy Ghost means . . . Israel properly descended out of Jacob's loins. The same judgment is to be made of their returning to their land and ancient seats . . . These and such like are not Allegories . . . but meant really and literally of the Jews."¹²

Finch's millennial views, especially that the day would come when all rulers would surrender power to a restored Jewish state, were too much for King James I who had him brutally imprisoned. Commenting on the views of Finch and others of like mind, Thomas Fuller (1608-1661), the Anglican historian, responded in much the same way that modern critics do. He wrote: "It is a conceit of the modern Jews, that one day they shall return . . . to the Country of Canaan, and City of Jerusalem, and be re-estated in the full possession thereof . . . their land, now base and barren, is not worth the regaining . . ."¹³



Thomas Fuller

Thomas Fuller and the theological mainstream of his time mocked any possibility that the Jewish homeland could be restored, arguing as their Amillennial followers do today, that all the restoration promises were fulfilled in the return of the Jews from their Babylonian captivity. The Premillennialists of today may no longer be locked away by their Amillennial adversaries, but the same threat and intimidation that Sir Henry Finch faced characterizes many in the anti-Israel camp. Be that as it may, let us never

forget that one man with the truth is always a majority.

A Creed Worth Reciting

Every generation has produced its Premillennial champions, those willing to "seek the welfare of the sons of Israel" (Nehemiah 2:10). Included in their number are such notables as John and Charles Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Lord Shaftesbury, J. N.

Darby and F. B. Meyer, founder of the Advent Testimony Movement (now Prophetic Witness Movement International).



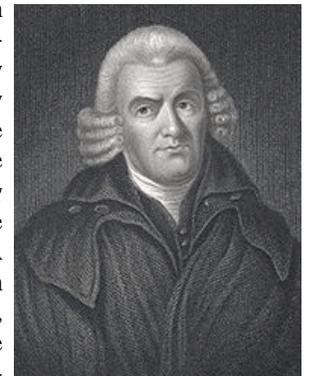
J. C. Ryle

Of particular note is J. C. Ryle, who framed eleven creedal statements relating to the end times, which he entitled "the chief articles of my prophetic creed." These became highly influential in the development of the Prophetic Conference Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Ryle's reflections on his study of the end-times should stir our hearts. He wrote, "The older I grow, the more do I feel convinced of their truth, and the more satisfied am I that no other principles can explain the state of the Church and the world." Two articles of his creed are well worth reciting:¹⁴

Article 7: I believe that the Jews shall ultimately be gathered again as a separate nation, restored to their own land, and converted to the faith of Christ, after going through great tribulation.

Article 8: I believe that the literal sense of the Old Testament prophecies has been far too much neglected by the Churches . . . and that under the mistaken system of spiritualizing and accommodating Biblical language, Christians have too often completely missed its meaning.

Another champion of Jewish restoration was John Brown (1722-1787), a Scottish shepherd-boy turned pastor who learned Hebrew and Greek in a rough shelter in the hills. His studies resulted in the incredibly popular *Self-Interpreting Bible*. Of particular interest is the inclusion, in most editions, of "A Collection of the Prophecies" which concern the "Calling of the Jews, and the Glory which shall be in the Latter Days." The following extracted examples are replete with Scriptural references:¹⁵



John Brown

The Jews shall be gathered from all parts of the earth where they are now scattered, and brought home to their own land.

The land of Judea shall be made eminently fruitful, like a paradise.

Jerusalem shall be rebuilt, and after the full restoration of the Jews, shall never be destroyed nor infested with enemies any more.

They [the Jews] shall have the victory over all their enemies, and all kings and nations shall submit unto them.

History in the Making

In recent years we have witnessed a virtual rewriting of Middle East history as Christians have engaged in the process of historical revisionism. This is anti-Semitic opportunism clothed in Amillennial garb, whereby Jews are portrayed as Zionist upstarts, illegal immigrants and bully-boys who have usurped the rights of the Palestinians and who have stolen Arab land. Christian Aid is among those organizations which further the Amillennial lie by branding Israel an "occupying force" responsible for Palestinian poverty.¹⁶

As for land acquisition, the facts are very different from those peddled by the Amillennialists. In the 1930s before the modern State of Israel was founded, Zionist organizations paid inflated prices to Arab landowners for vast tracts of fallow or marshland, much of which was malaria-ridden. The *Geographical Magazine* (July 1936) reported that one Jewish Corporation paid £192,000 for the right to convert the 10,000 acre malarial swamps of Lake Hula into agricultural land, on the condition that one-third was given free of charge to the hut-dwelling Arab farmers.

Since those early pioneering days, the desert has truly blossomed like the rose under the watchful eye of Israel's God. The legitimacy of Israel's claim to the Land is supported biblically, historically and legally but that does not stop the spread of lies. Israel is the only democratic nation in the Middle East; she has survived five major wars in which she was the innocent party, and suffered countless terrorist attacks.

Unbelievably Israel is cast in the role of aggressor by politicians and clergy alike, which explains why 65 United Nations Security Council resolutions were passed against her between 1955 and 1992, and none against the Palestinians. How well the anti-Israel Amillennialist lobbyists have learned the Joseph Goebbels' maxim that "if you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." That is precisely what is happening in the Church which proclaims its anti-Israel message, not under the swastika as the Nazis did, but in the shadow of the Cross . . .

Ready for Christ's Return?

The Jewish nation is being gathered to the Land in readiness for Jesus' return, but the eyes of many Christians are closed to the reality. Instead of ducking the issue, leaders need to apply themselves to an honest study of God's Prophetic Word concerning the restoration of the Jewish nation. They need to recognize the lateness of the hour. The tide of biblical prophecy washes around the feet of the Amillennial Church, but like vain king Canute, she sits proudly enthroned, vainly believing that she can halt what God has decreed by His own authority.

The Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will have the final say, of that we can be sure. He will vindicate His people and establish them in righteousness. The nations will bow at Israel's feet; they will call her "the city of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 60:14). Before then, though, the Jewish people must pass once more through the "cruel kindness" of God's will, through the "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:3-9), out of which the nation will be saved.

"Amillennialists are the greatest magicians of spiritualizing Scripture found anywhere."

Anti-Semitism grows tall in the Amillennial seed-beds of our churches and Israel is looking for true friends to stand with her in these dark days. Let us do just that, but more importantly, let us share the good news that Messiah could return at any moment to take His Bride home to His Father's house. Even so, Come Lord Jesus! ✠

Notes:

- 1) Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, Book III, Chapter XXXIV.
- 2) J. C. Ryle, *Prophecy*, (Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications Ltd, 1991, p.147). Previously published in 1867 under the title *Coming Events and Present Duties*.
- 3) *The Westminster Confession of Faith* (1646), www.reformed.org/documents/westminster_conf_of_faith.html.
- 4) *The Westminster Larger Catechism* (1647) www.reformed.org/documents/larger1.html.
- 5) W. J. Grier, *The Momentous Event: A Discussion of Scripture Teaching on the Second Advent* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1945).
- 6) John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (London, England: Bonham Norton, 1599), Book III, Chapter XXV. Available on the Internet at www.reformed.org/master/index.html?mainframe=/books/institutes.
- 7) R. C. Sproul, *Table Talk* magazine (Spring 1999), p2.
- 8) Stephen Sizer, "An Alternative Theology of the Holy Land: A Critique of Christian Zionism," *Churchman* journal, vol. 113, issue 2, 1999.
- 9) *Geneva Bible* (complete Bible published in 1560). Available on the Internet at www.genevabible.org/Geneva.html.
- 10) J. C. Ryle, *Prophecy*, page 148.
- 11) *King James Bible*, 1611. The original edition can be found on the Internet at www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1611-Bible.
- 12) Henry Finch, *The World's Great Restauration or the Calling of the Jews, and with them all the Nations and Kingdomes of the Earth, to the Faith of Christ*, (London, England: William Bladen, 1621).
- 13) Thomas Fuller, *A Pisgah-sight of Palestine and the Confines thereof, with the Historie of the old and new Testament acted thereon*, (London, England: John Williams, 1650).
- 14) J. C. Ryle, *Prophecy*, pages 6-9.
- 15) John Brown, *Self-Interpreting Bible* (Glasgow, Scotland: William MacKenzie, 1778).
- 16) Christian Aid's website can be found at www.christianaid.org.uk.

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The Plague That Will Not Go Away

Elwood McQuaid

(Editor's Note: Elwood McQuaid served as the executive director of The Friends of Israel Ministry for 12 years. He currently serves as executive editor of the ministry's magazine, *Israel My Glory*. He also hosts Friends of Israel's daily and weekly radio programs. This article is reprinted by permission. The article is in response to a recent announcement by the BBC that the remains of 17 bodies had been found at the bottom of a medieval well in England. DNA testing revealed they were all likely members of a single Jewish family. Six were adults. The remaining 11 were children between the ages of 2 and 15.)



Elwood McQuaid

A grisly discovery was made in Norwich, England, recently. Seventeen Jewish skeletons, apparently from the same family, were found at the bottom of a medieval well.

Archaeologists theorize the Jews were forced down the well by pogromists for refusing to convert to Christianity.

Ten centuries later, five members of the Udi Fogel family of Itamar, Israel, were savagely stabbed to death in their beds, demonstrating that time does not alter the hatred against the Jewish people and Israel. The "plague" is still with us — the attempt to find a "final solution to the Jewish problem" — but now it focuses on the destruction of Israel.

As Christians who fully support the Jewish people's legitimate right to their homeland of Eretz Yisrael, we were appalled to read that well-known Italian Catholic priest, Mario Cornioli, flippantly declared, "What is Itamar? An illegal Israeli colony built on stolen land."

Why would anyone under any circumstances brush off the unspeakably horrific slaughter of an innocent family because he disagrees with where they lived?

Unfortunately, the priest's attitude is not limited to a few bigots operating on the fringe. A whole range of vaunted Christian organizations have taken to the idea that Israel must be squeezed until it either disappears or is so emasculated that it survives only as a disheveled, discredited clan of Jews forced back into ghettos by emissaries of pseudo-Christian love and/or Muslim "humanitarianism."

Here is a sampling of those who have come to the forefront as next of kin to the Presbyterian Church USA and other main-line denominations that tout divestiture as a means of posturing Israel as an apartheid, pariah state worthy of being hauled into the economic woodshed and whipped into shape:

Lutherans from the United States

Catholics and Protestants from Bethlehem and Nazareth
Orthodox Christians from Greece and Russia
Christians from Lebanon
Copts from Egypt

All these gathered at a conference recently to declare the Jewish state "a sin" and an occupying power that dehumanizes Palestinians. They called for resistance (jihad) as "a Christian duty."

An influential, international Catholic peace movement, Pax Christi, promotes boycotting Israeli goods "in the name of love." Even Christian groups funded by the European Union, the Dutch Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, and the Irish-Catholic group Trócaire are reportedly campaigning for divestiture. They are going so far as to include the popular Israeli cosmetics company, Ahava, as a collaborating offender. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu added his influence by convincing the University of Johannesburg to sever all ties with Israeli fellows.

This discriminatory hostility is morphing into increasingly militant rhetoric and incitement. A popular Vatican magazine recently declared that "ethnic cleansing" by Israel created the Palestinian refugees and that "the Zionists were cleverly able to exploit the Western sense of guilt for the Shoah [Holocaust] to lay the foundations for their own state."

Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustros [of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church] added his bit by saying, "We Christians cannot speak about the Promised Land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people." Furthermore, an important papal envoy called Israel an illegitimate "foreign implant," unscrupulously Judaizing Jerusalem and illegally occupying Arab land.

This radical denunciation of Israel's legitimacy paves the way for the next step: physical intervention to remove the "foreign" object. Joining the ranks of Muslim jihadists who have long sought the opportunity to attack and destroy Israel are hordes of idealistic, but uninformed, Europeans and Western zealots who are volunteering for flotillas and flytillas and are serving as foot soldiers seeking to invade Israel as champions of the downtrodden. With mobs screaming for change in the region and the West supporting that scream, one can almost predict an upturn in violence in the near future.

We must ask ourselves, "Why are professing Christians who are in the vanguard of such a phenomenon so clearly unchristian in every respect?" The answer is Replacement Theology. It was the excuse for viciously throwing a Jewish family down a well in medieval times, and it is at the heart of the excuses used today to demonize and delegitimize Israel. Archbishop Bustros spoke for all those Christians who see themselves as the "new Israel" when he said, "*We Christians cannot speak about the Promised Land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people.*"

His statement is a pristine definition of the theology that confiscates what God created (the Jewish people) and despises those whom God loves. It also explains the lamentable religious arrogance that would work to dismantle a nation and persecute its people. ✨



A photo of the skeletons as they were actually positioned in the well.

The Riots in England

Dr. David R. Reagan

I believe we are witnessing the collapse of Western civilization. The evidence is all around us. There is increasing violence and immorality, and all of it is rooted in the increasing apostasy within the Church. The Church has gotten in bed with the world, and the Christian values that have served as the bedrock foundation of Western civilization have been eroded to the point that we are now practicing abortion on demand, celebrating sexual perversion and reveling in blasphemous entertainment. As the late Steve Allen summed it up, "In America today, we have vulgarians entertaining barbarians."

We have demanded that our society be separated from religion. We have kicked God out of our schools. And then we scratch our heads in wonderment when teenagers kill each other over tennis shoes.

The terrible riots we have been witnessing lately in England are a preview of what is on the horizon here in the States. The British are running ahead of us in their cultural decline for two reasons. First, The Church of England surrendered to the heresies of the German School of Higher Criticism some 50 years before the apostate attitude of that philosophy destroyed the mainline Protestant denominations here in America. Second, the British instituted full-fledged Socialism immediately after World War II, creating a welfare society that destroyed the values of hard work and individual responsibility.

Facing Consequences

The British are now reaping the harvest of turning their backs on God and surrendering their freedoms for government "security."

Spiritually, as the Church of England began to teach that the Bible is not the Word of God, but is, instead, Man's search for God, and is therefore full of myth, legend, and superstition, people lost interest. Today, only 7% of Britons go to church (at the maximum), and most of them are attending churches that died spiritually long ago. Churches across England are being turned into theaters, bars, and Muslim mosques. Moral values essential to civilized society are no longer being passed from one generation to another.

The pay-off of Socialism is that a whole generation has grown up expecting the government to supply all their needs. The problem with Socialism, as Margaret Thatcher once said, is that "sooner or later you run out of other people's money." The Socialist economy of England is bankrupt, and people are now being told that they must assume responsibility for supplying their own needs, like paying tuition to go to college. The masses are responding with blind rage, and since they are devoid of moral values, they see no problem in burning and looting to acquire what is "rightfully theirs."

In a recent issue of the Southeast Christian Church (Louisville, Kentucky)

newspaper, *The Southeast Outlook*, there was an interview with a former editor of the newspaper who is now a missionary to England with Young Life. Her name is Ninnie Hammon. When asked, "What do you believe is behind this rebellion?" her response was as follows:

Two words: godlessness and socialism. British society has been influenced by historical Christian thinking . . . but given the statistics [of church attendance], it's likely that the overwhelming majority of the population today has never even met a Christian . . . Like the rest of Western Europe, England has been thoroughly evangelized, thoroughly churched, and has thoroughly rejected Christianity.

The Brits have filled the void of godlessness in their lives with a nanny government and rules, rules, rules. England is the most highly regulated society on the planet: regulations govern every facet of human existence. The Brits seem to believe that if they just pass enough laws they can control the evil around them. The riots are evidence that it hasn't worked . . .

One-fifth of all British children are raised in homes in which no adult has a job — where they've never seen anybody get up, dress, and go to work. One-tenth of the adult population has not done a day's work since Tony Blair took office in 1997.

We feel all around us a seething anger just under the surface among the "entitled portion of society." Government was supposed to fill the God-shaped hole in their lives, but it didn't. Government was supposed to solve all their problems, but it hasn't. Far from it . . . the United Kingdom has the highest drug use in Europe, the highest incidence of sexually transmitted disease, the highest number of single mothers, and the highest abortion rate. Marriage is all but defunct, except for William and Kate, gays, and Muslims. In that kind of spiritual drought, it doesn't take much of a spark to set off a fire.

We are traveling fast down the same path as the British. Increasingly, Americans are thumbing their noses at God while demanding that government provide them with care from the cradle to the grave. Spiritual apostasy combined with economic socialism is a deadly mixture. It will kill any society, no matter how great it may be or how great it thinks it is.

The barbarians are not at our gates. They are already within the citadel. They are shaking their fists at God while crying out for government to come to their rescue. The result will be the collapse of society upon itself.

"Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." — Galatians 6:7 ❖



The Forgotten Man of Christmas

Dr. David R. Reagan

I love the Christmas story. I love it so much that I keep a tiny Nativity scene on my desk all year long. It is a constant reminder to me that God loved His creation so much that He was willing to become flesh so that He could die for our sins to make it possible for us to be reconciled to Him.

In telling the story year after year, we focus, as we should, on the precious baby laying in the feeding trough — the baby who is Emmanuel, “God with us.” Almost equal attention is often given to the baby’s virgin mother, Mary. We also hear about the chorus of angels who appeared to the shepherds, and we hear songs sung about the Wise Men who came from afar, seeking the king whose sign they had seen in the heavens.

All of that is fine and proper. But in the midst of all the remembrance and celebration, one key character is usually forgotten and that, of course, is Joseph, the stepfather of Jesus.

Perhaps Joseph remains in the shadows because we know so little about him. We can rightfully agree that Mary was probably around the age of 14, since that was the age of marriage in those days. But there are no clues as to Joseph’s age. There are church traditions that say he was an older man and may have been a widower with an existing family, but no one knows for sure.

There are only three things we know about him for certain:

- He was of the tribe of Judah, descended from David through Solomon (Matthew 1:1-16).
- He was a craftsman, most likely a carpenter (Matthew 13:55).
- He was a righteous man before God (Matthew 1:19).

He must have also been a man of compassion and forgiveness because when he discovered that Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant, he could have had her publicly humiliated and stoned to death. Instead, we are told that he decided “to put her away secretly” (Matthew 1:19).

It was at this point that God intervened and spoke to him in the first of four supernatural dreams. In the dream, the Lord assured him that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife “for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:20).

About two years later, Joseph had a second dream in which the Lord warned him that Herod was going to search for the Christ Child and destroy Him. He was told to take his family and flee to Egypt. He obeyed this command immediately, and Jesus

was delivered from the horrible massacre of children that occurred in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).

After the death of Herod, while the family was still in Egypt, God spoke to Joseph in a third dream, telling him to “return to the land of Israel” (Matthew 2:19-20). He evidently intended to settle somewhere in Judea, but en route he experienced a fourth dream in which he was warned that Judea was not safe. In response to this dream, he headed back to the Galilee to his home town of Nazareth from which he and Mary had begun their perilous journey several years before (Matthew 2:22-23).

The last we hear of Joseph is in Luke 2:41-51 where we are told that during one of the family’s annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Passover, Jesus was accidentally



“The Son of a Carpenter” by François Lafon, 1896. This painting hangs in the sanctuary of the Church of St. Joseph in Nazareth, Israel.

left behind when the family’s caravan departed to return home. Jesus was 12 years old when this happened. This story reveals what a pious man Joseph was, for it was a long, arduous, dangerous, and expensive journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Yet Joseph took his family every year.

Joseph evidently died before Jesus began His public ministry at the age of 30, because no mention is made of him thereafter, except for the fact that when Jesus began teaching in Nazareth the first time, the people proclaimed in amazement, “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?” (Matthew 13:55-56). The very wording of this statement indicates that Joseph was dead by this time since he was not mentioned by name among the living relatives.

From the little we know about him, I think we can conclude that Joseph was a godly man who communed with the Lord, observed the Law of Moses, and who undoubtedly raised his stepson to honor God and His Word.

We desperately need more fathers like Joseph today. ✪

Celebrating Christmas

Is it Okay for a Christian to Celebrate Christmas?

Nathan E. Jones

“Well, that’s a no-brainer,” you’re probably thinking. “Of course Christians should celebrate Christmas. Christmas and Christians go together like those little curly shoes on an elf. They’re inseparable!” And yet, the deluge of email this ministry receives around this jolly season is resplendent with believers who are struggling with the origins of Christmas. They really want to know if they are pleasing Jesus, or in actuality are worshipping a false god, truly something to be concerned about.

Christmas Past

I read a book called *Fossilized Customs* about the origins of Christmas and found the inception and the symbols we use in its celebration very interesting. The author contended that since there are many former pagan elements used for Christmas, that we should no longer celebrate the holiday.

He claimed Christmas was a fabrication of the Roman Emperor Constantine who replaced the worship of the sun god Mithra on December 25th with the worship of Christ. He also pointed out that Christmas over the centuries has picked up many of its festivities from other cultures, like the exchanging of presents, the burning of a Yule log, decorating an evergreen tree, and featuring the medieval Dutch Sinterklaas (Santa Claus). And then, of course, there is today’s full scale consumerism.

Christmas Present

Should we then drop Christmas and Easter, and even Sunday worship, and go back to celebrating the Jewish feasts as some concerned Christians have resorted to? Well, let’s not give up on Christmas just yet, though, for I think the author of that book missed the whole point of what it means to be a Christian living under God’s grace.

What does this “living under grace” mean? Romans 8, Acts 15, and the whole book of Hebrews make it crystal clear that a definite transition occurred in how we obey God’s moral law since Christ. It states that believers are free from the 613 laws given to Moses with their appointed feasts and ceremonial rituals, nay even the 10 Commandments. How could that possibly be? Because that old Law was just a pointer to what sin is. It couldn’t cleanse because nobody could meet its standards. Instead, the Mosaic Law has been replaced with “love the Lord your God” and “love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12: 30-31).

For instance, take the Fourth Commandment about keeping the Sabbath. Because of God’s principle of grace, it becomes not one day that we should set apart for the Lord, but every minute of every day. Do you see how grace frees us from the Mosaic Law and yet enables us to fulfill it through Jesus Christ?

We are now under “Christ’s law” (1 Corinthians 9:21), the “law that gives freedom” (James 1:25; 2:12), and no longer under the “law of sin and death” (Romans 8:2). Bear in mind that we’re not free to sin (Romans 6:1-2), but because we are free to worship God in a relationship deeper than do’s and don’ts, we can choose to celebrate certain holidays or not.

As to knowing that Christ’s birthday was really in the Fall and not on December 25th, does which day really matter? Not to Paul, who in Romans 14 declared, “One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike . . . Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord.” Living under grace gives us the freedom to give spiritual significance to any day we please, or not to do so, and, as Paul warns, we do not have the right to judge and condemn those who decide to give spiritual significance to different days.

And just because the Romans feasted and exchanged gifts during the festival of Saturnalia, does that negate Christians following the example of the Wise Men giving gifts to baby Jesus? Of course not! How many of you are thinking of Saturn in front of the plum pudding? No, you’re thinking of Jesus.

Symbols have different meanings to different people. To a Christian, the rainbow symbolizes God’s promise never to destroy the earth again with water. But in modern American society, it is a symbol of the Homosexual movement. Are we therefore to wash our hands of the Rainbow and surrender it to the devil? I don’t think so.

Christmas Future

The book’s author missed the point that as Christians we can celebrate Christ’s birth on December 25th and have a Christmas tree and all the festivities because we are honoring God. It’s certainly okay then to celebrate Christmas because it’s a time to

remember Jesus’ birth and kingship, looking forward to the time when He will return in victory to set up His Kingdom. Christmas, Easter, and the Lord’s Day are times of worship and remembrance for the Church, and just because that grinch Satan has attempted to water down our honoring of God doesn’t mean we just throw the whole act of worship away.

If Christmas is to you about celebrating our Savior, and you use the decorations and festivities for such a purpose, God knows that your heart and purposes are right with Him. For in reality, to a Christian, every day should be a celebration of Jesus Christ.

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen. — Romans 11:36 ❖



This 1962 stamp was the first Christmas stamp ever issued by the United States Postal Service.



This beautiful Christmas stamp was issued by the U. S. Postal Service in 2009.

Financing Television

Dr. David R. Reagan

From 1980 to 2002, for a period of 22 years, we broadcast a 15 minute daily radio program called “Christ in Prophecy.” In September of 2002 we decided to switch from radio to television, and we started producing “Christ in Prophecy” as a weekly TV program.

This change was a very tough decision. First, because it meant we would have to give up radio broadcasting. We simply could not afford to do both. Second, it meant an enormous increase in broadcasting costs. A third factor that made the decision tough for me personally was the knowledge that with radio, the emphasis is on the message, whereas with television, the emphasis tends to shift to the messenger, resulting in over-blown egos, something I wanted no part of. But after praying earnestly about the matter, the staff, trustees and I decided that it was the Lord’s will.

So in September of 2002, we stepped out in faith and began broadcasting our new TV program over the Daystar network. Now, nine years later, we are rejoicing that we made that decision. The Lord has richly blessed our television outreach, making it possible for us to broadcast our program over five national networks that have access to over 80 million homes in America. And through the satellite systems of Daystar and The Church Channel, we have access to every nation in the world! And the response we receive to our programs is more than ten times what we ever experienced on the radio.

TV is terribly expensive, but worth the cost. One reason it is so expensive is because it takes such a large crew to produce a television program. When I was doing radio, I would sit down once a week and record five programs in three hours, operating all the equipment myself. To produce one TV program requires hours of script preparation and then a crew of seven people — three camera operators, an audio engineer, a camera switcher, a teleprompter operator, and a director. Additionally, a proof reader must check all the graphics, and a person must transcribe the program and encode it with closed captions (it is against the law to broadcast a program in the United States without closed captions).

We have also found that to produce a high quality program requires a lot of post-production editing. Our editors normally spend one hour editing for each minute we videotape. That means that for a program that runs 28:30, our media crew must spend around 30 hours editing the program.

We are currently paying \$12,500 a week to broadcast over our five networks. That’s just broadcast costs. That does not include the costs of production. Our production costs are substantial, but since we do all production in-house, our costs are about half of what we would have to pay if we used an outside production company.

We praise God for the fact that through our Prophecy Partners and others, He has always supplied all our financial needs. ✚

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

Daystar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369		DISH Channel 263		
On cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network				
Available on cable networks				
DirecTV Channel 364		DISH Channel 259		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Mon. 8:30pm	Mon. 9:30pm	Mon. 10:30pm	Mon. 11:30pm

The Church Channel				
DirecTV Channel 371				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network				
DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network				
DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

Focus on Nigeria

The situation in Nigeria continues to be very bleak for Christians. Ruthless and deadly attacks by Muslims are continuing, and the national government shows little interest in trying to get the rampaging, looting and killing under control.

The resulting needs are overwhelming. Entire Christian villages have been burned to the ground. Survivors are suffering from hunger and exposure. Due to the generosity of our supporters, we have already supplied several thousand dollars to rebuild homes like the one below.



We would like to raise an additional \$10,000 to send to Dr. Standfast Oyinna to be used for emergency relief (food, housing and clothing) and for the rebuilding of his community's church building. It was left in a state of total disarray by the Muslim marauders, as you can see in the photo below.



We have had an on-going relationship with Dr. Oyinna for over 25 years, and we know from experience that he is a humble and honest servant of the Lord. You can be assured that any funds you may donate will be used properly. He always provides a detailed accounting of every dollar spent.

Please mark your donations for "Nigerian Relief." And please pray for the Lord to stop the violence against these dear Christian people. The so-called "religion of peace" has them targeted for death. ❖

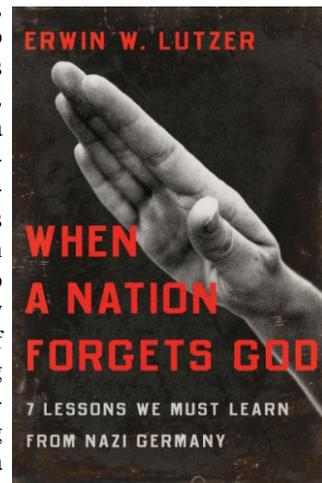
Meditate on These Things

"I believe that in our glorified bodies, we will be able to travel at the speed of thought!" — Tim LaHaye, Bible prophecy teacher and writer.

"Islam is the world's largest cult because they use force to obtain their converts and then they threaten them with force to maintain them." — Ed Hindson, Liberty University professor of Bible and spokesman for "The King is Coming" television program.

"'A thousand years as a day and a day as a thousand years' — That is not a rule of interpretation. Rather, it is a description of the relationship of God with time." — Don McGee, founder and director of Crown & Sickle Ministries.

"During the reign of Nazism, sanitized terms were used to camouflage unspeakable crimes . . . When Hitler starved children, he called it 'putting them on a low-calorie diet.' The extermination of Jews was called 'cleansing the land.' Euthanasia was referred to as 'the best of modern therapy.' Children were put to death in 'Children's Specialty Centers' . . . We do the same, of course. No one speaks of killing pre-born infants. Rather, pregnant women are only removing 'a product of conception' or a woman is simply 'terminating a pregnancy.' Politicians speak of being in favor of 'a woman's right to choose . . .' but they seldom complete the sentence. Somehow, to say they are in favor of a woman's right to choose to kill her pre-born infant, is too honest, too clear — we might add, too *chilling*." — Erwin Lutzer, pastor of Moody Bible Church in Chicago, Illinois, from his book, *When a Nation Forgets God*.



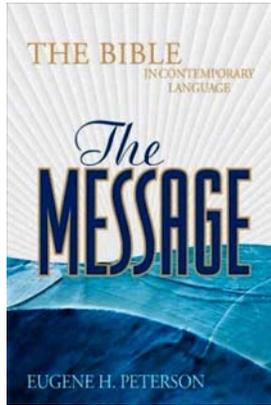
A Prayer of Blessing

May God remember you like Noah
favor you like Moses
honor you like Mary
fight for you like the Israelites
prosper you like Isaac
promote you like Joseph
intervene for you like Esther
protect you like Daniel
use you like Paul
heal you like Naaman
answer you like Elijah
anoint you like David
and keep you safe like
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

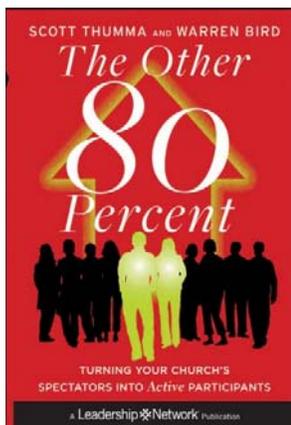
(The author of this blessing is unknown. All the spelling in the original version was British in style. It was taken from the Internet and submitted by Bob Clyburn, Sr. of Forney, Texas.) ❖

A Distorted Bible —

David Cloud, director of the Fundamental Baptist Information Service, calls *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson, “the pro-homosexual, green Bible.” *The Message* is a very popular and very loose paraphrase of the Bible. Cloud says “it is the goofiest, most frightfully corrupt version I have ever seen. It has a New Agey flavor . . . even using the occultic term, ‘as above, so below.’” Its environmentalist flavor is reflected in many passages, Romans 15:13 being a good example: “May the God of green hope fill you up with joy.” Another example is to be found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 where it says that those who “use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don’t qualify as citizens in God’s kingdom.” The paraphrase is also pro-homosexual. For example, the word, homosexual does not appear one time, yet it appears in the New Testament in two places — 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Timothy 1:10. *The Message* changes 1 Corinthians 6:9 from condemning “the effeminate” and “homosexuals” to condemning “those who use and abuse each other.” In 1 Timothy 1:10 where a list of sinners includes “immoral men and homosexuals,” the text is changed to read “the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever.” One critic has observed that “*The Message* is simply a forerunner to what will be a Christless, sinless Bible.”



Christian Inactivity —



The recently published book, *The Other 80 Percent*, reveals that in most churches today only 20 percent of the members are heavily involved. The other 80 percent are minimally involved and attend infrequently. This is true even among evangelical congregations. For example, in 2008 the Southern Baptist Convention had a membership of 16.1 million people, but the yearly attendance rate was only 38 percent. Similarly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America had a membership of 4.5 million and an average attendance rate of only 28 percent.

Waning Faith —

A Duke University professor reported in August that his analysis of data suggests that American religious belief is getting gradually weaker and less widespread than it once was. Mark Chaves who directs the National Congregations Study stated that although religion is still a powerful force in American life, the number of people who have no religious affiliation has grown substantially. Today, as many as 20 percent of Americans say they do not belong to any religious group, compared with 3 percent in the 1950's.

TIMES and Seasons

Governmental Immorality —

In July the Obama Administration made clear its intention to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act that was passed by Congress in 1996 by large majorities. The Act is a United States federal law signed into law by President Bill Clinton. It defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. Under the law, also known as DOMA, no state (or other political subdivision within the United States) may be required to recognize as a marriage a same-sex relationship considered a marriage in another state. The White House announced that it would no longer defend the law in federal courts and that it would support a repeal of the law sponsored by California Senator Dianne Feinstein. This position taken by the Obama Administration flies in the face of the President's oath of office in which he pledged to defend the Constitution. According to the Constitution, it is the duty of the Executive Branch to enforce the laws passed by Congress. Meanwhile, President Obama once again declared the month of June to be “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.” And once again Dr. Reagan wrote to the President and asked when he was going to declare a month of pride for prostitutes, pedophiles, and those who practice bestiality. Dr. Reagan is still waiting for a response.

Trampling Christian Rights —



The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit against a small, family-owned inn in Vermont for allegedly refusing to host a lesbian couple's wedding reception. The Wildflower Inn located in Lyndonville, Vermont, is owned by “a devout, practicing Catholic family who believes in the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman.” Although there are many other facilities in Vermont that would be only too happy to host such an immoral event, the homosexual activist groups, together with the ACLU, are determined to force the owners of the Wildflower Inn to violate their religious beliefs. Whatever happened to the protection of religious beliefs that is guaranteed by the First Amendment?

Apostasy —

Amy Butler, the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., claims that hymns about the blood of Christ “belong in vampire movies.” Pastor Butler is a graduate of Baylor University and the International Baptist Theological Seminary. She has been the senior pastor at Calvary Baptist for 8 years. Speaking of the great Christian hymn, “There is a Fountain,” she says, “With due respect to the great tradition that has shaped our denominational faith practice, lyrics like these make us sound like we belong in one of the Twilight [vampire] movies. Aside from questionable theology, the metaphors in many of these hymns have no real meaning for modern-day worshipers. I mean, who wants to approach the ‘throne of grace’ . . . at all, if it is sprinkled with blood?” And the name of her church is Calvary Baptist? Wonder if she knows what Calvary is a reference to? ❖



Amy Butler

Ministry News

Schedule — In **January** Dr. Reagan will speak at Calvary Chapel in San Jacinto, California (22) and at Summit Christian Church in Sparks, Nevada (28-29). In **February** Dr. Reagan and several staff members will attend the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee (18-21).

Israel Pilgrimages — The ministry's next tour to the Holy Land will be led by Dr. Reagan and will take place in May of 2012. The exact dates are May 5-16. Those interested should contact the ministry and request a detailed brochure. The tour group will be limited to 50 persons.

Volunteers — We are very blessed to be assisted by a number of volunteers. Several of these are people who assist our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, with the Christ in Prophecy Facebook group. One of the moderators of that group is Gary Smith who lives in Charlestown, Indiana.



Gary is 37 years old. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married for 13 years. He works for one of the world's largest air filter manufacturing companies. He is a fan of motor sports and the Chicago Cubs. One of his dreams is to live long enough to see the Cubs play in the World Series. He grew up in church but never knew Jesus as his Lord and Savior until he was 32. He has been trying to make up for lost time ever since. He now serves as the teacher of an adult Sunday School class at his church and has been serving Lamb & Lion Ministries for two years.

Prophecy Partners

Our Prophecy Partners provide the financial base of our ministry. They are also our prayer partners. We currently have over 2,500 Partners located all over America, and we even have a few in foreign countries, like Glen and Caroline Oberholzer in Waterlooville, England. We would like to invite you to become one of our Partners by pledging to give \$20 a month or more for one year.



Glen & Caroline Oberholzer

Communications

Magazine — “I have just read Dr. Reagan's article about ‘The Beginning and The Ending,’ and all I can say is AMEN! If that makes me a Fundamentalist, then so be it. I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and I believe Jesus will return to this earth to reign for a thousand years — and my prayer is that He will do so soon!” — Mike Roodt in Kwa Zulu, Natal, The Republic of

South Africa.

Meetings — “I just wanted to say what a blessing it was to so many when Dr. Reagan visited our church, Maranatha Fellowship, in St. Albans, West Virginia, several months ago. My husband and I bought the DVD set of all the services Dr. Reagan spoke at, and we watch them often. Hope to see you back at Maranatha again soon.” — Danielle Workman in Province, West Virginia.

Website — “I just want to thank you for your great website! I've been an Evangelical for about two years after spending 30+ years in the Roman Catholic Church, and your site is an excellent source of true biblical information for a newbie like me. I recently received an ad in the mail about a prophecy seminar. It sounded interesting, and I considered attending. But then I discovered that it was sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventists. I knew nothing about them, so I searched your site and found an in-depth article about their false doctrines. So, I decided not to attend the seminar because I don't want to be exposed to false doctrine. Thanks for the information in your article!” — Joe Hepting in Port Huron, Michigan.

Magazine — “Thanks for the article ‘The Beginning and The Ending.’ My 17 year old daughter was telling me within the last week about how some kids were asking questions about creation and how she got tongue-tied in her answers. I plan to share this article with both of my kids. Isn't God's timing perfect?” — Cindy Richardson in Andover, Kansas.

Magazine & Meetings — “I love your *Lamplighter* magazine. Your recent article, ‘The Beginning and The Ending,’ is one of your best ever! I firmly believe, with you, that God created with the appearance of age. My first contact with your spot-on ministry was when you held a prophecy conference at Harvester Christian Church in St. Charles, Missouri.” — Chuck Swanson in Province, Missouri.

Television — “I have a neighbor who doesn't believe the Bible is God's Word. She believes instead that men wrote it. Your TV program today about the authenticity and inspiration of the Bible was just what I needed. Thank you so much.” — June Nace in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Books — “I recently ordered the *Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*, and I was so impressed with it that I became a Prophecy Partner. I found the Guide to be the most concise, organized, educational, and therefore effective revelation of Jesus in prophecy I have ever encountered. (I am an avid reader with a full Christian library.) I have also enjoyed Dr. Reagan's book, *God's Plan for the Ages*, which I received through Jack Van Impe's ministry.” — JoAnn Ruel in El Cajon, California. ✚



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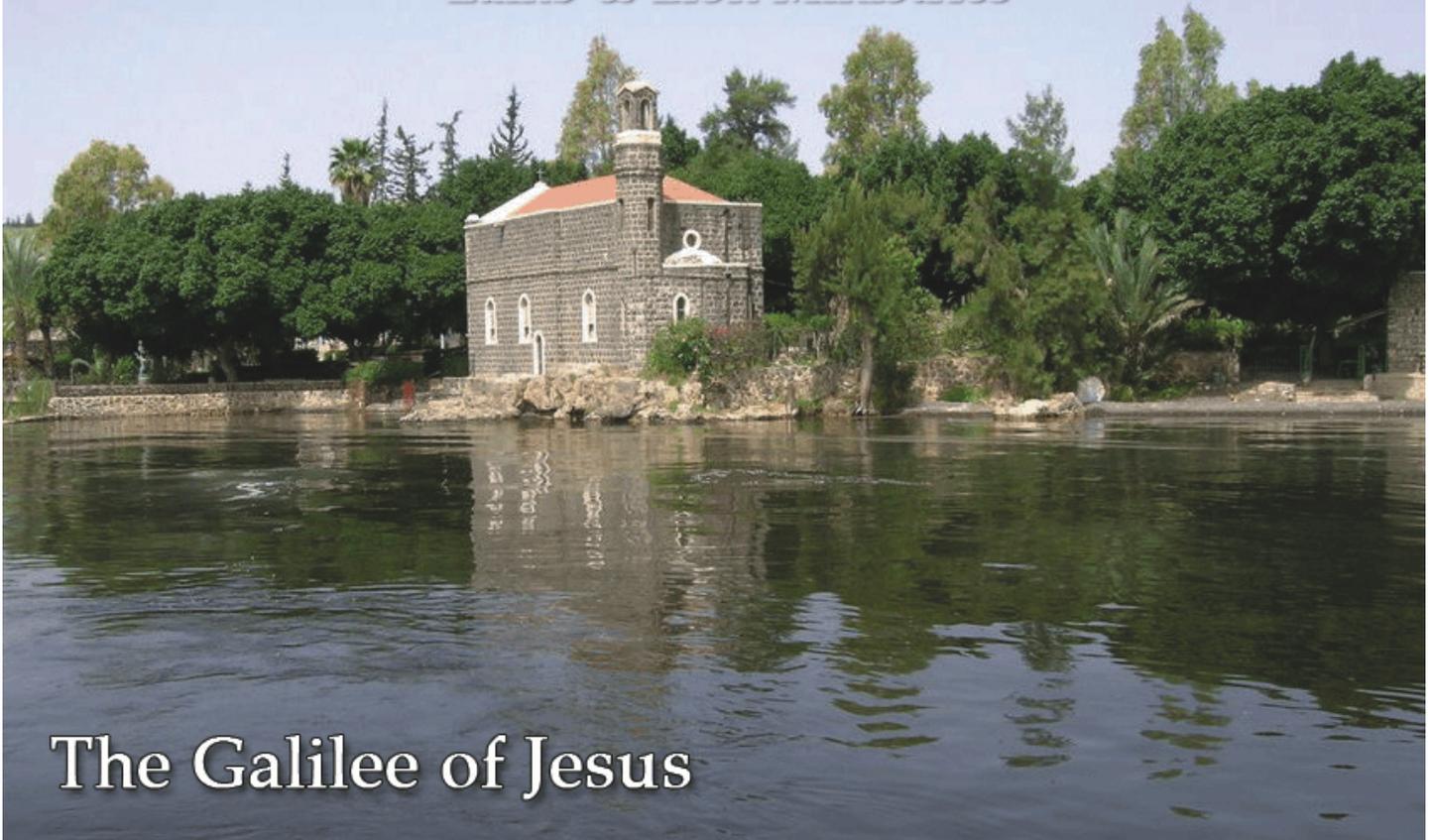
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2012 Holy Land Calendar

Lamb & Lion Ministries



The Galilee of Jesus

The Lamb & Lion 2012 Calendar will be ready for distribution in early November. Once again it will feature the great photos of Todd Bolen who is one of the premiere photographers of the Holy Land.

The calendar will present 13 full color scenes from the Galilee of Israel where Jesus grew up and where His ministry was focused. Major American holidays are designated on the calendar, and all the feast days of Israel, as well as special Israeli holidays, like Independence Day, are identified.

This calendar is a joint production of Todd Bolen and Dr. Dave Reagan. They worked together to select the photos and to write the descriptions of each scene.

Sites in the Galilee include Nazareth, Capernaum, Chorazin, the Chapel of the Beatitudes, Caesarea Philippi, the Jordan River, the Jezreel Valley, Mount Tabor, the Jordan River, and the Sea of Galilee.

The cost is only \$5 each, plus shipping. To order, call **972-736-3567**. A great Christmas gift! ✚