



LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Will the Antichrist be a Muslim?



Observations by the Editor

Economic Realities

As all of you are well aware, we are in the midst of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Those who are of working age are hurting due to massive lay-offs. Retired people are experiencing the pain of seeing their retirement accounts cut in half due to stock market losses.

Understandably, people have started cutting back on expenditures in order to protect their cash reserves. I heard a retail expert on the radio announce that since October there has been a "buyer's strike" in America. Donations have also plummeted.

Both churches and ministries are being forced to make major cutbacks. One of the largest Evangelical ministries in Christendom recently announced that it was laying off over 200 staff members.

We here at Lamb & Lion are very blessed as we face the financial meltdown because we have always operated debt-free and we thus have no debt whatsoever. We have been warning people for years to get out of debt so that they will be prepared to weather a great financial crisis which we have predicted would come as a judgment on this country, and we have practiced what we've preached.

But we still realize that we must be prudent concerning the future. We do not want to be forced to lay-off a single staff member because each one is a valued gift from God.

Accordingly, we have spent a lot of time in the past two months reviewing all aspects of our operation to see where we can do cost-cutting. We decided to significantly cut Christmas bonuses for 2008, and we decided to freeze salaries for 2009. We also decided to cut several of our television networks.

One of the hardest decisions we had to wrestle with concerned this magazine. We have always distributed it free of charge, but we finally decided that we could no longer do that. Each issue costs us \$25,000 to print and mail.

We finally decided that the only prudent thing we could do is to start charging for the printed edition that is mailed out.



Dr. David R. Reagan

This decision is not entirely due to the economic crisis. It was also prompted by the very significant increases in the bulk mailing cost that we have experienced in recent years.

Please see the notice on page 19. It will tell you what you must do in order to keep receiving the magazine. From this point on there will be a charge of \$25 per year to receive the magazine by mail. But you can sign up to receive it free of charge by email. The details are on page 19. If you want to keep receiving the magazine, please take the appropriate action as specified on page 19, and please do it as soon as possible so that you will not miss the March-April issue.

One thing we will not be cutting back on is our support of other ministries, both domestic and foreign. We currently send monthly support to 8 domestic ministries and 12 in foreign countries. We have always given more than 10% of our annual income to other ministries. We consider it a great blessing to be a channel of God's love to other ministries.

Please put us on your prayer list. Pray that we will be good stewards of the resources that God entrusts to us. And pray for the effectiveness of our message. In these hard times people are going to be brought to the end of themselves and hopefully turn to God. Let's pray for a great harvest of souls. ✚

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Will the Antichrist be a Muslim?

Dr. David R. Reagan

The traditional viewpoint has been that the Antichrist will be a European of Roman descent. This view is based on a statement in Daniel 9:26 which says that the Antichrist, referred to as “the prince who is to come,” will be from “the people who destroy the Temple.” Those people proved to be the Romans who destroyed the Temple in 70 AD.

Gentile or Jew?

Scholars have been divided as to whether or not this person of Roman heritage will be a Gentile or a Jew. Many have pointed to John 5:43 to argue that the Antichrist will be a Jew. That verse quotes Jesus as saying, “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him.” The argument drawn from this statement is that the Antichrist must be a Jew in order for the Jews to accept him as their Messiah.

But other prophecies in the Bible make it clear that the Jews will never accept the Antichrist as their Messiah. In fact we are told point blank that when the Antichrist declares himself to be God at the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Jews will be outraged and will reject him, causing him to turn on them in fury with the purpose of annihilating them (Revelation 12:13-17).

The Gentile Argument

So what did Jesus mean when He said that “if another shall come in his own name you will receive him?” Those who argue the Antichrist will be a Gentile respond by saying that the Antichrist will be accepted by the Jewish people as their political savior when he implements a treaty that will guarantee their security and enable them to rebuild their Temple (Daniel 9:27). But the Jews will never receive the Antichrist as their spiritual savior. Thus, when he declares himself to be God, they will reject him.

There is other scriptural evidence that the Antichrist will be a Gentile. For example, Revelation 13:1 pictures him as a beast arising “out of the sea.” The sea is used in Scripture to symbolize the Gentile nations (Daniel 7:3 and Luke 21:25).

In contrast, the Antichrist’s right-hand man and spiritual leader is pictured in Revelation 13:11 as rising up out of the land (or the earth, in some translations). This reference to the land is an indication that the False Prophet will be a Jew who will rise out of the Promised Land of Israel.



Possibly a Muslim?

Could the Antichrist possibly be a Muslim? This is a new idea that seems to be catching fire today due to the awakening of Islam and the revival of its territorial goal of conquering the world for Allah.

I recently read four books that relate to this topic. One lays the biblical foundation without asserting that the Antichrist will actually be a Muslim. The other three use that foundation to make the assertion.

The book that provides the biblical foundation — and the best book of the four — is entitled **The Assyrian Connection**.¹ It was written in 1993 by Phillip Goodman. A revised edition was published in 2003.

Goodman is the director of Thy Kingdom Come Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a Bible prophecy ministry founded by Dr. Charles Pack. He and Dr. Pack co-host a television program called “Prophecy Watch.” Like his mentor, Dr. Pack, Phillip Goodman is an astute Bible student and gifted teacher who

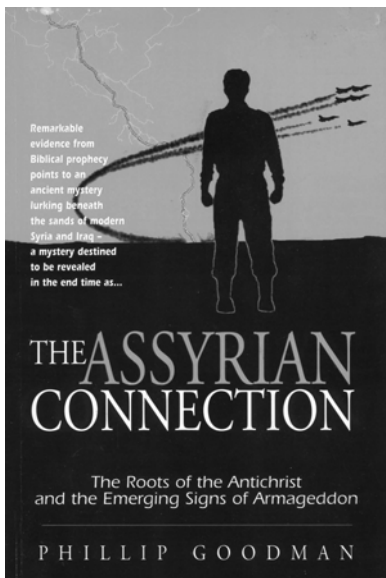
bases all that he writes and says on Scripture.

Goodman’s Book

In his book, Goodman argues that the Antichrist will rise from the Eastern wing of the old Roman Empire, coming from the ancient Greek sphere of influence that was incorporated into that empire. Getting even more specific, he argues that the Antichrist will come from the Seleucid area of the Greek sphere — specifically, from Assyria, meaning either modern-day Syria or Iraq. Although he never specifically states that the Antichrist will be a Muslim, he leaves this distinct impression by claiming that he will come from Syria or Iraq.

For scriptural evidence of his thesis, Goodman points to the description of the Antichrist in Revelation 13:2 where he is portrayed symbolically as being like a leopard, with the feet of a bear, and the mouth of a lion. This imagery comes right out of Daniel 7 where the Empire of Babylon is pictured as a lion, the Medo-Persian Empire is depicted as a bear, and the Macedonian or Greek Empire of Alexander the Great is described as a leopard.

Goodman argues that since the dominate feature of the Antichrist in Revelation 13:2 is his leopard body, it is an indication that the Antichrist will rise out of the area of the Greek Empire that was incorporated into the Roman Empire.



Next, he narrows the geographical search by pointing to Micah 5:5 where an end time prophecy refers to “the Assyrian” invading the land of Israel. He argues this is a reference to the Antichrist.

He then buttresses his argument by referencing Daniel 8 where Daniel tells about a vision he was given of a succession of empires. Daniel says he saw a ram representing the Medo-Persian Empire (vs. 3 and 20) and that it was trampled by a male goat, representing the Greek

Empire (vs. 5-7 and 21). The male goat had a “conspicuous horn between his eyes” representing Alexander the Great. But then Daniel reports that he saw the large horn “broken” (symbolizing the death of Alexander) and that “in its place there came up four conspicuous horns,” representing the four divisions of the Greek Empire that were created after Alexander’s death.

Out of one of those four divisions of Alexander’s Empire Daniel witnessed the emergence of “a little horn which grew exceedingly great” (verse 9).

Antiochus Epiphanes

Nearly all Bible scholars agree that this little horn represents Antiochus Epiphanes, a tyrant who arose out of the Seleucid section of Alexander’s Empire. He is described in detail in verses 23-26 in what sounds like a classic depiction of the Antichrist, making it clear that Antiochus was a type of the Antichrist. In fact, this is made rather clear in verses 17 and 19 where Daniel is told by Gabriel that the prophecy will not find its fulfillment until the “time of the end.”

So, if the type of the Antichrist — Antiochus Epiphanes — was from Seleucia, then Goodman argues the Antichrist will also come from that same area (Syria/Iraq) and will thus be an Assyrian.

A Succession of Empires

Another argument Goodman uses to substantiate the Assyrian connection of the Antichrist is based on a passage in Revelation 17:9-11 where there is a reference to seven empires. Five are referred to as “fallen” (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece). The sixth is “the one that is” — namely, the one that existed at that time (Rome). The seventh is called the one that “has not yet come” (the empire that will give birth to the Antichrist). Revelation 13:1-3 also refers to these seven empires and states that the Antichrist will arise out of the one that comes back to life in the end times. The traditional interpretation is that this is a reference to a revival of the Roman Empire.

But Goodman says no. He argues that all the kingdoms continued to exist to one degree or another except the Assyrian. He argues it was the only one that totally ceased to exist and therefore, it is the one that will be resurrected from the dead in the end times. To support this conclusion from Scripture,

Goodman quotes Daniel 7:12 where Daniel is told that “an extension of life” for “an appointed time” had been granted to the beasts that were symbolic of world empires.

Goodman offers a number of other arguments in behalf of his thesis, but these are the key ones. Let’s now evaluate them.

Responding to Goodman

With regard to the symbolic description of the Antichrist in Revelation 13:2 as being like a leopard with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion, I see no reason to seize on the mention of the leopard to conclude that the Antichrist will come out of the Greek sphere of the old Roman Empire. I believe all this passage is saying is that the kingdom of the Antichrist will have characteristics of these three kingdoms — swift as a leopard, strong as a bear, and deadly as a lion.

And surely that will be the case, for keep in mind that the book of Revelation reveals that the Antichrist will conquer the entire world in only three and a half years!

Micah 5:5

Nor do I believe there is any validity to the use of Micah 5:5 to determine the national identity of the Antichrist. Micah 5:3-15 is entirely about the Millennium. The Antichrist will be dead and gone during that time. Revelation 19:20-21 says that at the Second Coming of Jesus — at the end of the Tribulation — the Antichrist and his False Prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire where they will be tormented eternally (20:10).

I believe that all the prophet is saying in Micah 5:5-6 is that during the Millennium the Lord will protect Israel from all its natural enemies — as symbolized by Assyria (the enemy of Israel at the time the prophet wrote).

Daniel 8

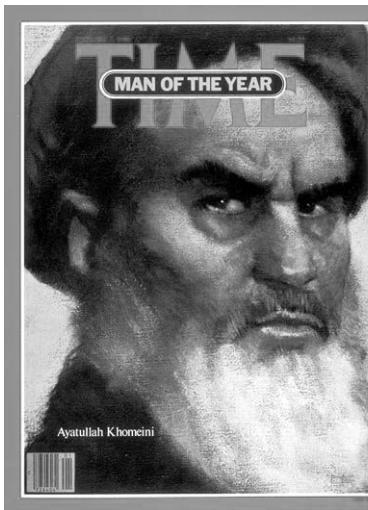
Regarding Daniel 8, there is no doubt that this chapter is a prophecy that Antiochus Epiphanes, who is a biblical type of the Antichrist, will rise out of one of the four divisions of Alexander’s Empire that were created after his death. It is also clear that the chapter states that what is said about the nature of Antiochus applies to the Antichrist in the end times (Daniel 8:17 and 19). But the primary focus of the chapter is on the personality and character of the Antichrist (verses 23-26), not on his origin.



Phillip Goodman

Keep in mind that there are many other symbolic types of the Antichrist in Scripture besides Antiochus. They include such persons as the Pharaoh of the Exodus, King Saul of Israel, David’s son, Absalom, and King Herod. Some of these are Jewish, but that doesn’t mean the Antichrist will be Jewish. One of the most significant, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, was from Egypt, but that doesn’t mean the Antichrist will be an Egyptian.

They, like Antiochus, are types of the Antichrist because of their rebellion against God and because they attempted to exalt themselves above God. Remember also that symbolic types are never exactly the same as what they are symbols of. Joseph, for



In January of 1980 Time magazine announced that it had selected the new ruler of Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini, as “Man of the Year” for 1979. The Ayatollah’s rise to power is what sparked the modern day revival of Islam. He died in 1989. It is the revival of Islam, coupled with the demise of Communism that has prompted some Bible prophecy students to reconsider the meaning of end time prophecies.

example, is a symbolic type of Jesus.

But even more important is the fact that Antiochus Epiphanes was of Greek heritage. He was not an Assyrian. So, if the prophecy in Daniel 8 is pointing to the heritage of the Antichrist, it is indicating that he will be a Roman of Greek heritage.

Revelation 17

The weakest argument Goodman attempts to use is the one he bases on Revelation 17:9-11. His assertion that all the empires included in this passage have continued to this day, except the Assyrian, simply cannot be justified in history. The Babylonian Empire ceased to exist overnight when it was overthrown by the Medo-Persian Empire. Two hundred years later, when Alexander the Great visited the site of the Empire’s capital city, there was nothing left but ruins.

The Bible specifically prophesies that Babylon will be overthrown by the Medes, and that thereafter, it will “never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation” (Isaiah 13:17-20). That prophecy was partially fulfilled in 539 BC when the Medes and the Persians conquered Babylon. It was completely fulfilled in the years that followed as the city went into a slow decline, ultimately ending up in ruins. And just as prophesied, the city has remained desolate to this day (despite persistent rumors of it being “rebuilt”).

The bottom line is that there is no way around the fact that the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Roman Empires ceased to exist. And there is no way to sensibly argue that all of them have continued to this day except the Assyrian, and therefore it is the one that will be resurrected in the end times. The context of Daniel’s succession of world empires as portrayed in chapters 2 and 7 is that the empire of the Antichrist will be a revival of the last of the empires in the series — the Roman Empire.

This discussion reminds me of the Holy Roman Empire that existed from about 800 AD to 1806. It was an attempt by Germanic tribes to keep the Roman Empire alive. But it was very limited in scope and existed primarily on paper, prompting Voltaire to observe, “It is neither holy, Roman, nor an empire.”

A Major Revision

In the 2003 revision of his book, Goodman decided that the seventh empire of Revelation 17 should be changed from a

revival of the Roman Empire to the Ottoman Empire (1299-1923). But he continued to argue that the Antichrist would arise out of the revived Assyrian Empire.²

Let’s take a careful look at the Revelation 17 passage. It begins by referring to the scarlet beast (the Antichrist) on which a great harlot (the Antichrist’s apostate religion) sits. It says the beast has seven heads.

- 9) Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,
- 10) and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.
- 11) And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

Considering the time when this passage was written (95 AD), the five kings “fallen” would be the following empires: Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Grecian. The “one is” empire — the one existing at the time Revelation was written — would be the Roman. The one to come would be the revival of the Roman Empire which will give birth to the Antichrist (the European Union). The eighth empire would be the worldwide empire of the Antichrist which he will establish through military conquest during the first half of the Tribulation.

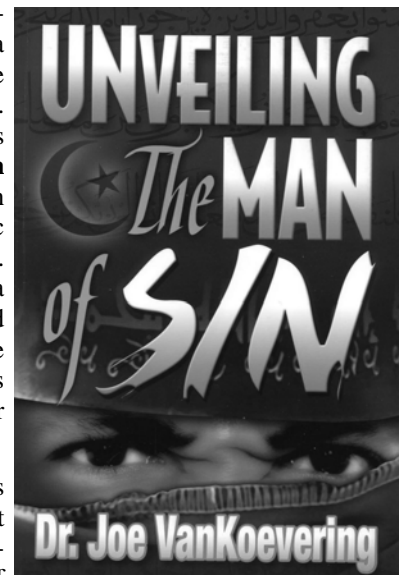
The Ottoman Empire cannot be inserted in this passage. To do so would make it the seventh empire. The eighth, according to Goodman, would be the revival of the Assyrian Empire, making the worldwide empire of the Antichrist the ninth empire. But the passage provides for only eight empires.

Furthermore, to deny that the empire to be revived is the Roman Empire is to deny the significance of the miraculous revival of that empire in our day and time in the form of the European Union — an event that has been predicted by prophecy experts for several hundred years.

VanKoevering’s Book

The second book I consulted that proposes a Muslim Antichrist is one published in 2007 by Dr. Joe VanKoevering. It is titled *Unveiling the Man of Sin*.³ The author is an eloquent and enthusiastic teacher of Bible prophecy. He serves as the host of a television program called “God’s News Behind the News.” He also pastors Gateway Christian Center in St. Petersburg, Florida.

VanKoevering begins his quest for the Antichrist by asserting, like Goodman, that he must be of Assyrian heritage. His biblical basis for this assertion is Isaiah 10:24 — “Therefore, thus says the Lord God of hosts, ‘O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes



you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, the way Egypt did.”

Next, he resorts to the same argument as Goodman, claiming that since Antiochus Epiphanes — a type of the Antichrist — came from the Seleucid or Assyrian area of the Grecian Empire (Syria and Iraq), the Antichrist must also come from that area.

He then tries to narrow down the search to one modern day country within the old Assyrian Empire. He does this by pointing out that in Daniel 11 there is a description of the Antichrist’s invasion of the Middle East during the Tribulation. Daniel says the Antichrist and his army will conquer Israel and Egypt but will not enter the area of modern day Jordan. This prompts VanKoevering to conclude that the Antichrist will come from Jordan.

Response to VanKoevering

In response I would point out first of all that Isaiah 10:24 has absolutely nothing to do with end time prophecy. Isaiah 10 is a prophecy that God will use Assyria as His “rod of anger” (verse 5) to judge Israel. He urges Israel in verses 24-25 not to fear the Assyrians because “in a very little while My indignation against you will be spent, and My anger will be directed to their destruction.” In other words, God will use Assyria to discipline Israel but He will not allow them to destroy the Jewish people. And furthermore, once He is finished using Assyria as a rod of His discipline, He will destroy the Assyrian Empire.

That’s all there is to the passage. Again, it has nothing to do with end time prophecy or the Antichrist.

I have already addressed the argument that the Antichrist must be an Assyrian because his symbolic type — Antiochus Epiphanes — was from Assyria. Again, there are many types of the Antichrist presented in Scripture, like the Pharaoh of the Exodus and King Saul of Israel, but these types do not mean the Antichrist will necessarily come from Egypt or Israel. But the most important fact to keep in mind is that Antiochus was a Greek, not an Assyrian.

As to the argument based on Daniel 11, it is true that the Antichrist and his armies will not enter modern day Jordan. But the reason given is that the area will be “rescued out of his hands” (Daniel 11:41). That doesn’t sound like a voluntary decision to refrain from invading the area. Rather, it sounds like God prevents the Antichrist from invading Jordan — and for good reason, since the Bible indicates this will be the land of refuge for the Jewish remnant when they flee Israel in the middle of the Tribulation (Revelation 12:13-17).

Additional Qualifications

Besides asserting that the Antichrist must be an Assyrian, VanKoevering also says he must be a “prince” and “the King of Babylon.”

The prince requirement is taken from Daniel 9:26 which says the Antichrist will be a prince. The King of Babylon idea comes



Joe VanKoevering

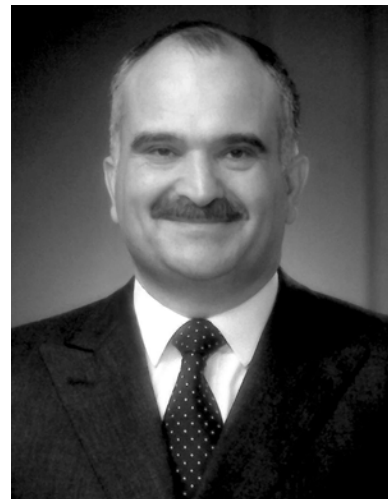
from Isaiah 14:4ff where a taunt against the King of Babylon is presented. As the King of Babylon is described in detail, he clearly morphs into a description of Satan. VanKoevering claims it is also a description of the Antichrist.

Having established what he believes are three requirements for the Antichrist — that he be an Assyrian from Jordan, that he be a prince, and that he be the King of Babylon — VanKoevering then spends the rest of his book trying to prove that the best candidate for the Antichrist is Crown Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan!⁴ Prince Hassan is the brother of former King Hussein and was his designated heir to the throne of Jordan until the king changed his mind on his deathbed and gave the throne, instead, to his son, Abdullah II.

It grieves me that VanKoevering has made this attempt to identify the Antichrist. It is the sort of sensational speculation that has given the whole field of Bible prophecy a bad reputation.

VanKoevering’s Antichrist Candidate

Why does he point to Prince Hassan? First, he argues that “the closest genetic relationship of the Assyrians are with the native populations of Jordan and Iraq.”⁵ But what he overlooks is the fact that the Hashemite royal family of Jordan is not native to either Jordan or Iraq. The family came, instead, from Saudi Arabia. Members of this family were imposed upon the populations of Iraq and Jordan as kings of these nations by Great Britain after World War I. So, Prince Hassan does not even meet the first criterion stipulated by VanKoevering!



Prince Hassan

The next qualification of the Antichrist that Hassan is supposed to fulfill is that he carries the title of Prince. This is really irrelevant. When Daniel 9:26 says the Antichrist will be a “prince,” all it is saying is that he will be a political leader. The Bible uses two terms for political leaders — prince and king. The biblical authors could not refer to presidents or prime ministers because those forms of ruling power had not yet developed. Thus, when we are told in Psalm 118:9 “it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes,” we are being warned against putting our trust in politicians. The warning is not limited to those politicians who literally have the title of prince.

VanKoevering’s third qualification for the Antichrist — that he be the King of Babylon — is, of course, unfulfilled in the life of Prince Hassan. But VanKoevering argues it could become a possibility since one of his Hashemite relatives, King Faisal, was installed by the British as King of Iraq in 1921. King Faisal, the brother of Prince Hassan’s grandfather, King Abdullah, died in 1933. His son, King Faisal II, and all his family were murdered in 1958 when the Iraqi military mounted a coup d’etat.

VanKoevering believes there is an excellent possibility that the leaders of Iraq will seek to stabilize their nation by inviting

Prince Hassan to become king. But that is pure speculation, and there is no indication that the people of Iraq want a king, particularly one that is not even native to their population.

Nor is there any requirement in Scripture that the Antichrist be the King of Babylon. The passage VanKoevering uses to establish this idea is found in Isaiah 14 where the King of Babylon is presented as a type of Satan himself. That there might be a double application to both Satan and the Antichrist is a real possibility since the Antichrist will be possessed by Satan, but there is no indication in the passage that the Antichrist must be the King of Babylon.

A similar taunt is presented in Ezekiel 28 against the Prince of Tyre. And like the passage in Isaiah 14, the taunt morphs into a description of Satan that could be applied to the Antichrist. Does that mean the Antichrist must also be the King of Tyre? I think not.

One final observation about VanKoevering's book. I believe that 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 teaches that the Antichrist will not be revealed until the beginning of the Tribulation. All attempts to identify him before the Tribulation are a waste of time.

Richardson's Book

The third book I investigated is one by Joel Richardson entitled **Antichrist: Islam's Awaited Messiah**.⁶

I wish I could tell you something about the author, but he states in the book's introduction that he is using a pen name due to fear of Muslim threats on his life.⁷

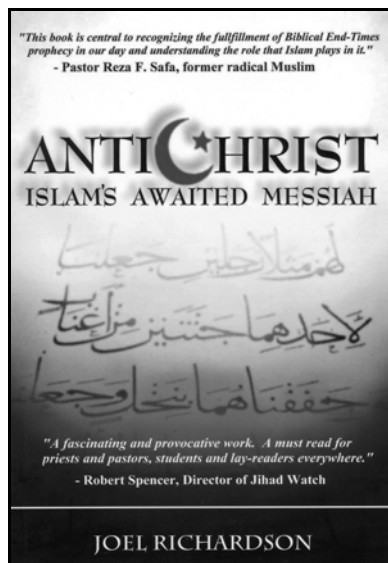
I was really turned off by this revelation and almost decided not to read the book. People who speak out publicly on issues should be willing to put their name to their words. And being motivated by fear is certainly not a biblical attitude (Psalm 118:6).

Whoever he may be, Joel Richardson is an excellent writer who knows how to craft and present persuasive arguments.

Richardson begins by introducing the reader to the complex and confusing world of Islamic eschatology. One of the reasons it is so confusing is because it has never been systematized, as has been the case with biblical eschatology.

Another reason for the confusion is that there is almost no end time prophecy in the Quran. The prophecies are found, instead, in the Hadith, which is a compilation of sayings by Mohammed that were pulled together from a great variety of sources some two hundred years after his death. Most of these sayings are hearsay and many are contradictory.

I have written a detailed outline of Islamic eschatology that was printed in this magazine in the issue of May-June 2006. A copy of it can be found on our website at www.lamblion.com.



Misleading Aspects

Richardson's presentation of what Muslims believe about the end times is very misleading, for what he presents is the Shi'ite version which revolves around the concept of an Islamic Messiah called the Mahdi. He leaves the impression that all the Islamic world is living in breathless anticipation of the appearance of the Mahdi, when the reality is that 90% of all Muslims — the Sunnis — are not looking for a Mahdi. In fact the concept of a Mahdi is not even found in orthodox versions of the Hadith like *Sahih al-Bukhari* and *Sahih Muslim*.



An artist's concept of the Mahdi.

The Sunni Muslims are looking instead for the appearance of the Antichrist, whom they call the Dajjal. If a person were suddenly to appear on the world scene claiming to be the Mahdi, he would be automatically rejected by the vast majority of Muslims.

Another misleading aspect of Richardson's presentation is his constant talk about the "amazing parallels" and "startling similarities" between Islamic and biblical end time prophecies. Actually, there is nothing startling or amazing when you consider the fact that Mohammed borrowed nearly all his key ideas from Bible stories he heard from both Jews and Christians, stories he often got thoroughly confused. This is a well proven fact, and for overwhelming evidence, I would direct you to Dr. Samuel Shih's book, *The Last Trumpet*.⁸

Also misleading is Richardson's heavy reliance on quotations from the Hadith to establish his scenario for end time events. He treats the Hadith as if it contains inspired prophecy, when, in fact, it is nothing more than the ramblings of a demon-possessed man.



Walid Shoebat

Another problem with Richardson's book is that he states that he got many of his ideas from Walid Shoebat.⁹ This man is a former Palestinian terrorist who became a Christian. He is an expert on terrorism, and he is an outstanding speaker on the subject.

But when it comes to Bible prophecy, his ideas are very unorthodox, as Richardson's book clearly reveals. One irritating point that Shoebat keeps making in his public presentations is that one must have an Eastern mindset in order to understand Bible prophecy. He claims that all of us in the Western world have completely misunderstood Bible prophecy because we interpret it from a Western mentality.

This is not only a prideful viewpoint, it is also unbiblical. The Bible was not written in such a way so that only those with a

particular mindset can understand it. It was written for all people to understand. There certainly are guidelines to interpretation (such as accepting the plain sense meaning), but any mindset can use those guidelines to understand what the Bible says, as long as the person is indwelt with God's Holy Spirit.

The Central Concept

The heart of Richardson's thesis (and Shoebat's) is that the Antichrist will be a Muslim who will lead a Middle Eastern coalition of Muslim nations against Israel in the end times. In short, the empire of the Antichrist will be a regional one confined to the Middle East!

Like Goodman, Richardson asserts that the seventh empire of Revelation 17:9-11 is the Ottoman Empire, but unlike Goodman, he claims that the eighth and final empire will be a revival of the Ottoman and not the Assyrian. This scheme works better than Goodman's because there is no need for a ninth empire since Richardson denies that the Antichrist will use the revived Ottoman Empire to build a worldwide empire. The revived Ottoman Empire will be the final Gentile empire.

Regional or World Empire?

In order to sustain this totally revisionist interpretation of end time prophecy, Richardson goes to great pains to deny the clear meaning of Revelation 13:7 which reads as follows: "And it was given to him [the Antichrist] to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him."

Let me ask you a question: What more would God have to say to convince us that the Antichrist will have a worldwide kingdom?

Yet, Richardson tries to dismiss this verse as nothing but hyperbole. He does so by quoting Daniel 5:18-19 where it states that Nebuchadnezzar, was feared by "all peoples and nations and men of every language." Richardson then asks, "Did every single nation in the earth fear Nebuchadnezzar?"¹⁰ My answer would be, "Yes, all nations that were aware of him." That's all the statement means in its context.

Richardson then quotes 1 Kings 4:34 which says that men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, "sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom." He then asks derisively, "Was Solomon's wisdom so impressive that not a single king in all the earth failed to hear of it?"¹¹ That's not what the verse says. Read it again. It says the kings *who had heard of his wisdom* sent representatives — not *all* kings.

Context determines meaning, and the context of Revelation 13:7 clearly means that the Antichrist kingdom will be worldwide, not just a regional coalition of Muslim nations.

The Ezekiel 38 War

Richardson denies that the war described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 will be led by Russia or that Russia will even have a part in it. He favors Turkey as the leader.¹² Yet, Ezekiel 38 clearly states that

the invasion will be led by the Prince of Rosh coming from "the remote parts of the north" (Ezekiel 38:15). There is no way that Turkey could be considered a nation located in "the remote parts of the north."

Richardson never reveals when he believes the Ezekiel 38 invasion of Israel will occur, but it must be at the end of the Tribulation since the invading army will be the army of the Antichrist and will be destroyed by God. Thus, he must equate the battle of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39 with the Battle of Armageddon. But these are not the same battles.

The battle of Gog and Magog involves Russia and certain specified allies who come against Israel either at the beginning of the Tribulation or, most likely, before it begins. One of the tip-offs as to the timing of this invasion is the statement that following the defeat of the invading armies, the Israelis will spend seven years cleaning up the battle field and burning the leftover weapons (Ezekiel 39:9).

Many have equated this seven years with the Tribulation, thus putting the invasion at the start of that period of time. But we know that in the middle of the Tribulation the Antichrist is going to turn on the Jews and try to annihilate them, making it impossible for them to continue the clean-up during the last half of that terrible period. So, most likely, the battle will occur before the Tribulation begins.¹³

In contrast, the Battle of Armageddon occurs at the end of the Tribulation. And there really is no battle at all. The armies of the Antichrist are destroyed in an instant when Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives and speaks a supernatural word, causing their flesh to drop from their bodies (Zechariah 14:1-13). In the Gog and Magog battle, the invading armies will be destroyed on the "mountains of Israel" (Ezekiel 39:4), not in the Valley of Armageddon, and they will be destroyed by pestilence, hailstones, fire and brimstone (Ezekiel 38:22).

Another serious problem with placing the Gog and Magog war at the end of the Tribulation is that Ezekiel 38 says the invasion will occur at a time when Israel is living in peace with unwallied cities (Ezekiel 38:11). That will not be the case at the end of the Tribulation. The land of Israel will be in absolute chaos at that time.

Psalm 83

When I finished reading the book, I found myself wanting to ask Richardson and Shoebat what they are going to do with Psalm 83? This psalm portrays an attack on Israel by a Muslim coalition consisting of Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Gaza, Saudi Arabia and Assyria (Syria and Iraq). The Bible clearly teaches that God will protect Israel against all such attacks in the end times (Zechariah 12:6 and Amos 9:15).

The outcome of this war most likely is detailed in Zephaniah 2:4-5. These verses indicate that the attacking nations will be devastated by Israel. It is during this war that Damascus, the capital of Syria, will probably be destroyed completely, never to



be rebuilt again (Isaiah 17:1-14 and Jeremiah 49:23-27). That is why Syria is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as one of the Russian allies.¹⁴

The outcome of the Psalm 83 war is what will produce peace for Israel, the peace that it is prophesied to be enjoying when Russia and its allies decide to launch the Ezekiel 38 invasion.

The war of Psalm 83 followed by the war of Ezekiel 38 will result in the annihilation of nearly all the armies of the Muslim nations of the Middle East, and these wars are most likely going to occur before the Tribulation begins! Thus, if the Antichrist is a Muslim who is going to rule a Muslim empire in the Middle East during the Tribulation, then he is going to rule over an empire that has been reduced to ashes!

Final Arguments

Richardson wraps up his arguments with the observation that the Antichrist will be a Muslim because Islam is the most perfect incarnation of the antichrist spirit,¹⁵ because it practices beheading as a form of execution,¹⁶ and because it observes a calendar that is different from the rest of the world.¹⁷



A picture of Joel Richardson taken from a video produced by him.

The first point simply is not true. The most perfect incarnation of the antichrist spirit is, and always has been, Humanism in all its various forms. Islam points people toward a god, even though he is a false god. Humanism encourages people to worship Man. God is denied. Man is exalted. And the rejection of God, together with the exaltation of self, is the ultimate antichrist spirit.

The point about beheading is based on the statement in Revelation 20:4 that the Tribulation martyrs will be executed by beheading.

Richardson says this is proof that the religion of the Antichrist will be Islam because Muslims are the only people in the world today who practice beheading. This is flimsy evidence at best. Beheading is not a unique characteristic of Islam. It was one of the stellar characteristics of the French Revolution, and is just the type of horror the Antichrist would institute, regardless of his nationality or religion.

Regarding the calendar, Richardson's point here is based on Daniel 7:25 where it says the Antichrist will alter "the times and the law." It is true that the Muslims have a calendar different from the Western world, and it is true that if they ever could gain control of the world, they would enforce the observance of their calendar. But the Antichrist is going to change the calendar regardless of who he is. That's because the calendar followed by most of the world dates from the birth of Jesus.

Other Problems

At the end of his book, Richardson acknowledges that there is a major problem with his interpretation of end time events.¹⁸ The Bible says that the Antichrist will exalt himself above all gods and will display himself as being God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-

"I believe the behavior of the Antichrist described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 rules out any possibility that the Antichrist might prove to be a Muslim."

4). Richardson admits that it is almost impossible to imagine that any Muslim would ever claim to be God. Such a declaration would violate the very heart of Islamic theology.

But just as he explains away the meaning of Revelation 13:7 in a cavalier manner, Richardson proceeds to say that he thinks that the Islamic world will just simply be deceived into believing the Muslim Antichrist is God! To me, that is like saying night is day and day is night. There is a limit to deception. A person would have to cease being a Muslim in order to believe that any man could be God.

I believe the behavior of the Antichrist described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 rules out any possibility that the Antichrist might prove to be a Muslim.

An equally important fact that I think rules out the possibility of a Muslim Antichrist is that prophecy states the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel that will guarantee the nation's security (Daniel 9:27 and Isaiah 28:14-22). It is preposterous to believe that Israel would ever trust its security to a Muslim leader.

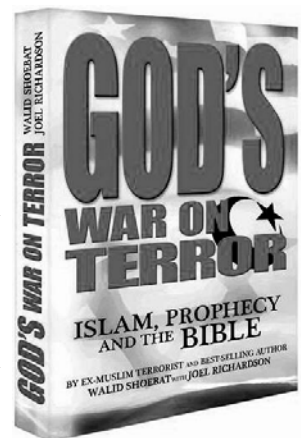
There are other serious problems with Richardson's scenario that he does not acknowledge. How, for example, does he explain the miraculous resurrection of the Roman Empire in the form of the European Union? It's a development that prophecy experts have been telling us to watch for, and those alerts go back several hundred years. Is the revival of the Roman Empire just an accident of history? I think not. It is going to serve as the platform for the ascension of the Antichrist.

Another problem Richardson must deal with is the worldwide destruction that Revelation describes in chapters 6-9. Those chapters reveal that one-half of the world's population is going to die during the first half of the Tribulation. Is this going to happen as a result of a regional conflict? Or, is all this just more "biblical hyperbole"?

The Fourth Book

As this essay was being completed a new book was published on the subject that is co-authored by Richardson and Shoebat. It is titled **God's War on Terror: Islam, Prophecy and the Bible.**¹⁹

This is a very expensive book (\$29.95) and a very long one (512 pages). The writing is very tedious and difficult to follow. Even worse, the organizational format is chaotic and confusing. It is very clear that it was not written by Joel Richardson, who is an excellent writer. I can only conclude that Richardson must have helped with the research and Shoebat was the writer.



The book rehashes Richardson's arguments, but in much greater detail. One of the maddening things about the book is that it resorts throughout to convoluted reasoning and scripture misapplication.

Mis-applying Scripture

An example of the latter can be found in Shoebat's explanation of Psalm 83 — a topic ignored in Richardson's book.²⁰ He attempts to prove that the war described in this psalm between Israel and its close Arab neighbors is one that will occur at the end of the Tribulation, after the Second Coming of the Messiah. Thus, he argues it will be a conflict between forces led by Jesus and those led by the Antichrist. I was astonished to read this interpretation because I have studied this psalm in detail, and there is not one verse in it that even implies that Jesus will be present on this earth when the battle occurs.

So, I looked for Shoebat's scriptural proof of Jesus' presence. Believe it or not, the proof he provided was quotes from two other psalms:²¹

- 1) Psalm 82:8 — "Arise, O God, judge the earth!"
- 2) Psalm 80:14 — "Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts."

Neither one of the psalms are related to Psalm 83. Both are prayers by Asaph for the Lord to return to the earth to bring justice. Neither one states that the Messiah is on the earth.

This kind of incredibly sloppy proof-texting can be found throughout Shoebat's book. Whenever he wants to make a point, he goes fishing for a verse. When he finds it, he reels it in and applies it to the passage under consideration, whether it is related to that passage or not.

Another example can be found in the second argument he gives for placing the Psalm 83 war at the end of the Tribulation. He says it must occur at that time because it is a war triggered by the Antichrist's desecration of the Jewish Temple — a temple that will be rebuilt during the first half of the Tribulation. And what is his evidence? He quotes Psalm 79:1 — "O God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance; they have defiled Your holy temple." Once again, he tries to prove a point about Psalm 83 by quoting a verse from an unrelated psalm.



The Muslim nations of the world are indicated above in the dark gray color. The largest Muslim nation is Indonesia, with a population in excess of 235 million. Pakistan is the second largest.

Strange and Strained Logic

A good example of Shoebat's tortuous logic can be found in his attempt to explain away the meaning of Daniel 9:26. The plain sense meaning of this passage is that the Antichrist will come from the people who will destroy the Temple.

Shoebat and Richardson argue that the Roman legions that carried out the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD were composed primarily of Arabs, mainly Syrians and Turks.²²

They therefore conclude that the Antichrist will arise from the Syrians or Turks and will be a Muslim.

This is really grasping at straws in the wind! It doesn't matter whether or not the legions were composed of Australian Aborigines, it was the Roman government that decided to destroy Jerusalem, it was the Roman government that gave the orders, and it was Roman generals who carried out the destruction. Rome was the rod of God's judgment and it is from the Roman people that the Antichrist will arise.



The destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD.

Something Correct

Shoebat and Richardson have gotten one thing right: the Muslim world is going to suffer a devastating fate in the end times, but not at the end of the Tribulation as a result of a conflict between armies commanded by a Muslim Antichrist and Jesus.

The Middle Eastern Muslim nations will suffer overwhelming defeats in the Psalm 83 War and the Ezekiel 38 War before the Tribulation begins and before the Antichrist comes on the scene. The Antichrist, who will arise out of the revived Roman Empire will then launch a world war to conquer all nations, and during that war, he will be used of God to annihilate the remaining Muslim nations outside the Middle East.

Concluding Thoughts

In conclusion, I want to emphasize once more that the behavior of the Antichrist described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 rules out his being a Muslim. This has to be one of the key stumbling blocks for the whole theory.

I would also like to answer a question that Shoebat poses throughout his book and seems always to mention in his public presentations. He asks, "Besides the argument over whether Magog is Russia, can you cite any literal reference to a nation that God destroys in the End-Times that is not Muslim?" Yes, I can. It is Babylon, whose destruction is described in detail in Revelation 18. I say that because I am convinced that the "mystery" Babylon that is mentioned in Revelation 17:5 is the end time worldwide empire of the Antichrist that will be headquartered in Rome. I have written extensively on this point, and you can find an essay about it on our website.

Two final observations. First, beware of Lone Ranger interpretations of prophecy that are not widely shared. God does not reveal the meaning of prophecy only to a person or two. 2 Peter

1:20 says, “no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation.” Private and peculiar interpretations like the recent “Pre-Wrath Rapture,” usually make a big initial splash and then fade quickly when submitted to critical review.

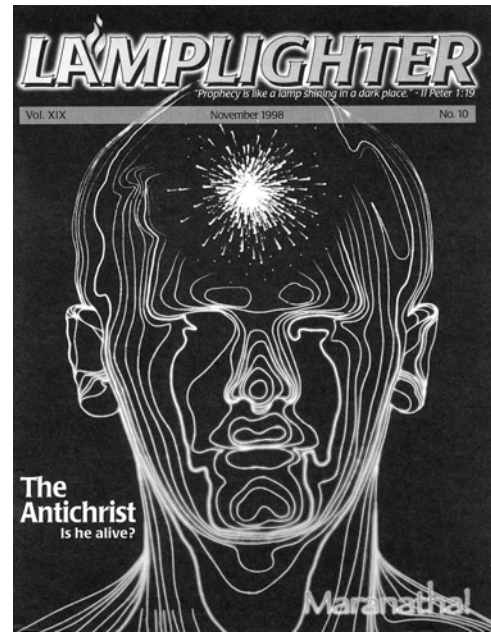
Second, I think the current rush to identify the Antichrist as a Muslim is a classic example of newspaper exegesis — of reading the news headlines into the Bible rather than letting the Bible speak for itself. It would be good to keep in mind a comment made by the great Bible teacher Ray Stedman: “What determines the future is what God has done in the past and what He has promised to do in the future. So don’t look horizontally at current events.”²³ ✚

Notice: I want to thank Daymond Duck and Arnold Fruchtenbaum for the insights they shared with me concerning this topic. Both are Bible prophecy experts and authors of several books about prophecy. I also want to thank another Bible prophecy expert, Lambert Dolphin, for providing me with the quote from the writings of Ray Stedman.

Notes:

- 1) Phillip Goodman, *The Assyrian Connection* (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Prophecy Watch Books, 1993 – revised edition in 2003), 136 pages.
- 2) *Ibid.*, pp. 124-130.
- 3) Joe VanKoevering, *Unveiling The Man of Sin* (St. Petersburg, FL: God’s News Publishing, 2007), 175 pages.
- 4) *Ibid.*, p. 78.
- 5) *Ibid.*, p. 93.
- 6) Joel Richardson, *Antichrist: Islam’s Awaited Messiah*, (Enumclaw, WA: Pleasant Word, 2006), 276 pages.
- 7) *Ibid.*, pp. xv-xvi.
- 8) Dr. Samuel Shahid, *The Last Trumpet: A Comparative Study in Christian-Islamic Eschatology* (Xulon Press, 2005).
- 9) Richardson, p. 110.
- 10) *Ibid.*, p. 215.
- 11) *Ibid.*, p. 216.
- 12) *Ibid.*, p. 109.
- 13) A great book concerning the timing of the Gog and Magog invasion is *Northern Storm Rising* by Ron Rhodes (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2008), 246 pages.
- 14) For an in-depth discussion of the end time prophetic implications of Psalm 83, see *Israelestine* by Bill Salhus (Crane, Missouri: Anomalos Publishing House, 2008), 342 pages.
- 15) Richardson, pp. 121-128.
- 16) *Ibid.*, pp. 136-154.
- 17) *Ibid.*, pp. 67-68.
- 18) *Ibid.*, p. 197.
- 19) Walid Shoebat and Joel Richardson, *God’s War on Terror: Islam, Prophecy and the Bible*, (Top Executive Media, 2008), 512 pages.
- 20) *Ibid.*, pp. 240-249.
- 21) *Ibid.*, p. 241.
- 22) *Ibid.*, pp. 349-353.
- 23) Quote supplied by Lambert Dolphin (<http://ldolphin.org>).

A Profile of the Antichrist



He will be of Roman descent (Daniel 9:26). The passage says the Antichrist will come from the people who destroy the Temple. The Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

He will be a Gentile (Revelation 13:1). He is portrayed as “coming up out of the sea.” The sea is used in prophecy as a symbol of the Gentile nations. See Daniel 7:3, Luke 21:25 and Revelation 17:1.

He will rise out of the revived Roman Empire (Daniel 2:31-45 and 7:1-8, 24-28).

He will be an egotistical braggart (Daniel 7:8, Daniel 11:36-37, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, and Revelation 13:5).

He will be a blasphemer (Daniel 11:36, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, and Revelation 13:5-6).

He will be strong-willed (Daniel 8:24 and Daniel 11:36).

He will show contempt for human traditions by changing the laws and the calendar (Daniel 7:25).

He will be shrewd and deceitful (Daniel 8:23 & 25, Psalm 43:1, and Psalm 52:2).

He will be a destructive man of bloodshed (Psalm 5:6 and Daniel 8:24-25).

He will persecute believers (Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7).

He will be a sexual pervert (Daniel 11:37).

He will be a militarist (Daniel 11:38).

He will be possessed by Satan (Daniel 8:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, and Revelation 13:2).

His nature is also reflected in the titles he is given in Scripture: “The Beast” (Revelation 13:1); “The Man of Lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:3); “The Son of Destruction” (2 Thessalonians 2:3); “The Despicable Person” (Daniel 11:21); “The Willful King” (Daniel 11:36); “The Worthless Shepherd” (Zechariah 11:17); and “The Insolent King” (Daniel 8:23). ✚

The Fate of the Muslims

Dr. David R. Reagan

The Bible prophesies that God will pour out judgment upon the Arab nations in the end times for their hostility toward the Jews and their attempt to claim the Jewish homeland as their own. Consider Joel 3:19, for example. This passage has a clear end time context, and in that context it says, "Egypt will become a waste, and Edom will become a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood."

Keep in mind that Edom is often used as a symbolic term for all the Arab peoples, just as Israel is used as a term for all the Jewish tribes. Ezekiel says that "all Edom" will be dealt with in the end times because of its hatred against the Jews and its lust for their land (Ezekiel 35:10-11 and 36:1-7). The result will be the desolation of the Arab states (Ezekiel 35:15). The book of Obadiah prophesies a similar fate for Edom in "the day of the Lord" (Obadiah 15-18).

Part of this destruction is going to take place in the wars of Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38, most likely before the Tribulation begins. But these wars affect only the nations in the Middle East. The vast majority of Muslims live in nations outside the Middle East.



Tribulation Judgment

I believe the Muslims in other parts of the world, like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, will taste the wrath of God at the beginning of the Tribulation when they refuse to accept the European Antichrist. They will become the focus of the Antichrist's military actions to subdue all the world to his authority.

The book of Revelation states that one-fourth of humanity will die in the initial military campaign of the Antichrist (chapter 6). That's 1.5 billion people in today's terms. Then, we are told that the war will expand into what appears to be a nuclear holocaust, and during this second phase (chapters 8 & 9), one-third of those remaining will die. That's another 1.5 billion.

So, a total of 3 million people are going to be killed in the wars of the Antichrist during the first half of the Tribulation. I believe most of those will be Muslims.

Hope for the Arabs

But the future for the Arabs is not all bleak. They must suffer for their sins just as the Jewish people will suffer during the Tribulation. And, like the Jews, a remnant of the Arabs will emerge from their suffering with their hearts turned to the one and only true God (Jeremiah 12:14-17).

The most remarkable prophecy concerning the future salvation of an Arab remnant is contained in Isaiah 19:16-25. Isaiah says that when the Lord strikes Egypt and Assyria, they will turn to Him and He will have compassion on them and "heal them." Isaiah then presents an incredible picture of Egypt, Assyria and Israel living together in peace during the Millennium, worshipping the same God!

Another remarkable prophecy concerns the Arabs who will be living in the land of Israel after the Lord returns. This prophecy relates to the fact that the territory of Israel will be greatly expanded when Jesus returns, incorporating many of the Arab nations that exist today. (The considerably expanded borders of Israel during the Millennium are detailed in Ezekiel 47:15-20.) Amazingly, Ezekiel says that the Arabs living in Israel at that time will be "allotted an inheritance" of the land together with the tribes of Israel! (Ezekiel 47:21-23. See also Isaiah 14:1-2.)

God's Love for the Arabs

The Bible says the Jewish people are the "apple of God's eye" (Zechariah 2:8), but that does not mean that He has no love for their cousins, the Arabs. Just as God has covenants with the Jews, He has a covenant with the Arab peoples. You can find it in Genesis 16:11-12 and 17:20-21. In this covenant, God promised to make the descendants of Ishmael (the Arabs) a great nation and to give them all the land to the east of their Jewish brethren.

God has been faithful to these promises. Today there are 22 Arab nations with a combined population of 289 million people. The Arabs occupy a total area of 5.3 million square miles of oil rich land. By contrast, there is only one Jewish state with a population of 5 million Jews who are squeezed into only 8 thousand square miles of space. That's a population ratio of 58 to 1 and a land ratio of 662 to 1. The Arabs have truly been blessed.

Our Impartial God

There is no partiality with God (Romans 2:11). He chose the Jews, not to be a repository of His blessings, but to be a vehicle through whom He would bless all the nations of the world, including the Arabs. But the fundamental requirement to receive God's blessings — for both Jew and Arab, as well as all people — is to accept God's gift of love in Jesus by receiving Him as Messiah.

When I consider the blessings God has given the Arab peoples and the grace He is going to show toward them in the future, despite their persecution of His Chosen People, I am reminded of what Paul wrote when he considered God's grace toward his Jewish brethren: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" (Romans.11:33). ✚

Thoughts About the Election

Dr. David R. Reagan

Our nation has just elected the most pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, anti-Capitalist, and anti-Israel president in our history. In short, God has given us the kind of leader that we deserve — the kind we have been begging for. The new President now has the power to put his radical secular imprint upon this nation for decades to come through the appointment of activist liberals to the Supreme Court. I fear that our nation has been irrevocably changed for the worse.

Two factors in this election were particularly disappointing to me. First was the fact that only 59% of eligible voters bothered to vote. That was less than in the last presidential election. How could people be so apathetic in an election so important? The second voting statistic that hit me hard was the revelation that even among self-identified Evangelicals, the majority voted according to economic considerations rather than moral ones.

The financial woes of our nation are not going to be solved by any economic strategy, for they are rooted in our spiritual rebellion against God. We cannot kill babies in their mother's wombs, promote same-sex marriage, produce filthy movies and TV programs, worship the dollar, and pressure Israel to give up its heartland, and expect God to bless our economy. Our economy will be healed only when we as a nation get right with God.

Our Recent Financial Collapse



In 2003 I wrote a book about the United States in Bible prophecy. It was entitled, *America the Beautiful?* In that book I presented several scenarios to explain why the United States was not mentioned in end time Bible prophecy. I stated at the time that the one I thought would be most likely would be a catastrophic financial collapse.

That conclusion was based on the fact that the god of our nation has become money, and the true God of this world is a jealous God. I felt like our Creator would sooner or later touch our false god and destroy it if we did not repent.



On September 29th when the stock market dropped 777 points on the eve of Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year), I could see the hand of God all over the event.

The number of points the stock market fell is significant. Seven is the number of perfection and completion. It was on the seventh day that God rested from His creation activities. Six is the number of Man, for it was on the sixth day that Man was created. 666 is the Satanic symbol of Man exalted. 777 is the spiritual symbol of the Trinity.

The timing of the stock market crash was also significant since it fell on the eve of an important Jewish holiday. George W. Bush was the first President to call for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the heartland of Israel. Joel 3:2 says that God will severely judge any nation in the end times that attempts to divide the land of Israel.

How God Deals With Nations

As I pointed out in my book about the U.S. in prophecy, the Bible reveals that God has a pattern for dealing with nations. He is the one who creates them, and He is the one who decides when they are to cease to exist. He blesses as they are obedient to His Word, and He disciplines when they stray from His Word.

His discipline will first of all take the form of raising up prophetic voices to call the nation to repentance. If this fails, He will resort to remedial judgments. Those judgments can take many forms, such as natural disasters, economic calamities, and defeat in wars. And sometimes a remedial judgment can take the form of giving to a nation the kind of evil leadership it deserves. If the nation still refuses to repent, God will deliver it from judgment to destruction.

God began to call this nation to repentance following the cultural revolution of the 1960's. He raised up prophetic voices like David Wilkerson, and when we paid no attention, He began to place remedial judgments upon our nation. The attacks of 9/11 were a major wake-up call. It is no accident that those attacks were against the Twin Towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. — the symbols of American wealth and power. But like



a sleepy person who is too groggy to wake-up, we simply turned off the alarm clock, rolled over and went back to sleep. Hurricane Katrina was another national wake-up call, in response to our forcing Israel to withdraw from Gaza.

And now, God has touched our god, and our economy is in shambles. The prospect for it improving is very slim. The newly elected President has promised higher taxes and protective tariffs. The last time a President resorted to such measures in response to a financial crisis, the result was the Great Depression.

The Christian Response

What are we as Christians to do in the face of such set-backs for our nation? We are to pray and stand for righteousness. We must pray for national revival, and at the same time, we must be willing to take a stand for righteousness by speaking out boldly about the moral rot that has infected the soul of our country. We need to pray that God will frustrate, confuse, and defeat all the efforts to further secularize our nation and promote immorality.

We also need to pray for the salvation of our new President and all his family members. Despite his protestations to the contrary, Barack Obama is not a Christian, nor has he ever been. I can say that with confidence because he is a member of the most liberal Christian denomination, the United Church of Christ. This is a church that denies the divinity of Jesus and denies His statement in John 14:6 that He is the only way to God. No one can be saved apart from Jesus, and no one can be saved by putting their faith in a false Jesus.

Another prayer priority should be Israel. Let us pray that God will raise up a new leader in Israel who will have the strength to stand against American pressure to surrender the heartland of the country to the enemies of God.

Repentance or Destruction?

Some of the saddest verses in the Bible are the ones concerning the fate of the nation of Judah. They are recorded in 2 Chronicles 36:15-17:

15) And the LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place;

16) but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

17) Therefore He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; He gave them all into his hand.

This will be our fate as a nation if we continue with our rebellion against God and His Word. Keep in mind that, just like Judah, our fate will be a severe one if we refuse to repent, because to those to whom much is given, much is expected (Luke 12:48). Also, we are told that God repays double for the sins of those who are richly blessed (Isaiah 40:2).

Facing the Future

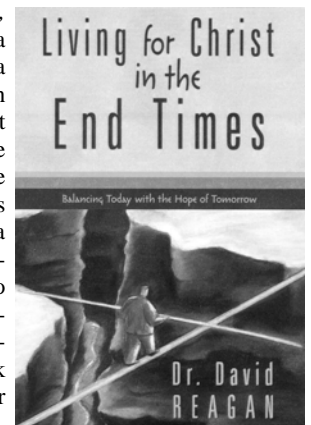
Should we face the future with despair? No! We are living in the most significant era since the First Coming of the Messiah. We are living in the season of the Lord's return. We are privileged to be witnessing the fulfillment of end time prophecies all around us, prophecies that point to the soon return of our Lord.

There are dark days ahead for our nation and the world. Christians in particular are facing increasing persecution. We need to steel our minds and fasten our hope on things eternal, just as the prophet Daniel did when he was forced to live in a wicked society. We need to strengthen our spiritual armor through prayer and immersion in the Scriptures.

And we need to remember that Psalm 2 says that God sits in the heavens and laughs at all the machinations of the world's political leaders. He isn't laughing because He doesn't care. He is laughing because He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Man and Satan to the triumph of His perfect will in history. And that will is that Jesus Christ will reign in glory and majesty from Mount Zion in Israel, and the whole world will be flooded with peace and righteousness, as the waters cover the seas.

Maranatha! (1 Corinthians 16:22) ✚

Note: Dr. Reagan's book, *America the Beautiful?*, is currently out of stock. A new 3rd edition of the book is being prepared and should be ready for distribution early in 2009. Another book by Dr. Reagan, *Living for Christ in the End Times*, contains a detailed blueprint for how a Christian is to live in the midst of a pagan society. The book begins with an in-depth analysis of the two greatest problems facing America today: the decay of society and the apostasy in the Church. It then presents ten chapters that contain an overview of how a Christian should respond to these problems. The book concludes with two prophetic chapters that reveal the victory we will one day achieve over paganism when Jesus returns. The book runs 263 pages in length and sells for \$15. To order a copy, call 1-800-705-8316. Call between 8am and 5pm, Central Time, Monday through Friday.



New Programs

We recently videotaped several programs with two outstanding Christian apologists (defenders of the faith). We recorded three programs with Dr. Ron Rhodes, founder and director of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, located in Frisco, Texas (a suburb of Dallas). We focused on tough Bible questions, and Dr. Rhodes did a superb job of answering them. You can find his ministry on the Internet at www.ronrhodes.org.

The second apologist we interviewed was Eric Barger. His ministry is called Take a Stand! It is located in Seattle, Washington. Eric did four programs with us on a great variety of topics. You can find his website at www.ericbarger.com.

Both of these series of programs will be broadcast this year, and we will be editing the programs to produce two video albums. The one with Dr. Rhodes will be entitled, "Tough Questions Concerning the Bible." The album featuring Eric Barger will be called "Defending the Faith."



Eric Barger is pictured above, seated on the left. Dr. Reagan is in the middle. On the right is Nathan Jones, the Lamb & Lion Web Minister. He assisted Dr. Reagan in interviewing Eric. Members of the video crew are standing at the back.



Dr. Martin and his wife, Jeanna Dec.

Dr. Jobe Martin was our special guest in November. He recorded four programs with Dave Reagan and Nathan Jones. All the programs were about the Evolution vs Creation debate.

Dr. Martin is the founder of Biblical Discipleship Ministries. It is located in Rockwall, Texas. His website can be found at www.BiblicalDiscipleship.org. We hope to edit his programs into a video album to be titled: "Evolution vs Creationism."

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

DayStar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369		DISH Channel 263		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network				
DirecTV Channel 364		DISH Channel 259		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 8:00am	Wed. 9:00am	Wed. 10:00am	Wed. 11:00am

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



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: KAZQ, Channel 32 and KTVS, Channel 36. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at www.lamblion.com. Go to the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and click on "Current TV Show." You can also watch our TV programs on the God Tube website at www.godtube.com. ☩

Apostasy —

“Dr. Reagan, in one of your videos you talk about signs of the times. I saw one recently at a United Methodist Church I visited in Wichita, Kansas. In one of the church’s meeting



rooms there was an array of rainbow ribbons and banners. One banner said, ‘God is too big for any one religion.’ It featured the icons of seven different religions. I discovered that this is a globalist church that is pro-choice, pro-homosexual and features such practices as Indian sweats.” — Email message from a supporter in Kansas.

New Age Hype —

Mary Ann Roberts of Florida reports that her new passport contains quotations at the top of each page. Most are from U.S. Presidents. One is from Anita Julia Cooper, an African-American scholar. Another is from Ellison Onizuka, a Hawaiian who was on the Challenger space craft. The shocking one is from a Mohawk Indian Thanksgiving address. It reads as follows:



“We send thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are glad they are still here, and we hope it will always be so.” This is a classic statement of native American Indian religion. It is also an expression of an attitude Paul warns against in Romans 1 where he states that one of the things that will provoke the wrath of God is for men to worship the creation rather than the Creator (Romans 1:24-25). It’s interesting how our government insists on separation of church and state when it comes to Christianity, but not to other forms of religious expression.

Humanist Advertising —

The Humanist Association of Britain recently ran a very successful advertising campaign in London. They plastered the sides of buses with a banner that read: “There’s probably no god. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.” The campaign was a success because it brought the Association a lot of attention, and it resulted in a flood of donations.

The success prompted the American Humanist Association to launch a similar campaign during the Christmas holidays. They put signs on buses and in subways in the Washington, D.C. area that read: “Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness’ sake.”

The director of the American Humanist Association, Roy Speckhardt, commented, “Morality doesn’t come from religion. It’s a set of values embraced by individuals and society based on empathy, fairness, and experience.”

Wrong! The Word of God teaches that Mankind is basically evil and is therefore incapable of “being good for goodness’ sake.” Read Jeremiah 17:5-9 and Mark 7:20-23.

TIMES and Seasons

Worshipping the Golden Calf —

British artist Damien Hirst recently created a work of art that consists of an 18 month old bull calf suspended inside a glass container of formaldehyde and silicone. The calf has horns and hooves cast from 18-carat gold, and it is crowned with a solid gold disc. The tank containing the calf sits on top of a marble pedestal. Together, the pedestal and tank stand 13 feet tall and nearly 12 feet wide. This unusual work of “art” which seems to symbolize the growing paganism of our times, sold at auction in September for 18.5 million dollars!



Damien Hirst is shown above standing in front of his golden calf work of art. The calf has gold horns and a gold crown.

“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.” — Romans 1:28



Pandemic —

A special research committee of the British House of Lords has produced a report in which it states that the world is facing an “inevitable and devastating” flu pandemic which could kill up to as many as 50 million people worldwide. The report attacked the World Health Organization as “dysfunctional” and lacking the organization and resources to curb a major outbreak.

The committee chairman, Lord Soley, said, “The last 100 years have seen great advances in public health and disease control throughout the world, but globalization and changes in lifestyles are giving rise to new infections and providing opportunities for them to spread rapidly around the world.” He added, “We are particularly concerned about the link with animal health. Three quarters of new human infectious diseases start with animals.”

“... and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines...” — Luke 21:11

Immorality —

Our tax dollars are being used to fund a shocking new Planned Parenthood website for teens. No words can describe it. You must see it with you own eyes: www.takecaredownthere.org. Planned Parenthood received \$336 million in tax money during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. ❖

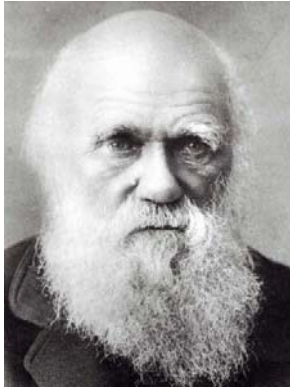
Evolution —

Dr. Carl Sagan: “Evolution is no longer a theory. It is a proven fact.” (Sagan was a professor at Cornell University and hosted the 1980 TV series called *Cosmos*. He made this statement on that program.)

Dr. Ernst Mayr: “Since Darwin, every *knowing* person agrees Man descended from the apes. Today, there is no such thing as the theory of evolution. It is the fact of evolution.” (Mayr was a Professor of Biology at Harvard University. He became known as “the Darwin of the 20th Century.”)

Dr. Isaac Asimov: “Evolution is no longer a theory. It is a proven fact.” (Asimov was a professor at the Boston University School of Medicine. He authored more than 500 books, many of which were science-fiction novels.)

Dr. T. N. Tahmisian: “Scientists who go around teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con men. And the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution, we do not have one iota of fact.” (Tahmisian is a scientist with the Atomic Energy Commission.)

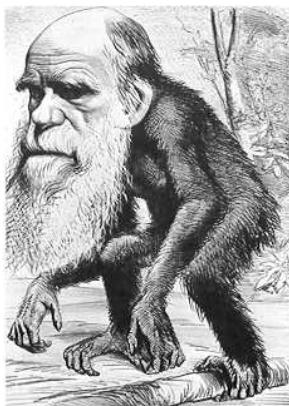


Charles Darwin

1971 edition of Darwin’s *Origin of the Species*.)

Dr. D. M. S. Watson: “The theory of evolution itself is a theory that is universally accepted not because it can be proved by logical coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative is special creation, which is clearly incredible.” (Watson was a Professor of Zoology at University College, London.)

Malcolm Muggeridge — “I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it has been applied, will be one of the greatest jokes in the history books of the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.” (Muggeridge was a British journalist, author, satirist, and philosopher.)



A caricature of Darwin.

A Housewife and Mother — “If evolution were true, mothers would have three arms!”



Food for Thought

Government —

“Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.” — Ronald Reagan, first inaugural address

“Democracy is the worst form of government ever devised by Mankind, except for all the others.” — Winston Churchill

“A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine.” — Thomas Jefferson

“A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.”

— George Bernard Shaw

“A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money.” — Gordon Liddy

“Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.” — P. J. O’Rourke

“I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.” — Winston Churchill

“Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.” — Ronald Reagan

“The most terrifying words in the English language are: ‘I’m from the government, and I’m here to help.’” — Ronald Reagan

“The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.” — Ronald Reagan

“I don’t make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.” — Will Rogers

“No man’s life, liberty, or prosperity is safe while the legislature is in session.” — Mark Twain

“A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.” — Thomas Jefferson

“If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it is free!” — P. J. O’Rourke

“The inherent vice of Capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of Socialism is the equal sharing of misery.” — Winston Churchill

“Democracy is the state of affairs in which you consent to having your pocket picked, and elect the best man to do it.” — Benjamin Lichtenberg

“If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.” — Ronald Reagan ✚



Information about Lamb & Lion Ministries

Purpose

To reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

Goals

- 1) Teach the fundamental truths of God's Prophetic Word.
- 2) Convince people that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.
- 3) Motivate the lost to turn to Jesus in faith.
- 4) Motivate the saved to commit their lives to holiness and to engage in evangelism.
- 5) Build Christian hope by informing people of the promises of God concerning the future.
- 6) Help believers develop an eternal perspective.

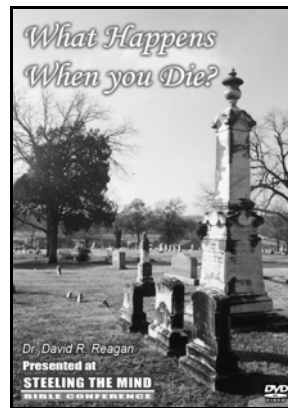
Strategy

- 1) Write and publish books about Bible prophecy.
- 2) Distribute the Ministry's materials in foreign languages.
- 3) Publish a bi-monthly magazine.
- 4) Produce a weekly television program.
- 5) Produce audio and video teaching programs.
- 6) Provide an interactive website.
- 7) Speak at conferences and churches.
- 8) Sponsor foreign mission conferences for pastors.
- 9) Conduct pilgrimages to the Holy Land.
- 10) Promote and support the establishment of other Bible prophecy ministries, both domestic and foreign.

Operating Principles

- 1) Depend on the Lord by beginning each day with a staff devotional and prayer time.
- 2) Be faithful to the Ministry's call by focusing on the proclamation of the Lord's soon return.
- 3) Avoid speculation and sensationalism.
- 4) Be accountable to the control and oversight of a board of trustees.
- 5) Proceed at the Lord's pace by neither running ahead nor lagging behind Him.
- 6) Operate debt free, and provide open access to all aspects of the Ministry's finances.
- 7) Serve as a channel of blessings to other ministries.
- 8) Communicate openly and in detail with supporters.
- 9) Be faithful to the Ministry's founding scripture passage:
"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it . . ." — Psalm 127:1

New Video Albums



What Happens When You Die?
 A very informative and enlightening presentation about life after death. Dr. Reagan presents the biblical case for the Christian hope of life after death, and he reveals the myriad of promises that God has made to believers concerning their participation with Jesus in His Millennial reign and their life with God in the Eternal State. In the process he specifically addresses some of the most commonly asked questions about life after death. Videotaped before a

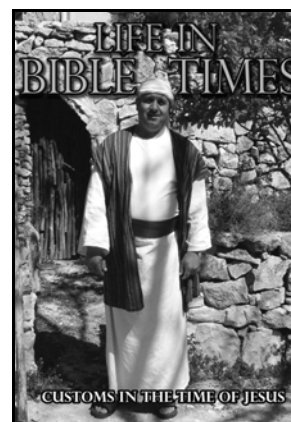
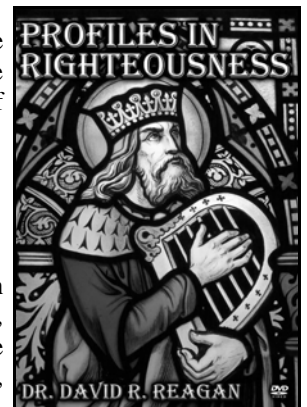
live audience at a Steeling the Mind conference. 50 minutes, DVD, \$12.

Profiles in Righteousness

Contains three programs about the lives of biblical persons who were considered righteous in the eyes of God:

King David of Israel
 The Prophet Elijah
 The Roman Soldier Cornelius

All the scenes were shot on site in Israel in places like Mount Carmel, Haifa, Caesarea Maritime, Jaffa, the Valley of Elah, Kireath-jearim, Jerusalem, and Ein Gedi. A fascinating travelogue combined with rich teaching. 75 minutes, DVD, \$15.



Life in Bible Times

Contains four programs about how people lived in Israel during the time of Jesus. All programs were filmed at the Bible Times Learning Center located in the Jerusalem suburb of Ein Kerem. Specific programs include:

The Nomadic Style of Living
 The Passover Meal (Last Supper)
 Crucifixion Techniques
 Burial Customs

This 100 minute program will help you better understand events in the life of Jesus. DVD, \$15.

Note: The ministry recently produced its first full color catalogue which contains a listing of all the ministry's study resources. If you would like to receive a free copy of the catalogue, just give us a call at 972-736-3567. A more limited edition of our catalogue can be found at our website: www.lamblion.com. ✚

Ministry News

Schedule — In **January** Dr. Reagan will attend the annual board meeting of Acts 29 Ministries which will be held in Panama City, Florida (9). He will teach a Bible study at Heritage Ranch in Fairview, Texas (12). And he is scheduled to videotape an interview with Pastor Robert Jeffress at First Baptist Church in Dallas (14). In **February** Dr. Reagan will be one of the featured speakers at the annual Southern California Prophecy Conference that will be held at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills in Chino Hills, California. In **March** Dr. Reagan will begin the month speaking at First Baptist Church in Socorro, New Mexico (7-8). Next he will host Pat Marvenko Smith of Revelation Illustrated Ministry for a video shoot (12). He will conclude the month by leading a pilgrimage group to the Holy Land on a “Focus on Jerusalem” tour (20-29).



Important Notice!

We have always distributed this magazine free of charge to anyone who requested it. Unfortunately, the steep increases in mailing costs together with the tough financial times we are facing will no longer permit us to distribute it free of charge.

So, from this point on, if you would like to receive a printed copy of the magazine through the mail, you will need to subscribe at a cost of \$25 per year. That will entitle you to receive six issues running 20 pages each.

An alternative will be for you to receive an electronic version of the magazine by email. The email subscription list is free of charge. Every two months, when the magazine is ready for distribution, you will receive an email notice. You can then click on the enclosed link and it will take you to a copy of the magazine in pdf format that you can either read online or else print and read.

Here's what you need to do if you want to continue to receive this magazine:

- 1) If you are a Prophecy Partner, follow the instructions you have received by mail.
 - 2) If you are currently receiving the email version, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to receive it.
 - 3) If you want to receive the **email** version, go to our website at www.lamblion.com. On the home page, on the right side, you will see a picture of our magazine. Next to it is a button that says “Sign Up.” Click on that button and fill in the form.
 - 4) If you want to continue receiving this **printed** version of the magazine by mail, please do one of two things: a) Mail us a check for \$25 and specify that it is for a magazine subscription, or b) Call and make the subscription payment over the phone by credit card. Subscription payments are not tax-deductible.
- Our mailing address is P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070. Our phone number is 972-736-3567.

If you desire to continue receiving the printed version of the magazine, you need to contact us as soon as possible. Otherwise, you might miss receiving the March-April issue.



In September Dr. Reagan was one of the speakers at the annual Bible prophecy conference sponsored by Don Perkins' ministry in San Diego, California. It was the 10th anniversary of Don's ministry, and Dr. Reagan honored Don and his wife, Marie, with a special plaque.



Dr. Reagan is shown above with some of the more than 2,500 people who attended Jan Markell's annual Bible prophecy conference in Minnesota last September. Pictured from left to right, the ladies are Helen Sisell, Nancy Johnson, and Beverly Lauck.



Israel Pilgrimages — Dr. Reagan is scheduled to take two groups to Israel this year. The first trip is set for March 20-29. It is designed for people who have been to Israel before. It will focus entirely on Jerusalem, providing opportunities to see things that are not seen on a basic tour of the land. The second trip is set for June 6-17. It will provide a comprehensive tour of all the land. The June trip is full, but you can sign up for a waiting list to be contacted in the event that

someone has to cancel. To get detailed information about either tour, call 972-736-3567.

Financial Certification — Charity Navigator has given Lamb & Lion Ministries its highest rating for the fourth year in a row. Only 6% of the thousands of charities they evaluate annually have ever received their highest rating four years in a row. Their notification letter stated, “This exceptional designation from us differentiates your ministry from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”

Learn or Teach the Fundamentals of Bible Prophecy

This new video album contains six presentations made before live audiences by Dr. David Reagan, the founder and director of Lamb & Lion Ministries. They provide a comprehensive introduction to all the fundamentals of Bible prophecy:

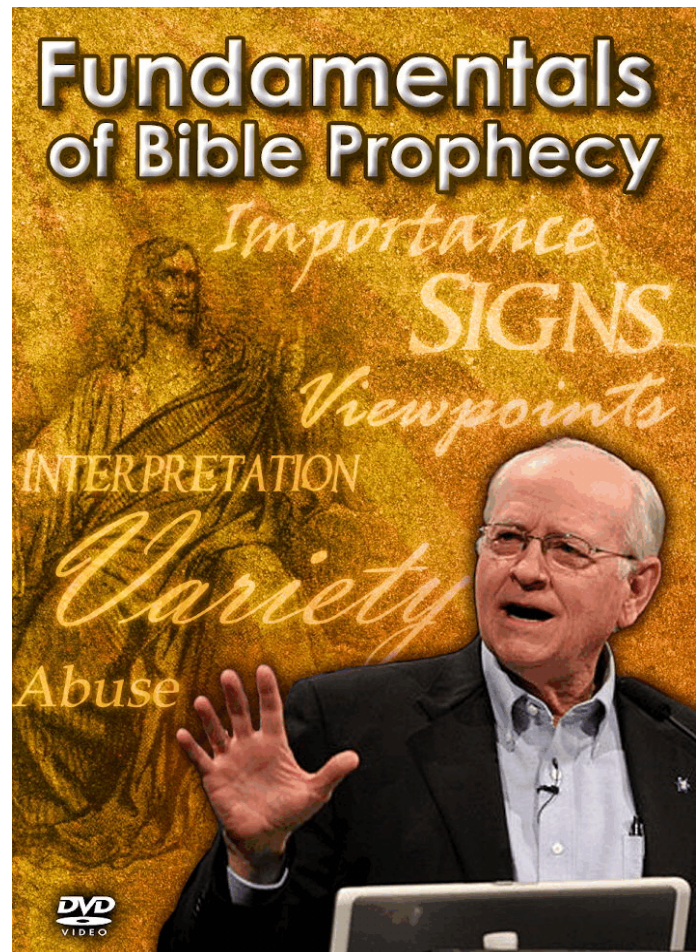
- The Abuse of Prophecy
- The Importance of Prophecy
- The Variety of Prophecy
- The Interpretation of Prophecy
- The End Time Viewpoints
- The Signs of the Times

Each presentation runs 25 minutes in length, providing plenty of time in a one hour format for a teacher to follow-up with in-depth discussion.

The programs are contained on 2 DVDs. The second DVD also contains printable files that will produce a Teacher's Manual and Student Study Guides.

Each presentation is solidly grounded upon Scripture, and each one is extensively illustrated with photos, drawings, charts, and diagrams. You will be amazed at how these programs are able to help you understand aspects of Bible prophecy that have always been a mystery to you. Go through the programs yourself, and then use them to start teaching Bible prophecy.

The total running time is 150 minutes. The cost of the 2 DVDs, including the Teacher's Manual and Student Study Guides, is \$25. Call 1-800-705-8316.



Important Notice!

This is the last issue of this magazine you will receive unless we hear from you.

Please read the notice on page 19 that provides you with a series of options for continuing to receive this magazine either by mail or by email.

We don't want to lose contact with you, so please check the notice on page 19 to see what action, if any, you should take. Thank you!



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