

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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2012

The End of the World?



Observations by the Editor

Milestones

All of us have milestones in our lives. I'm speaking of significant dates that mark life-changing experiences. Most are positive in nature, like a birthday, a marriage, or the birth of a child. Some are tragic, like the date of a crippling accident or a diagnosis of cancer or the death of a family member.

I have two dear friends whose most important milestones each year are the dates of their salvation experiences. One lived homeless on the streets for 20 years. The other had lived in the fast lane, making big bucks as a stock broker. But he lost it all in the 1987 stock market crash, and in the dark, depressed days that followed, he came to the end of himself and cried out to the Lord, experiencing a Road to Damascus conversion.

The Most Important Milestone

Actually, for all of us who are believers, the day of our salvation should be the most significant milestone of our lives. For some, that day was a dramatic breakthrough that left them radically changed. But for many of us who were born and raised in a Christian family — like myself — it is hard to remember just when we placed our faith in Jesus because it was a part of our way of life as far back as we can remember. About all we can do is point to the date of our baptism.

Personal Milestones

This year, I will be celebrating four milestones:

- ! The 60th anniversary of my baptism.
- ! The 50th anniversary of when I began to preach and teach God's Word.
- ! The 50th anniversary of my marriage.
- ! The 30th anniversary of Lamb & Lion Ministries.

My greatest regret is that I will be celebrating only 30 years of Lamb & Lion Ministries. It could have been 50 years if I had yielded fully to the Lord's call on my life that came in 1960.

With regard to my salvation experience when I was 11 years old, I can only rejoice over the Lord's patience with me over the years, particularly during the 20 years (1960-1980) when I ran from His



Dave & Ann Reagan in 1982

call on my life. I praise Him every day for that quality of His character that the Old Testament writers referred to as His "lovingkindness" (Psalm 52:8).

On June 4th of this year Ann and I will celebrate 50 years of marriage. What a wonderful day that will be! She is going to get a lot of stars in her heavenly crown for putting up with me through all those years!

The ministry's 30th anniversary will fall on April 1st, but we are going to celebrate it on the evening of Saturday, June 26th, following the conclusion of our annual Bible conference. We are going to host a banquet that will be open to the public and will feature a very special keynote speaker. For details about how to attend this banquet, call our office at 972-736-3567.

Praising God for Milestones

I praise God for these milestones and for all the family members, personal friends, friends of Lamb & Lion, staff members, and trustees who have made them possible.

As I look to the future, I will be yearning every moment for the greatest milestone of all — the return of Jesus to reign in glory and majesty with a rod of iron from Mount Zion in Jerusalem. I am ready for the world to be flooded with peace, righteousness and justice — as the waters cover the seas.

Maranatha! ❖

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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 919
McKinney, TX 75070

Telephone: 972/736-3567
Fax: 972/734-1054
Sales: 1-800/705-8316
Email: lamblion@lamblion.com
Website: www.lamblion.com



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2012 The End of the World?

A Look at the Earth in Bible Prophecy

Dr. David R. Reagan

The 2012 hysteria has produced a doom boom that has been fueled by a series of television programs and the recent Hollywood blockbuster film.

It all relates to a calendar developed by the ancient Mayan civilization that was centered in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Their society flourished from about 250 to 900 AD, when it experienced a sudden, unexplained collapse.

The Mayas developed an advanced society that featured large cities built around stepped pyramids that also served as temples. They excelled in mathematics and astronomy. Combining the two, they produced a series of 20 different types of calendars. It would not be an overstatement to say that the Mayas were calendar-obsessed.

Their calculations were incredibly accurate. Without the help of calculators, computers, or telescopes, they were able to determine the length of a lunar month to be 29.53020 days. The actual length is 29.53059 days.¹ Their solar year was calculated to be 365.2450 days minus an error of .002. Modern calculations put it at 365.2425 plus an error of .0003.²

The Mayas had three main calendars.³ One was a solar calendar that was based on 20 day months. The second was a ceremonial calendar that was related to the 260 day cycle of Venus. It was their third measure of time, the Long Count Calendar, that was related to the year 2012.



A Mayan Calendar

The Long Count Calendar was a measure of “world age cycles” that repeat over and over again. This calendar was divided into five units or cycles that started with the mythical date for the creation of the Mayas — August 11, 3114 BC. The fifth cycle was supposed to end on a date that corresponds to December 21, 2012 on the Gregorian Calendar that is used

in the Western World. Since the calendar ends on that date, some modern day interpreters have jumped to the conclusion that it marks the date for the end of the world.



The man who put 2012 on the map as a pivotal date for world history was José Arguelles, a Mexican-American, who authored a mystical book in 1987 titled *The Mayan Factor*.⁴ He was also instrumental that year in organizing a worldwide event called the Harmonic Convergence.⁵ During two days in August, people were urged to gather at sacred sites to awaken the “energy grid” of the world and thus initiate a 25-year era of spiritual growth that would culminate in 2012.

Since that time, a man by the name of Christian John Meoli has been organizing and conducting 2012 conferences that have the flavor of a Star Trek convention. He plans to hold the final conference on December 21, 2012 at the Mayan pyramids in Mexico. He describes 2012 as “the shift,” and the slogan for his conferences is “Shift Happens.”⁶

Meanwhile, the History Channel on television has promoted the 2012 craze with a zeal, broadcasting a whole series of programs focused on the date: “Mayan Doomsday Prophecy” (2006), “Last Days on Earth” (2006), “Doomsday 2012: The End of Days” (2007), “Seven Signs of the Apocalypse” (2009), and “Nostradamus 2012” (2009).

Other Apocalyptic Factors Related to 2012

There are other factors that are fueling the 2012 hype. One is the fact that the same date, December 21, 2012, allegedly marks the first time in thousands of years that the galactic alignment of the sun and earth with the center of the Milky Way will occur.⁷ Some have theorized that this cosmic event will cause the earth’s poles to reverse, resulting in major catastrophes.⁸

Also causing concern is the prediction by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) that 2012 will be a peak year for the sun’s cycle, resulting in a very dramatic increase in solar flares.⁹ Estimates are that the next sunspot cycle will be 30% to 50% stronger than the previous one in 2000. If correct, the years ahead could produce a burst of solar activity second only to the historic Solar Max of 1958.



To no one’s surprise, the Nostradamus fans have also jumped on the 2012 band wagon. In 1994, Italian journalist Enza Massa was at the Italian National Library in Rome when she stumbled

upon an unusual find. It was a manuscript dating to 1629, titled: *Nostradamus Vatinicia Code*. Michel de Notredame, the author's name, was on the inside in indelible ink. This manuscript, never published by Nostradamus, was handed down to the seer's son and later donated by him to Pope Urban VIII.¹⁰



Nostradamus

The book is full of bizarre images and mystical quatrains. Its contents have not yet been completely revealed to the public, but there are rumors all over the Internet that it contains predictions of the end of the world in 2012.

And then there is the Bible Code. Michael Drosnin, the author of the book that popularized the code, states that the words, "earth annihilated" appear in correspondence with the year 2012.¹¹

Finally, there is the Web Bot Project that was started in 1997. It was originally created to predict stock market trends. But it has expanded in recent years into a program that claims to be able to predict future events by tracking keywords entered on the Internet.¹² When the date, December 21, 2012, is entered into Web Bot, the prediction emerges that there will be "a cataclysmic pole shift in 2012."¹³

The Counter Arguments

There is not a single academic Mayan scholar who has endorsed the idea that the conclusion of the fifth cycle of the Mayan Long Calendar will signal the end of the world. In fact, they have mocked the idea as nothing more than an Internet urban legend.

Dr. Sandra Noble, the director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, has pointed out that there is no declaration in Mayan literature that the end of the world will occur when the Long Calendar ends its fifth cycle. On the contrary, she says its conclusion would most likely have marked a time of celebration for the Mayas and the launching of another five cycles of the calendar.¹⁴

Keep in mind too that the Long Calendar has been interpreted in various ways by the scholars. Some have deciphered its ending date to be anywhere between December 21 to December 27 in 2012. But others have calculated the end date to be either in 1957 or 2050.¹⁵

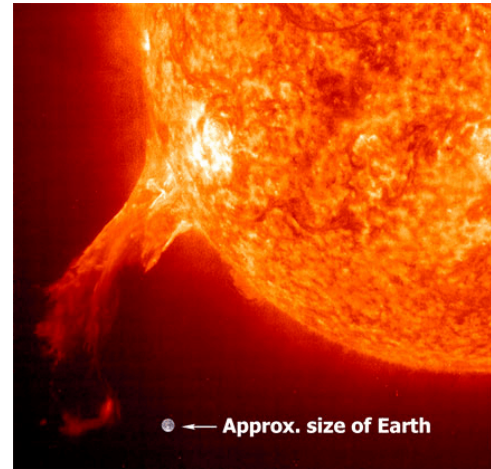
Establishing a specific date and linking it to an end-of-the-world scenario appears to be the work of sensationalist hucksters and New Age mys-



The Mayan stepped pyramid at Chichen Itza (ecotravelmexico.com).

tics who have used the world's greatest rumor mill — the Internet — to create unjustified hysteria.

Regarding galactic alignment, again it appears that all the predictions of cataclysmic events are based on junk science. Academic astronomers have pointed out that the alignment will span a period of 36 years. That period began in 1998 with a convergence that was even more precise than what it will be in 2012, yet there have been no dire consequences.¹⁶



Solar flare photographed on July 1, 2002.

(Source: virginmedia.com)

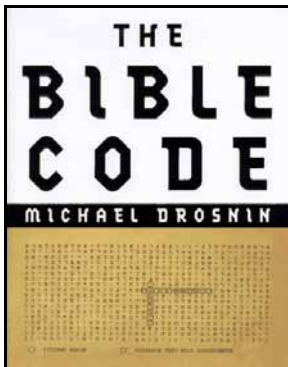
In contrast, the prediction of increased solar flare activity in 2012 is based upon solid science. Every 11 years the sun goes through what is called a solar cycle. During the peak time of this cycle, the sun's magnetic poles switch. This produces, in turn, solar flares which are pieces of the sun which are discharged into space, carrying with them radiation and strong electrical currents. They usually fall back on the surface of the sun. But sometimes a very strong flare, called a Coronal Mass Ejection, will shoot into space like a bullet. These flares can cause major power blackouts when they hit power grids.¹⁷

The prediction by the National Center for Atmospheric Research that solar flare activity could increase 30% to 50% over previous years is a legitimate cause for concern. It could result in large scale blackouts, and it could affect such things as satellite communication and cell phones.¹⁸

But even the scientists who have issued the warnings have not predicted cataclysmic results. And they have not proposed any specific date. In fact, one of the lead scientists for the National Space Science & Technology Center (NSSTC) argues that the maximum sun flare activity is more likely to occur in either 2010 or 2011.¹⁹

The Nostradamus "prophecies" are hardly worth mentioning. This man was a demon possessed practitioner of witchcraft. His so-called pro-

phesies are poetic quatrains that are so obtuse as to be unintelligible. They have therefore never been used to prophesy any event before it happens. Instead, the Nostradamus groupies apply a quatrain to an event after it happens, and even these applications require a vivid imagination. In fact, the writings of Nostradamus are often doctored to make them more applicable as “prophecies.” There is nothing in any of his published writings that has reference to the year 2012.²⁰

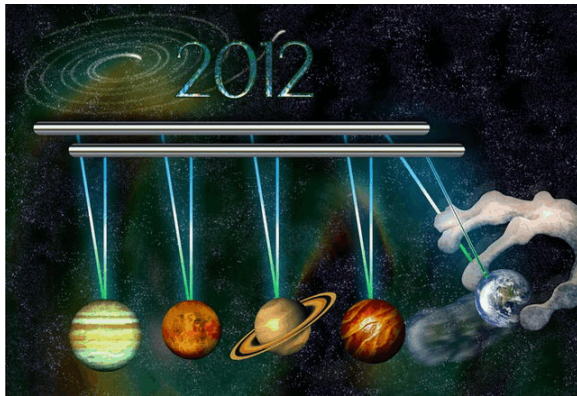


With regard to the Bible Code, I believe there is no doubt that there are mathematical wonders coded in the Bible that point to its supernatural origin,²¹ but I do not believe there are secretly coded prophecies that are hidden beneath the surface of the text. The prophecies God has revealed in His Word are clearly stated in the surface words. Serious Bible code researchers have distanced themselves from those like Michael Drosnin who try to use the

codes like a crystal ball to predict future events.

Drosnin’s Bible Code prediction about the earth being annihilated in 2012 must be considered in reference to the fact that when he published his book in 1997 he claimed that the codes predicted a nuclear war in 2000 or 2006 and a comet strike on the earth in 2006.²² These events failed to take place.

That leaves us with the Web Bot Project, which is the silliest bit of evidence that could possibly be presented. All this system does is catalogue the consensus Internet opinion on any given topic. It amounts to prophecy by majority opinion, and that opinion is derived from the Internet rumor mill!



(Image by Chinablue via Graphics.com.)

Are We Near the End?

I think it is clear that all the 2012 hysteria is unfounded. But would it be accurate to say that even if the 2012 date is wrong, we could very well be near the end of the world?

Well, that all depends on what is meant by “the end of the world.” The only reliable source of information about the future is the Bible. We know it is reliable because it contains hundreds

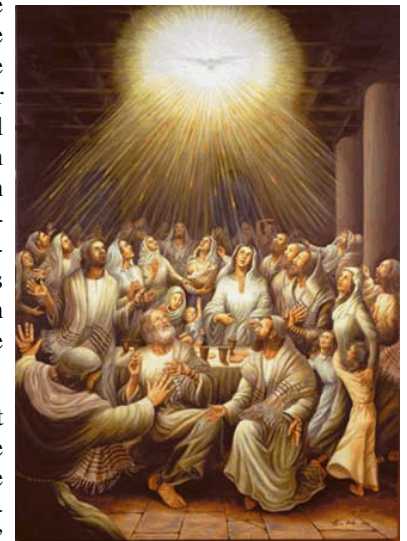
“The Bible prophesies the end of the current age, the end of the current world system, and the end of the natural world as we know it today. But it never prophesies the end of the world in the sense that the universe will cease to exist.”

of very specific prophecies about persons, cities, and nations that have already been fulfilled in history. It also contains 109 specific prophecies about the Messiah that were fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth.²³

The Bible prophesies the end of the current age, the end of the current world system, and the end of the natural world as we know it today. But it never prophesies the end of the world in the sense that the universe will cease to exist. In fact, it clearly states that planet earth will exist forever. Let’s consider each of these in order.

The End of the Current Age

The Bible teaches that Mankind entered a whole new age on the Day of Pentecost in approximately 30 AD.²⁴ On that day the Holy Spirit fell upon the Apostles and they were empowered to preach the Gospel (Acts 2:1-4). Peter preached the first Gospel sermon, and the Church was established when three thousand people responded and accepted Jesus as their Messiah (Acts 2:14-41). We have been living in the Church Age ever since.



The Day of Pentecost
(www.saintgeo.com)

The Age of the Last Days also began on the Day of Pentecost. The prophet Joel had prophesied that in the “last days” God would pour out His Spirit upon all mankind (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17). When the three thousand responded to Peter’s sermon, they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and all believers have received that gift since that time. The writer of Hebrews referred to his day and time in the First Century as “the last days” (Hebrews 1:2). The Apostle Peter did the same thing in his writings (1 Peter 1:5 & 20). And the Apostle John called his day the “last hour” (1 John 2:18).

Before Jesus died and the Church Age began, He referred to His day as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24). He was referring to the period of time when the Jewish people would live under Gentile domination without a king anointed by God. That period began in 586 BC when Israel was conquered by Babylon, the Davidic monarchy was ended, and the Jewish people were carried away into captivity. This period continues to this day simultaneously with the Church Age because the Jews still suffer from Gentile domination, and their God-anointed monarchy has not been restored.

The Church Age will conclude when the Church is taken out of this world on the day of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Second Coming of Jesus, approximately seven years later,²⁵ will mark the end of the Age of the Last Days. It will also mark the end of the Times of the Gentiles.

The End of the Current World System

At the end of the Tribulation, when the Second Coming occurs, the current world system will also come to an end. When I refer to the “world system,” I am talking about the way human society has operated since Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden.

All the societies of the world, despite their particular forms of government and their types of economies have revolved around the ego of Man. They have thus been characterized by unrighteousness and injustice and war. Greed has ruled supreme. Power has always corrupted. The dispossessed have been exploited. Winston Churchill perhaps summed it up best when he observed, “Democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

Since the beginning of human history, people have yearned for a world of peace, righteousness and justice. Time and time again they have placed their hopes in politicians who have promised them the moon, and time and time again their hopes have been dashed. But the good news of God’s Prophetic Word is that the current world system is doomed.

Jesus is returning to institute a radically new world system. It will be a theocracy characterized by the rule of the rod of iron (Psalm 2:7-9 and Revelation 2:27). He will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Revelation 19:16). His Word will be the law of all nations, and it will be enforced worldwide by those of us who will be reigning with Him in glorified bodies (Isaiah 2:2-4 and Daniel 7:13-14, 18, & 27).

There will be no political parties, pressure groups or legislatures. Greed will be replaced with decisions based on fairness and equity (Isaiah 11:4-5). Vulgarity will give way to holiness (Zechariah 14:20-21). Poverty will be swallowed up in abundance (Micah 4:4). Righteousness and justice will be fulfilled (Isaiah 11:3b-5). Peace will flood the world as the waters cover the seas (Micah 4:3).

The End of the Current Natural World

Many Christians believe that at the end of the Lord’s millennial reign the cosmos will be consumed with fire and cease to exist. A corollary of this is a belief that since the material universe will cease to exist, the Redeemed will live eternally in a non-material, ethereal spirit world called Heaven.

These beliefs are derived from a passage in 2 Peter 3 that says, “The day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). If that’s all the Bible had to say about

the matter, then we could rightfully conclude that the material universe will one day come to an end.

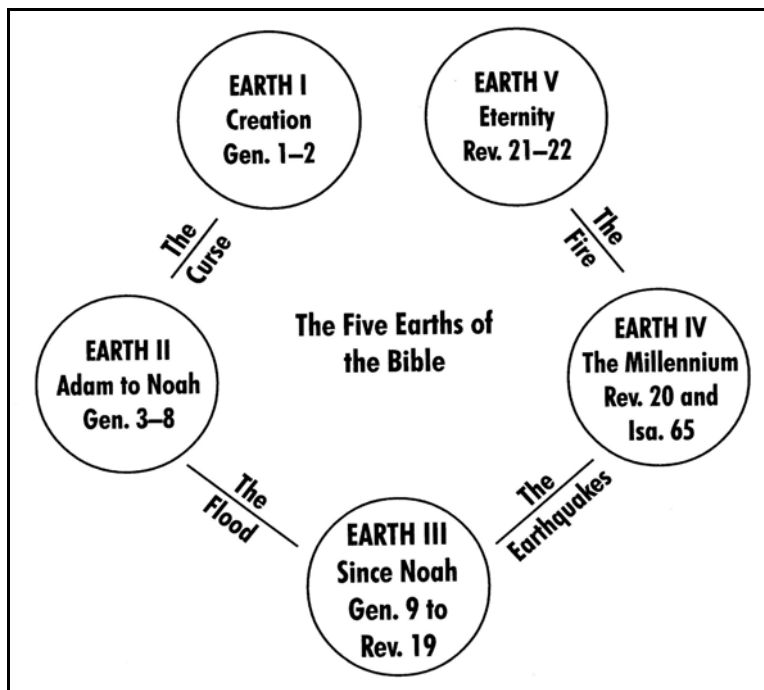
But a few verses later the same passage states that according to the promise of God (Isaiah 66:22), we can live “looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). Further, the same passage refers to the original earth as having been “destroyed” by water (2 Peter 3:5-6). This does not mean that it ceased to exist. What it means is that the original earth was radically changed by the Noahic Flood. In like manner, the current earth will be destroyed by fire, meaning it will be radically changed, not that it will cease to exist.

This interpretation is sustained by the fact that the Bible teaches that the current earth is eternal: “Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever” (Ecclesiastes 1:4; see also Psalm 78:69 and Psalm 148:6).

Chapter 21 of Revelation affirms that the Redeemed will live forever on a new earth in the presence of God. As verse 3 puts it, “the tabernacle of God” will be “among men.” In other words, Heaven will come to earth — to the new, renovated and perfected earth that has been cleansed of all the pollution of Satan’s last revolt at the end of the Millennium.

A Series of Earths

Most people are surprised to learn that the Bible reveals that we are currently living on earth number three and that there are two earths yet to come.



Earth 1

The first earth was the one created in the beginning (Genesis 1:1). It was perfect in every respect (Genesis 1:31). But because of Man’s sin, God placed a curse upon the earth (Genesis 3: 17-19).

Have you ever stopped to think what a “perfect” earth must have been like? There certainly were no meat-eating animals or poisonous animals or poisonous plants. All of nature was at peace with itself and with Man. Adam and Eve did not have to strive against nature in order to produce their food. And there were no natural cataclysms like tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, and earthquakes.

The Bible indicates that the curse radically altered the nature of God’s original creation. Instead of Man exercising dominion over nature, as originally planned (Genesis 1:26, 28), nature rose up in conflict with Man, as poisonous plants, carnivorous animals and climatic cataclysms suddenly appeared.

Earth 2

The curse radically altered the original earth, but the second earth was still quite different from the one we live on today. There is much biblical evidence in both Genesis and Job that the

second earth had a thick vapor canopy which shielded life from the ultraviolet radiation of the sun, contributing to the long life spans recorded in Genesis (see Genesis 2:5-6 and Job 38:8-11).

The whole earth was like a greenhouse with thick vegetation growing everywhere, even at the poles. There was also probably only one large land mass.

Once again the sinful rebellion of Mankind motivated God to change the nature of the earth (Genesis 6:11-13). The change agent this time was water. It appears that God caused the vapor canopy to collapse (Genesis 7:11). He also caused “fountains of the great deep” to break forth upon the surface of the earth (Genesis 7:11).



The Noahic Flood (answersingenesis.com)

Earth 3

Like the curse, the flood radically altered the nature of the earth. It produced the third earth, the earth we live on now.

The earth tilted on its axis, forming the polar caps. The unified land mass was split apart, forming the continents as we now know them (which is why they fit together like a jigsaw puzzle — see Genesis 10:25). And the vapor canopy was so completely depleted that ultraviolet radiation began to reach the earth in unprecedented levels, resulting in greatly reduced life spans, first to 120 years and then to 70 years.

The Bible reveals that the current earth will be radically changed again at the Second Advent of Jesus. The change agents will be earthquakes on the earth and supernatural phenomena in the heavens.

The changes produced will so totally alter the earth and its atmosphere that Isaiah refers to “the new heavens and the new earth” which will exist during the reign of the Lord (Isaiah 65:17).

Earth 4

The fourth earth — the millennial earth — will be very different from the present earth. The earthquakes that will produce it will be the most severe in history.

Every valley will be lifted, every mountain will be lowered, and every island will be moved (Revelation 6:12-14 and 16:17-21). Jerusalem will be lifted up, and Mt. Zion will become the highest of all the mountains (Zechariah 14:10 and Micah 4:1).

The vapor canopy will likely be restored because life spans will be expanded to what they were at the beginning of time (Isaiah 65:20, 22).

Further evidence that the vapor canopy will be restored is to be found in the fact that all the earth will become abundant once again with lush vegetation (Isaiah 30:23-26 and Amos 9:13-14). The Dead Sea will also become alive (Ezekiel 47:1-9).

Most important, the curse will be partially lifted, making it possible for Man to be reconciled to nature and for nature to be reconciled to itself. The wolf will dwell with the lamb because the wolf will no longer be carnivorous. The nursing child will play with the cobra because the cobra will no longer be poisonous (Isaiah 11:8).

Earth 5

But Satan’s last revolt at the end of the Millennium will leave the earth polluted and devastated (Revelation 20:7-9). Thus, at the end of the Lord’s reign, God will take the Redeemed off the earth, place them in the New Jerusalem, and then cleanse the earth with fire (2 Peter 3:10-13).

In other words, God will superheat this earth in a fiery inferno and then reshape it like a hot ball of wax. The result will be the “new heavens and new earth” prophesied in Isaiah 66 and Revelation 21.

This will be the fifth earth, the perfected, eternal earth where the Redeemed will spend eternity in the New Jerusalem in the presence of God (Revelation 21:1-4). The curse will be completely lifted from this earth (Revelation 22:3).

Conclusion

There is no reason for you to fear the “end of the world” if you are a born-again child of God. You have the promise of living eternally with God on this earth after it has been redeemed and perfected.

But if you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have every reason to fear the future. The signs of the times given in the Bible indicate beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is about to return to take His believers out of this world in preparation for the pouring out of God’s wrath during a period of seven years that the Bible refers to as the Tribulation.²⁶ It will be a time of unparalleled horror on this earth, so terrible, in fact, that one-half of humanity will die during the first three and a half years!²⁷

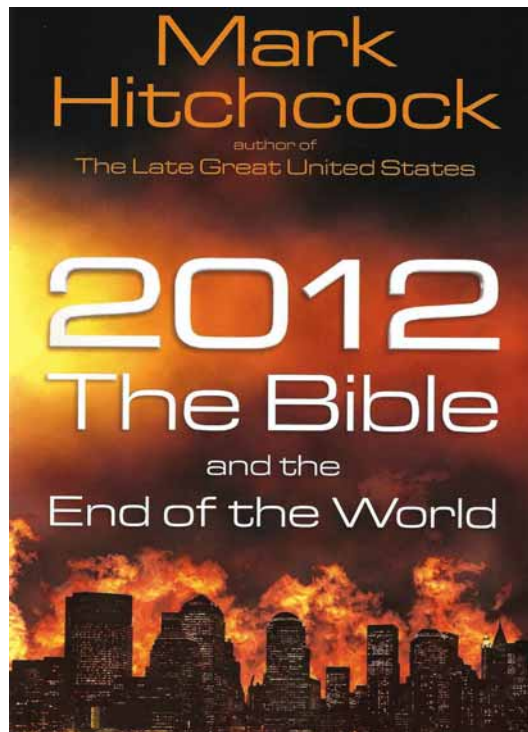
God does not wish that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). That’s why He has provided us with signs to watch for that will indicate the season of His Son’s return. We are in the midst of that season. We are living on borrowed time. Don’t delay. Give your heart to Jesus today (John 3:16 and Romans 10:9-11). ✚

Notes:

- 1) Lawrence E. Joseph, *Apocalypse 2012: An Investigation into Civilization’s End* (New York: Broadway Books, 2007), page 12.
- 2) Synthia Andrews and Colin Andrews, *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to 2012* (New York: Alpha, 2008), page 11.
- 3) Mark Hitchcock, *2012: The Bible and the End of the World* (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2009), page 32.

- 4) José Arguelles, *The Mayan Factor: Path Beyond Technology* (Rochester, Vermont: Bear & Company, 1987).
- 5) Wikipedia, "Harmonic Convergence," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harmonic_Convergence, accessed October 16, 2009.
- 6) Pauline O'Connor, "12/12/12: The end of the world as we know it?" *Los Angeles Times*, February 28, 2008, <http://theguide.latimes.com/general/12-12-12-the-end-of-the-world-as-article>, accessed on October 16, 2009.
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- 9) NCAR News Release, "Scientists Issue Unprecedented Forecast of Next Sunspot Cycle," March 6, 2006, www.ucar.edu/news/releases/2006/sunspot.shtml, accessed October 16, 2009.
- 10) Mendhak, "The Lost Book of Nostradamus," www.mendhak.com/40-the-lost-book-of-nostradamus.aspx, accessed October 16, 2009.
- 11) Michael Drosnin, *The Bible Code* (New York: Touchstone, 1997), pages 153-154.
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- 13) Andrews and Andrews, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to 2012*, page 162.
- 14) G. Jeffrey MacDonald, "Does Maya Calendar predict 2012 apocalypse?" *USA Today*, March 27, 2007, www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2007-03-27-maya-2012_n.htm, accessed October 18, 2009.
- 15) Mervin Stoddart, "Will the world end in 2012?" *The Jamaica Observer*, October 25, 2008, www.jamaicaobserver.com, accessed on October 6, 2009.
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- 17) Richard Lowe, "2012: What's All The Fuss About?" www.december212012.com, accessed October 18, 2009.
- 18) Alfred Lambremont Webre, "2012 may bring 'perfect storm' — solar flares, systems collapse," *Fort Worth Examiner*, April 1, 2009, www.examiner.com, accessed October 18, 2009.
- 19) NASA, "Solar Storm Warning," March 10, 2006, http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10mar_stormwarning.htm.
- 20) For more information about Nostradamus, see "Nostradamus Prophet or Charlatan?" by Dr. David R. Reagan, www.lamblion.com/articles/articles_cults9.php.
- 21) David R. Reagan, "The Bible Code: Is it for real, and if so, does it provide new evidence of the supernatural origin of the Bible?" www.lamblion.com/articles/articles_bible4.php.
- 22) Drosnin, *The Bible Code*, pp. 123-127, 153.
- 23) David R. Reagan, *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*, (McKinney, Texas: Lamb & Lion Ministries, 3rd edition, 2006).
- 24) Scholars have dated the Day of Pentecost in 30, 31, and 32 AD. A few have placed it as late as 33 AD. The consensus opinion is the year 30.
- 25) The Rapture does not mark the beginning of the Tribulation. The seven years of the Tribulation begin when the Antichrist signs a covenant with Israel. There could be months, or even several years between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation.
- 26) David R. Reagan, "50 Reasons Why We Are Living in the End Times," www.lamblion.com/articles/articles_signs11.php.
- 27) David R. Reagan, "The Tribulation: What is it? What is its purpose," *The Lamplighter* magazine published by Lamb & Lion Ministries, January-February 2004.

A Recommended Book



Mark Hitchcock is the pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. He has both a law degree and a seminary degree. He is one of the best Bible prophecy authors on the scene today.



Mark Hitchcock

In this excellent book, he provides a penetrating analysis of the 2012 hysteria and a fascinating overview of what the Bible has to say about the end times and the end of the world. The book is illustrated throughout with charts and diagrams.

The book has 184 pages. We can supply it to you for a cost of \$15, including the cost of shipping. To order, call **800-705-8316** Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm (Central time).

A Cosmic Remembrance

Dr. David R. Reagan

As we contemplate the future of our planet, I think it would be appropriate to recall one of the most significant events of the 20th Century — namely, the first lunar landing 40 years ago in 1969.

The command module of the space craft was named *Columbia* for the feminine personification of our nation that was used traditionally in both song and poetry prior to the 20th Century. The lunar module was named *Eagle* after the national bird of our country — the bald eagle that was featured prominently on the mission's insignia.

The crew consisted of three experienced astronauts. The Mission Commander was Neil Armstrong, age 38, a native of Ohio. Before joining NASA he had served as a Navy pilot in the Korean War and as a test pilot. In the latter capacity he flew many missions in the X-15 rocket plane. The Command Module Pilot was Michael Collins, also 38 years old. His father was a general in the U. S. Army, and Michael was born while his dad was stationed in Rome, Italy. He attended West Point, and after his graduation, he entered the Air Force and became both a fighter pilot and a test pilot. The third member of the crew was Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, age 39, born in New Jersey. Like Collins, he grew up in a military family, graduated from West Point, and took a commission in the Air Force. He flew 66 combat missions during the Korean War. He became the highest educated of all astronauts when he earned a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Apollo 11 blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on the morning of July 16, 1969. Three days later it was in lunar orbit. The next day, July 20, the lunar module separated from the command module and headed for a landing on the moon. That landing took place at 3:17pm Eastern Standard Time. Armstrong and Aldrin were inside the lunar module. Collins remained in the command module, orbiting the moon.

Two and a half hours after landing, before exiting the module for their first moon walk, Buzz Aldrin radioed Mission Control and said, "This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way."

Aldrin then proceeded to take communion personally and privately. In an article he wrote for *Guideposts* magazine in 1970, Aldrin described the communion service as follows:

In the radio blackout I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in



The Apollo 11 Crew, left to right, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Buzz Aldrin. (NASA photo from www.nasa.gov.)

Me will bring forth much fruit."

I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements.

This communion service was not announced at the time. In fact, it was kept a secret by NASA until Aldrin revealed it in his book, *Return to Earth*, published in 1973. The reason for the secrecy is that at the time of the Apollo 11 mission, NASA was fighting a law suit brought by Madalyn Murray O'Hair who had objected to the Apollo 8 crew reading from the book of Genesis.

Aldrin was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church in Webster, Texas, located near the Johnson Space Center. His communion kit was prepared for him by the pastor of the church, Dean Woodruff. The church possesses the chalice used on the moon, and the congregation commemorates the lunar communion each year on the Sunday closest to July 20.

In 1991 the Episcopal Church adopted a prayer to be used church-wide on July 20, 2009 in observance of the 40th anniversary of the first communion service on the moon. The prayer reads as follows:

Creator of the Universe,
Your dominion extends through the immensity of space.
Guide and guard those who seek to fathom its mysteries.
Save us from arrogance lest we forget that our achievements are grounded in You,
And, by the grace of Your Holy Spirit, protect our travels beyond the reaches of the earth,
That we may glory ever more in the wonder of Your creation. ✚



Rapture

Will Children Be Taken In The Rapture?

Nathan Jones

One of the most frequently asked questions coming into my Inbox involves the role of children in the Rapture. Will children be raptured? What about babies? The unborn? That question can extend as far as covering anyone who is mentally incapable of making a decision to accept Jesus as Savior.

In essence, the question extends even further than that, for the ultimate destination of the Rapture is Heaven, and people are wondering about the eternal destiny of these tender people if they die, regardless of the Rapture. Even graver, hanging onto the answer by a thread are people's views of the justice and loving nature of God.

I admit I wince every time I'm asked if children will be raptured. It is a question that hits very close to home for me. I have three elementary-age children. My older two have asked Jesus to be their Savior and have proclaimed it in baptism. As a father it brings me great joy to see their love for the Lord expressed in cute prayer requests, joyful singing, surprisingly deep questions and an outpouring of love which are all fruits of the Spirit that have me convinced their acceptance of Jesus is genuine. Sure, I know they'll have some bumps along the way as they walk with Christ, and they may even fall away for a bit, but they are His and as Jesus said in John 10:27-29, "no one can snatch them out of my hand."



Zachary Jones

My youngest boy, though, has autism. At age five Zachary still does not speak. While his gross motor skills are almost olympic in stature, he lacks the finest motor skills to put even his hands together to wash them. The simplest concepts grasped by a one year old seem to be



Nathan Jones

beyond him. And certainly, there is no way that he could comprehend his need for a Savior, much less understand the words that explain that concept. Unless his brain is miraculously healed, Zachary will never "confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead," and so be saved (Romans 10:9).

The question asked of me about whether children will be raptured translates in my mind every time to, "Will Zachary be going to Heaven?"

What the Bible Says

While the work of salvation was wonderfully completed by Jesus sacrificing Himself for our sins and overcoming death by His resurrection, people in turn must accept that salvation in order to be saved from judgment and its sentence of Hell. The decision to repent of our rebellion (sin) against God and in faith accept Jesus as Savior is therefore an act that requires a mental understanding and a decision made (John 1:12; 3:16,36; Acts 2:21,38; 3:19; Hebrews 11:16; and 1 John 5:5).

In Jesus' teachings can be found the concept of an "age of accountability," that moment during development when a child's mental reasoning has finally reached the capacity to make an informed decision to accept Jesus as Savior. Until that age is reached, a child is considered exempt from the verdict of Hell. A verse commonly used in support of a child's age of accountability is Matthew 19:14, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to

such as these.” Jesus also said in Matthew 18:3, “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



The concept of the age of accountability can be verified by events in the Bible as well. King David recognized this when his baby born of Bathsheba died (2 Sam. 12:23). David responded, “I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

And so, while the Bible doesn’t clearly state whether children will be raptured, or that children who die automatically go to Heaven, the Bible does imply that children who have yet to reach the age of accountability belong to the Kingdom of Heaven. The underlying theme still is the ability to accept Jesus and His salvation, so the line of reasoning is that the mentally disabled and the unborn will also never reach the age of accountability, and so also belong to the Kingdom of Heaven.

A Caveat

While those who die before the age of accountability belong to Heaven, the Rapture is a promise to the Church, and minor children who have not accepted the Lord are not members of the Church. While all the little children are destined for Heaven, they may not be destined for the Rapture and so will have to endure the Tribulation — a horrifying thought!

Should that be the scenario, at the time of the Rapture all the wombs will not suddenly be emptied of the unborn, and children and mentally disabled people will not automatically be taken away with the Church. But (and it’s a big “But”), the Bible does shine some hope upon the families of believers, for the Bible indicates that children who have a believing parent are especially protected.

Verses that support parental protection are like 1 Corinthians 7:14 which reads, “For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.” Proverbs 14:26 also provides support. “He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.”

This concept is substantiated when God saved not just the

righteous Noah but also all his household when He destroyed the Earth with water. Likewise, God saved not just the righteous Lot but also his two worldly daughters when He decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (2 Peter 2:4-9).

While my salvation cannot be my children’s salvation, God may have extended his grace further (as He always does) by covering a believer’s child and including them as an honorary member of the Church, and therefore be included in the Rapture.

While the Bible makes it clear there is an age of accountability, and that as a believer my children are protected, the children of the world may not be part of the Rapture. They may have to grow up some through the Tribulation before they can make a decision on their own. That’s hard and painful to think about.

Trusting God

The answer I give people who ask me “Do children go to Heaven?” never fully satisfies them. Quite frankly, it doesn’t satisfy me either. Too much is inferred and not directly stated on this subject.

In the end, though, I have to leave my questioning and doubts behind and trust in who God is. As 1 John 4:16 explains about God’s love, “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.” God is also inherently righteous in His judgments. As Romans 1:17 proclaims, “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’”

And so, I will live by faith, trusting that God loves Zachary more than I can ever love him, and that by His wonderful righteousness my boy will be with me forever and whole in Heaven. ✚

Website

Nathan Jones is Lamb & Lion’s Web Minister and one of its Evangelists. He is on our website each day responding to people all over the world as they ask questions about Bible prophecy and questions about the fundamentals of the Christian faith. If you have a question about Bible prophecy or any aspect of the Christian faith, go to our website at www.lamblion.com, and click “Contact” on the navigation bar at the top of the home page. That will lead you to an email form you can use to send a question or comment to Nathan.

While you are visiting the site, take the time to check out its variety of features. The site contains a wealth of articles about every aspect of Bible prophecy, and the site’s super fast search engine can help you easily find any topic you are interested in. Additionally, the site contains copies of back issues of our magazine, *The Lamplighter*, and copies of our television program, *Christ in Prophecy*, which you can view online.

The site also contains an online store featuring many of the Bible prophecy resources that we have produced in recent years, including video albums, books, and audio programs.

Nathan Jones is available for speaking engagements. If interested, you may contact him by calling 972-736-3567.

Spiritual Thoughts from the Front Lines

Chaplain Stephen Dicks

(Editor's Note: Stephen Dicks is a chaplain in the United States Army, serving with the rank of Captain. He recently received the Doctor of Ministry degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. He has served one tour of duty in Iraq and will soon be going to Afghanistan. Stephen is the son-in-law of Kay Bien, who serves as Executive Secretary for Lamb & Lion.)

I am a Chaplain in the United States Army, a missionary to the military. Instead of liturgical robes or a suit and tie, I wear tan combat boots and a digitized uniform designed to help me blend into my surroundings. My personal goal however, is not to blend but rather to shine a light in a dark war while working among the warriors of our Nation.



Captain Dicks is shown above holding an ancient brick at an archeological site in Iraq.

Please understand me when I say we are engaged in a dark war. I am not making any political statement about a just war, or fighting for a righteous cause. I am once again only stating the obvious. War is a dark thing, filled with violence, sadness and death. It is upon this mission field that my boots walk each day. The valley of the shadow of death is my pastoral office and yes, Jesus is alive and well, actively rescuing eternal souls even here.

Teaching Bible Stories Where They Took Place



Reconstructed House of Abraham in Ur (modern day Tallil)

With a small group of dusty soldiers huddled together and the sand whistling through the ancient archways, I preached about God's call for Abraham to leave that very spot and to go to a land He would show him. God's call was to leave the wealth, splendor and idolatry of Ur to follow by faith the one true God.

The invitation was then given for the soldiers to leave their own personal idols behind in the ancient ruins of Ur. There in Iraq many thousands of years after God's initial call to Abraham, God called the hearts of several soldiers to follow Him, and as they walked out of Ur they too received new names, that of Christians.

I sat in the ancient ruins of a house in Tallil, Iraq, the modern name for the city of Ur. This particular house was stamped with cuneiform inscriptions claiming that it belonged to Terra, the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran.



Reconstructed Gate of Ancient Nineveh

Sitting on top of a hill on the east side of the ancient city of Nineveh, I sat with an open Bible amidst another group of soldiers. Together we read the book of Jonah and I smiled as I heard gasps of recognition when we came to the point where the Prophet Jonah sat on a hilltop on the east side of the city of Nineveh and wondered why God had sent him to such a wicked people. In Jonah's mind they were all sinners and needed annihilating, but God responded "Shouldn't I care for this city with all of its inhabitants who don't know their right hands from their left?" Jonah never answered. The question was left dangling throughout the misty ages of time, flung thousands of years into the future to once again be posed to a group of battle weary, compassion fatigued soldiers sitting roughly in the same spot as when God first asked the question.



Saddam's Palace in Baghdad

Mortars had ripped through the Green Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. One of the things it hit was a swimming pool by the gymnasium that I had hoped to use as a baptismal pool. Looking for an alternative I found that Saddam Hussein had a very luxurious swimming pool at his palace, a palace now occupied by Allied Forces. Leading a group of soldiers in their Army workout shirts and shorts known affectionately as P.T.'s we gathered along the edge of a pool in the inner courtyard of a palace once belonging to a Muslim dictator. I stepped into frigid waters and preached the Gospel clear and plain, then had the privilege of baptizing a newly won to Christ soul in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Living in the End Times

These are our end times. Christ will come at His appointed hour, and He will not be late. We are closer at this moment than any human being has ever been to the bodily return of Christ the Eternal King. These are our last days. Expect the Harvest God can bring by using every single moment we have left for His glory. "Behold the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few" (John 4:35).

In these last days, despite what may be seen on CNN, God is reaping a great harvest among U.S. soldiers in the ancient land of the Bible, and I have been given the privilege of a front row seat to watch Him acting in history.✚

Iraq in the Bible

Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The area of modern day Iraq is referred to in the Bible by several names, such as Babylon, Shinar, and Mesopotamia.

The word Mesopotamia means “between the two rivers,” and refers to the fact that the land lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name, Iraq, means “country with deep roots.” And, indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots in biblical history.

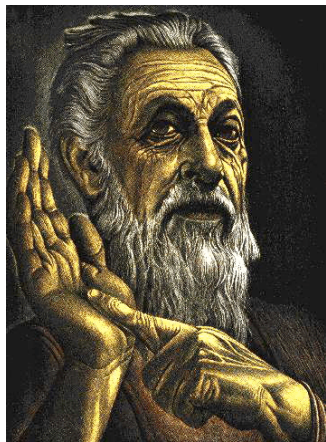
- ! The Garden of Eden was in Iraq (Genesis 2:10-14).
- ! Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization. Adam and Eve were created there (Genesis 2:7-8).
- ! Satan made his first earthly appearance in Iraq (Gen. 3:1-6).
- ! The Tower of Babel was in Iraq (Genesis 11:1-6).
- ! The confusion of languages took place in Iraq (Genesis 11:7-10).
- ! Noah built the ark in Iraq (Genesis 6).
- ! Abraham was from Ur, which was located in Iraq (Genesis 11:31).
- ! Isaac’s wife Rebekah came from Nahor, which is in Iraq (Genesis 24:3-4 & 10).
- ! Jacob spent twenty years in Iraq and married two women from there — Leah and Rachel (Genesis 27:41-45, chapters 29 & 30, and 31:38).
- ! Jonah and Nahum both preached in Nineveh — which is in Iraq. (See the books of Jonah and Nahum.)
- ! One of the greatest revivals in history took place in Iraq (Jonah 3).
- ! The father of the prophet Baalam who was hired to prophesy



The Tower of Babel

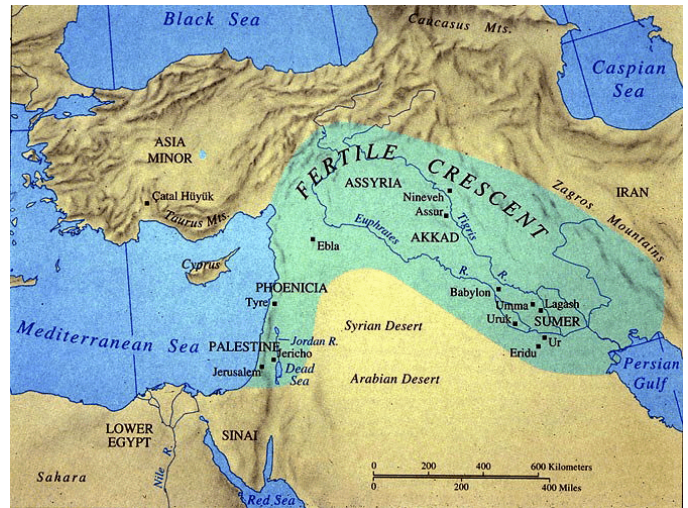


Daniel



Ezekiel

The prophets Daniel and Ezekiel lived most of their lives in Iraq.



against the children of Israel was from Iraq (Deuteronomy 23:4).

- ! Shortly after the children of Israel had conquered the land of Canaan, the Lord disciplined them by allowing a king from Iraq to conquer and rule them for 8 years (Judges 3:7-9).
- ! Enemies of King David hired chariots and mercenary soldiers from Iraq (1 Chronicles 19:6).
- ! Assyria, which was in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel and took them into captivity (2 Kings 17).
- ! The Babylonian Empire, which was located in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36).
- ! Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq (Daniel 1).



Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar’s dream about the succession of world empires.

- ! Nebuchadnezzar was in Iraq when he had his prophetic dream about the succession of world empires.
- ! Daniel’s three Hebrew colleagues were in Iraq when they were put into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3).
- ! Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the “writing on the wall” in Iraq (Daniel 5).
- ! Daniel was in Iraq when he was thrown into the lion’s den (Daniel 6).
- ! Ezekiel’s prophecies were delivered in Iraq (Ezekiel 1).

No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq. ✚

50 Years of Preaching!

Dr. David R. Reagan

I graduated from the University of Texas in 1959 with majors in Government and American History. I had completed my undergraduate education in three years by going to school around the clock, including the summers. I was tired. So, I decided to work for my dad for a year before continuing with graduate studies. My dad owned a construction company.

Almost immediately, through a bizarre series of circumstances, I found myself working part time on the weekends as the pastor of a small rural church in Groesbeck, Texas. The church was so small that I had to do everything. I taught Sunday School, led the singing, preached, and presided over the communion service. I was dating the girl who was to become my wife — Ann Granger — and she would ride with me every Sunday morning when I drove from Waco to Groesbeck, and she assisted me in many ways.



The South Side Church of Christ in Groesbeck, Texas in 1959.

Surrendering to the Lord

Finally, in 1980 I decided to give up my academic career and devote myself to full time ministry. It was then that I made a startling discovery. When I ended up serving as the evangelist for a Bible prophecy ministry, it suddenly dawned on me that even when I was running from the Lord, He was preparing me for the ministry He had in mind for me.

You see, end time Bible prophecy is all about international politics — the regathering of the Jewish people, the re-establishment of Israel, the aggression of the Arab world, the rebirth of the Roman Empire, and the threat of Russia. I was able to combine my secular knowledge of international relations with my biblical understanding of God's plan for the end times, resulting in spiritual insights that I might never have obtained otherwise.

That, of course, does not justify my running from the Lord. There is never any excuse for running from God's will for your life. But it shows that even when you are disobedient, God does not give up on you, and He can work through your disobedience to accomplish His purposes.

Celebrating a Milestone

This year I will complete 30 years of full time service in the Lord's kingdom. My greatest regret in life is that I will not be completing 50 years. Yes, I have been preaching for 50 years, but only 30 of those have been full time.

I thank God that He never gave up on me. I am so grateful that He never revoked His call on my life. And I praise Him every day for the blessings He has poured out on Lamb & Lion Ministries over the past 30 years. My earnest prayer is that He will allow me to continue proclaiming His Word right up to the very day of the Rapture.

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Romans 11:29 ✚



Yes, I also served as the youth minister!

It was a wonderful experience. I discovered quickly that the best way to really learn the Bible was to preach or teach it. I studied God's Word intently as I prepared my sermon and Sunday School lesson each week.

Running from the Lord

I sensed that God was calling me into full time ministry, but I had other ideas. I wanted to go to either law school or graduate school and ultimately become a politician. Instead of responding to the Lord as Isaiah did by saying, "Here am I Lord, send me," I said instead, "Here am I Lord, send anyone in the world except me!"

When I completed my year of service to the church in Groesbeck, I entered graduate school and started pursuing a doctorate in international law and politics. When I completed that degree, I became a professor of world politics, and for the next twenty years, I ran from the Lord's call on my life.

Throughout that time while I was running from the Lord, I continued to study the Bible, and I preached and taught at every opportunity. I got a lot of recognition during my academic career and won a lot of awards, but I was never satisfied with what I was doing because I was not in the center of God's will. In fact, I was miserable.



Dave preaching in 1959.

Television Update

New Media Minister

We are delighted to announce that Larry Watts has agreed to serve as our new Media Minister. In this capacity, he will be responsible for directing our media department and its production of our television program and video albums.

Larry replaces Don Gordoni who served as our Media Minister for ten years. Don resigned recently to pursue a whole new career. We are very grateful to Don for the great job he did in building our media department from scratch. Our prayers go with him and his wife, Lori, and their beautiful family of ten children.

Larry came to Lamb & Lion Ministries in 2003 as a part-time media editor. He became full-time in January of 2004. During the past six years he has served the ministry faithfully and has established himself as a highly creative video director and editor.

Larry is a native of rural New Jersey. He attended Clemson University in South Carolina where he earned a degree in Architecture in 1972. He went to work for an architecture firm in Dallas, and while working there he and a colleague began a spiritual search that started with a study of Hinduism. Ultimately they felt challenged to read the Bible, and that study led them to Jesus and salvation.

In 1976 Larry moved to California and entered Talbot Theological Seminary where he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1979. While studying at Talbot, he felt called of God to devote his life to media ministry. The only problem was that very few churches had any interest in media ministry in the 1970's.

In 1981 Larry moved to the Seattle, Washington area and opened a media production business. One of his first projects was the production of a pro-life video for a local crisis pregnancy center. The video was so powerful that it was adopted by The Christian Action Council and distributed nationwide.

After a stint in Spokane, Washington developing a video department for a commercial company from 1992 to 2000, Larry felt called of God to return to Dallas to work for the architectural company where he had started his career back in the 70's. Shortly after he arrived, he met Don Gordoni in the parking lot of a grocery store. The two struck up a friendship that led to Don inviting Larry to join the Lamb & Lion staff as a video editor. (The Lord really does work in strange and mysterious ways!)

Larry is married, and he and his wife, Cheri, have four children, ranging in age from 13 to 21. ✚



Photo of the Watts family taken in 2003.

“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	Fri. 9:00am	Fri. 10:00am	Fri. 11:00am	Fri. Noon

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 KTQS, 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 Tangle website at www.tangle.com/lamblion. ✚



Announcing the 2010 Lamb & Lion Bible Conference

Theme: Defending the Faith

Dates: June 25-26, 2010 (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon)

Location: The new Marriott Hotel in Allen, Texas (a suburb of Dallas)

Cost: Free of Charge (but registration is required)

Registration: To register, call 972-736-3567. You will then be sent a registration packet that will contain further information about the conference and information about the host hotel and other hotels in the area. You can also register online at our website: www.lamblion.com.

Special Event: On Saturday evening a banquet will be held to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Lamb & Lion Ministries. The tentative guest speaker will be Ed Hindson. This special event will cost \$35 per person.

Speakers



Brannon Howse — President and founder of American Family Policy Institute and Worldview Weekend. He is a radio host, prolific author, and video producer. He is also a dynamic speaker. His topic: “The Truth of the Christian Worldview.”



Ron Rhodes — A prolific author of more than 50 books. He serves as president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries in Frisco, Texas. He is known for his ability to present complex ideas in simple, understandable terms. His topic: “The Truth of the Resurrection.”

Dave Reagan — A former professor of international law and politics. He is founder and director of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He is a conference speaker, author, and television host, and he is an expert on Middle East politics and the Jews in Bible prophecy. His topic is “The Truth of the Virgin Birth.”



Mike Gendron — A former devout Catholic and business executive. When he found the Lord, he gave up his career and went to seminary. After graduation, he founded Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries in Garland, Texas. He is one of the featured speakers at Stealing the Mind Conferences. His topic: “The Truth of the Bible.”



Jobe Martin — A former professor of dentistry whose scientific investigation of the claims of evolution convinced him the biblical story is true, resulting in his book, *The Evolution of a Creationist*. He heads up Biblical Discipleship Ministries in Rowlett, Texas. His topic: “The Truth of Creation.”



Larry McCoy — A gifted pianist and song writer from Gallatin, Tennessee. He has put the entire book of Revelation to music, and he and his musical group will present a good portion of it in a special illustrated concert that will kick-off the conference.



Musicians

Eric Barger — A former rock and roll musician heavily involved in the occult whose life was radically changed by the Lord. Today he is one of Christendom’s foremost defenders of the faith. His ministry in Rowlett, Texas is called Take a Stand! His topic: “The Truth of the Divinity of Jesus.”



Jack Hollingsworth — Jack wandered the streets homeless for 20 years before his life was transformed by Jesus. For the past 16 years he and his wife, Sally, have traveled the nation speaking, teaching, and singing. He is the featured singer on the Lamb & Lion television program, “Christ in Prophecy.”



Why a Conference on the Basic Truths of Christianity?

Dr. David R. Reagan

The answer is simple. It's because ignorance of the Scriptures is epidemic in the Church today, even among those who call themselves Evangelicals. As a result, the average Christian does not have the slightest idea how to defend the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Even worse, many could not even define the fundamentals of the faith!

Poll after poll has shown that the most widely known Bible verse among both adult and teen believers is "God helps those who help themselves." The problem is that this is not a Bible verse, and even worse, it expresses an idea that is completely unbiblical!

Teens in a Spiritual Fog

Gary Burge, a professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Illinois has been testing the biblical literacy of incoming freshmen students for years. These are students who have been raised in Evangelical families and churches. He has discovered that one-third of the students could not put the following in historical order: Abraham, the Old Testament prophets, the death of Christ, and Pentecost. Half could not sequence the following: Moses in Egypt, Isaac's birth, Saul's death, and Judah's exile. One-third could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names. One-third could not find Paul's travels (the book of Acts), and half did not know where to find the Passover story (Exodus).

This incredible biblical ignorance among Evangelical teens makes you wonder what is going on in youth ministries. Are they doing anything other than playing games and conducting wiener roasts?

Ignorance Among Adults

The situation among adults is not much better. Recent polls by the Barna organization (www.barna.org) have revealed a shocking lack of biblical literacy among both the general public and those who considered themselves to be "born-again Christians." For example, only 9% of American adults have a biblical worldview, and only 19% of born-again adults have such a viewpoint. That means that 80% of those who claim to be born-again do not have a biblical worldview!

The Significance of One's Worldview

Why is this important? As Barna puts it, "A worldview serves as a person's decision-making filter." It is what determines how the person will interpret and deal with the complexities of life. Barna's research has discovered that there are large differences in behavior related to matters such as media use, profanity, gambling, alcohol use, honesty, civility, and sexual choices — all depending upon one's worldview. And Barna's research has revealed that the worldview of the average person is firmly in place by the age of 13.

To get specific, Barna's research has discovered that those without a biblical worldview are:

- ! 100 times more likely to endorse abortion.
- ! 80 times more likely to say that exposure to pornography is morally acceptable.
- ! 31 times more likely to believe that living together before

marriage is morally acceptable.

- ! 15 times more likely to believe homosexuality is morally acceptable.
- ! 18 times more likely to endorse drunkenness.
- ! 12 times more likely to accept profanity.
- ! 11 times more likely to say adultery is okay.
- ! 9 times more likely to gamble by purchasing lottery tickets.

Where Do You Stand?

Let's take a look at how the Barna organization determines whether or not a person has a biblical worldview. Here are Barna's eight determining questions:

- 1) Do you believe that absolute moral truths exist?
- 2) Do you believe the Bible defines those truths?
- 3) Do you believe Jesus Christ lived a sinless life?
- 4) Do you believe God created the universe?
- 5) Do you believe Satan is a real living entity?
- 6) Do you believe that salvation is a gift of God that cannot be earned?
- 7) Do you believe that Christians have an obligation to share the Gospel with the unsaved?
- 8) Do you believe the Bible is accurate in all its teachings?

Look over the above list carefully and ponder it in your heart. The fact that only 9% of those who claim to be born-again agree with all eight statements is mind-boggling. George Barna has concluded that "the primary reason Christians do not act like Jesus is because they do not think like Jesus."

A Famine of the Word

Billy Graham once said that "the Bible is the least read best seller of all times." That statement is more true today than ever before. The Old Testament prophet Amos predicted that one of the reasons the nation of Israel would be destroyed was because there was a "famine" of "hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11). Jeremiah predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed because "the word of the Lord has become a reproach to the people; they have no delight in it" (Jeremiah 6:10-11).

We need to get back to the Word. Back to the fundamentals of the Faith. And we need to learn how to defend what we believe. That's what our conference for 2010 will be all about. ✚



This painting, "The Armor of God," was done by Pat Marvenko Smith. (Website: www.revelationillustrated.com)

Peter Marshall

Interview and Conference



Christian historian Peter John Marshall will be our guest on Friday, January 15 at which time we will tape three television interviews with him.

The next day, Saturday January 16, we will sponsor a conference at which he will speak about the Christian heritage of the United States. The conference will be held at Faith Fellowship Church in Lucas, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas.

The conference will be free of charge and will last from 9am to noon. Mr. Marshall will speak first on America's Christian heritage. The second session will focus on the current challenge to that heritage. The conference will conclude with a question and answer session.

Peter John Marshall is the son of the famous Scottish minister, Dr. Peter Marshall, who came to this country in 1927. He attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia before entering the ministry. After serving two churches in Georgia, he was invited to become the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. in 1937 and was appointed twice as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, serving from January 1947 until his sudden death just over two years later. He was 46 years old.



Peter John Marshall with his mom and dad in the 1940's.

Mr. Marshall's mother, Catherine, became as famous as his father when she wrote a biography of her husband entitled, *A Man Called Peter*. This book was later made into an Oscar-nomi-



Peter John Marshall

nated film of the same title (1955) featuring Richard Todd as Peter Marshall. Mrs. Marshall eventually wrote over 20 books, including many editions of her late husband's sermons, several inspirational books, and the best-selling novel *Christy*.

Peter John Marshall emerged from the shadow of his famous parents 32 years ago in 1977 when he published his seminal study of the Christian heritage of our nation, *The Light and the Glory, 1492 - 1793*. This book went through 24 printings before a revised and expanded second edition was published in 2009. He has since written two sequels, *From Sea to Shining Sea, 1787 - 1837*, and *Sounding Forth the Trumpet, 1837 - 1860*.

The headquarters of Mr. Marshall's ministry is located on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, in the town of Orleans. His website address is petermarshallministries.com.

Peter John Marshall is a graduate of Yale University and Princeton Seminary. He served as a Presbyterian pastor for twelve years before devoting himself in 1977 to a continent-wide ministry of preaching, teaching and writing.

We feel highly honored to have Mr. Marshall as our special guest. Please note the date of the conference on your calendar, and please call 972-736-3567 to register. The conference is free of charge. ✚

"I strongly recommend Peter Marshall as a speaker. He is one of the most knowledgeable men of our times on America's Christian and biblical heritage, and has a message from God that people need to hear." — Bill Bright, late founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International

Ministry News

Schedule — In **January** Dr. Reagan will attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Acts 29 Ministries in Panama City Beach, Florida (8). While in Florida, he will speak at Calvary Chapel Gulf Breeze in Destin (8). On the 15th Dr. Reagan will tape three television interviews with Peter Marshall, and the next day, the 16th, Lamb & Lion Ministries will host a morning conference featuring Mr. Marshall. The conference will be held at Faith Fellowship Church in Lucas, Texas (a suburb of Dallas). The theme will be “The Christian Heritage of America.” Dr. Reagan will conclude the month by speaking at the North Hialeah Baptist Church in Hialeah, Florida (23-24). In **February** Dr. Reagan will be at Community Christian Church in Apache Junction, Arizona (6-7). Later that month he and the ministry’s media minister, Larry Watts, will attend the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters in Nashville, Tennessee (February 27 - March 2). In **March** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak several times at the annual Thy Kingdom Come Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma (25-27). In **April** Dr. Reagan will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land that will focus on Jerusalem (1-10). Later that month he will be one of the featured speakers at the Worldview Conference in Branson, Missouri (23-25), together with Ron Carlson, David Jeremiah, David Arthur, David Noebel, David Limbaugh, and Erwin Lutzer.



Important Notice!

It is time to renew your subscription to this magazine. All renewals come due the first of each year. **If you want to continue receiving the hard copy of the magazine by mail, you need to call our office at 972-736-3567 and arrange a payment of \$25.** This is absolutely essential, unless you are a Prophecy Partner.

Our Prophecy Partners receive the magazine via the mail free of charge. So, **if you are a Prophecy Partner, you do not have to call.** All you need to do is continue with your monthly Prophecy Partner commitment. Call us only if you have any questions about your Prophecy Partner status.

If you have already renewed your subscription for 2010, as many of you have, please disregard this notice. If you are not sure, just give us a call at 972-736-3567.

If you would like to start receiving the free email version, go to our website at www.lambliion.com. On the home page, on the right side, you will see a picture of the magazine. Next to it is a button that says, “Sign Up.” Click on that button and fill in the form.

Please do not delay in taking the appropriate action. Otherwise, you will miss receiving our March-April issue.

A Recent Special Guest — We were blessed recently to have Dr. Mark Hitchcock as our special guest. Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones taped three television programs with him concerning the 2012 phenomenon, the coming cashless society, and the United States in Bible prophecy. Dr. Hitchcock is the pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma. He is a prolific writer on Bible prophecy issues and is highly respected by his colleagues. The programs that were taped with him are scheduled to be broadcast in January 2010.



Dr. Mark Hitchcock (in the center) with Dave Reagan (on the left) and Nathan Jones (on the right)

Thanks!! — We want to express thanks to all of you who responded so generously to our emergency call for aid for Hands of Luke Ministries in Juarez, Mexico. We received more than \$10,000 in donations, making it possible for the ministry to continue with its annual Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to the people who live on the garbage dump in Juarez. More than 20,000 were served at Thanksgiving, and more than 5,000 children were treated with a meal and gifts at Christmas. ✚



Israel Pilgrimages — Dr. Reagan has put together a special “Focus on Jerusalem” tour that will depart the States on April 1st and return on April 10th. The tour will include overnight stops in Frankfurt, both going and returning. On

the flight to Israel, the stop-over in Frankfurt will include a half day tour of the city. The group will be in Israel 7 days and nights, all of which will be spent in Jerusalem visiting sites that are not usually seen on a general tour of the land. One full day will be spent at the Bible Times Learning Center in Ein Kerem, a suburb of Jerusalem. To obtain a detailed brochure, call 972-736-3567. The group will be limited to 30 people. The ministry’s annual tour of the whole land of Israel will be conducted this year in November.

Prophecy Partners — One of our long time Prophecy Partners, Steve Early, recently visited our ministry headquarters. Steve is an attorney in Louisville, Kentucky. He went to Israel with us in June of 2009.



Steve Early and Dave in front of a Jerusalem flag.

Our 2,500 Prophecy Partners provide the prayer and financial foundation of our ministry. These are people who have promised to pray for the ministry on a regular basis and who have committed to give \$20 or more each month for a year. We need more Prophecy Partners. If you would like to become one, please call 972-736-3567. You will receive a special report and gift from Dr. Reagan each month.



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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:

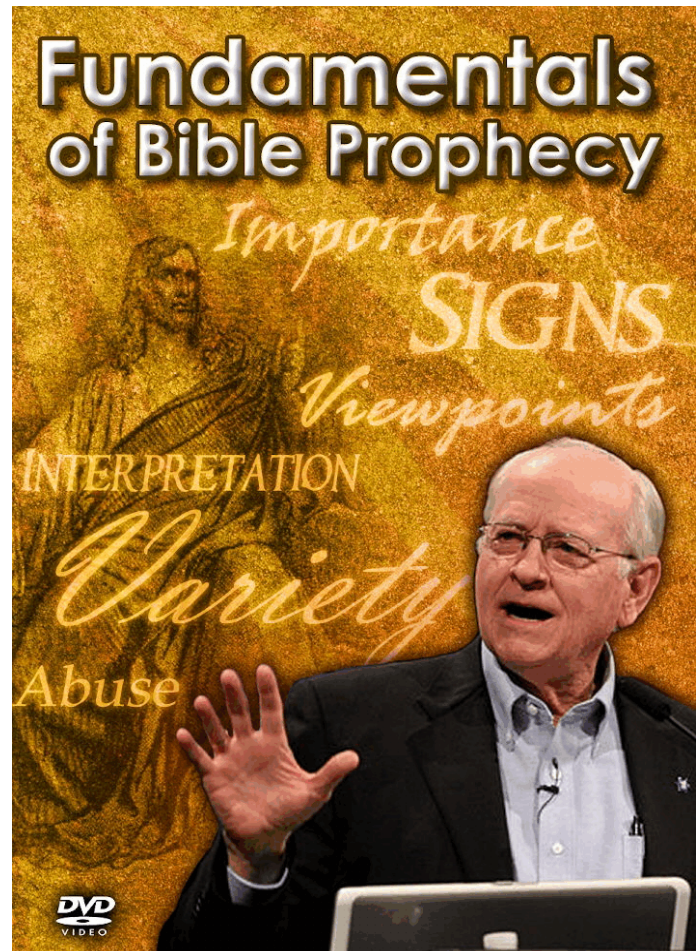
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Each presentation runs 25 minutes in length, providing plenty of time in a one hour format for a teacher to follow-up with in-depth discussion.

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!