

LAMPLIGHTER

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

Vol. XXXII

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No. 1



Satan's Story
Past, Present and Future



Observations by the Editor

Our Cover

For a long time I have wanted to write a feature article for this magazine about Satan, but I was unable to find appropriate art for the cover. It was a very frustrating situation. Over the past three years I have literally spent hours searching the Internet — all to no avail. All I could find were silly cartoon figures.

Then, early this year I tried once more, and to my delight, I discovered the amazing painting that appears on our cover this month. The artist who produced this phenomenal image is Duncan Long.



Duncan Long

Duncan is a remarkable person. He is a freelance writer who has authored 13 novels and more than 60 technical books. Additionally, he has ghostwritten over a dozen titles for television, radio, and stage celebrities.

As an illustrator Duncan has created cover and interior illustrations for many book publishers and magazines. His illustrations are noted for their often whimsical, dreamlike quality. You can find his graphic artwork and articles online at his website: <http://DuncanLong.com>.

Important Notice!

On page 19 you will find a very important notice concerning your future receipt of this magazine. Please check it out and see what you must do, if anything, to continue receiving the magazine during 2011. For many of you, this will be the last issue you will receive, unless we hear from you.



Dr. David R. Reagan

Prophecy Partner Program

In 1987 one of our faithful supporters, who has since gone home to be with the Lord, suggested that we start a partner program in an effort to stabilize the ministry's finances and get people more involved in praying for us and working with us to proclaim the Lord's soon return.

We thought it was a good idea, so we launched our Prophecy Partner Program, and God has worked through it ever since to sustain and encourage us in a mighty way. Today, we have over 2,500 Prophecy Partners, and we praise God for each one of them. They provide the financial base of the ministry. They pray for us, they encourage us, they introduce us to people who are unaware of the ministry, and they provide us with advice and counsel.

We need more Prophecy Partners so that we can continue to expand our outreach, proclaiming to more and more people worldwide that Jesus is returning soon.

To become a Prophecy Partner, you must make a commitment to give \$20 a month or more for one year. We ask you to aim at one dollar a day, or \$365, but the minimum is \$20 per month. Some, of course, give much more.

When you become a Prophecy Partner, you will start receiving a monthly letter from me in which I will summarize our activities, our opportunities, our challenges, and our needs. With the letter will come a monthly gift — usually a DVD containing a video program. If you would like to become a Prophecy Partner, give us a call at 800-705-8316. Thanks! ❖

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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 919
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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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SATAN'S STORY

His past, present and future.

Dr. David R. Reagan

Most people do not take Satan seriously. For many he is nothing more than a cartoon character in a red suit with a sneer on his face, horns on his head, and a pitchfork in his hand.

Recent polls have revealed that 60% of Americans believe Satan is just a symbol of evil and not a living being.¹ Even 52% of Christians who identify themselves as “born-again” deny the reality of Satan.²

Celebrities often mock Satan and Hell. I remember a few years ago when the 70th birthday party of Willie Nelson was televised nationally. At one point they showed a collection of video tributes to the famed Country singer. One of Willie’s well known friends laughed and said, “Happy birthday, Willie! I look forward to partying with you in Hell!”

Conan O’Brien, the popular late night TV host, wrote and performed a song mocking Hell. The song is so perverse that only parts can be quoted. The following section will give you the idea:³

I’m gonna go to Hell when I die
I’m gonna go to Hell when I die

I can’t be saved, it’s too late for me
I’m going to H-E Double L when I D-I-E
You could say I’m messed up, but I’m keepin’ it real
I’ll sleep with your mom for a home cooked meal
Give a guy with no legs a new pair of shoes
And give Ben Affleck a bottle of booze
I call up Nick Lechey, tell him he’s gay
Then ask Jessica to spell Chevrolet

I’m gonna go to Hell when I die
I’m gonna go to Hell when I die

Cable television’s Ted Turner mocked Hell in a similar manner when he said, “I don’t need anybody to die for me. I’ve had a few drinks and a few girlfriends, and if that’s gonna put me in Hell, then so be it.”⁴

The Australian hard rock band, AC/DC, released an album in 1979 titled, Highway to Hell. The title song bragged about their determination to end up in Hell:⁵

Ain’t nothing I would rather do
Going down, party time
My friends are gonna be there too
I’m on the highway to Hell
No stop signs or speed limit
Nobody’s gonna slow me down



Hey, Satan paid my dues
Playing in a rocking band
Hey, Momma, look at me
I’m on the way to the promised land
I’m on the highway to Hell

The heavy metal band called Acheron has an album titled, “The Rites of the Black Mass.” On the album, a person from the Church of Satan actually reads the rites of the Black Mass as the group sings:⁶

Glory to thee, Almighty Satan
We praise thee, we bless thee
We adore thee
Thou art Lord
Thou alone, O Mighty Satan

In their song, “The Prince,” the group named Metallica sings:⁷

Angel from below
I wish to sell my soul
Devil take my soul
With diamonds you repay
I don’t care for Heaven
So don’t you look for me to cry
And I will burn in Hell
From the day I die

There are many other such examples of Satanic songs being peddled today by various musical groups. Most of these songs are probably parodies designed to do nothing but shock. But some of the groups profess to be Satan worshipers.

At the 1991 MTV Awards, the spokesman for the group called Red Hot Chili Peppers acknowledged the receipt of their award by saying, “First of all, we want to thank Satan . . .”⁸

Whether the music is a parody or is a sincere expression of worship, the Satan and the Hell it glorifies do not exist. The true Satan has no interest in blessing anyone, except for the purpose of ensnaring their souls, and there will be no partying in Hell. The Word of God teaches that Satan is a real person who is interested only in the destruction of people — all people, even those who claim to worship and adore him.

Satan’s Origin

Satan is a spirit being who was created by God before the creation of the heavens and the earth (Job 38:4-7). He is in no way equal to God. He is not omnipresent. He is not omniscient.

Many believe he was one of three archangels (the other two being Michael and Gabriel), but the Bible identifies only one archangel by name — Michael (Jude 9). However, the book of Daniel indicates that there may be other archangels when it says



The popular conception of Satan as a cartoon character. (www.clipart.com)

that Michael was “one of the chief princes,” obviously implying there are other angels of his type (Daniel 10:13).

We are specifically told that Satan was “an anointed cherub” who was responsible for covering or guarding the throne of God (Ezekiel 28:14). In the Scriptures, cherubim appear to be angels of a higher order who are assigned special guard duties by God. The first mention of them can be found in Genesis 3:24 where we are told that after the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, God stationed cherubim on the East of Eden to prevent them from having access to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24).

Some have concluded that one of Satan’s main responsibilities may have been that of a worship leader. That’s because there is a reference in Ezekiel 28:13 to his “tambourines and flutes.” However, the words here in Hebrew are uncertain. The King James Version refers to “tarbets and pipes.” The New International Version translates the words as “settings and mountings.” The New American Standard Bible refers to “settings and sockets,” but provides the alternative translation of tambourines and flutes.

More definitely we are told in the Scriptures that Satan was created in perfection, and that therefore he was “full of wisdom” and “perfect in beauty” (Ezekiel 28:12-13). We are also told that he was covered with precious gems (Ezekiel 28:13).

Satan’s Fall

As with all of God’s higher beings, both men and angels, Satan was given free will because God desires true fellowship and not the orchestrated adoration of robots. We are told that, tragically, Satan used his free will to make a decision to rebel against God. Isaiah describes it in this way, quoting Satan (Isaiah 14:13-14):

I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne about the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly . . .
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.

Notice the repetition of the phrase, “I will.” The words literally seethe with rebellion. And Ezekiel tells us that the rebellion was rooted in pride: “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor” (Ezekiel 28:17). Satan became filled with unrighteousness and violence, and his sin resulted in God casting him out of Heaven (Ezekiel 28:15-17).

When was Satan kicked out of Heaven? We can only guess. The book of Job tells us that all the angelic host (which would include Satan) “shouted with joy” when God laid the foundation of the earth (Job 38:4-7). So Satan’s fall must have taken place between the time the creation was finished and Adam and Eve



This drawing of Satan captures the nature of his character, but his actual appearance is probably very different. At his creation he was described as “perfect in beauty” (Ezekiel 28:12). He has most likely retained that beauty, for Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:14 that Satan can still appear as an “angel of light.” (www.clipart.com)

were tempted. At the end of the creation week, God pronounced all of His creative work to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31), so the fall of Satan had to take place after that.

The gap between the end of the creation week and the temptation of Adam and Eve could have been anywhere between a few days or a few years. We know there was a lapse of time because Adam gave names to each of God’s creatures before the temptation of Eve occurred (Genesis 2:19-20).

When Satan was cast out of Heaven, he took one-third of the heavenly host with him (Revelation 12:4). Jesus referred to this event when He told His disciples, “I saw Satan fall from Heaven like lightning” (Luke 10:18). The angels who rebelled with Satan became the demonic spirits that infest our planet today. This is the reason that Satan was referred to by the Pharisees as “the ruler of the demons” (Matthew 9:34).

Satan’s Reality

I want to emphasize again that Satan is not some inanimate evil force or power. He is a real person with all the traits of personality — feelings, emotions, will and intelligence.

He appeared to Jesus and tempted Him mightily in the Judean wilderness (Matthew 4:1-10). Jesus carried on a vigorous conversation with Satan. Jesus was not talking to a shadow or to Himself. Satan is never presented anywhere in the Scriptures as anything other than a supernatural spirit being — a person in every sense of the term.



The cover of AC/DC's album, "Highway to Hell." This rock group is from Australia. They are one of the highest grossing bands of all times. In 1980, just a few months after this album was released, the lead singer and song co-writer, Bon Scott, died after a night of heavy drinking. (www.boston.com)

Satan's Character

The character of Satan is thoroughly despicable. He is the essence of evil. He is described in the Scriptures as "a murderer" and "the father of lies" (John 8:44). The New International Version puts it colorfully when it says that when Satan lies, "he speaks his native language" (John 8:44).

Satan's basic nature is perhaps best summarized in some of the names that are given him in the Bible:

Accuser (Zechariah 3:1 and Revelation 12:10)

Adversary (Job 1:6 and 1 Peter 5:8)
This is the Hebrew meaning of Satan.

Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24, 27)
Meaning either "Lord of the flies" or "Lord of dung."

Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15)
Meaning worthless or hopeless ruin.

Deceiver (Revelation 12:9)

Destroyer (Revelation 9:11)
Apollyon in Greek or Abaddon in Hebrew.

Devil (1 John 3:8)
From the Greek word, diabolos, which means slanderer or defamer.

Dragon (Revelation 12:3-17)

Enemy (Matthew 13:39)

Evil One (John 17:15)

God of This World (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Prince of This World (John 12:31)

Roaring Lion (1 Peter 5:8)

Ruler of Darkness (Ephesians 6:12)

Serpent (Genesis 3:1 and Revelation 12:9)

Tempter (Matthew 4:3)

Thief (John 10:10)

Wicked One (Ephesians 6:16)

Satan's Domain

Two of the titles in this list are often confusing and disturbing to Christians — namely, "God of this world" and "Prince of this world." "How can this be?" people often ask. "Didn't Jesus defeat Satan at the Cross? Hasn't Satan been dethroned?"

The answer is that Satan's ultimate defeat was sealed at the Cross, but it has not yet been realized in history. That's why many years after the Cross, the Apostle John wrote, ". . . the whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). The writer of the book of Hebrews asserts that all things have been put in subjection to Christ, "but now we do not yet see all things subjected to Him" (Hebrews 2:8).

The de-throning of Satan as the prince of this world was guaranteed by Jesus' victory over the Cross through the power of His resurrection. But Satan will not actually be removed from his throne until Jesus returns, at which time "the God of peace will crush Satan . . ." (Romans 16:20). The total defeat of Satan is a delayed benefit of the Cross, just as is the receipt of our glorified bodies.

A key aspect of the conflict between God and Satan is all about dominion. This earth was created for Mankind. God granted dominion over the creation to Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28). But when the two of them succumbed to Satan's temptation, that dominion was lost. Satan stole it, and he became the prince of this earth. That's why he could legitimately tempt Jesus by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would only bow down and worship him (Matthew 4:8-10).

Satan's Freedom

Meanwhile, Satan roams about this earth like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). This does not mean



This is the funk rock group called Red Hot Chili Peppers. They are the ones who gave thanks to Satan for the award they received in 1991 at the MTV Awards ceremony. They have sold over 50 million albums, their most successful one being named *Californication*, which was released in 1999. (Internet photo)

that Satan is free to do as he pleases. He is on a leash. He may be the prince of this world, but he operates under the authority of the King of the universe.

This important point is illustrated in the story of Job. Satan had to ask God's permission before he could tempt Job, and even when the permission was granted, certain limitations were placed on what Satan could do (Job 1:7-12).

This story illustrates another point. Satan currently has access to God's throne, and according to Revelation 12:10, he uses that access to accuse believers day and night.

Satan's Prophesied Fate

Satan's ultimate fate was prophesied at the very time that Adam and Eve sinned. God spoke a curse on Satan when He said:

I will put enmity
Between you [Satan] and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He [the seed of woman] will bruise
you on the head,
And you shall bruise him [the seed of
woman] on the heel.

This is a remarkable prophecy given at the very dawn of history. It is the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible. What God is saying here is that a person born of the seed of woman (a virgin) will suffer a wound from Satan on his heel, but he will then inflict a wound on Satan's head. The wound on the heel is symbolic of a non-lethal strike. This prophecy was fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. The wound on the head is symbolic of a lethal strike and will be fulfilled when Jesus returns and casts Satan into the lake of fire.



Satan's Current Activities

As we await Satan's ultimate defeat, we must deal with the temptations he and his demonic hordes place in front of us. Fortunately, those of us who are believers have the blessing of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and we are assured that "He who is within us is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

We are encouraged to "put on the full armor of God," that we might be able "to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11).



"The Armor of God," a painting by Pat Marvenko Smith. It was inspired by Ephesians 6:11 which says, "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." (www.RevelationIllustrated.com)

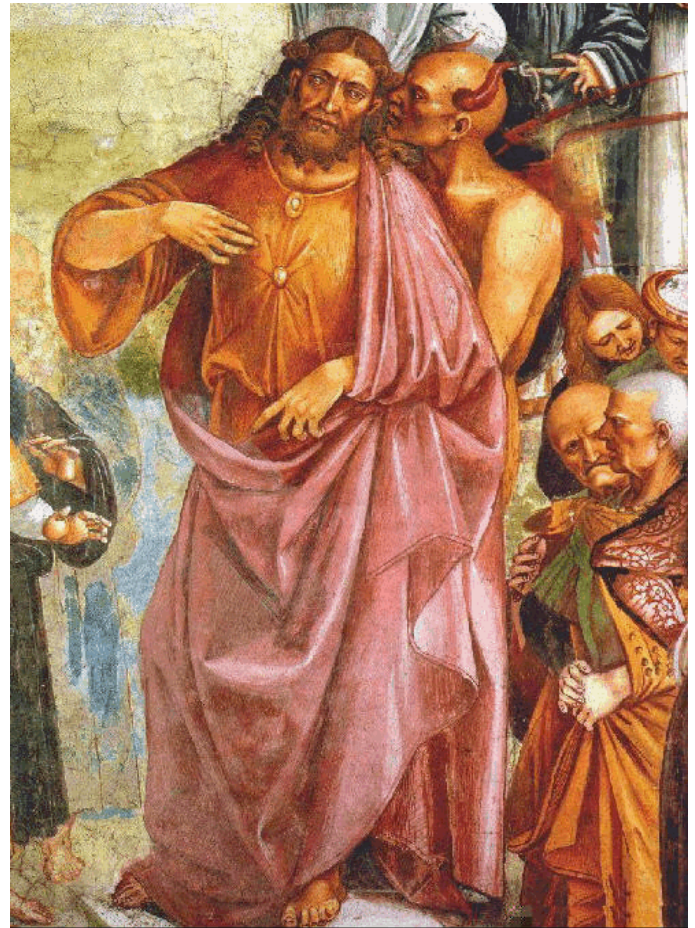
sians 6:11). And we are told that if we submit ourselves to God, then when we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7).

We are also advised to avoid giving Satan an opportunity in our lives (Ephesians 4:27). In other words, we should do everything we can to avoid temptation. And in that regard, I have learned through personal experience that it is much easier to avoid temptation than it is to resist it.

Satan's Special Man

As the signs of the end times continue to multiply, Satan must be chomping at the bit because he knows Bible prophecy (Revelation 12:12), and he realizes that the time is fast approaching when he will be able to physically manifest himself as the God of this world.

He is going to do this through a man he will anoint and then possess as his messiah (Daniel 8:24). The Bible calls this man the Antichrist (1 John 2:22), and his characteristics will be the same as Satan's. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 he is referred to as "the son of destruction." Utilizing the power of Satan (Revelation



This picture of Satan advising the Antichrist is a detail from a fresco painted by Luca Signorelli (1445-1523), an Italian Renaissance painter. The painting was done about 1501.

13:2), the Antichrist will conquer all the earth (Revelation 13:7).

And while the Antichrist is consolidating his worldwide empire, Satan will try one last time to seize the throne of God in Heaven. This will result in a heavenly war in the middle of the Tribulation. Satan and all his demons will fight against the archangel Michael and his angels. Satan will, of course, be defeated in this insane effort to displace his Creator.

We are told in Revelation that Satan will be cast down to earth and his access to Heaven will be cut off completely (Revelation 12:10-12). Satan will be filled with great wrath, and he will decide to take out his anger on the Chosen People of God — the Jews (Revelation 12:12-17).

He will begin this process by possessing the Antichrist and then motivating him to enter the rebuilt Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be god (2 Thessalonians 2:4), demanding that all the world worship him.

When he is rejected by the Jews, Satan will then motivate him to annihilate the Jewish people. Satan will do this because he hates the Jews with a passion. He hates them because they are God's Chosen People. He hates them because God worked through them to provide the world with the Bible. He hates them because it was through them that God sent His Son, the Messiah. And he hates them because God has promised that one day a great remnant of the Jews will turn their hearts to their Messiah and be saved (Isaiah 10:20-23, Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 9:27-28).

Satan is determined to annihilate the Jews so that God cannot fulfill His promise to bring a great remnant to salvation. Satan has tried to do this many times in the past, as with the Spanish Inquisition and the Nazi Holocaust. This will be his last attempt, and it will almost be successful, for we are told that the Antichrist will slaughter two-thirds of the Jewish people during the last half of the Tribulation (Zechariah 13:8).

Satan's Fate

The Tribulation will end with the Second Coming of Jesus. The Antichrist and his False Prophet will be seized and thrown alive into the lake of fire, which is Hell (Revelation 19:20-21). At that point the activity of Satan will come to a temporary end. He will be held captive for the next thousand years while Jesus reigns over all the earth from Jerusalem (Revelation 20:1-3).

At the end of the Lord's millennial reign, Satan will be set free, and he will go forth to deceive the nations (Revelation 20:7-8). This is a very perplexing development to most people. What is the purpose of releasing him?

The answer has to do with one of the fundamental purposes of the Millennium. Humanists believe that evil is rooted in society and can be uprooted through societal reforms. In sharp contrast, the Word of God teaches that evil is rooted in the fallen nature of Man (Jeremiah 17:9 and Mark 7:20-23).

God is going to disprove the Humanist theory during the Millennium. He is going to put all of Mankind into a perfect society where righteousness and justice prevail. There will be no homeless or poor people. There will be no unmet needs (Isaiah 11:4-9).

Yet, at the end of that glorious time, when Satan is released, he will rally the nations of the world against Jesus, and they will



The binding of Satan in an abyss for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3). A painting by Pat Marvenko Smith. (www.revelationillustrated.com)

march on Jerusalem to overthrow the King of kings (Revelation 20:7-9). This worldwide revolt will prove that you cannot truly change people by changing their environment.

The change cannot be external. It must be internal, and that can happen only through the work of the Holy Spirit who is received by believers when they put their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior (Acts 2:38 and Ephesians 1:13).

This raises an additional question. Why would most of those living in the flesh join a revolt against God after living for a thousand years in a perfect society? Well, just stop for a moment and consider the fact that the Scriptures say Jesus will rule with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:27). This means He will dictate the law, and it will be strictly enforced by those of us in glorified bodies who will be reigning with Jesus (Revelation 2:26-27). Justice will be swift and certain.

Now, think what it would be like to live in the flesh under such a government. The fallen nature would constantly be desiring the things of the world — drugs, alcohol, promiscuous sex, gambling, etc. Yet, knowing justice is swift and certain, most people will restrain themselves and praise Jesus through clenched teeth. But once Satan is released, he will call on the frustrated, unrepentant sinners of the world to join him in overthrowing “the joker in Jerusalem.”

Thus, history is going to end as it began, going in full circle. It started with two people in a perfect environment called the Garden of Eden. They rebelled against their Creator. It will end with all of humanity living in a perfect environment, the Millennium, and most of them, like Adam and Eve, will decide to revolt.

The final rebels of history will be supernaturally destroyed by God when they march on Jerusalem (Revelation 20:9). At that point, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire (Hell) where he will be tormented day and night forever, together with his demons and the Antichrist and False Prophet (Revelation 20:10).



Satan in Hell. A painting by an unknown artist.

Notice how these revelations of God's Word dispel the mythical concept of the Middle Ages that Satan and his demons will be in charge of Hell where they will eternally torment the lost souls of Mankind. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that Hell was created for the torment of Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Satan will not be the CEO of Hell. He will be a prisoner of Hell.

He will also be an object of derision. Isaiah says that the saved will be allowed to gaze upon him, and they will mock him by saying, "Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities?" (Isaiah 14:16-17).

Satan's Persistence and Frustration

Two final questions: Why does Satan persist in his rebellion against God? Doesn't he realize there is no hope in his attempt to dethrone the Creator of the universe?

Satan may be the great deceiver, but he himself is the most deceived being in the universe. There is no deception greater than self-deception, and Satan has convinced himself that he can ultimately triumph.

But he is doomed. No matter what he throws at God, it will be tossed right back into his face, and it will be converted to the glory of Jesus.

Consider the Cross. Satan manipulated the murder of God's Son. He thought he had achieved his greatest victory. But through the power of the Resurrection, God converted the most dastardly act of history into one of history's most glorious events.

Satan has got to be the most frustrated creature in all of God's creation. It is no wonder that Psalm 2 tells us that while Satan plots and schemes against God and His Anointed One, the Creator sits in Heaven and laughs! (Psalm 2:4). His laughter is not motivated by a lack of concern. He laughs because He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Satan to the triumph of His Son.

*I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning
And from ancient times things which have
not been done,
Saying, "My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure" . . .
Truly I have spoken;
Truly I will bring it to pass.
I have planned it, surely I will do it.*

(Isaiah 46:9b-11) ❖

Notes:

- 1) The Barna Group, "Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist," www.barna.org, and Religious Tolerance, "About Ghosts, Satan, Heaven, Hell, etc.," www.religioustolerance.org.
- 2) Religious Tolerance, "About Ghosts, Satan . . ."
- 3) Conan O'Brien, "I'm Gonna Go to Hell When I Die!" www.jesus-is-savior.com.
- 4) Sam Lavender, "God Made A Way," www.voiceoftheevangelists.com.
- 5) AC/DC, "Highway to Hell," www.lyricsfreak.com.
- 6) Acheron, "The Rites of the Black Mass," www.av1611.org.
- 7) Metallica, "The Prince," www.sing365.com.
- 8) Wes Penre, "Satanic Quotes by Musicians," www.illuminati-news.com.

Stop Panicking Over the Mark of the Beast!

Nathan Jones

Where people place the timing of the Rapture in relation to the Tribulation really affects how they react to what they read in Revelation, especially concerning the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 13:16-17 gives the details concerning this much feared prophetic mark:

He [the False Prophet] also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast [Antichrist] or the number of his name [666].

Revelation 20:4 tells us that those who refuse to take this loyalty mark will be put to death. They will be “beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the Word of God . . .” The passage further explains that their execution will be due to the fact that “they had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands.”

For those who do not hold a Pre-Tribulation Rapture view (the concept that the Rapture of the Church will take place before the Tribulation begins), there is much panicking over the receiving of this mark. Take for example the 20’s-something guy who showed up at a Bible study my wife and I attended. In the middle of the lesson he just couldn’t contain his passion anymore, and he exploded in panicky excitement, fervently exhorting us that when the time came for Christians to be beheaded by the Antichrist, we should just put our heads into the guillotine and proudly have them chopped off for Jesus.

During another lesson, in the same fervor but with an opposite exhortation, a visiting gentleman from India implored that Christians play along and even deny Christ to protect themselves. He erroneously added that Jesus would forgive the denial.

A group in West Virginia actually fought and won an exemption from the state’s requirement that drivers license photos be stored in a government digital database. They objected to the law because they felt they would be facilitating the Mark of the Beast.¹

I’m pretty sure if I believed that Jesus would let the Antichrist beat up on His Bride for seven years, that I’d be living differently, too. For one, I’d be combing the news daily wondering which charismatic leader is the Antichrist (maybe the Pope or Obama?). Secondly, I’d be stockpiling food, water, precious metals and survival gear in some backyard bomb shelter. And thirdly, I’d lose a lot of sleep fearing I had accidentally taken the Mark of the Beast.

Bear in mind, accepting the Mark of the Beast is not something to be taken lightly. It’s as bad as that atheist group online that is collecting initiation videos from people blaspheming the Holy Spirit. The end result of doing either of these is eternal separation from God and banishment to the lake of fire (Revelation 14:9-10).

But, Revelation 13:16-18 gives us enough information for a



(Image courtesy of Don Perkins)

person to know when they have taken the Mark. For one, the Antichrist would have to be ruling the world. Since he’s not at the time of this writing, you’re good. Secondly, since the Mark is the Antichrist’s key to controlling the world economy, and Christians are currently buying and selling, you’re good. Thirdly, the Mark is very visible ON (not IN) either the right hand or forehead, and is easily recognized as either the name or number of the Beast. Since the Apostle John couldn’t read barcodes (who can?), don’t fear them. Since earthquakes and meteors aren’t leveling the planet and rivers and oceans aren’t turning red, then the time is not right for the Mark, so you’re good.

When it comes time to decide to accept the Mark, you would know more clearly than was ever known which side you were choosing — God or Satan. The Mark pure and simple is allegiance to Satan. Nobody will be tricked into taking it.

Now, if you are reading this after the Church has been taken up to Heaven to be with Jesus, then yes, heed Revelation 13’s description and DO NOT take the Mark, for it will mean great physical suffering while on earth and eternal damnation to the lake of fire. But, if you’re a Christian and waiting on the Rapture, then brush up on verses like 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:4 and Revelation 3:10. All of these passages show the Bible supports a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church.

Meanwhile, relax, and trust in God. ✚

Notes:

1) “Fear mark of the beast? State OKs special license,” WorldNet Daily, August 9, 2008, <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=71943>.

Purgatory: Purifying Fire or Fatal Fable?

Mike Gendron



(Editor's Note: Mike Gendron is the founder and director of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries, located in Garland, Texas. Mike was a devout Catholic for over 30 years before he heard the Gospel, encountered Jesus, and was saved. He resigned his business position, entered Dallas Theological Seminary, and established his ministry to Catholics after his graduation. That was 20 years ago in 1991. You can find his website at <http://pro-gospel.org>.)

Catholics who believe a purifying fire will purge away their sins are deluded victims of a fatal fabrication. The invention of a place for purification of sins called Purgatory is one of the most seductive attractions of the Roman Catholic religion. Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Community Church, in his book, *The Pope and the Papacy*, described this deceptive hoax brilliantly. He wrote:

Purgatory is what makes the whole system work. Take out Purgatory and it's a hard sell to be a Catholic. Purgatory is the safety net when you die. You don't go to Hell. You go [to Purgatory] and get things sorted out and finally get to Heaven if you've been a good Catholic. In the Catholic system you can never know you're going to Heaven. You just keep trying and trying . . . in a long journey toward perfection . . . People in that system are guilt-ridden, fear-ridden and have no knowledge of whether or not they're going to get into the Kingdom. If there's no Purgatory, there's no safety net to catch me and give me some opportunity to get into Heaven. It's a second chance, it's another chance after death.

The Origin of Purgatory

There was no mention of Purgatory during the first two centuries of the Church. However, when Roman Emperor Theodosius (347-395) decreed that Christianity was to be the official religion of the empire, thousands of pagans flooded into the Church and brought their pagan beliefs and traditions with them. One of those ancient pagan beliefs was a place of purification where souls went to make satisfaction for their sins.

The concept became much more widespread around 600 A.D. due to the fanaticism of Pope Gregory the Great. He developed the doctrine through supposed visions and revelations of a purgatorial fire. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Pope Gregory said Catholics "will expiate their faults by purgatorial flames," and "the pain [is] more intolerable than any one can suffer in this life." Centuries later, at the Council of Florence (1431), Purgatory was pronounced an infallible dogma. It was later reaffirmed by the Council of Trent (1564).

The dogma is based largely on Catholic tradition from extra-biblical writings and oral history. The *Catholic Encyclope-*



This painting by Lodovico Carracci (1555-1619) shows an angel about to free a suffering soul from Purgatory.

dia describes it this way: "So deep was this belief ingrained in our common humanity that it was accepted by the Jews, and in at least a shadowy way by the pagans, long before the coming of Christianity." It seems incomprehensible that Rome would admit to using a pagan tradition for the defense of one of its most esteemed "Christian" doctrines.

The Deception of Purgatory

Purgatory comes from the Latin word "purgare," which means to make clean or to purify. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* defines purgatory as "a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God's grace, are not entirely free from venial faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions." They must be purified of these "venial" sins before they can be allowed into Heaven.

Here we see Catholicism perpetuating the seductive lie of Satan by declaring "you will not surely die" when you commit venial sins (Genesis 3:4). The Council of Trent dares to declare that "God does not always remit the whole punishment due to sin together with the guilt. God requires satisfaction and will punish sin . . . The sinner, failing to do penance in this life, may be punished in another world, and so not be cast off eternally from God" (Session 15, Can. XI). Those Catholic Bishops had the audacity to declare that the suffering and death of God's perfect man and man's perfect substitute was not sufficient to satisfy divine justice for sin.

The Motivation for Purgatory

Over the centuries billions of dollars have been paid to Roman Catholic priests to obtain relief from imaginary sufferings in Purgatory's fire. The Catholic clergy has always taught that the period of suffering in Purgatory can be shortened by purchasing indulgences and novenas, buying Mass cards and providing gifts of money. When a Catholic dies, money is extracted from mourning loved ones to shorten the deceased's punishment in Purgatory.

When my dear old dad passed away as a devout Catholic of 79 years, I was amazed at the hundreds of Mass cards purchased for him by well-meaning friends. We have heard of other Catholics who have willed their entire estates to their religion so that perpetual masses could be offered for them after they die. It is no wonder that the Catholic religion has become the richest institution in the world. The buying and selling of God's grace has been a very lucrative business for the Vatican.

Another motivation for Rome to fabricate the heretical doctrine of Purgatory is its powerful effect on controlling people. Ultimately, the enslavement and subjugation of people is the goal of every false religion, and Purgatory does exactly that. The concept of a terrifying prison with a purging fire, governed by religious leaders, is a most brilliant invention. It holds people captive, not only in this life but also in the next life. Catholic clergy will not say how many years people have to suffer for their sins or how many Masses must be purchased before they can be released from the flames. This dreadful fear and uncertainty is the most ruthless form of religious bondage and deception!

Biblical Support for Purgatory

There is absolutely none! In fact, neither the word nor the concept of sin-purifying fire is found in Scripture. The Vatican was confronted with this in the 16th century when the Reformers protested its practice of buying and selling of God's grace through indulgences. Backed into a corner, the Council of Trent added the apocryphal books to its canon of Scripture. Rome now declares there is scriptural support for purgatory in the apocryphal book of Second Maccabees. The council ignored the fact that the Jewish scribes never recognized the apocryphal books as inspired or part of the Hebrew Scriptures. They were never included because of their many historical, theological and geographical errors. Since God is not the author of error, He obviously did not inspire the writers of the Apocrypha. This is why the Apocrypha was never included in the original canon of 66 books.

The apocryphal verses Rome uses to defend its doctrine of Purgatory refer to Jewish soldiers who died wearing pagan amulets around their necks. Judas Maccabees "sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead . . . Judas hoped that these men who died fighting for the cause of God and religion, might find mercy: either because they might be excused from mortal sin by ignorance; or might have repented of their sin, at least at their death. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Maccabees 12:43-46). Rome argues that since Judas Maccabees prayed for the dead,

there must be hope for those who die in sin. This of course, goes directly against God's Word which declares, "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Rome's attempt to give credence to Purgatory by using this ungodly practice of the Jews, who had a history of disobeying God, is pathetic.

“Purgatory is a travesty on the justice of God and a disgraceful fabrication that robs Christ Jesus of His glory and honor.”

In another attempt to find support for Purgatory, many Catholics point to 1 Corinthians 3:15 which says: "If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." Clearly, the context of this verse is the testing of a man's works by fire. The works that survive are the ones done for the glory of Christ and are called gold, silver and precious stones (Ephesians 2:10). All the other superfluous works are burned in fire and are called wood, hay and stubble. It is not man's sins that are being purged, it is man's spurious works that are being burned and destroyed.

The Biblical Rebuke of Purgatory

God's Word leaves absolutely no possibility for sin to be purged away by anything other than the blood of Jesus Christ. The beloved apostle John penned these words with irrefutable clarity. He wrote, "The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" and "all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:7, 9). John did not say "some" sins or "most" sins, but all sin! This soundly rebukes the need for a sin-purging fire.

God's Word also declares, "All things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22). When Jesus "made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3). Those who desire to have their sins purged need to trust a person, not a place. The blood of Christ is the only cleansing agent for sin! Those who come to the cross of Christ must come with empty hands of faith, bringing nothing but their sins.

Every blood-bought believer is instantly present with their Redeemer at the moment of death. To be "absent from the body" is to be "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:6-8). This good news was affirmed by the Lord Jesus with the promise He gave to the repentant thief at Calvary. He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). This habitual sinner did not need a fire to purge his sins.

Catholics who believe in Purgatory need to be asked: "Who is in charge of releasing souls from the purging fire?" It cannot be God because of His promise to believers. "Their sins and iniquities I will remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17). After conversion, God no longer counts sins against His children (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Purgatory is a travesty on the justice of God and a disgraceful fabrication that robs Christ Jesus of His glory and honor. He alone satisfied divine justice, once and for all, by the perfect and finished sacrifice of Himself.

The fatal deception of Purgatory blinds Catholics from the glorious Gospel of grace. It is one of Satan's many lies which keep his captives from knowing and trusting the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. It is Christ alone that will present us "faultless before the presence of his glory" (Jude 24). ❖

Apostasy —

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recently welcomed three lesbian ministers into its clergy roster during a “Rite of Reception” ceremony that was held at a Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Incredibly, part of the ceremony was a confession that was voiced by the congregation:

We have fallen short in honoring all people of God and being an instrument for that grace . . . We have disciplined, censured and expelled when we should have listened, learned and included.

In other words, the church actually confessed the “sin” of having once stood on biblical teaching and the “sin” of exercising church discipline.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, observed: “Given their new policy on homosexuality, it is the one who affirms the Bible’s teaching that is called to repent, rather than the unrepentant homosexual.”

Something Martin Luther once said seems to fit the situation perfectly: “You should not believe your conscience and your feelings more than the Word which the Lord who receives sinners preaches to you.”

Anti-Semitism —

In October of last year, a Catholic synod issued a statement at the Vatican concerning the rising persecution of Christians in the Middle East, a development that is due entirely to Muslim intolerance of all other religions. Incredibly, the spokesman for the synod, Cyril Salim Bustros, a Lebanon-born archbishop from Boston, blamed the Jews for the suffering of Middle Eastern Christians! In the process of his remarks, he denied any right of the Jews to return to their homeland in Israel. Further, he declared that all of God’s promises to the Jews had been nullified by Christ. He concluded by stating, “There is no longer a Chosen People.”

I say then, God has not rejected His people [the Jews], has He? May it never be! For I [Paul] too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. — Romans 11:1-2

The Road to Secularism —

In 1952 the United States Congress passed a law calling for a National Day of Prayer to be observed each year on a day designated by the President.

In 1988 the law was amended to designate the first Thursday in May as The National Day of Prayer.

In 2001 President George W. Bush began a tradition of hosting a White House event to honor the day.

In 2009 President Barack Obama refused to schedule a White House event to honor the day.

In 2010 a federal judge in Wisconsin declared the law to be unconstitutional. The ruling is currently on appeal.

TIMES and Seasons

Christian Persecution —

Last summer, Home Depot fired an employee for refusing to remove a button from his work apron that read: “One nation under God.” But Home Depot did nothing when a large number of its employees decided to wear buttons on their aprons endorsing homosexuality. Home Depot defended them by issuing a statement saying that it would not limit homosexual employees “in any way” from expressing pride in their deviant sexuality.



Home Depot employees wearing work aprons in support of “LGBT,” an abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered.

On another front in the value war, a North Carolina pastor was relieved of his duties as an honorary chaplain of the State House of Representatives because the prayer he was required to submit for advanced review ended in the name of Jesus. He was told to remove Jesus’ name. He refused. He was finally allowed to present the prayer but was then informed that his tenure as chaplain for the rest of the week had been canceled because praying in the name of Jesus would offend some people.

The pastor, Ron Baity of Berean Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, said he was “highly offended” when he was asked not to pray in the name of Jesus because “that does constitute my faith.” He added, “My faith requires that I pray in Jesus’ name. The Bible is very clear.” So is the U. S. Constitution:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .

Christian Paganism —

Last summer an Orthodox Christian theologian from Belarus by the name of Siarhei Hardun was invited to speak at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He shocked his audience by strongly criticizing their approval of non-celibate homosexual clergy. He accused them of trying “to invent a new religion — a sort of modern paganism.” He further observed: “Christian morality is as old as Christianity itself. It doesn’t need to be invented now.” He concluded with this thought: “When people say that they are led and guided by the Holy Spirit to do it [endorse homosexuality], I wonder if it is the same Holy Spirit that inspired the Bible.” Amen! ❖

Thinking about Eternity —

“In Wall Street terms, Christ is bearish when it comes to investing on earth. His financial forecast for the world is ultimately bleak. But He’s unreservedly bullish about investing in Heaven where every market indicator is eternally positive!” — Randy Alcorn

Threats to America —

“The number one superpower has been America, and now we see her imploding due to corrupt politics, greed, love of self, love of power, and the personification of the Bible verse that says, ‘The heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately wicked; who can understand it?’ (Jeremiah 17:9) . . . Not only are we threatened from without by radical Islam, we are threatened from without and within by a group of intellectual globalists who are convincing America and the nations of the world that the only way to lasting world peace is the establishment of global government.” — Jan Markell of Olive Tree Ministries

The American Heritage —

“Perhaps the most shocking and egregious rejection of America’s traditional values is the recent disclosure that Wilder Publishing, a house that specializes in antique books, put the following disclaimer on a newly released edition of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers: ‘This book is a product of its times and does not reflect the same values as it would if it were written today.’ That statement, my friends, discards the idea that the truths and values in our founding documents are eternally valid and applicable to any society at any time in human history. For Wilder Publishing, the ‘self-evident’ truths of the Founding Fathers are no longer self-evident or even relevant. In saying that the founding documents were ‘products of (their) times’ they are renouncing the absolute truth that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. Ironically, though homosexual activists would happily endorse Wilder Publishing’s multicultural disclaimer, to reject the equality of all men and the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is to tear down the constitutional safeguards against the persecution of all sorts of minorities, including homosexuals.” — Peter Marshall

The Reality of Man’s Nature —

“The world’s insatiable conviction that talking softly and carrying no stick, big or small, will one day bring Tehran’s dictators to heel is a fantasy of futility . . . Squarely on the table these days for all to see are the problems that grow out of a faulty concept of the nature of man and a failure to recognize evil in the world and that people and regimes are out to kill us. This wickedness did not develop because people were deprived of material baubles or were spanked as children or were reared in socially deprived situations. The all but universally denied fact these days is that sin is real, all people are sinners, and no divine thread flows through the offspring of Adam. In the vernacular of another time, we are sinners by nature, practice, and choice.” — Elwood McQuaid

Food for Thought



Degenerate Art —

Pablo Picasso’s evaluation of his own art: “The ‘refined,’ the ‘rich,’ the ‘professional do nothing,’ the ‘distiller of quintessence’ desire only the peculiar, and sensational, the eccentric, the scandalous in today’s art. And I myself, since the advent of cubism, have fed these fellows what they wanted and satisfied these critics with all the ridiculous ideas that have passed through my head. The less they understood, the more they have admired me! . . . Today, as you know, I am celebrated, I am rich. But when I am alone, I do not have the effrontery to consider myself an artist at all, not in the grand meaning of the word. Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt and Goya were great painters. . . . I am only a public clown, a mountebank. I have understood my time and exploited the imbecility, the vanity, the greed of my contemporaries. It is a bitter confession, this confession of mine, more painful than it may seem. But, at least, and at last, it does have the merit of being honest.”

The following quote is taken from a letter sent to the members of Oil Painters of America. Speaking of the 1913 Armory show in New York City when art took a sudden left turn toward abstraction due to the impact of Marcel Duchamp’s *Nude Descending a Staircase*, “. . . since abstract art does not speak a universal language, you need a *critic* to explain it, an *academic* to validate it, and above all, a prestigious *dealer* to help you collect it.”

Islam —

“Islam is a false religion based on a false book written by a false prophet.” — Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.

“The biggest terrorist is Allah of the Quran, the god of the Quran, the god of Islam.” — Mosab Hassan Yousef, author of the bestselling book, *Son of Hamas*.

“The history of Islam is a river of blood.” — Mark Gabriel, former Muslim and former professor of Islamic History at Al-Azhar University in Cairo.

“Combining the powers of transcendent genius with the preternatural energy of a fanatic and the fraudulent spirit of an impostor, [Mohammed] proclaimed himself as a messenger from heaven, and spread desolation and delusion over an extensive portion of the earth . . . He poisoned the sources of human felicity at the fountain, by degrading the condition of the female sex, and the allowance of polygamy; and he declared undistinguishing and exterminating war as part of his religion against all the rest of mankind. The essence of his doctrine was violence and lust; to exalt the brutal over the spiritual part of human nature.” — President John Quincy Adams in 1827

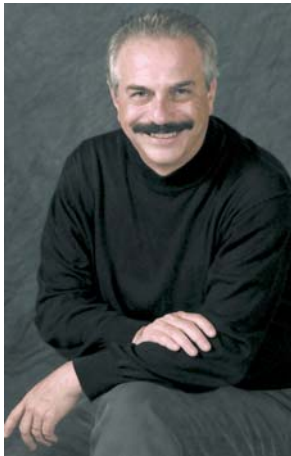
President Obama —

“Surely something must be terribly wrong with a man who seems to be far more concerned with a Jew building a house in Israel, than a Muslim building a nuclear bomb in Iran.” — Burt Prelutsky, syndicated columnist ❖

Today's 'Conservatives' and the Sin Problem

Joseph Farah

(Editor's note: Joseph Farah is the founder and director of World Net Daily, a highly respected Internet news service. His website can be found at www.WorldNetDaily.com. This article was posted on August 19, 2010, and is used by permission.)



Joseph Farah

is hopelessly lost.

Let's take the issue of homosexuality. In the Judeo-Christian biblical worldview, there can be no doubt that homosexual behavior is a sin — even a particularly grave sin in God's eyes, one He characterizes as “an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). God's Word is unequivocal on that point — New Testament or Old.

Yet, increasingly it seems, American “conservatives” are shy about calling this sin what it is. They also seem oblivious to the societal costs of affirming homosexual behavior as acceptable, normal, and morally and legally equivalent to heterosexual behavior — sexually transmitted diseases, gender confusion among children, the breakdown of traditional marriage and the family unit, child molestations, military cohesiveness, the spread of moral relativism and, as history has shown, cultural decay.

When was the last time you heard a “conservative” leader with a high media profile speak out against what can only be described as the pervasive glorification of the homosexual culture in our schools, media, entertainment industry, Madison Avenue and, of course, government in all of its forms?

There are a few, to be sure — Pat Buchanan and Michael Savage come to mind. Any others?

Meanwhile, the oldest and most prestigious “conservative” weekly in the nation is owned by a corporation run by an activist homosexual.

Ann Coulter is gleeful about speaking to a group called GOProud, which bills itself as a “conservative” Republican homosexual organization that supports same-sex marriage and

open homosexual service in the military . . .

“Conservative” icon Glenn Beck, in a conversation with Bill O'Reilly, said basically he doesn't care about the attack on traditional marriage. Asked if the California ruling will harm the country in any way, he responded: “No I don't. Will the gays come and get us? I believe what Thomas Jefferson said: ‘If it neither breaks my leg nor picks my pocket what difference is it to me?’”

Rush Limbaugh, the iconic leader of American conservatism, hired the noted homosexual singer Elton John to perform at his wedding. He has not aired one of his biting satirical “gay community updates” in years.

“Conservatives,” it seems, are on the verge of not only accepting homosexuality's domination of the culture, but embracing it. Not me — another reason I would prefer not to be considered or labeled as a “conservative.”

Personally, I can't even imagine a world in which same-sex marriage becomes accepted, either by judicial force, or routine, through society's capitulation to pressure. It simply won't be the same world we have known throughout our lives. The natural order of things will be irrevocably altered and broken.

It's a very big deal, and, sadly, “conservatives” are letting it happen. They aren't fighting. They are capitulating. They are compromising. They are becoming part of the problem, not the solution. Their standards are being destroyed.

Just exactly what is it that “conservatives” are trying to “conserve”? Free enterprise? Why? Because it works? So does traditional marriage. It's been proven for 5,000 years. It's the building block of any self-governing society. Without it we have chaos — sexual anarchy. I like free enterprise, too. But I know it's best because private property is affirmed by the Bible. So is marriage between one man and one woman. That's my standard.

I feel very lonely fighting this issue today — very isolated. But fight I will — until the last breath.

Acceptance of the government imposition of same-sex marriage will be like the proverbial crossing of the Rubicon. The foundations of our world will literally be shaken.

You don't have to be a prophet to realize God will not be mocked in this manner. We won't be the first civilization to collapse because of its approval of this sin. But we might be the last. ❖

Editor's Note:

I want to say a hearty “AMEN” to this great essay by Joseph Farah. God created and defined marriage (Genesis 2:22-24). Jesus affirmed it (Matthew 19:4-6). Who are we to tamper with what God created, designed and blessed?

The endorsement of both homosexuality and same-sex marriage by both government and elements of the Church is a sure sign of the depravity of our society and its guaranteed collapse (Romans 1:26-27).

It is heart-breaking to watch a great nation self-destruct. But it coincides with Bible prophecy and its clear indication that the United States will play no role in end time events. ❖

How Schools Have Changed

Scenario 1: Jack goes rabbit shooting before school and pulls into his school's parking lot with his rifle in a gun rack inside the cab of his pickup truck.

1950 — The vice principal comes over, looks at Jack's rifle, then goes to his car and gets his rifle. He and Jack compare their guns.

2010 — The school goes into lock down, the police are called, and Jack is hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors are called in to deal with traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario 2: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1950 — A crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2010 — The police are called, a SWAT team arrives and arrests Johnny and Mark. They are charged with assault and both are expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario 3: David won't be still in class and constantly disrupts other students.

1950 — David is sent to the office and is given a good paddling by the principal. David returns to class, sits still, and does not disrupt the class again.

2010 — David is given large doses of Ritalin. He becomes a zombie. The school gets extra money from state because David is declared to have a disability.

Scenario 4: Billy breaks a window in his neighbor's car, and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1950 — Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2010 — Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. A state psychologist tells Billy's sister that she needs to remember being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy's mom has an affair with the psychologist.

Scenario 5: Mark wakes up with a headache takes an aspirin, and then takes the aspirin bottle to school with him.

1950 — Mark gets permission from his teacher to go down the hall to the water fountain in order to take another aspirin.

2010 — The police are called and Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. His car is searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario 6: Pedro fails a high school English test required for graduation.

1950 — Pedro goes to summer school, passes English, graduates and goes to college.

2010 — Pedro's cause is taken up by Hispanic activist groups. State authorities intervene. The media feature the story nationally, charging the school district with racism. Pedro is allowed to graduate. He ends up mowing lawns for a living because he is not fluent in English.



Scenario 7: Jimmy falls while running during recess and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher. She lifts him up from the ground and hugs him to comfort him.

1950 — Jimmy feels better and goes on playing.

2010 — The teacher is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in Prison. Jimmy undergoes 5 years of therapy.

Editor's Note:

The above item has been circulating on the Internet for some time now. The author is unknown, but whoever the author may be, he or she is right on target with their observations.

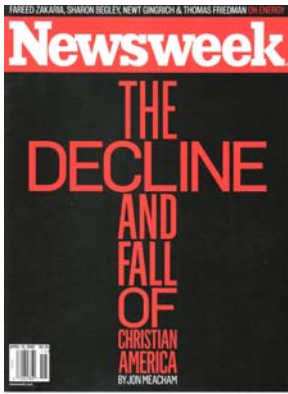
I grew up in Waco, Texas. When I entered Waco High School in 1956, we could still pray out loud in class and read the Bible aloud. We performed in Easter and Christmas pageants. We sang religious songs. We were given an opportunity to consider the claims of Creationism along with those of Evolution. We were taught Judeo-Christian ethics.

Teachers did not have to worry about being assaulted. Fist-fights on the playground were just that. No one worried about a person pulling a gun or using a knife. Almost every pickup truck in the parking lot contained three rifles on a gun rack — a 22, a shotgun, and a deer rifle. Often, there was a pistol in the glove compartment. This fact caused no one any concern. But if we did step out of line by violating one of the school rules, we faced receiving "licks" with a paddle from either the principal or one of the coaches.

Then, in the 1960's we started evicting God from our schools. We banned prayer and Bible reading. We declared the display of the Ten Commandments to be unconstitutional. We outlawed the teaching of Creationism as an alternative to Evolution. We could no longer honor the Lord with Easter and Christmas pageants. All religious songs were declared taboo. And corporeal punishment for even the worst violations was declared to be cruel and inhuman.

The result is that today our schools are jungles of violence. Illegal drugs are everywhere, even at the elementary school level. Teachers are regularly assaulted. Kids kill each other over disputes about girl friends or tennis shoes. Metal detectors are at each door. The truth about the origin of life and the cosmos is openly ridiculed as "nonsense." And young people graduate from high school unable to read their diplomas.

We are reaping what we have sown. ❖



Announcing the 2011 Lamb & Lion Bible Conference *Christianity Under Attack*

Date: June 24-25

Location: Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Allen, Texas

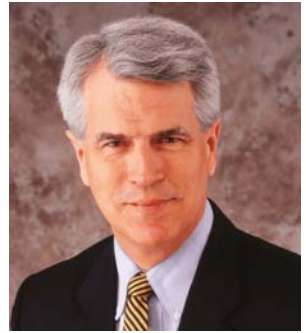


Speakers



Kerby Anderson will speak on “The Challenge of Islam.” Kerby is the National Director of Probe Ministries International. He holds masters degrees from Yale University (science) and from Georgetown University (government). He is the author of several books. He serves as the host of a radio program called “Point of View” which is broadcast nationally.

Frank Wright is the president of the National Religious Broadcasters. As such he is on the firing line in the battle to protect freedom of expression for American Christians. His topic will be “The Challenge of Government.” He has a doctorate in finance from Florida Atlantic University. For 25 years he worked with the ministry of Dr. James Kennedy.



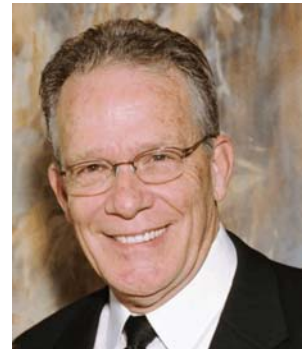
Ron Rhodes is the president of Reasoning from the Scripture Ministries. He is a prolific author of more than 50 books. He holds a doctorate in systematic theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, and he specializes in the field of apologetics. He also serves as an adjunct professor at several seminaries. He will speak on the topic, “The Challenge of Humanism and Atheism.”

Dave Reagan will speak on “The Promise of Victory.” He is the founder and director of Lamb & Lion Ministries. Before entering the ministry in 1980, he served for 20 years as a professor of international law and politics. He hosts a television program called “Christ in Prophecy” that is broadcast both nationally and internationally. He is the author of a dozen books.



John Morris is the president of the Institute for Creation Research. He has a doctor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma in geological engineering. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Young Earth*. He has also led numerous expeditions to Mt. Ararat in search of Noah’s Ark. He will speak on “The Challenge of Evolution.”

Jack Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries will provide special music throughout the conference. Jack and his wife, Sally, have been traveling throughout the U. S. for the past 17 years reaching out to people for Jesus through preaching, teaching, and singing. Jack lived homeless on the streets for 20 years before his wife led him to the Lord in 1988. Jack is the featured singer on the Lamb & Lion television program.



James Walker is the president of Watchman Fellowship, which is an apologetics and discernment ministry. He was a fourth generation Mormon before becoming a Christian. His academic degrees are from Criswell College, and he serves as an adjunct professor at several seminaries. His topic will be “The Challenge of Apostasy.”

Music Concert: The conference will begin on Friday evening with a special concert by the renowned Christian singer, Dallas Holm.

Cost: The conference will be free of charge, but participants must register in advance by calling 972-736-3567. Registration will be limited to 700.

Banquet: A banquet featuring Dr. Reagan as the speaker, will be held on Saturday evening following the close of the conference. It will cost \$35 per person. ❖

Why This Conference?

The reason is simple and very disturbing. America is fast becoming a post-Christian nation, and as a result, Christianity is coming under increasing attack.

The Secularists and Humanists who are fighting to gain control of our nation hate everything that Christianity stands for — particularly such things as morality, individual liberty, and free enterprise. They are determined to erase all vestiges of Christianity from our social consciousness. Christmas and Easter have been replaced with “Winter Holiday” and “Spring Holiday.” The Ten Commandments have been declared unconstitutional. Prayer and Bible reading have been banned from our public schools. Personal expressions of the Christian faith, like wearing a cross on a necklace or a lapel, have come under attack.

President Obama has started censoring the Declaration of Independence when he quotes it. Instead of quoting in its original form, he deletes any reference to our Creator. Thus, his revised version reads as follows, with the bracketed words deleted: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed [by their Creator] with certain unalienable rights . . .” This is an outrage. Our natural rights come from God, not government.

The President has also started referring to our “freedom of worship” instead of our “freedom of religion.” This is a deliberate change of words that carries great implications. Freedom of worship means nothing more than the freedom to worship God in the privacy of your home or church. Freedom of religion means the right to exercise your religion publicly.

And then there is the effort on the part of the Secularists and Humanists to limit our freedom of religious expression through the enactment of hate crime laws. The idea is to use these laws to stop Christians from speaking out on moral issues like homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

Christian access to the airwaves is in jeopardy as attempts are made to submit all broadcasting to review by local community boards to assure “balanced expression of opinions.” Censorship masquerades under the “fairness doctrine” which would require equal time for all viewpoints. Thus, if a Christian broadcaster were to speak out against abortion, he would have to supply free time on his program, at his expense, for a pro-abortion person to express his views.

Christians are being targeted for harassment. A photographer is sued for discrimination because he refuses to accept a job photographing a same-sex marriage. A woman has legal charges brought against her because she posts a notice on her church’s bulletin board announcing she has a room for rent and is looking for a Christian room mate. Again, she is charged with “discrimination. University professors are routinely denied tenure because they are Christians.

Meanwhile Hollywood continues to spew forth its venom in the form of movies and television programs that openly mock the Bible, Jesus, and Christians.

Nor should we overlook what is perhaps the most serious challenge of all — the attack from within Christianity by apostate teachers.

Our 2011 Bible Conference will take an in-depth look at some of these attacks and present suggestions for countering them. The speakers and their topics will be as follows:

- Kerby Anderson — “The Challenge of Islam”
- Ron Rhodes — “The Challenge of Humanism”
- James Walker — “The Challenge of Apostasy”
- John Morris — “The Challenge of Evolution”
- Frank Wright — “The Challenge of Government”

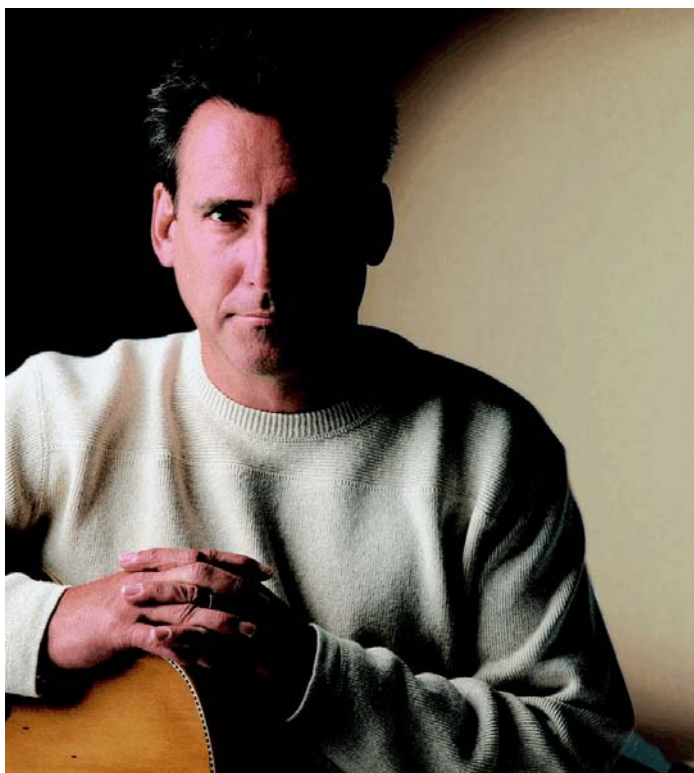
The last speaker will be Dave Reagan who will end the conference on a positive note with a presentation entitled “The Promise of Victory.”

Dr. Reagan will also be the featured speaker at a banquet on Saturday evening that will follow the conclusion of the conference. He will speak on “Bible Prophecy in the News.”

The conference is free of charge. The banquet will cost \$35 per person. Registration for the conference and/or the banquet is required. To register, call 972-736-3567.

Special Music

One of the highlights of this year’s conference will be a special concert of Christian music that will be presented on Friday evening by Dallas Holm, one of the best known and most respected singers in all of Christendom.



Dallas Holm is a singer-songwriter of Christian music, whose musical ministry has spanned almost four decades. While he has had several hit singles, he is best known for the song he wrote and recorded about the Resurrection called “Rise Again.” He has twice received the Dove Award for vocalist of the year. In 1992 he won the Dove Award for best inspirational album of the year. In 2007 he was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame.

His website can be found at www.dallasholm.com. ❖

India Outreach

For many years we have been supporting the ministry of John Ishmael in India called Revival Literature Fellowship (www.rflministries.com).

The ministry was founded in 1968 by John's father, E. M. Ishmael. It was originally committed to three purposes, and it has remained faithful to those purposes to this day:

- To encourage people to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- To prepare believers in Jesus to be ready for His Second Coming.
- To be an instrument for individual and corporate revival.

The ministry fulfills these purposes by holding evangelistic crusades, conducting Bible prophecy conferences, providing support for native pastors, publishing Christian books and study materials, and providing emergency relief for victims of religious persecution and natural calamities.

The ministry has partnered with us in hosting Bible prophecy conferences, publishing our books in the main languages of India, and printing copies of our Lamplighter magazine for distribution throughout India.



John Ishmael and his family.

The ministry is organized under the oversight of a board of trustees, and it follows the highest principles of financial accountability. John Ishmael, the ministry's director and evangelist, is a man of integrity who has a great zeal for lost souls. He is also a very courageous man who operates constantly under persecution and threats from radical Hindus and Muslims.

We helped the ministry recently to acquire a foundation grant of \$20,000 to be used for the purchase of a vehicle. The ministry desperately needs to raise \$150,000 to purchase a building since it is very difficult to find a landlord who will rent space to a Christian organization, and when they do so, Hindus immediately apply pressure to evict the ministry.

Please pray for the safety of John and his family and for the effectiveness of his ministry's outreach. ✚

National Networks

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

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

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

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

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. ✚

Schedule —

Dr. Reagan will begin the month of **January** by attending the annual board meeting of Acts 29 Ministries in Panama City Beach, Florida (9). Later that month he will speak at First Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona (16). In **February** Dr. Reagan and several members of the Lamb & Lion staff will attend the annual convention of the National Religious Broadcasters in Nashville, Tennessee (Feb. 26 - March 1). In **March** Dr. Reagan will host a special “Focus on Jerusalem” tour to Israel (11-20). In **April** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak at a prophecy conference to be held at the Living Hope Evangelical Church in La Crete, Alberta, Canada (9-10). Dr. Reagan will conclude that month by speaking at the annual Mid-America Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma that is sponsored by the Phillip Goodman Bible Prophecy Ministry.

Ministry News



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 if you have any questions about your Prophecy Partner status.

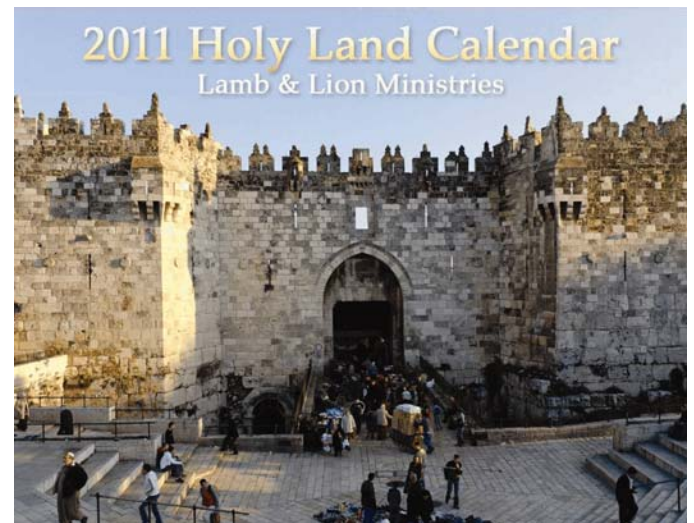
If you have already renewed your subscription for 2011, as some of you have, please disregard this notice. If you are not sure, just give us a call at 972-736-3567.

If you would like to start receiving the free email version, go to our website at www.lamblion.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 the March-April issue. And if you need to call us, remember that our offices are open to receive calls Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm Central time.

2011 Calendar —

Our calendar for 2011 features the gates of the Old City of Jerusalem. The photographs were taken by Todd Bolen who is Christendom’s foremost photographer of the Holy Land. Copies of the calendar can be purchased for \$5 each, plus the cost of mailing.



The picture on the cover of the calendar shows the Damascus Gate which is located on the north side of the city. Its name comes from the fact that in Bible times it faced the main road to Damascus. If you look the left of the gate at the street level, you can see the top of the arch of one of the gates that existed in the time of Jesus.



Dave with Prophecy Partner, Carole Butcher, from McKinney, Texas. Carole is a frequent volunteer at the ministry.

Nathan Jones —

Dr. Reagan is greatly limiting his speaking schedule due to the demands of producing a weekly TV program and editing this magazine. To fill the gap, we would like to recommend that you consider inviting our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, to speak at your church. Nathan is seminary trained and he deals all day every day with questions about Bible prophecy that are sent to us via our website from people all over the world, both Christians and non-Christians. Nathan is



Nathan Jones

a very effective speaker who is more than capable of conducting a weekend Bible prophecy conference. To contact him, call 972-736-3567, or you can email him at njones@lamblion.com. Nathan is also available for radio interviews. If you have not already done so, check out his blog at www.lamblion.us.



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Dr. Reagan's Comprehensive Study of Bible Prophecy

We have just produced a third printing of Dr. Reagan's book *God's Plan for the Ages: The Blueprint of Bible Prophecy*.

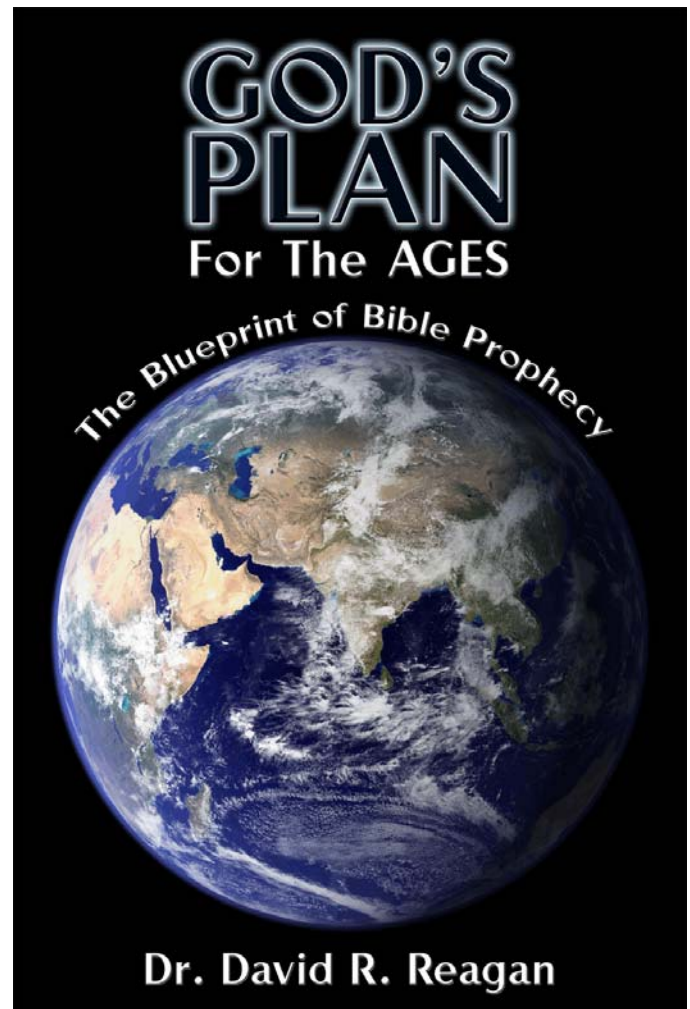
The Jack Van Impe Ministry recently purchased 5,000 copies of this book, and in a letter to his supporters, Jack Van Impe said the book "offers a sweeping, panoramic view of prophetic events unlike anything I have ever studied, even after having read more than 11,000 books!" He then added that the book had blessed him "beyond measure spiritually."

The book is comprehensive in nature. It is divided into six sections:

- Prophetic Significance
- Prophetic Issues
- Prophetic Views
- Prophetic Signs
- Prophetic Hope
- Prophetic Epilogue

It is not the type of book that has to be read from start to finish because each of its 42 chapters stand on their own. You can just skim through the table of contents and find a topic you are interested in — like The Messiah in Prophecy, The Jews in Prophecy, The Arabs in Prophecy, Jerusalem in Prophecy, The Church in Prophecy, The Antichrist, The Meaning of Heaven, End Time Viewpoints, The Rapture, The Tribulation, The Millennium, and The Eternal State.

The Epilogue contains Dr. Reagan's most frequently requested sermon: "Psalm 2: The King is Coming." The book runs 415 pages in length and sells for \$15. Call 800-705-8316 to order it. ✚



Important Notice!

This may be 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!