



# LAMPLIGHTER

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

Vol. XXXI

May 2010 June

No. 3

**Are there  
many roads  
to God?**



# Observations by the Editor

## Defending the Faith

We are living in a time when the Christian faith is being attacked as never before in the history of this nation. It seems like there is a new assault every month in the form of blasphemous portrayals of Jesus or mockeries of the Bible.

Even worse than the pagan attacks are the ones coming from within Christianity as apostasy in the Church continues to grow exponentially.

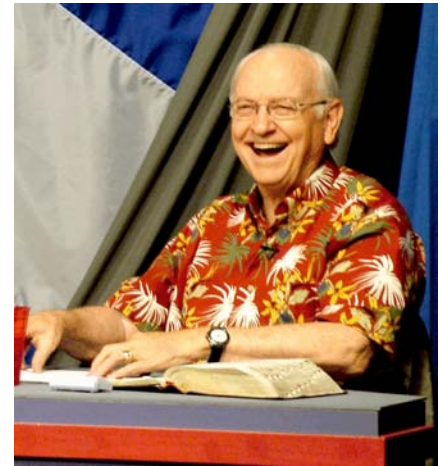
Who would even have dreamed 20 years ago that churches today would be ordaining homosexuals and performing same-sex marriages? Or that Christian leaders would be challenging the fundamentals of the faith such as the virgin birth, the miracles of Jesus, His resurrection, and His promise to return?

I can understand the pagan attacks. I can even understand their increasing frequency and intensity. After all, Satan knows Bible prophecy (Revelation 12: 12), and he realizes that Jesus is about to return any moment.

What is really sickening to me are the attacks from within Christianity. I'm not surprised by them because the Bible prophesies over and over that a great apostasy will occur in the Church in the end times (2 Thessalonians 2:3). But still, I find them disheartening.

Eric Barger, one of Christendom's leading defenders of the faith, told me recently about a worship service in the Seattle area that featured Brian McLaren, the leader of the apostate Emergent Church Movement. McLaren challenged the Church's traditional interpretation of John 3:16 as applying to personal salvation. Instead, he applied it to the earth, arguing that when it says, "God so loved the world," that it was talking about the cosmos and the environment! His altar call consisted of inviting people to come forward and stick their hands in barrels of dirt and make a commitment to save the planet.

Yet this man, who denies the existence of absolute truth, claims to be an Evangelical and has been invited to speak at places like Dallas Theological Seminary and Abilene Christian University. It appears that discernment is dead.



Dr. David R. Reagan

This is the reason I decided to focus our annual Bible conference this year not on prophecy but on apologetics — the defense of the faith.

Public opinion polls conducted by the Barna Group reveal that professing Christians in America today do not know the fundamental doctrines of Christianity nor do they know how to defend them. Even worse, those who think they know what they believe confess that they believe things directly contrary to Scripture.

Much of this ignorance is due to the fact that the Word of God is not being proclaimed from the pulpits of American churches. It has been replaced by psychological ditties about the principles of self-improvement.

Our conference this year is going to focus on the fundamentals of the faith and how to defend them. I urge you to attend and to invite members of your church to come with you. The conference is described in detail on page 18. It is free of charge, but you do need to register.

Following the conclusion of the conference on Saturday afternoon, we are going to host a banquet to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this ministry. The featured speaker will be Ed Hindson, and he will speak on a topic related to Bible prophecy. The banquet will cost \$35 per person.

Please plan to be with us for these events. Work them into your summer vacation time. I hope to see you in June!

Maranatha! ✚

### *The Lamplighter*

is published bi-monthly  
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

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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# Are There Many Roads To God?



(ClipArt.com)

## Dr. David R. Reagan

“**W**hat will happen to those who have never heard the Gospel?” This is one of the most frequent questions I receive. People believe that God is just, and they cannot reconcile that belief with the idea that He might consign a person to Hell who never was given an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Therefore, increasingly, many Christians are concluding that there must be many roads to God and that sincere Jews and Muslims and Buddhists and others will make it to Heaven.

### Crucial Questions

What does the Bible have to say about this important issue? Are those who live and die without hearing the Gospel condemned to an eternity in Hell? And what about those who have put their faith in the god of some religion other than Christianity and who strive to live righteous lives? Are they also condemned to Hell? Is it possible that God has revealed Himself in different ways to different peoples, and therefore there are many different roads to God? Could the sign be true that I saw in a Sunday School class at a church that read: “Our God is too big to be confined to one religion”?

### What Jesus Had to Say

Let’s begin our search for an answer to these questions by taking a look at what Jesus had to say —

Speaking to the Apostle Thomas, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” — John 14:6

After appointing His twelve Apostles, Jesus said to them: “Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will

also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” — Matthew 10:32-33

Speaking to 70 disciples being sent forth to proclaim the kingdom of God, Jesus said: “The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.” — Luke 10:16

Early in His ministry, while in Jerusalem, Jesus delivered a sermon on His relationship with God the Father, and in it He said: “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” — John 5:24

At His last supper with the Apostles, Jesus prayed: “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” — John 17:3

And then, of course, there is Jesus’ most famous statement about the issue of salvation — the words He spoke to Nicodemus, a Jewish spiritual leader who was a member of the Sanhedrin Council: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” — John 3:16

What conclusion can we draw from these statements? I would propose the following:

- 1) Jesus is the one and only way to God.
- 2) Those who put their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be saved.
- 3) Those who reject Jesus will be condemned, for those who

reject Jesus are guilty of rejecting God.

- 4) The essence of salvation is a personal relationship with Jesus.

### What the Apostles Had to Say

These conclusions are affirmed in the writings of the Apostles, as you can see from the following statements —

In the first Gospel sermon ever preached, Peter made a bold assertion: “Therefore, let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him [Jesus] both Lord and Christ [Messiah] — this Jesus whom you crucified.” Peter then commanded his audience to “repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:36 & 38).

Not long after this, Peter was arrested and hauled before the Sanhedrin Council — the very group of Jewish leaders who had condemned Jesus to death. In his statement to them, he said: “Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:10 & 12).

The Apostle Paul affirmed Peter’s point in a letter he wrote to Timothy: “God our Savior desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave Himself as a ransom for all . . .” (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

In like manner, the Apostle John confirmed that Jesus is the only hope of salvation when he wrote: “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:22-23). John repeated this principle when he added: “. . . God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (1 John 5:11-12).

Again, the conclusions that can be drawn from these statements are self-evident:

- 1) Jesus was the Messiah — the Savior — promised by God.
- 2) There is salvation in no other person except Jesus.
- 3) Those who reject Jesus are guilty of rejecting the Father.

Confirmation of these conclusions can be found in a sermon delivered by John the Baptist in which he proclaimed: “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the



Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36). John’s statement makes it clear that God must deal with sin for He is a just God (Psalm 37:28 and Isaiah 61:8). He deals with sin in one of two ways, either grace or wrath. Whether or not a person is under grace or wrath depends upon whether he or she has put their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Those who have done so, have the promise of eternal life. Those who refuse to do so will experience God’s wrath.

### God’s Desire Pertaining to Salvation

But didn’t Paul say in 1 Timothy 2:3 that God “desires all men to be saved”? Yes, he did say that, and Peter repeated it in 2 Peter 3:9 where he asserted that “God does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

There is no doubt that it is God’s perfect will that all should be saved. But in His permissive will, God allows people to reject His Son and thus be lost. In other words, God does not force anyone to be saved. And because of the depraved nature of Mankind, the vast majority of those who have ever lived will be lost and consigned to Hell as their eternal destiny.

Jesus Himself emphasized this truth in His sermon delivered on the Hill of the Beatitudes in Galilee. Jesus stated point blank: “. . . The gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small,

and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it . . . Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:13-14 & 21).

### The Nature of Man

Again, the Bible emphasizes that the fundamental nature of Man is evil because we are born with a sin nature that puts us in rebellion against the holiness of God. As the prophet Jeremiah put it: “There is nothing more deceitful than the human heart” (Jeremiah 17:9). Likewise, King David wrote: “There is no one who does good . . . they have all turned aside . . . there is no one who does good, not even one” (Psalm 14:1-3). The Apostle Paul affirmed this truth in his letter to the Romans when he quoted David’s statement in detail (Romans 3:10-18).

The biblical message is adamant that because of our natural depravity, we have no hope apart from faith in a Savior, and Jesus is that Savior. Isaiah summed it up this way in a prophecy about the promised Messiah: “All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him [the Messiah]” (Isaiah 53:6).

The message of the Scriptures is clear. There is only one road to God and that is through Jesus of Nazareth. There is no hope in

the modern day false religions of Rabbinical Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or any of the multitude of natural religions like Animism. Here's how the great Southern Gospel quartet, The Imperials, expressed this concept in their unique song, "Old Buddha," composed by Mark Farrow —



([www.viewzone.com/buddahyear.html](http://www.viewzone.com/buddahyear.html))

Well, old Buddha was a man  
And I'm sure that he did well,  
But I pray for his disciples  
Lest they end up in hell,  
And I'm sure that old Mohammed  
Was sure he knew the way,  
But it won't be Hari Krishna  
We stand before on judgment day.

Chorus:

No, it won't be old Buddha  
That's sitting on the throne,  
And it won't be old Mohammed  
That's calling me home,  
And it won't be Hari Krishna  
That plays that trumpet tune,  
And we're going to see the Son,  
Not Reverend Moon!

Well, I don't hate anybody,  
So please don't take me wrong,  
But there really is a message  
In this simple song,  
See, there's only one way — Jesus,  
If eternal life's your goal,  
And meditation of the mind,  
It won't save your soul.

### An Important Question

This brings us to a crucial question: Are there any exceptions to the rule that you must place your faith in Jesus in order to be saved?

The answer is yes. Most Christian theologians would agree that there are three groups of people who have been saved without placing their faith in Jesus.

The first group is composed of those children who have died before the age of accountability. The Bible does not specifically state this truth. It is arrived at through deduction from biblical statements.

First, there is the example of King David's child that was born of Bathsheba. When the child died seven days after it was born, David proclaimed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit that although the child could not come back to him, one day he would go to be with the child (2 Samuel 12:23).

The idea that those who die before the age of accountability will be saved is reinforced in the New Testament in the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:13-14 —

Then some children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

This principle of not holding children accountable for their sins before they know the difference between right and wrong is also reflected in a story in the book of Deuteronomy. When the Israelites balked at entering the Promised Land because they were afraid they would be defeated by the Canaanites, God punished them for not trusting Him by making them wander in the wilderness until the rebellious generation had died off (see Numbers 13 & 14).

The Lord proclaimed that only two people of the current generation would be allowed to enter the land — namely, Caleb and Joshua, the two spies out of twelve who brought back a positive report stating they believed the Lord would defeat their enemies (Deuteronomy 1:34-38). But then, another exception was made: "Moreover, your little ones . . . who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there [the Promised Land], and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it" (Deuteronomy 1:39).



([www.calvaryonthebay.org/kids.html](http://www.calvaryonthebay.org/kids.html))

Another argument in behalf of the salvation of children who die before the age of accountability is the justice of God. The Bible asserts over and over that our Creator is a God of justice (Zephaniah 3:5). He has an overwhelming passion for justice (Micah 6:8). And He promises repeatedly that justice will be one of the characteristics of His Son's millennial reign (Isaiah 42:1-4). How could a God of perfect justice condemn to Hell children who never knew the difference in right and wrong?

Those who die before the age of accountability will not be

eligible to receive special rewards for faithfully serving the Lord, but it appears that they will be granted eternal life. However, this can happen only by having the blood of Jesus applied to them (Hebrews 9:22).

This same exception would apply to the mentally handicapped who reach adulthood. Since they are incapable of determining right from wrong and are also incapable of repenting and putting their faith in Jesus, it is only reasonable to conclude that a just God would not hold them accountable and would apply the blood of Jesus to their sins.

I have a step-grandson named Jason who falls into this category. At about the age of three a genetic defect was activated that caused his immune system to attack his brain. The effect was a frontal lobotomy that rendered him vegetative. I have since dedicated two books to him. He is a constant reminder to me of the fact that we live in a fallen world. I have no doubt that one day, either at death or at the Rapture, his mind will be set right, and I will be able to enjoy his fellowship eternally.



(i-Stockphoto.com)

### Another Exception

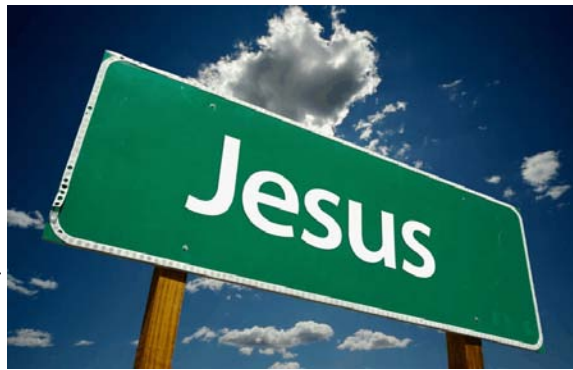
The third group that has been saved apart from faith in Jesus are those people who lived and died before the birth and revelation of Jesus as God's Son, but who placed their faith in their Creator. Hebrews

11 tells us that people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham were justified by their faith in God. They had no Scriptures nor any knowledge of Jesus, yet because they related to their Creator in faith, they were saved. Specifically, Genesis 15:6 says that because Abraham believed the Lord, "it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Still, each of these people, and many others like them, were dependent upon the sacrifice of Jesus for their salvation to be sealed. Their faith covered their sins, but the forgiveness of their sins depended upon the sacrifice of a perfect person who did not deserve to die. Only the blood of such a person could produce forgiveness of their sins.

That's why Old Testament saints did not go directly to Heaven when they died. They went, instead, to a place called Sheol (Hades in the New Testament), and their souls resided in a compartment called "Abraham's bosom" or "Paradise." They could not be ushered into the presence of a Holy God until their sins were forgiven.

After Jesus' death on the Cross, He descended into Hades and made a proclamation (1 Peter 3:19). We are not told specifically what He said, but most likely it was, "The blood has been shed!" I'm sure those words must have produced a chorus of "Hallelujahs!" We are also told that when Jesus ascended into Heaven, He took a "host of captives" with Him (Ephesians 4:8). In other words, He emptied Hades of those who were saved. Paradise was moved from Hades to Heaven, a reality that Paul later affirmed when he said that he was taken up to "the third heaven," which he identified as Paradise (2 Corinthians 12:1-4).



(i-Stockphoto.com)

### Another Exception?

This brings us back to one of the questions we began with: What about those today who live and die without ever hearing the Gospel? Are they destined to Hell?

I personally believe the same principle applies to them that applied to people living in Old Testament times before the First Advent of Jesus. Their fate will depend upon whether or not they ever responded to God in faith.

The Bible says that all people have an instinctive knowledge that God exists (Romans 2:14-15). Further, the Bible says that we can realize the existence of God by observing the complexity and beauty of the creation (Psalm 19:1-6).

Because God is a just God (Psalm 89:14), I believe He will hold us responsible for what we knew. Those exposed to the Gospel and reject it will be lost. Those who have only the testimony of instinct and the creation who reject that testimony will also be lost. But those who hear the Gospel and put their faith in Jesus will be saved. And those who respond to the testimony of instinct and the creation by putting their faith in their Creator will also be saved. However, this latter group will be saved only by having the blood of Jesus applied to them as was the case with Old Testament saints.



(Internet picture)

### A Controversial Statement

I believe this is what Billy Graham had in mind in May of 1997 when he made a very controversial statement during an interview of him that was being conducted by Robert Schuller.<sup>1</sup> He said that he believed that God is "calling people out of the world for His name" — including the Muslim world, the Buddhist world, the Christian world and the non-believing world. He added, "They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their hearts that they need something that they don't have, and they turn to the only light they have, and I think that they are saved, and that they're going to be with us in Heaven."

Schuller responded by asking, "What I hear you saying is that it is possible for Jesus Christ to come into human hearts and soul and life, even if they've been born in darkness and have never had exposure to the Bible. Is that a correct interpretation of what you're saying?"

Graham's reply was, "Yes, it is . . . I've met people in various parts of the world in tribal situations, that they have never seen a Bible or heard about a Bible, and never heard of Jesus, but they've believed in their hearts that there was a God, and they've tried to live a life that was quite apart from the surrounding community in which they lived."



(i-Stockphoto.com)

These comments by Graham produced a flood of condemnation of him. People accused him of believing in many different roads to God. It is certainly easy to see how his comments could have been misconstrued, but I believe that is exactly what happened.

Billy Graham has never taught that there are many roads to God. On his website ([www.billygraham.org](http://www.billygraham.org)) there are two very specific articles about salvation in which Graham affirms his often stated belief that Jesus is the only way to God.<sup>2</sup> In his controversial statement, which was much too briefly phrased, I think he was only saying that people are going to be judged on the basis of what they knew about God and how they responded to that knowledge, just as was the case in Old Testament times.<sup>3</sup>

Some might respond by saying, “If those who live and die without ever hearing of Jesus might still be saved by their faith in God, whereas those who hear the Gospel and reject it will be lost, then perhaps we should stop proclaiming the Gospel!”

But this statement is based on the faulty assumption that the Gospel is just a fire insurance policy. The truth is that it is much more than that, for the person who receives Jesus as Lord and Savior is blessed with the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, receiving supernatural power to live triumphantly in a world of heartache and suffering. The person is also enabled to know God personally in this life — an absolutely invaluable blessing.

Further, I believe that any person who would respond to God in faith based on instinct and the witness of the creation is one who would accept the Gospel if exposed to it.

#### All Professing Christians?

This brings us to another group of people — those professing Christians who have never been born again. What I have in mind are what I prefer to call “Cultural Christians.” These are people who claim to be Christians because they profess to believe in Jesus, but they have no personal relationship with Him. Many of these are people who attend church regularly. Some are elders, deacons, teachers, and even pastors. Can they



(Guzer.com)

get to Heaven through church membership or by participating in Christian rites like baptism or communion?

The answer of the Bible is a clear “No!” Jesus Himself said that no man can see the kingdom of God unless he be “born again” (John 3:3). That means a person must put his faith in Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior. It is not sufficient to simply believe that Jesus lived. The Bible says that even “the demons believe and shudder” (James 2:19). But they have rejected Jesus as their Lord.

Going to church or participating in Christian rituals is not another road to Heaven. Our churches are filled with unsaved people who are trusting in their works to get them to Heaven. But the Bible says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith . . . not as a result of works, that no one should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

In an interview I conducted recently with Dr. Robert Jeffress,



Pastor Robert Jeffress

pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, he pointed out that two words sum up one of the fundamental differences between Christianity and all other religions in the world. Those words are “do” and “done.” Regarding access to Heaven, all the false religions of the world say, “DO!” Christianity, in stark contrast, proclaims “DONE!”<sup>4</sup> In other words, Christianity declares that Jesus did everything necessary for our salvation through His death on the cross. There is nothing we can add to that.

False expressions of Christianity require you to earn your salvation by doing works that they require. True Christianity says there is nothing you can do to earn your salvation because it is a free gift of God through faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. In this sense, true Christianity is really not a religion; rather, it is a relationship. Jesus made this clear at the last supper with His disciples when He prayed to God, saying, “. . . this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

In this regard I feel compelled to state, respectfully, that this is an area where Billy Graham seems to have strayed from the Gospel. I say this because he has made it very clear in his writings and his public statements that he believes the Catholic Church is a true expression of Christianity.<sup>5</sup>

This is unfortunate because his endorsement of Catholicism has made many Catholics feel comfortable and safe in their faith. And although I am sure there are some Catholics who have truly placed their faith in Jesus, the vast majority have not because the Catholic Church has always taught salvation by works — which makes the religion of Catholicism a false form of Christianity.<sup>6</sup>



## The Bottom Line

From a biblical, Christian perspective, there is no way to escape the conclusion that Jesus is the only way to God, either through direct faith in Him, or by having the blood of Jesus applied to a person who has responded to God in faith through the testimony of instinct and nature.

To argue that there are other roads to God, as some apostate Christian leaders are doing today, is to deny that the sacrifice of Jesus was necessary for the forgiveness of sins. If there really are other roads to God, then Jesus came to earth to die a horrible death for no purpose. His sacrifice was all in vain. Either we are saved by the blood of Jesus, or we are not.

### A Glorious Promise Concerning the Future

One thing we know for sure is that every person on earth who is alive at the end of the Tribulation will hear the Gospel before the Second Coming of Jesus. We know this because Jesus said it would happen (Matthew 24:14). That prophecy is being partially fulfilled today through the use of modern technology. Computers are being utilized to produce rapid translations of the Bible. Satellites are being used to transmit Gospel sermons worldwide.

But the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy will occur near the end of the Great Tribulation when God will send forth an angel who will circumnavigate the globe and proclaim the Gospel to every person left alive at that time (Revelation 14:6-7). What glorious grace! ✚

#### Notes:

- 1) Television interview of Billy Graham by Robert Schuller, May 31, 1997, On Doctrine at [www.ondocline.com/10grahab.htm](http://www.ondocline.com/10grahab.htm).
- 2) See, for example, Billy Graham's article, "Why do Christians believe Jesus is the only way of salvation?" ([www.billygraham.org/MyAnswer\\_Article.asp?ArticleID=4822](http://www.billygraham.org/MyAnswer_Article.asp?ArticleID=4822)). See also, "The Only Way?" ([www.billygraham.org/News\\_Article.asp?ArticleID=354](http://www.billygraham.org/News_Article.asp?ArticleID=354)).
- 3) Graham's consistency in clearly preaching that Jesus is the only way to Heaven is clearly demonstrated in a video clip that can be found on YouTube. The clip, which runs 7 minutes, shows excerpts from 7 sermons delivered between 1957 and the present in which he affirms over and over again that Jesus is the only way to God. The video clip can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWv1jiWC4b0>. As of March 5, 2010, the video was mislabeled, "Billy Graham denies Jesus . . ." It should be labeled, "Billy Graham affirms Jesus as the only way to God."
- 4) Two video interviews with Dr. Jeffress have been published as a video album by Lamb & Lion Ministries. The album is titled, "Absolute Truth" and can be ordered at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com) or by calling 1-800-705-8316.
- 5) John Ashbrook, "Billy Graham's Catholic Connection," [http://cnview.com/on\\_line\\_resources/billy\\_graham\\_catholic\\_connection.htm](http://cnview.com/on_line_resources/billy_graham_catholic_connection.htm). This is just one of many examinations on the Internet of Graham's endorsement of Catholicism. There are also video interviews of him endorsing the Catholic faith.
- 6) Graham takes this position because he says "Catholics believe in Jesus." But, again, do they simply believe he existed (as do Muslims), or do they believe in the sense of trusting Him, and Him alone, for their salvation? If their trust is truly in Jesus, then why are they instructed to pray to Mary? A great source for unbiblical Catholic beliefs is <http://pro-gospel.org/x2>.

## Quotes Concerning Many Paths to God

"Logically, since all religions contradict each other, there are only two options open to us. Either they are all false, or there is only one true religion. If there is only one God — there will be only one religion." — Dr. Robert Morey, Evangelist for Faith Defenders (<http://faithdefenders.com>).



**"Jesus is a way, but not the only way to salvation."**

The Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

"If religions other than Christianity are valid ways to God, then one of Christianity's basic principles is false; in that case, can it still be said that Christianity is a valid, trustworthy religion?" — From an unsigned article on [www.rationalchristianity.net](http://www.rationalchristianity.net).

"The uniqueness of Christianity is rooted in the uniqueness of Jesus Himself. Other religious leaders say, 'Follow me and I'll show you the way to find the truth.' But Jesus says, 'I am the truth.' Other religious leaders say, 'Follow me and I'll show you the way to salvation.' But Jesus says, 'I am the way to eternal life.' Other religious leaders say 'Follow me and I'll show how you can become enlightened.' But Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.' See the difference?" — Lee Strobel, specialist in Christian apologetics ([www.leestrobel.com](http://www.leestrobel.com)).



An unbiblical bumper sticker spotted in the Dallas area.

"Because 'many paths' is cotton candy theology — it looks and tastes great at first bite but dissolves pretty quickly to almost nothing when you chew it around a bit . . . It is great theology for the lazy. After all, if you have a pet sin that you enjoy, it is easy enough to look around and find a 'path' that will accept your sin. And if you can't find an existing path that will take you, simply create one." — Brian L. Boley, Christian businessman (<http://oddparts.com/missions/manypaths.htm>).

"There is a sense in which all roads lead to God because in the end, all will stand before God to be judged." — Pastor Jack Hibbs of Chino Hills Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, California.



# A Letter to a Catholic from a former Catholic

[Editor's Note: The letter below was an email message written by Tom Shepherd, a former heavy equipment salesman who lives in the Los Angeles area. Tom grew up as a Catholic. The letter was written to a childhood friend of his.]

Dear Chuck,

Since our Catholic High School days where all we did was live for lunch time when we could start our cars and burn rubber as we headed for Burger King — meeting up again and discussing a topic like religion is no surprise to me. There are no coincidences in a Christian's life, just God-incidences.

There is so much about our Catholic heritage that I have studied, because when I found one thing incorrect or simply wrong by God's Word, I started turning over all the other stuff that I deemed was sort of . . . well, not that essential.

No one ever pointed a finger at me or told me that my past Catholicism was going to send me to Hell or anything like that. Let me be clear that I'm not doing that to you either.

What started my own personal "inquisition" (it sounds funny to type that one out) was a discovery that just about every teaching I got from the nuns, catechism lessons, and stuff like that, could not be found anywhere in the Bible!

The New Testament is the Old Testament fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I used to think years ago that the Old Testament wasn't really applicable today, but that isn't quite accurate at all. The New Testament is constantly referencing the O.T. being fulfilled in the life of Christ. Even inanimate objects point to Christ like the Ark of the Covenant, Noah's Ark, and all the Hebrew festivals — they all validate Jesus Christ as God in the flesh.

Anyway, researching Luther, it was crystal clear that what Martin Luther proclaimed — that we are saved by grace, not by works — is straight from the Scriptures. Yet, the Roman Catholic Church excommunicated him from the church!

Well — the Bible is clear, and if anyone reads it for himself the words are clear as can be — all the systems of "Do's" within the RCC are not validated by the N.T. I quickly started to see through everything I had been led to believe in, "or else . . .!" I can still hear Sister Lucia telling me stuff like that, scaring the hell out of me. As an adult, I got very angry over what I was told was "holy" and "right," when I discovered that the concept of works salvation isn't from Jesus at all (Ephesians 2:8-9).

I still experience a sense of "righteous indignation" when I remember the hymn we were taught as kids that went like this: "Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, pray for us. Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse through thee."

Chuck — dissect that song. Mary was a sinner just like you

and me (Luke 1:46-47), and she isn't the mother of God. He who created time and eternity doesn't have an earthly mother. In that prayer, we are asking Mary to pray for us as an intercessor in our behalf. The New Testament tells the believer that our relationship with Christ is closer than with a brother. He is the only intercessor we need. Through Him, we can call the Father "Abba" or Daddy. We don't need any other intercessor in our behalf.



Tom and Gail Shepherd

Also, we do not have "recourse" through Mary. That is Mary worship. It is "co-redeemer" teaching that makes the Gospel out to be a lie. The Bible clearly tells the reader that we have redemption through Christ and Christ alone. Mary isn't mentioned anywhere as a redeemer. She is pictured as listening to Jesus' teachings and calling Him Lord as well.

Well — I hope I have typed my thoughts out clearly enough to be understood. The Holy Spirit that was promised to move inside me (my heart, spiritually speaking) confirmed the truth within me when I started studying the Bible. I didn't need anyone to tell me anything. He confirmed within me as I sought out the truth and searched His Word.

It is a lot of reading, but if you were to study the history of Christianity, you would discover that what Rome did to early believers who disagreed with their doctrines will cause your mouth to drop.

People have to get their eternal salvation correct. Everyone has a spirit, and it is going to reside somewhere when our earthly body breathes its last here on earth. The Scriptures tell us there is only one way to Heaven. Some religious teachers say many roads will get you to God. In a sense that is true, because all of us are going to end up before God to be judged. But there is only one way to Heaven.

One final thing, Chuck . . . When I discovered in God's Word that Christ was coming back to the earth a second time, I went into shock and didn't know what to think. That too is taught clear as a bell in Scripture, but as a Catholic boy I never heard that whatsoever. That is more exciting than I can describe here — after all, I am cramming 18 years of excitement and feelings into one email here. Yikes!

Take the time and bookmark this weblink and snoop around — [www.lamplion.com](http://www.lamplion.com). If you want to (or do) start a journey like I did, I can promise you the Lord will speak directly to you, and that in itself is a real miracle. To think that our Creator can commune directly with us — but we have to do it according to His plan, not the plans of any institutions or the plans from any man. I will help you with what I found — it is liberating beyond words my brother! ✚

# Why There Can Only Be One True Religion

Chuck May

(Editor's note: Chuck May is an apologetics writer for Relational Concepts, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is a ministry that specializes in defending the Christian faith through publications and the training of lay leaders. Their website is located at [www.relationalconcepts.org](http://www.relationalconcepts.org). It contains many outstanding essays concerning all aspects of the Christian faith. Chuck received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Taylor University. He works in commercial real estate in Grand Rapids, Michigan and serves as an Equipper/Discippler for Relational Concepts' School of Discipleship. He is married and has two children.)



Chuck May

- What is truth and does it exist?
- Is truth exclusive?
- Is truth relative or absolute?
- Where can truth be found?

John chapter 18 describes a conversation between Christ and Pilate prior to Christ's crucifixion. At the end of this encounter Pilate asks Jesus the most important question any human being can ask, only he did not wait for the answer. Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out . . ." (John 18:38).

Many in our culture today either don't believe truth exists or they believe that all truth is relative. Relative truth states, "that may be true for you but not for me." What good does it do to tell someone about Jesus if he doesn't realize that you are saying, "This is true for everyone, everywhere, at all times and it is not compatible with any other system of beliefs."

This essay seeks to determine whether Christians are philosophically sound in their assertions that Christianity is true and that truth by definition is absolute and exclusive.

## What Is Truth?

"Truth is defined as conformity to fact or actuality, reality" (*The American Heritage Dictionary*, 3rd edition). In other words, truth is the way things actually are. If I assert that there is a parrot on my shoulder, then either that bird is there or it isn't. If the parrot is sitting next to my head when I make the statement, then I have uttered truth. If, on the other hand, I have a bare shoulder, then I have made a false statement. My statement cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same sense.

This leads us to a truth test. One kind of logic is called either/or logic, also known as the Law of Non-contradiction. This law basically states that "A cannot be non-A." For example, if the parrot is on my shoulder (A), then it cannot be not on my shoulder at the same time (non-A). **From this we can infer that all truth, by definition, is exclusive.**

You can test this with any statement. For example, a math teacher may ask the class the solution for  $3+5$ . If I say the answer is 7 and Fred says the answer is 8, then either he is right, or I am right, or, in this case, there could be a third alternative that we are both wrong. But we cannot have different answers and both be right. This is because the answer 8, which corresponds to reality and is exclusive (i.e. there is only one true, right answer). Notice that in this and in the previous example there was, in fact, a situation which corresponded to reality (there was a true answer).

Incidentally, when the popular philosophers of our time state "there is no such thing as truth," our immediate response to them should be, "Is that statement true?" This is because the statement, "there is no such thing as truth" is itself either a true statement or a false one — there are no other options. If that statement is false, then there is such a thing as truth. If, on the other hand, the statement is true, then the statement defeats itself because it is, in effect, saying "there is no truth except the truth that there is no truth." In other words, he is assuming his statement to be true in order to prove there is no such thing as truth. Truth cannot be denied unless some truth is affirmed.



(i-Stockphoto.com)

## Can a Religion that Excludes People Be True?

The question is often posed to Christianity: Why is it so exclusive? That is, why does it claim to be the only true religion, the only way to God. This is quite an unfair criticism because, in fact, all religions are exclusive. In fact, any statement that asserts absolute truth is, by definition, exclusive (i.e., the opposite of that statement is assumed to be false).

**All religions, whether they admit it or not, make absolute, exclusive truth statements.** For example, Buddhism was born out of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) rejected the Hindu doctrines of the caste system and the authority of the Vedas. Another way to say this is, you are excluded from being a Buddhist if you accept the Vedas or the caste system as true.

Hinduism strongly affirms a pantheistic, monistic world-view and the karmic law while rejecting any system which states the opposite. Hinduism also says that since everything is divine it is in some way true, hence their view that all religions are true and

all roads lead to God. Sounds all-inclusive, but when you press a Hindu, he will never let go of the doctrine of reincarnation or his pantheism. In fact, when you question him on his “all religions are true stance,” he will eventually exclude Christians. This is because the Christian theist will claim that only Christianity is true, not that everything is true. The Hindu will counter, “Christianity is false, everything is true.”

The problem is, he has just refuted himself. If Christianity is false, then not everything is true. But if Christianity is true, then Hinduism is false because Christ claimed to be the only way to God. The Hindu becomes mired in an endlessly repeating and self-refuting argument. Eventually, you will be excluded from Hinduism if you believe Christianity is right.

You will find the same is true in Atheism. If you assume that God exists, you are excluded from membership in Atheism.

Islam also has its points of exclusion. If the Christian affirms that Christ is the final authority and greatest prophet of God, the Muslim will exclude him from Islam. Islam, while affirming a high position for Christ, says that there was a greater prophet, Muhammad, and his revelation supersedes Christ’s.

You will also be excluded from Mormonism if you assert, as biblical Christianity does, that Christ and the Father are One and that at no time was the Father a mortal man.

***It is true that Christianity is exclusive, but so are all other religions.***

#### **What Christ Claimed . . .**

Because the law of non-contradiction applies to reality, we can conclude that when Christ claimed to be the only way to God, He was making a most reasonable statement. In point of fact, it is more reasonable to state that all religions are false than to say that more than one religion is true.

***There is either one true religion or all religions are false.***

Jesus claimed to be God (John 8:58 & 10:30), to have life in Himself (John 5:26), to be the Light of the world (John 8:12), to be the only way to eternal salvation (John 14:6 & 17:3), and to be the Judge of the world (John 5:22). In fact, Jesus claimed to be truth itself (John 14:6). Either these statements were true or they were false, they can not be both (law of non-contradiction). Truth can be found in Christ. That is, as God, everything He says corresponds to reality.

**“That might be true for you, but it’s not true for me.”**

If Christ is, in fact, God, then He is God for everyone. If what He said is true, then everyone who has ever lived will face Him to give an account of what they did with the statements He made. In other words, there is no such thing as relative truth. Either He is the only way to salvation or He is not. It can’t be true for me and not for everyone else. Either Christ is absolute truth or He is no truth at all.

#### **Questions and Answers**

Question: What is truth and does it exist?

Answer: Truth is what corresponds to reality. Objective truth does exist.

Question: Is truth exclusive?

Answer: Yes. All truth is exclusive. You can’t affirm anything without excluding its opposite.

Q: Is truth relative or absolute?

Answer: Truth is absolute. Any truth statement will apply at all times to all people in all places.

Q: Where can truth be found?

Answer: Jesus, being God, is where truth can be found. Therefore, everything He says corresponds to reality (John 14:6). ❖

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## **Are We Becoming Hindus?**



([www.enlightened-spirituality.org/Hinduism.html](http://www.enlightened-spirituality.org/Hinduism.html))

**N**ewsweek magazine recently featured a brief article by Lisa Miller in which she declared:<sup>1</sup>

America is not a Christian nation. We are, it is true, a nation founded by Christians, and according to a 2008 survey, 76 percent of us continue to identify as Christian . . . but recent poll data show that conceptually, at least, we are slowly becoming more like Hindus and less like traditional Christians in the ways we think about God, our selves, each other, and eternity . . .

She proceeded to explain that Hindus believe there are many roads to God, none being better than the other, all being equal. She pointed out that such a belief is contrary to traditional, conservative Christianity which has always taught that Jesus is the only way to God.

Well, as Lisa Miller put it, “Americans are no longer buying it.” As proof, she pointed to a 2008 Pew Forum survey which found that 65% of Americans now believe that “many religions can lead to eternal life” — including 37% of white Evangelicals. Another discovery of the Pew survey is that an increasing number of people are seeking spiritual truth outside the church. Accordingly, 30% of Americans call themselves “spiritual, not religious.” The article concluded with an insightful quote from Stephen Prothero, religion professor at Boston University. He calls the American propensity for “the divine-deli-cafeteria religion” as “very much in the spirit of Hinduism.” ❖

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1) Lisa Miller, “We Are All Hindus Now,” *Newsweek*, August 31, 2009, page 70.

# Further Thoughts About Jesus As The Only Way To God

**Assertion:** Christians are narrow-minded to think Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

## Response by Lee Strobel



A few years ago, some friends' baby girl developed jaundice, which is a disorder of the liver that caused her skin and the whites of her eyes to turn yellow. Of course her parents were very concerned, so they took the child to the pediatrician. The pediatrician told them jaundice is a potentially devastating disease, but it is also easily cured: all they had to do was to put the baby under a special light that stimulates healthy liver function.

The parents could have listened to this from the doctor and said, "That sounds too easy. Just put her under a light? What if instead we scrub her with soap and water and dip her in bleach? Certainly if we worked hard enough we could get her normal coloring back."

The doctor would have looked at them and said, "You don't understand. There is only one way to cure your daughter." They could have replied, "What if we just ignore all this and pretend everything's okay. The jaundice is your truth, doc; it's not our truth. If we sincerely believe that, things will turn out for the best in the long haul."

The doctor would have said, "You're going to jeopardize the life of your child if you do that. There is only one way to cure her. You're hesitant to pursue treatment because it sounds too easy. But look at the credentials on my wall. I've studied at medical school. I've used what I've learned to treat and to cure countless babies. Trust me."

Would anybody accuse those parents of being narrow-minded if they trusted a doctor with credentials and pursued the only course of treatment that was going to cure their little girl? Of course not! That is not being narrow-minded. That is acting rationally and in accordance with the evidence.

Every person on this planet has a terminal illness called "sin." The reason those of us who follow Jesus cling to Him so tightly is that He is the Great Physician who has the only cure. We could try to scrub away our sins with good deeds, but it will not work. We can sincerely think that there are other ways of dealing with it. But we would be sincerely wrong.

The truth is that only the Great Physician offers a treatment that will erase the stain of sin. He has credentials and credibility to back Him up. So when we turn to Him, we're not being narrow-minded. We are acting rationally and in accordance with the evidence. ✚

(Editor's note: Lee Strobel is a well known Christian author. This illustration was taken from an article on [www.ChristianityToday.com](http://www.ChristianityToday.com) entitled, "Are There Many Paths to God?")

**Assertion:** But what if a person is sincere in their erroneous belief?

## Response by Josh McClellan

What if someone is sincere in their belief? Would God really send them to hell?

Let me answer this question on several levels. It is a question that sounds good on the surface, but really betrays common sense when we see it for what it is.

If this is the case, was Hitler justified in murdering five million Jews if he really sincerely believed it was the right thing to do? I think all of us would say of course not. We used to believe the earth was flat. But now we know it is round. If someone truly, sincerely believed it was flat, would that make it flat? No, of course not.

One final illustration. If a student gets a question wrong on a test, but goes up to the teacher and tells him that although he got the question wrong, he really believed it was right, so he thinks the teacher should give him credit for it, is the teacher going to give him credit for it? Of course not.

Being sincerely wrong doesn't count anywhere else in life. It sounds great to some when it comes to religion, but it really doesn't make any sense. I think this idea is fed by an understanding of religion as being about living lives that have the appearance of goodness, and thus, if one appears to live a good moral life, then why wouldn't God accept them, regardless of what they call themselves? This approach obviously puts little value on propositions (truth claims themselves), but sees morality as the key to acceptance before God.

The Bible, however, makes it clear that goodness is never good enough, and has no basis for justifying us before God. Only what Jesus did for us on the cross can do that. Being moral will never be good enough. And neither will sincerity apart from truth. ✚

(Editor's note: Josh is the collegiate minister at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. He has earned M.Div. and Th.M. degrees from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently in the application process for a Ph. D. in Apologetics from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married, and he and his wife, Malynda, have one child, Noah Mark, who is 2 years old. Josh spent most of his childhood in Guatemala, where his parents served as missionaries for 12 years. You can find his writings online at <http://joshmcclellan.wordpress.com>.)



# The Insanity and Immorality of the U.S. National Debt

## The Insanity

Michael T. Snyder

A lot of people are very upset about the rapidly increasing U.S. national debt these days and they are demanding a solution. What they don't realize is that there simply is not a solution under the current U.S. financial system. ***It is now mathematically impossible for the U.S. government to pay off the U.S. national debt.***

You see, the truth is that the U.S. government now owes more dollars than actually exist. If the U.S. government went out today and took every single penny from every single American bank, business and taxpayer, they still would not be able to pay off the national debt. And if they did that, obviously American society would stop functioning because nobody would have any money to buy or sell anything. And the U.S. government would still be massively in debt.

So why doesn't the U.S. government just fire up the printing presses and print a bunch of money to pay off the debt? Well, for one very simple reason. That is not the way our system works.

You see, for more dollars to enter the system, the U.S. government has to go into more debt. The U.S. government does not issue U.S. currency — the Federal Reserve does. The Federal Reserve is a private bank owned and operated for profit by a very powerful group of elite international bankers.

If you will pull a dollar bill out and take a look at it, you will notice that it says "Federal Reserve Note" at the top. It belongs to the Federal Reserve. The U.S. government cannot simply go out and create new money whenever it wants under our current system. Instead, it must get it from the Federal Reserve.

So, when the U.S. government needs to borrow more money (which happens a lot these days) it goes over to the Federal Reserve and asks them for some more green pieces of paper called Federal Reserve Notes. The Federal Reserve swaps these green pieces of paper for pink pieces of paper called U.S. Treasury bonds. The Federal Reserve either sells these U.S. Treasury bonds or they keep the bonds for themselves (which happens a lot these days).

So that is how the U.S. government gets more green pieces of paper called "U.S. dollars" to put into circulation. But by doing so, they get themselves into even more debt which they will owe even more interest on.

So every time the U.S. government does this, the national debt gets even bigger and the interest on that debt gets even bigger. ✚

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Note: Michael T. Snyder is an attorney who lives and works in Arlington, Virginia. This article is an excerpt from a much longer article that can be found at <http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com> under the title, "It Is Now Mathematically Impossible To Pay Off the U.S. National Debt." He also maintains a website about end time prophecy. It can be found at <http://signsofthelastdays.com>.

## The Immorality

Dr. David R. Reagan

What would you think of me if I were to purchase a ten million dollar house and charge it to my children, my grandchildren, and my great grandchildren? I have no doubt that you would think I was both insane and immoral. And you would be correct.

No one has any right to pile up debts for other people to pay. To do so is to commit a form of theft.

Our federal government is completely out of control. With the encouragement of the executive branch, the Congress continues to spend with reckless abandon.

The inevitable result is going to be a runaway hyper-inflation that will destroy our nation's economy.

Our debt has become so huge that it is now beyond the comprehension of the mind. A recent article in *World* magazine illustrated this point in a clever way:

How much is \$1 trillion? To get an idea of how massive this amount is, think of it in seconds. Going back in time 1 million seconds would take you back 12 days. One billion seconds would take you back 30 years, and 1 trillion seconds would take you back 32,000 years.<sup>1</sup>

The U.S. national debt exceeded \$12 trillion at the end of 2009 and is projected to top \$20 trillion in 10 years!

Both individually and as a nation, Americans have become debt junkies, insisting on instant gratification through mindless borrowing. Our basic motivating force is greed.

In contrast the Bible exhorts us to be content with what we have (1 Timothy 6:6-8). The Bible does not prohibit debt, but it warns strongly against it: ". . . the borrower is the slave of the lender" (Proverbs 22:7 – ESV).

This truth can be seen in our relationship with Israel. They are our natural ally, sharing our values. And yet we are limited in what support we can give them because we are indebted to the Arab world for oil. In like manner, it is doubtful that we would come to the aid of another natural ally, Taiwan, should the island be invaded by China. The Chinese own too much of our debt for us to stand up to them.

Meanwhile, we continue to sell off our assets to foreign nations in an attempt to stay afloat. The days are clearly numbered for both the dollar and our status as a world power. ✚



Picture taken at a Tea Party protest rally.

# The Hand of God

Dr. David R. Reagan

I recently ran across two pictures that vividly illustrated one of the fundamental principles revealed in the Scriptures — namely, the sovereignty of God.

The first was a painting by Pat Marvenko Smith, the remarkable illustrator of the book of Revelation. It showed the hand of God reaching down from Heaven to knock the playing pieces off a chessboard spread across the surface of the earth. It reminded me of how God so often intervenes in history to summarily dismiss the best laid plans of political leaders. He is able to confuse, frustrate and defeat the goals of the most powerful kings, presidents and prime ministers.

The other picture was an editorial cartoon by the insightful Israeli artist, Oleg Schwartzburg. It showed Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, involved in a tug of war with several leaders of the world's superpowers. They are pulling mightily and sweating profusely while Netanyahu, standing alone, easily resists their pull, all because the finger of God rests on his end of the rope! It cleverly illustrates the only explanation possible for the continued existence of Israel since 1948, through war after war. How else can you explain the survival of less than two million Jews in the midst of a sea of Arabs exceeding 300 million in number?

Two key verses concerning the sovereignty of God can be found in the Psalms:

Psalm 103:19 — “The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all.”

Psalm 135:5-6 — “I know the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, He does.”

Do you remember when the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, was rendered insane and lived like an animal for seven years, crawling around in fields eating grass? Daniel wrote that this whole experience was for the purpose of impressing upon the king “that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind,



Painting by Pat Marvenko Smith (RevelationIllustrated.com)

and bestows it [dominion] on whomever He wishes.” (Daniel 4:25). Later, when Nebuchadnezzar regained his senses, he proclaimed the sovereignty of God: “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He [God] does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth . . .” (Daniel 4:35).

The hand of God can be upon someone in either a good or a bad sense. King David mentioned the positive aspect when he prayed, “. . . in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone” (1 Chronicles 29:12). But the magicians of Pharaoh, in response to the third plague of gnats, bemoaned, “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19).

Every time things appear to be getting out of control on the world scene, and the bad guys appear to be getting the upper hand, I remind myself of Psalm 2. That psalm declares that while all the political leaders of the world conspire against the Lord and His Messiah, God sits in the heavens and laughs! He laughs not because He doesn't care. He cares intensely. He laughs because He has it all under control (see Psalm 2:1-5).

In short, Almighty God has the wisdom and the power to orchestrate all the evil of Mankind to the triumph of His Son.

We believers are in good hands, and because of that, we are going to win in the end! ✚



Editorial cartoon by Israeli artist Oleg Schwartzburg.

## Censorship of Christians —

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) recently removed an advertisement from its website that was being sponsored by Focus on the Family. The ad showed a father holding his young son next to a banner headline that read: “Celebrate Family. Celebrate Life.” A sub-title read: “All I want for my son is for him to grow up knowing how to do the right thing.” When contacted to find out why the ad was objectionable, NCAA officials said that even though the message was okay, the messenger was not. They said the decision was made after some of its members — including faculty and athletic directors — expressed concern that the evangelical group’s stance against gay and lesbian relationships conflicted with the NCAA’s policy of inclusion regardless of sexual orientation. In other words, the organization sponsoring the message was a Christian one that stands for the biblical view of marriage.



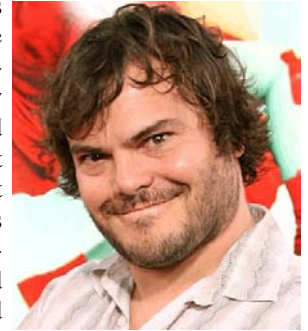
Focus on the Family Ad

# TIMES and Seasons

## Christian Bashing —

During last year’s MTV music video awards ceremony, actor Jack Black urged the audience to hold hands and pray to “dear dark lord Satan.” The Radio City Music Hall audience readily obeyed his request and joined him in praying to the

devil. During the prayer, he asked Satan to continue to bless the music industry with success. Former Hollywood actor Bob Turnbull characterized the prayer as “pathetic” and said it showed the “heartbreakingly sad” side of Hollywood’s culture. Radio talk-show host Jesse Lee Peterson criticized MTV, saying “it is disturbing that MTV continues to promote the most degenerate and base programs on its network.” He added, “They intentionally air programming designed to seduce and corrupt the minds and hearts of America’s youth.”



Jack Black

*“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.”*  
(Isaiah 5:20)

## Obama Appointments —

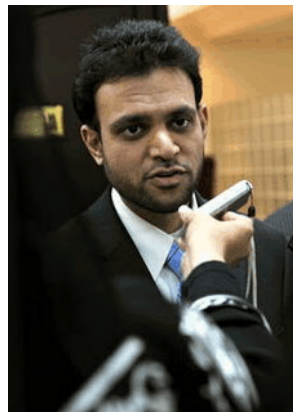


Amanda Simpson

President Obama recently chose Amanda Simpson to be his senior technical advisor to the U. S. Department of Commerce, making it the first transgender appointment by a president in American history. Simpson has 30 years of experience in the aerospace industry. While working at Raytheon, she transitioned from male-to-female during a six year period of time and then successfully lobbied to add gender identity to Raytheon’s employment policies. She has been

very active in a number of radical political organizations like Out & Equal.

The President has appointed a Muslim named Rashad Hussain to represent the United States at the Organization for the Islamic Conference (OIC). This is an organization of 57 states and non-state groups dedicated to the promotion of Islam throughout the world. It is an anti-democratic organization that believes in the spread of Sharia Law. The president said he thought Hussain would be a good choice because he has memorized the entire Koran in the original Arabic.



Rashad Hussain



Elton John

Meanwhile, pop star Elton John was one of the featured performers at the 2010 Grammy Awards. Afterwards, in an interview with *Parade* magazine, he said, “I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems.” He then picked up with his never-ending attack on Christianity for its “unloving attitude.”

## Increasing Secularism —

More than 100,000 Britons have recently downloaded “certificates of de-baptism” from the Internet in order to formally renounce their Christian faith. The practice has now spread to the United States. Groups have even organized to conduct “de-baptism ceremonies.” The ceremony features a robed “priest” who uses a hair dryer labeled “reason” to symbolically blow away the waters of baptism once and for all. The ceremony concludes with a mock communion service during which the participants feed on a “de-sacrament,” usually crackers with peanut butter. They then receive certificates stating that they have “freely renounced a previous mistake, and accepted Reason over Superstition.” ✚



De-Baptism Ceremony  
(www.mopo.com)

# New Video Editor Added to Media Team

We are pleased to announce that we have added an additional video editor to our media team. His name is Brett Everett. He is married, and he and his wife, Kathy, have two children.



**The Everett Family**  
**Kathy, Taylor (age 7), Macey (age 12), and Brett**

Brett comes to us from the Brookhaven Church in Dallas where he was serving as their media minister. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Theological Seminary where he earned a graduate degree in ministry. He had extensive experience in youth ministry before shifting to the specialty of media outreach. Brett's wife, Kathy is a first grade teacher in the Carrollton School system in north Dallas.

## Expanded Outreach in Kentucky

We are also delighted to announce that we now have extended coverage of our television program in the great state of Kentucky where we have many of our strongest supporters. Daystar is now broadcasting our program over the Insight Cable Network on channel 280. This network supplies Louisville, Lexington, Covington, and Bowling Green, Kentucky. It also provides service to Evansville, Indiana.

Our program has always been available in these areas by satellite over the Dish Network and DirecTV, and in some of the areas it has been available by cable via the Inspiration Network. Now that it is available via the Insight Cable Network, we are hoping that many more of our Kentucky friends will be able to view the program.

## Television Activities

During the week of May 16, we will broadcast our 400<sup>th</sup> TV program since we started broadcasting in September of 2002.

We hope to do two remote shoots this year, one at the Holyland Experience in Orlando, Florida, and one in Israel.

We are currently working with a set designer to produce a completely new set for our television program.

## “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				
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](http://www.kajn.com/familyvision).



**New Mexico Family Stations** is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque: KAZQ, Channel 32 and KTVS, Channel 36. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

### The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at [www.lamblion.com](http://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](http://www.tangle.com/lamblion). ✚



## Providing Assistance Around the World

We continue to support 7 domestic and 12 foreign ministries on a regular monthly basis, sending each one a specified amount and adding to that amount any special donations we might receive that are designated for particular ministries.

Additionally, from time to time, we make special donations to respond to emergency needs. Recently these have included the earthquake victims in both Haiti and Chile. You can designate gifts for any of the ministries we support. All the funds will be forwarded to the designated ministry. We do not take out any handling fees.

### Interesting Mission Facts



33% of all people in the world claim to be Christian, which means that 67% of the world's population is non-Christian.

Muslims constitute 20% of the world's population and Hindus, 15%.

It is estimated that 450 million people in India have never even heard the name of Jesus.

The least evangelized nations in the world are the Maldiv Islands (in the Indian Ocean) and Bhutan (in the Himalayas); the African countries of Mauritania, Somalia, and Morocco; the Eurasian nations of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan; and the country of Yemen (in the Arabian Peninsula).

29% of all souls on earth know nothing about salvation through Jesus Christ.

The combined Buddhist, Chinese, and Muslim blocs contain 2 billion souls, nearly one-third of the earth's population, but less than 1% of the 455,000 Christian missionaries in the world today are ministering in these blocs.

Foreign mission work can occur in the United States because over one million international students are studying at American schools.

The fastest growing Christian population in the world today is in China.



Don Perkins and Dave Reagan

**Don Perkins** is the only full time Black evangelist in the United States whose ministry is solely devoted to the teaching and preaching of Bible prophecy. He is a native of Louisiana, but his ministry is headquartered in San Diego, California. The website of his ministry can be found at [www.according2prophecy.org](http://www.according2prophecy.org).



Dave and John Ishmael

**John Ishmael** heads up a ministry in Bangalore, India that his father established 37 years ago. It is called Revival Literature Fellowship, and, as the name implies, it focuses on the publication of Christian literature in the major languages of India.

But the ministry does far more than that. He recruits and provides support for many native ministers. He sponsors conferences for pastors.

And he provides emergency relief for disaster victims and for Christian victims of Hindu and Muslim violence. He has published many of Lamb & Lion's books in various Indian languages, and he currently publishes a condensed version of our *Lamplighter* magazine.

Brother Ishmael currently has two major needs. First, he desperately needs \$20,000 to purchase a new vehicle for his ministry. Second, he needs approximately \$150,000 to purchase a permanent facility for his ministry. He has had to rely on rented facilities, but is able to remain in them for only short periods of time because radical Hindus bring pressure to bear on his landlords, forcing him to retreat to his home.

**Standfast Oyinna** is a great man of God in Nigeria whom we have helped for over 20 years, mainly by supplying him with audio tapes and printed materials. Recently, we provided him with \$2,000 to dig two wells in villages where he ministers. (Did you know that 80% of all disease in the world is caused by impure drinking water?) Hopefully, in next month's issue of this magazine we will have some pictures of the wells which we can share with you. Standfast is in constant need of Bibles, videos, and audio programs which he utilizes in his teaching ministry. ✚

# The Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference

Friday Evening and All Day Saturday, June 25 & 26

## “Defending the Faith”



Ed Hindson



Convention site: The Marriott Courtyard Hotel  
in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.



Brannon Howse



Mike Gendron

### Music

Jack Hollingsworth, the featured singer on the Lamb & Lion TV show, “Christ in Prophecy,” will present Gospel music throughout the conference.

Larry McCoy, a gifted Christian musician from Gallatin, Tennessee, will begin the conference on Friday evening with a special concert that will feature songs from his incredible Revelation album in which he has put the entire book of Revelation to music.



Ron Rhodes

### Speaker’s Topics

**Brannon Howse:** “*The Truth of the Christian Worldview*”

**Mike Gendron:** “*The Truth of the Bible*”

**Jobe Martin:** “*The Truth of Creation*”

**Dave Reagan:** “*The Truth of the Virgin Birth*”

**Eric Barger:** “*The Truth of Jesus’ Divinity*”

**Ron Rhodes:** “*The Truth of the Resurrection*”



Jobe Martin



Eric Barger

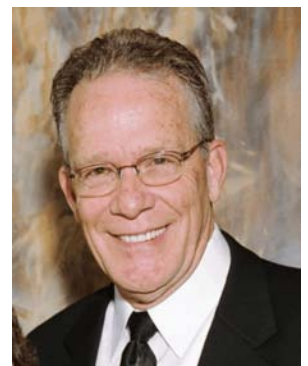
### Banquet

On Saturday evening, following the conclusion of the conference, there will be a banquet at the hotel to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lamb & Lion Ministries. Ed Hindson, one of Christendom’s most anointed Bible prophecy teachers, will be the featured speaker.

*The conference is free of charge. The banquet will cost \$35 per person. Registration for the conference is required due to limited seating. To register, call 972-736-3567 or register at the Lamb & Lion website: [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com). To reserve a room at the conference hotel, call 214-383-1151 and ask for the Lamb & Lion Conference group rate.*



Larry McCoy



Jack Hollingsworth



# Ministry News

## Schedule —

The Lamb & Lion annual Bible conference is scheduled for the last weekend in **June** (25-26). In **July** Dr. Reagan will be speaking at the First Baptist Church in Bayfield, Colorado (23-24). **August** is going to be a very busy month. Dr. Reagan will begin the month speaking at David Hocking's conference in California. It is scheduled to be held at the Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills (6-7). In the middle of the month, Dr. Reagan will be one of the speakers at the annual conference sponsored by Maranatha Ministries. It will be held at First Baptist Church in Broussard, Louisiana (13-14). While in Louisiana, Dr. Reagan will also speak at Amana Christian Fellowship in Maurice (15). Dr. Reagan will complete the month speaking at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Terre Haute, Indiana (21-22).

## Israel Pilgrimage —

The next Lamb & Lion pilgrimage to Israel is set to take place in November. The group will depart on November 12th and return on the 23rd. Dr. Reagan will personally host the group. They will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), and five in Jerusalem. There will also be an overnight stay in Frankfurt, Germany on the way back to the States. The group will be limited to 52 people. For more details, call the Lamb & Lion office or check our website (800-705-8316 or [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com)).



## Prophecy Partners —



**Jeff Nichols and his dad, Eddie Lopez, are Prophecy Partners in Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland.**

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner! Our Prophecy Partners constitute the financial and prayer foundation of our ministry. Prophecy Partners make a commitment to donate \$20 a month or more for one year. Call our office for details. Thanks!

## Children's Book

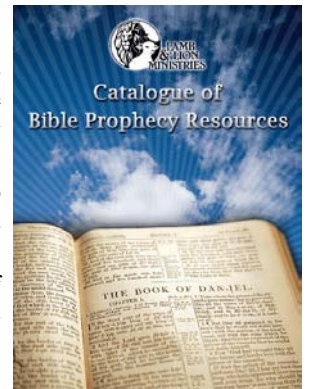


**Cathryn Wisley of Dallas reads her book about Jesus' return.**

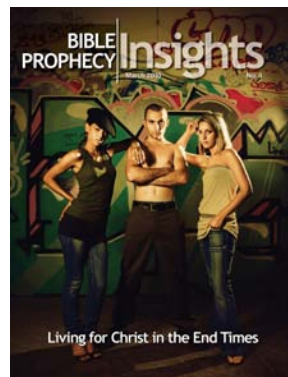
Our popular Bible prophecy book for pre-school and elementary children, *Jesus is Coming Again!*, is now available in the Spanish language. In either English or Spanish, the cost is \$10 plus the cost of mailing.

## Publications —

We recently issued a new catalogue that contains descriptions of all the learning materials that the ministry has produced in recent years, including books, videos and audio programs. For a free copy of the catalogue, give us a call (972-736-3567). You can also find most of our materials displayed in our online store ([www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com)).



We have a publication called *Bible Prophecy Insights* which we publish from time to time. Each issue features one of our magazine articles that has proved to be especially popular. The issues run 8 to 12 pages in length. Each issue is sent out to our Prophecy Partners free of charge. For others the cost is one dollar each plus the cost of mailing. Thus far we have produced four issues: "What Happens When You Die?" "Are You Sweating the End Times?" "50 Reasons Why We Are Living in the End Times," and "Living for Christ in the End Times." As a special offer, we will send you all four issues for \$5, including the cost of mailing.



We are currently in the process of getting two of our basic books published in Spanish — *God's Plan for the Ages* and *Wrath and Glory*. The latter book, Dr. Reagan's commentary on the book of Revelation, was recently published in the Nepali language. It has already been published in Telegu and Urdu, languages used in India and Pakistan. ✚



**LAMB  
& LION  
MINISTRIES**

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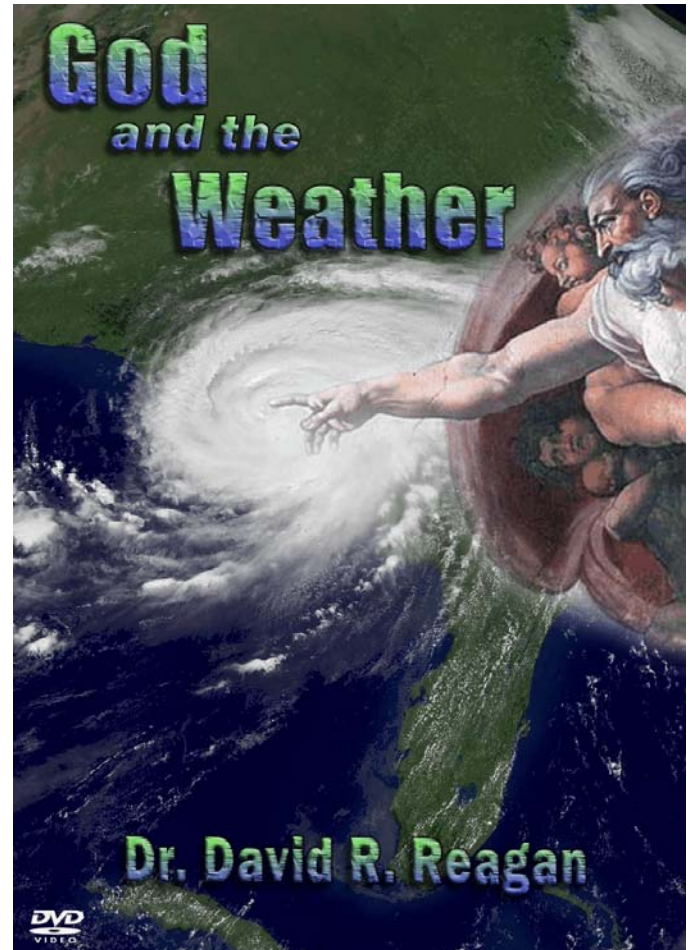
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## Questions About The Weather

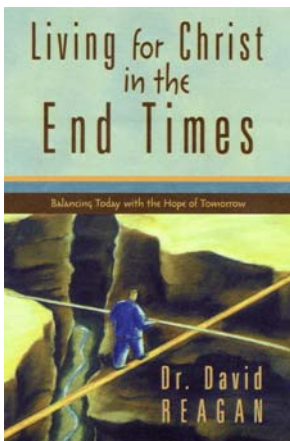
- Why are we experiencing so many hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and earthquakes?
- Are natural disasters simply “acts of nature,” or is God angry with us?
- Does God speak through natural disasters, or is that a silly superstition?
- Is Satan the one who is really in control of natural disasters?
- Are all natural disasters a result of Man’s sin?
- Can a natural disaster be a remedial judgment from God?
- Could U.S. treatment of Israel play a role in the natural disasters that America has recently suffered?
- Does the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters point to the Lord’s soon return?

These and many other questions people often ask about the weather are answered in this 50 minute presentation by Dr. Reagan which was made before a live audience at a Stealing the Mind Conference.

DVD format. \$12 plus the cost of shipping.



## Guidelines For End Time Living



One of Dr. Reagan’s most thought-provoking books. It addresses the two main challenges to the Christian faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century — namely, the deterioration of society and the growing apostasy in the church. Ten principles are presented that Christians can follow to overcome paganism and live victorious lives. 264 pages. \$15 plus the cost of shipping.

## Taking A Stand For The Truth

A hard-hitting, thought-provoking book about how Christians today have been intimidated by political correctness to remain silent about biblical truths that our society needs to hear. The author, who is pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, presents the case for absolute truth and challenges Christians to speak up for those truths. 256 pages. \$15 plus shipping.

