

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

midnightcall.com

February 2020—\$4.75

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- “My Glory”
 - Rapture Question
 - Jerusalem Is Babylon
- P. 22

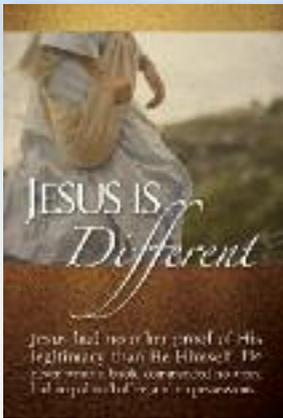
World Urbanization
Part 1
P. 10

Praying Curses:
Imprecatory Psalms
P. 14

The “Beyond Heavenly” Future of the Church

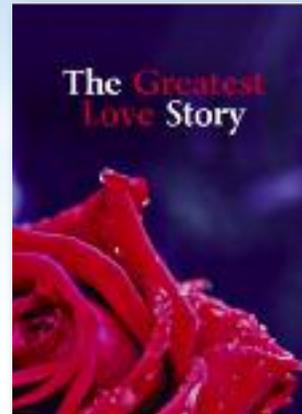
WORLD FOCUS Students’ Phones Become Surveillance Machines • Electronic Swiss Franc?

Timely Tracts for Gospel Outreach



Jesus had no other proof of His legitimacy than He Himself. He never wrote a book, commanded no army, had no political office, and no possessions.

Almost 2,000 years ago, He traveled within a radius of about 150 kilometers of His hometown of Nazareth, and yet His name is still well-known today.



There is a true love story that has an eternal happy ending.

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ITEM #9116

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100 copies

Author: Manfred Paul

JESUS IS DIFFERENT ITEM #9118 • Tract • 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100 copies

Author: Michael Kotsch



Are you ready to face eternity?

No one really knows when it's your time to enter eternity.

It is always best to be prepared!

8 MINUTES TO ETERNITY

ITEM #9113

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100 copies

Author: Normando Fontoura



Will you have time for God? Never? God has time for you. Take time for Him before it's too late.

Without God, life is a big deception. Without God, we live in the present, only dreaming of the future and forgetting what is most important.

TOO LATE ITEM #9115

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100 copies

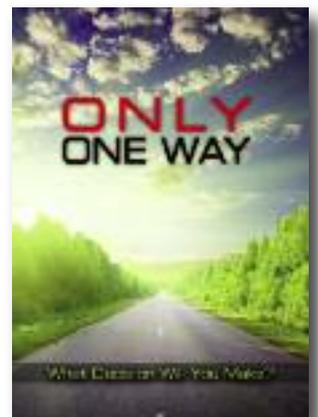


I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN! ITEM #9112

Tract • Size: 8" x 3.375"

\$3 for 100 copies

Author: Norbert Lieth



“If I live an honest life...how can I be convicted of sin?”

ONLY ONE WAY: WHAT DECISION WILL YOU MAKE?

ITEM #9114

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100 copies



6 COVER STORY

The "Beyond Heavenly" Future of the Church

By Norbert Lieth

Together with Christ, the church as the body is the fullness of the One who pervades all in all. Every corner of eternity will be filled with Jesus and His body the church.



18 USA
Students' Phones Become Surveillance Machines

19 WORLD
Best Decade in Human History



10 Money: Ends and Trends

Ripening Times #6 – World Urbanization: Part 1

By Wilfred Hahn



19 EU
'Right to Be Forgotten' by Google Limited

20 ISRAEL
China Hacks Military Secrets

21 CHINA
Parliament Rules Out Same-Sex Marriage



14 Praying Curses: Imprecatory Psalms

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editorial By Samuel Rindlisbacher

22 Letters to the Editor By Arno Froese
"MY GLORY" ...RAPTURE QUESTION...JERUSALEM IS BABYLON

24 Fellow Laborers By Midnight Call Ministries' Staff

25 Action for Israel By Arno Froese

27 The Ebenezer Home – Haifa, Israel By David Phillips



“But My People Have Forgotten Me...”

By Samuel Rindlisbacher

Pastor at Midnight Call International



When God chose Israel under the Old Covenant, He gave it His blessing. It began well: “Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest” (Jer 2:3). But unfortunately, Israel forgot its God—just as our society is doing today. “...But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (verses 11b-13).

Israel began worshiping Tammuz, the god of vegetation, and the sun as the source of life in the middle of the temple (cf. Ezek 8). In the same way today, we’re turning away from the living God, the source of blessing, while being simultaneously surprised that the blessing is also departing. It’s a spiritual “law of nature”: God’s blessing is linked to God’s conditions. “If you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments...” (Deut 28:1), then God will bless.

It’s like throwing a stone into the water: ripples form. When a tree is shaken, its fruit will fall. Likewise, if man walks away

from God, the consequences won’t fail to materialize. This is exactly what happened to Israel: “...they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads...” (Jer 18:15).

Isn’t it the same for the Western nations? Haven’t they consciously turned away from the God of the Bible? They’re doing exactly what the prophet Ezekiel warned against: “Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly...” (Ezek 14:13). The Western nations knew God. There was once an awakening toward the Bible, particularly in the countries of the Reformation. The older generation may still remember praying before class and reading the Bible in school. The catechism was taught in confirmation classes at public schools. Thousands of missionaries went from these countries into the whole world. But today...

God has the same things to say about these nations as He did about Israel back then: “But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods...” (Jer 18:15). People have made nature their god!

You may have heard about Greta Thunberg’s startling lecture at the TEDx confer-

EDITOR'S NOTE

ence in Stockholm last year. Think what you may about this young girl, but she fascinates me with her dedication and zeal. How she focuses on what she thinks is important! Her commitment and determination! And, if I may ask, are we Christians equally committed to Jesus and the spread of His Gospel?

The big tragedy in the midst of all this talk about “saving the planet” is that the Savior God is deliberately excluded. The Creator isn’t wanted. Among other things, Greta Thunberg said in her TEDx speech that humans are “an animal species, among others.” This concept has its origin in the theory of evolution, in which a Creator God is unnecessary. Our new “messengers of the gods” are called ecology, conservation, and saving the planet.

Recently, I read that many Swiss churches and organizations left the clocks in their towers set to 5 minutes to 12, “to show that humans are running out of time.” Such churches have lost their calling. Instead of returning to the Creator God of the Bible, paganism has found its way in under the guise of “old-time religion”!

Those who still believe in Jesus should therefore take the decisive action that the Bible illustrates for us. Let us stick to His Word even more decisively! Let’s live according to biblical ethics. Let’s have more decisive courage to testify for Jesus. Let’s put off sin even more decisively. And let’s await the rapture; it could occur any day!

Maranatha; come, Lord Jesus—come soon! Amen. (MC)

In light of the times, *News From Israel* is a necessary monthly magazine that will keep you updated on breaking developments throughout the Middle East. *News From Israel* uncovers hidden information the news media leaves out!



To start or renew your *News From Israel* magazine subscription, use the order form in the insert or pg. 31, call 800-845-2420 with your credit card ready, or order online at midnightcall.com/nfi

• 32 pages • \$ 18 for a one-year subscription • 12 issues

☎ 1-800-845-2420

Published 12 times a year by
MIDNIGHT CALL, INC.

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

Physical Location:

4694 Platt Springs Road

West Columbia, SC 29170

Founder — Dr. Wim Malgo (1922–92)

International Editor — René Malgo

Executive Editor — Arno Froese

Contributing Authors — Norbert Lieth,
Wilfred Hahn, Dr. Ron J. Bigalke,
Johannes Pflaum, Samuel
Rindlisbacher, René Malgo,
Stephan Beitze and Thomas Lieth

Layout Designer: Michelle Kim • **Text Typists:** Joel Froese and Susi Steiger

• **Copy Editor:** Kimberly Farmer • **Customer Service:** Andrea
Giles, Kimberly Farmer, Debbie and Dana Hale

• **General Manager:** Simon Froese • **Production Manager:** Brian Corbett

• **Pre-Press:** Alec Rucker • **Pressroom:** James D. Bond, Dwight Mims,
Chad Vining and John Maze • **Post Press:** Dana Hale, Teresa Vining,
Melissa Martin, Andrea Giles, Cyndal Sweet, Lois Jeffcoat and Silas
Steiger • **Special Order:** Andrea Giles and Dana Hale • **German-**

English Translators: Barbara Lavery, Melanie Makin and Helga Tirrell

• **Webmasters:** Ricardo Rempel and Matias Steiger

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA, \$28.95 • Canada, \$34.50 • All other countries, \$48

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRY

Please send your new address and the name and address *exactly* as it appears on this magazine or envelope for best service. Please send all changes and inquiries directly to our US address.

MAILING ADDRESS

USA and Canada:

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

PHONE

Toll free phone: 1-800-845-2420

Local and International: +1 (803) 755-0733

WEBSITE

midnightcall.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

“Mitternachtsruf” (German) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; “Middernachtsroep” (Dutch) Postbus 193, 3940 AD Doorn, Netherlands; “L’Appel de Minuit” (French) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; “Chamada de Meia Noite” (Portuguese) Obra Missionaria Chamada de Meia Noite, Caixa Postal 1688, 90001-970 Porto Alegre RS, Brazil; “Llamada de Medianoche” (Spanish) PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073; “CDM Italia” (Italian) Via Monte Rosa 88 D, IT 10155 Torino TO; “Ejfele Kialtas” (Hungarian) HU 1135 Budapest, Palóc utca 2; “Miezul Noptii” (Romanian) O.P. 3, CP. 136, 310540 Arad, Romania

OUR TASK

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization, dedicated to proclaiming the entire Bible as the unchanging and eternal written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the unerring guide for the Christian faith.

The object of Midnight Call is to call people everywhere to Christ, to proclaim the return of Christ, to prepare Christians for His coming, and to uphold the faith and warn of false doctrines. *Midnight Call* magazine is available in twelve languages. All work done through radio, literature and missionaries is supported entirely by the gifts and free will offerings of God’s people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therefore in the infallibility of the Holy Scripture, which is God’s Word, and in the eternal Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day and later ascended into heaven.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of each individual sinner and that all who believe in Him as their personal Savior are justified through His shed blood and have become children of God.

WE BELIEVE that Israel is God’s chosen people, and that the restoration of the Jews to their own land is the fulfillment of the Word of God.

WE BELIEVE in the pre-tribulation appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

WE BELIEVE in the immortality of our souls and the resurrection of our bodies, and in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

The “Beyond Heavenly” Future of the Church

Norbert Lieth

God’s Word promises the redeemed of the church an inheritance of inconceivably great glory, above and beyond the skies of heaven. The letter to the Ephesians especially shows this. An exploration.

Our sanctification and spiritual transformation began with conversion and rebirth. Throughout the Christian life, the Holy Spirit continues this sanctification and transformation. But it finishes with Him in glory, when we see Him as He is.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). “And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly” (1 Cor 15:49). “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Phil 3:21). “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil 1:6).

Someone once said on the subject, “We are being masterfully perfected. You won’t fall through the cracks.” The “judgment” will certainly help with this.

The church is a representation of the infinite richness of divine grace and goodness in Christ: “That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:7). “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he pur-

posed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Eph 3:10-11).

Among other things, this miracle of transforming grace will be eternal. Throughout the eternal ages, God will reveal to the heavenly host what He accomplished in Christ with a mankind that was lowly, corrupt, sinful, and ruled by the devil.

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” (Ps 8:4). He not only thought of us and saved us, He elevated us above everything and showed us all the riches of His grace.

William MacDonald writes in his commentary on Ephesians 2:7, “This miracle of transforming grace will be the subject of eternal revelation. Throughout the endless ages, God will be unveiling to the heavenly throng what it cost Him to send His Son to this jungle of sin, and what it cost the Lord Jesus to bear our sins at the cross. It is a subject that will never be exhausted.”

Paul writes that the eternal wealth of God in His saving action is inexhaustible, like the universe is thought to be today. Roughly put, modern science must recognize that, “The more we grow in knowledge of the universe, the more we realize how little we know...and there are more and more questions.” “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!” (Rom 11:33).

An infinite God will teach us infinitely, reveal new things to us, and usher

Throughout the eternal ages, God will reveal to the heavenly host what He accomplished in Christ with a mankind that was lowly, corrupt, sinful, and ruled by the devil.

The “Beyond Heavenly” Future of the Church

Paul writes that the eternal wealth of God in His saving action is inexhaustible, like the universe is thought to be today. Roughly put, modern science must recognize that, “The more we grow in knowledge of the universe, the more we realize how little we know...and there are more and more questions.”



us into who knows how many more secrets.

“He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things” (Eph 4:10). There is a fatherhood in the heavens (Eph 3:15), and a heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 12:22). The high priesthood of the Lord Jesus is higher than the heavens (Heb 7:26). He ascended through the heavens to the highest place (Heb 4:14).

The throne of God the Father is the highest place in eternity, high above all heavenly places. It is the center of government, the Father’s house, the source of everything created; it is the eternity of eternities. Even the “new Jerusalem” is

limited, but not God. The church in Christ is relocated there.

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph 1:22-23). We are literally “members of His body” (1 Cor 12:27; Eph 5:30). “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Col 2:9-10).

The description “body of Christ” as an organism was only revealed after the ascension of Jesus in Acts, and was a mystery (Eph 3:3-7). The apostle Paul speaks of the church as the body of Christ for the first time in 1 Corinthians 6:15.

In the same way that the members of our body belong to us, we belong to Christ as His members. Together with Christ, the church as the body is the fullness of the One who pervades all in all. Every corner of eternity will be filled with Jesus and His body the church, and not of ourselves: it is God’s grace alone. How could it be boring in these eternal worlds?

Fritz Binde wrote the following in his booklet *The Perfection of the Body of Christ*: “This is far beyond our capacity. That God was so resolved in His intent for salvation and called this wonderful organism into existence, who can conceive of it? His Christ is incomplete without the body. [...] Yes, the totality of these members constitutes the fullness of Christ.”

We will be with Christ wherever He is. As His body, as joint heirs with Christ and conformed to Him, the church will co-rule and co-partake.

We learn three things about the future of the church. First, it will co-inherit. Second, it will co-judge. Third, it will co-rule.

It will take part in the liberation of creation (Rom 8:19-21). It will co-govern all of the heavenly regions (2 Tim 2:12). It will judge the world: “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” (1 Cor 6:2). I could imagine this beginning earlier, during the Great Tribulation... (Eph 5:6; Col 3:6).

The church will judge angels: “Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (1 Cor 6:3). It will return with Him in glory. “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col 3:4).

We will never be God, never be omnipresent like Him, but we will be with Christ wherever He is. As His body, as joint heirs with Christ and conformed to Him, the church will co-rule and co-partake (cf. Jude 14; Rev 19:11ff.; Zech 14:5; 2 Thess 1:7, 10; 1 Thess 3:13).

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev 22:12).

Isaiah 53:12 speaks of God having “a portion with the great” and “divid[ing] the spoil with the strong.” Couldn’t that also be understood to mean that the Lord will return with “His reward”: that is, the church purchased by His blood?

Since the church is the body of Christ, it will share in His earthly dominion. It is always where Christ is. But its real and

highest purpose is in the heavens. It will probably have a say in what happens on earth from the heavens, of course always subordinate to the Head.

To my understanding, Jesus won’t just be present on earth with His church (as far as the millennial kingdom is concerned). That’s why the resurrected David will be appointed as representative and prince (Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos 3:5). “And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it” (Ezek 34:24). “And David my servant shall be king over them...” (Ezek 37:24).

It could be similar to the Lord’s resurrection: He could be visibly present, disappear suddenly, and be in eternity or in the realm of the dead. The eternal Son of God will never be confined only to the earth; He will fulfill and determine all eternity. As God, He will be omnipresent.

The kingdom of heaven means that heaven will rule over the earth. This indicates a close connection, perhaps similar to how things were before the Fall. Likewise, Christ’s spiritually/physically transfigured church will rule as His body from heaven, and certainly won’t be tied to one place, although we will never be omnipresent. Even the angels have access to the earth already, although they’re not omnipresent like God.

The church appears with Christ in a royal and priestly manner (Rev 1:6). It will, as mentioned, take part in the government in the new heaven and the new earth, along with Christ Jesus and the Father. There is plenty to do if we’ll only think of the infinite vastness.

(MR0919/1030)



RIPENING TIMES #6 – WORLD URBANIZATION: PART 1

By Wilfred Hahn



We continue our series of “ripening trends” of prophetic significance. We live during a time of great and accelerating change in the world. Unfortunately, many do not see the significance of these many developments. They are caught in the maelstrom of worldly confusion. Bible-believing Christians, on the other hand, are charged to be “watching”; to be on the alert for “significant” world trends.

Why? Because the Bible instructs us to do so. We are expressly mandated to recognize the season and to “watch.” To recall, Jesus said: “[...] keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42). Therefore, let us keep watch. We know that the “last days” are treacherous and will close like a trap (Luke 21:34).

During the course of this series, we have periodically laid out the criteria for identifying such prophetically “significant” trends (most recently, in the November issue of *Midnight Call*). To date, we have described five such trends. In this column, we present the sixth—world urbanization.

Grasping for Prosperity

Economists and policymakers around the world have begun to realize that economic growth and prosperity will be leaner in the future. Many of the causes and factors that contributed to the great global wealth explosion over the last

century (accelerating during the post-WWII period) have waned, disappeared or reversed. This is attributable to an abrupt reversal of population growth trends. (In this series, we have already discussed the demographic development, which also qualifies as a “ripening trend.”)

Policymakers ponder, just how can global prosperity then be boosted? A main source of hope (among a few other factors) is this: accelerating world urbanization. Many international organizations and economic thinktanks, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a host of others, all identify this development as an engine of economic hope.

What is urbanization? Wikipedia says: “[Urbanization] refers to the population shift from rural areas to urban areas, the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to this change. It is predominantly the process by which towns and cities are formed

Today, more people live in urban areas than in rural, with 55 percent of the world's population residing in urban areas in 2018. By contrast, in 1950, only 30 percent of the world's population was urban.



and become larger as more people begin living and working in central areas.”¹

The biggest contributor to prosperity is population growth (everything else being equal). To the modern humanist, this may sound like an old-fashioned notion. Yet, this is an inviolable fact of economics. Why? Economics is about “humans.” It couldn’t be any other way. The slower the population growth, the slower the economic expansion. The maximum wealth and prosperity that can exist in the world is mostly defined by total labor output. And, as reviewed in this series, population growth rates are collapsing around the world.

Therefore, policymakers encourage urbanization, because it stands to boost economic growth. The more people liv-

ing in cities, the more the need for infrastructure ... roads, mass transit systems, bridges, etc. Moreover, activities in cities tend to attract higher wages, consumer spending and housing values.

Given that world population growth is waning, policymakers hope that by concentrating the world's population into cities, the negative impact upon economies can be offset somewhat.

The Rapidity of City Life

We therefore observe that an ever greater share of the world population is moving from rural areas to urban ones ... to the city life. Today, more people live in urban areas than in rural, with 55 percent of the world's population residing in urban areas in 2018. By contrast, in 1950, only 30



A few large cities are mentioned in the Bible, among these Nineveh, said to be 120,000 in population and to be a “very large city” (Jonah 3:3); Babylon, which would have even been larger; and most certainly, the ancient metropolis of Babel.

percent of the world’s population was urban.

According to UNPD (United Nations Population Division) forecasts, by 2050, 68 percent of the world’s population is projected to be urban. As such, some 13% of the world’s population will move to a city over the next 30 years. Assuming this forecast is correct, more than two-thirds of the world’s population (or 6.3 billion people) will then be living in cities.

Readers will note the rapidity of spreading urbanization and the growth of large cities. But, how was it in the distant past? Looking over history, it was more the norm to have lived in rural areas. To be sure, urbanization has an ancient history, beginning quite early in Mesopotamia (4300-3100 BC).

Crucially, however, it was not until the early 1800s that urbanization truly began accelerating. Then, the world urbanization ratio was only 7.3% (for the US at that time, only 6.07%). It has soared rapidly ever since. Given this speed and that it is a phenomenon that has occurred so recently in the timeline of humans on earth (basically, within only two centuries), we are alerted to the possibility that urbanization is a “significant trend.”

The Boom of Large Cities

The outgrowth of increasing urbanization of course is more cities ... and specifically, big cities. That means greater agglomerations of people. While there were only 18 urban agglomerations with an excess of 5 million people in the

world in 1970 (Tokyo, New York, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Paris, Bombay, Calcutta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seoul and more), there are 67 or so today. The UNPD forecasts that there will be 109 cities with a population of 5 million or more by 2030. Most names of these large cities will likely be unfamiliar to the Westerner; for example, Ningbo, Abuja, Harbin, Belo Horizonte, Jinan, Shandong, Luanda, Douala ... and many more.

Most cities mentioned in the Bible would likely have had less than 3,000 inhabitants. Cities were historically filthy and unhealthy places to live, given that there were usually no adequate sewage systems. The incidence of disease was high. This was generally not the case with the Hebrews, as their strict Levitical laws served to avoid such risks.

A few large cities are mentioned in the Bible, among these Nineveh, said to be 120,000 in population and to be a “very large city” (Jonah 3:3); Babylon, which would have even been larger; and most certainly, the ancient metropolis of Babel. Compare this to city sizes of 25 million and more in our time today. (Tokyo has the largest population—37.5 million, twice that of New York-Newark.)

As cities become larger and more dense, the logistics of administrating them become ever more challenging. Consider the traffic systems. These must be well planned ... and, far in advance. It is well documented that even though modern-day automobiles can drive at speeds of 200 KPH and more, the aver-

We note that the people had built Babel expressly so they would not be “scattered over the face of the earth.” But, to recall, originally God had commanded otherwise.



brazen attitude of self-determination that prevailed in Babel.

According to the Bible, the inhabitants said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the

age speed in large cities and major interstate highways has become ever slower. For example, the average highway speed in Los Angeles during rush hour is now 17 MPH (Hwy 101).

Similar challenges are evident in other large cities. For example, in Dhaka (capital of Bangladesh) according to the World Bank, the average traffic speed fell from 12 kilometers per hour in 2008 to 7 kph in 2018. It is one of the densest populated cities in the world. It now has no choice but to ban rickshaws.

The Trouble with Big Cities

How large was Babel’s population? No one knows. Yet it stands as an example of an agglomeration of people of which God did not approve. Was it the size of Babel’s population that caused God to disperse this city? Not likely for that fact alone. Rather, what incensed the Lord was susceptibility to immorality and, the emergence of the humanist spirit ... the

whole earth” (Genesis 11:4).

We note that the people had built Babel expressly so they would not be “scattered over the face of the earth.” But, to recall, originally God had commanded otherwise.

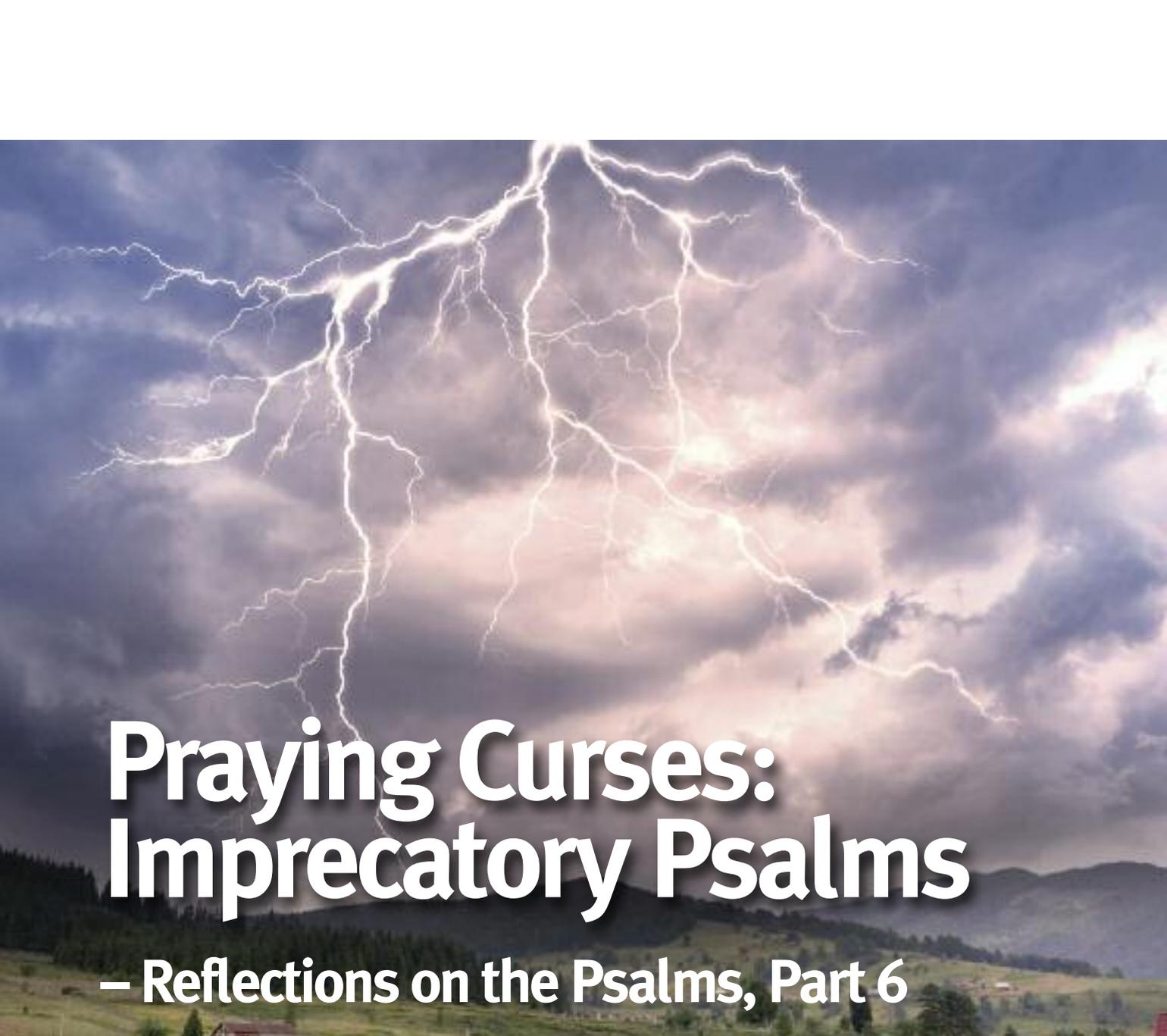
God said to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28). This human mandate was again confirmed with Noah. “As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it” (Genesis 9:7).

As a result of Babel’s waywardness, God intervened: He dispersed the people of Babel “over all the earth” (Genesis 11:8) with a confusion of languages. In the end, they were all thrust to rural life.

In the next issue, we will complete our examination of this prophetically significant world trend of urbanization. (MC)

ENDNOTE

- 1 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urbanization>



Praying Curses: Imprecatory Psalms

– Reflections on the Psalms, Part 6

Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

Imprecatory psalms are a grouping that contains harsh judgments upon the psalmists' enemies. A minimum of seven psalms corresponds to this category to a limited extent: the 35th, 55th, 59th, 69th, 79th, 109th, and 137th. In an ordinate manner, the term "imprecation" emphasizes the psalmist entreating God to bring "curses" upon his enemies; therefore, it may be better to reference these psalms as "psalms of anger" or "psalms of wrath" to more properly describe their intention.

The curses do not express the desire for personal revenge. The enemies mentioned are those opposed to God.

Imprecatory psalms could also be classified as individual laments. They manifest a specific perspective with regard to life and the world. The basis for the imprecatory psalm is the psalmist's suffering, for which he is predominantly innocent. He declared, "For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without cause" (Ps 109:2-3). Nevertheless, the psalmist confessed that his suffering was ultimately for the Lord's glory (and for that reason, he could endure the persecution). "Because for Your sake I have borne reproach. . . . For zeal for Your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me" (69:7a, 9).

The undeniable implication of the imprecation is that the psalmist either cursed his enemies, or prayed for God to do so. The meaning of the term "imprecation" is "curses," and thus indicates that the psalmist prayed for God's wrath against his persecutor(s). Regarding his tormentors, the psalmist said, "They repay me evil for good, to the bereavement of my soul" (35:12). At times, his agony was magnified by the fact that the doers of evil were his friends. "For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear it; nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend; we who had sweet fellowship together" (55:12-14a; cf. 109:4-5).

Throughout his ordeals, the psalmist remained confident in the faithfulness and goodness of God. "But You, O GOD, the Lord, deal *kindly* with me for Your name's sake; because your lovingkindness is good,

deliver me" (109:21). Though others may fail him, the psalmist pleaded, "Help me, O LORD my God; save me according to Your lovingkindness" (v. 26).

The mindset of invoking vengeance upon adversaries is an entire contrast to the spirit of forgiveness taught in the New Testament (Matt 5:44; Rom 12:17-21). The attitude of the psalmist is regarded as being supposedly sub-Christian; that is, acting contrary to how a believing church member should. There are appropriate responses to be made in view of such allegations.

First, the curses do not express the desire for personal revenge. The enemies mentioned are those opposed to God. Psalm 139:21-22 reveals that David rejected and refused those who disregarded the Lord (cf. Ps 1:1). He could not remain neutral toward those who "rise up against" God: "they have become my enemies" (Ps 139:21-22). David certainly did make them his enemies, for they actually made themselves his adversaries. To resist God was to be in opposition to His servant. David was so burdened with the thoughts of God that He wanted any obstacles to be removed, especially those who were hateful toward the Lord (Ps 139:21a). When responding to his personal enemies, David was characterized by forgiveness and longsuffering. Twice, while his friends encouraged him to kill his enemy, David spared Saul's life (1 Sam 24; 26) and wept at news of his death (2 Sam 1:17-27). Unlike any other Old Testament king, David readily welcomed former adversaries and pardoned those who rebelled against him (2 Sam 3; 19:16-23). By contrast, Abishai and Joab, the sons of Zeruiah, held grudges and acted with vengeance (2 Sam 3:1-39).

Praying Curses: Imprecatory Psalms (Reflections on the Psalms, Part 6)

The psalmist always expected God to execute justice as opposed to it being self-initiated. Indeed, this would be the primary contrast between Yahweh war and *jihad* (holy war).

Second, the innocence of the psalmist is apparent, which is why he called for curses upon himself if he deserved it. Believers often suffer unjustly through no sin of their own. In the midst of such injustice, God's people call to the Lord for His intervention on their behalf, trusting Him to right all wrongs. Psalm 7, for instance, is a passionate imprecation, for it invokes God's judgment and wrath upon threatening foes. God is a righteous Judge who defends His people when they are assaulted.

David searched his heart and prayed, "O Lord my God, if I have done this, if there is injustice in my hands, if I have rewarded evil to my friend, or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary, let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it; and let him trample my life down to the ground and lay my glory in the dust" (Ps 7:3-5). David did not declare sinlessness in his petition; rather, he affirmed blamelessness against the accusations of his accusers. If, however, the slanderous indictments were true, David reasoned that God's discipline would result in his enemies succeeding in their personal attacks. Having affirmed his blamelessness, the psalmist's appeal to God was for the Lord to arise in His anger (v. 6). David urged God to achieve justice by defending the righteous and punishing wickedness; with that appeal, he recognized that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Third, the psalmist always expected God to execute justice as opposed to it being self-initiated. Indeed, this would be the primary contrast between Yahweh war and *jihad* (holy war). God (Yahweh) initiated the war, as necessitated by the nature of His relationship with Israel as an elect nation. Moreover, by initiating the process, God would empower His chosen people (or individuals, as

in Elijah or Cyrus, for example; 1 Kgs 18:40; Isa 45:1) to accomplish the war. Victory was guaranteed if all His conditions were satisfied. In the case of Elijah specifically, the wicked crimes of the Baal prophets demanded the death penalty (cf. Deut 13:13-15; 17:2-5). Genesis 3:15 indicates a higher order of conflict between God and the spiritual forces that strive against His holy will. The imprecatory psalms state the abuse that the psalmist's enemies have perpetrated against him, and then reference that mistreatment in the context of the Lord's greater plan: "Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; dishonor has covered my face" (Ps 69:7).

Fourth, many of the curses are related to the national life of Israel (cf. Ps 144:5-7). Even today, it is not uncommon for a nation's leader to pray for victory against an enemy. Moreover, warfare in ancient Israel was closely related to the worship of God; victory in battle always involved worshiping the Lord prior to the conflict, and praising Him alone for the victory. David's prayer for God to "flash forth lightning and scatter" his enemies is related to the Lord's purposes for the psalmist and for the community (v. 12).

The psalmist's spiritual wellness was motivated by his awareness of community. He identified the negative effects upon others arising from the accusations and taunting of his foes. Concerned that his persecution might weaken the faith of the community, David prayed, "May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; may those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel" (69:6). He called upon those who favored his vindication to "shout for joy and rejoice," because He "delights in the prosperity of His servant" (35:27). There were good reasons to

To regard the psalms of anger and wrath comprehensively is to discern that these imprecations were not prayers for personal comfort or vengeance; rather, the primary focus was the glory of God.

glorify the Lord, which is why David would magnify God and speak of his praises “all day long” (v. 28).

Prayers related to the national life of God’s people must always be understood as redemptive and gracious. As a consequence of the fall of humanity, God decreed to elect a people through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen 12:1-3). However, it was not until their bondage in Egypt that God assumed the role of Warrior on behalf of His covenant relationship with Israel (as Father to Son). What must not be confused in God’s warlike nature in redeeming Israel is that the conflict was not specifically between the God of Israel and Pharaoh/Egypt; rather, it was between Yahweh and the Egyptian gods. In Yahweh war, the true and living God demonstrated His glory and power against spiritual darkness and wickedness, and against those realms that transcend the earthly and human (Gen 3:15; Exod 15:1, 4-5; Job 1:6-12; 2:2-6).

God is holy; therefore, His people must be likewise. Yahweh war was one of the primary means in the Old Testament era to protect the holiness of the Lord; it was unique historically and does not apply to the church age. No argument from Scripture to justify any type of “holy war” can be made today. Yahweh war will not be initiated again until the end of the age, when God returns to earth in power and glory to establish His everlasting kingdom (and He will accomplish victory this time directly; Matt 25:31-46; Rev 19:15).

Fifth, the prosperity of the wicked in the time of the Old Testament appeared to disprove God’s holiness and justice. Therefore, a believer naturally desired to witness the vindication of God’s character through His judgment of the wicked. The psalmist appealed to the Lord as a God of justice, expecting the



Lord to contend with those who wronged him (Ps 35:1). The holiness and justice of God necessitated divine intervention against David’s oppressors because, in reality, they were opposed to the Lord Himself. Therefore, the psalmist did not appeal to God for his own advantage; rather, his concern was the advancement of the Lord’s glory.

When one considers the extent and nature of the imprecatory psalms, the intent is readily apparent, even though the personal reason may not be. To regard the psalms of anger and wrath comprehensively is to discern that these imprecations were not prayers for personal comfort or vengeance; rather, the primary focus was the glory of God. Moreover, the psalmist knew the impact of his personal suffering upon the community, and did not want others who trusted in the Lord to become discouraged by the opposition of his adversaries. Nothing malicious can be identified in the imprecatory psalms; these appeals were motivated by fervent zeal for the Lord’s glory, and thus invoke divine judgment and wrath upon the psalmist’s adversaries, who were enemies of God. The psalmist appealed to God for success as he accomplished the Lord’s work even among his persecutors.

(1049)



WORLD FOCUS

 USA

Students' Phones Become Surveillance Machines

Short-range phone sensors and campuswide WiFi networks are empowering colleges across the United States to track hundreds of thousands of students more precisely than ever before. Dozens of schools now use such technology to monitor students' academic performance, analyze their conduct or assess their mental health.



Syracuse University is among the dozens of schools in the United States that use tracking systems to monitor students' academic performance, analyze their conduct or assess their mental health.

(Carolyn Thompson/AP)

 But some professors and education advocates argue that the systems represent a new low in intrusive technology, breaching students' privacy on a massive scale. The tracking systems, they worry, will infantilize students in the very place where they're expected to grow into adults, further training them to see surveillance as a normal part of living, whether they like it or not.

This style of surveillance has become just another fact of life for many Americans. A

flood of cameras, sensors and microphones, wired to an online backbone, now can measure people's activity and whereabouts with striking precision, reducing the mess of everyday living into trend lines that companies promise to help optimize.

But the perils of increasingly intimate supervision—and the subtle way it can mold how people act—have also led some to worry whether anyone will truly know when all this surveillance has gone too far. "Graduates will be well prepared ... to embrace 24/7 government tracking and social credit systems," one commenter on the Slashdot message board said.

The dream of some administrators is a university where every student is a model student, adhering to disciplined patterns of behavior that are intimately quantified, surveilled and analyzed.

Students disagree on whether the campus-tracking systems are a breach of privacy, and some argue they have nothing to hide. But one feeling is almost universally shared, according to interviews with more than a dozen students and faculty members: that the technology is becoming ubiquitous, and that the people being monitored—their peers, and themselves—can't really do anything about it.

-*www.washingtonpost.com*, 24 December 2019

Commentary: Total control is in the works. The last sentence, "...can't really do anything about it," hits the nail on the head. Or, as it used to be said some decades ago, you can't stop progress. Computer technology makes things possible that were unthinkable not too long ago. The present communication explosion is like a

volcanic eruption, where mankind does not have power over it. True, a degree of privacy seems to be protected, as one may send an encrypted text message to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Yet all electronic communication can be stored indefinitely; that's another important factor.

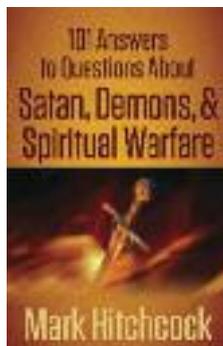
While we agree that modern technology is very beneficial and helpful, increasing personal security, we cannot deny the fact that this is guided by a much higher power. What type of power is it? The Bible answers: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). These invisible powers, the rulers of darkness, have a specific aim; namely, to create a virtually peaceful, prosperous, and secure global society. That, however, can only happen when the Prince of Peace comes to Israel, and from there installs righteous government. Yet, the powers of darkness are very successful at imitating the real thing.

How are we to view this development? Positively, but with caution, for the apostle Paul warns, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God

knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:11).

7155

(See *101 Answers to Questions About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare*, Item #2289, \$13.99.)



WORLD

Best Decade in Human History

Let nobody tell you that the second decade of the 21st century has been a bad time. We are living through the greatest improvement in human living standards in history.

 Extreme poverty has fallen below 10 percent of the world's population for the first time. Global inequality has been plunging as Africa and Asia experience faster economic growth than Europe and North America; child mortality has fallen to record low levels; famine virtually went extinct; malaria, polio and heart disease are all in decline.

As for Britain, our consumption of 'stuff' probably peaked around the turn of the century—an achievement that has gone almost entirely unnoticed. But the evidence is there. In 2011 Chris Goodall, an investor in electric vehicles, published research showing that the UK was now using not just relatively less 'stuff' every year, but absolutely less. Events have since vindicated his thesis. The quantity of all resources consumed per person in Britain (domestic extraction of biomass, metals, minerals and fossil fuels, plus imports minus exports) fell by a third between 2000 and 2017, from 12.5 tons to 8.5 tons. That's a faster decline than the increase in the number of people, so it means fewer resources consumed overall.

Efficiencies in agriculture mean the world is now approaching 'peak farmland'—despite the growing number of people and their demand for more and better food, the productivity of agriculture is rising so fast that human needs can be supplied by a shrinking amount of land. In 2012, Jesse Ausubel of Rockefeller University and his colleagues argued that, thanks to modern technology, we use 65 percent less land to produce a given quantity of food compared with 50 years ago.

Perhaps the most surprising statistic is that Britain is using steadily less energy. John Con-



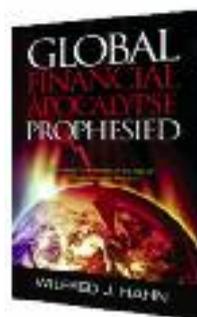
stable of the Global Warming Policy Forum points out that although the UK's economy has almost trebled in size since 1970, and our population is up by 20 percent, total primary inland energy consumption has actually fallen by almost 10 percent. Much of that decline has happened in recent years.

As we enter the third decade of this century, I'll make a prediction: by the end of it, we will see less poverty, less child mortality, less land devoted to agriculture in the world. There will be more tigers, whales, forests and nature reserves. Britons will be richer, and each of us will use fewer resources. The global political future may be uncertain, but the environmental and technological trends are pretty clear—and pointing in the right direction.

-www.spectator.co.uk, 21 December 2019

Commentary: There are a number of well-respected ministries and individual Bible scholars who continue to view the present world from an Armageddon fixation. In other words, the world is coming to an end, there is chaos everywhere, signs are multiplying; but are they, really? The excerpt from the article by Matt Ridley, published in the UK magazine *The Spectator*, presents simple facts that clearly show the other side of the story. Indeed, "good news is no news." If one were to compare the world half a century ago with today, the facts would clearly demonstrate the almost mind-boggling improvements that have been made. While this article concerns itself with the UK, this applies to most of the world as well. The progress that is being made is staggering.

What's the reason? There are many, but one is fulfillment of Bible prophecy. When the disciples ask Jesus about the end times, He answers: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" (Luke 17:28). Normal, day-to-day activity: eating, drinking, buying, selling, planning, building. We can summarize it with one word: progress. But during the greatest



progress of all time, sudden catastrophe will befall planet earth as recorded in the book of Revelation.

7156
(See *Global Financial Apocalypse Prophesied*, Item #1068, \$14.95.)

 **EU**

'Right to Be Forgotten' by Google Limited

Google does not have to apply EU privacy laws globally, a court has ruled, in a landmark case that pitted privacy rights against freedom of speech.

 Google will not have to apply Europe's "right to be forgotten" law globally, the continent's top court ruled in a landmark case that has pitted personal privacy rights against freedom of speech.

The victory for the U.S. tech titan means that, while it must remove links to sensitive personal data from its internet search results in Europe when required, it does not have to scrap them from searches elsewhere in the world.

It has also been seen by policymakers and companies around the world as a test of whether the European Union can extend its laws beyond its own territory. The ruling, which applies to all search engines, is rare positive news for big tech companies under intense official scrutiny on both sides of the

(continued next page)

 ISRAEL

China Hacks Military Secrets

“Between Oct. 10, 2011 and Aug. 13, 2012, attackers thought to be operating out of China hacked into the corporate networks of three top Israeli defense technology companies, including Elisra Group, Israel Aerospace Industries, and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems,” cybersecurity writer Brian Krebs writes.

 “Most of the information was intellectual property pertaining to Arrow III missiles, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, ballistic rockets and other technical documents in the same fields of study.”

CyberESI believes the culprits were the “Comment Crew,” a hacking group sponsored by the Chinese military. Mandiant, a Virginia-based cybersecurity firm, has further identified this group as “the 2nd Bureau of the People’s Liberation Army General Staff Department’s

3rd Department, which is most commonly known by its Military Unit Cover Designator as Unit 61398.”

Tiny Israel has an enormous cybersecurity industry and a deep pool of hackers and anti-hackers who learned their trade in the Israeli military. So if China can break into top-secret Israeli computers, they can break into America’s—and everybody else’s, too.

But what Beijing will do with the Iron Dome information is an open question. Iron Dome is narrowly optimized for intercepting Katyusha rockets before they land on cities. Shooting down U.S. stealth bombers or cruise missiles would seem to be a higher priority for China.

-nationalinterest.org, 27 December 2019

Commentary: This is unprecedented in human history: hackers. Until the global Internet became ubiquitous, each country operated an intelligence system which, in simple terms, meant spying on other countries. That was a risky undertaking. Today, it’s different: someone may be located on the other side of the world and still be able to break into facilities; in this case, the most

sophisticated cybersecurity system. For Israel, this is a new battlefield relating to cybersecurity, with hackers and anti-hackers.

There is no end in sight. Human intelligence, in conjunction with artificial intelligence, will continue to battle; creating, receiving, and protecting against these types of modern break-ins.

What does it mean Biblically speaking? We may answer with one word: unity. While in this case it’s communist China who allegedly has hacked into these high-security systems, doubtless Israel likewise is busy hacking into systems around the world. Thus, the question arises, how will this virtual, invisible war contribute toward unity? The ultimate answer to this complicated question is Revelation 17:13: “These

have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

7153

(See *Exposing Mystery Babylon Part I*, Item #1078, \$4.50.)



Google (continued from page 19)

Atlantic over their dominant positions and gathering of vast amounts of data.

In its judgment, the Court of Justice of the European Union said the right to have personal data protected was not an absolute right.

The world’s predominant internet search engine has previously warned of the dangers of overreach by Europe. In a blog post [three] years ago, it said there should be a balance between sensitive personal data and the public interest and no country should be able to impose rules on citizens of another.

UK rights group Article 19, which campaigns for freedom of speech and information, applauded [the] decision, in which the judges also said Google had some leeway in deciding whether to scrap links because of the balance between privacy rights and public interest.



Visitors pass by the logo of Google at the high profile startups and high tech leaders gathering, Viva Tech, in Paris, France
REUTERS/Charles Platiau/File Photo

The case arose in 2016 after France’s privacy watchdog CNIL fined Google 100,000 euros (\$109,790) for refusing to de-list sensitive information from search results globally upon request.

Google took its fight to the French Council of State which subsequently sought advice from the European Court of Justice.

-news.trust.org, 24 September 2019

Commentary: This victory for the US titan, Google, is a setback for Europe’s extremely strict privacy laws. Needless to say, this is not the final word, for technology continues to leapfrog; in most cases, the lawmakers must catch up.

One thing we see clearly: that globalism will have the upper hand. Laws will be written and applied to all people on planet earth. What is the real reason behind it? Merchandising!

Although there are some hiccups along the way (in this case, with the European Court of Justice), we are racing toward a fully integrated, global world.

7113

(See *End-Times Super Trends*, Item #2342, SALE \$12.)



CHINA

Parliament Rules Out Same-Sex Marriage

Limiting marriage to a relationship between a man and a woman will remain China's legal position, a parliament spokesman said, ruling out following neighboring Taiwan in allowing same-sex marriage, despite pressure from activists.



Asked at a news briefing whether China would legalize same-sex marriage, Zang Tiewei, spokesman for parliament's legal affairs commission, said Chinese law only allowed for marriage between one man and one woman.

Activists have asked people in China to propose amendments to a draft civil code en masse, though they have admitted they see little chance of success. The parts of the code relating to marriage are expected to pass into law [in 2020.]

The code makes changes on issues such as sexual harassment, divorce and family planning, but does not further the rights of the LGBT community, drafts published by parliament show.

Zang said the marriage section of the draft civil code maintains the bond as being between a man and a woman.

Prominent gay rights activist Sun Wenlin told Reuters he was disappointed in the comments, but not surprised.

-www.reuters.com, 21 August 2019

Commentary: This is quite ironic: communist China—which officially rejects religion—is

practicing Biblical principles: marriage consists of one man and one woman. Genesis 2:24 reads: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Jesus confirms: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:7-9). 7084

(See *What Does the Bible Say About Marriage?* Item #1076, \$2.50.)

SWITZERLAND

Electronic Swiss Franc?

The Swiss government took a downbeat view of creating a central bank digital currency for public use, saying it could do more harm than good and destabilize the financial system.

"Universally accessible central bank digital currency would bring no additional benefits for Switzerland at present. Instead, it would give rise to new risks, especially with regard to financial stability," the cabinet said.

The Swiss National Bank has taken a skeptical view of rolling out an electronic Swiss franc for use by the general public. The SNB is researching the broader use of digital central bank currencies alongside the Bank for International Settlements.

Central bank digital currency refers to money that a central bank would create in digital form and make available to the general public. It would complement existing forms of money such as banknotes and sight deposits commercial banks hold at the central bank.

Proponents think central bank digital currency will make payments more efficient, monetary policy more effective and the financial system more stable while reducing tax of-fenses and money laundering.

New European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said that the euro zone should be "ahead of the curve" on the issue.

-www.reuters.com, 13 December 2019

Commentary: Switzerland is probably the most prosperous country in the world. Their currency, the Swiss franc, has become an idol for those with sufficient cash reserves. For example, in 1970, one US dollar could buy 4.37 Swiss francs. Today, they are nearly on par. Doubtless, if one considers the past, the Swiss franc will continue to climb in value in the not-too-distant future.

But what about digital currency? Will it endanger or help the Swiss franc? Opinions are diverse. The government seems not in favor, and some financial institutions think likewise. However, others point out the benefits: it would stabilize the financial system, while reducing tax evasion and money laundering.

It is our understanding that, in the long run, digital currency will be the key to the continued success of the world economy. We again point to Revelation 13, which indicates that a totally new system will be implemented. Each person will be responsible for complying, and those who do not will be left out in the cold—no way to buy or sell. In the end, Revelation 18:19 will be fulfilled: "And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate." 7151

(See *Revelation 13: Satan's Last Victory*, Item #1067, \$11.95.)

Visit midnightcall.com/pn



Need More Up-to-Date News?

Prophetic News

Subscribe FREE to *Prophetic News*
Prophecy-Related NEWS Emails **5** Times a Week



Letters to the Editor

Address letters for publication to: Letters to the Editor, Midnight Call, P.O. Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073. Include full name, address, and daytime phone number. Without name and address, letters will be discarded unread. All material is subject to editing. Midnight Call assumes all publishing rights on letters sent to the Editor.

Note: All letters will be answered by the Executive Editor, Arno Froese.

“MY GLORY”... RAPTURE QUESTION... JERUSALEM IS BABYLON

“My Glory”

Need your expository guidance on “My Glory.” Psalm 16:9: “and my glory rejoiceth.” Psalm 57:8: “Awake up, my glory.” Psalm 108:1: “even with my glory.” What actually is implied here by “my glory”?

-A. Daniels, NJ

Answer: Moses prayed: “...I beseech thee, show me thy glory” (Exodus 33:18). First Timothy 3:16 reads: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” John 1:18 adds: “No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” The glory is He Himself. God is a Spirit, yet manifested in the flesh through

Jesus; from that perspective, the saints will see God.

Rapture Question

Dear Mr. Froese,

I have been subscribing to *News from Israel* for many years and look forward to each issue.

Would it be possible for you or someone on your staff to write an in-depth article on Pre-Millennialism, Post-Millennialism, and A-Millennialism, that’s clear and easy to understand?

I have many Bible reference books, but none mention those subjects!

For many years, I have been a Pre-Millennialist. However, after joining a biblical, evangelical Presbyterian Church six years ago, the pastor just started discussing A-Millenni-

alism in his sermons. A belief of that church!

It seems that the “Post” and “A” take away the hope of the Rapture.

For several weeks now, I’ve been in torment over these three subjects.

I’d really appreciate your help with this.

-H. Howard, NH

Answer: About pre-, post- and amillennialism, there is some information on it in Dr. Bigalke’s book titled *When?*

However, I think your statement is the best: “The ‘Post’ and ‘A’ take away the hope of the Rapture.”

Just continue to thank the Lord for the precious Holy Scripture, which is worth more than any and all theological institutions of the world. See Titus 2:13 or Hebrews 9:28. Paul actually calls waiting for the Lord a “gift” in



1 Corinthians 1:7. Post- and amillennialism take that hope away.

Jerusalem Is Babylon

Dear Arno,

I appreciate you providing us readers with Ron Rhodes' book, *New Babylon Rising*. On pages 47-50, Ron shows that Jerusalem in fact is not the final Mystery Babylon that gets completely destroyed in the end times.

Jerusalem is spiritually called Egypt and Sodom. You're adding something to Scripture by putting Babylon in the list with Egypt and Sodom. Plus, the talk of merchants in ships offshore

signifies a major sea trading economic powerhouse.

Mr. Rhodes explains the logical fallacy involved here as well.

Again, I respect that you have the humbleness of character to put something out there that admits you're wrong in this case. Being humble is a sign of strength.

-M. Bosman, OR

Answer: I appreciate your thoughts and the statement made by Ron Rhodes.

Babylon is the first Gentile superpower, and it's different from the rest. This is because Babylon is the head of

gold, and only Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian leader, repented and recognized God. The last Babylon is Jerusalem. It is the most glorious city, yet at the same time the most horrible. Only Jerusalem qualifies to commit adultery against the One who chose them: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2a).

Moreover, Ezekiel writes of Jerusalem, comparing the city with Sodom and Samaria: "Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways" (Ezekiel 16:47).

Nevertheless, the final answer will be the fulfillment. (MC)

“Behold I show you a mystery..”

The inescapable doctrine of the return of Christ commands us to investigate *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*.

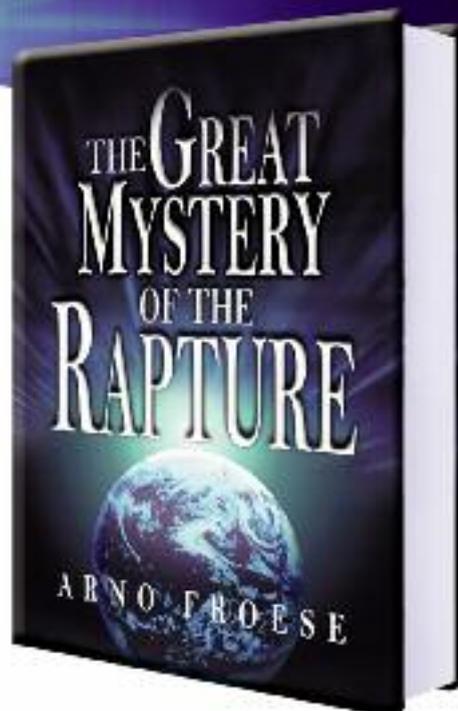
When the last one from among the Gentiles is added to the Church, then something remarkable will happen—Jesus will come for His own: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

That’s our future, that’s our hope, and that’s why I wrote the book, *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*. It is a book you need to read. It is a message of great comfort, the comfort we need in these days.

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE RAPTURE ITEM #1038

368 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$18.99~~ **Sale \$10** Author: Arno Froese





BRAZIL

MISSIONARY PRESS UPDATE

In the December issue of *Midnight Call* magazine, Markus Steiger, Director of Midnight Call Ministry in Brazil, wrote a brief summary about the 4-color printing press. It was originally purchased by our Swiss headquarters and was first used in Hungary. Later, this press was shipped to us in the USA. Then in October 2019, the press was strapped into a container and shipped to Brazil. To our great surprise, this machine arrived quicker than we expected and without any of the problems which normally arise in Brazil when equipment is imported, particularly by and from non-profit missionary organizations. We praise our Lord that the press is safe and secure, and when you read these lines, it will be operating. The press “will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.”

Before the press was shipped, it was carefully checked out by technicians, as it required some refurbishment and overhaul. Particularly the sensitive ink rollers and

some other moving parts for this important press had to be replaced.

Midnight Call Ministry Brazil requested these refurbishments and additional parts, since they are difficult to obtain in Brazil. It was understood that the Brazil branch would pay for the shipping and the extra cost incurred for the parts. Markus Steiger noticed that the cost would be about \$17,270. This is a large sum of money for our missionaries to carry; thus, we again appeal to our friends of missions to undergird this project.

In advance, we thank you, our dear readers, for your prayerful support of this important project, the missionary press to Brazil. May the Lord in His grace give you the joy to fulfill the precious word found in 2 Corinthians 9:7: “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

United in His Service,
Midnight Call Ministries’ Staff



“To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever” (Jude 25).

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073

MC0220

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support “Fellow Laborers” in Brazil.

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Web: midnightcall.com/fl

“Also Judah took Gaza with the coast thereof, and Askelon with the coast thereof, and Ekron with the coast thereof”
(Judges 1:18).

BY ARNO FROESE

Gaza is mentioned 18 times in the Old Testament and one time in the New Testament. The Gaza Strip, as it is called, is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, 13 kilometers with Egypt, and 59 km with Israel. The population is listed as 1.836 million, of which 98% are Muslim and about 1% Christian. Life expectancy stands at 74.4 years.

From the above Scripture, we learn that Judah took possession of the land. However, during Israel's repeated rebellions against God, we know that the Philistines (no relationship to Arab-Palestinians) became Israel's most stubborn and fiercest enemy.

Ashkelon today is a thriving Israeli city of 141,000 inhabitants. The city of Ekron is located some 18 km from Gath, but the exact location has not been established. It was there that the Ark of God was brought by the Philistines, according to 1 Samuel 5:10.

Modern Gaza was captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. Many agricultural settlements were established, and Gaza became somewhat prosperous. Then in 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza, leaving behind well-established farms and some industry. Instead of taking advantage of these developments, the Arab-Palestinians discharged their hate and destroyed much of what Israel left behind. Since that time, terrorist activities coming from Gaza have

been numerous and do not cease. Israel always reacts to terrorist attacks, which resulted in the blockade of Gaza from sea, air, and land. Doubtless, this is cause for much suffering among the people of Gaza. Yet Israel is forced to protect its citizens.

The *CIA Factbook* lists Gaza's exports as \$1.955 billion for 2017, and imports at \$7.582 billion for the same year (estimates for 2018 imports stand at \$8.59 billion). When imports are higher than exports, someone has to pay the bill; in most cases, governments, institutions, and non-profit organizations funnel money to Gaza. Quite often, the money does not end up for the purpose it was collected, but is used to fuel terrorism.

Thanks to globalism, it is now possible to file lawsuits virtually anywhere in the world against any country. See example below.

A newly filed \$90 million US lawsuit has charged a Palestinian human rights group with financing hundreds of acts of environmental terrorism along Israel's southern border with Gaza.

The lawsuit exposes an alleged conspiracy between the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR, also known as Education for a Just Peace in the Middle East) and Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and other designated terrorist organizations.



It seeks to hold the American based 501(c)3 USCPR liable for conspiring to provide financial aid that supported a massive wave of Palestinian-launched incendiary balloons from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel, sparking hundreds of fires throughout the area and causing physical and mental harm to local residents.

According to KKL-JNF, close to 2,200 fires destroyed more than 14,200 hectares (35,000 acres) of agricultural land, nature reserves and forest—including JNF forests—and harmed local animal life. The estimated value of this destruction is a minimum of \$50 million, according to the Foreign Ministry.

A series of reports by the Strategic Affairs Ministry has demonstrated that for years, boycott promoters have disguised themselves as human rights activists and managed to raise tens of millions of dollars and euros from Western countries and citizens who thought they were contributing to causes supporting justice and equality.

“For far too long, the people of southern Israel have been traumatized by ongoing terrorist attacks seeking to destroy both their way of life and the surrounding forests and environment,” said Richard D. Heideman, senior counsel at Heideman. “The flow of money is fuel for terror. It is essential to take action against US

groups that are complicit partners in funding terror that help enable foreign terror organizations to relentlessly wage a multifaceted campaign of terror against the citizens and lands of the sovereign State of Israel.”

-www.jpost.com, 15 November 2019

While most neighboring Arab countries have learned not to tangle militarily with Israel, the Arab-Palestinians have apparently not learned their lesson; particularly the people of Gaza, who have elected the now-recognized terrorist organization, Hamas, as their government. When will this conflict end? We may safely assume that in the not-too-distant future, the Gazans—as well as other Arab-Palestinians—will recognize that terrorism is not the answer; it only makes things worse. With the advance of globalism, we should expect some sort of peace to be established in this troubled conflict zone. For Israel’s future, the words of Amos 9:14 are valid: “And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.” (MC)

Action for Israel



MIDNIGHT CALL

“I will bless them that bless thee...”
(Genesis 12:3).

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073

MC0220

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support “Action for Israel.”

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Web: midnightcall.com/afi

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



An Amazing Opportunity!



By David Phillips

Project Manager

Dear Friends of the
Ebenezer Home,

Many of you have been making contributions toward our nursing ward project, and all of your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

We are making great strides with the project, putting everything into place, so that we can continue to move forward. It would be far easier to build a new home, but right now we must work with what we have. If it is God's will, one day, we may be able to upgrade to a larger facility, to serve the greater majority of the believers here in Israel.

In the meantime, an amazing opportunity has come up that would "match" every dollar given toward the nursing ward project! The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services has a program for giving aid toward the building of a nursing ward. This program would match every dollar given! This means that every dollar you give, would be matched

by the Israeli government, essentially doubling your donations—making each \$1 donation, now \$2!

Needless to say, this would be a tremendous blessing and opportunity, saving a lot of time and money for fundraising, if we are approved. Please keep this in your prayers, as we research and look further into this option, to see what the requirements and conditions would be, in order for us to receive this benefit.

We are also working with our tax office here in Haifa, to be released from certain taxation related to the project, since we are a non-profit organization. We could greatly benefit from this as well. We should be able to be released from this taxation, once we prove that we are a non-profit organization.

Thank you for your prayers, and for your continued support!



Note: Donations for the project by check/money order should be made out to Midnight Call, and specify Ebenezer Home in the memo line.

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073

MC0220

Yes, I wish to support the Ebenezer Home Project.

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

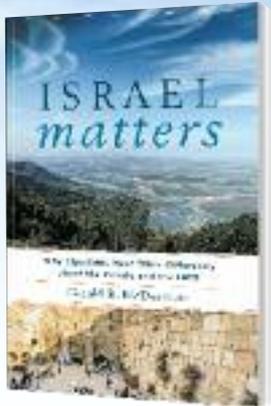
Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card
ready, call:
800-845-2420

Web:
midnightcall.com/
ebenezer

Midnight Call's February Resource Guide



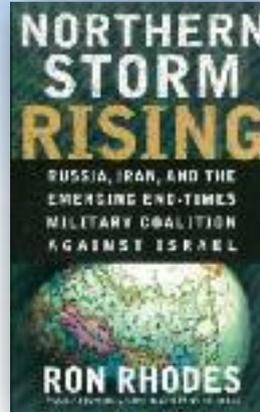
Why Christians Must Think Differently about the People and the Land

ISRAEL MATTERS ITEM #2328

176 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$17.99~~ Sale \$14

Author: Gerald R. McDermott



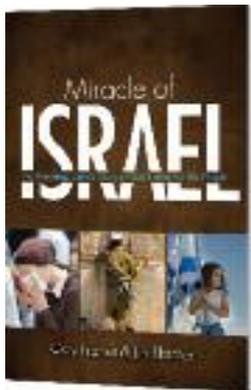
Almost 2700 years ago, the prophet Ezekiel detailed a massive end-times attack against Israel.

NORTHERN STORM RISING

ITEM #2294 • 246 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ Sale \$12

Author: Ron Rhodes



Do You Believe in Miracles?

Tracing the history of the Jewish people to the present day, the authors look at prophecy after prophecy that clearly attest to the Lord's miraculous promises. From historical records to personal, dramatic stories, *Miracle of Israel* shows us that in keeping epic promises to the nation of Israel, God's provision for each of us is sure, perfect, and on time, every time.

MIRACLE OF ISRAEL ITEM #2303

189 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ Clearance \$7

Authors: Gary Frazier and Jim Fletcher



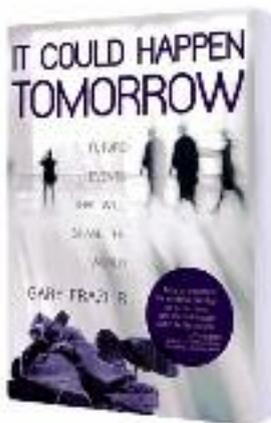
Making Sense of Crucial Last-Days Signs

Bible prophecy expert Ron Rhodes surveys 15 current trends that affect us on a worldwide, national, and personal scale—suggesting some inescapable consequences to our safety, rights, and way of life. You will see how the stage is being set for the end times with drastic developments.

END-TIMES SUPER TRENDS ITEM #2342

272 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~ Sale \$12 Author: Ron Rhodes



What makes our generation different?

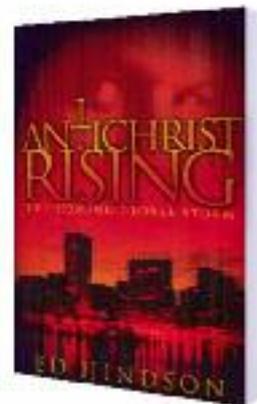
Current events indicate that Old and New Testament prophecies are being fulfilled. Dr. Gary Frazier, a top prophecy scholar, pastor, speaker and author, identifies key indicators along with Biblical references that explain the demise of America, the coming Islamic invasion of Israel, nuclear weapons in Iran, and more.

IT COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW ITEM #2271

185 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$12.99~~ Sale \$10

Author: Gary Frazier



The Truth About the Master Deceiver

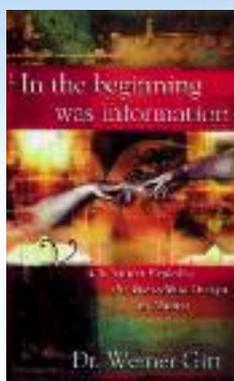
- Is the Antichrist alive today?
- How will we recognize him?
- Will he take control of world government?

Dr. Ed Hindson answers these and many more important questions in his book, *Antichrist Rising*.

ANTICHRIST RISING ITEM #2226

239 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$10.99~~ Sale \$9 Author: Ed Hindson



The Incredible Design in Nature

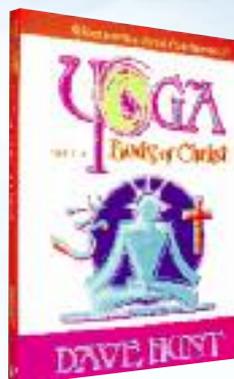
Information is the cornerstone of life, yet it is something people don't often think about. In his fascinating book, Dr. Werner Gitt helps the reader see how the very presence of information reveals a Designer.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS INFORMATION ITEM #2215

264 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ Clearance \$7

Author: Werner Gitt

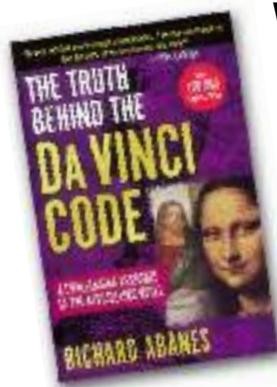


Yoga: What position should a Christian hold?

From fast-food franchise promotion to virtual video-game venues, yoga is a revolutionary movement worldwide—even among Christians. But is it simply stretching, as some Christians claim? Is it a way to “breathe out” the effects of sin and stress, allowing the believer to “breathe in” the Holy Spirit? Or is yoga one of the greatest Trojan horses of our time?

YOGA AND THE BODY OF CHRIST ITEM #2224
176 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$9.99~~ Sale \$8 Author: Dave Hunt



What Is Fact? What Is Fiction?

“All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.” With these startling words, *The Da Vinci Code*—author Dan Brown’s megaselling thriller—kicks you into high gear. After 454 nonstop pages, you’ve discovered a lot of shocking facts about history and Christianity...or have you? Award-winning investigative journalist Richard Abanes takes you down to the murky underpinnings of this multimillion-copy

blockbuster that has confused so many readers.

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE DA VINCI CODE ITEM #2216
96 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$7.99~~ Clearance \$3

Author: Richard Abanes



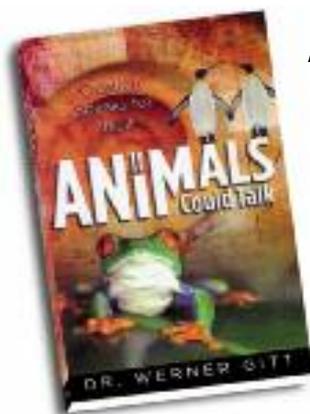
Both Scientist and Man of Faith

This timeless classic demonstrating the human brilliance of this most honored of scientists and man of faith is now available again after more than 100 years. Newton’s (1642 – 1727) scientific accomplishments in astronomy, mathematics, and physics form the foundation of many areas of science today, yet you may not know

of his incredible belief in God that was at the heart of his search for knowledge.

LIFE OF SIR ISAAC NEWTON ITEM #2282
192 pgs. • Hardcover

~~\$14.99~~ Sale \$10



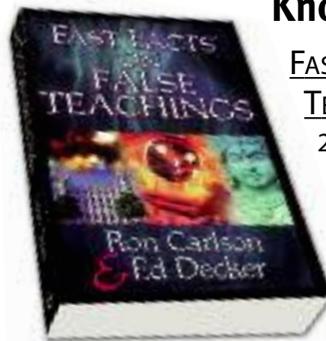
A Devastating Response To Darwinism

IF ANIMALS COULD TALK
ITEM #2209

118 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$9.99~~ Sale \$7

Author: Dr. Werner Gitt

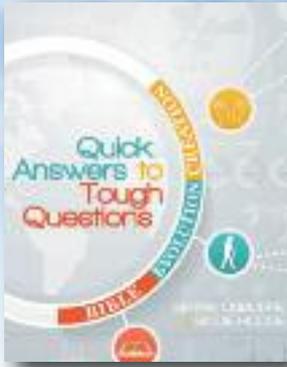


Know the Facts

FAST FACTS ON FALSE TEACHINGS ITEM #2194
258 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$10.99~~ Sale \$9

Authors:
Ron Carlson &
Ed Decker



Don't have time to read a big manual? Get your answers fast to tough questions.

Quick Answers to Tough Questions gives you quick and concise answers to the tough questions that are often posed to believers regarding:

- Creation and evolution • Age of the earth and Noah's Ark • Death and suffering
- Origin of life and missing links.

QUICK ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS ITEM #2329 • 88 pgs. • Paperback

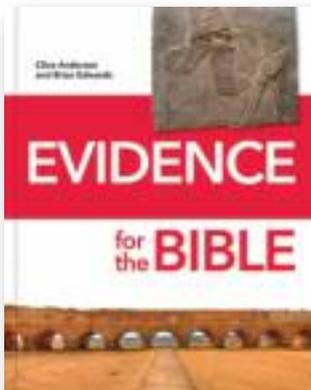
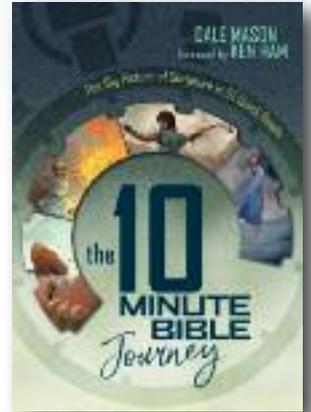
~~\$12.99~~ **Sale \$10** Authors: Bryan Osborne and Bodie Hodge

A fast-paced, apologetics-infused synopsis of God's Word!

Study 52 accounts that weave the chronological, gospel-centered storyline of the most strategic and amazing events from Creation to Heaven. Filled with vibrant, full-color images, an illustrated fold-out timeline, and exciting "faith facts" that confirm the Bible is true, this book is designed to help Christians of all ages spring to a new level in their understanding of God's Word and their relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE 10 MINUTE BIBLE JOURNEY ITEM #2330 • 208 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$21.99~~ **Sale \$18** Author: Dale Mason



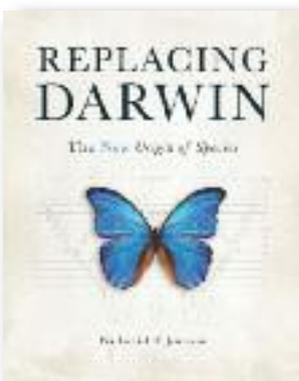
Archaeology throws dramatic light on the biblical record.

A burned and broken wall embedded with arrows and sling stones tells of a city taken by storm. A scribbled message on a piece of pottery reveals the urgency of the hour. Palace inscriptions and clay tablets in a royal archive reflect a well-organized central government. Inscribed silverware, jewelry, and household items illustrate the domestic life of the inhabitants.

The evidence will surprise and inform you as you turn over the soil of history from the pages of your Bible. The witness of the trowel authenticates and illuminates the people and events, lifting them from the pages of the Book and setting them in the context of time and place. Join us on an exciting journey with this evidence from the past.

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE ITEM #2341 • 252 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$29.99~~ **Sale \$25** Authors: Clive Anderson and Brian Edwards



The Origins Puzzle Comes Together

Since Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" was published in 1859, entirely new fields of science have been born and matured – fields which hold the keys to the origin of species. With a Ph.D. in cell and developmental biology from Harvard, Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson is uniquely qualified to investigate what genetics reveals about origins, and has released his findings in the book "Replacing Darwin: The New Origin of Species." From Master Books, "Replacing Darwin" offers a revolutionary approach to the study of origins with a potential impact as big as Darwin's.

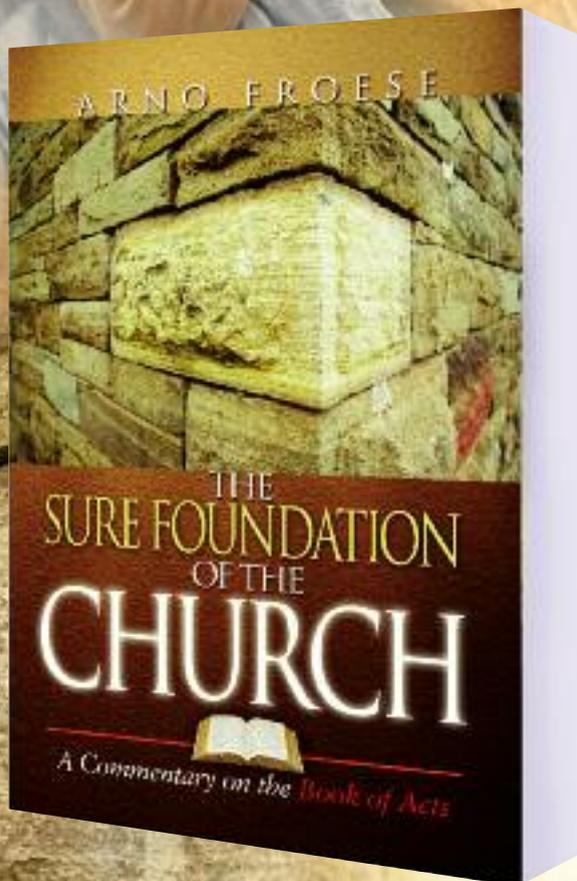
REPLACING DARWIN ITEM #2331 • 335 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$24.99~~ **Sale \$20** Author: Nathaniel Jeanson

midnightcall.com/specials
Sign up for **FREE**
weekly special offer emails.



A refreshingly unique view of the book of Acts!



The book of Acts is a historic document revealing the beginning of the Church. It ends with unfinished business, “Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ.” Thus, preaching and teaching will continue until the Church is completed.

The author highlights the building of the foundation of the Church in Jerusalem. This is a one-time event, not to be repeated. It is clearly emphasized in Ephesians 2:20, “...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” That is the one-time and only foundation on which the Church is built. During the construction of the Church upon the existing foundation, God has called evangelists, pastors, and teachers, but no more apostles and prophets.

This study is not influenced by schools of thought or determined by denominations, Bible schools and seminaries; thus, rather unusual.

Verse by verse commentary
with cross-reference aids!

Each chapter includes suggested teaching topics and study questions!

THE SURE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH
ITEM #1066 • 544 pgs. • Paperback
~~\$18.50~~ Sale \$10
Author: Arno Froese

