

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

# Midnight Call

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April 2020—\$4.75

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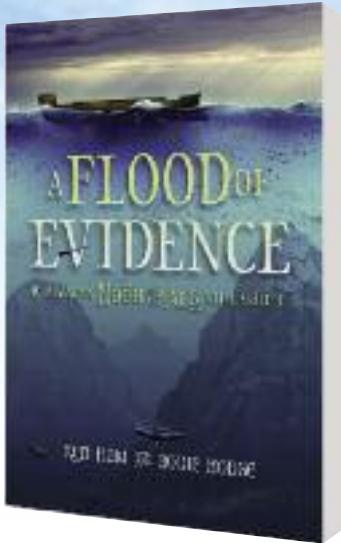
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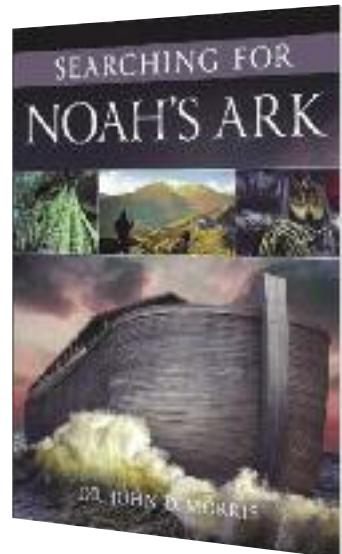
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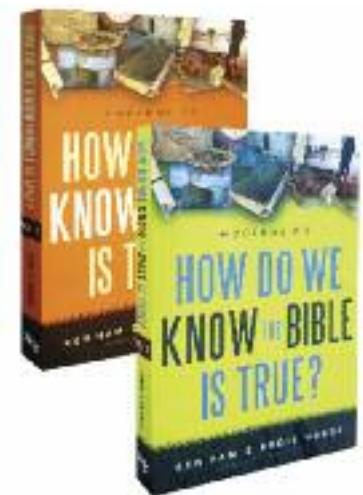
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**Midnight Call**

APRIL 2020



## Editor's Note



### MIDNIGHT CALL



# “Corona Fever”

By **Norbert Lieth**

*Director of Missions, Midnight Call International*

The coronavirus is currently displacing every other subject. Everyone seems to have “corona fever.” Corona is a Latin loan word from Greek, and means “wreath” or “crown.” Numerous comments, discussions, interviews with experts and politicians, and roundtables involve the “corona,” but God and His Word are complete outsiders. It makes me think of the Lord’s declaration: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Rev 3:20).

Aren’t the events of our time the Lord’s “knocking” on the world’s door, or even on our heart’s door? The Bible has the most to tell us. It affects every aspect of our lives and always leads us to the truth. Therefore, based on Scripture, I’d like to select three thoughts to illuminate the present affliction of coronavirus.

First, we see people’s helplessness. Anyone who thinks he’s got everything under control is now finding himself buffeted by the events.

Countries are isolating themselves, supermarkets have bare shelves, and hand sanitizer is running out. The world’s population is reacting to the coronavirus with fear. At the same time, human ruthlessness is evident once again. In some areas, disinfectants are being sold at inflated prices. People are trying to profit off of adversity. I recently read the apt statement, “Only when mankind’s greed is overcome will all other problems be solved.”

The fear may be justified, just as the precautionary measures the authorities are taking to protect the population. The people in charge are handling the situation in an exemplary manner. They’re going out of their way, and we should do our best to make it as easy on them as possible—for the good of everyone, and to prevent something worse. But the hysteria that’s rising here and there also shows our society’s helplessness.

How quickly the rug is pulled out from under us. How quickly we lose our grip. We’ve suddenly realized that a tiny little creature (virus) can flutter the entire world. All of a sudden, our limitations are brought to our attention, and we can see that our whole existence is hanging by a thread, even without the coronavirus. Mankind is unstable because we don’t have a grip on God.

Jesus summarizes this in a parable, by comparing a life not founded in Him with a house that is built on sand. When rain and mighty winds come, it has no hold and collapses (Matt 7:26-27). This isn’t to say that as long as we have God by our side, we don’t have to be careful or take our responsibilities seriously. No, but with the Almighty, we have an “anchor in the storm.” Jesus compares this to a house built on a rock that doesn’t move because of rain and storms (verses 24-25).

But God Almighty is being pushed more and more from our consciousness, from our hearts, families, schools, and from the public sphere. We mock Him and think we don’t need Him. In doing so, we’re tearing out our foundation and building on sand. Without the Creator, who is almighty and holds the whole world in His hands, our souls lack a foothold. This is why the Bible advises us to “Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!” (Ps 105:4).

A well-known Christian song goes, “You hear me when I call. You are my morning song. Though darkness fills the night, it cannot hide the light. Whom shall I fear?”

The Word of God says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb 13:8). Elsewhere it says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Rev 1:8).

Jesus has always been hope and support for those who believe in Him. He was hope yesterday, He is today, and He

will be in the future. The world isn't set adrift, but in the care of the One who has always been, who is here now, and who will return. The immutable God has both the microcosm and the macrocosm in His almighty hand.

Secondly, the Word of God is fulfilled. We can see from this whole coronavirus situation how relevant the Word of God is. Regarding the time of Christ's return, the Bible says that there will be "people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Luke 21:26).

The Word of God is firm, reliable, and predicts the future for us (2 Pet 1:19-21). Shortly before His return, Jesus predicts mankind's fear of the expectation of things to come upon the world. Regarding the coronavirus, people are still flooded with fear over what could still happen. How will things develop? What consequential damages will occur as a result? Is it an epidemic? What about economic consequences? Will there be enough food supplies?

Someone once remarked, "Disasters are God's megaphone for waking up a world that is asleep to Him." So that we don't spend eternity without Him and sleep through the age of grace He has offered us, He wakes us up, shakes us. The Lord wants to show us that it won't work without Him.

Where can we find the answer?

Third, in the crown of the cross. The words, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (John 19:19) were displayed above His cross, His "corona."

Jesus took all the pain and conquered it. A crown of thorns was put on Him, but with it He triumphed over hell, death, and the devil. We read of Him, "On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev 19:16).

Is there something that can calm us, and provide us with security and support for the future? Rest in troubled times? Relaxation in tension? Comfort in fear? Relief from burdens? Forgiveness from sins? Help with the "coronas" that affect our lives? There isn't just coronavirus, but also viruses of loneliness, guilt, troubled conscience, despair, addiction, pain, and suffering.

Like a cure, a vaccine for a bad epidemic, the death and resurrection of Jesus is the cure for all the things mentioned above, and for sin and death. Whoever believes in Him finds support and security, and finds his way back to life—to true life. This opens the door of forgiveness, the gates of heaven, the window of hope. With Jesus, the soul becomes healthy. Whoever believes in Him has his fear of the future taken away, because all of the future belongs to Jesus.

Jesus Christ says, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

Do so! Pray to Jesus and confess your life, your longings, and your faith to Him. Read His Word, especially the New Testament. In the Bible, you will find an indescribable power to help you know God's grace. You will find unimaginable comfort and overwhelming security. Jesus and His promises offer you rest in all the unrest of the times. (MC)

Published 12 times a year by  
**MIDNIGHT CALL, INC.**

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

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West Columbia, SC 29170

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**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

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

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OR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRY**

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**MAILING ADDRESS**

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Lexington, SC 29073

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**WEBSITE**

midnightcall.com

**INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS**

"Mitternachtsruf" (German) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600  
Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Middernachtsrupo" (Dutch) Postbus  
193, 3940 AD Doorn, Netherlands; "L'Appel de Minuit" (French)  
Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Chamada de Meia  
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Noite, Caixa Postal 1688, 90001-970 Porto Alegre RS, Brazil;  
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**OUR TASK**

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization,  
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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 therewith 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-tribulational 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.

# Coming Full Circle – Part 1

**Norbert Lieth**

From the garden, past the empty grave, to the eternal city. What the Word of God reveals about the end of all things.



**A**n old story from North Africa tells of a Bedouin, who would lie on the ground time and again, pressing his ear to the desert sand. He would listen to the earth for hours. Taken aback, a missionary asked him, “What are you doing down there on the ground?” The Bedouin arose and replied, “Friend, I’m listening to the desert crying. It wants so much to be a garden!”

The desert of the world is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of life. The desert of war is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of peace. The desert of hunger is crying; it wants so much to be a garden full of food. The desert of poverty is crying; it wants so much to be a garden where all people have their livelihood. The desert of loneliness is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of encounter. The desert of despair is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of hope. The desert of guilt is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of forgiveness. The desert of death is crying; it wants so much to be a garden of new life.

The whole of creation is crying and distressed. It longs and hopes for salvation and liberation (Rom 8:19ff.). And with Jesus Christ, the risen One and the first of a new creation, the transformation begins. Soft and very small at first, hidden and hinted at in His redeemed ones; but then one day with power and glory, when He appears and brings paradise.

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose [...] Then shall the lame mean leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the

wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert [...] And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is 35:1, 6, 10).

In chapters 21 and 22 of Revelation, we see how God brings the desert into bloom again (“Behold, I make all things new”): “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea” (Rev 21:1).

The Lord’s judgments have been completed (Rev 15:8), and God is reaching His objective regarding where He will ultimately bring His creation. A new heaven and a new earth appear. The revealed counsel of God is completed. We’ve come full circle. But which circle?

The first two and last two chapters of the Bible, form the framework for the entire plan of salvation. In between, we find the development of salvation from the love of God to us humans.

We realize that after the Fall, God didn’t give up on His creation until it found its way back into His paradise. God made Himself the servant of His creation. The whole Bible—concerning past, present, and future—is the story of God’s devotion to His creation.

One event from the beginning of the story is very moving and gives us a glimpse into God’s loving heart: “And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed” (Gen 2:8). God hadn’t cre-

The whole Bible—concerning past, present, and future—is the story of God’s devotion to His creation.

## Coming Full Circle –Part 1

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At the first tree, Paradise was closed. At the second “tree,” paradise is reopened.



ated the man and then just stuck him somewhere. No, He had created a paradise for him, a beautiful and unprecedented home. The Almighty wanted to have fellowship with the man there; to communicate with him, to be intimately connected with him. He wanted to work together with the man and entrust him with responsibility. Eden means “land of delight.” God had prepared a place for the man where he could share in God’s delight (1 Tim 1:11). And when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the end result will be that creation will be brought back into this “Eden” of delight. “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God” (Rom 8:19), “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Tit 2:13).

But then sin came between them. Man lost paradise, and an angel, a

cherub, blocked the way back (Gen 3:24). This paradise was probably lost in the Flood. But God didn’t give up on His creation. With the birth of Jesus, the world was given a fresh start.

When Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself on the Cross and carried them away, the criminal hanging beside Him said, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42). And the Lord Jesus answered him, “Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (v. 43).

It is significant that Jesus said this on the Cross. Because this Cross is made from wood, a tree. Sin came through a tree by which man stretched his hand out into the world. Sin is taken away by a “tree” on which Jesus stretched out His hands. At the first tree, paradise was closed. At the second “tree,” paradise is reopened.

Humanity dreams of colonizing Mars; applications from interested parties are already being accepted. But it's a leap into the unknown, a futile pursuit.



Jesus is the last Adam, the second man (1 Cor 15:47), who returns to us the life and paradise we lost through the first Adam. In the Garden of Eden, the first Adam was disobedient. The first Adam brought the curse: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground" (Gen 3:19). The second Adam abolished the curse: "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal 3:13).

Between the Fall/loss of paradise and the new world, lies the resurrection and ascension of our Lord. And now, in the last pages of the Bible, we see how God leads everything toward His goal. Paradise is back again.

Jesus is the Man of God. Jesus is the guarantee that paradise will return. He is the foundation of this new world, the key to the door into this new world. No one can lay any other foundation. Jesus is the proof of God's love. Jesus is the proof of God's faithfulness, and that God hasn't given up on mankind.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for

# Coming Full Circle –Part 1

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Jesus also cried (John 11:35). The teardrop is a symbol of pain. Werner Gitt points out that when a tear evaporates, crystals remain. And in every crystal of every teardrop is the microscopically small image of a cross.

the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely" (Rev 21:1-6; cf. Is 65:17-18).

The first heaven and the first earth will no longer exist. Everything will be completely new, completely different, reborn: a new earth and a new universe.

Humanity dreams of colonizing Mars; applications from interested parties are already being accepted. People are looking to set up a site on the moon and offer regular tourist flights. Mankind is repeatedly searching for new celestial bodies, where life could be possible. But it's a leap into the unknown, a futile pursuit. The good news is that the Creator has a new heaven and a new earth where eternal life is possible.

There will be no more sea. Surely, there may still be water, lakes, rivers, and springs, but not the dividing seas resulting from the Flood (Rev 21:1). The sea will no longer separate the continents. Therefore, it is possible that many more people will be able to live on the future new earth, when 70% of it is no longer covered by water.

There will be no more tears. When God wipes tears away, it means once and for all.

How many tears has our world seen throughout its history? Tears of grief, horror, suffering, pain, injustice, war, disease, jealousy, anger, and wrath. Crying eyes of children, desperate women, and horrified men.

It is said that a person cries between 60 and 80 liters of tears, on average, in his lifetime. That's eight 10-liter buckets, or about two million drops. The psalmist prays, "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" (Ps 56:8).

Jesus also cried (John 11:35). The teardrop is a symbol of pain. Werner Gitt points out that when a tear evaporates, crystals remain. And in every crystal of every teardrop is the microscopically small image of a cross.

Where was pain at its all-time greatest? It was undoubtedly on the Cross, where Jesus had to bear the burden of sin for a lost humanity. In Isaiah 53:4, we read of the man of sorrows: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows." But Jesus is risen, and He has conquered everything that has anything to do with pain.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps 126:5-6). That is what Jesus did, and so it will be for all who believe in Him.

There will be no more death. Every person born comes into the world with clenched fists, as if he wanted to hold onto life. But when he dies, his hands

Every person born comes into the world with clenched fists, as if he wanted to hold onto life. But when he dies, his hands are usually open. He couldn't hold onto it.

are usually open. He couldn't hold onto it.

Everyone fears death. It is the final enemy, according to 1 Corinthians 15:26. But since the resurrection of Jesus, death must fear Him.

At the burial of her husband, a woman who suddenly found herself alone with six children, received a card that comforted her greatly: "Do not look into the grave. Do not look behind the grave. I stand before the grave. Look at me, says Jesus, for I am the resurrection and the life."

At a certain age, cells no longer regenerate. Even the oldest men there were had to die. Methuselah was 996 years old when he died. Adam was 930 years old. Abraham was 175 years old. Moses was 120; God had reduced the maximum age to 120 years (Gen 6:3). The normal lifespan is roughly 70 to 80 years (Ps 90:10). Scientists also say that genetically determined humans can't live beyond about 120 years. Almost every human being has a stopwatch that stops ticking after 120 years. For people claiming to be older, their birthdates are uncertain.

A built-in molecular "self-destruct sequence" causes cells to die, resulting in pre-programmed cell death: "the sting of death" (1 Cor 15:56). In the adult body, several million cells die every second and are replaced with new ones. But at some point, a signal is sent, preventing this from occurring. Man ages, becomes ill, and dies.

Our deaths are a predetermined matter. It's not primarily an issue of how healthy

or unhealthy we lived—whether we ate too much, didn't take enough vitamins, moved too little, experienced too much stress, or consumed too many unhealthy things. We can only live so well; we are subject to decay.

There are also Christians who despair of their suffering (illness, for example). They question God and cannot understand Him, so they grow bitter and suffer all the more for it. But it's perfectly normal that Christians, too, are subject to death. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry once wrote, "Lord, save me from the naïve belief that everything in life must go smoothly. Give me the sober realization that difficulties, defeats, failures, and setbacks are given to us by life itself to make us grow and mature."

Nobody knows why this pre-programmed cell death occurs. The Bible gives us the answer: "...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen 2:17b). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom 6:23).

Christ, however, has conquered sin and death. That is why it says, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:55-57).

(MR0519/1010)





For resources on "endtime economics," visit Wilfred's website [www.ternalvalue.com](http://www.ternalvalue.com) or contact him at: [staff@ernalvalue.com](mailto:staff@ernalvalue.com)

## ANTI-CREATIONISM: THE DEVIL'S SUDDEN KILLER TACTIC – PART I



We continue our series of “Ripening Times—discerning worldly trends of prophetic significance.

By **Wilfred Hahn**

To date, we have chronicled six such global developments: A Wealth Explosion; spreading Post-Familialism; Honored Elites (emergence of global plutocrats); The Rise of Asia; Advances of the Titans (the sudden emergence of multinational companies); and sixth, a Global Urbanization Trend. Please see previous columns. There are many more “significant trends” yet to be discussed.

The next topic of our series may seem surprising. It is Anti-Creationism. Likely, this may not seem like a “ripening trend” to most readers. But, actually, this development may have had the biggest impact of all ... one of Satan’s most effective ruses. We will explain. This development hits most of the eight diagnostic indicators that we had set for identifying “prophetically significant” trends in our day. (For a detailed review of these eight criteria, please see this column in the November 2019 issue.)

Consider this one fact: The Theory of Evolution has stormed the world in a period of a little more than 150 years. This is a blink compared to the human timeline on earth. Charles Darwin, a major

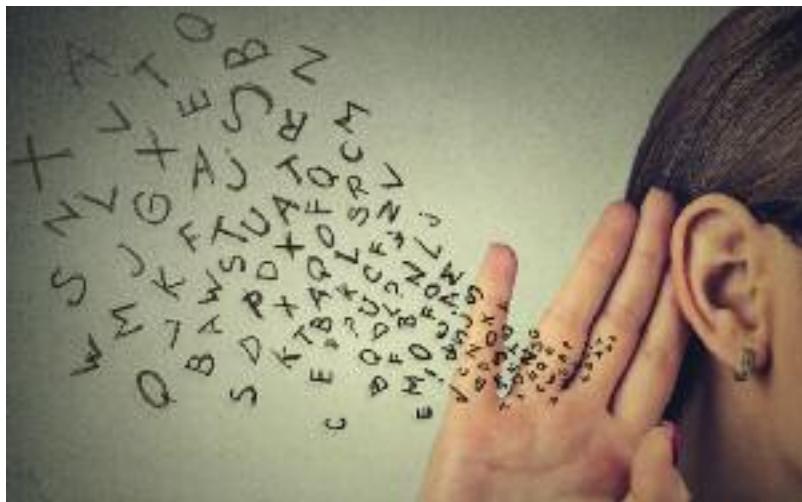
founder, first published his theory of evolution in the 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*.

Before that point, Creationism had the pole starting position, as it was the accepted view over thousands of years of history. In fact, as the Bible states, it was a belief that should be naturally evident to all ... whether educated or not. Consider Romans 1, verse 20: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

But today, the situation is entirely opposite. According to the Pew Research Center (2017), roughly eight-in-ten US adults (81%) believe that humans have evolved over time.<sup>1</sup> The Bible says there should be no excuse for this opinion.

Yet, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, some 97% of academics say they believe humans evolved over time. As such, the indictment that the Bible makes of those that are wise, couldn’t be more fitting, “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools [...]” (Romans 1:22).

As for accepting lies and unsound doctrines, that also is not new. The Bible warns: “For the time will come [future] when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear” (2 Timothy 4:3).



#### Why such a rapid change in beliefs?

Mankind has always been vulnerable to delusions and deceptions. Why do we humans have this weakness? Could it have been for the reason that God designed His creation—man—to place his trust upon Him and Him alone? Whenever mankind sought its security somewhere other than the Rock, deceit, perversities and delusion soon reigned. Satan has a clear agenda: to oppose God and to deny the salvation brought about by His Son, Jesus Christ. Satan's tactics are effective and logical —expressly taking advantage of mankind's weaknesses.

As it may be, stupendously, for a theory that is not scientifically proven and weak, anti-Creationism has nevertheless become adopted as the establishment view of “truth.” What new theory could be more wily, as it totally denies the existence of God.

To deny creationism is to refute God; even to deny His existence. Mankind's penchant to deny God is shown prophetically in the Bible repeatedly. Consider that even in the late stages of the terri-

ble Tribulation period, mankind still refuses to repent (Revelation 16:9, 11).

As for accepting lies and unsound doctrines, that also is not new. The Bible warns: “For the time will come [future] when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear” (2 Timothy 4:3).

To emphasize, it is said here that a “great number” of teachers are gathered. As mentioned, 97% of academics (most of them teachers in one way or another) today supporting anti-Creationism is surely a “great number.” Therefore, we see the same deceit that Jeremiah saw and foretold in his day: “[...] in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me, declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:6).

#### Rapid Change in Beliefs

Anti-Creationism is based upon beliefs. For example, evolution is a theory, and thus to hold this view is a “belief,” whether proven or not. Yet, dishonestly, many people (including those that consider themselves scientists) speak as if it is fact. To repeat, evolution is a theory. Actually, is a desperate theory. To say that it is a scientific theory is to also disparage legitimate science. Why do we say this ... harsh as it may sound? To keep it simple, for one, basic science does not support “spontaneous life,” nor the countless miracles that are required in order for evolution to be believable.

We often hear that science and religion are incompatible. This too is apparently accepted as fact



A hypothesis or a theory is not the same as fact. This is the accepted foundation of the scientific process. Theory is not fact ... and its results must be repeatable.

and is just one more “foolishness” of those that profess themselves to be wise and reject the existence of God. Such a debate is all the more ludicrous because many of the founders of modern science were Christians (Pascal, Boyle, Newton, Bernoulli, Mendel, Pasteur ... the list is long).

These were scientists that believed in the Creation account in the Bible and, moreover, possessed a Biblical worldview. To them, their discoveries and inventions did not invalidate either the Bible or the existence of God. Many of them took a deep interest in theology.

Then, how has science come to argue with God and reject Him?

First, let's define what we mean by science. It covers a wide arena of inquiry. Some of it is more of an observational type ... laboratory science. It studies natural processes or things and documents them as they are. Other science is applied science. It builds on that which is observed, and may find other applications for the natural laws that it discovers.

Then, some of science concerns itself with explaining the “whys” and “wherefores” of what is observed. Here it ventures into the field of theory. A hypothesis may align with what is observed, and can sometimes be successfully used to deduce other outcomes. However, a hypothesis or a theory is not the same as fact. This is the accepted foundation of the scientific process. Theory is not fact ... and its results must be repeatable.

A very different pursuit under the name of science is the exploration of things and processes of the distant past—back to the beginnings. Here, observations cannot be made in real time. Such questions as to how the universe came about and how life came to earth are now the subjects of “science.” However, this is an entirely different

kind of science ... a pseudo-science. It borrows (or steals) its perception of legitimacy from the real, provable and applied science.

To be sure, science is important. The benefits to mankind of its understandings and inventions are beyond measure. That said, it must also be recognized that such science has never been able to step outside the bounds of Creation. It cannot be used to prove the non-existence of God, nor to explain anything that could be outside of Creation. This would be impossible.

The tired debate that has been fought over the past two centuries, staging the Bible as if it would be in opposition to science, is misplaced. Yes, there indeed may have been misguided theologians who took positions against natural science, not realizing they were speaking from the silence of the Bible or its misinterpretation.

Again, let's return to the “pseudo-science” that concerns itself with the question of the beginnings. This is where the real folly begins. Why? Because much of the thinking and theory in this field is driven by a priori adherence to atheism, or a denial of both the Bible and observed fact. For some reason, this branch of scientific inquiry feels itself above the requirement of proofs to elevate its beliefs as fact. They do so dishonestly, or perhaps ignorantly. This may be due to various reasons: because they refuse to be subordinate to God; or have been indoctrinated without proofs; or are perhaps misinterpreting the evidence.

### Why Science Is Against God

Evolution cannot be proven. Reasonable, “non-pseudo” science actually disproves it as fact. Why? The theory defies evidence and logic. For the moment, let's only deal with the basic question of life, and leave aside the unfathomable complexities of a human comprised of billions upon billions of organized, specialized and interdependent cells. That

If such rapid delusion and lies can be established in the case of evolutionism, then one must also suspect that any pro-God view will be under massive spiritual attack ... most certainly also including anything about “beginnings” ... i.e. the Big Bang Theory. Satan’s powerful deception is on display here.

random events could have produced the complexity of a simple cell (the simplest, self-sustaining and replicating life form) is so far beyond probability that to believe this could have taken place requires more faith than to believe in God.

This writer’s undergraduate degree was in science. As a Christian, one of the most impactful topics studied was Histology (the study of the structures of a single cell). Even in the most primitive of cells (this itself being a presumptuous statement, as we cannot really be sure what is a primitive cell) with few enzymes, DNA and RNA strands are so incredibly complex it is IMPOSSIBLE that it could originate from random processes.

No one, were they to unearth a Rolex watch in an archaeological dig, would think that it originated through random processes. Yet, the simplest enzyme (of which a minimum of 600 different kinds are required for a basic living cell) is many, many more times as complex.

The probability of a complete operating cell being formed out of a chance encounter of atoms and molecules is zero (practically speaking). Such a randomly formed cell would also have needed the mysterious spark of life and energy. Otherwise, it could not have had the possibility of mitosis (the reproduction of a single cell into two).

### Thoughts to Ponder – Part 1

Anti-creationism. It is truly amazing how such a weak theory could dominate the entire world in such a short period of time (i.e. 150 years or so). Today, it is taboo to identify with the creation view. Yet, it is not a view that should be considered less believable. Why? Because both perspectives rely upon metaphysical assumptions. Either

there is a God or there isn’t. And if not, science roundly disproves evolutionism.

The point we make is this: How is it that such a big lie could predominate the worldview? (In some countries—for example, Sweden—the evolution view is held by over 90% of the population.) Incredible. Are metaphysical powers or influences playing a role here? Very definitely. The Bible provides clear evidence.

We believe in the opposites of good and evil ... a majestic God and Satan. The Bible says this about Satan: “[...] When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). We should not doubt that Satan orchestrates his hierarchy of servants to oppose anything of God or the salvation of Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 6:12). Satan succeeds greatly when the world adopts beliefs that deny God and His Son.

The Bible warns of Satan’s techniques. We must be on watch “[...] because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1, KJV). We are to “[...] stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

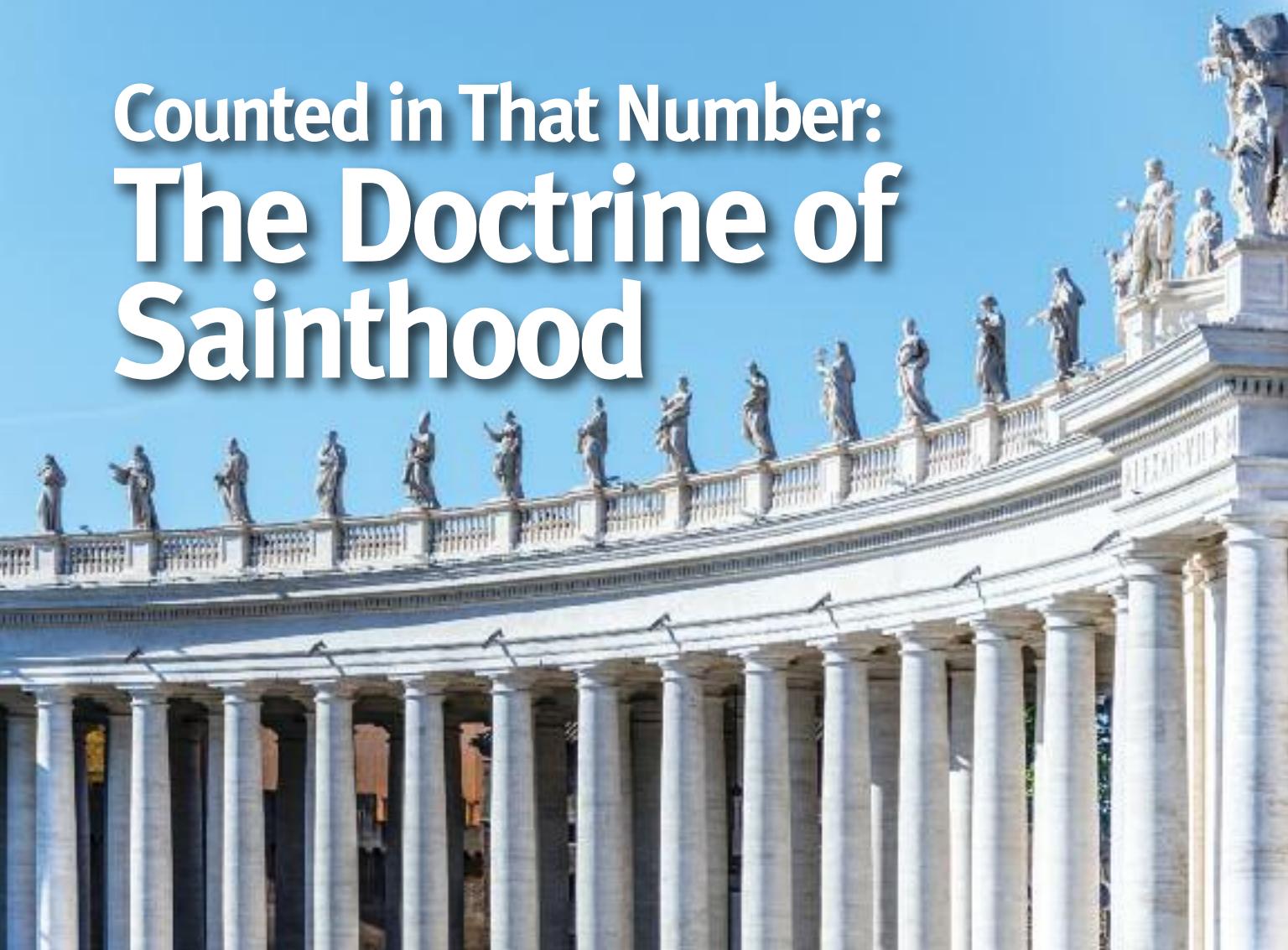
To wit, if such rapid delusion and lies can be established in the case of evolutionism, then one must also suspect that any pro-God view will be under massive spiritual attack ... most certainly also including anything about “beginnings” ... i.e. the Big Bang Theory. Satan’s powerful deception is on display here.

In the next part, we will conclude our examination of the sudden emergence of Anti-Creationism as a “prophetically significant” world trend. (MC)

### ENDNOTE

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/02/06/how-highly-religious-americans-view-evolution-depends-on-how-theyre-asked-about-it/>

# Counted in That Number: The Doctrine of Sainthood



**Dr. Ron J. Bigalke**

▲ Doric Colonnade with statues of saints on the top. St. Peter's Square, Vatican City.

“When the Saints Go Marching In” is a traditional American hymn, also known as a spiritual (or corn ditties and work songs). Spirituals are a genre of rhythmic American folk songs commonly associated with African-American church congregations in the South. The songs originated in the United States prior to the abolition of slavery. The lyrics of the spirituals include codes that denote a slave’s personal relationship with God, and dependence upon Him to provide deliverance from a life of oppression.

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Roman Catholicism declares a person to be a saint for having lived a life of notable charity, heroic virtues, etc., and thus worthy of imitation. All believers are said to have the aspiration of becoming a saint, which is to enter heaven (whether officially canonized or not).

The origin of “When the Saints Go Marching In” is not evident; apparently, it developed in the early 1900s from a number of similarly titled gospel songs. Slaves probably sang the spiritual as an expression of their longing for the day when they would join their loved ones in heaven, and then it developed into a post-Civil War spiritual. The lyrics have an antiphonal quality, which means a preacher may have improvised while hymn lining the song with his congregation.

Many versions of the hymn exist, but a common standard refrain has the following lyrics: “Oh, when the saints go marching in / Oh, when the saints go marching in / Oh Lord I want to be in that number / When the saints go marching in.” The first and second lines of a verse are exactly the same, and the third and fourth are standard throughout the hymn. In their standard form, the lyrics are apocalyptic, having a keen connection to the last judgment and the book of Revelation. Some lines reference the stars falling from the sky, the moon turning red with blood, the sun refusing to shine, the trumpet sounding its call, the horsemen beginning to ride, gathering around God’s throne, crowning God as Lord of all, and the new world being revealed.

“When the Saints Go Marching In” is quite orthodox in expressing the longing of believers to be “in that number” of those who enter heaven and come marching with Christ when He returns and is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. Who are the saints? When he originally wrote his *Lives of the Saints* in the mid-eighteenth century, English Roman Catholic priest Alban Butler (1710-73) included 1,486

saints; and, the number was expanded to 2,565 when revised in 1956 by English layman Donald Attwater.

How did the Roman Catholic Church determine the number of saints? Canonization is the formal process by which Catholicism declares a person to be a saint and worthy of universal veneration (though it has only been used since the 10th century). Beginning with the first martyrs of the early church, saints were chosen for hundreds of years by public acclaim. Progressively, the bishops and eventually the Vatican claimed authority to approve saints. In 1983, Pope John Paul II made extensive changes to the canonization procedure. Once a candidate is proclaimed “venerable,” the penultimate action is beatification. When the pope declares a candidate beatified (“blessed”), that person can then be venerated (made a “saint”). The title of saint is meant to indicate that a person lived a holy life and has entered heaven as a result. Canonization is said to recognize God’s actions, and therefore does not make a person into a saint. Roman Catholicism declares a person to be a saint for having lived a life of notable charity, heroic virtues, etc., and thus worthy of imitation. All believers are said to have the aspiration of becoming a saint, which is to enter heaven (whether officially canonized or not).

How does Roman Catholic doctrine compare to the revelation of God’s Word, the Holy Bible? In the Hebrew Old Testament, two words, *chasid* and *qadosh*, are translated with the term “saint” in English versions of Scripture. By definition, *chasid* means “faithful,” “godly,” or “pious,” and is thus used to denote the character of a worshipper of God (Deut 33:8; 1 Sam 2:9; 2 Sam 22:26; 2 Chron 6:41; Ps 4:3; 12:1; 16:10; 18:25; 30:4; 31:23;

## Counted in That Number: The Doctrine of Sainthood

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God does not call all believers to apostleship (cf. Rom 1:1; 1 Pet 1:1), yet all believers are part of the intent of the gospel and are called to sainthood.

32:6; 37:28; 43:1; 50:5; 52:9; 79:2; 85:8; 86:2; 89:19; 97:10; 116:15; 132:9, 16; 145:10; 148:14; 149:1, 5, 9; Prov 2:8; Mic 7:2). The masculine adjective is used in Jeremiah 3:12 and Psalm 145:17 as an attribute of God.

*Qadosh* is an adjective meaning “holy” or “sacred” (there are many occurrences of the word in the Old Testament, and the references here are limited to the Pentateuch: Exod 19:6; 29:31; Lev 6:16, 26, 27; 7:6; 10:13; 11:44, 45; 16:24; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:6, 7, 8; 24:9; Numb 5:17; 6:5, 8; 15:40; 16:3, 5, 7; 18:8, 32; Deut 7:6; 14:2, 21; 23:14; 26:19; 28:9; 33:3). *Qadosh* is used especially to describe persons or things consecrated to the Lord’s service, in addition to someone (or something) sanctified for holy use; whether angels (Job 5:1; 15:15; Ps 89:5, 7; Dan 8:13), the firstborn (Exod 13:2), places (Eccl 8:10; Isa 57:15; Ezek 42:13), priests (Ps 16:3; 34:9; 106:16; Dan 8:24), or time (Neh 8:9-11; Isa 58:13). *Chasid* can be rendered as “godly ones” (Ps 50:5; 52:9; 132:9), while *qadosh* can be translated as “saints” (Ps 16:3) or “holy one” (106:16).

In the Greek New Testament, the only word rendered “saint” is *hagios*. By definition, *hagios* refers to separation from ordinary condition and use, hence dedicated or sanctified. *Hagios* is used to designate the holiness of the firstborn in Luke 1:35. The word can be used of persons (saints) or things (the sanctuary). *Hagios* refers to purity or righteousness, whether ceremonially or morally.

Biblically, a saint is a person declared holy by God; that is, consecrated or sanctified unto Him. In the Old Testament, God separated Israel from among the nations, saying, “You shall be My own possession among all the peoples . . . and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exod 19:5-6). The word translated “holy” in English Bible versions is *qadosh* in the Hebrew

Old Testament. In the Septuagint, *hagios* (“holy” nation) was used to translated *qadosh*. In the New Testament, Scripture refers to Christians “as aliens . . . who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying [*hagiastō*] work of the Spirit” (1 Pet 1:1-2). The church is called “A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY [*hagios*] NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION” (2:9).

First Peter 1:1-2 reveals that all members of the Godhead are active in accomplishing redemption. God the Father chooses believers according to His foreknowledge; the Holy Spirit accomplishes “the sanctifying work”; and, the purpose is “to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood” (which is a reference to the Old Testament sacrifices, in which blood was sprinkled upon the altar, and to the ordination of sanctified priests for their ministry; cf. Lev 8:30). The deduction is that all who believe and trust in the triune God are saints.

God does not call all believers to apostleship (cf. Rom 1:1; 1 Pet 1:1), yet all believers are part of the intent of the gospel and are called to sainthood. Indeed, “saint” is a common term for a believer in the New Testament, as evident in how the believers in Rome were addressed by that most sacred title. Scripture refers to saints as those “who are beloved of God” (Rom 1:7). Paul already stated that he was “set apart for the gospel of God” (v. 1), which may have caused some to believe apostles belonged to a different class of believers who were more committed, devout, and disciplined in terms of the spiritual. Certain false teachers considered themselves “most eminent apostles” (2 Cor 11:5), yet Paul refuted the tendency of some to elevate themselves as superior to other believers. No believer is

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A “saint” is a believing and repentant sinner whom God has declared righteous—not because of good works or personal merit—but solely because Christ’s perfect righteousness is imputed to him or her when believing and trusting in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior.

inferior to another, for all are nothing without the grace of God (cf. 12:11).

Referring to all believers in Rome as saints means they had been set apart as holy (i.e. spiritual), and thus called by God to esteemed privilege and responsibility (which is also true of every member of the body of Christ). Scripture does not merely refer to a few believers as saints (whom a supposed Bishop of Rome would have declared saints). Prior to beginning a new mission, Paul explained that he must first visit the church in Jerusalem, which was suffering from poverty (Rom 15:25; 1 Cor 16:1-3; 2 Cor 9:9), and deliver to them a financial gift collected as relief from the Gentile churches in Achaia and Macedonia. Writing to the believers in Rome previously addressed as saints (Rom 1:7), Paul said the donation would be given to the saints in Jerusalem (15:25). Certainly, it was not a few canonized saints in Jerusalem who needed support from the Gentile churches.

According to Scripture, how does a person become a saint? Fundamentally, “saint” is an adjective for “holy” (Gk. *hagios*). Saints are, therefore, “holy ones.” In order to be made holy (righteous) before God, both Jews and Gentiles need the same remedy: a holiness (righteousness) that is neither deserved nor earned; that is, a foreign righteousness. Scripture declares all humanity as sinful (Rom 1:18—3:20), with the penalty for sin being death (3:23; 6:23). The Bible also declares that just one sin results in condemnation (5:16, 18; cf. Jas 2:10-11). It is, therefore, impossible for those under the curse of death to remove the penalty for sin. Any person who is dependent upon good works to obtain salva-

tion, remains under the curse of death and will never be holy before God (cf. Gal 3:10-11).

God’s basis for declaring a person holy—a saint—is faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. The act of God by which He declares sinners holy (just) in His sight is called justification. Roman Catholicism denies justification by faith alone, and teaches that good works must supplement faith in Christ as Savior. Holiness is not imputed to the believer according to Catholicism (cf. Rom 3:21-22; 2 Cor 5:21); rather, holiness is infused progressively through godly living. This also means one can never be certain he or she is holy enough to be welcomed into heaven by God. Scripture, however, reveals that a person is declared just, holy, and righteous at the moment of faith and repentance.

God justifies by imputing Christ’s perfect righteousness to the believer, even though in behavior a person is still a sinner. Sanctification is the process by which God makes a believer just (righteous); it is the conformity of the believer’s conduct to the legal status in Christ (cf. Rom 8:31-33). Justification is what provides the judicial basis for sanctification. A “saint” is a believing and repentant sinner whom God has declared righteous—not because of good works or personal merit—but solely because Christ’s perfect righteousness is imputed to him or her when believing and trusting in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior. God’s gift of salvation is received by grace through faith alone, and only then can one be certain “to be in that number / When the saints go marching in.”

(1051)



# When Christ Is Everything to Us

**Wim Malgo (1922–1992)**

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 9. Revelation 1:8-20.

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◀ Everyone who is born again is an embodiment of the kingdom of God. As kings and priests, we carry the kingship, and the kingdom, in us.

In Revelation 1:8-20, we see what and who Jesus Christ is, knowing this is the highest thing. Paul says in Ephesians 3:19 that knowing the love of Christ surpasses all other knowledge. In this passage, John hears the voice of the Lord, saying that He, the Lord, is the Eternal One: “I am Alpha and Omega” (Rev 1:8).

*Alpha* is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and *Omega* the last. This indicates that the Lord is the beginning and the end. But it has a deeper meaning; namely, that Jesus Christ is the eternal Word. Beyond Him there is nothing further to be said, because He is the Word in the most perfect and complete sense: “[He] hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son” (Heb 1:2). Everything that goes beyond Jesus is futile. Hence, the addition, “which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” (Rev 1:8).

He alone has been given all power in heaven and on earth. If we were more permeated by this truth, we would be much calmer! We’re often besieged by all kinds of power under heaven—by the powers of darkness. But all authority and dominion and majesty are given to Him, Jesus Christ. This is the majestic person of our blessed Redeemer.

But now we’re approaching the actual revelation. So far, we’ve only discussed the title of this book and its introduction. But now we come into contact with the revealed One in person. The first part of Revelation unveils Jesus Christ in relation to His Church on earth (the epistles). In the second part of Revelation, we have the unveiling of Christ in relation to His Church in heaven. There we see the transfigured

elders and everything that occurs in the glory after the rapture. The third part of Revelation unveils Christ in relation to the world and how He judges its peoples. And so it goes on gradually, until we look into perfect glory: the new heaven and the new earth, where righteousness dwells.

But the focus is on the most significant thing: the revelation of Jesus Christ. When we see Jesus, we see everything! We shouldn’t be doing considerably more, as many think, but be doing more things of significance; that is, reach out much more toward our Lord Jesus Christ’s revelation!

The first wonderful effect is that the apostle and disciple John, who was the most intimately associated with the Lord, equates himself with his brothers and sisters in the Lord: “I John, who also am your brother, and companion...” (Rev 1:9). He is a brother and companion in three respects.

First, “in tribulation” (v. 9). Every child of God must enter the kingdom of God through much tribulation.

Second, “in the kingdom” (v. 9). Everyone who is born again is an embodiment of the kingdom of God. As kings and priests, we carry the kingship, and the kingdom, in us. The Lord Jesus put it this way: “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21b).

Third, the “patience of Jesus Christ.” The English Standard Version reads, “the patient endurance that [is] in Jesus.” This is the secret of Calvary’s power: patient endurance in Jesus, patient endurance in the place of the crucifixion. That’s what is most convincing in this hectic world, and what has the greatest impact. We tend to have patience as long

## When Christ Is Everything to Us

John, the apostle who spoke before thousands, is now alone and isolated on the island of Patmos in the Mediterranean. Why? John himself answers the question: “on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”



as we don't need it. Peter says, “the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation” (2 Pet 3:15).

The fact that John isn't speaking in platitudes here proves that he's in the middle of a test of faith. He, the apostle who spoke before thousands, is now alone and isolated on the island of Patmos in the Mediterranean. Why? John himself answers the question: “on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus” (v. 9). He was banished for the sake of Jesus. We Christians in

the (still) free West don't get banished for the sake of Jesus. Things are very different in the East. Some of our brothers and sisters are really on “Patmos” for the sake of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

In verse 10, John speaks out of this experience of the revelation of Jesus Christ with great authority. You cannot testify to what you have not seen yourself. But he saw it! He's already speaking in the past tense here. He doesn't just babble on, but says very succinctly, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet” (Rev 1:10).

What a wonderful contrast: On the one hand, John is lonely for the sake of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, and abandoned in his afflictions, which he endures patiently. But on the other hand, he can testify, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day.” He saw Jesus in glory! All true children of God inhabit this contrast: On the one hand, internally challenged and hunted by the enemy. But on the other, able to experience the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ!

That was also the case for Paul. He was a hunted man. He lists off what he suffered for Jesus' sake: hunger, shipwreck, beatings, scourging. He also suffered from false brothers and more. He could have boasted in the flesh of all this. But he says, “...what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ...and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ” (Phil 3:7-8). In other words, Christ is manifest in me.

(MR1019/1040)

# As in the Days of Noah?



"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"  
(Isaiah 5:20)

**Samuel Rindlisbacher**

Prosperity is vast, but so is moral decay. How should we evaluate current events? And what role does climate change have in them? Some thoughts.

In May, a reader of the *Uster Gazette* (Switzerland) praised the global and revolutionary turning point in which we live: "It seems that the way we think is fundamentally and profoundly changing in enlightened and secular societies. What's more, belief in God as well as ghosts, idols, and gods, has passed its zenith and become an obsolete model. More and more people are realizing that religion is a powerful placebo and that the anthropomorphic, masculine, omnipotent, omniscient, and all-good God

is a temporary construct of us humans, which explains the increase of atheism." He states, "The more godless atheists there are in a society, the higher the spiritual-cultural level."

I wonder what spiritual-cultural level he means. Every year, 50 million abortions occur, sometimes into the ninth month of pregnancy. They often leave behind deeply traumatized mothers. And where is the spiritual-cultural level in the spread of gender ideology, which simply erases the differences

## As in the Days of Noah?

People are afraid. We see it in how they handle climate change. Whatever we may think about it, the fact is that thousands of people are taking to the streets to protest against global warming, fearing what is to come.



between men and women, and completely unsettles young people? They aren't receiving answers to questions that they may be asking throughout their lives: "Who or what am I?" Is the early sexualization of our children (in some instances, with the help of abusive sexual practices) an expression of this higher spiritual-cultural level? The result is distraught, troubled, and damaged children's souls.

And speaking of our high spiritual-cultural level, what about drug legalization? Its repercussions are more and more young people with psychosis and inability to work. An article published in the journal *Clinical Investigative Medicine* states: "The most commonly experienced psychoactive effects of acute cannabis exposure include euphoric, relaxing effects [...] The most severe presentations of acute cannabis intoxication are associated with cannabis-induced psychosis (CIP), which can be serious and may require treatment [...] In some individuals, CIP leads to long-term effects and is associated with increased risk for developing psychiatric disorders later in life."

The Bible is so right when it says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). We've come a long way with our godless atheism! The German publication *IdeaSpektrum* reported on the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs' recommendation to schools and teachers, to "recognize and support sexual diversity in schools." They should provide information about "issues of same-sex lifestyles and gender diversity." Schools could "make diversity visible" by hanging posters. They could buy "books with lesbian, gay, and bisexual characters" for the school library, and mention a friend's same-sex partner as a matter of course. "In addition, it helps if there are adults at the school who talk openly about their own same-sex lifestyle."

This is how we live today. The consequences are tragic! [Last] May, the media reported a man who arrived at an unnamed American hospital with severe, recurrent abdominal pain. The tragedy: he told the nurse that he had been born a woman, but none of the doctors initially performed a pregnancy test. When they finally determined that the cause of the pain was, in fact, a pregnancy, it was too late for the baby. The old Christian song expresses it succinctly: "Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night; Into Thy freedom, gladness and light."

God speaks to us in the signs of the times. People are afraid. We see it in how they handle climate change. Whatever we may think about it, the fact is that thousands of people are taking to the streets to protest against global warming, fearing what is to come. The amazing thing is the solutions that have been proposed: we should reduce meat con-

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## The people before the Flood did what we're doing today: they turned their backs on God, excluding Him from their minds, hearts, lives, families, schools, and communities.

umption, stop having children (because they allegedly impact the environment), and stop driving diesel vehicles.

Yes, I too believe that something is wrong with our climate. Still, I wonder whether there could be another cause for it. Peter says, “But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly” (2 Pet 3:7). He refers to the “first world” from the days of Noah (v. 1-6), which was destroyed by water. The cause? People didn’t want anything to do with God anymore. Today, we’re approaching Jesus’ return, and people increasingly don’t want anything to do with God.

The time that preceded the Flood is described as follows: “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them’” (Gen 6:5-7).

Humanity’s wickedness at that time was very great, and the thoughts in their hearts only evil (v. 5). The whole earth was corrupt (v. 12), and completely filled with violence (v. 11). The people before the Flood did what we’re doing today: they turned their backs on God, excluding Him from their minds, hearts, lives, families, schools, and communities. And when you throw off God, He leaves! And when He goes, he also takes His saving, blessing, and protective hand with Him. Perhaps we should also be con-

sidering that aspect when we talk about climate change.

God has given us Israel’s blessing and curse as a model: “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you [...] The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed” (Deut 28:15, 21-24).

God hears us and allows us our own will. He lets us do what we want. Is the missing blessing of God, therefore, a cause of climate change? Is it His word of warning? God speaks to us, because He has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek 33:11). Acts 2:21 still applies: “...everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” And those of us who love Jesus, who are expecting His return as we live in an increasingly darkening world, are to do what Noah did then. He remained a “herald of righteousness” until the end (2 Pet 2:5). He didn’t abandon his mandate to point to the salvation of the ark (Jesus Christ), and he continued to walk with God, in defiance of all resistance. We also desire to do the same.

(MR1119/1045)

 HUAWEI

# WORLD FOCUS

## CHINA

### Huawei Launches Foldable Smartphone

Huawei unveiled an upgrade to its folding smartphone, hoping that a faster phone with higher-quality display will encourage consumers to spend as much as \$2,700 for the top-of-the-range version.



People take pictures of Huawei Mate Xs foldable smartphones during Huawei products launch event in Barcelona, Spain.  
REUTERS/Nacho Doce

 The new Mate XS arrives a year after the Chinese tech giant showed off its first folding phone, which had back-to-back screens that opened to create an eight-inch display. That device went on sale in China in November after the company improved the design.

The Mate XS has the same size display as its predecessor but comes with an improved gull-wing hinge mechanism and stronger wraparound screen, while boasting faster download speeds and longer battery life than the rival Samsung Galaxy Fold, Huawei's top salesman Richard Yu told a launch presentation in Barcelona.

Samsung Electronics, the world's top smartphone maker by volume, narrowly beat its Chinese rival in the folding race last year,

but its launch was delayed after testers encountered problems with the screens.

The South Korean company is persevering with foldable technology and showed off a device shaped like a make-up compact that unfolded to look like a traditional smartphone.

"We believe technology should be open and available for everyone," Yu said in his keynote speech.

Huawei also launched a speaker developed with French audio specialist Devialet, the first tablet in its Mate range and two new notebooks—a top of the range Matebook X Pro and Matebook D with 14-inch and 15-inch screens.

Huawei plans to hold a launch event for the P40, a 5G smartphone, in Paris, said Yu.

-[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 24 February 2020

**Commentary:** This development clearly shows that digital creations are arising more and more from the East, away from the West. While for many decades, Asia was looked down upon as not being inventive and innovative, that apparently is changing and fast. From these and many other reports, it seems that Asia is asserting leadership in the digital communication industry.

Here we are reminded of Japan; when they first exported their vehicles, it became a laughingstock in the West. But today the quality of their vehicles is second to none.

What's this development all about? We again point to prophetic Scripture, which clearly indicates the unity of planet earth. Here is what the first global society targeted: "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach

unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4). This was done in opposition to God's command. The result was the confusion of languages, which now is being bridged over by so-called artificial intelligence. But today's unifying of the world goes in the same direction. Verse 6 confirms: "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they

have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." 7193  
(See *New Babylon Rising*, Item #2359, \$16.99.)

## U.S.A

### Four-Day Workweek?

The idea of a four-day workweek might sound crazy, especially in America, where the number of hours worked has been climbing and where cellphones and email remind us of our jobs 24/7.

 A Washington state senator introduced a bill to reduce the standard workweek to 32 hours. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is backing a parliamentary proposal to shift to a four-day week. Politicians in Britain and Finland are considering something similar.

Hundreds—if not thousands—of companies are adopting or testing the four-day week. Last summer, Microsoft's trial in Japan led to a 40% improvement in productivity, measured as sales per employee.

(continued next page)

## Four-Day

(continued from page 26)



**Shake Shack shortened managers' workweeks to four days at some stores a year and a half ago. Recently, the burger chain expanded the trial to a third of its U.S. stores.**

Brittany Murray/MediaNews Group via Getty Images

Andrew Barnes is CEO of Perpetual Guardian, New Zealand's largest estate planning company. He spent much of his career believing long hours were better for business. But he was also disturbed by the toll it took on employees and their families, particularly when it came to mental health.

So two years ago, he used Perpetual Guardian and its 240 workers as guinea pigs, partnering with academic researchers in Auckland to monitor and track the effects of working only four days a week.

Remarkably, workers got more work done while working fewer hours. Sales and profits grew. Employees spent less time commuting, and they were happier.

Barnes says there were other, unexpected benefits: It narrowed workplace gender gaps. Women—who typically took more time off for caregiving—suddenly had greater flexibility built into their schedule. Men also had more time to help with their families, Barnes says.

-[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), 21 February 2020

**Commentary:** Progressive, modern technology requires continual change. The Biblical law given to Israel, “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work” (Exodus 20:9), is slowly but surely being eliminated. In the USA, it was in 1922 when Edsel Ford, Henry Ford’s son, said, “Every man needs more than one day a week for rest and

recreation.” Now, the four-day workweek seems very attractive, as Mr. Barnes, the CEO of Perpetual Guardian of New Zealand, affirms.

Here we are reminded of sister Sodom, “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy” (Ezekiel 16:49).

7194

(See *15 Future Events That Will Shake the World*, Item #2285, \$13.99.)

### ISRAEL

## Digital Healthcare Innovation

Jerusalem Venture Partners and British-Swedish pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca called on start-ups to apply to PlayBeyondBio, a joint platform established with NGO Israel Initiative 2020 to grow internationally disruptive digital health companies.

 Selected start-ups will be assigned a team of mentors to assist them define their vision, potential markets and messaging.

Experts from UK-headquartered AstraZeneca will guide the start-ups in development, regulation and sales in the healthcare sector. JVP staff will share experience of building global companies and securing investments.

“PlayBeyondBio is revolutionary in the development of Israeli digital healthcare start-ups that have the potential to change rules of the game worldwide,” JVP founder and chairman Dr. Erel Margalit said. “We connect the entrepreneur, the investor, the customer and the healthcare system in the earliest stage within one ecosystem. Israel now has the opportunity to become a global



**A man rides a bicycle past the offices of venture capital firm JVP in Jerusalem**  
(photo credit: REUTERS)

leader in digital healthcare innovation, and Israeli entrepreneurs have the ability to lead this revolution.”

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 25 February 2020

**Commentary:** Needless to mention, these things are heralded from this tiny country on the Mediterranean, Israel. We notice the words, “become a global leader...ability to lead this revolution.” Over and again, we read the word “global” in relation to Israel’s technological achievements in conjunction with other nations. Why Israel? Because they are a special people, not to be compared with any other nation on planet earth. Ultimately, Israel’s destiny is proclaimed by Moses in Deuteronomy 26:19: “And to make thee high above all nations which he

hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God, as he hath spoken.”

7191

(See *Israel's Threefold Exodus*, Item #1088, **SALE \$9.**)



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## PAKISTAN

### 100,000 Chinese Ducks to Combat Locusts

At least 100,000 ducks are expected to be sent to Pakistan as early as the second half of this year to combat a desert locust outbreak, according to Lu Lizhi, a senior researcher with the Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The ducks are “biological weapons” and can be more effective than pesticide, said Lu, who is in charge of the project in tandem with a university in Pakistan.

 Swarms of desert locusts have been spreading through countries from eastern Africa to South Asia, destroying crops and pastures at a voracious pace. The pest plague, together with unseasonal rain and a scourge of low quality seeds, has hit major crops in Pakistan’s largest producing regions, weighing on its already fragile economy. And it has also migrated into India.

A group of Chinese agricultural experts visited Pakistan to help control the locust outbreaks as the plague moves eastwards, according to a report posted on the website of China’s consulate-general in Karachi.

-[www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), 27 February 2020



**Commentary:** Locusts have multiplied in a rather unusual number and invaded several African nations, whose crops in many cases have been devastated. Pakistan borders China, and efforts to keep the locust population down are but natural for China. However, the articles also states, “China does have some shield in the form of the Himalaya mountains that stand as a barrier between the Indian subcontinent and the Plateau of Tibet.”

In the Bible, locusts are insects of both judgment and nourishment. Egypt’s refusal to let Israel go resulted in the eighth plague, which we read about in Exodus 10:5: “And they shall cover the face of the earth, that one cannot be able to see the earth: and they shall eat the residue of that which is escaped, which remaineth unto you from the hail, and shall eat every tree which groweth for you out of the field.” During this time, the locust plague was solved environmentally: “And the Lord turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt” (verse 19). Here we must notice that these were specially

created by God, because verse 14 declares: “And the locust went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.” These were locusts not to appear again. When it comes to dietary law, Leviticus 11:22 reads: “Even these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind.” Matthew chapter 3, verse 4 reports the following: “And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.”

Here is an interesting excerpt from *Smithsonian Magazine*:

They’re healthy; they’re plentiful; they’re kosher. Just in time for Passover, some Israelis are taking advantage of a swarm of locusts flying in from Egypt to whip up a unique holiday snack. The versatile insects, which are a couple inches long, are apparently equally tasty breaded and fried or covered in molten chocolate.

-[www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com), 22 March 2013

7197

(See *Unwrapping the Pharaohs*, Item #2230, \$34.99.)

## WORLD

### Dissatisfaction with Democracy at Record High

The world is unhappier with democracy than ever, new research has claimed.

 In a report, researchers from Cambridge University analyzed the political sentiment of more than 4 million people, using data from survey projects that covered 154 countries between 1995 and 2020.

The proportion of people who said they were dissatisfied with democracy over the last year hit 57.5%, according to the report, with researchers saying 2019 marked “the



Pro-democracy protesters at a Thanksgiving Day rally in Hong Kong. Chris McGrath | Getty Images News | Getty Images

highest level of democratic discontent” on record.

Following the financial crisis in 2008, for example, global dissatisfaction with the functioning of democracy jumped by around 6.5%.

Many large democracies, including the U.S., Australia, U.K. and Brazil, were now at their highest-ever level of dissatisfaction with democracy.

However, researchers noted that they had found an “island of contentment” in Europe, where satisfaction with democracy had reached all-time highs. Denmark, Switzerland and Norway were among the countries that fell into that category.

Southeast Asia was also described as a regional “bright spot.”

Cambridge University’s study follows a report published by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which found that the U.S. had a “flawed democracy” and the strength of global democracy was at its lowest since 2006.

(continued next page)

## Democracy (continued from page 28)

Meanwhile, research from Edelman found that 70% of people around the world believed democracy was “losing its effectiveness as a form of government.”

-[www.cnbc.com](http://www.cnbc.com), 28 January 2020

**Commentary:** We are reminded of the words Britain’s former Prime Minister Winston Churchill once said: “Democracy is the worst form of government, but it’s the best we have.” Interestingly, Europe is considered an “island of contentment,” and Southeast Asia a “bright spot.”

What is the reason for the dissatisfaction with democracy? One probably is the lack of choices. Take Israel, for example: with a population of a little over 8 million, it has 17 political parties in its parliament, the Knesset, plus another 35 parties that did not garner enough votes to be part of the government. Switzerland, with a similar population, is considered the richest, freest, and most secure country in the world. The political system is supported by 17 different parties, and another couple dozen minor parties. According to the *CIA Factbook*, this country was founded in 1291, and in modern times has refused to participate in any alliances or military conflicts, but did join the UN in 2002. The nation is governed by a president and a vice president, but “the Federal Council, which is comprised of 7 federal councillors, constitutes the federal government of Switzerland; council members rotate the 1-year term of federal president (chief of state and head of government).” Per capita GDP is \$80,190 (2017); life expectancy 83.3 years. As with all successful nations, exports stand at \$313.5 billion, with imports of \$264.5 billion. This clearly shows the other side of functioning democracies. It lies in the acceptance of plurality. The more opinions, the better. Switzerland’s official language? Actually, four: German, French, Italian, Romansh.

What is the future of democracy? Here, the answer is rather simple: with any nation on planet earth, regardless of what type of govern-

ment is in charge, in the end, what is written will be fulfilled: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not

written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).

7185

(See *Revelation 13: Satan's Last Victory*, Item #1067, CLEARANCE \$3.)



Hopes for further cuts to already low interest rates helped propel the market to record-high levels.

-[www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), 27 February 2020

**Commentary:** Australia is part of the British Commonwealth and is still closely tied to the UK. It has a population of about 26 million people. The main religion is Protestantism, at 23.1%, closely followed by Roman Catholicism at 22.6%. A substantial percentage, 30.1, have no religious affiliation, and 9.6% unspecified. Religiously, Australia is similar to Europe, with a large number of agnostics and atheists. Life expectancy is high, 82.7 years. Like virtually all successful countries, exports stand at \$231.6 billion, with \$221 billion in imports.

About crime, [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com) has this to say: “...Australia’s rate is much lower than the average global homicide rate of 6.2 per 100,000, as estimated by the United Nations Global Study on Homicide report.”

This is an important issue, because most Christian publishers, editors, preachers, and evangelists credit Christianity with prosperity, security, and safety. That, quite obviously, is not the case. We must compare crime, poverty, prosperity, and life expectancy, to get the correct figures. Today, the majority of the world’s population is much better off than 100 years ago.

All this is necessary for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Deception is greatest during times of prosperity. In the US, for example, the most successful and prosperous group are of Indian descent—followers of the Hindu religion. Here too, we are being confronted with the reality that it is not religion but globalism that leads to prosperity. That may not be to our

liking as Christians, but facts are facts, and we should always have the courage to tell the truth, regardless of cost.

7198

(See *Death of a Guru*, Item #2149, \$13.99.)

## AUSTRALIA

### World's Best Performing Stock Market Since 1900

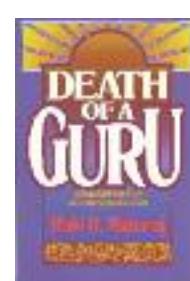
Australia has the world’s top-performing equity market over the past 120 years, thanks to its ability to largely evade the global financial crisis, according to a new study published by Credit Suisse Group AG.



Stocks Down Under have achieved an annualized real local-currency return of 6.8% per year since 1900, according to the broker’s Global Investment Returns Yearbook 2020. The report was produced in collaboration with the London Business School and Cambridge University.

While Australia is often called the “lucky country” due to its abundant natural resources, its services-based economy combined with its strong banking and savings system helped make it mostly immune to the financial crisis, the report said. The researchers also said foreign investors have been attracted by the country’s rule of law, education system and established regulatory frameworks.

The Australian equity market has also held up well amid the recent coronavirus-fueled global downturn, with the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 Index little changed on the year, compared with a 4.5% drop in the MSCI All-Country World Index.



 CANADA

## No More 'Ladies and Gentlemen'

Employees aboard Air Canada flights will no longer greet guests by referring to them as "ladies and gentlemen" or "mesdames et messieurs," which has been typical protocol for years, in an effort to be conscious of gender fluidity.

 Flight attendants and other staff will not use the language in boarding announcements, and the company instead plans to replace the standard greetings with neutral words, such as "everybody" or "tout le monde."

"We will be amending our onboard announcements to modernize them and remove specific references to gender," a media spokesperson for the company said, also noting that Air Canada was named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for 2019. "We work hard to make sure all employees feel like valued members of the Air Canada family, while ensuring our customers are comfortable and respected when they choose to travel with us."

Canada has taken steps to recognize and protect its citizens who don't identify as either male or female or identify as "non-binary." In the country, gender identity and expression are protected under criminal code, and crimes motivated by such characteristics could constitute hate crimes. It is also illegal in Canada to discriminate against someone based on their gender identity.

-[www.washingtonexaminer.com](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com), 13 October 2019

**Commentary:** The tendency of modern humanity becomes clearer day by day: total equality at all costs. While these developments may be debated unendingly, the Biblical bottom line remains unchanged and forever: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

7188

(See *The Genesis Factor*, Item #2239, SALE \$12.)

 USA

## Preparing for the End of the World

At first glance, this modest home nestled against a hillside in the mountains somewhere west of Colorado Springs appears to have all the amenities you'd expect in a quiet retreat. There's even a two-story tower built right in. An otherwise peaceful place to catch the 360-degree view of winter's splendor.

 "[It's a] really nice place to sit and vacation—enjoy. But, if necessary, it's a guard post," Drew Miller pointed out.

A Harvard Ph.D. and former military intelligence officer with 30 years of experience, Miller would know a good defensible spot when he sees it. Miller is a self-described "prepper," someone who makes active preparations to survive the fall of human civilization.

This idyllic mountain retreat that Miller owns is a business venture he calls Fortitude Ranch. It's part of a chain of properties with a business model akin to a prepper's country club or a doomsday timeshare.

Marketing to the annihilation-conscious is not a new idea. Businesses such as Survival Condo have specialized in fortified homes and extravagant underground bunkers for decades.

If the structures of society crumble, Miller envisions each Fortitude Ranch location as a protected community of about 50 people, up to a maximum of 500. Initially, there will be supplies and food on-site to last a full year. However, once members fall into a routine of gardening, hunting and fishing in the adjacent national forest, Miller said, it should be sustainable in the long term.

As worries spread about coronavirus, plus the recent announcement that the Doomsday Clock has ticked closer than it ever has to midnight, Miller may yet find that there are even business opportunities in the apocalypse.

-[www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org), 10 February 2020

**Commentary:** The end of the world, apocalypse, and Armageddon are words popularized lately to induce fear. Fear of what? Of the unknown. In Luke 21:25, we read these words: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." That, however, has not come to pass yet; it's future. But when that future comes, then there is no escape.

The book of Revelation documents the beginning and the end, and the author is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. In chapter 6, verse 15, we read: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains." That is the real judgment, the real "end of the world, apocalypse, and Armageddon." There is no escape whatsoever, because the people during that time will know precisely who is responsible for the catastrophe, as documented in the next verse: "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." This behavior is reconfirmed later in chapter 16, verse 11: "And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." The fact that they blaspheme God is the confirmation that they know where this apocalypse comes from. Chapter 16 ends with these words: "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (verse 21). Scripture is not based on theory or imagination of mankind, but on eternal facts: what God has said, He will do; what is written will be fulfilled in due time.

7183

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

 UK

## New Colleague Could Be a Robot

You hear EVA before you see it. A whirring and whizzing noise greets you as you enter the offices of Automata, a start-up robotics company based in London.



Picking up delicate items has been a challenge for robots



RightHand Robotics use suction and a gripper to grab items

To one side a robotic arm is going through an intricate set of moves: six joints twisting and turning in a sequence which, in the real world, would place a label on a parcel.

That's EVA, and it has been doing those moves non-stop for months to test its reliability.

EVA was developed from cheap reliable parts. It uses the same motors that power the electric windows in cars, while the computer chips are similar to those used in the consumer electronics business. This is allowing them to sell EVA at £8,000 [\$10,362].

Automata is just one firm trying to find a wider market for robots and disrupt the way that things are made.

More than 2.4 million industrial robots are operating in factories around the world, according to data from the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), which is forecasting double-digit sales growth from 2020 to 2022.

Researchers at the Bristol Robotics Laboratory (a partnership between the University of the West of England and Bristol University) think the big breakthrough would be to give robot hands a sense of touch.

Future developments in robotic hardware and artificial intelligence mean that robots will be able to do more and more of the jobs that are currently performed by humans.

According to a report by the OECD, 14% of jobs are "at high risk of automation" and 32% of jobs could be "radically transformed," with the manufacturing sector at the highest risk.

Suryansh Chandra argues that his technology will eliminate boring, repetitive jobs that humans don't like and aren't very good at, and also create new ones that are likely to replace them.

-[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), 18 February 2020

**Commentary:** By reading the above excerpt from the article published by the BBC, one is immediately struck by the name "Eva." We know that Eva is a female name, with the English rendering "Eve." It is derived from the Hebrew word meaning "life" or "living one."

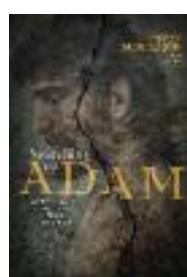
In the Bible, we read the name for the first time after the sin fall. Genesis 3:20 documents: "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." Later in chapter 5, we have a summary of the creation of man; verse 2 reads: "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." Therefore, the original intention was perfect unity between the two; they were called by one name: Adam. It derives from the Hebrew word for "man" (*Adama*), referring to the "ground." The beginning of mankind originates with

Adam; thus, after the sin fall, we read: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19).

This article shows that modern technology is inspired by the great imitator, who wants to be equal to God. It points to the Antichrist, who will present himself to Israel as the messiah and the savior of the world.

Of interest is also the mega-corporation, Apple. The company's logo pictures an apple with a bite taken out. While the Bible does not reveal the name of the forbidden fruit of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17a), the symbolic meaning is crystal clear: mankind, with his virtually unlimited imagination, goes back to Genesis in the attempt to recreate something that was reserved for the Creator. In actual fact, there is no such thing as creation outside the Creator. All that mankind has achieved is using created material and forming it into different images, machines, robots, computers, etc.

Here a word of explanation may be necessary. While we fully realize that we live in a world dominated by Satan, as believers in Christ, we are in this world but not of this world. That means we may freely use all things technology "creates," but we know the end thereof. The apostle Peter writes, "Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:12). But that's not our end, because verse 13 guarantees: "Nevertheless



we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

7186

(See *Searching for Adam*, Item #2319, **SALE \$18.**)



## 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.

# 3 NIGHTS AND 3 DAYS... SINFUL FLESH... THE REAL ID

### 3 Nights and 3 Days

Regarding your answer in a previous issue to "Three Days and Three Nights," please note the week Jesus died there were two Sabbaths. One was Friday, a High Holy Sabbath, and the next day was the regular Sabbath. So Jesus died and was buried on Thursday. He rose sometime early on the first day of the week. The Old Testament explains all the special Sabbaths.

-N. Lockhart, SK, Canada

**Answer:** There seems to be no end to the question of Christmas: when was Jesus born, and Easter: when did Jesus die. The issue is mostly based on Matthew 12:40: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Note, however, that it says days first and then nights. From Genesis, we know that the day begins with the night. "And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:5b). The confusion lies

in our attempt to mathematically solve the problem, namely 72 hours; that just doesn't work. If such were the case, then Christ would need to rise on the third day sometime in the afternoon before sundown. But He rose "early the first day of the week." Friday, Saturday and Sunday qualifies for "three days and three nights." The Emmaus disciples testify: "...to day is the third day since these things were done" (Luke 24:21b). Note, not "after three days," but "the third day." Is this important? Different interpretations will continue to exist, but they are of little to no spiritual value.

### Sinful Flesh

Regarding "What Does the Bible Say About Marriage?" Psalm 51:5: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." If this is sin, why is God all for it?

Paul in Romans 7:21-25 and 8:5-7 was fighting against the flesh.

First Corinthians 7:7-8: It appears that Paul has overcome the flesh, but



why did he do this? I believe he wanted more power with God. I believe there is a lust in sex that drives the Holy Spirit away. God wanted the world to be filled with humans, but now it is time to overcome the flesh.

-T. Nixon, CA

**Answer:** After having compared this passage in different translations and languages, I find the NIV most fitting: "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5). In other words, David recognized that in him—the flesh and blood—there was no good; all is sin. First Corinthians 7:3 instructs married couples with these words: "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence; and likewise also the wife unto the husband."

When we become believers and are born again, we are still in our sinful flesh, but therein dwells the Holy Spirit. That is our lifelong battle, as you can read in Galatians 5:17. When 1 John 3:8 says, "He that committeth sin is of the devil," that's the flesh. But verse 9 guarantees, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." Why? "For his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." That which is born of the Spirit, is of the Spirit; and that which is born of the flesh, is of the flesh. Keep these two things separate.

## The Real ID

My Dear Brother,

Please explain what this REAL ID is. We all have to get this thing. [In plain words, will an identity number, chip or mark be forced upon us?]

-L. Hiers, SC

**Answer:** All people globally are being registered today. In the US, when a baby is born, he or she receives a government number, called the Social Security number. But there is no end to this development. It will continue until all of

humanity is identified, as we can read in Revelation 13:16-17. This is future, but it can't happen overnight. Population control has been in the works for centuries, but now it is possible to get all people registered.

I am reminded of Luke 2, where we read in verse 1: "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." The word "taxed" means "recorded" or "enrolled." Today, the entire world is registered in some form or another: every single person on planet earth. But the mark of the beast is yet to come.

## Socialism

Midnight Call:

The assertion that America could not exist apart from socialism ignores the fact that it could and did so exist for a long time prior to the income tax, Social Security, Medicare, subsidies, etc. Granted, such contrivances are not readily undone, but it is only conjecture to say they have been a net plus, much less essential to our existence. To suggest that governmental maintenance of infrastructure or a military constitutes socialism/communism trivializes the meaning of those terms. Socialism is defined as ownership and operation of the means of production and distribution by society, rather than by private individuals. Communism is forced socialism.

-B. Knapp, OH

**Answer:** Whether it's communism, capitalism, socialism, dictatorship, monarchy, etc., it all belongs to the world. We as Christians are admonished to be obedient to the government—no specifics given. In general, Americans despise the definitions communism and socialism, but that denial does not change the fact that it is practiced here. You seem to indicate that the



## Letters to the Editor

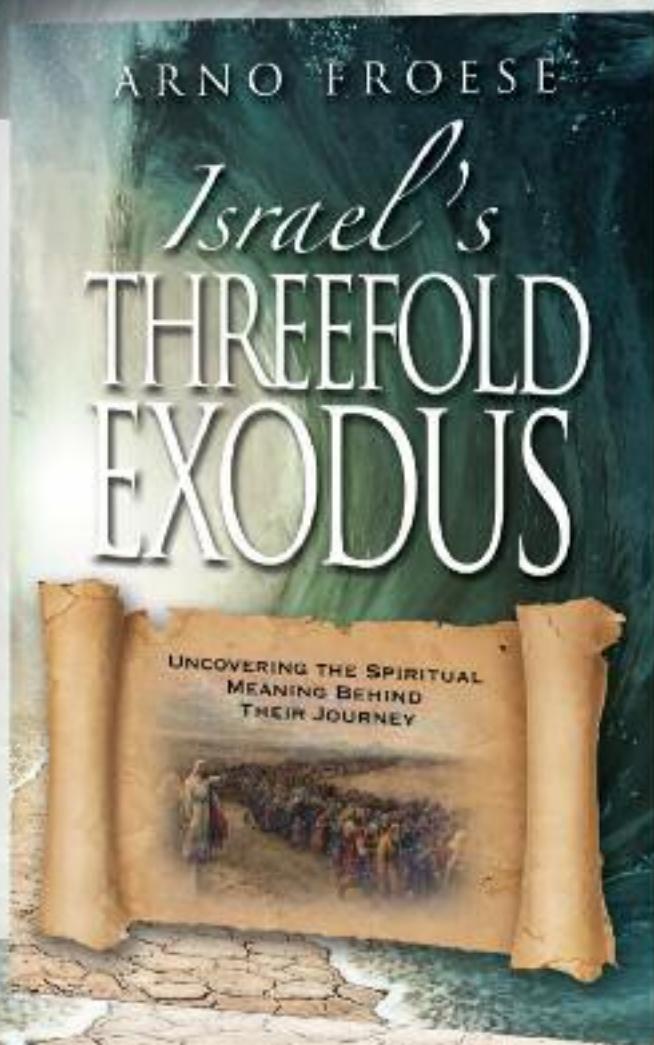
US was better off without income tax, Social Security, Medicare, subsidies, etc. Would you really want to live under the old regime? Just compare the standard of living, human rights, healthcare, and quality of life 100 years ago in the US; it was simply horrible. Life expectancy in the US was just 43 years in 1900.

There is ample evidence of the extreme misery. A large part of the American population lived in a time when food was scarce, medical services were mostly for those who

had the means, and living conditions nothing short of wretched. Now the important issue: what is our responsibility as Christians? "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme" (1 Peter 2:13). Romans 13 gives additional information. No exception is given.

Incidentally, if I don't pay the required taxes on my house, the government comes and takes it away. So much for private property.

# TAKE AN AMAZING JOURNEY WITH GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE, INTO THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.



The first Exodus gave the Old Testament to the world. The second Exodus climaxed in the appearance of the Messiah, the King of the Jews—Jesus Christ—in Israel, which gave us the New Testament. The third return, now in progress, will see the completion of the Church on earth and the spiritual revival of the nation of Israel.

The first Exodus revealed God the Father, the second Exodus revealed God the Son, and the third Exodus will reveal God the Holy Spirit, as the prophet Zechariah proclaims: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).

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Author: Arno Froese



 BOLIVIA

# Behold, a Sower Went Forth to Sow...!

We would like to sincerely thank our God for the various highlights that we've seen recently in the work in Riberalta.

BY EBERHARD AND ROSMARIE HANISCH

**W**here sowing occurs, difficulties or obstacles aren't far off. We may even put obstacles in the way of the Gospel ourselves. Some of the seeds are pecked away by birds, others fall on rocky soil or among thorns, but—thank God!—also right onto good soil (Mark 4).

## Professional Qualification in “Technology” with a Diploma from the Elim II School

It all started years ago with the establishment of a computer lab at the Elim school. This required us to increase the hours of state-mandated technology in-

struction offered this year, which gave us a lot of headaches. But, along with it, we achieved our goal: after 12 years, our high school graduates can finish with a type of professional technology diploma. This can be helpful in further professional development. Unfortunately, the many instructional hours often brought us to seating capacity due to space limitations, and sometimes a class would even meet on the lawn. However, this is one of the few “comprehensive schools” in Bolivia where students can obtain a form of professional qualification. We are also grateful that as an inclusive school, a group of students who are deaf (and mute) are integrated, which also



The new boarding facility in progress



◀ The future common room and four bed-rooms



► Inauguration of the radio station with prayer



The BBN radio station is a blessing to many

corresponds to our Christian values. Please pray that we can continue this program and that the Word of God bears fruit.

### Boarding Facilities

Another highlight is the new boarding facility for four groups of children, which is now well under way. This replaces two wooden barracks and modernizes the accommodations. It's a great pleasure to see the progress. Walls are being raised, plastering and tiling carried out, and the roof put on. Electrical and sanitation work will follow. The boarding school serves to support Bolivian families (in the event of family problems, disintegration, etc.), so that the children can be strengthened in their personal development and reached with the Gospel through schooling, homework support, and community with others. Next year the boarding school will be 40 years old.

### BBN Radio Antenna

For decades, Midnight Call Bolivia in Riberalta has broadcast an extensive program of radio shows on various stations in order to reach the region with the Good News. After a violent storm, however, the an-

tenna of the oldest secular radio station broke, and the owner will most likely not want to continue the work. But through special guidance, we got in touch with Radio BBN.

BNN installed a 69-meter antenna on our site. The Lord granted us the corresponding frequency and state licensing for Riberalta. Once again, we experienced that although doors may close, the Lord opens others! So now we're broadcasting 24 hours a day from our premises. At the site, the employees officially inaugurated the transmitter station with prayer.

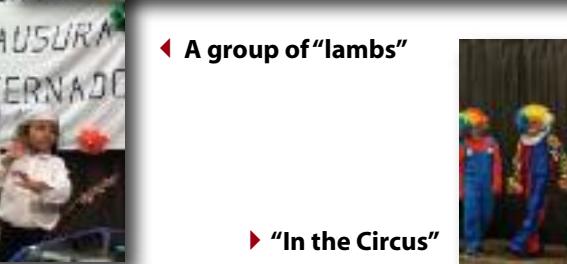
### Boarding School Graduation Celebration

At the end of November, it was time once again: the school year, and with it our boarding school operations, had concluded. And this in the middle of a political crisis! The president had to resign after a referendum, and sought asylum in Mexico after many signs of electoral fraud.

At the boarding school graduation, the parents were invited to our rotunda to watch the cheerful performances of their loved ones. Joshua Fürst greeted everyone, Brother José led them in the song



▲ Presenting a gift to  
Pastor Alex and his wife  
Denisse



◀ A group of "lambs"



▼ Joshua Fürst (r.)  
and Brother José



► "In the Circus"



*I Stand Amazed*, and the proceedings commenced in a lively way. The various group leaders had prepared songs, skits, poems, or funny performances. Brigitte Wolff had practiced silent film scenes with her children. The children often appeared in beautiful disguises—there were sheep, shepherds, angels, or clowns, and there was always a message behind them. Pastor Alex also brought the clear call of the Gospel to the parents!

In the end, I thanked all the staff and gave Pastor Alex and his wife Denisse a farewell gift, since

they'll be taking on a new pastoral ministry in the coming year. The 100 boarding school children were then returned to their families, and many beamed with delight to tell their parents about their experiences. Others were again facing sometimes difficult family situations at home.

Please pray for the new group of girls and boys who are enrolled for 2020. We'd also like to thank all of the sponsors from the bottom of our hearts!

(MR0120)



**Fellow Laborers**



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“Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land” (Genesis 41:29-30).

BY ARNO FROESE

A recent article by Al Gist of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries highlighted the fact that, during Biblical times, judgment always came at the heights of great prosperity. That certainly was the case in ancient Egypt during Joseph's time.

Today, we live in a world where food is in abundance. Wikipedia states that “about 19% of the world’s population was undernourished in 1990. That number has dropped to 11% in 2014.” Yet for 2019, [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org) reports: “More than 37 million people struggle with hunger in the United States, including more than 11 million children.” When it comes to Israel, Google reveals: “According to a survey by Israel’s National Insurance Institute (Bituah Leumi), nearly 25% of Israelis experience food insecurity.” Statista.com lists the 10 most food-wasting countries per capita as: Australia, the United States, Turkey, Spain, Japan, German, Mexico, Italy, Morocco, and Portugal.

The contradiction continues: too much food on the one hand, and hunger on the other. However, hunger is definitely decreasing globally.

### The Passover Conflict

*The Jerusalem Post* headlines its 19 April 2019 article: “Passover: One of

the Most Wasteful Times of the Year.” Here are some excerpts:

The festival of Passover, a celebration of the timeless tale of Jewish freedom from slavery, is also one of the most wasteful times of the year in Israel.

According to data published by food rescue organization Leket Israel and accounting firm BDO, 106,000 tons of food, worth approximately NIS 1.126 billion (\$313 million), goes to waste during the month of the festival—about 14% higher than regular monthly waste.

The significant increase in waste is driven, Leket Israel states, by a combination of the large quantity of leavened products thrown away by supermarkets and consumers prior to Passover and the masses of Kosher-for-Passover foods—including matzah—that will not be sold or eaten after the holiday, and will also be thrown away.

In [a] month, more than 1,700 tons of fruits and vegetables were donated to Leket Israel from farmers, packing houses and surplus food crops, which were otherwise slated for destruction but given to Leket for distribution to Israel’s needy.

In the case of household consumption alone, 880,000 tons of food—valued at NIS 7b. (\$2.2b.)—was wasted last year, with the average Israeli family disposing of food worth NIS 3,200 (\$890), equivalent to a month and a half of annual household food expenditure.

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The contradiction continues: too much food on the one hand, and hunger on the other. However, hunger is definitely decreasing globally.

During Jesus' time, He told His disciples, "give ye them to eat" (Matthew 14:16b). We all know the story: there were five loaves of bread and two fish. The disciples distributed them among the people, and verse 21 documents: "And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children." We must point to verse 20b:

"and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full." That simply teaches us not to waste food. For us believers, food is a gift from God that sustains us while here on earth. Yet equally true is the spiritual aspect; if we do not consume spiritual food, our spiritual life will shrivel and our testimony darken. (MC)

## Action for Israel



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

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

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# Mom Bep Phillips

**By David Phillips**

*Project Manager*



Bep (Kok) Phillips was born and raised in Holland by amazing parents who loved to act in the theater as a hobby, to sing, compose, write poems, and play the piano, sitar and guitar. Raised in Holland during WW2, her parents were recognized as two of “The Righteous

Among the Nations”; her father used his gifts and talents to help rescue the Jewish people, and commanded part of the Underground resistance group against the Nazi regime, which was a connected network with others like the Ten Boom family. Bep used her artistic talents to make false IDs for the underground.

At a young age, Bep was encouraged to be creative, and soon discovered her love for art, poetry, music, and her gift of caring for those around her. Besides being a well-known artist—with her work being found in homes and families such as John F. Kennedy, Hollywood actors, lawyers, and common lovers of art across the USA, Canada, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and Israel—she managed an art gallery in the San Francisco area. She was also a kindergarten teacher, and studied to become a nurse in the labor and delivery ward, which included caring for pre-term newborns in the NICU. Her love for people, especially children, continued throughout her life. She worked in Holland, Switzerland, the US, and Israel.

She would be known and remembered by many as an amazingly gifted storyteller. Children (as well as adults!) would find themselves captivated by her ability to make a story come to life, begging her to tell them just one more story! Besides being an artist, she spoke several languages and played the piano, sitar, flute, and guitar. Bep was among the first settlers in Arad, Israel in 1962, as a nanny for children. She



loved people, and her joy in caring for others led to her later managing a senior citizens’ home in Holland, before moving back to Israel in 1976, and staying there until she passed away in 2018, at the age of 85. In Israel, she worked at the Beth Shalom Hotel, before becoming a resident of the Ebenezer Senior Citizens’ Home, where her son, David Phillips, works as the maintenance and project manager.

But most of all, Bep learned to love her Lord, and was so grateful and thankful for all He had done for her. She accepted Yeshua (Jesus) into her heart at the age of 37, and would live the rest of her life for Him. Her art became a way to express her thoughts and deep understanding of the realities of life, and the truth of the Word of God. Many that remember her will tell you, “She was a lady of prayer, a prayer warrior.”

One of the many favorite Scripture passages she would be in awe of and meditate on, is found in Psalm 139: “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee” (verses 17-18).

In honor of Bep, the Ebenezer Home is doing a giveaway of a replica of her amazing painting, *Blowing the Shofar!* For each \$50 that is given toward the Home, you will be entered to win this beautiful piece of art, printed on canvas, that measures 36”x16”. We will draw the winner on September 18, 2020. Please be sure to provide your information so we can contact you.

My email: tms1.dp@gmail.com

# The Coronavirus

“Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:26).

**Arno Froese**

The above Scripture speaks of the time called the Great Tribulation. Nevertheless, at the time of writing, a global panic has grasped the nations.

Here are some headlines:

- India Identifies More Coronavirus Cases
- More Than 3,000 Killed by Coronavirus
- South Africa Third Sub-Saharan Country to Confirm Coronavirus
- Netherlands Braces for Return of 900 Students from Italian Alps Because of Coronavirus
- Israel Cancels Military Exercise
- Palestinian Authority Issue Foreign Tourist Ban
- Iran Death Toll Rises to 107
- Slovenia Confirms First Case
- Airlines Could Lose More Than \$113 Billion in Revenue
- Kuwait Confirms Two More Cases
- Germany Reports Over 350 Cases

- More than 290 Million Students Missing School
- Switzerland Reports First Death

The news headlines continue to mount, trumpeting alarm as the hours and days go by. While this is not the fulfillment of the Scripture we read above, “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth...,” there is definitely a perceptible panic; not by individual nations only, but globally.

A glimmer of hope comes from Israel: Israeli scientists are on the cusp of developing the first vaccine against the novel coronavirus, according to Science and Technology Minister Ofir Akunis. If all goes as planned, the vaccine could be ready [...] and available in 90 days, according to a release.

“Congratulations to MIGAL [The Galilee Research Institute] on this exciting breakthrough,” Akunis said. “I am confident there will be further rapid progress, enabling us to



# The Coronavirus

provide a needed response to the grave global COVID-19 threat," Akunis said, referring to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

-[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com), 27 February 2020

So, why the panic? The answer lies in the ability to communicate around the globe virtually instantaneously. Another often-overlooked contributing factor is social media fanning the flames. How dangerous is the coronavirus? For those who have been infected, and families whose members have died due to the disease, it's a great tragedy. However, that can also be said for the annual flu. Since 2010, a Google search reveals that between 12,000 to 61,000 influenza deaths were recorded each year.

Most agree that the worst and most devastating epidemic was the Black Death plague in Europe in the 14th century, where an estimated 75 to 200 million died. Since then, many other epidemics have been recorded throughout the world, such as smallpox, with over 400,000 casualties annually in Europe. In

1918, the Spanish influenza epidemic killed 17 to 50 million worldwide. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), the Bird flu, Ebola, leprosy, polio, etc.—there is no end to the horrible suffering of humanity due to these and other diseases throughout history.

Nevertheless, when we look at statistics and graphs from the World Health Organization, major diseases have been conquered and even eradicated due to the discovery of vaccination and the birth and growth of the field of immunology. Thus, we can say with assurance that coronavirus will also be conquered. The success of medical science, high-quality food production, and general improved comfort in both home and the workplace have contributed to amazing long life expectancy. For example, in the year 1900, life expectancy in the US was 43 years; in 2019, it's 80.3 years.

This leads us to the most important source on life and death, and that is the Bible. Here the following Scriptures: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). This means 70 to 80 years. That is actually our expiration date; once we have reached 70, the road downhill goes quicker. Upon hitting 80, we feel it and know that our time is at hand. Acts 17:26 makes this statement: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." That's why Psalm 90 instructs us in verse 12: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Coronavirus will one day be history, just as all other diseases, but that does not change the fact that each human being on planet earth is subject to the eternal Word of God: "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). (MC)

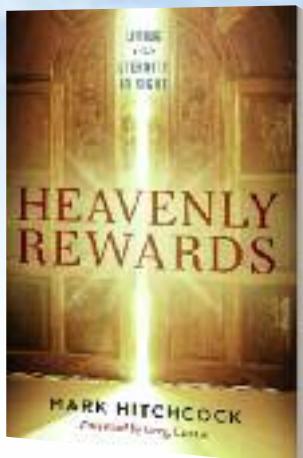
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# Midnight Call's April Resource Guide



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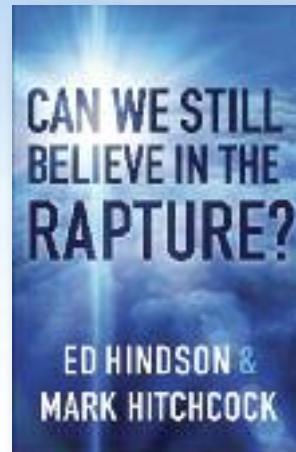
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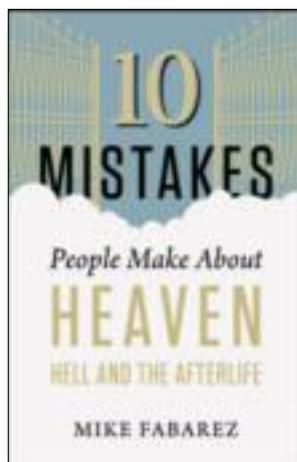
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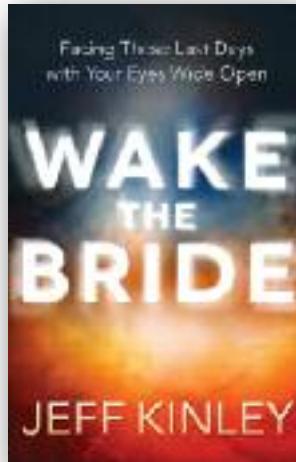
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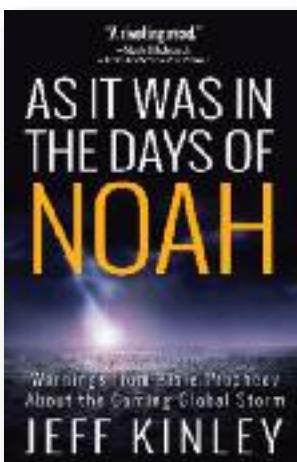
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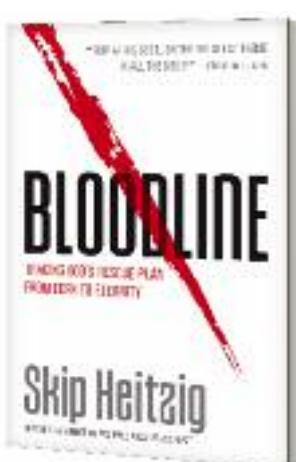


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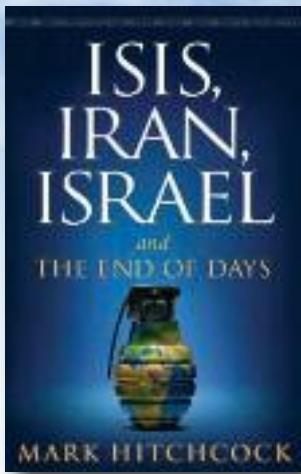
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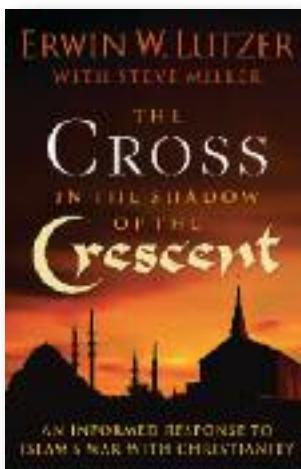
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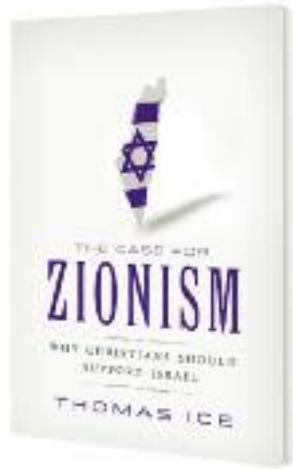
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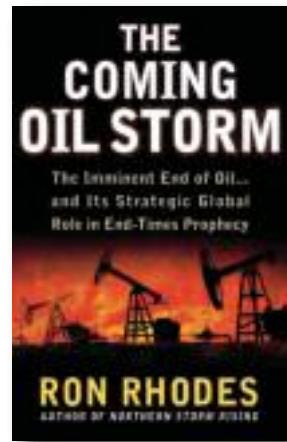
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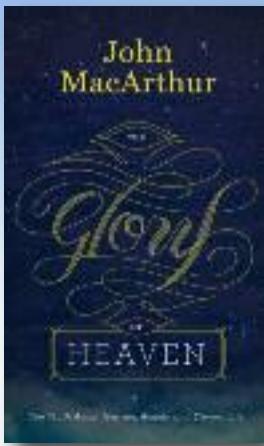
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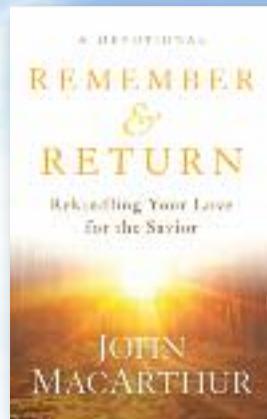
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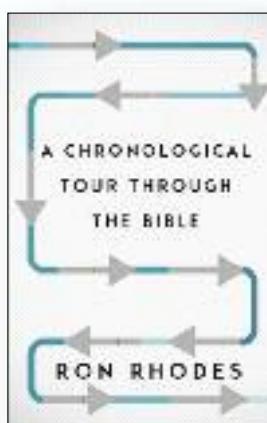
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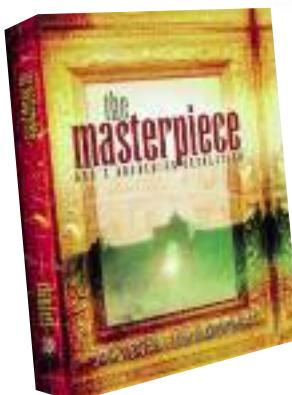
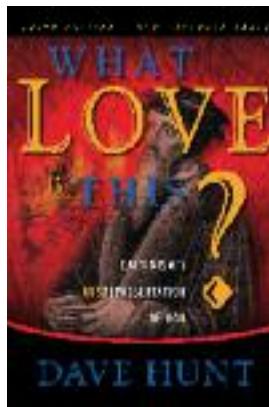
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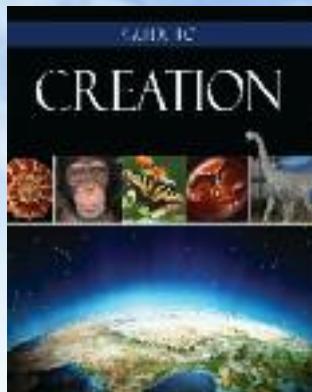
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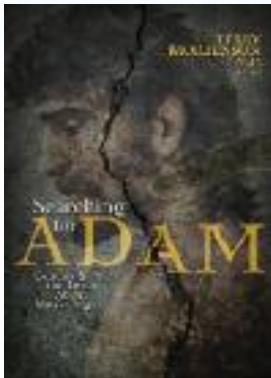


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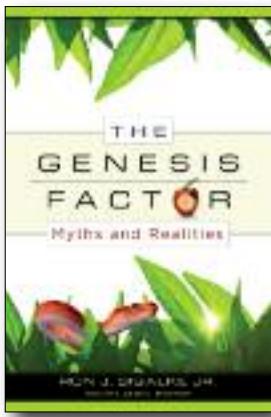
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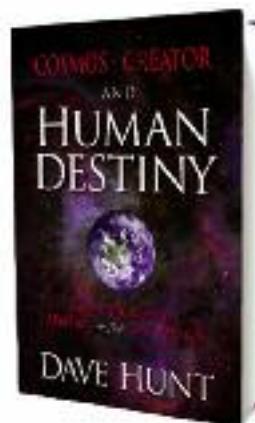
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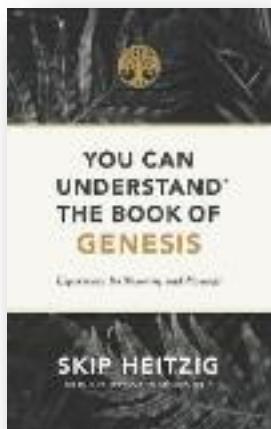
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