

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

# Midnight Call

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June 2020—\$4.75

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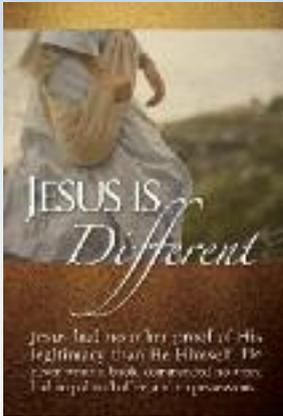
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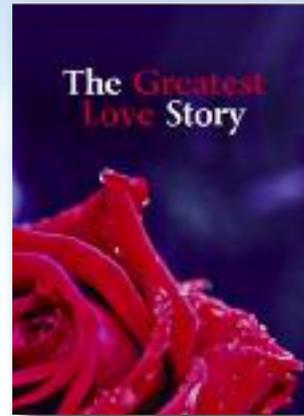
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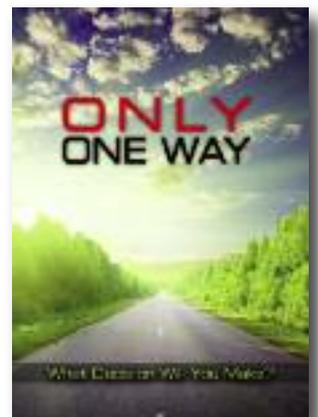


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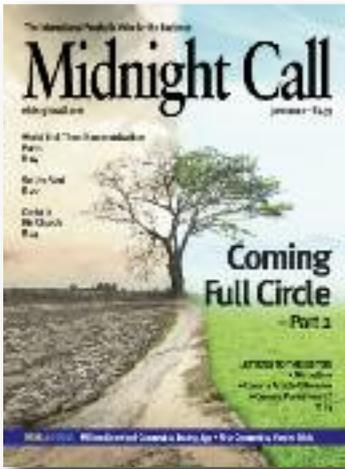
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# “Do Not Be Anxious!”

**By Nathanael Winkler**

*Pastor and Elder, Midnight Call International*



Dear Friends,

During the coronavirus pandemic, politicians, virologists, doctors, professors, and specialists spoke out with a wide variety of hypotheses. But who was to be believed? Various nations, states, and districts approached the problem differently. Some opinions were silenced in the mainstream media, portrayed as delusion. The whole world stood still. Such a global state of emergency hasn't occurred since World War II. What would happen next with small business owners, airlines, or the hospitality industry? How high would the price be for the measures taken against the virus?

Police states suddenly emerged from enlightened democracies. Surveillance was carried out using drones and mobile phone tracking. In Italy, the police chased fishermen by helicopter; in Spain, a surfer was arrested by a special unit. Resources that would otherwise only be approved for exceptional cases in the fight against terrorism were used. National borders were brought back under control. Where was the “union” of the European Union? And where were the countless genders of gender ideology, when the statistics only listed sick men and women? Suddenly, children were back with their parents, and both had more time for each other since schools and childcare facil-

ities were closed. Homeschooling and home offices had to be quickly implemented.

What will this crisis bring about? Many believers tend to find a conspiracy behind everything, but did (and does) this corona crisis have to be more than God speaking? He wants us to humble ourselves before Him, seek Him, and change our attitudes. This is still the age of grace, because God is speaking! The whole situation also reminds us that a time is coming when God will speak for the last time: the time of judgment (Rev 6:7-8; 9:13-15). But right in the midst of this coming “Great Tribulation” is when people will hold tightly to their rebellion (Rev 9:20-21). Even if God makes it clear to us that nothing is under our control, people think, “We've got this!” Yes, we can contain—and sometimes even prevent—epidemics and catastrophes. And yet, the next ones are sure to come. Ultimately, human rebellion will culminate in our world worshipping another: the Antichrist.

The events of the past few months have shown us how quickly control over all humanity can be gained. Curfews were enforced with little resistance and, suddenly, people could only buy and sell via cashless means in many places. The Antichrist will know how to use this. He'll be an intellectual (Dan 8:23-25), a political (Rev 17:11-13), economic (Rev 13:16-17), military

## EDITOR'S NOTE

(Rev 13:4), and religious (Rev 13:8) genius, as Mark Hitchcock shows in his book, *Who Is the Antichrist?* He writes, "He will have answers to the horrendous problems of mankind [...] He will be Satan's masterpiece of deception, the world's false messiah. With boundless enthusiasm the masses will follow him and readily enthrone him in their hearts as the world's savior and god."

In contrast, there is the offer of grace from the Lord Jesus Christ today: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). Christians aren't expecting the Antichrist; we're expecting our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ. We don't know either the day or the hour, so we want to be watching and praying. God's Word commands us: "Do not be anxious"; rather, cast all of your cares upon the Lord, and seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Phil 4:6-7; Matt 6:25-33). "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Rom 8:32). That's why we must have the right priorities, despite all the uncertainties.

Let's consider the church at Thessalonica: its situation seemed to resemble the end time. It suffered persecution, loss, and fear. Yet Paul praised the Thessalonians for being steadfast, and for growing in the Lord's work and in love. Why? Because they were anticipating their Lord's return, and didn't allow themselves to surrender to their current circumstances and concerns. Christ was their goal, and their life's substance. It should be the same for us—"Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him" (Matt 25:6). (MC)

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### OUR TASK

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

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

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

**WE BELIEVE** in the divine inspiration of the whole Bible and therefore with 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 2



**Norbert Lieth**

In God's new world, where He has fellowship with mankind, death no longer exists. Instead of looking for means to prolong our earthly lives, we should seek God to live forever.

There will be no more mourning. We are intimately familiar with obituaries, mourning clothes, funeral processions, condolences, caring for the bereaved. There are also grief support groups. Grief surrounds us.

There are four phases of grief related to death. The first is shock, being stunned. The second is the emotional phase. There are feelings of grief and despair. The third is the state of remembrance. This can last for a long time. And the fourth is the state of detachment from grief. New things are discovered and embraced. But only until the next sorrow comes. So, we actually remain in a perpetually sad condition.

But in God's new world, where there is no death and no more tears, there is no more mourning. With God, we live in eternal delight.

There will be no more cries of anguish. Crying out is often the aftermath of tears, death, grief, and pain. People sob and cry; people moan. We also know cries of horror, disappointment and loss, anger and jealousy, conflict and war, but also cries of pleading and cries for mercy. There are the cries of children. Shouting at subway stations and in the supermarket. People yell at each other. In God's world, crying out is absent; there is only the highest quality of well-being.

There will be no more pain. We're familiar with physical pain and emotional pain, including the pain of separation. That will come to an end. Then there will be no more eyeglasses, no walkers or wheelchairs, no prostheses, no pharma-

cies, no ambulances, no bandages, no syringes, no coffins, no hospital beds or hospitals, no doctors or paramedics, no nursing homes, no weapons...because the first things have passed. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."

There will no longer be a temple. "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it" (Rev 21:22).

There will no longer be a priesthood, no mediator between mankind and God. God Himself and the Lamb will come so close to humans that He will live among them. Isaiah indicated this: "At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel. And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect that which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images" (Is 17:7-8).

There will no longer be sun, moon, or night. "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it" (Rev 21:23-24; cf. 22:5; Is 60:19-20).

Even science says that the sun gives light, but is not the source of light. The source of light is God, "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be

In God's new world, where there is no death and no more tears, there is no more mourning. With God, we live in eternal delight.

## Coming Full Circle – Part 2

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There are no longer any closed gates. “And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it” (Rev 21:25-26; cf. Is 60:11).



honour and power everlasting. Amen” (1 Tim 6:16). Just as the Shekinah illuminated the night for Israel and protected the people, and the cloud of glory represented the presence of God, so the presence of the Lord in the new Jerusalem will illuminate everything.

Where there is no more need for a sun, moon, candlestick, or lamp, there is always day. There is no more time. “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev 22:5; cf. 21:25).

Most children want to keep a night light on because they’re afraid of the dark. God and the Lamb are the light,

and there is no night with God. He also never sleeps and needs no rest, because He Himself is the source of all rest and the source of all light. So, there is no fear of night or darkness anymore; everything is pure and illuminated. The redeemed man has come to rest in the eternal God.

There are no longer any closed gates. “And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it” (Rev 21:25-26; cf. Is 60:11).

There will be nations and peoples on the new earth (Rev 21:3; Matt 25:31ff.); maybe even governments, but all under the rule of God and the Lamb. They come from the previous millennial kingdom.

These nations will be able to carry their glories and honor from the earth into the heavenly Jerusalem. They won't dwell there, because the residences in the new Jerusalem belong to God the Father, God the Son, countless angels, the redeemed Israelites, and the church of Jesus. The new Jerusalem will descend from heaven to the earth, but actually hover above it (Rev 21:2-3, 10).

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them” (Rev 7:15). The temple will be God Himself, and no longer a building. “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly

and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel” (Heb 12:22-24).

The heavenly Zion is a synonym for heaven. The heavenly Jerusalem is the city of God, the wife of the Lamb. It is inhabited by myriads of angels and the gathering of the firstborn, which includes all those born again in Christ from Pentecost to the Rapture. It is the residence of God and of the perfected righteous ones—the faithful of the Old Covenant. And Jesus is there. The other peoples (the redeemed from the millennial kingdom) live on the earth, and indirectly participate in the heavenly



The heavenly Jerusalem is also described as an adorned bride (Rev 21:2ff.). In Jeremiah 31:22, it says, “...the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.”

## Coming Full Circle – Part 2

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Jerusalem. But it is open to them; they have access.

The heavenly Jerusalem is also described as an adorned bride (Rev 21:2ff.). In Jeremiah 31:22, it says, "...the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man."

There will no longer be a curse. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him" (Rev 22:3).

In Revelation chapter 22, verses 1 and 3, the throne of God and the Lamb are mentioned twice. Verse 2 forms the transition to the new heaven and the new earth. This is the time of the millennial kingdom, in which the nations are healed (cf. Ezek 47:12). They have access to the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev 21:25-27), and there is no curse remaining (but still in the millennium; cf. Isaiah 65:20). As previously mentioned, there will then be no more time, since the sun and the moon are no longer needed. Consequently, there is also no more night (Rev 21:23; 22:5). The sun and moon were originally created for the determination of times, days, and years (Gen 1:14). There will probably still be time in the millennial kingdom, since the Tree of Life bears fruit twelve times a year (Rev 22:2). This is more an indication that verse 2 seems to be a time of transition. Now that all have access to the Tree of Life and the peoples are healed, there will be no curse (21:24).

The world would be so beautiful if not for the curse. Brazil's Copacabana and Iguazú Falls, Germany's Black Forest, the Swiss mountains, the animal kingdom, lakes and nature preserves, man himself... everything could be so wonderful. The curse is the result of sin. Everything is under the curse and the beauty destroyed. Jesus, however, carried away the curse by

becoming a curse on the Cross (Gal 3:13). There will be no sin and no curse in God's new world.

There will no longer be anything unclean. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev 21:7-8; cf. Eph 5:5ff.).

The "fearful" are the ones who do not overcome, and therefore remain unbelievers. They also remain entangled in the sins listed here. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev 21:27). Those who have faithfully chosen Jesus are recorded in the Book of the Lamb. "For without are dogs [the morally impure], and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Rev 22:15).

In these verses, it is finally summarized that no one will find his way into God's glorious world without forgiveness—not on the new earth, let alone in the new heaven. For sinners who don't turn back to the Lord, only the lake of fire remains.

God will once again reside among human beings, as in the beginning of creation, and have close fellowship with them. Heaven and earth will again be visibly interwoven (Rev 21:3). As the Tree of Life was denied to man as a result of the fall, so there is now open access to it (Rev 22:2, 14). And as a cherub stood before Paradise to block access after the Fall, so in the end an invitation comes once again:

The world would be so beautiful if not for the curse. The animal kingdom, lakes and nature preserves, man himself...everything could be so wonderful.



“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev 22:16-17).

The Bible concludes with a goodbye note: “He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” (Rev 22:20-21).

Jesus Himself gives us the guarantee that He will return. This is a tremendous comfort that should accompany us throughout our lives. It is the last direct word of our Lord. Verse 21 is a blessing

from John, obviously inspired by the Holy Spirit. We can only answer with, “Amen, come, Lord Jesus!”

At the same time, these words express the anticipation that we should remain in. We should expect His return, focus on biblical prophecy, study it, align ourselves to it, love it, and live it. “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Rev 22:7).

The point isn't to understand everything (I'm nowhere near able to), but to keep the words in our hearts; to not ignore them, but to focus on them and cling to them. And we can know that until we see Him again, His grace will be with us.

Goodbye!

(MR0519/1010)

# “We Will See Him as He Is”

**A conversation with Norbert Lieth about right understanding and the central message of Revelation, questions, and biblical prophecy in the personal life of the believer.**

**Q** **The last book of the Bible completes the story of salvation. But why are there so many vastly different interpretations of Revelation?**

**A** I've heard that there are as many as a hundred different interpretations of parts of Revelation on a single Bible-faithful website. I found different answers for myself:

First, there are things in Revelation that leave nothing to be desired in clarity. As far as these things are concerned, we are obligated to remain in unity. For example, Revelation mentions six times that the millennial kingdom lasts a thousand years. There is no doubt about this in my mind. We should take it as written. The same applies to the 1,260 days, or 42 months of the Tribulation. But there are also things that the Bible leaves open and where

there is no concrete answer as to what exactly is meant. Here one can only interpret, and as a result, different views are possible. Let me give just one example: the harlot and Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18. Some point to Rome and the Roman Catholic Church; others to ecumenism; some recognize the world economic system, or the EU and Brussels; others literally Babylon; and still others see Jerusalem. The Bible itself gives no concrete answer. Therefore, I may have my opinion from the overall context of the Bible and advocate for it, but I shouldn't demonize others and their opinions. Instead, I should simply overlook it.

Second, interpretations often depend on the spiritual background of the interpreter, his theological training and the perspective from which he was taught, on church conditioning, family circumstances, the current state of knowledge, etc.

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Third, the Bible says in Colossians 2:3 that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus Christ. There are still so many treasures of knowledge to dig up, and there is more and more to discern and bring to light. Nobody should assume that they know the whole treasure.

Fourth, God could have explained every detail in Scripture in such a way that everyone knew exactly what was meant and no question remained unanswered. Obviously, examples include such truths as Christ as the only means of salvation, His virgin birth, His death and resurrection, the inspiration of the Bible through the Holy Spirit, and much more. But other things are not formulated so concretely; this keeps us humble, encourages us to study further, and drives us to prayer and vigilance, because if we knew everything exactly with no leeway, we'd soon be sitting idle.

Fifth, God hasn't placed Bible interpretation into the hands of one individual or one-person ministry, but has given it to the church. The interpretation belongs within the space of the entire community.

Sixth, there is something greater and more important than questions of knowledge: love (cf. Eph 3:19). When only dogmatism, know-it-all attitudes, and chastising a neighbor for disagreeing prevail, we are doing something fundamentally wrong. I don't have to accept another's opinion, but I can overlook it in love, unless it's out-and-out heresy.

### **Q What was your "Aha!" moment in interpreting Revelation?**

**A** For me, part of it was the realization that it fulfills the remaining Old Testament prophecies and those from the Gospels; moreover, that it is mainly about Israel and its restoration, as well as the messianic kingdom, which was not in force at the first coming of Jesus. Last but not least, in Revelation I see a God who doesn't let His statements just fall where

they may, but reaches His objective in everything. God is faithful; Jesus will reign as King, and the world will be subject to Him.

### **Q The circle of the story of salvation begins with a garden and concludes with a city. Does that have a special significance?**

**A** The meaning of the new Jerusalem, which comes down from heaven, is that God Himself wants to dwell among men (Rev 21:3, 22-23; 22:1, 3, 5). That's where we come full circle. In the garden of Eden, God had the closest fellowship with the first two people; that was destroyed by sin. In the end, the circle closes and everything is restored, even better than at the beginning. Where there is a God who rules many people on a new earth as King, there also needs to be a government headquarters; this will be the new Jerusalem.

### **Q What is the essence and center of Revelation, which all interpreters can and should agree on?**

**A** That the divine Word, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, is to be taken literally, and that it is about the return of Jesus and the establishment of His eternal kingdom, which exists beyond the millennium.

### **Q What does Revelation's "goodbye" mean for our lives today?**

**A** The greatest living hope, which we should be animatedly focused on. We will see Him as He is, and we will be like Him. It means that our world today and our current life is not our home, but the eternal glory of God. Everyone is glad to go home and prepare to deal with the outside world when they next encounter it. We too can do that in terms of eternity and our citizenship in heaven.

(MR0519/1011)



## RIPENING TIMES #8 —

# WORLD END-TIME MAMMONIZATION: PART 1



We have been documenting world trends, these being developments of prophetic importance that serve as markers and enablers of the encroaching end times. Indeed, some of the trends that we have investigated may even qualify as prophetic fulfillments; all of them, of course, qualifying as developments that set the stage for actual prophetic fulfillments yet future. To date, we have identified seven such developments. We now proceed with the eighth—World End-Time Mammonization.

**By Wilfred Hahn**

**W**hat is Mammonization? We define it as the process by which all of earthly creation and the activities of mankind are translated and captured in the form of a money value. This trend goes hand-in-hand with the process that we have many times identified as the Global Endtime Money Snare (GEMS) that Satan is deploying. (This author published a book by this name, *The Endtime Money Snare: How to Live Free*, now out of print.)

It is a “prophetically significant” trend—but one that may not be obvious to many. Nevertheless, it is a major, pivotal contributor to the end-time agenda. Thus, it is critical that we review this development. We will explain this end-time phenomenon as best as possible and try to keep it interesting.

The advent of Mammonization can be clearly deduced from the Bible. Scripture

says that the end times will be marked by great deception, Mammon worship and materialism. It is therefore no coincidence that the Bible considers riches and wealth to be deceitful (Mark 4:19).

Critical to Satan’s Mammonization strategy are two subsidiary worldwide trends: 1. Financialization; and 2; Numeracy. We will explain these trends in this two-part series. Both have rapidly conditioned humanity (and even the Church) to a type of blindness (see Revelation 3:17).

Readers will note that we choose to capitalize the word Mammon. Why? Because it clearly has spiritual dimensions and, in our view, is enlivened by a sinister being—Satan himself. Mammon therefore is the personification of the lure of earthly wealth—the god of riches—seeking to convince us to “live by bread alone” (Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4).

We remind ourselves that the Lord does possess all riches, as He is the Creator (Revelations 5:12). Knowing this, how is it then that the god of riches has so successfully prevailed in attracting the world's worship? It clearly must be an unrighteous and deceptive god.

The Bible says that there are two opposing realms, that of Mammon and God. They are at opposite poles and cannot be mixed. Jesus says expressly: “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24, KJV).

A number of prominent Bible translations (NIV, ISV and others) do not use the word “mammon” (*mammonas* in Greek); instead, interpreting this word as “worldly wealth,” “riches of this world,” or “money” and “wealth.”

None of these terms, in this writer's view, fully captures the essence of the concept expressed by the Greek word *mammonas*. This word is mentioned four times in the New Testament. It pointedly refers to deceitful riches, wealth personified, and unrighteous wealth (Luke 16:11, KJV). These definitions better portray the essence of Mammon.

Now that we have a better understanding of “Mammon,” we can better frame a personal question: Do we wish to serve God or the “god of unrighteous riches”?

We remind ourselves that the Lord does possess all riches, as He is the Creator (Revelations 5:12). Knowing this, how is it then that the god of riches has so successfully prevailed in attracting the world's worship? It clearly must be an unrighteous and deceptive god.



We turn to the task of explaining the two contributing trends mentioned earlier. We begin with Financialization.

### **Financialization — It Is All About the Money**

Financialization refers to the process whereby everything is expressed or appraised in terms of money value.

Consider the concept of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is a well-known term today and has had an enormous impact on how our society thinks and sees things—through a prism of money value. GDP represents a tally of all human eco-



Reading of the riches and splendor of Solomon's reign, it almost conjures up the fanciful idolatry of our modern-day financial systems, which are intertwined with national accounting. But it was very different from what we have today.



economic activity expressed in a money value. It is a figure that has come to be revered in our modern day.

But, did you know that GDP is a very modern invention, finding its roots only as recently as the 1920s? And, if that is the case, you the reader may be asking, how was it possible that humanity was able to survive without such a concept of national accounting before that time?

Today, a difference of a few tenths of one percent in an estimated growth rate of GDP, can cause stock and bond markets to soar or fall. The slightest wiggle is treated with great significance. Quoting one commentator, "The quarterly release of GDP statistics is more akin to a religious service than anything resembling a scientific study."<sup>1</sup>

Given this hyper-sensitivity to GDP statistics, you may be surprised to learn

that the GDP estimates (and also other economic statistics) are highly unreliable and subjective.

In our view, National Accounting made possible the idolatrous figurement. It has paved the way for wealth worship, which has possessed our last-day world today! It makes for an eye-opening story.

### **GDP: What Is It?**

Allow us to explain the significance and construct of GDP.

To be sure, economic statistics have existed for generations, most certainly in the form of business and transactional details. These types of records go back to ancient Babylonian times, often making up the bulk of documents that have been unearthed.

The accounts of King Solomon's enterprises, for example, are recorded in detail in the Bible. Solomon's trade dealings are found in 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. Reading of the riches and splendor of Solomon's reign, it almost conjures up the fanciful idolatry of our modern-day financial systems, which are intertwined with national accounting. But it was very different from what we have today.

Key to recognize with respect to modern-day GDP, is that never before was there invented a systematic approach to measuring the total value of human activity and output in terms of a "money value." Perhaps a silver trade guild may have attempted to record the sales volume of figurines of Artemis (see Acts 19:4-29). But, no one

## Just why was it seen as desirable to measure the output and activity levels of all humanity in terms of money? And, why was this national accounting convention so readily and rapidly adopted around the world?

thought to try to estimate the “value added” of this production and to equate its overall contribution to the total money value of Asia Minor’s economic output.

GDP is a concept born out of the invention of national accounting. Going back to its roots, Russia developed national output tables in the 1920s. However, its primary goal was to measure economic efficiency rather than its value in financial terms (after all, it was a communist country). There was no concept of the “moneyness” (capital) of human activity.

Later, beginning in the 1930s, the National Accounts System was first developed in the United States. Crucially, national accounting was then rapidly adopted in other countries. Many countries saw the benefit of such a calculation. It was an era where it was increasingly recognized that economic size (in terms of money GDP) was a form of power and might.

By 1952, the United Nations had published a guideline called *A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables*, thus introducing this standardized system to the entire world. This first guide was 50 pages long; the latest edition has 722.

Today, every country in the world has its economic output measured in “money terms” (even if not by its own statistical agency). Not all nations follow the same exact rules; some of the definitions are quite arbitrary, as we will show shortly.

However, transnational organizations such as the OECD (Organization for Eco-

nomic Cooperation and Development), the International Monetary Fund, United Nations, World Bank and many other global institutions, work to harmonize the various and different national accounting systems.

Today, the value of the economic output of the entire world is estimated in “money terms.” For example, according to the World Bank’s “current nominal value” definition of Gross National Product (GNP, a slightly different concept than GDP), total world economic output in 2018 was estimated at \$86 trillion, expressed in US dollars. Though many people will have little idea as to how this number is derived, an actual dollar number seems to make this statistic more real. It seems to provide an anchor to a sense of worldly riches (the “god of unrighteous riches”).

Just why was it seen as desirable to measure the output and activity levels of all humanity in terms of money? And, why was this national accounting convention so readily and rapidly adopted around the world?

It is puzzling, actually. Why? Because the national accounting techniques used to measure GDP today, still remain unruly and unscientific given that the value of money itself has been such a volatile and unreliable specie. It is one thing to record human activity; it is quite another to value it in money terms.

At the beginning, a main purpose of national accounting was to better manage employment levels (responding to the high unemployment in the US during the 1930s



Taking a literal, Biblical worldview, we would venture further to say that humanists, intent upon creating an earthly security and self-determination without God—trusting in Mammon instead—see mammonization as a tool to mount materialist agendas against Him.

Great Economic Depression). This would seem to be a worthy motive.

And, of course, all governments are eager to find tools to help them better assess their taxation base. This motivation too, seems innocuous and transparent, though perhaps not necessarily eagerly welcomed by the citizenry.

However, do not be misled. National Accounting has since traveled a long way down the slippery slope, by valuing everything in the world in terms of money. Significant compromises needed to be made.

### Metaphysical Money and Idols

National accounting has served as a launch to a highly sophisticated, great big measurable pile of riches, the ups and downs of which are reported in minute-by-minute detail; thus, becoming an idol.

Taking a literal, Biblical worldview, we venture further to say that humanists, intent upon creating an earthly security and self-determination without God—trusting in Mammon instead—see mammonization as a tool to mount materialist agendas against Him. Their perspective is diametrically opposite to that of the Bible.

We must ask, why worship something that we ourselves must prevent from toppling with our own hands? That surely is the case with financial markets. Our society worships soaring financial wealth (as false as most of it may be), but these markets repeatedly “totter” and “topple.” We then want policymakers to prop them back up (as again happened when the

Coronavirus in 2020 triggered a heart attack in world financial markets).

### GDP: An Imperfect Idol

Even though the world puts great value on the concept of Money today, it remains that GDP statistics are highly unreliable. It is a most arbitrary of concepts; constantly being changed and adjusted.

Here are just two examples of how this measure is politically and morally influenced. For instance, a decade ago, Sweden decided to count gambling and prostitution as an activity that is added to the national output (GDP). The net result was to make the size of its economy (GDP) appear bigger.

As of September 2014, all European Union countries were required to provide accounting estimates for trade in sex, drugs and other underground activities. This was part of an overhaul and harmonization of economic measuring by Eurostat, the Europeans statistics agency. These changes boosted reported GDP. Spain, for example, estimated at that time that including prostitution would add some \$20 billion to the size of its economy.

Were Italy to include all black-market activities and the valued added of the Mafia, would it then be the second largest European economy behind Germany?

For a good chuckle, we quote from an excellent resource on this topic of GDP by Diane Coyle<sup>2</sup>: “If you pay someone to mow your lawn and report wages paid, that adds to GDP. If you pay that person under the

table, it doesn't. If you pay your maid to clean your house, it adds to GDP. Except if you marry her, then it doesn't. Unless of course she gets access to the credit card, in which case spending probably increases GDP dramatically. In England, sex with your wife does not add to GDP, but sex with a prostitute does—even if it is unreported.”

### Points to Ponder

GDP is clearly a “moneyness” number, nothing much more. It is rickety, wobbly and misleading.

Nevertheless, Mammon must be venerated and enlarged. Financial market participants today continue to treat newly reported GDP statistics as from the mouth of an oracle.

Most certainly, the National Accounts System has its useful applications. Yet, it has served as a launch point for a humanist world that is intent upon Mammonization, to further capture all of mankind's activities in a financial net; translating everything into Mammon's “moneyness,” and helping to fabricate an enticing boom in worldwide financial wealth.

We conclude that the common denominator of all human activity and philosophies is increasingly the metaphysical entity of Money ...the spirit of Mammon ... an idol

that is held in great awe. Much of this “money image” of so-called progress is delusion.

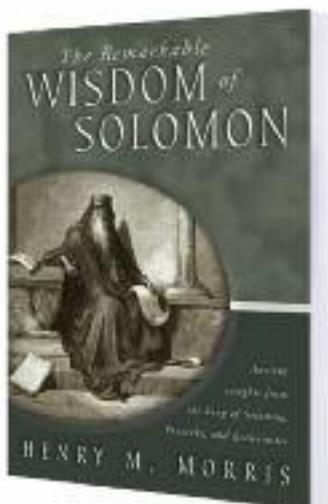
In conclusion, it seems doubtful that God has much use for the concept of Gross Domestic Product. He instead looks to the individual hearts of mankind ... the numbers of souls. He cares not for the might, riches and large economies of nations. A poor person is just as valuable to Him (if not more so, as Christ came to “proclaim [the] good news to the poor”: Luke 4:18), as are one or more persons from a nation with a high GDP per capita. He is much more drawn to contrite souls, who do not depend on nor place their hope in wealth.

Who owns all wealth? Said King David: “Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things [...]” (1 Chronicles 29:11-12).

In the next part, we conclude this 8th sequel of the Ripening Times. (MC)

### ENDNOTES

- 1 John Mauldin, *Thoughts from the Frontline*, July 20, 2014
- 2 Diane Coyle, *GDP: A Brief but Affectionate History*



## Ancient insights from the Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes

Inheriting and expanding a magnificent kingdom from his father, King David, Solomon attained both spiritual and material wealth, confounding his enemies and thrilling his own people. The Bible claims there will never be another like him. His legacy includes three canonical works that flowed from God to his pen—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

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A hand in a light blue shirt pointing upwards with the index finger. Above the finger is a glowing blue warning sign icon consisting of a triangle with an exclamation mark inside. The background is a blurred image of a person in a blue shirt.

# On the Alert

**Dr. Ron J. Bigalke**

Jesus said, “Behold, I am coming quickly” (Rev 22:12a). Do you find it difficult to understand why Jesus has not yet returned? Imagine a young child pondering God’s existence. The child asks, “God? Are you really there?” In an experience that can only be compared to God speaking to Moses from a burning bush (Exod 3:1-6), the child is astonished to hear a voice from the clouds. “Yes, I am here. What would you like to ask?” Seizing the opportunity, the child asks, “God? What is a million years like to you?”

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God knew it was impossible for the child to understand the concept of infinity, so He responded in a manner that would help. “A thousand years is like one day.” “Oh,” the child remarked, “What’s a thousand dollars like to you?” “A thousand dollars is like a penny,” God responded. “Wow!” replied the child, with an idea in mind. “God, you are obviously generous. May I have one of your pennies?” “Certainly,” God answered. “Give me a day to get it to you.”

Second Peter 3:8-9 reads, “But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” Mark 13 is particularly important because of the instructions that Jesus gave to His disciples. His teaching not only impacts those listening, but also all those who will follow Him in the future. Jesus prepares His people in both the present and the future to be ready for His return.

### **THINGS TO COME**

(Mark 13:1-27) The extensive discourse of Mark 13 is known as the Olivet Discourse; it is so named because it was given on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem. (The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called “Synoptic,” which means literally “to see together” or “to take the same point of view.”) The Olivet Discourse is the only lengthy teaching of Jesus in all the Synoptic Gospels (cf. Matt 24—25; Luke 17; 21). The occasion for Jesus’ discourse on the Mount of Olives was the disciples’ comment regarding the remarkable stones in the Temple and the adjacent buildings (Mark 13:1).

In *The Antiquities of the Jews* (15.11.3), Jewish historian Josephus wrote, “Now the temple was built of stones that were white and strong, and each of their length was twenty-five cubits, their height was eight, and their breadth about twelve.” (A cubit equaled a foot and a half.) The buildings were also remarkable. The brass gates were one hundred thirty feet high. The Temple was magnificent to behold. Jesus responded to the disciples’ awe with a devastating announcement: “Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down” (v. 2).

Jesus predicted the complete destruction of the Temple buildings, which did occur in AD 70, when the Roman armies under Titus destroyed the city of Jerusalem. Only one part of one wall is preserved (the “Wailing Wall”), because the Romans broke apart many of the stones to obtain the gold embedded in them. The prophecy, however, has not yet attained complete fulfillment, because many stones still remain upon one another in the Temple complex, specifically in its foundations. Jesus prophesied what would occur in the future in relation to His return.

As they crossed the Kidron Valley that separated the Temple complex from the Mount of Olives to the east, the disciples likely pondered Jesus’ prophecy. “As He [Jesus] was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple,” the Lord’s first four disciples (1:16-20) asked two questions (13:3-4). The first was regarding the time of the Temple’s destruction, and the second concerned the sign of Jesus’ coming and the end of the present age (cf. Matt 24:3).

The disciples believed the destruction of the Temple and the end of the present age would occur simultaneously. Jesus taught His disciples otherwise by warning them of false signs (Mark 13:5-13), and

## On the Alert

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“Wars,” “rumors of wars,” “earthquakes,” and “famines” will precede Jesus’ return and demonstrate that He is coming, even though it is impossible to know the precise time of the Lord’s return (Mark 13:7-8).



then instructed them concerning the events that will indicate great tribulation, climaxing in His second coming (vv. 14-27). The first deceptive sign of the end is the presence of false messiahs and the lies they will disseminate (vv. 5-6), which corresponds to the first seal of the Apocalypse (Rev 6:1-2). Given a date of approximately AD 95 for the writing of Revelation, and AD 45-68 for the Synoptic Olivet Discourses (Matt 24—25; Mark 13; Luke 17; 21), this would be logical. The Synoptic Gospels were written earlier, and false messiahs would have been anticipated already (as the beginning of the tribulation period).

The sequence of the Synoptic Olivet Discourses would indicate that the first seal refers to false messiahs already mentioned in Mark 13 (and the Matthean and Lukan parallels). The white horseman is then a counterfeit of the second white horse rider (the Lord Jesus Christ) in Revelation 19. “Antichrists” are already present in the world, yet God’s people “have an anointing from the Holy One” so they can discern between truth and lies (1 John

2:18-24). The manner for knowing the truth is to “let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning”; that is, the revealed Word of God, the Holy Bible.

“Wars,” “rumors of wars,” “earthquakes,” and “famines” will precede Jesus’ return and demonstrate that He is coming, even though it is impossible to know the precise time of the Lord’s return (Mark 13:7-8). “Wars” and “rumors of wars” are components of what Jesus called “the beginning of birth pangs” (v. 8), which ultimately culminate in His return to earth. The components just identified correspond to the red horse rider (the second seal of the Apocalypse), who will emerge shortly after the first horseman (or perhaps later in the first half of the tribulation). Nevertheless, it does appear that the many false messiahs and prophets influence the second horseman and essentially challenge any claims to maintain peace for Israel.

The third seal horseman, or black horse rider, brings famine and is thus a foreboding forerunner of the pale horse rider. The third seal is likely to be broken shortly after the second seal judgment, because famine often follows warfare. Each of the Olivet Discourses in the Synoptic Gospels prophesies famine as a result of wars and rumors of wars.

The fourth seal horseman, the pale horse rider, brings death. The judgment he brings parallels the Olivet Discourse, which prophesies earthquakes, famine, and pestilences, resulting in death. Interestingly, the prophet Ezekiel referred to four figures of judgment. “For thus says the Lord GOD, ‘How much more when I send My four severe judgments against

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Jesus emphasized the need for alertness by making the comparison to faithful servants being ready for the owner of the house to return (vv. 34-36).

Jerusalem: sword, famine, wild beasts and plague to cut off man and beast from it!” (Ezek 14:21). The judgments were well-known covenant curses (Lev 26:20, 22, 25, 33; Deut 32:24). Contextually, the judgment is the wrath of God, and thus a period of God’s indignation will have been brought upon the earth with the breaking of the four seal judgments.

Jesus will return in history similar to an infant who emerges from a painful birth experience (v. 8; cf. Isa 66:8; Jer 22:23; Hos 13:13; Mic 4:9-10). He then encouraged perseverance in the midst of suffering (Mark 13:9-13). The purpose of persecution is proclamation, and God promises special grace in desperate times (v. 11). Faithful endurance results in the privilege of reigning with Jesus in His kingdom (vv. 12-13; cf. 2 Tim 2:12).

Jesus prepared His people for the time of His return by instructing them regarding the abomination that will cause desolation (Mark 13:14-19). The prophecy of abomination is from Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11. Daniel’s prophecy was partially fulfilled in 168 BC, when Antiochus Epiphanes IV desecrated the Temple by erecting an altar to Zeus over the Jewish altar. Jesus indicated that more of the prophecy would be fulfilled. God’s mercy alone will relieve the desolation, and He will do this for the sake of His elect (Mark 13:20-23). The distress just mentioned will be followed by cosmic events related to Jesus’ second coming (vv. 24-27).

### **THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

(Mark 13:28-37) Jesus began His discourse with exhortation (vv. 4-13), and He concluded in the same manner (vv. 28-37). The lesson from the “fig tree” is to develop spiritual sensitivity (vv. 28-30). The

budding of the fig tree indicates a change in seasons, and discerning people can anticipate coming events by the signs preceding those events. Jesus solemnly guaranteed the truth of His words (v. 31). His words were authenticated by the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, and will reach their complete fulfillment in the end times.

The phrase “these things” (v. 29) refers to the generation that witnesses the events of the Olivet Discourse, which culminate in Jesus’ second coming. Only the generation witnessing all the events prophesied in the Olivet Discourse will be the one to experience the Lord’s return. The generation that goes through the beginning of that period will also witness the end. When the signs of the beginning of the end occur, then the culmination of that period will come relatively quickly; that is, within a generation. When the events of the Olivet Discourse occur, they will be swift and with haste.

Jesus ended the Olivet Discourse with an exhortation to persistent vigilance, because no one, “not even the angels in heaven,” knows the exact timing of the events of the second coming (v. 32). Jesus emphasized the need for alertness by making the comparison to faithful servants being ready for the owner of the house to return (vv. 34-36). “Be on the alert!” is applicable to people in every time period (v. 37). Mark 13 emphasizes how to remain faithful to the mission of God. Take heed to be attentive and vigilant to the calling of God in your life! May all God’s people be intentional to shine amid the darkness, until the Lord’s work is accomplished. Then His church will be able to stand before Him without shame (cf. Rom 10:11; 1 John 2:28). (1057)



# Christ in His Church

**Wim Malgo (1922–1992)**

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 11. Revelation 1:12.

**J**ohn continues, “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me” (v. 12). The Holy Spirit, who has taken hold of John, turns him around—that is, turns him away from the natural, worldly gaze, away from the earthly. The natural man hears nothing of the things of the Spirit. They are foolishness to him (1 Cor. 2:14).

What does John see when he turns around? Does he now see the glorified

Christ? Not at first, but instead, “And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks” (v. 12b). What are these golden candlesticks? Verse 20 says, “...the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” What immediately stands out here, is that before he sees the glory of the person Jesus, John first sees the church! This means that no one can see Jesus in glory, except through the true church. What a responsibility

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◀ When a person, disappointed by the world's deception, finally turns around, he looks first to the church.

we have! "Ye are the light of the world," said the Lord (Matt 5:14).

When a person, disappointed by the world's deception, finally turns around, he looks first to the church. This is our high mission, because the church's glory is Jesus Christ's glory. Therefore, it must be said very seriously and very radically: The church of Jesus loses its right to exist if it is no longer the beginning of the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is the great shame of our time that the world laughs at the church, at the believers and says, "What do they want? They're not the slightest bit different from us!"

Seven is the divine number of completion. Gold is refined and pure, precious and permanent. Gold was considered sacred to God under the Old Covenant. Consider the high price of gold. This is the church that was bought at great price by the blood of Jesus! But even more: in the fact that John sees the church as a seven-armed candlestick, we see Israel's calling as well. Israel's modern symbol is the menorah: the seven-armed candlestick.

For a limited time—until the Rapture—the church of Jesus is given Israel's calling as a bearer of light. The fact that John sees the church first proves the wonderful organic unity with the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He now sees. As it so clearly says, "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man" (v. 13). This means that the church of Jesus is perfect, because Jesus Christ is in its midst.

Everything is confused and unclear when He's no longer the center of your life. Is He at your center, as Paul testi-

fies in Philippians 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ"? It is the plight of so many that Jesus is pushed to the periphery; that so many other things and people are more important than Him. He was the center of Bethlehem's stable. Countless angels sang. Scientists (wise men) came from far and wide to worship Him. So did the shepherds. Everyone searched for and found the child Jesus, and everyone spoke about Him. He was also the center of God's actions on Calvary's cross, because "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor 5:19).

He, the Lamb of God, will be the center of God's glory and illuminate the new Jerusalem. He alone is the source, life, power, future, and Head of the church. That is why John sees the inseparability of Jesus and His church. It has no light without Him. It has no strength without Him. It cannot love without Him. Everything is from Him and through Him and to Him.

Isn't it striking that John doesn't describe the golden candlesticks in and of themselves? He only establishes their existence. His eyes immediately focus on the One who stands in the midst of the golden candlesticks, the actual source of light. We should never think that He remains passive at the center of our life or our church. No! Revelation 2:1 says that He walks "in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks." This means that He doesn't stop. He tests and searches each of His light bearers.

Let your light shine! He trims the wick and refills the oil of the Holy Spirit, so that you can shine.

(MR0120/1055)



# WORLD FOCUS

## AUSTRALIA

### Millions Download Coronavirus Tracing App

Prime minister Scott Morrison has said more testing and widespread use of the CovidSafe phone app—which has angered some privacy campaigners—are among the main conditions for easing nationwide lockdowns.

Australia has so far confirmed around 6,700 cases of the novel coronavirus and just 83 related deaths, way below figures reported in the United States and other hotspots—something the government has put down to its border closures and other measures.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the tracing app [recently] launched had been downloaded by more than 2 million people—about 8 percent of the population.

The government has said it wants that proportion to reach 40%. “This effort will help protect ourselves, our families, our nurses and our doctors,” Hunt said in an emailed statement.

The app, which is based on Singapore’s TraceTogether software and uses Bluetooth signals to log when people have been close to one another, is meant to help medics trace people potentially exposed to infections.

Civil liberties groups have raised fears that apps being considered and used by a number of governments could invade privacy. But Canberra says its software does not record people’s location and has safeguards built in.

Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy said officials will expand testing to start tracing asym-



**Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks during a joint press conference held with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at Admiralty House in Sydney, Australia.** REUTERS/Loren Elliott

ptomatic cases—people who have caught the infection without showing symptoms.

Daniel Andrews, premier of Australia’s second most populous state, Victoria, said staff would open pop-up testing sites in shopping center car parks and test people in their homes and offices.

The states of Queensland and Western Australia have already said they will ease some restrictions, as both have had new cases in the low single digits.

The most populous states of Victoria and New South Wales, which have the country’s coronavirus hotspots, are maintaining strict social and business restrictions.

-www.reuters.com, 26 April 2020

**Commentary:** Australia, a social-capitalist country, is one of the most successful in the world. With ethnic Chinese comprising over 3.1% of its almost 26 million population, and exports going to China at the rate of 33.5%, and imports from that country at 22.9%, it is remarkable that Australia has been little affected by the dreadful coronavirus. Life expectancy stands at 82.7 years. Physician density is listed as 3.59

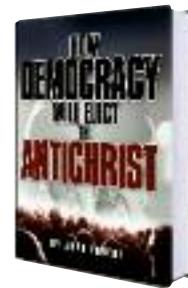
per 1,000, with 3.6 hospital beds per 1,000. Thus, they are well-equipped when it comes to healthcare.

We notice the quick response to download the coronavirus tracing app; apparently, very successful. On the other hand, the government now has more information on its citizens’ whereabouts. That, how-

ever, is part of the global development, which aims toward total control, as prophesied in Scripture.

7239

(See *How Democracy Will Elect the Antichrist*, Item #1064, CLEARANCE \$7.)



## TUNISIA

### First Arab Country to Recognize Gay Marriage

President of the Tunisian LGBTQ organization Shams, Mounir Baatour, who favors diplomatic relations with Israel, issued a series of tweets about the groundbreaking marriage. He wrote: “While homosexuality is still punished with prison in Tunisia, and several gay people are currently in Tunisian prisons, a gay marriage has just been included in the birth certificate of a Tunisian.”

In March, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Shams announced that a court recognized its legal status in response to efforts by the Muslim-majority state to close the group.

Commenting, LGBTQ and human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell told *The Jerusalem*

(continued next page)

## Gay Marriage (continued from page 26)



**Gay marriage** (photo credit: INGIMAGE / ASAP)

*Post:* “This recognition of a gay marriage is a milestone in the Arab world.

“But it is indirect recognition and not the legalization of marriage between same-sex couples. Even if it is appealed or overturned, this is a breakthrough that will give hope to LGBT+ people in Tunisia and across North Africa and the Middle East.”

*-www.jpost.com, 27 April 2020*

**Commentary:** The Bible has this to say: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). In the New Testament, Romans 1:27 reads: “And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” Throughout history, these types of relations were abhorred and often punishable by law. That is now changing, under the guise of equal rights, equal protection, and now equal marriage.

In the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, righteous Lot warned them, “...I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly” (Genesis 19:7). The Sodomites answered: “...Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door” (verse 9). Worse yet, even after judgment, they did not give up, as documented in verse 11.

Muslims follow the teaching of the Koran; a mixture of the Old and New Testament, with numerous contradictions. Yet they also reject same-sex marriage. We are approaching the end stages of the end times, and Jesus’ prophecy must be fulfilled: “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:29-30).

7236

(See *End-Times SuperTrends*, Item #2342, \$15.99.)

## GERMANY

### First Coronavirus Vaccine Trials

Germany’s vaccines regulator approved live human testing of a potential vaccine against the Covid-19 virus developed by German biotech company BioNTech, the regulator said in a statement.

 The trial, only the fourth worldwide of a preventive agent targeting the virus behind the global pandemic, will be conducted on 200 healthy people aged between 18 and 55 in the first stage, and on further people, including those at higher risk from the disease, in a second stage.

BioNTech said it was developing the vaccine candidate, named BNT162, together with its partner, pharma giant Pfizer. Tests of the vaccine were also planned in the United States, once regulatory approval for testing on humans had been secured there.

*-www.reuters.com, 22 April 2020*

**Commentary:** Contrary to Italy, Spain, the UK, and France, Germany has not been affected to the same degree as its neighboring nations. There are multiple different opinions regarding the reason. Germany’s healthcare service is one of the best in the world, but that can be said for virtually all European nations. Life expectancy stands at 81.1 years, with 4.21



**An employee of German biopharmaceutical company CureVac, demonstrates research workflow on a vaccine for the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease at a laboratory in Tuebingen, Germany** (photo credit: REUTERS/ANDREAS GEBERT)

physicians and 8.3 beds per 1,000 in population.

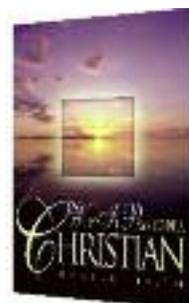
Germany is not the first to test a new anti-coronavirus vaccine; there are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of medical facilities throughout the world doing likewise. Will they succeed? We do believe so.

The coronavirus has caught the entire world by surprise; all are literally in the same boat. This, as we mentioned in previous articles, will contribute to a closer relationship between the nations of the world. One must correspond to the other. International laws will be implemented and eventually enforced. Will that be the end? We know it will not, because the book of Revelation states that much more is to come. The next virus may well be worse than this one.

Such facts should lead us ever closer to the Creator, who has provided salvation to all who will call upon His name. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

7240

(See *Why It Pays to Be a Christian*, Item #1054, \$5.99.)



 ISRAEL

## Nvidia Buys Israeli Chipmaker Mellanox for \$7 Billion

Yokne'am-based Mellanox, founded in 1999 and listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market, supplies end-to-end interconnect solutions and services for many of the world's largest data center servers and storage systems.



The logo of Nvidia Corporation is seen during the annual Computex computer exhibition in Taipei, Taiwan (photo credit: REUTERS/TYRONE SIU)



"Our people are enormously enthusiastic about the many opportunities ahead," said Mellanox founder and CEO Eyal Waldman.

"As Mellanox steps into the next exciting phase of its journey, we will continue to offer cutting-edge solutions and innovative products to our customers and partners. We look forward to bringing Nvidia products and solutions into our markets, and to bringing Mellanox products and solutions into Nvidia's markets."

The \$7b. price tag represents the third largest "exit" of an Israeli company to date, only surpassed by Intel's \$15.3b. acquisition of Mobileye and International Flavors & Fragrances' \$7.1b. acquisition of Frutarom.

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

**Commentary:** Jensen Huang is listed by Wikipedia as co-founder, president, and CEO of Nvidia Corporation. The Taiwanese-born billionaire completes the purchase for the Israeli chipmaker Mellanox at the price of \$7 billion, thus outbidding other interested companies such as Intel, Xilinx, and Microsoft.

Mellanox Technology Ltd. was founded in 1999 in Yokne'am, Israel. It presently employs over 2,900 people.

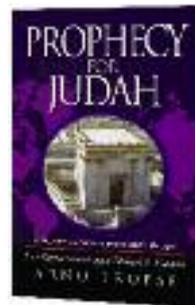
This is almost not newsworthy, because it happens repeatedly: foreign firms are interested in Israeli technology, and end up buying the entire firm. One would think that Israel would do everything in its power not to sell high-tech companies to foreigners, but that apparently does not bother Israelis. When one company of great achievement is sold, another dozen or so grow up like mushrooms in the land of Israel.

This is an important development, because Israel must assert its leading position in the world, in order to pre-fulfill what was written more than 2,500 years ago in Zechariah 8:23: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of

the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."

7237

(See *Prophecy for Judah*, Item #1084, \$17.50.)



 JAPAN

## Eradication of Gun Crime

If you want to buy a gun in Japan you need patience and determination. You have to attend an all-day class, take a written exam and pass a shooting-range test with a mark of at least 95%.



Shotguns and air rifles are the only firearms you can legally buy in Japan



There are also mental health and drugs tests. Your criminal record is checked and police look for links to extremist groups. Then they check your relatives too—and even your work colleagues. And as well as having the power to deny gun licenses, police also have sweeping powers to search and seize weapons.

Police must be notified where the gun and the ammunition are stored—and they must be stored separately under lock and key. Police will also inspect guns once a year. And after three years your license runs out, at which point you have to attend the course and pass the tests again.

The current gun control law was introduced in 1958, but the idea behind the policy dates back centuries.

"They are the first nation to impose gun laws in the whole world and I think it laid down a bedrock saying that guns really don't play a part in civilian society," says Iain Overton, executive director of Action on Armed Violence and the author of *Gun Baby Gun*.

People were being rewarded for giving up firearms as far back as 1685, a policy Overton describes as "perhaps the first ever gun buyback initiative."

"The moment you have guns in society, you will have gun violence but I think it's about the quantity," says Overton. "If you have very few guns in society, you will almost inevitably have low levels of violence."

Japanese police officers rarely use guns and put much greater emphasis on martial

(continued next page)

## Gun Crime (continued from page 28)

arts—all are expected to become a black belt in judo. They spend more time practicing kendo (fighting with bamboo swords) than learning how to use firearms.

“The response to violence is never violence, it’s always to de-escalate it. Only six shots were fired by Japanese police nationwide [in 2015],” says journalist Anthony Berteaux. “What most Japanese police will do is get huge futons and essentially roll up a person who is being violent or drunk into a little burrito and carry them back to the station to calm them down.”

“People assume that peace is always going to exist and when you have a culture like that you don’t really feel the need to arm yourself or have an object that disrupts that peace,” says Berteaux.

According to Iain Overton, the “almost taboo level of rejection” of guns in Japan means that the country is “edging towards a perfect place”—though he points out that Iceland also achieves a very low rate of gun crime, despite a much higher level of gun ownership.

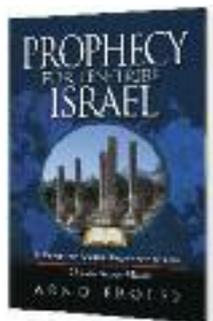
Henrietta Moore of the Institute for Global Prosperity at University College London applauds the Japanese for not viewing gun ownership as “a civil liberty,” and rejecting the idea of firearms as “something you use to defend your property against others.”

-www.bbc.com, 6 January 2017

**Commentary:** Internationally, Japan is considered a super-successful state. Life expectancy stands at 86 years, and infant mortality is only 1.9 per 1,000 live births. They operate the world’s fourth largest economy, and the per capita GDP stood at \$42,900 for 2017. WorldPopulationReview.com lists Japan as having the third lowest crime rate by country for 2020. With the highest crime index at 84.68, Japan stands at 15.91 (USA 46.73).

Of interest is the fact that Japan’s religion is 70.4% Shintoism, and only 1.5% Christianity. Yet Japan belongs to the group of safest countries in the world.

These facts are important when viewed from the globalist perspective. The tendency for the future world society will be built on the success stories. Thus, Japan will definitely contribute to the new global order, with prevailing peace and security. But, as often mentioned in this column, it’s only temporary, for real peace will only be established when the Prince of Peace comes to Jerusalem, and from there orders the destruction of all weapons, as recorded in Micah 4:3: “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” 7233



(See *Prophecy for Ten-Tribe Israel*, Item #1083, \$14.50.)

### WORLD

## Rise in Coronavirus-Linked Anti-Semitism

Israeli researchers have tracked a global trend of anti-Semitic hate speech blaming Jews and Israelis for the coronavirus. But they stress that Jews are not the only target of virus-related conspiracy theories.



Coronavirus-related slurs against Jews are promoted mainly by “extreme rightists, ultra-conservative Christian circles, Islamists, and to a minor extent by the far-left,” according to an annual report on global anti-Semitism by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University. This year’s

report, which notes an 18% increase in anti-Semitic violence in 2019, was issued ahead of Israel’s annual commemoration of victims of the Holocaust.

“Since the beginning of March 2020, we have been receiving disturbing information on accusations of Jews, Zionists and Israelis, as individuals and as a collective, for causing and spreading the coronavirus,” the report says. “Will the coronavirus crisis result in more accusations of the lowest kind against the Jewish people and its state, or will the understanding prevail that the fate of all mankind is intertwined, and that there is no way out of it but in cooperation and mutual support?”

-www.npr.org, 21 April 2020

**Commentary:** On numerous occasions, we have noted the rise of anti-Semitism, particularly in recent years. But we must face the troubling fact that too often the source of this hate is not just from Muslims or the left, but people and organizations that we may otherwise tend to agree with. The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization based in New York, tracks incidents of anti-Semitism in the United States, and finds that a disconcerting number are perpetrated by conservative Christians (at least nominally).

As we know, Genesis 12:3 teaches us to love and support Israel: “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Parallel passages make it clear this includes not just the land but the children of Israel—the Jewish people. So, let us be careful that our witness reflects our love for the Jewish people wherever they are, not just Israelis and the modern State of Israel. Remember, there are anti-Semites in this world who also support the State of Israel, but only because they wish to see Jews leave their country and move to Israel. [By Joel Froese] 7235  
(See *What Should We Think About Israel?* Item #2358, SALE \$14.)

 **RUSSIA**

## Satellite Killer Tested

Direct-ascent weapons arguably are the least sophisticated anti-satellite weapons. Essentially just medium-weight rockets, like the kind space agencies use to boost small payloads into low-Earth orbit, DA-ASATs are cheap to develop and easy to use but only can threaten low-flying spacecraft.

 China, the United States and India in the last decade or so also have tested DA-ASAT weapons. The Chinese and Indian tests in particular scattered thousands of pieces of metal debris, any one of which could pose a risk to a satellite or even the International Space Station.

Russia also possesses more-sophisticated orbital weapons, Space Command noted. So-called “inspection satellites,” ostensibly designed to check other spacecraft for damage, also could tamper with, hijack or destroy another country’s satellites.

Cosmos-2542’s original orbit allowed it pass within a couple hundred miles of USA-245 U.S. KH-11 spy satellite every 11 or 12 days, according to Michael Thompson, an American graduate student who moonlights



with a small space company and, in his spare time, tracks satellites.

In mid-January, Cosmos-2542 passed close to the spy satellite—and made its move. Instead of drifting away like it usually did, Cosmos-2542 performed a series of maneuvers and essentially matched orbits with USA-245.

Cosmos-2542, in other words, was following USA-245. In the event of war, the Russian satellite would be in a perfect position quickly to attack the American sat. Most spacecraft lack effective defensive systems.

*-nationalinterest.org, 16 April 2020*

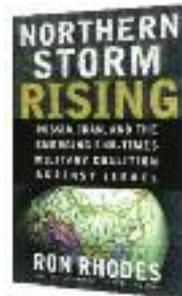
**Commentary:** Space seems to be the new battleground. One nation outdoes the other, and the race continues unabated. Each nation accuses one another of violating certain agreements. Yet all desperately try to find the super weapon that would render the enemy’s weapon ineffective.

What’s this all about from a Biblical perspective? We may simplify it by pointing to the first murder, when Cain killed his brother Abel. From that point on, war has not ceased. The prophet Joel writes about the Gentile nations: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong” (Joel 3:9-10).

Behind all these activities is the prince of darkness, the god of this world, who stands in opposition to Jerusalem and Israel. The first two verses are applicable for our days: “For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage

Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land” (Joel 3:1-2). No nation is exempt; all are parting the land of Israel. 7231

(See *Northern Storm Rising*, Item #2294, \$13.99.)



 **USA**

## Is 100 the New Life Expectancy?

People born in the 21st century—to day’s college students, for instance—can expect to live a century or more because their health will be unlike anything seen before in human history. This new surge in life expectancy will not be due to doctors becoming better at diagnosing and treating the diseases that kill us today. It will be due to our new ability to prevent and delay most or all of the diseases and disabilities that plague later life.



 During the 20th century, life expectancy in the U.S. surged some 63%, to 77 years from 48. That progress was driven by better hygiene, the development of vaccines and antibiotics, and, later on, better diagnosis and treatments of individual dis-

eases. Similar progress in the 21st century will easily take us to a 100-year lifespan.

Geroscience—a new word for a new field—have found that treating aging has remarkably broad benefits. One drug, for instance, called rapamycin, has made mice live considerably longer. It has delayed some mouse cancers and completely eliminated others; it also has delayed mouse versions of Alzheimer’s disease, heart aging and the advance of forgetfulness of later life. And in a limited study involving humans, a drug closely related to rapamycin was seen to have benefits for people 65 and older in the form of improved protection

*(continued next page)*

## Life Expectancy (continued from page 30)

from flu when used in combination with a flu vaccine.

-*www.wsj.com*, 16 April 2020

**Commentary:** The leaders in life expectancy are presently Hong Kong with 85.3 years, followed by Japan, Switzerland, Singapore, Italy, Spain, and Australia, based on World-o-meter (US is 79.1 years). What has become undeniable is the trend of extended life expectancy throughout the world. As the article notes, the surge for the US was 63% during the 20th century. Quite amazing! These facts seem to contradict the general statement we often hear and read about “the good old times.” There never was such a thing. We now have high-quality food, cleaner air than ever before, and almost 100% safe drinking water, combined with great comfort at home, work, and while traveling. Plus, a great contributor is modern medicine.

There is one thing missing in this article; namely, any mention of the Creator. Coronavirus could have been much worse, and the next pandemic may be. We know from Revelation of the seven trumpet judgments: “The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up” (Revelation 8:7). Later, we read of one-third of humanity being killed. Those things will be fulfilled in due time.

In the meantime, however, man prides himself in his own achievement, which reminds us of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, “The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Daniel 4:30). From a Christian perspective, we see the increase in life expectancy as God in His grace giving man a chance to

secure eternal life through faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s cross, where He poured out His life in His blood and exclaimed, “It is finished.” Life without Jesus means eternal death, or as Jesus says: “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44).



7228  
(See *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*, Item #1053, \$1.50.)



## Facebook Required to Adapt to Europe’s Standard

EU industry commissioner Thierry Breton said it was for Facebook to adapt to Europe’s standards, not the other way round, as he criticized the U.S. social media giant’s proposed internet rules as insufficient.



“It’s not for us to adapt to this company, it’s for this company to adapt to us,” Breton, a former CEO at French telecoms provider Orange and French technology company Atos, told reporters after the meeting.

Breton also said he would decide by the end of the year whether to adopt tough rules as part of the digital services act to regulate online platforms and set out their responsibilities.

He dismissed a discussion paper issued by Facebook that rejects what it calls intrusive regulations and suggests looser rules whereby companies would periodically report content and publish enforcement data.

“It’s not enough,” Breton said, adding that Facebook had omitted any mention of its market dominance and also failed to spell out its responsibilities.

Breton will announce proposals aimed at exploiting the EU’s trove of industrial data and

challenging the dominance of Facebook, Google and Amazon. It will announce rules to govern the use of artificial intelligence too, which will also affect companies such as Facebook.

Zuckerberg’s visit came on the heels of visits by Alphabet Chief Executive Sundar Pichai and Microsoft President Brad Smith to Brussels.

-*www.reuters.com*, 17 February 2020

**Commentary:** The Internet giants—Facebook, Google, Amazon, etc.—will have to adhere to Europe’s laws, the strictest in the world when it comes to individual privacy and data protection. However, that’s not the end; it’s actually only the beginning. In order for proposed Internet rules to be established, all concerned parties must agree. Thus, it is another step toward global unity. Here Europe’s motto sounds quite fitting: “United in Diversity.”

7232  
(See *New Babylon Rising*, Item #2359, \$16.99.)

## WORLD

### Discovery Questions Theories About Life’s Origin

Charles Darwin, father of evolutionary biology, wrote in 1871 that life first emerged in “warm little ponds,” which he imagined to be small wells of water and chemicals, heated by the sun and surrounded by rocks and air. With these few ingredients and a big dose of randomness, he posited, the basic elements of life clicked together, leading to simple life forms, like bacteria. Their evolution over millions of years eventually led to the sophisticated life forms that now inhabit the planet.



These days, scientists generally agree with the idea that the original recipe for life was pretty simple, but they’re not sure what ingredients were necessary for those early life forms to make the leap into *complex* forms of life, like animals. Many scientists

(continued next page)

 ISRAEL

## Government Approves Emergency Spy Powers

The Israeli government has approved emergency measures for its security agencies to track the mobile-phone data of people with suspected coronavirus.

 The temporary laws were passed during an overnight sitting of the cabinet, bypassing parliamentary approval.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel called the move “a dangerous precedent and a slippery slope.”

Such powers are usually reserved for counter-terrorism operations.

Details of how the “cyber-monitoring” will work were not disclosed but it is understood the location data collected through telecommunication companies by Shin Bet, the domestic security agency, will be shared with health officials.



**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the measures were temporary** (Getty Images)

The ultimate test of bolstering the powers of surveillance agencies will lie in their longer term effectiveness: whether they can slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Israel has [...] imposed a series of other measures to stop the spread.

They include closing schools, shopping centers, restaurants and most places of leisure, as well as limiting gatherings to 10 people.

In South Korea, similar technology has been criticized for an invasion of privacy as some people were accused of having extra-

marital affairs based on their location data being made public.

-[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), 17 March 2020

**Commentary:** There is simply no stopping the progress by any government toward total control of all its citizens and residents. In this case, it’s because of coronavirus, but the technology developed during these days will be available after the corona crisis is over.

For the first time in recorded human history, we are witnessing that, not a certain country or continent, but the whole earth is suddenly put into a predicament unknown heretofore. It is our belief that this is the execution of the works of Lucifer, who will in the end have all people follow him. Thus, the preparation for such a scenario has to be prepared, and the coronavirus pandemic is an excellent opportunity.

7204

(See *Israel on High Alert*, Item #2343, \$15.99.)

## Life’s Origin

(continued from page 31)

theorize that, since all complex life—involving cells that have multiple components—now relies on oxygen to breathe, it must have happened at a time when there was plenty of oxygen in the air. But the scientists behind a 2018 study published in *Nature* report that oxygen in the atmosphere didn’t rise to significant levels until *after* complex life arose—suggesting that oxygen wasn’t all that important after all.

At one point in those 2.1 billion years, the geochemists show, the amount of oxygen in the air reached a concentration high enough that it led to the deep sea becoming oxygenated—sometime between 540 and 420 million years ago. They came to this conclusion by looking at rocks formed by undersea volcanoes—in particular, the iron inside them.

More importantly, it also became clear that complex life had existed on the Earth long before the oxygenation of the sea took place.

The more we learn about the origins of life, both simple and sophisticated, the more puzzling

life seems to be. In some ways, it doesn’t seem to be very complex at all. For the most part, scientists pondering the mystery of life’s origins still think along the same lines as Darwin, proposing that the original recipe really wasn’t very complicated at all—and perhaps could have been cooked up someplace other than Earth. Paul Niles, for one, a planetary geologist with NASA investigating the possibility that life could have emerged on Mars, said in a statement in October 2017 that sometimes, life “doesn’t need a nice atmosphere or temperate surface, but just rocks, heat, and water.”

-[yahoo.com/news](http://yahoo.com/news), 4 January 2018

**Commentary:** The simple statement, “The more we learn about the origins of life...the more puzzling life seems to be,” is the truth. One theory outdoes another; many of these

scientists contradict each other’s findings, often by billions of years.

What we do know is that no credible evidence has been presented to prove the existence of life earlier than approximately 6,000 years ago.

7244

(See *The Genesis Factor*, Item #2239, \$13.99.)

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

## GLOBALISM... CORONA ARTICLE OFFENSIVE... CORONA PUNISHMENT?

### Globalism

Dear Midnight Call Ministries,

This global pandemic has drastically changed things in just a short period of time.

Those of us who study the Scriptures know we are in the time of sorrows or close to the Great Tribulation of the last days, because all the prophesied signs are now manifesting.

I've been monitoring things for over 65 years in accordance with 1 Thessalonians 5:21, which tells us to "Prove all things; hold fast [to] that which is good."

Globalism is equal to Satanism. These elitists in the secret societies have long planned to implement their New World Order, global dictatorship. We clearly see now how this global pandemic could be the catalyst to execute more control over the people.

I feel the countdown to the end times began on May 14, 1948. That's when Israel was declared a nation in a single day, just as the prophecies said would occur. The Fig Tree is indeed

blossoming. The Great Tribulation of the last days is close at hand.

*-R. Carlage, CT*

**Answer:** Appreciate the thoughts expressed in your letter regarding the pandemic and many other things.

I noticed your special mention of globalism, which now has become even more popular. But keep in mind, the first globalist country was the USA, establishing international relations with most nations; at one time, virtually monopolizing global economy. That has now changed somewhat, with communist China becoming the new global leader, followed by Europe and the rest of the world. This too is fulfillment of Bible prophecy. The world must become one; solidly united, practicing peace, and receiving security and prosperity. That's exactly what Satan—the great deceiver—aims for. He will not, as you write, be a "global dictator," but rather the most beloved leader the world has ever known: "and all the world wondered after [admired] the beast" (Revelation 13:3). Verse 8 states, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him."



### Corona Article Offensive

Your article in the April issue on the coronavirus has greatly discouraged me. I am suffering from fibromyalgia and have a compromised immune system, so the coronavirus is a real danger. It's not just me, but many people are depressed and/or suffer various ailments. What are they supposed to do, just give up? It sounds like you are saying if one is between the ages of 70-80, he or she should be ready to drop dead. That does not seem to be the right message to proclaim, and therefore I find the article very offensive.

-B.Rau, OH

**Answer:** It is unfortunate that you have a number of health issues, which is not unusual. After all, each one of us is destined to fulfill Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." The Bible, which we proclaim, is not a book of encouragement alone, but also of naked facts, which we dare not ignore. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). These are strong words: "reprove, rebuke, exhort." We just can't continue to say all things will be well, be positive, and believe in the future. Let Scripture have the final authority: "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... So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:10, 12).

### Corona Punishment?

*Midnight Call* magazine has been very helpful for many years; it keeps me on top of developments around the world. Regarding the current coronavirus issue: do you believe it is a punishment from God? Can you give me any Scriptures warning of this?

-R. Wilkerson, OH

**Answer:** God does not punish us for our sins; otherwise, no one would be alive today. But He does allow the god of this world to use means to create a peaceful, prosperous, and secure global world, so that all will worship the Antichrist. We are reminded of Daniel 8:24: "And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people."

### Suffer Tribulation

Revelation chapter 6 describes the Tribulation. Chapters 7 and 14 describe those killed during the Tribulation.

Chapters 14-15 describe the harvest of saints (presumably the Rapture).

Chapter 16 describes the wrath of God. First Thessalonians 5:9a says: "For God did not appoint us to wrath." It didn't say we were not appointed for Tribulation.

So many church leaders are saying that Christians will not have to suffer and that we will be raptured before any of the terrible things begin to happen. Not true. Just look at the timing.

It appears to me that Christians will have to suffer for their faith during the Tribulation. We are not getting off scot-free.

As I see it, we will be here for the Tribulation, but we will not have to suffer through the wrath of God. Those are two separate issues.

-E. Hamilton, CA

**Answer:** Regarding your statement, "Christians will...not [be] getting off scot-free," there is an abundance of information about Christians being persecuted. According to various reliable organizations, Christian persecution is still going on today.

Revelation was written about 2,000 years ago, yet it's applicable for the entire time since

then, and in the entire world. In Europe, for example, and former European colonies (including the US), there is little to no persecution presently. But that is not the case on the Asian and African continents. There is no such thing as "scot-free." There is also spiritual persecution, which many of us suffer but do not speak about.

One of the most refreshing Biblical reasons for the pre-Tribulation Rapture is 1 Thessalonians 4:18: "Wherefore comfort one another with these words." We are to be en-

couraged and comforted with the reality of the imminent expectation of the Rapture to be with the Lord. We are repeatedly admonished throughout Scripture to wait for His coming, yet nowhere are we encouraged to wait for the coming of the Great Tribulation. In plain words, you are waiting for the Tribulation and not for Jesus; I am waiting for Jesus. That, to me, seems to be the bottom line.

Anyhow, the best answer is always the fulfillment, so let us wait patiently. (MC)

## Everything You Need to Know About the Last Days at Your Fingertips

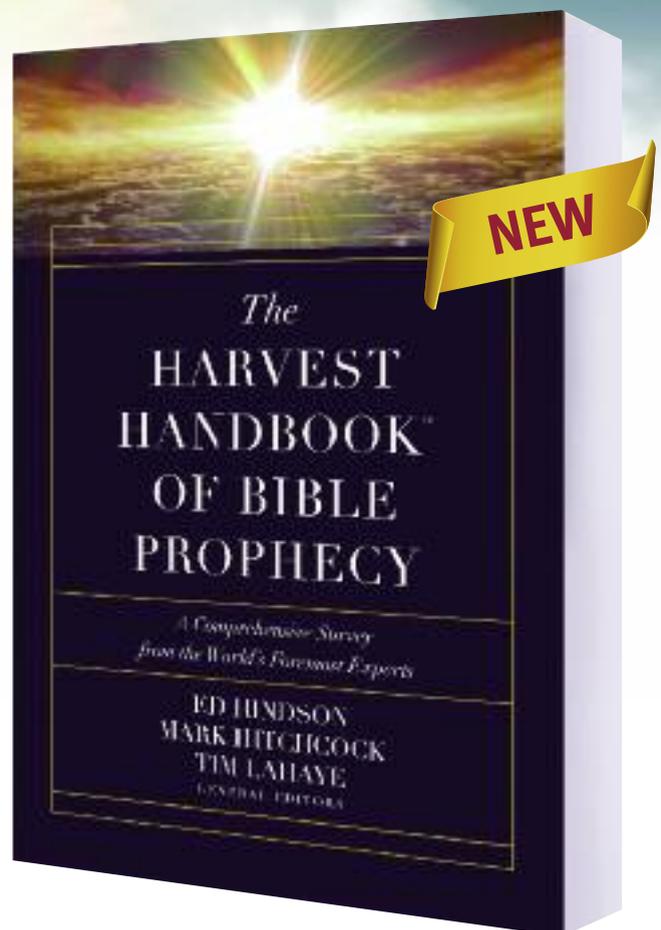
**T**he *Harvest Handbook of Bible Prophecy* is a reference resource that provides a comprehensive overview of everything the Bible says about the last days.

Compiled by bestselling prophecy teachers Ed Hindson, Mark Hitchcock, and Tim LaHaye, this volume has 150+ topics on the most important subjects of prophetic study from 40+ of the world's foremost prophecy experts, including Armageddon, the Day of the Lord, eternal life, the glorious appearing, the messianic kingdom, the millennium, rewards, and the Tribulation.

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Both new and experienced students of prophecy will find this a tool they can use and understand. Ideal for browsing or serious research, you'll find yourself reaching for this indispensable resource again and again.



THE HARVEST HANDBOOK OF BIBLE PROPHECY ITEM #2364

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**\$29.99 New** Editors: Ed Hindson, Mark Hitchcock, and Tim LaHaye

# Action for Israel



MIDNIGHT CALL

“He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him” (Daniel 2:22).

BY ARNO FROESE

Over 2,600 years ago, Daniel and the intellectual elite of Babylon found their lives in jeopardy. The king had a dream, but no one knew what it was, much less the interpretation thereof. Daniel started a prayer meeting. Verse 23 reads: “I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king’s matter.”

The dream and the interpretation targeted the Gentile world and Israel. The four Gentile superpowers: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. At the end of the last kingdom, another was added; namely the clay which, based on Jeremiah 18:6 and Isaiah 64:8, are the people of Israel. Yet this final global kingdom will be destroyed.

King Nebuchadnezzar recognized Daniel’s interpretation, and we read in verse 47: “The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.”

## Mossad Helps Fight Coronavirus

A recent article from the *New York Times* reveals some fascinating details about the spy agency, Mossad. Here are some excerpts:

Mossad officers, primarily associated with covert operations abroad in the name of protecting Israel, are not normally in the business of public health.

Yossi Cohen’s powerful agency, it turns out, has been deeply involved in Israel’s fight against the virus, and has been one of the country’s most valuable assets in acquiring medical equipment and manufacturing technology abroad, according to Israeli medical and security officials.

As countries around the world compete ferociously for limited supplies during the pandemic, they are turning to any help available, and flexing their muscles unapologetically.

In early March, a command and control center was set up to handle the distribution of medical gear across the country, with Mr. Cohen at its head and headquartered at Sheba Medical Center. There were representatives from the Mossad, the Ministry of Defense purchasing division, and the military intelligence’s highly secretive Unit 81, which deals with the development of advanced espionage equipment.

Professor Kreiss, a former brigadier general in the army and a former surgeon general for the military, said the Mossad had been pivotal in helping his institution secure vital medical equipment and expertise from abroad.

“It is only in Israel that the Sheba hospital could have enlisted the help of the Mossad,” he said in an interview. “Can you imagine Mount Sinai Hospital going to the C.I.A. for help?” he added, referring to the New York medical center.

By the end of the first week of April, the people with knowledge of the operations said, Mr. Cohen was confident that Mossad operatives had ensured Israel would possess enough ventilators to cope with the worst forecasts.

1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

There was no time to waste, Professor Kreiss recalled, praising what he described as the single-mindedness of purpose shown by Mossad agents. “Part of their ethos is to execute their task at any price,” he said.

The first shipment acquired abroad by the Mossad arrived in Israel on a special flight on March 19: 100,000 coronavirus testing kits, said an official from the prime minister’s office.

Subsequent shipments included more testing kits, 1.5 million surgical masks, tens of thousands of N-95 masks, protective overalls for first-aid crews, protective goggles and a range of medications, according to a high-ranking official knowledgeable about the Mossad operation.

Using technological expertise brought in by the Mossad, production lines that can produce 25 million protective masks a month are gradually being set up, a high-ranking security official said.

According to one senior Israeli official, the Mossad knew it had to act urgently, with the demand for such equipment expected to grow and

with the understanding that countries would eventually refuse to export essential medical products.

The Mossad will almost certainly be remembered for coming to the country’s rescue in an unusual battle against an invisible enemy.

-www.nytimes.com, 12 April 2020

Typical of Israel and the Mossad, countries from which Israel received the equipment were not identified. This event shows Israel’s uniqueness with the question, “Can you imagine Mt. Sinai Hospital going to the C.I.A. for help?” When there is a need, when there is danger, Israel demonstrates unity.

This is a signpost for Christians to adhere to, as we read in 1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (MC)

**Action  
for Israel**



MIDNIGHT CALL

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

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# Challenges and New Horizons

Orders for our printing plant are decreasing, but God is granting new opportunities.

BY MARKUS AND ELLEN STEIGER

**E**arly last year, the situation was looking grim for our print shop. Then we got a call from the US, and we were offered a four-color press. As a result, we received more orders, including a large one from OM (Operation Mobilization). In 2019, our tract work also increased a bit. Nevertheless, it wasn't an easy year because literature sales have been declining for five years.

At the end of November, we were able to send 212,500 magazines to Campinas, where OM is headquartered. These magazines are about Islam and the related challenges in those mission fields.

We're extremely grateful for all the support through prayer and gifts, which we are very dependent upon.



**Arrival of the four-color printing press**



**▲ Packages ready to ship**

**▼ Large scale magazine order for OM's ministry**





# No One Is Too Old for Bible School

A remarkable experience at a graduation ceremony.

BY ANDRÉ AND INGRID BEITZE

Our country's Bible Society representative is Manuel. We have a good relationship with him. He supplies our bookstore with Bibles, and we provide him with our Bible materials, which he uses in a Bible school that he leads with the help of other brothers and sisters from various churches. Recently, he spontaneously asked if I wanted to give the Bible school's closing service. I was happy to agree. I was able to share God's Word, and we were also

permitted to represent the mission with a book table.

The array of graduates was interesting to observe. They were all somewhat older, with both feet firmly planted in middle age. Nevertheless, they had made an effort to complete this three-year Bible school, which holds its classes on Saturdays. It was impressive to meet these people who wholeheartedly want to serve the Lord, where we would have expected to find younger people. (MR0320)



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

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# Corona Update



**By David Phillips**  
*Project Manager*



**Cleaning and disinfectant supplies now needed**

Shalom Dear Brothers and Sisters, Friends and Partners of the Ebenezer Home,

To date (as of mid-April), Israel has 12,591 sick with corona, 137 in serious condition, 142 deaths, and 2,563 fully recovered from the virus.

Passover week is behind us, as well as the celebration of the Exodus, a time filled with disasters and hardship. For generations, the Jewish people used to say, “We overcame Pharaoh; we will pass this as well.” This year, the hope is that this emergency situation with the coronavirus will be behind us soon. We pray it will not leave deep scars on the people, as other situations have in the past. Being separated from family and friends is the hardest. This situation can bring back memories of the Holocaust and other crises the Jews have endured.

Thank our heavenly Father, no one is ill (to date) in our Home—none of the residents, and none of the team or their family members. We thank and praise the Lord that HE is with us and keeps us! Thank you so much for keeping us in your prayers through this tiring and trying situation.

Some of our residents would like to pray for those with coronavirus, or any other prayer requests for this month. You are welcome to email

(tms1.dp@gmail.com) and I will pass it on to them. The residents love to pray for you, as it gives them a sense of purpose to know that we need them as prayer warriors, even if they aren’t able to do much, physically speaking.

Here are some observations from staff at the Home:

Ilana, Social Worker: “I frequently sit with the residents. Thankfully, wearing a mask helps, but before I started wearing this mask, I was always keeping the two-meter distance. Yet they would inch toward me, because they couldn’t hear me. I know it’s difficult in this time, as they don’t have the ability to be with their family members; the majority can’t even see them. So, I feel like it’s a time for me to step in and be a voice of comfort and encouragement. Yet physically speaking, it’s very challenging.”

Kristin, Head Nurse: “I would say the most challenging thing is the worry that the elderly will get the virus. We need to take care that they don’t. We all wear masks. If workers are sick, they must stay home. Residents must mostly keep to their rooms; no visitors are allowed. That is difficult, as they are quite isolated here. No appointments with specialists—at least non-urgent ones—is a new thing. But at the same



▼ Singing at a coronavirus-safe distance for the residents



Volunteers with Maggie: Some of our residents have a hard time understanding why we must now wear face masks.



◀ One of our Holocaust survivors never lost her sense of humor.



time, I feel there is a special camaraderie among us. We had communion together, and it was a blessed time of fellowship.”

One of the last three volunteers that could stay is from the Netherlands. She is a flight attendant (purser) who loves to interact with people and serve the elderly. She came to the home without any previous nursing aide knowledge, but she cares for all the residents with great love and passion! I asked her how she feels to be at the Home, and what the most difficult thing is during this time of the coronavirus restriction.

She replied, “It is a real privilege to serve at the Ebenezer Home. The most difficult thing for me is to be only at the facility, or in my room, without being able to go someplace. My family in the Netherlands knows I am in a safe place; even better than being in my own home country. With God’s help, we will pass this time!”

Note: Because of the great increase in costs due to the coronavirus crisis that we are now facing, all donations for the months of June and July will be going toward our general fund, instead of the building fund. Thank you for your understanding!



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

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

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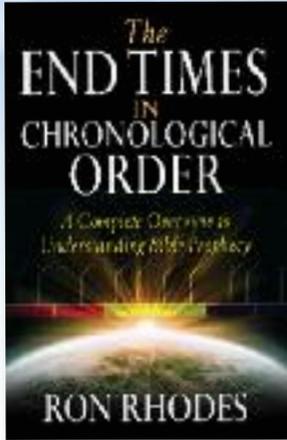
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# Midnight Call's June Resource Guide



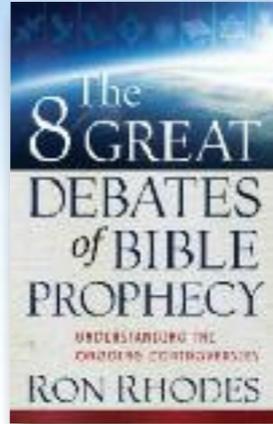
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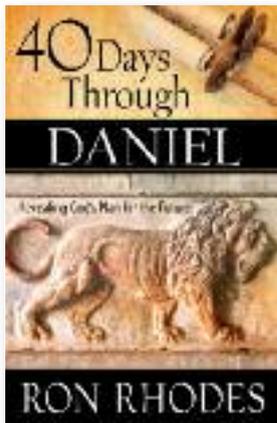
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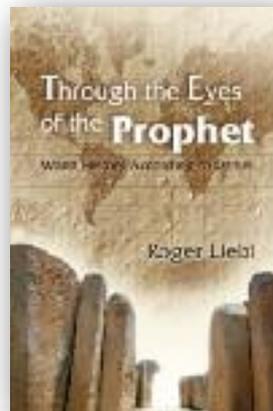
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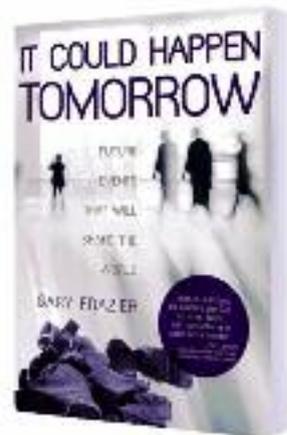
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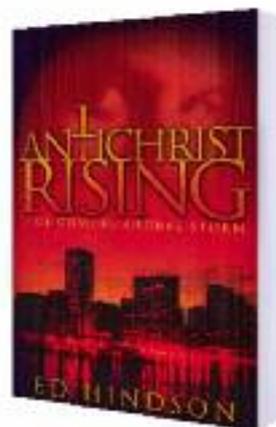
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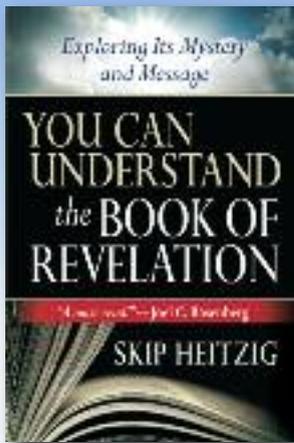
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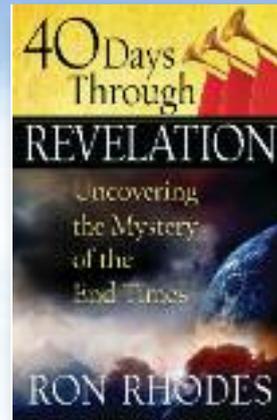
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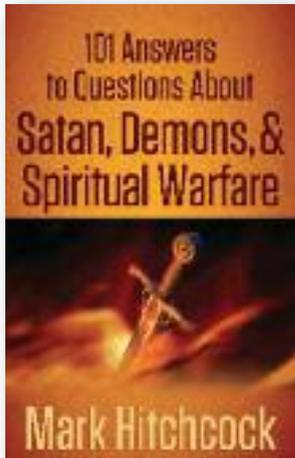
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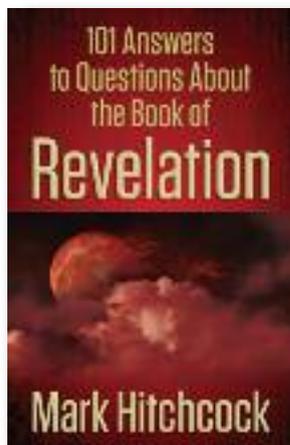
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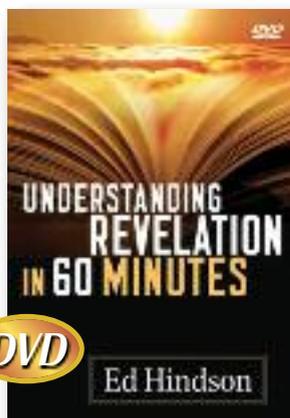
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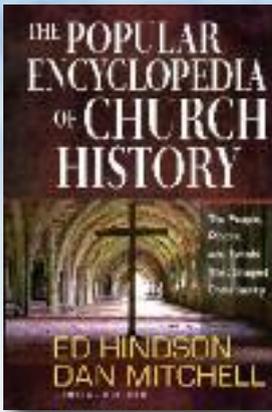
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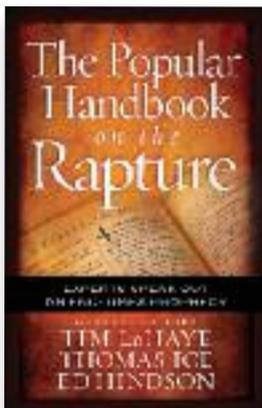
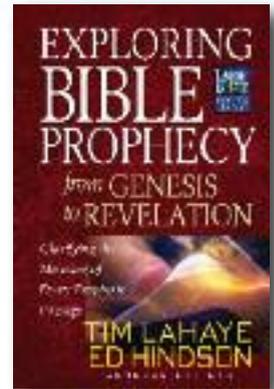
Written by Bible scholars but created for everyday readers and Bible students, this volume makes it possible for users to expand their knowledge of prophecy in ways unmatched by other books. Among the notable features are...

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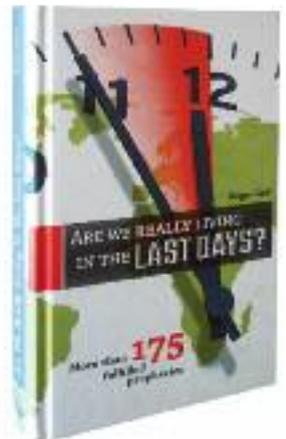
## What does it really mean, the last days?

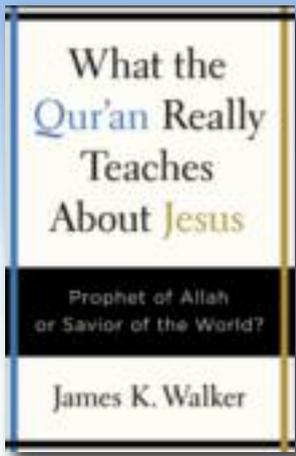
According to the Bible, the "Last Days" will essentially be characterized by the Jews' return from the worldwide Diaspora to the Land of their Forefathers (1882 until the present) and by the new founding of the State of Israel (1948), after a long period of interruption. In this book the author deals with more than 175 Biblical prophecies which all refer to the "Last Days."

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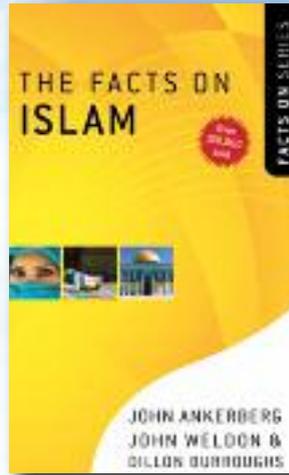
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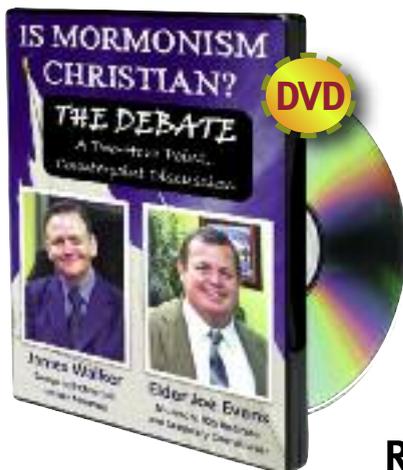
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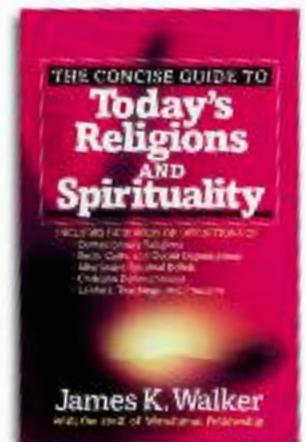
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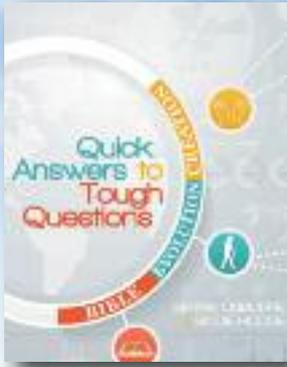
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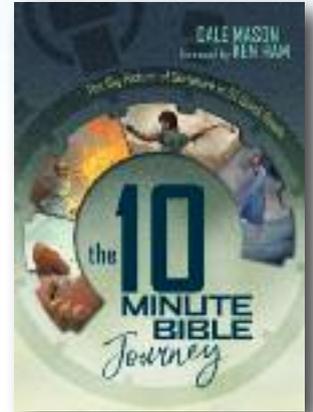
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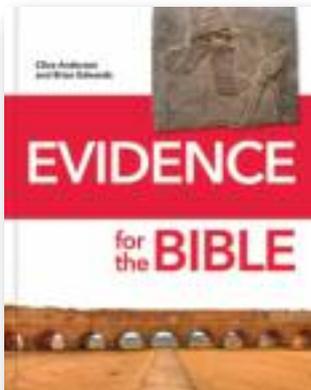
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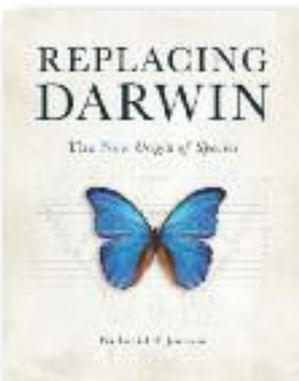
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