

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

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Why Globalism?

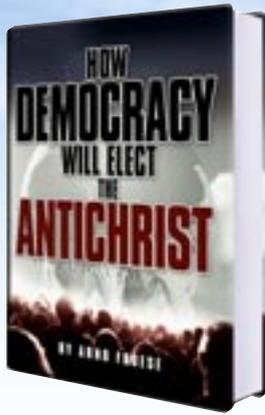
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Why Antisemitism
 - Burial or Cremation
- P. 28

WORLD FOCUS

- Are the End Times Upon Us?
- New Definition of 'Woman'
- 5th Safest Country in the World





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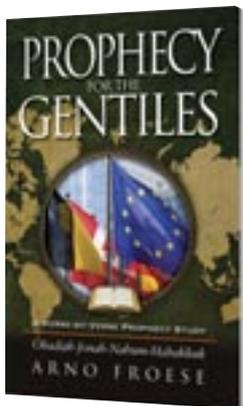
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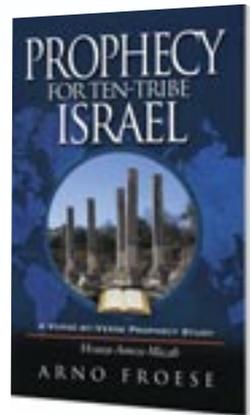
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A Message for All People of All Times

We included the following four prophetic books for these reasons: Obadiah primarily speaks of judgment against Edom. There is no question about Jonah; he was sent to the Gentiles, and Nahum likewise thunders his message against Nineveh. While Habakkuk does speak of the deliverance of Judah, he also declares his message against the Chaldeans. However, the message of the prophets is applicable to all people of all times.



Judgment and Restoration

The ten-tribe Israel is distinctly different from Judah-Israel. We read, "So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day" (1 King 12:19). The three prophets, Hosea, Amos and Micah, expose Israel's sin in an unmerciful manner, which leads to God's declaration, "I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away" (Hosea 1:6b).

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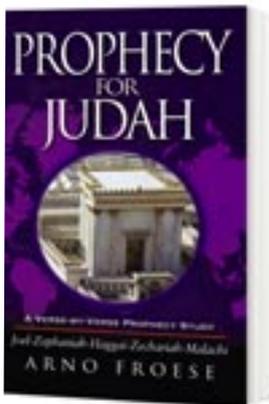
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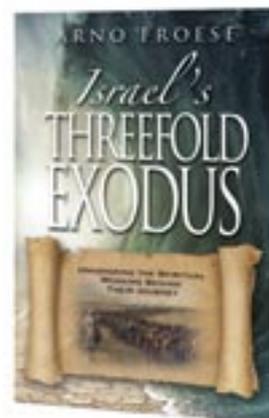
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By Arno Froese

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What We Need



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

The writer Curt Goetz wrote: “We are learned enough. What we lack is joy. What we need is hope. What we are in need of is confidence.”

He points to the dilemma: All education, all wisdom, all inventiveness and spirit of discovery, have so far not made man the least little bit better. That is why a sustaining joy, a living hope, and a firm confidence are missing. Everything is unstable; uncertainty predominates. Nobody can live without hope indefinitely. Hopelessness deprives us of joy and leaves us with sadness.

Hope is often described as a desired event in the future, without the certainty that it will actually take place. Thus it is with the hope of this world: it deceives man, never really leading to the goal. In the book of Job, we read: “They were disappointed for they had trusted, they came there and were confounded” (Job 6:20). Yet God is called “the God of hope.” That is completely contrary to the hope of the world. How different, therefore, are the words of Romans 15:13: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Hope that comes from God is like a bridge that leads to the other shore, like a sign that gives direction to the destination. The hope that the Almighty offers gives us exactly what man lacks and longs for. It provides certainty, confidence and joy. The foundation of Biblical hope is the existence of God, the God of hope. As true as His existence is the hope that He offers. This is why the Apostle Peter speaks of a living hope, one based on Jesus’ resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). This hope is as alive as Jesus lives and is kept for us in heaven. Jesus is the guarantor of our hope; He has opened the door to eternity for us. That is why Paul says to those who believe: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27).

How aptly it says in these lines:

“Your joy must be in Jesus alone

For He is the source of all joy—

Perfect joy that never fades,

That stands above the changing times.”

In Jesus Christ, all the glory of God is open to us. Throughout difficult times, this fact can comfort us and give us joy. Our hope in the Lord gives peace to our heart during these changing times.

It is overflowing, even in times of drought. When everything around us gets ever darker, Jesus remains the rising sun. Hope based on the Bible gives strength to persevere and energy for living.

Let us remember the mighty promise of hope from the Word of God: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

Here we see three expressions of our hope: 1) God wants to give us all things, so we possess everything; 2) with Jesus, we receive all things; and 3) God never withdraws a gift.

May you enjoy February in this hope. (MC)

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OUR TASK

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization, dedicated to proclaiming the entire Bible as the unailing 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, was seen by over 500, 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 imminent, 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.



WHY GLOBALISM?

Arno Froese

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

In simple terms, this tells us that Satan has a plan, and we are aware of what he is doing. The CEV reads, “I have done this to keep Satan from getting the better of us. We all know what goes on in his mind.” What is Satan’s

Globalism must be in place for Satan and his superman, Antichrist, to implement the final great deception.

plan; what is on his mind? “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14). This statement was recorded over 2,700 years ago by the prophet Isaiah.

His Devices

How does he plan to do it? What is his strategy, or as the KJV reads, “his devices”? That, friends, is what the Bible is all about: in brief, the deceiver and God’s plan of salvation.

We may also ask, why has Satan not implemented his plans long ago? There are a number of reasons, but two should be mentioned: transportation and communication.

For example, for Satan to fulfill Revelation 13 was impossible until these days. Why? Global unity had to be established first: “and all the world wondered after the beast” (Revelation 13:3b); or verse 8a: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.” This clearly indicates that globalism must be in place for Satan and his superman, Antichrist, to implement the final great deception.

What Is Globalism?

Dictionary.com defines globalism as “the attitude or policy of placing the interests of the entire world above those of individual nations.”

As an example, Country A produces excellent potatoes but inferior tomatoes; Country B produces excellent tomatoes but inferior potatoes. What to do? Country A imports tomatoes, and Country B imports potatoes. That is the fundamental principle of capitalism. But there is a problem. What if Country A has geopolitical problems with Country B, and vice-versa? Thus, action is required: Country A must support its inferior tomato farmers, and Country B must support its inferior potato farmers. In case of conflict, the farmers must be protected—all paid by the government. Today, governments the world over subsidize the loser.

In today’s world, even the winners—the industrial and financial juggernauts—depend on government handouts. For example, AgricultureFairnessAlliance.org states: “In the U.S., subsidies to the agriculture sector typically run around \$20 billion per year. In 2020, bailouts rocketed that number to over \$50 billion.” GoodJobsFirst.org lists the subsidy value for four major industries:

1. Utilities and power generation
\$49,402,411,119
2. Motor vehicles
\$34,899,081,961
3. Electrical and electronics
\$27,909,221,639

WHY GLOBALISM?

Problem: while the US insisted on American-style capitalism, the world at large did not always agree. In reality, America practiced both socialism and communism, and most saw through this hypocrisy.



4. Oil and gas
\$18,802,796,693

This may surprise many of us, who believe that these giant corporations are operating responsibly in the capitalist, free-market system; not so. Welcome to globalism.

Two of the aeronautic industry giants, Boeing and Airbus—which had been suing each other for 17 years—finally agreed that both sides will remove certain tax subsidies.

Ancient Globalism

Babylon is listed first. Daniel declares: “Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head

of gold” (Daniel 2:37-38). He then allows just a few words for the second and third globalist nations, but spends most of his time describing the fourth and final globalist entity—Rome—which expanded to Europe, and by the various European colonial nations, literally conquered the entire world.

The most successful country was Great Britain, whose empire spanned the globe and who declared, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” To accommodate the many nations that became British colonies or subject to the Crown, the British Commonwealth was established on 11 December 1931. Britain became rich and powerful. But after the Second World War, many British colonies became independent, not wanting to follow the Crown’s dictates.

The USA

What next? The United States was the succeeding power to take over a degree of world dominion. Some historians claim that US dominance lasted a century.

Problem: while the US insisted on American-style capitalism, the world at large did not always agree. In reality, America practiced both socialism and communism, and most saw through this hypocrisy.

Only a few centuries ago, it was virtually impossible to communicate from one country to another. The mode of communication was limited to writing.

Now we increasingly read, “The End of the West” ... “Western Influence Declining” ... “Will New Geopolitical Realities Replace the West?” With Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the power blocs of both the East and the West have solidified more than ever before.

What Next?

The so-called Eastern Bloc includes much of Asia and Africa, along with Brazil. The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) comprise 41.2% of the world’s population, with 3.2 billion people.

However, there are a number of countries that have not aligned themselves with either the West or the East. Bscholarly.com lists the 10 most isolated countries in the world, starting with North Korea at number one, followed by Somalia and Myanmar. Rounding out the top 5 are Madagascar in fourth place, and Burundi fifth. When it comes to prosperity, freedom, and security, they mostly rank very low. They are missing out on the success of globalism.

Countries with a multitude of diplomatic relations the world over, are listed as the most progressive, richest, freest, and securest nations on earth. For example, Switzerland, with a population under 10 million, operates

consulates and embassies in 103 countries, compared to the mighty US’s 168 countries.

Just viewing these few facts leaves no doubt whatsoever: globalism is working and making nations that participate rich, whose attitude and policies are based on globalism.

Globalism Prophetically

So, the question: what is the goal of the nations of the world? We may say it with one word: equality. In the end, it will and must come to the point where Revelation 17:13 will be fulfilled: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

Globalist Communication

Only a few centuries ago, it was virtually impossible to communicate from one country to another. The mode of communication was limited to writing. For example, a letter from Israel to Rome could take several weeks if not months, and the return answer the same. Individual nations, cities, towns, and villages received their information through the town clerk. While scholars commonly agree that ancient Romans published the first newspaper in the year 59 BC, no copies of this paper survived.

WHY GLOBALISM?

We can appreciate technology's many advantages, including better merchandise, high-quality food, not to mention the comfort of transportation. Indeed, there are benefits for the furtherance of the Gospel, the internet being a prime example. But we must not overlook Satan's diabolical plan to use the technological, modern world to unite all nations into a true globalist society.



Later in 1609, Johann Carolus was credited with publishing the first regular newspaper in Strasbourg. Wikipedia says: “German goldsmith Johannes Gutenberg is credited with inventing the printing press around 1436, although he was far from the first to automate the book-printing process. Woodblock printing in China dates back to the 9th century and Korean bookmakers were printing with moveable metal type a century before Gutenberg.”

These few examples show that communication beyond one's village was slow, primitive, and not available to all people.

Why Globalism Now?

The answer lies in communication and transportation. Virtually anyone, at

anytime, anywhere in the world can communicate almost instantly in any language. Traveling from one country or continent to another is happening 24/7. Worldpopulationreview.com lists the 5 most popular tourist destinations:

France	90 million
Spain	83.7
USA	79.3
China	65.7
Italy	64.5

Never before in history have people traveled so much. This reminds us of Daniel 12:4b: “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

The Time Is Now

For the first time in human history, humanity can correspond and travel as never before. That is precisely what the

god of this world wants and needs, to fulfill his aim and plan: world unity, world peace, world security.

In order to achieve such, the entire globe needs to be indoctrinated. Satan is masterfully using the latest trends and technology for this very purpose. One of the most successful theories being spread around the world is global warming, environmentalism, “save the earth.” That is the most powerful philosophy to envelope planet earth today.

We can appreciate technology’s many advantages, including better merchandise, high-quality food, not to mention the comfort of transportation. Indeed, there are benefits for the furtherance of the Gospel, the internet being a prime example. But we must not overlook Satan’s diabolical plan to use the technological, modern world to unite all nations into a true globalist society.

This is all to install Satan’s superman, Antichrist, and the false prophet, who will demonstrate his supernatural powers, albeit fake. Or as 2 Thessalonians 2:9 declares: “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”

Independence from God

Since the dawn of humanity 6,000+ years ago, man was always conscious of his dependence on God. For example, no rain meant no food, resulting in starvation. Today, everything has changed. We depend on technology more than ever before.

It is our assumption that the environmental issue will one day be solved; thus, resulting in man’s attempt to replace God on the throne.

In *Daily Thoughts for Disciples*, Oswald Chambers writes: “The curious thing about civilization is that it tends to take people away from the soil and makes them develop an artificial existence away from the elements. Civilization has become an elaborate way of doing without God.”

The BBC headlines an article, “Lab-Grown Blood Given to People in World’s First Clinical Trial.” One part states: “Tiny amounts—equivalent to a couple of spoonfuls—are being tested to see how it performs inside the body.” The article continues: “We want to make as much blood as possible in the future, so the vision in my head is a room full of machines producing it continually from a normal blood donation, Prof Toyé told me” (www.bbc.com, 6 November 2022).

Blood in the Bible is synonymous with life: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul” (Leviticus 17:11). From GotQuestions.org, we receive this information:

“Thousands of years before scientists understood the complex and extraordinary life-sustaining properties of blood, the Bible informed that ‘the life of every creature is in its blood’ (Leviticus 17:14, NLT). In

ancient Israel, blood was not only a metaphor or symbol for life; it was equivalent to life itself. In most occurrences where blood was shed in Scripture, it meant that life had ended. To remove the blood is to terminate life.”

Global Conspiracy

We do not agree with many dear Christian ministers, authors, and publishers who identify globalism as an evil force concocted by shadowy, super-rich, powerful individuals and organizations, whose goal is to bring the world into bondage. Why? Because the world is already in bondage; it was, it is, and it will continue to be.

It matters not where you live or what language you speak: all nations have the same system of indoctrinating its citizens, “We are the greatest ... We are the best ... We believe in freedom, justice, and liberty.” But again, that is not true. Talking about freedom, the late Dr. Scofield had this to say:

“Theoretically, we are free politically. Actually, we are the slaves of party, of the caucus, of the bosses. The very minute I give over into the hands of a convention the right to formulate my political creed I am no longer absolutely free. When I take my opinions, my convictions, concerning morals or religion second-hand from other men, whether they are men of today or men of the Reformation period, or of the early church councils, I am no longer free.

“When I allow a habit to dominate my life, I am no longer free. When I allow pride or vanity, or ambition, or pleasure to control my life, I am the basest of slaves. The very fact that I do not, cannot, of myself, cease from sin proclaims me a slave. Jesus Christ came into a world of slaves.”

Conclusion

If you belong to the body of Christ—the peculiar nation—regardless of who you are, your destination is indescribably glorious! You are a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, the spiritual temple now being built. The apostle Peter writes, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

For the other group—regardless of whether your political adherence is to communism, socialism, capitalism, dictatorship, or monarchy—the future is dark. Today, make a definite decision regarding which group you belong to. Satan has and will take advantage of your society, your culture, your country. All are part of the devices Satan uses to deceive. The apostle Paul warns, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). ^{MC}

A panoramic view of the Galilee region, showing a dirt path leading down a hillside towards the Sea of Galilee. The foreground is filled with large, dark grey rocks and dry, yellowish-brown grass. The middle ground shows a mix of green and brown vegetation. In the distance, the blue waters of the Sea of Galilee are visible, surrounded by rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky.

Galilee panorama taken from Mount of Beatitudes, which is believed to be the one where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount

Conduct Becoming

(Sites of the Bible Series)

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Matthew 5—7 was designated the Sermon on the Mount as early as the late 4th century AD, by Augustine in his commentary (*De Sermone Domini in Monte*). Jesus taught His sermon from some hill, most likely in the Galilean country, known for its elevated plateaus. Archaeological evidence of an ancient Byzantine church, dating from the late 4th century, exists on a hill in northern Israel.

The site known as the Mount of Beatitudes is located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, between Capernaum (significant because Jesus was based there) and the archaeological site of Gennesaret on the southern side of the Korazim Plateau. “Horns of Hattin” in lower Galilee is another suggested location for Jesus’ sermon, according

Conduct Becoming

The Sermon on the Mount is one of Jesus' most popular teachings, which is evident in the fact that the Lord repeated many of the truths within it. The message is primarily addressed to disciples, in order to encourage them to live righteously in view of the coming kingdom.



Arno Froese with Kristin and Ron Bigalke, in the cloister of the 8-sided Church of the Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee

Credit: J. Hahn

to a 13th century tradition. What is noteworthy is that “Jesus saw the crowds,” for that is when He departed from them and “went up on the mountain” (Matt 5:1). He likely taught His disciples from the bottom of the hill, resulting in a natural amphitheater effect.

The Sermon on the Mount is the first of five extended discourses that Matthew included in his Gospel. The evangelist's purpose was to portray Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah-King. Matthew 5—7 reveal the moral qualities characterizing those who belong to the kingdom of God, in addition to their rewards in that kingdom. Jesus' instruction was intended for His disciples (vv. 1-2; cf. 7:28). He is likened to Moses, insofar as He taught the definitive explanation of the Law.

John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed a message of repentance, because the prophesied kingdom of the Old Testament was “at hand” (Matt 3:2; 4:17). The kingdom is described as being near (in the sense of its presence throughout the earthly ministry of Jesus), yet there is

nothing to communicate the arrival of it. Jesus genuinely proffered the kingdom to the nation of Israel; however, the rejection of the Messiah resulted in its postponement. The kingdom was no longer proclaimed as “at hand,” subsequent to the unpardonable sin.

With emphasis upon the kingdom, it was only natural for Matthew to include the Sermon on the Mount as the first discourse, because it was Jesus' manifesto: His ethical instructions for disciples, which are applicable from the time of the sermon until the beginning of the kingdom. The Sermon on the Mount is one of Jesus' most popular teachings, which are evident in the fact that the Lord repeated many of the truths within it. The message is primarily addressed to disciples, in order to encourage them to live righteously in view of the coming kingdom. There is also warning of judgment for those living hypocritically or in unbelief. True disciples are exhorted to “enter through the narrow gate,” by walking the narrow way “that leads to life” (Matt 7:13-14). One of the

more popular exhortations to arise from Jesus' sermon, is for His disciples to be the "salt of the earth."

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless . . . It is no longer good for anything" (Matt 5:13). Salt was important in the Ancient East because it had many uses, such as flavoring and preserving food. Through their lives and witness, God's people can help those around them to "taste and see that the LORD is good" (Ps 34:8a). This means to know the goodness of the Lord from personal experience and even trial. Believers help others around them to taste (experience) life fully as God intended.

Fish and meat would spoil quickly without the ability to inhibit decay. In a similar manner, those who are trusting in God restrain the decay of society by upholding the moral standards of Scripture. Jesus used the salt metaphor to imply that His disciples should positively impact the world. Through their lives and witness, God's people can be a blessing to others and inhibit the natural decay that sin produces. Salt was also used in small doses to fertilize land. Until the mid-1900s, English farmers used salt for a greater harvest since it helped crops to grow. In a like manner to salt being cast upon a field, believers can encourage growth of what is good and produce fruit unto God.

Jesus warned against salt becoming tasteless. Sodium chloride, commonly known as salt, is a stable compound and thus cannot lose its taste. In ancient Israel, however, farmers would dig salt from marshes or a place similar, as opposed to evaporation of salt water; the result was that it was mixed with other substances.

Farmers would use this more soluble compound as "salt" and pile it on their crops. Yet when rain came, it would become a residue so dilute that it was of little worth.

When those who profess to be followers of Christ are not any different from society as a whole, they cease to be useful as moral disinfectants in a decaying world. Jesus emphasized that the ability to preserve the world depends upon His followers being "salty," resulting in a thirst for the "living water" that only He can provide. Conduct must be true to one's calling, or one's testimony will avail very little. Biblical proclamation is futile without the virtue arising from divine grace and self-discipline.

Into the darkness of death, ignorance, and sin came Jesus as the Light of the world. He brought the light of truth and salvation through His preaching (Matt 4:16). Jesus' message was identical to that of John the Baptist: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (v. 17), which is truly the priority for everything He taught (4:17—16:20). The long-promised kingdom was legitimately proffered; however, with the rejection of the King, the teaching of Jesus would mainly prepare His disciples for His coming death, resurrection, and ascension (16:21ff.).

The Beatitudes are an exordium [introduction] to the Discourse, as they reveal the character of those who will be blessed in the kingdom. The rewards are described from eight perspectives (5:3-10). The first and last beatitudes form an *inclusio* and state the reason for blessedness: "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Jesus clarified the nature of the calling and ministry of His disciples, to encourage them

Conduct Becoming

The primary idea to gain from Jesus' teaching, is that righteousness is not merely external; rather, it arises from inner moral love and purity, which is a reflection of the heavenly Father's perfection. Jesus also proved that everyone needs righteousness "apart from the law" (Rom 3:21-22), for it is impossible to make oneself righteous by doing good works.

to remain faithful to God's purposes in difficult times. True disciples counteract worldly corruption as they reflect Jesus. God's people not only preserve the world but also shine in it (vv. 11-16).

It was necessary to clarify the importance of true righteousness, because religious people frequently misinterpret good works and righteousness. Jesus debunked popular misconceptions of select Old Testament texts explaining righteous conduct (vv. 17-48). Matthew always used the term "righteousness" in the sense of conformity to the will of God (sanctification), and never with the meaning of imputed righteousness (justification).

Jesus explained that He did not intend to abolish the teachings of the Old Testament; rather, He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. He obeyed the Law perfectly and is the fulfillment of all the Prophets said concerning the Messiah. He also gave His authoritative approval to the Old Testament (vv. 17-20) and clarified the precise requirements of the Law (vv. 21-48). Jesus expounded the meaning of the biblical text as God intended, by comparing external righteousness with what is internal.

The righteousness of the religious leaders was ceremonial and outward, while that of God's kingdom is more profound. Every aspect of a true believer's life is to be characterized by righteousness that is more than mere appearance. Jesus contrasted six aspects of pharisaical right-

eousness (vv. 21-48) with what is surpassing and true, as opposed to mere religiosity (cf. v. 20).

The summary of Jesus' true interpretation of the Law is "be perfect" (v. 48). "Perfect" (Gk. *teleios*) means what is complete or mature, and refers to conformity to God's will (cf. 1 Pet 1:13-16). Emphasis is given to the motivation of a kingdom citizen. His or her life should be distinguished by a desire to emulate the character of the heavenly Father. Of course, no sinful person can attain perfect righteousness, yet that is the intended goal (cf. Phil 3:14).

The primary idea to gain from Jesus' teaching is that righteousness is not merely external; rather, it arises from inner moral love and purity, which is a reflection of the heavenly Father's perfection. Jesus also proved that everyone needs righteousness "apart from the law" (Rom 3:21-22), for it is impossible to make oneself righteous by doing good works. Never evaluate life in comparison to someone else; rather, look to the exacting standards of the Lord Jesus Christ. The life of authentic faith involves "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith" (Heb 12:2a). Jesus' followers are called to an exceedingly great standard; yet He is also the One who develops internal character, so that His followers will be salt and light to the world. Ask for divine grace and help in your life, as the "poor in spirit" are certain to receive it. (1277)

WORLD FOCUS



USA

Are the End Times Upon Us?

Four in 10 US adults believe that humanity is currently living in “the end times,” with the coronavirus pandemic and other catastrophes and anxieties causing many to ascribe a religious meaning to it all, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

 The end times are described in the pages of Christian religious texts. Eschatology, as it is also known, tends to be seen in Christianity as encompassing a wide range of events. These include what is mentioned in the Bible as well as in extra-biblical opinions and views.

Overall, premillennialism is far more common in the US than postmillennialism, though a larger portion of Americans tend to not be sure about the circumstances that would lead to Jesus returning.

Certain demographics within the US Christian community tended to believe humanity is currently experiencing the end times more than others, the Pew survey showed.

It isn't just the COVID-19 pandemic that led some to think the end times have come for us all. Other crises have continued to mount in recent years, and one of the most notable of these crises is the ongoing climate change situation.

In 2021, Pope Francis I warned that just as the biblical flood was sparked by



Are the biblical end times upon us? A Pew study says 4 out of 10 American adults think so. (Illustrative) (photo credit: PIXABAY)

mankind's apathy and sinful nature, so too [could a] new flood, specifically due to man's sinfulness and apathy toward the planet, which has led to the ongoing climate change crisis.

But the biblical flood was no end times scenario. Whether this has any bearing on the current series of crises ravaging the Earth is unknown.

-www.jpost.com, 11 December 2022

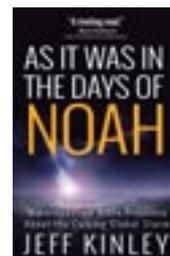
Commentary: While the Biblical flood was not an end-time scenario, we know that the Lord Jesus pointed to those days. For example, Luke 17:26-27 states: “And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.” We note, however, that these day-to-day activities mentioned by the Lord are not in themselves a sign. There is nothing more normal than to eat, drink, get married, and

give our children into marriage. But at that time, they failed to take note of “the day that Noah entered into the ark.” Matthew 24:37 confirms: “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

The end times, or the last days, are identified at the birth of the Church in Jerusalem. The apostle Peter refers to the prophet Joel: “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:16-17).

We may add that in our generation, we are witnesses to the super success of globalism, despite many difficult events taking place on planet earth. There is no denying that the world has never been as united as it is today; not because of being more peaceful, better educated, and more tolerant, but simply because of one word: merchandise. The West depends on the East, and the East depends on the West. That was not the case just two centuries ago. Now we believe the end stages of the end times are upon us. 7910

(See *As It Was in the Days of Noah*, Item #2286, \$14.99.)



 U K

New Definition of 'Woman'

The Cambridge Dictionary has updated its definition of “woman” to include anyone who “identifies as female” regardless of their sex at birth.

 It now states that as well as definitions including an “adult female human being,” a woman can also be “an adult who lives and identifies as female though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth.”

The dictionary’s editors made the changes after studying patterns of how the word “woman” was being used across society, and concluded that the new definition is one that English learners “should be aware of.”

However, the Cambridge Dictionary is not the first dictionary to change its definitions. In July, Merriam-Webster added a supplementary definition of “female” that defines the term as “having a gender identity that is the opposite of male.”

The Cambridge Dictionary also updated its definition of “man.” As well as definitions including “an adult male human being” and “the human race,” it now includes the definition: “an adult who lives and identifies as male though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth.”

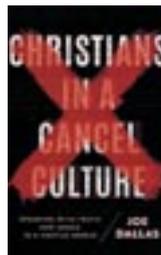
-www.telegraph.co.uk, 13 December 2022



Commentary: This tendency is not surprising. Why? Because the god of this world, who rules every nation on planet earth, intends to reveal himself through his masterpiece, Antichrist. To qualify for this title—or to be more precise, to be revealed in flesh and blood as a human being on earth—it is needful to accomplish the impossible; namely, peace on earth. This is something we should not merely view on the level of end-time events, but know that it has been in the works since the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden.

Antichrist has to mimic, for example, Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Note “The Prince of Peace”; Antichrist will accomplish seemingly supernatural feats, mimicking the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, inspired by God the Holy Spirit, declares: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). Quite obviously, this is a spiritual matter, which is evident by the fact that when one becomes a believer, he or she continues to be a male or a female. Thus, to eradicate the distinct difference between man and woman is one of Antichrist’s ways of deception.

As we continue to observe the many news articles and compare them with Holy Scripture, we increasingly understand that the end stages of the end times are upon us.



stand that the end stages of the end times are upon us.

7908

(See Christians in a Cancel Culture, Item #2383, \$15.99.)

 S W I T Z E R L A N D

Mega-Rich Want to Live Forever

I’d come to Gstaad, a swanky ski-resort town in the Swiss Alps, to attend the first in-person Longevity Investors Conference. Over the two-day event, scientists and biotech founders made the case for various approaches to prolonging the number of years we might spend in good health. And the majority of them were trying to win over deep-pocketed investors.

 The question is whether that’s anything more than a toast from a hotelier catering to the rich. As the field attempts to define itself as scientifically sound, plenty of “anti-aging treatments” based on little-to-no human evidence continue to enter the market. Can billions of investor money—some of it from ethically dubious sources—offer a concrete path to evidence-based life extension for all?

Speakers included billionaire 44-year-old Christian Angermayer, who said he needed to stay alive for another 50 years in order to benefit from future longevity treatments.

(continued next page)

Mega-Rich (continued from page 18)

Such deep-pocketed individuals and groups are looking to be the biggest investors in longevity research. Most of the \$4.4 billion invested over the last five years into understanding whether or not reprogramming our cells might help us live longer has gone into Altos Labs, a biotech company whose funders are thought to include Jeff Bezos and Yuri Milner.

A sense of hope and optimism was palpable at the Gstaad meeting. I got the impression that most people believed that, with enough funding, positive scientific results were just a few years away. And with that, we'd be on the road to reliably extending human health span.

Many agree that it's the wild claims made by some—claims that we could live to be a thousand years old, or avoid death entirely—that have helped bring attention and investment to the field. But they have also tarnished its reputation as a scientific discipline.

-www.technologyreview.com

16 November 2022

Commentary: The excerpts written by Jessica Hamzelou, a senior reporter with *MIT Technology Review*, clearly show the tendency of mankind; namely, to detour the Scripture's ultimatum: "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). However, man's life ex-



LONGEVITY INVESTORS CONFERENCE

pectancy has increased somewhat dramatically in the last century. One source reveals that in 1900, life expectancy in the USA was only 43 years. Today, according to a Google search, it is 77.3 years. Rich industrial nations score highest: Japan, 85; Switzerland, 84.3; Italy, 84; Spain, 84; and Israel, 83.5 years.

These facts and figures clearly show that man is living longer. Why? There are a number of reasons: advanced medical science is most often named, followed by the abundance of high-quality food, and comfort of living as never before in history. That, however, does not change the Bible's ultimate determination: "The span of our life is seventy years, or, given the strength, eighty years; but the best of them are trouble and sorrow. They pass by speedily, and we are in darkness" (Psalm 90:10, *Tanakh*).



7899

(See *Final Destiny*, Item #2377, \$5.95.)

ISRAEL

5th Safest Country in the World

Surrounded by a drumbeat of negative news in this country, a recent survey on the least and most safe travel destinations around the world, by a US insurance comparison website called The Swiftest may come as a jaw-dropping surprise.



A man wearing a hat during a hot sunny summer day walks near the Tower of David in Jerusalem Old City. (photo credit: OLIVIER FITOUSSI/FLASH90)

 According to this study, Israel is the fifth safest among the 50 countries in the world most widely visited by tourists. No, you didn't read that wrong. The fifth safest, not the fifth most unsafe country to visit.

Turns out that the question that many first-time visitors to Israel are asked by friends and relatives when they reveal their plans to visit—"Are you sure it's safe?"—is misplaced. Not only is it safe, but it is very safe; safer, in fact, than visiting the US (ranked 30), Canada (21), Australia (18), France (15) and the United Kingdom (10).

Israel's overall safety index was -60.22, giving it a grade of A. Only Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark

(continued next page)

5th Safest Country (continued from page 19)

and Singapore were considered safer, with the last two countries earning an A+ grade.

If things are so good, goes an age-old question, why do I feel so bad? In the case of overall safety, the reason is that we are not comparing our situation here with that in most other countries. When we do, our situation doesn't look as bad as it so often feels.

-www.jpost.com, 7 December 2022

Commentary: For those who have traveled often to the land of Israel, this report is not surprising. There is a breath of relief when landing in the Promised Land, and sometimes an undefined fear when landing back home.

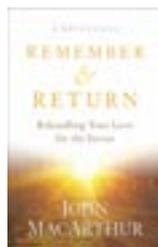
During the many years, even decades, this ministry had conducted tours to the Holy Land, it was repeatedly experienced that when just one terrorist act occurred in Israel, 20-30 percent of participants—some of whom had paid their deposit—canceled. We always responded that your country (the USA in particular) is significantly more dangerous than Israel. But such was usually of no avail.

What does this tell us? We are not speaking to the general public, but to Christians who love the Word of God, rely on His providence, yet are totally indoctrinated by the media.

The author, Israeli journalist Herb Keinon, who is currently the newspa-

per's diplomatic correspondent, ends his short report, "...why do I feel so bad?" Obviously, he also consumes too much useless information, leading him to this conclusion. In contrast, searching for "the world's happiest countries," we find that the top ten starts with Finland, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway, Israel, and New Zealand.

For Christians, this entails the admonition given to us in Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." That's excellent advice.



7905

(See *Remember & Return*, Item #2317, \$14.99.)

UKRAINE

EU Pledges €1.5 Billion Per Month

The EU plans to provide Ukraine with €1.5bn per month in financial aid [this] year, EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen said, after the meeting with EU leaders in Brussels.

 Ukraine, she said, needs approximately €3bn to €4bn per month for basic resources. The EU's overall fig-



Kyiv estimates its budget gap will be around \$3.5 billion per month [this] year
Juan Barreto/AFP via Getty Images

ure will amount to €18bn [this] year. EU finance ministers will now work on "the appropriate mechanism," von der Leyen said.

-euobserver.com, 21 October 2022

Commentary: An equivalent amount was pledged by the United States. What does this all mean? In plain words, the solidifying of the West, but equally the solidifying of the East: Russia, China, India, and Brazil, which although located in the West, leans toward the East now that Lula da Silva has been reelected.

The result? Negotiation and compromise to secure a certain world peace and prosperity. But, Bible believers know that in the very end, the opposite will take place: the total collapse of global economy, as documented in Revelation 18.

7874

(See *Exposing Mystery Babylon Part 2*, Item #1080, \$4.50.)

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 EGYPT

Church of Glory and Baptisms

BY ELIA MORISE



The highlights of a mission trip to Egypt.

I feel so thankful as I look back on the many blessed and positive experiences I had in Egypt. The main purpose of my trip was the baptism of five converts from Islam. I knew the brothers and sisters through an online church that is just for converts. Its name is “Church of Glory.”

Each Tuesday evening, there’s an hour-long online worship service with songs, a message, a discipleship class, and a question-and-answer period. I’m supported by a team of employees from various Arab countries. The number of “visitors” to our

church has grown to around 130 people currently.

The problem is, due to Islamic Sharia law that applies in some countries, many of the pastors involved are afraid to perform baptisms, marriages, and other religious ceremonies. With God’s help and thanks to the prayers of fellow believers, I was able to perform baptisms for five people in Egypt myself.

Of course, I had to be very careful. Nobody was told in advance where the baptisms would be taking place.



There were two possible locations, and the correct one wasn't announced until the last moment. Shortly before the baptism began, I heard about a pregnant woman who also wanted to be baptized. A sister in the faith and I picked her up at an agreed-upon

meeting point, and then we continued to the site of the baptism. It was all very adventurous, but also very blessed. By God's grace, everything went well and we were preserved from danger.

(MR0922)



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

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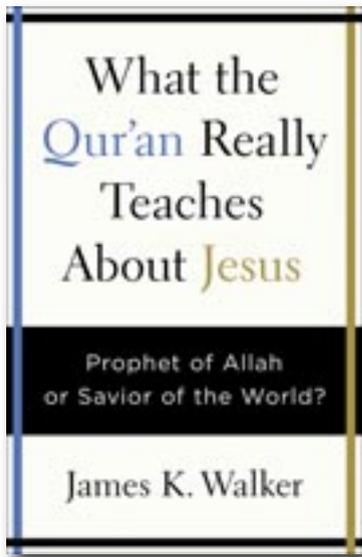
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“But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!” (2 Chronicles 6:18).

BY ARNO FROESE

The above confession of Solomon, the son of David, at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem, reveals his spiritual capacity to understand that God cannot be enclosed in the walls of a man-built temple. What happened next is highly significant: “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house” (2 Chronicles 7:1). In the plainest words we can possibly find, it meant that God had accepted Solomon’s prayer and the sacrifice on the altar.

Now the question: has God changed His mind about Israel, after they desecrated themselves with idols, or after they were sent in captivity to Babylon and later returned to rebuild the destroyed temple? The answer is rather simple: no. Why not? Because His supernatural act at the dedication of the temple, was a visible demonstration to the people of Israel that God is who He is; He is the same from eternity to eternity. He is the One who appeared unto Abraham with this irrevocable promise: “...

Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18). That promise is irreversible, for God’s Word is eternal and will not change.

The New Testament explains Abraham’s faith: “For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10). Abraham is the father of faith; he knew that the various other promises regarding the nation and the land of Israel were of limited, temporary value. The ultimate destination is the city “whose builder and maker is God.” John, who wrote Revelation, testifies: “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:10). That, incidentally, is our ultimate destiny; it is the eternal home for those who follow the Lamb.

In the meantime, however, the land of Israel and the Jewish nation—particularly the city of Jerusalem—will continue to be a controversy to the whole world.

Nakba Day

On 30 May 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted the first resolution to commemorate Nakba Day (“Day of Catastrophe”), when Palestinians (Arabs) were driven from their homes in 1948 following the founding of the State of Israel. It seems that the UN organization, which represents the whole world of nations, has little else of urgency but to repeatedly target Israel with their condemnation. That, my friends, is an important issue when trying to understand Bible prophecy. As repeatedly mentioned, all 200+ nations of the world were established by force and deceit. Surely the Indians, the original inhabitants of the American continent (North and South), could also request a Nakba Day. That can also be said for Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

We do not wish to belittle or overlook the fact that the Arab population suffered tremendously; that’s always the case during war. Not only do the soldiers bear the consequences, but also particularly the women, children, and old people pay the horrible price of severe suffering.

But why Israel? Because God, the Creator of heaven and earth, selected this country and this people for a specific purpose: to create salvation through the revelation of His Word, which “became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Bible is a Jewish book; Jesus was, is, and always will

be a Jew. He is identified in Revelation 5:5: “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.” Salvation, world peace, the environment, the oceans, and the air we breathe are not subject to the United Nations or to any country, whether friend or foe of Israel. As the old song goes, “He’s got the whole world in His hands.”

Citizenship

There is something else unique when it comes to the land of Israel. The people in the territories that were conquered with weapons of war, were privileged to obtain Israeli citizenship. Wikipedia reports:

Palestinians who returned to their homes in Israel after the war did not satisfy the conditions for citizenship under the 1952 law. This class of residents continued living in Israel but held no citizenship or residence status. A 1960 Supreme Court ruling partially addressed this by allowing a looser interpretation of the residential requirements; individuals who had permission to temporarily leave Israel during or shortly after the conflict qualified for citizenship, despite their gap in residence. The Knesset amended the Citizenship Law in 1980 to fully resolve statelessness for this group of residents; all Arab residents who

had been living in Israel before 1948 were granted citizenship regardless of their eligibility under the 1952 residence requirements, along with their children.

An article by UNwatch.org from 1 September 2022 was titled, “UN Condemns Israel 15 Times; Rest of the World 13.”

To obtain citizenship in Saudi Arabia, you must be a resident continuously for 10 years; must prove you have a way of earning a living legally; must be considered generally moral; and, must read, write, and speak fluent Arabic. The application is sent to the king, who is advised

by the Ministry of Interior. They may or may not reject the application, with no reason given. Qatar? The most difficult nations to obtain citizenship from:

1. Qatar
2. Bhutan
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Kuwait
5. Switzerland

These few items supply overwhelming proof of the uniqueness of the land and people of Israel, exactly as Amos 3:2 states: “You only have I known of all the families of the earth...” (MC)

**Action
for Israel**



MIDNIGHT CALL

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

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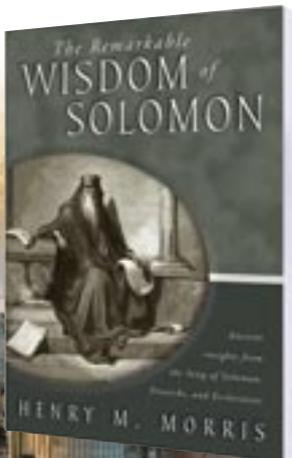
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What Is Life Like at the Ebenezer Home?

A Poem by an Ebenezer Resident

By David Phillips (CEO)

LIFE AT THE EBENEZER HOME BY FERN FAUTH (SEPT. 2019)

Living in Ebenezer is a real blessing,
I know I'm not worthy, I'm confessing.
But God is so good and so kind,
Really, it just boggles my mind.
How He brought us here to such a
wonderful place
To spend our last days by His saving Grace.
The caretakers work hard day and night
To keep everything going just right.
They serve us such good, tasty meals
until our poor stomach feels
We just can't hold another bite,
So please keep more food out of our sight.

Yes, I really do love living here,
Well protected and without any fear.
There are many things here to amuse us,
and they take care not to confuse us.
I thank God for bringing us here
With all of these friends we hold so dear.

And then there are the times with Ilana
we spend,
She's truly uplifting, a very dear friend.
We sing and we chat and enjoy each other,

enjoying each sister, and also each brother.
With this, good memories we're making
In this journey we are taking.
Ebenezer Home is a great place to be,
If you don't believe me, just come and see!

*Ilana was Ebenezer's Social Worker

Eli & Fern, thank you for joining the Ebenezer family in 2011 and gracing our Home with your presence. Fern, we will treasure all those years you blessed us by playing the piano for us each morning! Thank you for entrusting your care to us and allowing us to help you finish this earthly race. We love and miss you both and cherish all the sweet memories you left us.

Eli & Fern passed away November 19 and 24, 2022, just six days apart from each other and after more than 70 years of marriage. We are so thankful for the dozens of lives that they blessed. To hear Fern play the piano, please visit our YouTube channel: Ebenezer Senior Citizen's Home.



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

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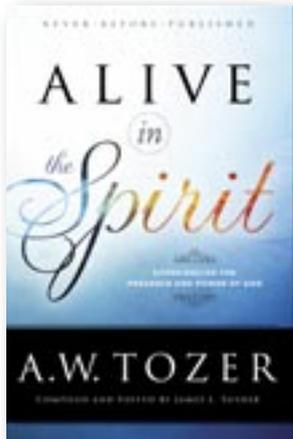
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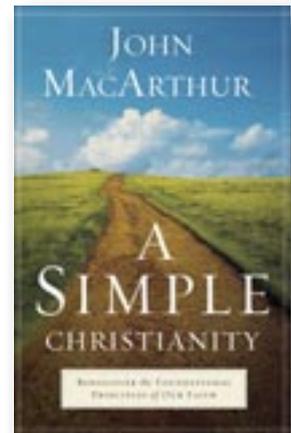
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Letters to the Editor

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

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

WHY ANTISEMITISM... BURIAL OR CREMATION

Why Antisemitism

Dear Midnight Call,

Are there Biblical passages about antisemitism being judgment from God for Israel's rejection of the Messiah, Jesus? Please shed some light on this subject. I get many appeals in the mail asking for help fighting antisemitism.

Also, what does it mean when God mentions that Israel will be called a "byword"? Does this term apply to antisemitism?

Thank you, I enjoy your magazine.

-I. Portokalis, IL

Answer: Dictionary.com defines antisemitism as "discrimination against or prejudice or hostility toward Jews."

The Pew Research Center states, "Nearly four in ten Jews say they have seen anti-Jewish graffiti or vandalism in their community ... The majority of Jews surveyed say that antisemitism has risen in the United States."

Behind antisemitism—and for that matter, behind any type of hatred or discrimination—stands the father of lies, who viciously opposes God's elect people on the one hand, and the true Church on the

other. When reading Deuteronomy 28, we notice God's warning against the children of Israel should they be deceived in serving other gods. As a result, verse 37 states: "And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations..."

Now to the center of your question: is modern antisemitism God's judgment because Israel rejected the Messiah? The answer is simply no. If God would judge people on earth for their sin, you and I would not be alive today. The Bible says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek 18:20a).

People died at various stages of life throughout history, but not necessarily on the day the person committed a certain sin. Then, in the fullness of time, God provided a sacrifice: Christ the Lord. Believing in Him results in the new birth of the spirit (not the flesh). At that moment, the born-again person has become an eternal being destined for glory.

Burial or Cremation

Gentlemen:

I don't know what the definition of a Christian tract is, but I'll bet it isn't this



one. Your tract, “Burial or Cremation,” might contain good references to the Bible, but I don’t see any connection to reaching out in God’s love.

It isn’t my choice, and I would never use it.

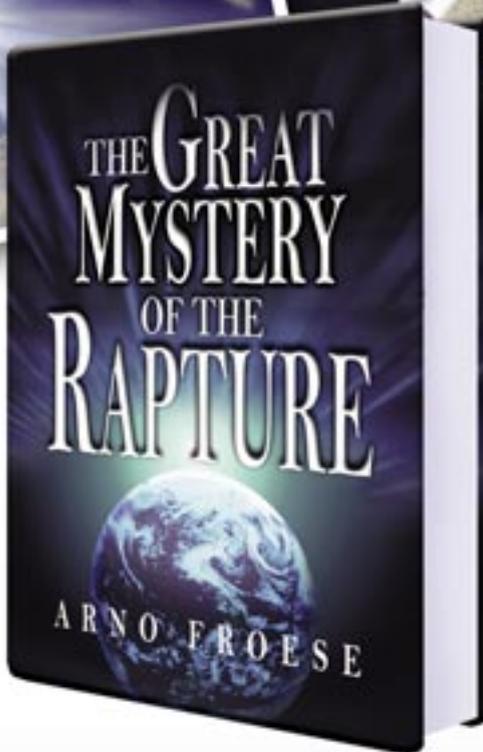
-D. Strunk, AZ

Answer: You are right: it is our task to “reach out in God’s love.” However, that does not mean we should only pick and choose Scriptures that emphasize God’s love, such as John 3:16. That chap-

ter ends with a very strong warning: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (verse 36).

The good news, the proclamation of God’s love, is the Gospel; it starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation. We are admonished in 2 Timothy 3:16: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

As to cremation, it is simply contrary to Scriptural burial. (MC)



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

When the last one from among the Gentiles is added to the Church, then something remarkable will transpire: Jesus will come for His own: “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). That’s our future, our hope, and that’s why I wrote the book, *The Great Mystery of the Rapture*. It is a book you need to read, a message of great comfort, the comfort we need in these times.

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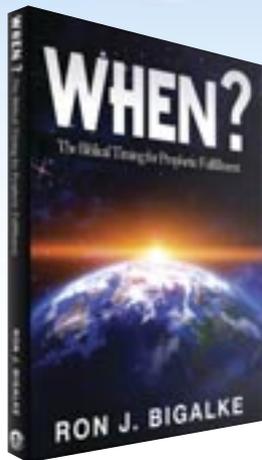
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Midnight Call's February Resource Guide

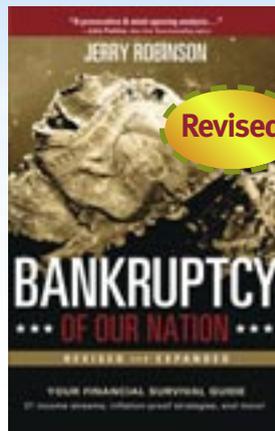
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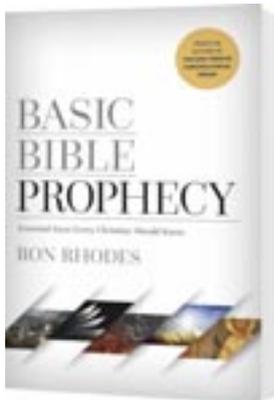
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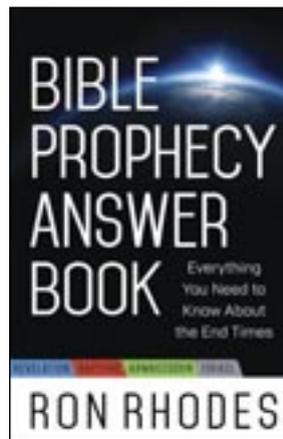
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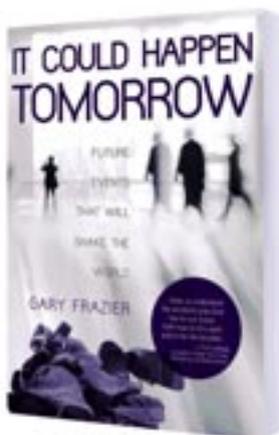
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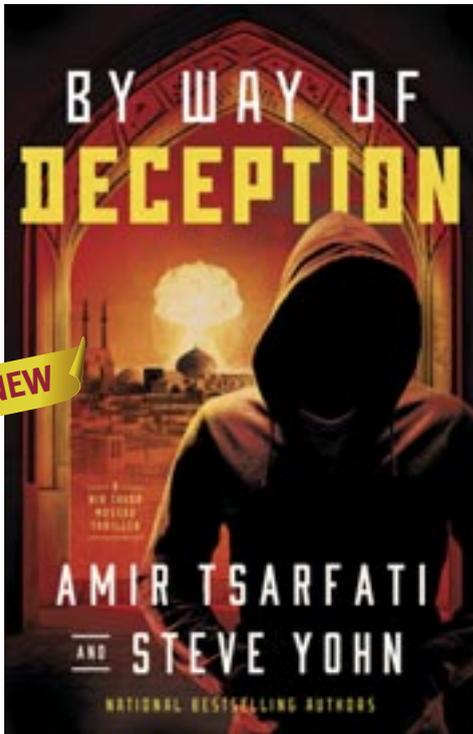
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