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Europe: The Last World Empire?

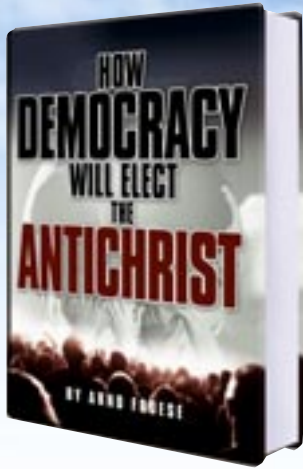
Part 2

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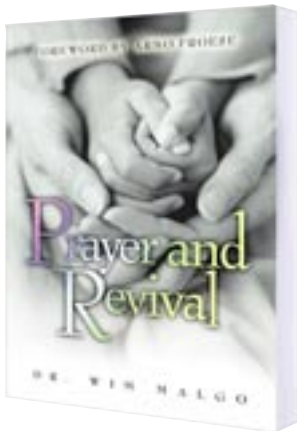
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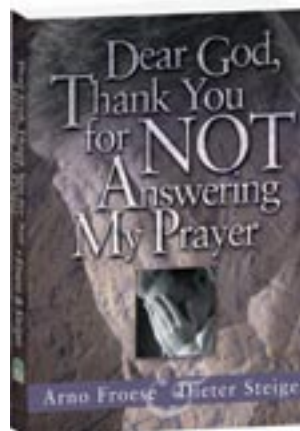
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Sand, Wind, Waves, and Seagulls

By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

While on Sylt, my wife and I visited the “Ellenbogen” (Elbow), the northernmost tip of Germany, from where we can see as far as Denmark. At this point there is a marvelous, inviting beach with shallow water; however, at the same time it is also the most dangerous. Signs with the warning, “Swimming here is life-threatening!” draw attention to that. The current in this area is especially treacherous. Islanders told us that once, even an Olympic swimmer drowned here. God also has put up warning signs for us: “Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines” (Hebrews 13:9).

Impressive are the many sheep with their cute lambs on the dikes and dunes. Sheep are often mentioned in the Bible. Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God, who carried away the sin of the world. “For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25).

The wind can blow very strongly there. With tailwind, bicycling is super easy; conversely, when going the other way it takes total physical effort. One fine day I took off, and with the tailwind the bike almost ran on its own. There should have been no problem on the way back

because, after all, I had an e-bike. But I was shocked to realize I had forgotten to insert the battery. That made me think of the power of the Spirit, which wants to urge us onward, but we also have to use this power and not neglect it. “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

During morning walks on the beach, one sees the waves again and again in varying nuances: sometimes higher, sometimes stronger, foaming in this direction or that, tumbling over one another. Buoys dance around atop the waves; driftwood, shells, and undefinable things are washed ashore. There are also the so-called monster waves; some are said to have been over 30 meters (98 ft) high. Nobody really knows how they develop, but they have been the undoing of many a ship. One’s thoughts go to the restless sea of nations, where only Jesus can bring peace, “who stills the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people” (Psalm 65:7). James compares man to an ocean wave tossed to and fro by the wind (James 1:6).

Nowhere have I seen more expensive sports cars and luxury vehicles than here. Sylt is called the island of the rich. Yet local Christians report

EDITOR'S NOTE

that quite a few are also open to the Gospel. Christian music events in the shelter on the promenade are very well-attended. The people listen, join in with “Amazing Grace,” and one can see the longing in their gestures and expressions.

Material wealth, not being forbidden, does benefit many. One holiday guest said this to me: “Envy is the beginning of socialism.” But only the riches in Christ offer lasting contentment and endure over time: “That in everything you are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge” (1 Cor 1:5). “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17).

The voice of the seagulls sounds as though they are laughing at us. They hover artistically above the tourists. They see the colorful goings-on, the cheerful children and people sitting together enjoying their relaxation. But the gulls also observe discontented and grumpy people, who have brought their worries and anger with them, having something to complain about all the time. It seems that to these the seagulls are calling out: “Oh, you humans, why are you making it difficult for yourselves! Why don't you believe in your Creator, who offers everything to all people ... you could be so much better off.” ^(MC)

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OUR TASK

Midnight Call Ministries is a nonprofit missionary organization, dedicated to proclaiming the entire Bible as the unfulfilling 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 ten languages. All work done through radio, literature and missionaries is supported entirely by the gifts and free will offerings of God's people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day, 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; in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

A stylized map of Europe is shown on a parchment-like background. The map is rendered in shades of brown and tan, with the landmasses appearing as darker brown shapes against the lighter, textured background. The map includes the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region.

Europe: The Last World Empire? Part 2

Philipp Ottenburg

Let's continue to the individual sections of the statue. The head is made of high-quality, solid gold. It symbolizes Babylon, the dominion of Daniel's day. The chest and arms are made of silver; this is Medo-Persia. The stomach and loins are made of bronze; this is Greece. The thighs are of iron; this is Rome. And next follow the feet of iron and clay.

Thinking somewhat ironically beyond the literal metals, one thing is striking: Human government is constantly going downhill. Each metal in turn loses value but increases in strength. Empires are becoming more brutal.

The First Empire: Babylon

The first empire is the head of gold, Babylon. Daniel says, “You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold” (Dan 2:37-38).

Gold represents absolute rule. It is absolute sovereignty, the prerogative of the Most High. He decides, and can implement his decisions. When we arrive at the silver, we see that this dominion isn’t as unlimited as the one under Nebuchadnezzar, who was even called “the king of kings.” That title truly belongs to the Lamb, who is worthy. The true King of kings is the Messiah, Jesus Christ. And the Antichrist is His exact opposite.

Babylon of that day was a thoroughly pagan kingdom characterized by the occult, esotericism, Babel’s anti-godly wisdom, and the prestige of the

great king Nebuchadnezzar. This is a striking foreshadowing of the end times, as we can look to Babylon of Daniel’s day as a model of the anti-Christian empire to come. According to Genesis, Babylon means “confusion.” Nebuchadnezzar is a type of anti-Christ, so he wanted his image (the statue in Daniel 3) to be worshiped by everyone. This is reminiscent of the speaking image of the Antichrist in Revelation.

What’s interesting is that God was the One who gave Nebuchadnezzar this position as the head of gold; He put the kingship into his hands. That’s an encouraging fact, because the same will be true of the Antichrist: God dictates what he can and cannot do. The limits of the devil’s fury in the Great Tribulation are established by God. Incidentally, it was similar for Job: Satan had to ask what he was permitted to do. It is Christ Himself who opens the seals in the Tribulation, and it is God who dispatches the horsemen to do their destructive work (Rev 6).

Nebuchadnezzar ruled over all living things ... meaning the known world at that time. So, his empire is a small version of the great one at the end, when the devil and his partners will actually rule over the whole earth from end-time Babylon. Across the ages and through various governments, Babel’s seed will sprout into a

We can look to Babylon of Daniel's day as a model of the anti-Christian empire to come. Nebuchadnezzar is a type of anti-Christ, so he wanted his image to be worshiped by everyone.

terrible harvest, being fulfilled many times over at the end of this age.

The Second Empire: Medo-Persia

The second empire is represented by the chest and arms of silver: Medo-Persia. Its nature is dealt with only briefly. All that is said is that it is lesser, made of silver. It's appropriate that it consists of two arms joined by the chest: the Medes and Persians. Our bodies have a dominant arm and hand, and the same was true in this empire. Persia was the stronger of the two, but we can also see that its dominion and glory were no longer as absolute as with the head of pure gold.

Babylon was also an influential city in this empire. So, we can say that Babylon is the head, containing the brain that enables the rest of the body (sculpture) to function.

The Third Empire: Greece

The third kingdom is the stomach and loins of bronze: Greece. This empire is also dealt with in few words. The loins and abdomen are soft, pliable, and flexible. This empire, under Alexander the Great, is said to have ruled over the entire (known) world.

It conquered very quickly. That too is a foreshadowing of the great empire of the last days.

After the death of Alexander, Greece was divided by the Diadochi into four kingdoms (cf. Dan 8). Here again, we see divided rather than absolute rule.

The Fourth Empire: Rome

The fourth empire is the two thighs of iron: Rome. Iron is described as crushing everything. Nothing could stand in its way; it is cruel and strong. Further along in its history, the Roman Empire divided into East and West—hence, two legs. There were also numerous changes in rulers: kings, consuls, tribunes, and Caesars ... an iron empire indeed, but with less absolute rule than the ones that came before it. Many countries today, especially in the West, have political structures and ways of thinking that are shaped by Roman ones. There was even a form of democracy in the Roman Empire; the people definitely had their say.

When we consider the statue, we realize that the further down we go on its body, the more world history and time goes by.

And then Daniel reaches the feet. The feet were partly of iron and partly

Ancient Rome is long gone. Is the final empire a revived end-time Rome?



of clay. In fact, Rome of that time degenerated more and more over time. There is still speculation today as to why the empire simply perished. It's widely believed it was a gradual decline, caused in large part by migration of Germanic tribes southward into the area. Some Bible scholars also see this mingling of peoples as the fulfillment of the feet of iron and clay, which can't adhere to each other. In fact, this may be a foreshadowing of the great empire of the last days, but it can't be completely fulfilled yet. Why not?

As we know, the mystery that Daniel is explaining continues until the end of time, when the first stone that breaks the feet will come loose. This means that the feet and their mingling

speak of the time just before and at our Lord's return. Daniel 2:44 says that the kingdom of Christ will come in the days represented by the feet.

So, we ask, which empire can the feet symbolize? Ancient Rome is long gone. Is it a revived end-time Rome? Is Europe the last empire before the stone comes?

The Anti-Christian Empire

Rome perished bit by bit. From a biblical perspective, is it absolutely essential that there be a literal new Rome? I don't believe so. The government represented by the feet doesn't necessarily have to be present-day Europe. It's possible, but today's world is so fast-paced that it's anyone's guess how things will develop.

Europe: The Last World Empire? Part 2

Clay represents creatures in the Bible. As man says to God, “We are the clay, and you are our potter.”



However, it's interesting that we can still see Roman influence on a global level. Roman political structures, democracy, and imperialism have remained to some degree, especially in the Western world.

Today's imperialism is striving for political and economic influence over other countries, to the point of subjugation or assimilation. In a sense, this reality came through Rome. The Romans pacified the regions they conquered by dividing power with the local elites. This was a new historical development: Not only did the Romans gain power, but also the previous rulers were able to retain theirs through treaties with Rome. This was

different from imperialism as it had previously been known.

This means it's entirely possible that the feet (the anti-Christian empire) behave in the spirit of Roman imperialism. The feet flow from the legs as cultural influence flowed from Rome. Apart from that, every world empire functions according to the principles held by its head—the spirit of Babylon. And by this reasoning, the empire wouldn't have to be limited to a precise geographic region.

Could it be that we're often simply too narrow-minded in how we're thinking about world politics? The anti-Christian empire will be a divided kingdom made of iron and clay, partly strong and partly fragile. Daniel 2:43 says, “As you saw the

iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.”

What does the phrase, “they mix with one another in marriage,” actually mean? Who are “they”? If it was referring to a mixing of people groups, the Bible would probably have formulated the sentence that way. The broader context of Daniel is important here, particularly chapter 10. It mentions the princes of the empires of Persia (v. 13) and Greece (v. 20), as well as the archangel Michael, who fights for Israel. So, this verse isn’t speaking of people, but powers and princes of the angelic world. The New Testament tells us that the devil works in the sons of disobedience. Demonic beings mislead and seduce world powers. Every ideology throughout world history is inspired by other-worldly powers that rule the earth. And we see this influence all the more clearly when the authority or government is anti-Christian. This may explain the increasingly strange decisions that are being made, as well as statements that make less and less sense.

“They mix with one another in marriage...”

Is it possible this refers to the mixing of angelic beings and humans? Clay represents creatures in the Bible. As man says to God, “We are the clay, and you are our potter” (Isa 64:8). And

the metals of the statue could well refer to the angelic powers behind the world empires.

What will it be like when the stone is loosed, when the Son of Man comes again to establish His kingdom and crush the kingdoms of this world? Christ says in His end-time discourse that it will be like it was in the days of Noah (Matt 24:37). And one unusual feature of those days was that the sons of God—angelic beings—mingled with the people (Gen 6:2). Their union produced the Enakites, giants who wanted to keep the Promised Land for themselves. Goliath was one of them, and he rebelled against God. This scenario could, in a sense, be repeated.

The Bible particularly expresses the rebellion of the dark powers and of the people in Revelation. It also describes the big event at the end: The abyss opens; strange grasshopper-like creatures afflict the earth; demons lead the nations to Armageddon; and the anti-Christian empire rises...

Let’s remain with the statue and its feet. Two feet have ten toes, and we also find this number in Revelation. The final anti-Christian empire is represented as a ten-horned beast, which has authority over the whole earth (Rev 13:1-7). Horns are a sign of power. So, these horns are a reference to ten militarily strong end-time rulers. It could also hint at a confed-

Europe: The Last World Empire? Part 2

The stone becomes a great mountain: the messianic kingdom. This mountain fills the whole earth, and peace and justice reign. And this kingdom will never fall.



eration of ten states, which give power to the anti-Christian empire. It doesn't necessarily have to be Europe or Rome, but it's quite possible that these are Western countries. These ten kings will submit to the harlot Babylon for a time (Rev 17:3). That's significant.

In the statue, Babylon is the head. And the rest of the body, including the feet, usually does what the head wants. In the Bible, a head represents dominion and leadership. In Revelation, Babylon rides the beast—the anti-Christian empire. We can only imagine how brutal this empire will be. But the good news is: This isn't the final stop on the journey. There's more!

In one fell swoop, nothing will be as it was. A stone breaks loose without human help. The whole figure is shattered: first the feet, and then all the rest. Iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold

become one mass together, and then are ground up and blown away like chaff in the wind. Not a trace remains. The whole rebellion is gone in a single blow! Only then is the statue completely destroyed, although the four world empires have long since passed into history. This could also be an indication that we're dealing with otherworldly powers, and the princes of Daniel 10 still exist today.

The vision of the statue shows us how man's greatest brutality and God's adversaries will dissolve into thin air with a single stone's throw. We see that the day will come when all suffering will end. The time of injustice will come to an end. The tall statues in our own lives that tie our stomach in knots, will come to an end. Anxiety, persecution, wars, claims to other nations' resources, and politicians' lust for power will come to an end.

The stone becomes a great mountain: the messianic kingdom. This mountain fills the whole earth, and peace and justice reign. And this kingdom will never fall. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end in our earthly life. But when God's kingdom arrives, it will endure. God has promised it. And so, Daniel concludes by saying, "The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure" (Dan 2:45). (MR0223/1394)



THE MEANING OF THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

Norbert Lieth

It's considered the "Charter of Christian Freedom." What does its content mean for our life of faith today? An overview.

In the *Life Application Study Bible*, it says of Galatians: "A family, executing their carefully planned escape at midnight, dashing for the border ... a man standing outside prison walls, gulping fresh air, awash in the new sun ... a young woman with every trace of the ravaging drug gone from her system ... they are FREE! With fresh anticipation, they can begin life anew.

"Whether fleeing oppression, stepping out of prison, or breaking a stran-

gling habit, freedom means life. There is nothing so exhilarating as knowing that the past is forgotten and that new options await. People yearn to be free.

"The book Galatians is the charter of Christian freedom. In this profound letter, Paul affirms the reality of our freedom in Christ—freedom from the law and the power of sin and freedom to serve our living Lord."

The Apostle Paul (Gal 5:2) wrote the letter to various churches in the region

The Meaning of the Letter to the Galatians

of Galatia (1:1-2), which he had visited on his first missionary trip. This included Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13–14). It is the only one of Paul's epistles (except possibly the letter to the Ephesians) that isn't addressed to a specific place or person, but to several churches in a region (similar to the letter to the Hebrews, the letters of Peter, and the letter of James). That is also why it's called the Letter to the Galatians, and Paul addresses the recipient as "Galatians" (Gal 3:1).

Generally speaking, Galatians is dated to AD 49/50. This would make it Paul's first letter (even before 1 Thessalonians in AD 50/51), and one of the earliest letters of the entire New Testament (next to James). The letter was probably written shortly after his first missionary trip, because it was during that time that he founded churches in the Galatian province—namely, in Antioch, Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 13–14).

The early date is confirmed by Paul not mentioning the Apostolic Council (Acts 15). If the letter had been written later, the Council would have been a strong support and would certainly have been put forth as a compelling argument. It would have underpinned his teaching and given him the backing of the highest authority. Thus, the basis for the message's truth was laid very early on: that people who believe in Jesus are free from the Law. The letter thus shows

the greatness of the redemption that Jesus achieved. This seems to have been very important to the Holy Spirit from the beginning.

The occasion of the letter is the argument of the Apostle to the Gentiles against the Judaizers who insisted on the Law, and who had sneaked in (Gal 2:4). These Judaizers worried, unsettled, and seduced Gentile Christians, by teaching that in addition to believing in Jesus, they must also obey Jewish laws and traditions in order to be saved. They mixed up the teaching of the Old Testament Law with the good news of God's grace under the New Covenant. They tried to force the believers away from freedom and back under the burden of laws, rules, and traditions—even though Jesus Christ heralded the end of the Old Covenant. The Christians in Galatia were about to exchange their "freedom in Christ" for a dead, legal relationship. They believed that because they did certain things and omitted others, they were particularly spiritual. But Paul calls this exactly the opposite: *by the flesh* (Gal 3:3, 6, 12).

The letter to the Galatians has the sharpest tone of all the New Testament letters. It is an "explosive book." Martin Luther called the epistle his "Katharina von Bora." "I have betrothed myself to it," he said.

Paul does not debate, nor does he even tolerate, the smallest counterargument. He does not yield to the teachers

Although New Covenant believers aren't subject to Old Covenant law, they are not lawless. The demands of the New Testament are sufficiently strong to enable us to lead sanctified lives in practice.

of the Law for even a moment (Gal 2:5). It is, figuratively speaking, as if he was throwing himself into a troubled sea (the Galatians) to fight a monster (the teachers of the Law). By chapter 1, verse 6, he is already leaping into the flood, speaking of a curse on all who preach another gospel (vv. 8-9). He calls the teachers of the Law "false brethren unawares brought in" (2:4), and even gives public testimony of how he resisted Peter (vv. 11-14). He says that he "destroyed" the Law (v. 18). He speaks of Galatians who disobey the truth as being "bewitched" (3:1), and emphasizes that all who "are of the works of the law are under the curse" (v. 10). So, he speaks of the possibility and fear of working among them in vain (4:11), and that he is again experiencing labor pains for them (vv. 4, 19). Paul speaks of bondage under the Law, and warns against allowing themselves to be pulled back into the yoke of bondage (4:24-25; 5:1). He points out the danger in bowing to the Law: that Christ will be of no benefit to them (5:2), and that they will then be separated from Christ and "fallen from grace" (v. 4). Yes, he even writes that Christ would then have died in vain (2:21). And finally, he accuses the Galatians of having been hindered in their good run (5:7).



The Galatians were Christians, and therefore redeemed by grace. But they were reaching out toward the Law again, and that was just as bad as having fallen into other fleshly sins. In this context, however, it should be noted that although New Covenant believers aren't subject to Old Covenant law, they are not lawless. The demands of the New Testament are sufficiently strong to enable us to lead sanctified lives in practice.

Hans Brandenburg comments: "Legalism is the misunderstanding of mistaking diagnosis for treatment ... Legalism is always something halved. Most commonly, people look for a particular point that they are willing to keep, and then rely on the supposed keeping of the Law and renounce fellowship with Jesus."

Paul uses the letter to the Galatians to sharply refute this false doctrine, and

The Meaning of the Letter to the Galatians

Paul places grace in Jesus over law, and freedom over slavery.

in doing so, wants to lead believers back to the pure Gospel. He vehemently campaigns for salvation, with the application that salvation comes about through God's great grace alone, through faith in Christ Jesus: He fights for freedom in Christ. He manages to keep the balance between freedom in Christ (namely, being free from Jewish laws, rituals, and slavery) and a disciplined way of life in the Holy Spirit (in which Christians love one another, bear burdens, and avoid every injustice and lust of the flesh). After all, freedom from the Law doesn't mean freedom to sin.

Christianity isn't subject to Jewish laws or any religious traditions and ceremonies, or even to any higher Christian authority. It is subject only to the Bible, with the statements of the apostolic letters forming the conclusion and climax of divine teaching.

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul specially affirmed his apostolic calling and his Gospel, because the Judaizers probably doubted them (1:1, 6-7, 11-12, 17-24; 2:1-10). He rejects any other teaching that doesn't correspond to the Apostles' Gospel (1:6-9; 2:4-5). He even mentions his argument with the Apostle Peter in the struggle for absolute and urgent truth (2:11-14). Throughout the letter, he places grace in Jesus over law, freedom over slavery, faith over works, and the Spirit over

flesh. Jesus Christ is the keystone. Paul also refers to Abraham's example.

The Apostle makes it clear that doctrinal evil (false doctrine) is just as bad as moral evil (sin). In 1 Corinthians, for example, Paul addresses the moral sins in Corinth and compares them with leaven (Gal 5:9). Both one and the other ultimately spring from the fleshly nature (3:3; 6:12). This is significant, in that the teachers of the Law often think they are particularly holy and spiritual.

In Galatians 3:19-25, Paul explains the purpose of the Law: It makes sin plain. It points to the promise in Christ and to faith in Christ. And it is a disciplinarian toward Christ. But faith has replaced the Law (3:25). The Apostle makes it clear that in Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, servant or free man, man or woman, but that in Him all believers become God's children. God became our Father, and we are therefore God's heirs (3:26-4:7).

Paul points to the weakness of the Jewish statutes in contrast to the strength of grace in Jesus (4:8-18). He gives examples such as Isaac and Ishmael, Sarah and Hagar, and the earthly and heavenly Jerusalem; thus, contrasting law and grace (4:19-31).

Whoever wants to be justified by the Law achieves the opposite: He is under the curse, and loses Christ

In summary, Galatians says: Keeping the law is an attack on the Gospel of Jesus, the grace He brought, and the work He did.

(1:8-9; 5:1-12). Paul also admonishes the Galatians that freedom shouldn't give space to the flesh, but that they should instead live in the Spirit (6:1-10). We should approach each other in meekness, bear one another's burdens, be there for one another, impart good things, sow good things, sow to the Spirit, and not grow weary in doing good. The letter ends with summaries and very personal words from the Apostle Paul (6:11-18).

Lastly, it's also noteworthy that Paul speaks of being the Apostle specially called by God to make the Gospel known to the Gentile (Gal 1:11-12, 16; 2:2). He was charged with the present management of God's grace (Eph 3:2). According to Galatians 2:7, Paul is entrusted with the Gospel of uncircumcision, and Peter and the other Apostles with that of circumcision. That explains some of the different nuances. Paul therefore also describes himself as the herald, Apostle, and teacher of

the nations (1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11). His letters particularly emphasize God's saving actions concerning us (Rom 16:25), while the Jewish Apostles emphasize God's saving actions concerning Israel (because Israel still has a future beyond the Church Age). However, both aspects complement each other, because all New Testament letters apply to the whole church.

In summary, Galatians says: Keeping the law is an attack on the Gospel of Jesus, the grace He brought, and the work He did. Only when we understand this focus can Paul's vehement struggle against the Judaizers be understood, in that he didn't give way for a moment (2:5). Galatians 5:1 could be given as the epistle's key verse:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

(MR0920/1102)





CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE BIBLE – PART 2



“Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun” (Psalm 19:4).

By Wilfred Hahn

Corrupt Climate Science

We continue our examination of what the Bible has to say about “climate change.” Is there a global climate crisis? Indeed, we are dealing here with a heavily contested topic, one that is ground zero for global policy and geopolitical leverage.

Alarmingly, global climate fears continue to escalate. Doomsters are winning! We are continually being barraged by shrieks of hysteria. However, are there contrary views to consider? Yes—for one, the Bible. Secondly, a group of scientists that have contrary views to the “global climate consensus.”

What Non-Consensus Scientists Say

There indeed are other voices and other climate theories. As it happens, we focus on the one that seems most auda-

acious ... the one that directly refutes the “main plank” of the establishment consensus; namely, that it is higher CO₂ levels that cause global warming.

This contrary view argues that rising temperature is the cause of higher CO₂ in the atmosphere, not the other way around.

Really? Can there be such a large schism between revered and accredited “scientists”? It may be difficult to believe that such opposite views could exist in the modern world of science. Some say higher emissions lead to hotter climates; the refuters say the exact opposite is true.

The major reason for the divergent views is the role of the sun and ancient weather history. The sun is the center of our solar system; and, of course, the world is dependent upon it.

It may be difficult to believe that such opposite views could exist in the modern world of science. Some say higher emissions lead to hotter climates; the refuters say the exact opposite is true.

The earth's position and movements relative to the sun establish seasons, temperature, and weather changes. It therefore would not be surprising if "climate change" is prominently attributable to the sun.

The earth has an elliptical orbit around the sun that is tilted 23.5 degrees, 3.5 degrees from the plane of its orbit around the sun. This tilt changes over time. During a cycle that averages about 40,000 years (according to one study), the tilt of the axis varies between 22.1 and 24.5 degrees.

Because of these tilt changes, the weather patterns as we know them do fluctuate. This leads to large climate variances and extremes over time, as indeed has been the case since the dawn of history. There has always been climate change. As the Bible says: "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9b).

We will further examine some of the alternate views. We will not fear countering the consensus. After all, God is not much impressed with the "consensus" views of mankind. The Lord says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways



and my thoughts than your thoughts" Isaiah 55:8-9).

And indeed, the sun is much higher than the earth.

Alternate Views of Brave Scientists

Let us next briefly review the weather/climate history studies of the non-consensus naysayers. (We rely here on articles written by Katie Spence for the *Epoch Times*.)

To begin, consider Dr. Ian Clark, emeritus professor for the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Ottawa. He agrees, saying that contrary to popular opinion, temperature doesn't follow CO₂—instead, CO₂ follows temperature, which itself is due to solar activity.



Records show that the Medieval Warm Period was likely much warmer than we are experiencing today. During that time, agriculture and civilization flourished. That is also occurring today. As documented by a rising Leaf Index, agriculture productivity has improved. After all, CO₂ is necessary for plants to grow.



Also directly contrary, Edwin Berry, a theoretical physicist and certified consulting meteorologist, says that: “CO₂ does not cause global warming. Global warming causes more CO₂.”

Another peer-reviewed study, by scientist William Jackson, also examined the relationship between CO₂ levels and temperature over the past 425 million years. Dr. Jackson is a distinguished researcher and emeritus professor for the department of chemistry at UC–Davis. He specializes in understanding the role that molecules such as CO₂, nitrogen, and carbon monoxide play in planetary atmospheres. Dr. Jackson’s paper, published in 2017, found that “changes in atmospheric CO₂ concen-

tration did not cause temperature changes in the ancient climate.”

Why do these scholars come up with such different perspectives—directly opposite to the “esteemed consensus” of the majority of the science community?

A major difference is the fact that their “alternate” view is based on studies of history and the effects of the solar system.

Crucially, consider one of Mr. Clark’s primary areas of research, paleoclimatology (the study of climate conditions). This relies on indirect records such as tree ring data, ice cores, and other proxy records; in particular, Arctic paleohydrogeology, which is the study of the earth’s water throughout history.

According to Dr. Clark: “The Earth, in our solar system, is moving around and being jostled. And we have different orbiting patterns that affect solar input, and that creates ice ages and interglacial periods—which we’re in now.”

Mr. Clark claims that scientists have a fairly good idea of the temperature history during recent ice ages, and particularly the past 10,000 years, thanks to proxy records (i.e. tree rings and others). For instance, such records show

In short, the sun impacts virtually everything on earth. As such, it is surprising that the science community does not focus more on the sun's impact on climate change (and historical temperature data).

that the Medieval Warm Period was likely much warmer than we are experiencing today. During that time, agriculture and civilization flourished. That is also occurring today. As documented by a rising Leaf Index, agriculture productivity has improved. After all, CO₂ is necessary for plants to grow.

According to Dr. Clark's research, about every 1,000 years or so, weather patterns seem to have these fluctuations. He says, "This is due to solar activity, and that's where we see the importance of the sun, which is the ultimate source of energy beyond geothermal and nuclear energy. Solar drives climate."

Christopher Essex, emeritus professor of applied mathematics and physics at the University of Western Ontario (who was also chairman of the Global Warming Policy Foundation Academic Advisory Council), comments: "It's just about hyping up anxiety and fear so the people will go along with things and not question what's going on. There's so much going on in the atmosphere. It's complex, conductive, and turbulent."

We could quote additional studies that support the view that earth tem-

perature follows the trend in CO₂, not the other way around.

No one will disagree that the sun has an all-encompassing influence on planet earth. It is the center of our solar system, and produces such earthly phenomena as the annual seasons, temperature changes, gravitational pull, volatile sun flares, radio waves, and much more.

In short, the sun impacts virtually everything on earth. As such, it is surprising that the science community does not focus more on the sun's impact on climate change (and historical temperature data).

The sun is doing what it was created to do. It is not experiencing a crisis.

To this point, before moving on, we briefly draw the following conclusions:

- Incredibly, that "climate fighters" today are barking up the wrong tree. Their assumptions—and therefore their recommendations—are incorrect. Yet, they have convinced policymakers and politicians around the world to spend multi-trillions of dollars on solutions that are not guaranteed to be effective.

- That, for the most part, climate changes are natural. They are driven



predominantly by the solar system and the orbit of the earth. Hence, there is no “climate crisis.” Trends can reverse, as they have historically.

- The earth will not burn up in a ball of fire. Obviously, this has not happened before ... even though global temperatures were much higher in the past.

- Climate changes are a natural occurrence. This will assuredly continue in the future.

Young Earth Invalidation?

An explanation may be required, as some of the scientists quoted in this article series have cited long time-frames ... i.e. 10,000 years, 40,000 years ... etc. Those who subscribe to the young-earth view may protest. Indeed, this is a contested view. How can something show a 100,000-year history, when the age of the earth is only circa-6,000 years old today?

Personally, this writer sees no problem here. I note that most people who hold to Creationism, automatically presume that God created the world instantly at time-point zero. All systems would have started at a fully mature state. Lakes would have already been full of water ... before any rain would fall. Mountain rivers would be instantly stocked with rainbow trout.

All the above sounds correct and plausible to the Creationist. However,

could one not just as well presume that the world is shown at an age that is different from the creation date?

This may sound confusing. Allow us to explain with an example. What might one conclude about the age of Adam when he was created—the first man? Clearly, according to the Bible, he was created at zero years old. However, anyone examining Adam at that time would have identified him as a mature male.

They would therefore deduce that he was perhaps 100 years old or so, assuming a lifespan of near 1,000 years before the Flood. The scientist would say that Adam appeared to be much older than his creation date.

This example illustrates that God the Creator is not limited to chronological time. As such, God can also create mountains that appear to be much older than their actual birthdate. A scientist drilling up ice cores could plausibly see 20,000 years of snow layers, though the actual creation date was only 6,000 years ago. That is entirely possible. He is the God of the Impossible. If He is indeed the Creator, this does not add any difficulty for Him.

This then begs the question: What came first ... the chicken or the egg? The answer? Neither. Both were created on the same day. Taking this view, this writer is not troubled by the long dates mentioned by the paleoclimatologists. (M)

The Latter Days

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

The sovereignty of God has already been evidenced in a twofold manner: first, in the fact that He gave the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (Dan 1:2); and, second, in how the Lord “granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials” (v. 9).

Daniel 2 continues to emphasize that the Lord alone controls all things. The setting is the Babylonian court shortly after the king had a troubling dream, leading to a sleepless night (2:1).

The ancient Babylonians believed that dreams were messages from the gods; therefore, a true understanding of the vision would be vital. Nebuchadnezzar

probably had other dreams which he conveyed to his advisors, and they provided their understanding. However, the dream revealed in Daniel 2 was so troubling that the king wanted to be certain regarding its meaning. Anyone could suggest significance to the dream's symbols; however, to tell the dream itself without the king sharing the vision first, would certainly be an indication that one

The old city of Babylon



The Latter Days

Daniel was one of the king's advisors, and prayed for God to make "the king's matter" known to him. The dream revealed the rise and fall of several kingdoms, which was intended to instill confidence in the God who revealed such details.



was divinely inspired, which is why Nebuchadnezzar demanded to make known "the dream and its interpretation."

Daniel was one of the king's advisors, and prayed for God to make "the king's matter" known to him. The dream revealed the rise and fall of several kingdoms, which was intended to instill confidence in the God who revealed such details. The God of Scripture "changes the times and the epochs" (v. 21a), proving He alone is the basis for one's assurance.

THE PROBLEM

(Dan 2:1-30) Insomnia is not uncommon for people with much responsibility. The king of Babylon could not sleep, and God was the reason for his restlessness. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he knew was significant (Dan 2:1). God used Daniel not only to reveal His redemptive plan for

Israel, but also for the nations of the world. Daniel 2 provides the most comprehensive revelation of human history in the Old Testament. God chose Daniel because his uncompromising virtue allowed him to influence the world through his prophecy. Daniel 2 provides the details of how God predestined the events of Daniel's life to grant him the ability to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

The beginning of chapter 2 contains a historical reference: "the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar." Conservative scholarship generally regards this as the year 603 BC. The first year was counted as the year of ascension, which is why the interpretation of the dream occurred in the second year; and yet, it is also conceivable that the interpretation was subsequent to the three-year training program of Daniel. The arguments of nontraditional scholarship—that the historical references of 1:20–2:1 are contradictory and false—are based upon an obvious prejudice against the historicity of the book of Daniel.

The narrative informs the reader that the king "had dreams" (the Hebrew is pluperfect, which is translated "had dreamed dreams"). In other words, the

language tells the reader that Nebuchadnezzar apparently had dreams beginning in the sequence of events of chapter 1, but not until chapter 2 were those dreams being detailed. Consequently, it is entirely possible that the dream was interpreted prior to Daniel graduating his 3-year training program.

The king demanded his advisors to tell him the dream and its interpretation, or be executed (vv. 2-9). The advisors then explained the impossibility in satisfying the king's demand. What they admitted was that true revelation comes solely from God to humanity. Against their own inclinations, the advisors rightly stated that human beings are unable to achieve revelation (vv. 10-11). For this reason, Nebuchadnezzar furiously "gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon" (v. 12), including Daniel and his friends (v. 13). His reaction is the reason why democracy is God's blessing, since "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" (a well-known assertion from Lord Acton).

Nebuchadnezzar held absolute power, yet even he recognized the uselessness of false religion. Thus, he had no tolerance for supposed "wise men" who were unable to provide divine wisdom. Nevertheless, they were partially correct when they said the Lord does not dwell "with *mortal* flesh" (v.

11; cf. Matt 1:23). God alone could reveal the mystery of the dream, yet the king's advisors did not know that the Spirit of the Lord does abide among humanity (1 Cor 2:11b-12: "Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God"). The wise men of Babylon did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, so it was impossible for them to know the dream or the interpretation. They were powerless and weak to accomplish what is God's prerogative.

Daniel did not respond with defensiveness and outrage when told he would be executed; rather, he "replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard" (Dan 2:14). The crisis did not determine Daniel's disposition; rather, it proved his temperament. With discretion and discernment, one can make peace with enemies (cf. Ps 23:5). Daniel's request for the king to "give him time" was not a mere delay tactic, for he knew one must wait patiently upon the Lord, especially considering the present "mystery" (Dan 2:15-18). It is vital to pray when times are foreboding, when circumstances appear hopeless, when you do not know what to do next; "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:16-18).

The Latter Days

Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerned "what will take place in the latter days" (v. 28). Scripture references two time periods: the present time and the age to come. The "latter days" would be the time preceding the coming era.



In response to prayer, God revealed "the mystery ... to Daniel in a night vision" (Dan 2:17-19). Daniel did not discover the mystery; rather, God revealed it to him, which is the fundamental truth of biblical faith. It is God who reveals what is known! Certainly, one is to seek the Lord (Isa 55:6-7; Matt 6:33; Heb 11:6), yet that involves seeking what He has revealed. Biblical faith is not attempting to make discoveries with regard to God; rather, it is to comprehend what He has already revealed.

Daniel praised God for His power, revelation, and wisdom (Dan 2:20-23). Many leaders have power yet lack wisdom, which is dangerous, of course (as Lord Acton recognized). The converse is also true, since many people who are wise lack power, and so their wisdom

goes unnoticed when it could benefit. God, however, is both powerful and wise; because He governs the world with wisdom, there is no reason to fear His power. God not only possesses infinite wisdom, but also shares it "generously and without reproach" to any who ask (Jas 1:5).

Having indicated that he could declare the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Daniel was "hurriedly ... brought into the king's presence" (vv. 24-25). Daniel's initial answer was a basic summary of the king's vision (vv. 26-29). He declared the existence of an omniscient God who reveals mysteries. Whereas Daniel lacked the ability to reveal the dream, there is a God in heaven who could, and to Him he gave all the glory (v. 30).

THE INTERPRETATION

(Dan 2:31-49) Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerned "what will take place in the latter days" (v. 28). Scripture references two time periods: the present time and the age to come. The "latter days" would be the time preceding the coming era. Daniel testified that God can and does communicate His purposes and will for humanity. He is the One who appointed the king to his position, since there is no authority

except what the Lord establishes (vv. 37-38; Rom 13:1), which is a reminder to pray for those in leadership (1 Tim 2:1-2).

Daniel indicated that the king dreamt of “a single great statue” composed of varying metals (vv. 31-35). A head of gold symbolized Nebuchadnezzar, and the kingdom of Babylon in particular (vv. 36-38). “Another kingdom” would arise (Medo-Persia), and though it would conquer Babylon, it would be “inferior,” as indicated by the qualitative decrease in the precious metal to silver. Greece would be “another third kingdom of bronze” (v. 39).

Conservative scholars do not all agree concerning the identity of the actual Gentile nations represented by the kingdoms of silver and bronze; however, many believe Medo-Persia to be the second kingdom, and Greece the third. Due to continual internal strife, the Medo-Persian Empire was indeed inferior to Babylon. Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, the Greek Empire is regarded as the first empire to rule the earth. At one point in his career, Alexander lamented because he believed there were no more known worlds for him to conquer.

Four verses are devoted to Rome, “a fourth kingdom as strong as iron” (vv. 40-43), which eventually will be crushed and destroyed by the stone

that will endure forever (vv. 44-45), a reference to the divine kingdom. Rome exerted tremendous force in subduing all the countries of the known world. The dream gives emphasis to the “feet and toes ... partly of iron and partly of pottery,” because these elements do not mix—thus indicating that division will characterize the final form of world powers. Rome never truly fell; rather, the centralized power of Rome was divided among the emerging nations, or “toes.”

Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged Daniel’s God as the “God of gods and a Lord of kings,” and promoted the prophet and his friends (vv. 46-49). Daniel 2 reveals the course of the Gentile world powers that will emerge as rulers over the nation of Israel. The first three empires retained power within the nation, but the fourth empire results in a division of power, which causes the emergence of several nations. Once this occurs, “the stone” will crush the statue, and it will be utterly destroyed. The stone, however, is the kingdom of God that will fill the entire earth and endure forever. The kingdom of God—ruled by Jesus Christ—will be established in a coming day. God is in control of this world, including all the people in it. What an encouragement to pray sincerely, “Your kingdom come” (Matt 6:10a)! (1395)




WORLD FOCUS

WORLD

Ageing Population

By 2030, 1 in 6 people in the world will be aged 60 years or over. At this time the share of the population aged 60 years and over will increase from 1 billion in 2020 to 1.4 billion. By 2050, the world's population of people aged 60 years and older will double (2.1 billion).

 The number of persons aged 80 years or older is expected to triple between 2020 and 2050 to reach 426 million.

While this shift in distribution of a country's population towards older ages—known as population ageing—started in high-income countries (for example in Japan 30% of the population is already over 60 years old), it is now low- and middle-income countries that are experiencing the greatest change. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population over 60 years will live in low- and middle-income countries.

-*www.who.int*, 1 October 2022

Commentary: Contrary to many prognosticators sounding the alarm about global overpopulation, the facts have now turned things upside down. Particularly in the rich, industrialized nations, the average age of their populations is increasing. Worldometers.info lists life expectancy (in 2023) as follows: Japan 85 years, Switzerland 84.4 years, Italy 84.2 years, South Korea 84.1 years,

Spain 84.1 years, Australia 83.8 years, Sweden 83.7 years, Israel 83.4 years. The US is in 47th place at 79.7 years.

The most popular reasons given for longer life in our times is:

1. Food availability at high quality.

2. Medicine: Infectious diseases have been largely eradicated globally—according to OurWorldinData.org, smallpox, polio, yellow fever, measles, mumps, rubella, and many others.

3. Comfort: Back-breaking labor in the heat of the summer and during the bone-chilling winter has mostly been replaced by machines.

When it comes to the availability and comfort of transportation and communication, there is no comparison to any other time in history.

However, the Bible has this to say: “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalm 90:10). For that reason, the Word of God gives this advice: “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psalm 19:12). Thus, the main objective of our life is not the length thereof but acknowledgment of our Creator and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. After all, Hebrews 9:27 declares:

“...It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” 8260

(See *When Death Comes*, Item #1056, \$12.99.)




THAILAND

Recognizes Same-Sex Marriage

Thailand's Senate passed the final reading of a marriage equality law, paving the way for it to become the first country in Southeast Asia to recognize same-sex couples.



 The bill, the culmination of more than two decades of effort by activists, was supported by an overwhelming majority of lawmakers in the upper house.

“Today we celebrate another significant milestone in the journey of our Equal Marriage Bill,” Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said in a post on X.

“We will continue our fight for social rights for all people regardless of their status.”

(continued next page)

Same-Sex Marriage (continued from page 28)

LGBT advocates called the move a “monumental step forward,” as Thailand would be the first nation in Southeast Asia to enact marriage equality legislation and the third in Asia, after Nepal and Taiwan.

“This would underscore Thailand’s leadership in the region in promoting human rights and gender equality,” the Civil Society Commission of marriage equality, activists and LGBTQI couples said in a statement.

-www.reuters.com, 18 June 2024

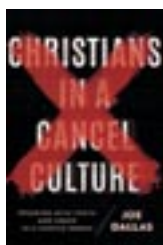
Commentary: Another country falls in line with the prevailing spirit of “equality,” a word often mentioned in articles dealing with same-sex marriage. All this is part of the process for eventual global unity under the god of this world, who is mimicking the unity believers have in Christ, as referenced in Galatians 3:28, “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.” But instead of spiritual unity Satan attempts to force an unnatural, unholy unity, which only leads one down a dark path of deception. May Christians pray for and love those trapped in this bondage, so they

may be drawn to the light of the Gospel.

-By K. Farmer

8276

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



Stars bursting above the triangular peak of the mountain that may be Mount Sinai in the middle of the night, in Saudi Arabia. (credit: BRIAN SCHRAUGER)

SAUDI ARABIA

Location of Mount Sinai?

In Israel, most ancient sites have left abundant evidence of the events that happened there. An outline of the 2,000-year-old site of Roman encampment around Masada is clear. Even older is the Jordan Valley footprint site, where Israelites gathered shortly after entering the land about 3,400 years ago.



In stark contrast, and in a place where there has been virtually no human activity for three and a half millennia, there was nothing to suggest that a large group of people had populated the area: no encampment outlines, no petroglyphs, and no apparent place where a large number of people and their livestock had settled.

Unlike the Sinai Peninsula, everything we saw in Saudi Arabia fit the biblical narrative and did so with an abundance of archaeological and geographical evidence.

On the first day of exploration, we set out to find the Rock of Horeb, the rock split by Moses’ rod overlooking the plains of Rephidim.

As we drove, rounding one hill after another, suddenly it appeared. Emerging from the peak of a stony platform, a solitary, huge, 12-meter torso-shaped rock towered over the plain below. Split down the middle, it was impossible to miss.

Climbing the natural platform on which it stood, we saw that its size was breathtaking. Standing at the base of the split, looking down at the landscape below, it was easy to see how hundreds of thousands, maybe more, were able to assemble and witness what, as instructed, Moses did.

-www.jpost.com, 11 June 2024

Commentary: The article begins: “There is virtually no evidence of human activity in the supposed Mount Sinai in Egypt. Is the real location for where God gave the Jews the Ten Commandments in Saudi Arabia?”

While there are fascinating alleged circumstances providing seeming evidence of the real Mount Sinai, the real location is still hidden. That’s

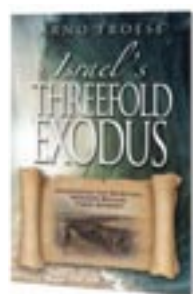
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Mount Sinai *(continued from page 29)*

also true for the crossing of the Red Sea—subject to serious debate.

It behooves us to ask the question, why is there no real evidence ... such as Rome’s occupation of the Promised Land, testified to by remains of remarkable buildings and structures? Because Mount Sinai, the mountain of God where Israel received the Ten Commandments through the hand of Moses, also became the location where the people of Israel committed the most horrendous blasphemy against God. Exodus 32:7-8 reports: “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” We note that the Lord distanced Himself with the statement, “for *thy* people, which *thou* broughtest out of the land of Egypt.”

We believe the direct identity of these places will remain hidden, to avoid creating a pilgrimage site for the people of Israel that, in turn, would lead to idolatry. 8271

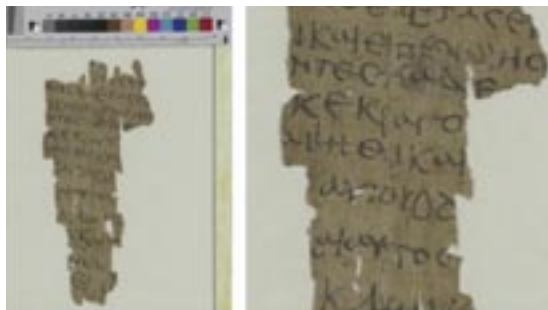


(See Israel's Threefold Exodus, Item #1088, \$14.50.)

GERMANY

Record of Jesus' Childhood?

Researchers in Germany have decoded what they say is the oldest-ever manuscript detailing Jesus Christ's life as a child.



Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg/Public Domain Mark 1.0

The document had been stored at a library in Hamburg, Germany, as no one believed the document was of any significance.

“The fragment is of extraordinary interest for research,” Lajos Berkes, a professor and one of the researchers who decoded the document said in a press release. “On the one hand, because we were able to date it to the 4th to 5th century, making it the earliest known copy. On the other hand, because we were able to gain new insights into the transmission of the text.”

“We first noticed the word Jesus in the text. Then, by comparing it with numerous other digitized papyri, we deciphered it letter by letter and quickly realized that it could not be an everyday document.”

Berkes said the document is a fragment of the Gospel of Thomas, an apocryphal book that was not included in the

Bible. The gospel offers details about Jesus’ life as a child before his ministry.

While there are only a handful of words in the manuscript, the researchers were able to determine that it is retelling the apocryphal story of the “vivication of the sparrows.”

-www.foxnews.com, 12 June 2024

Commentary: When Jesus was 12 years of age, Luke 2:40 reports: “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.”

We know from Scripture that the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that the child “shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35b). Even the diabolical underworld had to confess: “And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God” (Luke 4:41a).



8270
(See Questions Jesus Asks, Item #2392, \$12.99.)

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 JAPAN

Sharing Intelligence with New Zealand

In a joint statement, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon expressed concern about rising tension in the South China Sea, where China has become increasingly assertive in pressing its territorial claims.

 Kishida and Luxon “welcomed the agreement in principle of an information security agreement” to facilitate classified information sharing, according to the statement released by Japan’s Foreign Ministry.

The two leaders also agreed to accelerate talks toward signing a pact that would allow the two countries’ forces to share logistical support and supplies during bilateral training and other operations.

Japan has signed similar intelligence agreements with eight other countries including the United States, Australia, Britain, India and South Korea, as well as with NATO. Japan is also negotiating with Canada over a similar deal and has agreed with Ukraine to start talks.

-abcnews.go.com, 19 June 2024

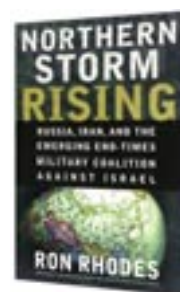
Commentary: In Daniel 7, the first night vision is revealed to him; he emphasizes in verse 27: “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” This is the end.

The goal? The kingdom of God—the millennium—established at the physical and literal return of Jesus on the Mount of Olives in the land of Israel. All commotions, even the First and Second World Wars, are just a distraction of the enemy, who wants to establish his kingdom on earth. His original thoughts are recorded by the prophet Isaiah: “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:14).

In the meantime, we have human history, where thousands upon thousands of wars have been fought and millions upon millions slain. Since we are not at the end of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, we are seeing the be-

ginning of the end. Many may object to the following statement, but in today’s world, we have more peace than ever before in human history. Also, more information, more communication, and particularly more prosperity, comfort, and luxury. Where will that lead? Humanity collectively will accept the great imitator, who offers a fake peace.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, there is an almost tangible spirit of anxiety among the nations regarding defense. But in the end, there is nothing to defend. The Bible reveals the final destination of the evil one: “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These



both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20). 8277

(See *Northern Storm Rising*, Item #2294, \$15.99.)

 CANADA

Surtax on Chinese Electric Vehicles



Canada’s move comes after both the United States and the European Commission announced plans to impose higher import tariffs on Chinese EVs this summer.

 “Our automotive sector supports nearly 550,000 good paying Canadian jobs,” Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said. “Canadian workers and the auto sector are facing unfair competition from China’s intentional state directed policy of overcapacity that is undermining Canada’s EV sector ability to

compete in domestic and global markets.”

In addition to a surtax, the consultation will consider whether Canada should change which cars are eligible for the federal EV purchase rebate worth up to \$5,000 Canadian (\$3,661) per vehicle.

It will also look at whether to expand investment restrictions in Canada.

(continued next page)

Surtax (continued from page 31)

Right now the only Chinese-made EVs imported into Canada are from Tesla, made at the company's Shanghai factory. There are no Chinese-branded EVs sold or imported at the moment.

-abcnews.go.com, 24 June 2024

Commentary: When it comes to manufacturing, China is the world's only superpower. WorldPopulationReview.com lists global share of manufacturing output by country for 2024:

1. China 31.6%
2. United States 15.9%
3. Japan 6.5%
4. Germany 4.8%
5. India 2.9%

Globalism is a reality, and there is no point of return. Tesla, the American electric car brand, is made in China and exported to Canada. Where all the various components of vehicles actually originate is difficult to determine.

What does it all mean? It's a foreshadowing of the world to come: one world, one government, one leader.

What we know for sure is that the final confrontation is not between various nations, but a global, destructive war caused by God the Creator: "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Revelation 16:16). The end? "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that

wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).




8284
(See *Foreshadows*, Item #2393, \$17.99.)

ISRAEL

Strengthening Jewish Settlements

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office said all of the proposals for strengthening settlements in what Israel biblically refers to as Judea and Samaria would be voted on at the next Security Cabinet meeting.

 Norway, Ireland, Spain and Slovenia have each recognized an independent Palestinian state, a move motivated at least in part by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's open refusal to commit to a two-state solution.

Israel's far-right finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, said in May that Israel should approve 10,000 settlements in the West Bank, establish a new settlement for every country that recognizes a state of Palestine, and cancel travel permits for Palestinian Authority officials.

-www.cnn.com, 16 June 2024

Commentary: Israel is at war. Rules and regulations are different than during so-called peacetimes. While inter-

national pressure will most likely hinder the establishment of an additional 10,000 settlements in Judea and Samaria, one thing becomes crystal clear: Arab Palestinians do not want peace with the Jewish State. They have demonstrated that over and over.

After the horrible massacre of civilians by Hamas on 7 October 2023, the majority of Gazans and Arab Palestinians still sympathize with Hamas. What is the aim? The eradication of the State of Israel and the death of the Jews.

Protests, particularly by pro-Arab Palestinians, loudly proclaim, "From the river to the sea," meaning no room for Jews in the Promised Land.

From a Biblical perspective, we agree; yet not from "the river," but from "rivers"—the River of Egypt in the south, to the River Euphrates in the north, and the River Jordan in the east. What leaders of the world say, do, or don't do is not decisive; God will bring about the unconditional fulfillment of the covenant He made to Abram: "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18).



8283
(See *Why Jerusalem Is Jewish*, Item #1070, \$2.)



THE ONLY TRUE GOD



By Peter Malgo

It happened the last week before summer vacation. In my 8-year-old granddaughter Joëlle's class, the subject was "different religions." And Joëlle spoke up to explain that *our* God is the only true God. She probably shouldn't have said that, but in any case, she was reprimanded by the teacher, who then also told her that everyone could believe what he wanted, and that everyone could follow his own religion.

In our day, not confession but tolerance is required. However, Joëlle did not give in but repeated her statement that *our* God was nonetheless the only true God. The teacher then lost her cool, reprimanded her again, and said she would be punished for her insolence (which then also was done). The teacher was apparently unaware of having contradicted herself by saying that everyone could believe what he wanted, yet forbade Joëlle to stand by her conviction.

But what about this *only true God*? Clearly, what the American pastor Terry Jones in Florida wanted to demonstrate by his Koran-burning is not the right way. It is not a matter of fighting Islam or any other religion, but to stand up with this confession:

Jesus Christ is my God, the *only true God*, who can save from sin, guilt, and being lost for eternity.

Tolerance is actually a nice word. In the vocabulary of the Bible, however, it is not used in the way the world understands it today. Worldly tolerance only accepts current human opinion, the general cultural trend, while rejecting a clear stand for Jesus Christ and an unambiguous acceptance of biblical statements. For example, it is no longer socially acceptable to say anything against homosexuality. To be tolerant nowadays means staying neutral, not attracting any attention. But what does freedom of religion, what does tolerance mean when one is no longer allowed to state in school that God is the *only true God*?



Just for You!

The Bible very definitely speaks about tolerance, but never a tolerance that excludes Jesus Christ. For He, the Lord, is always in first place. Jesus demonstrated such tolerance, for instance, as we read: “Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples” (Matthew 9:10). We might have turned up our noses at such table neighbors ourselves. Another significant passage is Mark 9:38-39. There John tells the Lord about an unknown man who performed all kinds of miracles in His name. To this, Jesus answers, “Do not forbid him!” Jesus is more tolerant than His disciples. In Phillipians 1:18, Paul shows himself to be tolerant also: “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.”

There are numerous passages in the Bible which prove that our God is the *only true God*. For example, Isaiah 44:6, “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.’” Or in the New Testament: “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

How are we doing with tolerance? With the *only true God*? Do we perhaps still have other gods in whom we put our trust ... gods that may even take first place in our hearts? Our possessions, our provisions, our beautiful house, our car...? We are allowed to have all of it, but if Jesus Christ alone does not come first, we are showing a false tolerance. (MC)



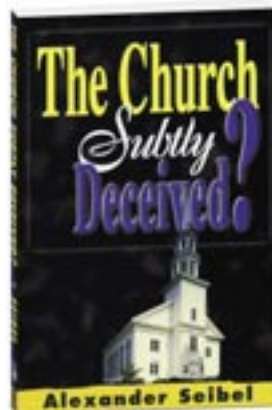
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BRAZIL

Catastrophic Flooding in Southern Region

At the beginning of May, the state of Rio Grande do Sul (RS), with 11 million inhabitants, was severely hit by heavy, persistent rains. In 15 days, the area received as much rain as typically falls in three months: 520 mm (20.5 in.).

BY MARKUS AND ELLEN STEIGER, PORTO ALEGRE



Most of this rain fell within 48 hours. The rivers overflowed their banks, and torrents caused vast destruction. Some cities were 90% destroyed.

Our state has 496 districts, 446 of which were affected by the floods. More than 150,000 people were forced to leave their homes, some of which were flooded as high as the roof. A total of two million people were impacted by the catastrophic flooding. The state is roughly the size of Nevada, and the area impacted by the disaster is roughly the size of South Carolina.

The Guaíba (the river near Porto Alegre) rose to 5.56 meters—3 meters beyond its limits, requiring the protective walls at the port to be closed. During our last serious flood in 1941, the water level reached 4.76 m.

110 hospitals were hit. Districts were without running water for days or even weeks, because most of the water pumps collapsed. Only 2 of the 23 in Porto Alegre kept running. The power plant also stopped producing for safety reasons. It was bad for remote towns and villages: They could no longer be reached by



phone, so no one knew what was happening there.

The airport closed on May 3. More than a meter of water ran into the main lobby and over the runways, making the airport resemble a lake. The latest estimate for reopening is December!

The main post office building was also underwater, and no mail could be sent for three weeks. And because all the access roads to Porto Alegre were also underwater (with one exception), only relief supplies, police, and ambulances were initially allowed to enter the city. After a few days, a second access road was cleared, followed by a third a bit later. It took more than a month for all of the access roads to be free of water and ready for use again.

Our mission station wasn't hit by the flooding, because it's situated in a higher part of the city. But many churches were underwater, including the one we are affiliated with. Some church members lost their houses, and others had to leave their homes because the entrances to their high-rises were underwater. The towns in Vale do Taquarí, which we helped back in September of last year, were hit again. It looked like a war zone then, and it was even worse this time.

The print shop that binds our thicker books was also three meters underwater. But all we lost was our new commentary on Mark, which had been finished and was ready for delivery.

Helping Where We Can

Our church was generously permitted to use a warehouse free of charge. This allowed us to

temporarily store and relay many truckloads of relief supplies that came to our state from across the country.

More than 100 dormitories and living halls were set up as emergency accommodation, mostly in schools. Mattresses, blankets, clothing, towels, personal hygiene products, and other items were provided for the more than 70,000 people who were without shelter. Three meals a day also needed to be prepared for them. The Christian churches especially were actively involved in this first phase of assistance. Our mission station provided tracts to distribute with meals or other relief items. Donations have enabled us to buy 5,000 Bibles and 1,000 New Testaments so far, which are being distributed systematically.

Five weeks after the floods began, our town and its neighbors were largely free of water. Now the second phase began: clearing and cleaning up. Everything looks bad enough when it's covered with water, but once it's gone, you realize the full extent of the disaster. Most houses had thick layers of mud, clay, and dirt that had to be shoveled out. Then the broken furniture had to be left on the street, before anyone could even think about cleaning. There was rubble and garbage everywhere. It will take months for everything to be cleared away.

Another parallel tragedy is taking place. In the first few days, there were reports of sexual assault in the shelters, including against children. Many people refused to leave their homes for fear of them being looted, and this fear was unfortunately justified. Some were actually

The flooded Porto Alegre airport



approaching houses by boat and offering to help, only to attack and steal from the residents. And those who left their homes later returned to find that they had been robbed. One businessman said in a video that what shocked him most was that the robbers destroyed anything they couldn't take with them.

God allowed this disaster, and we don't know why. But His plan is always perfect! The Gaúcho, the people of our state, are very proud of

their culture. So, they find it difficult to go to a Christian church, and don't want to learn anything about the faith. But now many are open to the gospel. They don't just want a tract; many also ask for a Bible.

Pray with us that the sowing of tracts and Bibles, as well as pastoral conversations, will bear eternal fruit so the name of the Lord is glorified above this tragedy.

(MR0724)



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

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MC0824

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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.

HOLY GHOST OR HOLY SPIRIT?... IMMIGRANTS... 0.2% JEWS?

Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit?

Dear Arno Froese,

In the March 2024 *Midnight Call*, page 11, bottom right, it quotes John 20:22: "And when He [Jesus] had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" The Scripture in the KJV says the "Holy Ghost."

On the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:4 states: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

I've got the Holy Ghost down in my soul, just like the Bible says. I've been to the water, been baptized in Jesus' name. My soul's so satisfied and happy. I've put my hands to the Gospel plow, and I wouldn't take anything for my journey now.

-M. Shackle, MO

Answer: Appreciate your testimony. You are quoting from the King James translation. Please note, the New Testament was not written in English but in Greek. The Greek term *Hagios Pneuma* is best

translated as "Holy Spirit." Most translations use the word "Spirit"; that is also true in other languages.

Immigrants

Dear Sir:

I believe the influx of immigrants will be the downfall of America.

My Sunday School teacher has been teaching us through the book of Jeremiah.

I believe that, like Israel, America has crossed God's line of no return. I believe God will use the influx of immigrants to teach America a lesson. We turned our back to God when He warned us of impending judgment that is about to befall us.

Even though I believe it's too late for America as a whole to turn back, I still believe all Christians should witness on a daily basis until Jesus comes back (Rapture).

I have found that most Christians don't believe what I have just written. Would you be so kind as to let me know if I am right or wrong?

-R. Nichols, NC



Answer: Remember, this country was conquered and established by immigrants. Obviously, you are a descendant of one of them.

Actually, illegal immigrants are a great benefit to America. Why? Because they obtain work mostly by using a fake Social Security number, they are paying billions into the system, but will never get a penny back. A document from the Connecticut state government website entitled “5 Myths About Undocumented Immigrants” reveals:

Contrary to popular belief, undocumented workers are not (and have never been) eligible to claim Social Security benefits. In fact, most undocumented workers will use a false Social Security number to prove work authorization, therefore paying money into a benefit system that they may never be eligible to use. According to the Social Security Administration, undocumented immigrants account for a “major portion” of the billions of dollars paid into the Social Security system—an estimated \$520 billion as of October 2005. Immigrants’ tax payments support both local and state services in addition to the federal government.

Most important is that many find Jesus and are added to His Church. Praise the Lord!

0.2% Jews?

Mr. Froese,

Because of all the years of math courses in college, I couldn’t help but catch this in your February 2024 *Midnight Call* issue.

The articles written by Wilfred Hahn are among my favorites in your publica-

tion. But in this issue, “Political Economy: Thicker Than Jewish Blood,” it states: “[The] Jewish population of the world was 16.1 million . . . a mere 0.2% of the world population of 8 billion.”

By dividing 16,000,000 (rounding it off) by 8,000,000,000 (world population), it actually comes out to 0.002 or two thousandths of the total population. To double-check this figure, one only has to multiply 8,000,000,000 x .002 = 16,000,000. So, mathematically, one out of every 500 people on this planet is Jewish.

On another note, with everyone in the business world getting on the inflation bandwagon (even our Christian brothers and sisters), in regard to your 31% increase in the newsstand rates on your magazine (inflation is only 3%), how do you expect the secular public to pick up your publication with this kind of increase?

-D. Delisle, MI

Answer: All sources show the Jewish population of the world to be 0.2%, but mathematically, when you do not use the percentage sign, the proportion is written as 0.002.

Regarding the 31% cover price increase for *Midnight Call*, it is relatively meaningless because the magazine is not available in bookstores or newsstands. See our notice in the June issue, page 47, regarding our discounted rate.

During my 55 years of ministry, I cannot recall someone actually paying the cover price for one issue. Anyhow, I do appreciate your alertness. ^{MC}

“And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase” (Jeremiah 23:3).

BY ARNO FROESE

The enemies’ desire to destroy Israel as a state causes the opposite to occur: Jews return to the land of their fathers, the Promised Land.

Despite the ongoing war and lack of safety, a new wave of Jews from the US and France choose to make aliyah, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the State of Israel.

Marc Rosenberg, vice president of Diaspora partnerships at Nefesh B’Nefesh, a nonprofit organization that promotes and facilitates aliyah from North America, told The Media Line that Americans are now mainly moving to Israel for ideological reasons, although some are also coming for practical reasons.

“We see an increase of people asking about serving in the army, which is fascinating considering the danger that is involved,” Rosenberg said.

Twenty-four-year-old Hadar Amar from California hadn’t thought about moving to Israel before last year, although her two older siblings moved to Israel six and nine years ago, respectively.

“I got my degree in the States and started working at a corporation. However, there was always a sense of loneliness. I just didn’t feel connected; in America, I felt like a stranger,” she told The Media Line.

“Being in Israel now makes me feel safe, happy and connected. I’m with my loved ones. I’m also creating the life that I have been waiting for, for years. It’s not easy, especially having the people

closest to you serving in the army, but this experience helped me to realize what it’s like to be a Jew in today’s society,” concluded Amar.

-*themedialine.org*, 9 June 2024

Under the word “Antisemitism,” Wikipedia published a 50-page article. Here an excerpt:

There are various ways in which antisemitism is manifested, ranging in the level of severity of Jewish persecution. On the more subtle end, it consists of expressions of hatred or discrimination against individual Jews, and may or may not be accompanied by violence. On the most extreme end, it consists of pogroms or genocide, which may or may not be state-sponsored. Although the term “antisemitism” did not come into common usage until the 19th century, it is also applied to previous and later anti-Jewish incidents.

In recent times, the idea that there is a variation of antisemitism known as “new antisemitism” has emerged on several occasions. According to this view, since the State of Israel is a Jewish state, expressions of anti-Zionist positions could harbor antisemitic sentiments.

When it comes to the Church, the writings of former Catholic priest James Carroll expose the antisemitic treatment of Jews in his book titled *Constantine’s Sword*: “Jews accounted for 10% of the total population of the Roman Empire. By that ratio, if other factors such as pogroms

and conversions had not intervened, there would be 200 million Jews in the world today, instead of something like 13 million.” In mathematical terms, that represents a decrease of 93.5%.

Here we are reminded of the prophet Isaiah: “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth” (Isaiah 10:20). The fact that Israel can be placed under the category of exceptionalism is self-evident. This also became apparent since the murderous atrocities committed by the terrorist organization Hamas on 7 October 2023.

When we keep the word “remnant” in mind, we realize that the 7.2 million Jews in the land of Israel are indeed a small remnant, especially when compared to the almost 465 million Arab population of the Middle East.

But that’s not all; the rest of the world—and this includes the US—is categorized in one

verse: “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 3:2).

For all practical purposes, Israel does not have a chance to exist, yet the Bible makes it crystal clear that she does. God’s promise is based on the existence of the universe: “If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever” (Jeremiah 31:36). We as believers—born again of the Spirit of God—have obtained the promise of Jesus, “Salvation is of the Jews.” Thus, we continue to pray for their salvation, based on the promises of God the Creator. When judgment falls upon planet earth, exceptionalism will be revealed: “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble, **but he shall be saved out of it**” (Jeremiah 30:7). (MC)

MC0824

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MIDNIGHT CALL

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



War Update & An Elderly Sister Needs Your Help

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

War Update

As I'm writing you, it's the 25th day of the war in Israel: The south is more and more quiet, and the north becomes more and more tense. Each day, dozens of missiles are fired into Israel from the north, bringing our total so far to over 20,000 (more than that of the Second Lebanon War). We have used the bomb shelters a few times now, and are really thankful for God's protection and Haifa being relatively quiet, even though Haifa has received many verbal threats from our enemies. I would like to encourage you to take out a map and look at this tiny piece of land called Israel. Whether the world likes it or not, it is the Promised Land to the people of Israel, who were once called Jacob. "And He said, 'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed'" (Genesis 32:28).

It is the Word spoken by our Father in Heaven, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, who

brought back His people and made it possible for us to live here. There is no doubt that HE deals with Israel in a mysterious way, which we can't always understand. Many times, I think Satan knows that if he destroys this nation, there won't be anyone to cry out, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" Luke 13:35 says, "See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

Let us all be united in prayer, accelerating His plan and coming by praying and calling out Maranatha (2 Peter 3:11-12). Let us live the way our Lord expects us to.

An Elderly Sister Needs Help

Recently, it came to Ebenezer's attention that there is an elderly sister in Yeshua who needs help, and I want to share this with you all. This lady doesn't have the financial means required to enter Ebenezer. Although our fees are low



compared to other homes here in Israel, we still have costs that must be covered. This is where you and I can make a difference during this time of war and distress.

Ebenezer doesn't want to refuse her the help she needs, simply because she can't afford to enter the home. Our vision and goal is to care for the elderly believers here in Israel, regardless of their ability to pay. Many can't afford to cover their basic costs of living, and only pay what they can. Your gifts and support help to bridge this gap.

This month, we would like to raise the money this sister needs to join the Ebenezer family. Will you help us wel-

come her into our home, and provide her with the needed care and family? Any additional finances raised will go toward helping us cover the other urgent projects we have right now.

Right now, we hope to accept three new residents into the Ebenezer family! It is a time of war, and people need a safe and caring place to call home, especially during this season we are going through.

Stay tuned. Soon we will share a very special update about our properties, including a YouTube video, which we believe you will be very blessed by. Our Father is deep at work!!

Until next time, Maranatha!



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

MC0824
EH

Yes, I wish to support the Ebenezer Home Project.

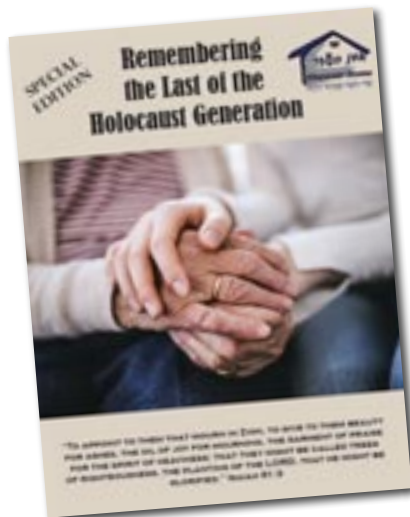
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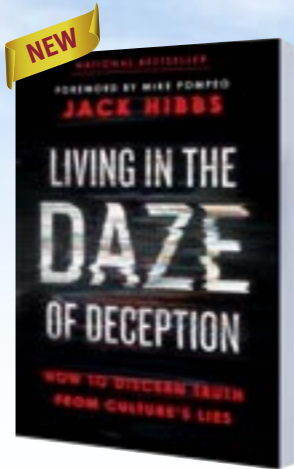
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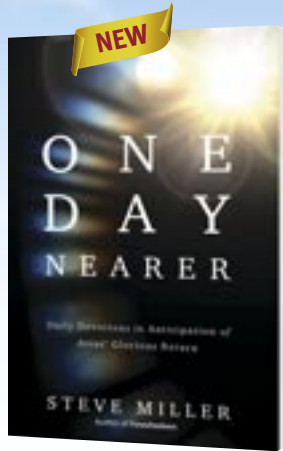
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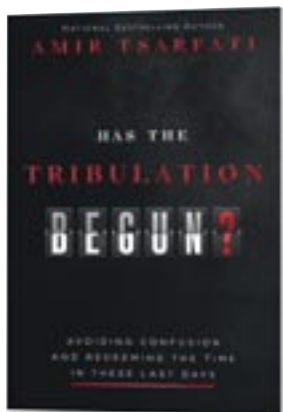
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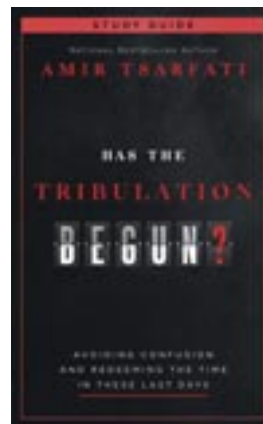
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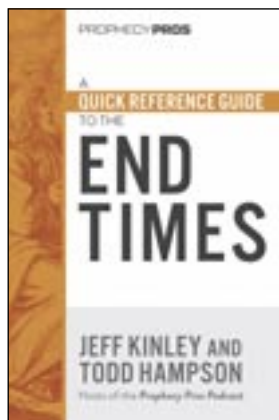
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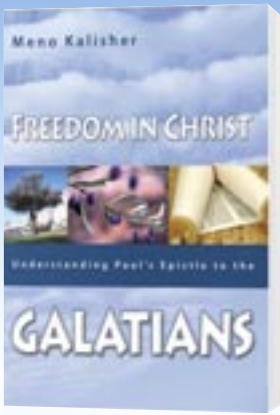
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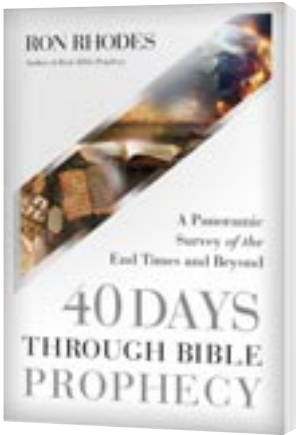
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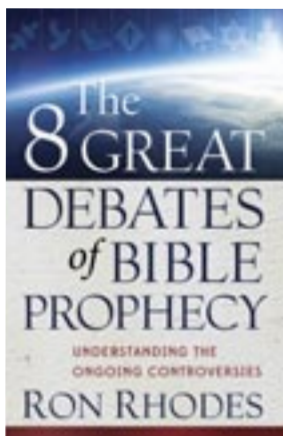
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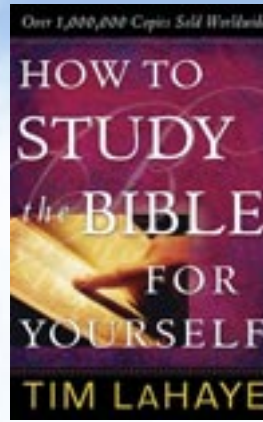
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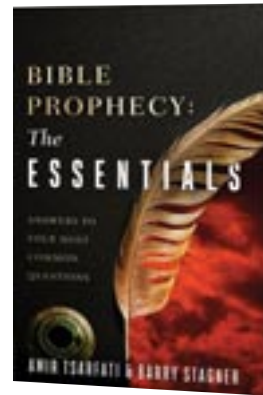
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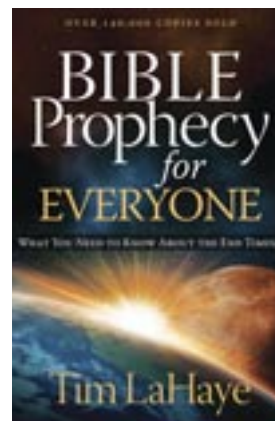
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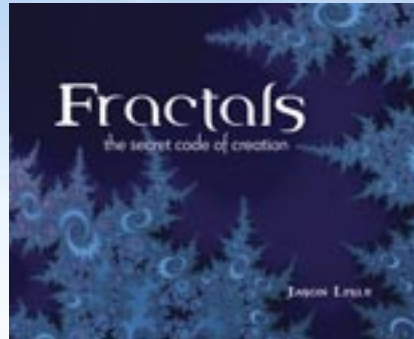
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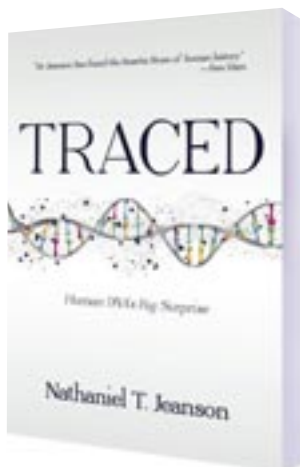
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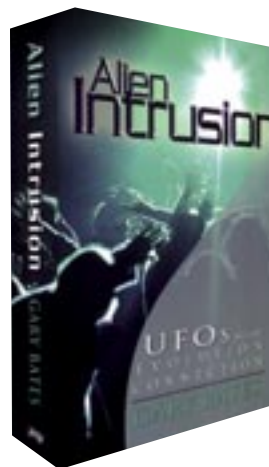
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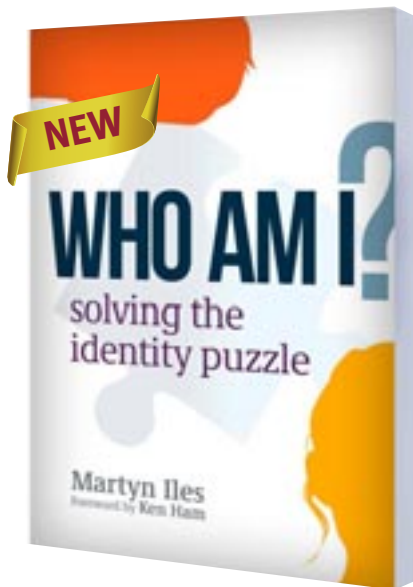
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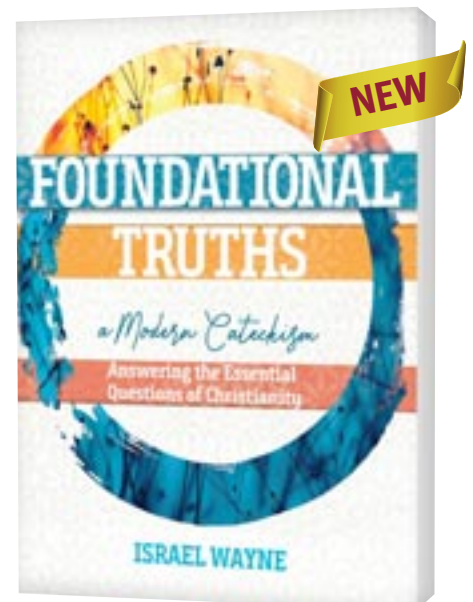
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