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# Midnight Call

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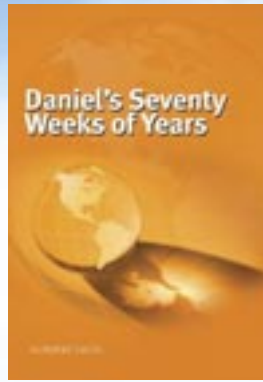
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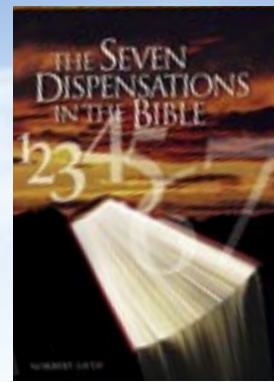
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## The Need for Vision

**By Norbert Lieth**

*Director of Missions, Midnight Call International*

**P**roverbs 29:18 tells us: “Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law (the Word of God).” The journalist Reinhard Kahl once remarked: “Visions are the archive of the future.”

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 church thrives because there are men and women within it who have vision. The founders of missions, societies, associations, and companies were visionaries. Vision brings you out of your apathy and sets you in motion. Not infrequently, companies lose some of their initial impact, because subsequent generations no longer have a vision and are no longer innovative. We are not talking about extra-biblical experiences or spiritual phenomena, but of the great vision transmitted to us in the Bible, and what the Holy Spirit is giving us as motivation. Vision-

aries are enthusiastic about an idea, subject, or project, and inspire others to get involved.

The greatest of all visionaries is God Himself. The entire Bible proclaims God’s mighty vision for the salvation of mankind through Jesus Christ. It shows how consistently and purposefully the Almighty pursues His plan. Nothing and no one can prevent Him from ushering in His kingdom: “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isaiah 46:10b).

Under all circumstances, we want to pursue vision in a spiritual and goal-oriented way ... to tread paths and fulfill our vocation with Christ at the center. In doing so, we must not get tired or rest on what has been accomplished; rather, we must continue to seek new paths and have the courage to walk in them. It doesn’t always have to be great things. Recently, a deacon told me that he had an idea for a certain poster, and he was hoping and praying the church leadership would agree to it. It can be a wide variety of visions: special projects for the congregation, caring for older brothers and sisters in the faith, special prayer times, or something to help win people to the Lord.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Years ago, we felt the burden for a church Bible school. Now, we are grateful that the Lord allowed us to succeed in implementing it. Meanwhile, many Christians have come to know the Word of God and the Lord's plan of salvation more deeply, thus growing in comprehension.

But then there are the constant naysayers, who are closed off to everything new; or the skeptics, who can only see the difficulties. "We can't do that; it's too complicated. We don't have the means and people for it. How are we supposed to achieve that?" Of course, not every idea can be implemented; it requires prayer, consultation, and joint decisions for or against. Yet, here too it is important to note, as Einstein once did: "If at first the idea is not absurd, then there is no hope for it."

A vision is necessary for the return of Jesus and everything connected with it. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

Before the Morning Star visibly appears, it should arise in our hearts. The view of the return of Jesus and the prophetic Word must awaken in our hearts.

Do we want to be visionaries? 

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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.

# Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 1

**Stephan Beitze**

End-time deception and apostasy from the faith are intensifying. What does biblical prophecy say about how far along we are today, and how we can resist being deceived ourselves? A message to help orient us.



“**W**atch out that no one deceives you” is a quote from Jesus’ end-time discourse in Matthew 24. And I am convinced that deception will mark the coming of the Antichrist.

We know that Satan is the father of lies, and his helper will be as well. As we get closer to the final Great Tribulation, when the satanic deception will be fully revealed, we will find even more deception on all levels.

### **The Prophesied Deception**

The Lord Jesus warned against deception at the end of days several times. In Matthew 24, the verb “deceive” (or “lead astray”) appears four times in the context of signs of the end times: “Jesus replied to them, ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, “I am the Messiah,” and they will deceive many.’” (vv. 4-5). And in verse 11, “Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” Verses 23-26 continue: “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he

is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”

While the Lord is discussing the end times, He repeatedly warns against deception (Matt 24). But we must also bear in mind that He wasn’t giving these signs to the Church but to Israel. Their time of peak fulfillment occurs in the Tribulation, after the Rapture of the Church. This can be clearly seen when you make the parallel to the judgments of the Great Tribulation in Revelation 6–19. But if these signs—which will be thoroughly fulfilled in the Tribulation—are already evident in our day, how close must we be to the Rapture (which will take place first)?

The sign that the Lord Jesus mentions most is deception. And it will reach its peak with the Antichrist’s deception. We find the same warnings against deception in the Epistles. Of course, the danger of deception has always existed. But the Epistles especially emphasize it for the end times.

The Apostle Paul warns of the Antichrist’s approaching time, pointing to its main characteristic: “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and

The sign that the Lord Jesus mentions most is deception.

bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess 2:7-12).

John is the only Apostle who uses the term “Antichrist.” It doesn’t just refer to someone who turns against Christ, but someone who claims His place for himself (1 John 2:22). The term is always associated with fraud. In 1 John 2:18 we read, “Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.” And in chapter 4, verse 3 it says, “And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.”

The Antichrist’s primary activity is oriented toward deception. And today, we can see that believing in a lie has become one of the greatest dangers. Absolute truth no longer exists. Facts no longer matter, but rather feelings

(or what you’ve cobbled together as your own “truth”).

### **The Current Deception**

One very lamentable and serious form of deception is apostasy. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, the Apostle Paul is writing to those who thought that the Lord’s return had already happened: “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy [Gr. *apostasia*] comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”

When the Apostle Paul writes about the end times, he refers to people who are “having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power,” and who are “never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim 3:5, 7). But he makes his point most clearly in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”

These passages show us that apostasy will increase as we progress into the end times, drawing closer to the appearance of the Antichrist. But for apostasy to even happen, society will need something to apostatize *from*. If we look into what has largely defined





The Antichrist's primary activity is oriented toward deception.

read the Apostle Paul's final words. Second Timothy reads like his last will and testament, and the Apostle shows us which qualities will characterize people in the end times.

He introduces the topic with a very serious warning: "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty" (2 Tim 3:1). The bad features that the Apostle lists next don't differ much from the ones in Romans 1, which describes people as overall, wanting nothing to do with God. So, why this solemn warning in 2 Timothy? The danger of the "last days" lies predominantly in apostasy, if these ungodly qualities are also evident in professing Christians.

In general, it can be said that the West (Europe, the Americas, Australia, and parts of Asia and Africa) was more or less characterized by the fear of God until the middle of the 20th century. The Word of God shaped the laws, values, habits—everyday life. Of course, this doesn't mean that society consisted entirely of true believers. But a lot has changed drastically, especially since the 1960s. Consider the sexual revolution, the feminist revolution, the increasing focus on far Eastern spirituality, widespread drug use, broad

our society for a long time, we'll have to talk about Christianity—not necessarily true believers in Christ, but nominal Christians (or Western culture) generally. All of the West, as well as other parts of the world, has been influenced by Christianity and the Bible. It's visible in our history, literature, laws, customs, education, values, traditions, art, and much more, right down to our division of history into BC and AD ("Before Christ" and *anno Domini*, "in the year of the Lord").

It's frightening to see how much has been lost in recent decades, especially in recent years. Christian values have become a "scandal," a subject of ridicule, contempt, and even persecution. Unfortunately, even true Christians are influenced by these worldly tendencies.

It's precisely in the context of 2 Timothy that Paul warns of a very dangerous time. If we want to know whether the Lord's return is near, we need only

## Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 1

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acceptance of the theory of evolution, and openly displayed (unwittingly ironic) Satanism. All of this has perverted so-called Christianity like never before.

One word has had so much impact in recent years: deconstruction. It could also be called dismantling. Simply put, it means something that used to be straightforward and stable is now being systematically broken down. This is especially visible in the deconstruction of moral values and the reworking of language to be gender-friendly. It's become an unstoppable process, in which the values that have characterized our society for so many centuries, are being undermined, distorted, ridiculed, and turned upside down.

Consider the values of the Western world. Countries with a Judeo-Christian heritage adopted basic laws similar to those of the Ten Commandments, or at least the ones related to protecting one's neighbor. The Antichrist is also called the lawless one (2 Thess 2:8). When we speak of someone being lawless, we mean that he jettisons every law and creates new ones to suit himself. So, let's consider the Ten Commandments to see what has happened to them. Even when we're discussing commandments the people of Israel were given in the past, these same principles are found in the New Testament.

The first commandments are well-known. They concern acknowledging

The seventh commandment, which prohibits adultery, has already become a joke. Rising immorality, pornography, and gender ideology are undermining the God-created marital unit.

and worshiping God and the glory of His name. We should be giving Him a special place in everyday life. But instead, God is being removed from society, one area at a time. As with the golden calf in ancient Israel, we are replacing God with other idols. Some of these golden calves include the theory of evolution, materialism, consumerism, environmentalism, and of course, above all else, man himself. I read about a situation in the United States in which the teacher of a 12-year-old elementary school student forbade him from reading his Bible during classroom free time, even attempting to confiscate it. I doubt there'd have been a problem if he'd been reading *Harry Potter*, but God's Word isn't allowed in school.

When we go into the commandments, which are intended to protect our fellow human beings, we realize the magnitude of the tragedy in our society. The fifth commandment, to honor our parents, has long since lost its power. Today, the value of parents (and of fathers in particular) is increasingly being stripped away. For example, in Canada, one father was imprisoned for resisting his daughter's desire to undergo "gender-affirming" treatments, and for calling her his daughter instead

of his son (which she felt herself to be). The judge in the case ruled the father's behavior was "considered to be family violence" against his daughter. On the other hand, when one's parents become elderly, many people consider them a problem they'd gladly pass off.

The sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," is still found in law, but generally only protects the productive part of society. We're greatly saddened to see nation after nation in support of abortion, and then eventually euthanasia. And not only that, some are even considering authorizing the murder of newborn children with serious medical conditions. One study indicates that doctors in Belgium (where euthanasia laws are already very liberal) not only support this but illegally practice it.

The seventh commandment, which prohibits adultery, has already become a joke. Rising immorality, pornography, and gender ideology are undermining the God-created marital unit. When the basis of society—the family—is being attacked and destroyed, we can hardly be surprised that it no longer has any cohesion. Gender ideology, although unscientific, is being enforced everywhere. It's now being taught as early as kindergarten. In Argentina, courses in these subjects are prerequisites to

## Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 1

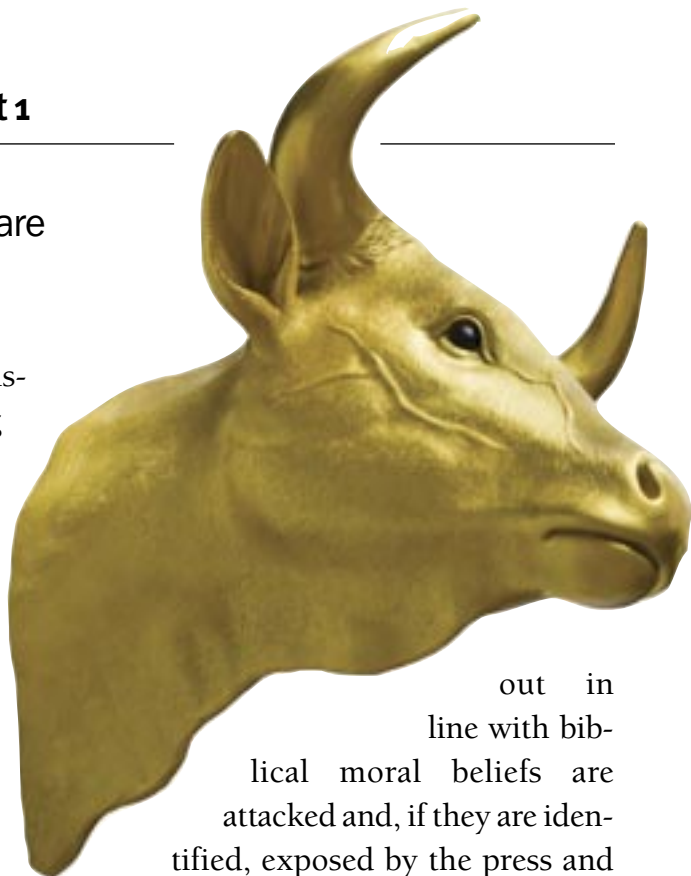
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As with the golden calf in ancient Israel, we are replacing God with other idols.

obtaining a driver's license. Christian publishers are releasing fewer and fewer books that speak out against homosexuality, and Amazon regularly removes product listings for books telling of people who have been freed from sexual immorality.

The eighth commandment demonstrates that God also protects private property. But the commandment not to steal is thoughtlessly trampled upon, whether by rampant crime in many places, willful destruction of jobs or businesses, inflation, colossal tax hikes on private property, corruption at the highest levels, etc.

And what about the ninth commandment, to not bear false witness against one's neighbor? Technology and the media are capable of destroying any opponent's credibility. Additionally, critical voices are being systematically silenced. Google, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook have become the new truth police. Whatever content they deem unsuitable is blocked, censored, removed, or made inaccessible via search algorithms. More and more Christians are being censored by these platforms. Believers who are publicly speaking



out in line with biblical moral beliefs are attacked and, if they are identified, exposed by the press and have lawsuits filed against them. Quite a few have already been forced to apologize for their statements, to avoid being fined or losing their jobs. Attacks on Christian facilities, churches, and church institutions are constantly on the rise. In France, churches are repeatedly attacked and destroyed, or severely damaged by arson.

Staying with the theme of bearing false witness, many people don't care about the moral values or unbiblical beliefs held by the politicians they vote for. Voting is just a matter of economic self-interest. In the same way, teaching about Christ's return is also forgotten or misrepresented by Christians. Many are living as if our only hope is to make the most of life here on earth. And we could list many other aspects of deception.

(MR0822/1263)



# ADMIRATION OF VIOLENCE?

**Daniel Dentler**

We can't stop the trends of this world. But getting angry about our powerlessness leads to violent thoughts. We can do something to counter violence in our own little worlds, in our own spheres. An appeal and an encouragement.

**R**ight now, I'm considering whether I should avoid talking about what's going on in the world, and the things that sometimes worry me. We understand that some readers don't want to have to deal with negative thoughts; I can relate.

It's depressing to read about terrorism and war, attacks and injuries, kidnappings, exploitation, and abuse. Violence rears its ugly head through all these things, and it's not getting any better. Oppressive conditions just won't go away; they remain "sustainable." Is there anyone who hasn't yet been impacted by all these images? People around us are also suffering; at minimum, from being unable to process all these headlines. Just the same, I want to recognize the negative for what it is, rather than turning a blind eye.

When the Hamas attack became known last October, a good friend told me that he was wrestling with his own very aggressive thoughts. He felt an urge to react with violence against newscasters who reported on the event without the least bit of sympathy for Israel. Who wouldn't feel unbearably powerless in the face of so much suffering around the world? People are having to endure it regardless of their nationality or region, be it the Russia-Ukraine war, oppression in Afghanistan, or suffering in Israel or the Gaza Strip.

Although we try to put ourselves in their shoes, we're scarcely able to

empathize from our position of safety. And yet, even here, we're preoccupied by images of war all over the world. The same is true of the powerlessness we feel in the face of leaders who don't value human life, and who seem accountable to no one ... not even God.

The televised violence I've seen in world news may have lowered my tolerance for it somewhat. Who wouldn't want to intervene, to "drive a spoke into the wheel itself" (Bonhoeffer) and put a stop to the violence?

The oppressors and tormentors, the human traffickers and unscrupulous exploiters, deserve to feel what pain is really like! Someone ought to ... I'm almost frightened by the aggressive fantasies that I'm imagining.

But, isn't it also about feelings of vengeance? From a human perspective, we can completely understand and account for revenge fantasies. But from a Christian perspective, they're simply unjustifiable. Taking revenge isn't our role. Violence is contagious, and has a ripple effect. It's been this way for as long as humans have existed.

We're not living in an ideal world. In our sometimes hostile environment, people and nations have the right to protect and defend their own lives and the lives of others. In Scripture, the use of violence was justified in certain situations, to maintain order or establish a right to even exist. But the right to self-defense doesn't absolve us of making an

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It almost seems as if forces are at work to eliminate our sensitivity. We're being led to tolerate violence more and more. But it hasn't always been like this; isn't it more of a recent development?

effort to uphold peace, to seek it or even strive for it. "Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb 12:14).

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:19-21).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer didn't go easy on himself, when he considered whether there were circumstances under which it is permissible to kill a tyrant. He didn't find any moral justification for doing so. And thus, he surrendered himself to God's judgment alone. God's final word is the justification of the sinner by grace. Bonhoeffer expounds upon this over many pages in his work *Ethics*. There's such a distinction between his sensitive thoughts and questions in this book, and our current legalization of and desensitization to violence.

### **Becoming Accustomed to Violence**

Our willingness to fight tooth and nail to assert our own opinion is growing.



We shouldn't underestimate the verbal violence online. The first place violence is legalized is in our own minds. Hateful comments do away with our remaining inhibitions. And then, people feel progressively more compelled to move away from mere words toward stronger weapons. In the belief that they are waging a sort of holy war, their wrongdoings are gradually legitimized, either religiously or morally.

I wonder whether society isn't gaining an appreciation for violence. Violent people are even secretly admired, because of their apparent success in life. Politicians are rewarded by voters for their brutal attacks on their opposition, and yet efforts to promote peace or prudence are ridiculed. Has violence become desirable?

It almost seems as if forces are at work to eliminate our sensitivity. We're being

## Admiration of Violence?

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Jesus doesn't call for violence, but allows Himself to be overpowered. He doesn't call for others to sacrifice themselves so He can gain an advantage, but sacrifices Himself and gives His life for others.

led to tolerate violence more and more. But it hasn't always been like this; isn't it more of a recent development?

When I had to register for military service years ago (it's mandatory in Switzerland), other Christians told me that some young men preferred to serve a prison sentence rather than serve in the armed forces. It was a topic of some debate among religious friends at the time. We wondered, what would Jesus do? It was a matter of conscience, and many people genuinely struggled to decide the right course of action. How much weight does conscientious objection carry today?

My father, Erich Dentler, was called up for military service in World War II, because the Führer needed soldiers on the Eastern Front. He was only 17. It was during the cold winter of 1941/42. My father had a Christian friend who abandoned his gun during an advance—refusing to attack the enemy because of his religious convictions. He was lined up against the wall for “cowardice in the face of the enemy.” Before being executed, he was asked for his last words. A few kilometers from Moscow, he called out into the bitter cold, “I know my Savior lives.” Then he was shot.

The way this comrade renounced violence from a deep conviction, while simultaneously testifying to his faith, deeply moved my father. It was one of the things that helped him find his own way to the Savior not long afterward. Isn't it moving how a person will relinquish his own life for reasons of faith and conscience?

I wonder whether we've lost our sensitivity to killing today. It may be necessary to defend ourselves with violence under some circumstances, but how can we justify brutality?

### **A Completely Different Way**

We certainly can't stop the trends of this world. We're usually powerless in the face of rulers and authorities. But getting angry about our powerlessness can lead us to violent thoughts. We can oppose violence in our own little worlds, in our own spheres. There is much good that we can do, and it may impact others and make a mark. Let's remember the words of Scripture: “Let all that you do be done in love” (1 Cor 16:14).

Jesus doesn't preach non-violence in a political sense. He was amazed at the faith of a Roman captain—even someone like that, a man of war, can have faith!



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But Jesus' attitude isn't based in power and violence. Christ teaches us that the path to the kingdom of God cannot be forced through human power, and definitely not at the expense of others. Jesus doesn't call for violence, but allows Himself to be overpowered. He doesn't call for others to sacrifice themselves so He can gain an advantage, but sacrifices Himself and gives His life for others. His path begins at the very bottom, because he's not concerned with power but with love. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). Jesus had enemies, yet He commanded us to love them. And He loved them as well. He pleaded for the forgiveness of His persecutors. When He was forced to suffer, He didn't make threats. He was reviled, and yet He didn't insult or curse anyone.

"When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Pet 2:23-24).

Author Markus Baum wrote on the topic of non-violence: "[Jesus'] command to love our enemies could be read this way: Love your enemies. Be

clear and implacable in the face of evil, injustice, half-truths, and falsehoods. Endure evil when it affects you alone. Prevent and combat evil when it threatens to affect others..."

Do we sometimes become unsettled when we're unable to assert ourselves, while others use any means necessary to achieve their goals? When we don't have the luxury of taking things lightly, having to think deeply about our choices? When we shy away from using all our strength to gain an advantage, when it would come at the expense of others?

We sometimes think it's a weakness to have a sensibility that causes us to shy away from coarseness. But that's precisely where our difference in disposition should be visible. I have to admire people who don't rely on power and violence, even if that means they're at a disadvantage. I'd like to again encourage myself (and you as well) to not be frightened, or even captivated by the allure human violence holds for us. Instead, let's remain true to our "weakness," trusting not in human power but in God's power and love.

There are still many ways to alleviate suffering—without violence. I believe that the path of the Good Samaritan leads us very close to Jesus.

(MR0724/1410)

(First published at dieboten.ch; translated and reprinted with kind permission.)



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE BIBLE – PART 3



“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**

### **Biblical Conclusion on Climate Change**

As concluded, the role of the sun must not be overlooked in any discussion about climate change. Does the Bible agree?

The sun is mentioned 148 times in the Bible. It is portrayed predominantly as a blessing to mankind ... stable and beneficial. Apart from once “standing still” (See Joshua 10:12-14), it has steadily provided light and energy to the world. It is only in the apocalyptic and prophetic texts that the sun is shown to be harmful or catastrophic.

The obvious conclusion, therefore, is that the sun will not play any role in the destruction of the world or the judgments until the Tribulation period at the earliest. By extension, a

“global climate crisis” (given its enormity as declared by the climate doomsters) cannot happen—if at all—until after the start of the Tribulation.

According to the Bible, a global climate crisis—as is imagined by the climate doomsters—cannot happen any time before. Also important to recognize is that were such a crisis actually to occur, it would discredit the holy reputation of Jesus Christ. How so?

Listening to the alarmists, we are asked to believe that the entire planet is headed for a catastrophe ... that the eradication of mankind is nigh. Given the purported earthwide impact of global warming, why would Jesus Christ (“the Spirit of prophecy,” Revelation 19:10) not have mentioned this development in the Olivet Discourse, or elsewhere in the Bible?

As the Bible says: “Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). We can therefore know that God has not prophesied a terminal climate crisis.



All other apocalyptic and existential events of global scope are prophesied in the Bible.

This writer therefore concludes that the Bible does not prophecy a global climate crisis occurring any time before the Tribulation, if at all. And, flatly stated, it is not occurring now.

However, the fact that there will be no crisis does not mean that there will not be any global climate changes ... or heat extremes, or wildfires, or cooling phases, or floods, etc. over periods of time. There will be climate changes and related impacts, as the earth itself testifies to what has happened in the past. There is no reason

to assume that climate changes will not continue to follow their natural course.

Were there to be a global climate crisis that would kill off mankind, God would have to disclose this to His prophets in advance. As the Bible says: “Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). We can therefore know that God has not prophesied a terminal climate crisis.

### Christians on Climate Change

What are the perspectives on climate change held by the Christian community today? We don't wish to be stick-



Here are “giveaway” signs that we often observe in matters of repressed truth and conspiracy: extreme emotionalism, hype and hysteria, corruption, fear of losing one’s job, “tar and feather” ridicule ... and, above all, significant financial distortions that reveal a breakdown of productivity and wasted money.

lers for no apparent reason. Yet, we do note that many prophecy commentators make speculative and unfounded statements about “global climate changes.” They tend to be influenced by the histrionic statements reported in the media.

Christian responses to climate change, in this writer’s opinion, are often allegorical or non-literal. A recent article in *Christianity Today* agrees that there is no specific mention in the Bible about global warming. But then it states that the world will be burned up, citing 2 Peter 3:10: “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.”<sup>1</sup>

Careful readers will note that this verse would be taken far out of context if it were used to support the global warming crisis thesis today. The verse refers to the time post-Millennium, when all is renewed and the New Jerusalem descends from on high.

As such, there is no Biblical or scientific case to be made for a global warming crisis ... nor as a specific end-time sign. (Note: The Roman

Catholic Church is a major supporter of global responses to counteract climate change; it does not recognize literal, premillennial eschatology.)

Finally, consider the maxim, “Do no harm.” If there is no probable theory or sure solution, don’t amputate ... do not spend \$50 trillion ... do not compromise the environment with lithium batteries ... carcasses of wind turbines ... and ignite massive, harmful inflation.

Here are “giveaway” signs that we often observe in matters of repressed truth and conspiracy: extreme emotionalism, hype and hysteria, corruption, fear of losing one’s job, “tar and feather” ridicule ... and, above all, significant financial distortions that reveal a breakdown of productivity and wasted money.

### What We Should Do Individually

Where this writer lives (the Okanagan Valley, which is shared by Washington State and British Columbia), there has definitely been an increase in forest fires and temperature highs in the summer in recent years.

This has also been paralleled by extreme cold snaps during winter, which have been disastrous for the

“God has pitched a tent for the sun.” It continues to have an enduring role in God’s creation. “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22).



fruit industries. This past winter, 97% of vineyards in the region perished due to extreme cold. (It is the 3rd largest vine-growing region in North America.)

Even though this writer does not believe there is an extraordinary nor manmade climate crisis underway in the world, he nonetheless does take precautions. Living in the Okanagan Valley, care should be taken to remove all combustible materials from the property ... to cut down trees that are too close to residential buildings ... and, to ensure there is plenty of water and readied water hoses.

Such preparations are only sensible and logical. We cannot know exactly when trends will reverse or worsen over the short-term. Preparedness makes sense. And, just because one may hold the position that there is no “climate crisis,” does not mean that

one may not support clean energy and/or environmentalism.

### Thoughts to Ponder

If there is a logical answer that makes sense, why search for a more complicated one? This is the principle behind Occam’s Razor. If a hypothesis makes simple sense, why seek for a more complex theory? This applies to the “climate change” theories as well. Solar and the earth’s orbital patterns may explain and verify many facts. Then, why preoccupy oneself with more complex and unprovable theories?

“God has pitched a tent for the sun.” It continues to have an enduring role in God’s creation. “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22).



There is no climate “crisis,” as the new media likes to play up in their reporting. Clearly, to say this would be an exaggeration. Moreover, there is no firm and proven science as of yet that would allow any certain solutions. As Dr. Steven E. Koonin says, the topic of global warming is “unsettled” at best. Most certainly, the claim that “science” can finely manage global temperatures is fanciful.

Why then is there such an adamant push to spend trillions of dollars “fighting climate change,” when many of the proposed solutions cannot be proven effective in advance?

Yes, no doubt there may be many over-exuberant policymakers and scientists who are convinced of their cause. However, there are also those who push forth initiatives, fully knowing that the underlying “science” is faulty. This is dishonest.

Why? There is enormous money and influence on the line. As mentioned, “fighting climate change” involves unprecedented amounts of money ... globally coordinated like never before in history.

The trillions of spending is being driven by the goals set by the United Nations (Paris Agreement) and many other agencies. Their aim is to substantially reduce global gas emissions ... whether possible or not.

It may be said that the climate debates have all the hallmarks of dishonesty and

ignorance. There is emotionalism, corruption, and ad hominem attacks. If a policymaker or scientist dares to make a counter-argument against the self-anointed consensus, they risk being pilloried and ridiculed ... made pariahs. One-sided bias is evident seemingly everywhere (no doubt also here in this article, though not intentional).

It’s mostly about money and control. Many climate consultants are becoming enriched on bogus recommendations, and secular globalists seek control over the whole earth. God has a plan for them. “The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations” (Psalm 33:10-11).

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech; they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 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 19:1-4). <sup>(MC)</sup>

### ENDNOTE

- 1 <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-life/what-does-the-bible-say-about-climate-change.html>



# God Made a Tree

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Most people would not recognize his name, yet his most famous poem may elicit a previously forgotten memory. Many middle school students memorize its 12 simple lines. The poem is titled “Trees” (1913) and was composed by Alfred Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918). The author produced a large volume of work, and had his life not ended tragically early, Kilmer may have emerged as one of America’s great poets. However, he traded his pen for a rifle and was, unfortunately killed on a French battlefield (in the woods).



**K**ilmer was once an atheist, but converted to Christianity when he lost his daughter to polio. His newfound faith prevented him from despair. Kilmer's poem was influenced by his faith and appreciation of the natural beauty of God's world. He expressed the truth that human art invariably fails in comparison to the beauty and majesty of God's creation. God is the grand Designer, and the intricate balance, harmony, and wonder of the natural world is testimony to His omnipotence (cf. Rom 1:20). Poetry can only confess its own shortcomings while praising the magnificence of God's creation:

I think that I shall never see a poem  
lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
against the earth's sweet flowing breast.  
A tree that looks at God all day, and lifts  
her leafy arms to pray.

A tree that may in Summer wear a nest  
of robins in her hair.

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me, but  
only God can make a tree.

Daniel 4 is the account of a great tree made by God. Nebuchadnezzar had used countless trees for the beautification and construction of Babylon, but would become like a tree himself: living

in a field and being  
"drenched with  
the dew of heaven"

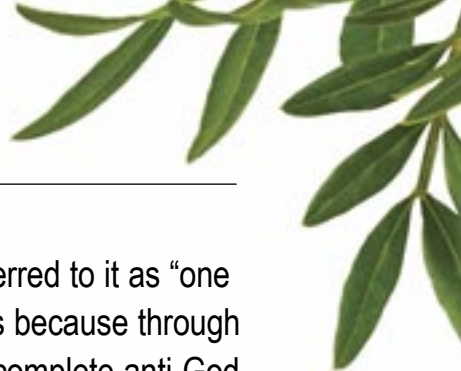
(v. 23). God alone can make a tree, and He alone grants authority to kings (and all in positions of authority). Nebuchadnezzar did not yet know the sovereignty of God, yet in seven years he would.

C. S. Lewis referred to pride (or self-conceit) as "the great sin." He referred to it as "one vice of which no [person] . . . in the world is free." Pride is most hideous because through it "the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind" (*Mere Christianity* [New York: Macmillan, 1943; rev. ed., 1952] 108-09).

Jesus told a parable regarding "a [proud] rich man" and "a poor [humble] man named Lazarus" (Luke 16:19-31). When the wealthy man died, he found himself tormented in *hadēs*. Lazarus, however, trusted in Christ alone for salvation and was in comfort. Lazarus was experiencing the joy of everlasting life as a result of his faith, while the pride and prosperity that caused the wealthy man to persist in unbelief, did not protect him from suffering eternal torment. He understood too late the eternal consequences of his unbelief; nonetheless, he was desperate in his appeal to warn his family, so they would not experience the same torment (vv. 27-28).

Nebuchadnezzar was humbled while there was still time for faith and repentance. Consequently, he developed a passion and urgency to communicate the sovereignty of God to those whose pride





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and/or prosperity may hinder trust in the Lord. The worst experience of his life (yet which he would certainly treasure from the perspective of eternity) taught Nebuchadnezzar that God “is able to humble those who walk in pride” (Dan 4:37).

### THE VISION

(Dan 4:1-18) Daniel 4 is a unique chapter in the Bible, for it tells how God changed the heart of a Gentile king (cf. Prov 21:1). Nebuchadnezzar thought it would be good to declare what God did. Although he was a great king, Nebuchadnezzar recognized that God’s kingdom is infinitely superior, for it is everlasting (Dan 4:1-3). How was the king able to confess such wonderful truths? The true God revealed it to him.

Nebuchadnezzar had subdued the majority of his enemies, so he “was at ease in [his] house and flourishing [resting] in [his] palace” (v. 4). His was a false peace, however, for God would soon arouse the king from his presumptuous security (cf. Jer 6:14; 1 Thess 5:3). One night, he had a troubling dream (v. 5) and, as in chapter 2, he “gave orders ... [for] all the wise men” to provide explanation. This time he related the vision to them, yet they were unable to convey the meaning (vv. 6-7) (which could be based



upon apprehension even to offer any suggestion, considering the divinely endowed ability of Daniel). “But finally Daniel” arrived. The king knew the prophet would be able to interpret the dream, because he had “a spirit of the holy gods” (vv. 8-9)—which could be understood in light of the effect that Daniel’s life had upon the king and others.

The king described his dream in poetic language, which seems to indicate it was a prophetic oracle (vv. 10-18). Nebuchadnezzar saw a tree grow “large and [become] strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth” (v. 11). The tree became drenched with the dew of heaven and was given the mind of a beast for “seven periods of time” (vv. 14-17). The

## God Made a Tree

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Pride is the reason the majority, if not all, experience failure. “Haughty eyes” is listed first on the list of “things which the LORD hates” (Prov 6:17). Divine discipline is never pleasant, yet it does make the end result better than the beginning of that reproof, since God always does so with gracious intent.

“watcher” (v. 13), who explained the fate of the tree, seems to have been an angel.

The reason the man would be changed and given the heart of a beast was “in order that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes and sets over it the lowliest of men” (v. 17). The dream involved the humbling of a great king. Nebuchadnezzar was God’s servant (2 Kgs 24:1; Jer 27:6; Dan 1:1-2), and thus the Lord was his ultimate authority (Ps 24:1; Isa 40:15; Acts 17:24, 26; Rom 13:1). God uses both the willing and the unwilling; no one is exempt. Nebuchadnezzar abused his authority, and now was the time for reprimand. Practicing true humility is always better than having God enforce that virtue through discipline.

### THE FULFILLMENT

(Dan 4:19-37) Daniel explained the ascendancy of the king and why he would now be humbled (vv. 19-26). The doctrinal message of Daniel 4 is “that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes” (v. 25; cf. vv. 35, 37). The practical message, therefore is to “break away now from your sins by doing right-

eousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor...” (v. 27).

The prophetic revelations of God are always fulfilled literally, some sooner than later. Everything prophesied regarding Nebuchadnezzar occurred precisely as stated (vv. 28, 33). One year after his dream (v. 29), Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the rooftop of his palace in Babylon. According to verse 30, the king reflected upon the magnificence of the city, and boasted regarding all he had accomplished. While reflecting upon his supposed greatness, the kingdom was taken from him and he lost the ability to think clearly. God gave the king a disease (perhaps boanthropy) that caused him to behave like an animal (vv. 31-33). During the time of his illness, loyal servants (perhaps even Daniel) likely cared for the king; he was probably kept in the palace gardens, so the common people could not abuse him.

The condition, however, was not intended to be permanent. When the seven periods of time had passed, Nebuchadnezzar’s “reason returned” to him (vv. 34, 36). However, what was most important was that he understood the sovereign authority of the Most High, who disciplined him for his pride. He now learned that the Most High, the one



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true God, “does according to His will” (v. 35). The abiding truth is unmistakable: “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE” (Jas 4:6).

Many have emerged successfully from humble beginnings, only to plummet. Perhaps it is better never to rise than to do so and fall. Pride is the reason the majority, if not all, experience failure. “Haughty eyes” is listed first on the list of “things which the LORD hates” (Prov 6:17). Divine discipline is never pleasant, yet it does make the end result better than the beginning of that reproof, since God always does so with gracious intent.

How does a person make sense of recent events in America, particularly the assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump? The murder of the young father who died trying to protect his family during that attempt is certainly tragic, as is the fact that two more victims were in critical condition. Certainly, prayers for divine grace and mercy should be given on behalf of those families.

The last time there was an assassination attempt on a presidential figure was 30 March 1981, when John Hinckley Jr. shot then President Ronald Reagan. Reagan documented his response to that senseless act in his diary. He wrote: “Getting shot hurts. Still my fear was growing because no matter how hard I tried to breathe it seemed I was getting less & less air. I focused on that tiled ceiling and prayed. But I realized I couldn’t ask

for God’s help while at the same time [feeling] hatred for the mixed up young man who had shot me. Isn’t that the meaning of the lost sheep...? I began to pray for his soul and that he would find his way back to the fold.”

He closed the entry for that date affirming, “Whatever happens now I owe my life to God and will try to serve him in every way I can.” Whether or not one agrees or disagrees with Reagan’s policies is not the point; rather, it is to recognize how appropriate it was for him to demonstrate gratitude and humility to God for sparing his life. Reagan was humbled by the fact that God spared his life, and believed he was responsible to conduct himself worthy of that second chance, according to the Lord’s approval.

Trump has said he is “supposed to be dead; I’m not supposed to be here,” and felt he had been saved “by luck or by God.” Prayers for Trump to demonstrate the same gratitude and humility that Reagan did would certainly be appropriate. Furthermore, none should take for granted the fact that every life is on lease from God, and each day is an expression of divine grace. On 30 March 1981, President Reagan was reminded just how true that is, and it altered the remainder of his life. Everyone should praise God for the gift of life and family, and conduct oneself with ever-increasing gratitude and humility.

(1409)




# WORLD FOCUS



## Hottest Day Ever Recorded

July 21 was the hottest day ever recorded, according to preliminary data from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, which has tracked such global weather patterns since 1940.

 The global average surface air temperature reached 17.09 degrees Celsius (62.76 degrees Fahrenheit)—slightly higher than the previous record set last July of 17.08 C (62.74 F)—as heat-waves scorched large swathes of the United States, Europe and Russia.

Every month since June 2023 has now ranked as the planet's hottest since records began, compared with the corresponding month in previous years.

"As a consequence of the increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere—we are bound to see new records being broken in the next few months, in the next few years," said Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus service.

Scientists and environmental advocates have long called for global leaders and wealthier countries to phase out and end the reliance on fossil fuels to prevent catastrophic effects of climate change, including increased heat-waves.

-[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 23 July 2024

**Commentary:** Collecting data from around the world, it does indicate a rise in temperature. While we respect true science, we must point out that there is little to no reliable temperature data available from 200, 500, 1000, or 2000 years ago. Of interest is Wilfred Hahn's article, "Climate Change and the Bible – Part 2" in our August 2024 issue (page 19), where he quotes other scientists: "To begin, consider Dr. Ian Clark, emeritus professor for the department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Ottawa. He [says] that contrary to popular opinion, temperature doesn't follow CO2—instead, CO2 follows temperature, which itself is due to solar activity."

Planet earth will meet its end, but not because of CO2. The prophet Isaiah proclaims: "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee" (Isaiah 54:10). Destructive catastrophes will befall planted earth, but in the meantime, God guarantees: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). 8305

(See *The Genesis Factor*, Item #2239, \$15.99)

## WORLD

### 'Smartest' Cities for 2024

With global temperatures rising and environmental changes putting pressure on every country, cities are facing new challenges in their plans for a sustainable future. Some destinations, however, have moved aggressively to implement smart solutions that aim to build a higher long-term quality of life, providing guidance for the rest of the world to follow.



Singapore ranked fifth in the Smart Cities Index 2024, jumping two places from last year (Credit: Alamy)



London has set an ambitious target to become a zero-carbon city by 2030 (Credit: Getty Images)



To help chart the progress of these initiatives, the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) puts

(continued next page)

## 'Smartest' Cities (continued from page 28)

together an annual ranking of the world's smartest cities, based on the economic and technological strength of each city and how these factors enhance quality of life and provide solutions to societal challenges. Now in its fifth year, the Smart Cities Index 2024 collected data from residents of 142 cities to understand their views on their city's health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance.

Interestingly, not a single city from North America or Africa cracked the top 20 this year, and all but three cities in the top 20 are located in Europe or Asia.

According to the Smart Cities Index 2024, the world's ten smartest cities are:

- Zurich
- Oslo
- Canberra
- Geneva
- Singapore
- Copenhagen
- Lausanne
- London
- Helsinki
- Abu Dhabi

*-www.bbc.com, 17 July 2024*

**Commentary:** The BBC article, based on the "Smart Cities Index 2024," collected information from 142 countries, seeking their level of "health and safety, mobility, activities, opportunities and governance."

Switzerland leads the world, with three cities in the top ten. Following



**Masdar City combines modern technologies and design with traditional measures** (Credit: Alamy)

Canberra, Singapore, and Abu Dhabi, the rest of the top ten cities are found in Europe.

This put weight on our understanding that Europe represents the fourth Gentile world empire.

While Europe was once the center of controversy and experienced two World Wars, a drastic change can now be observed, having to do with one word: freedom. One can travel from the tip of Finland in the north to Messina, Italy in the south ... from Portugal in the west to Romania in the east, without stopping at borders. Many ask, how is such success possible?

One has to understand that of the about 50 sovereign states, each has their own history, culture, language, and traditions, yet 27 of those states belong to the European Union. There are currently nine states in the accession process; apparently, more are to follow. Again, what is the reason for the virtually unbelievable success? The obvious answer is merchandise. Citizens of states with full membership may go to any other member country to buy, sell, and operate a business.

It seems to be built on the pattern of the United States of America, which is comprised of 50 states, although not really states in the sense of sovereign nations, but rather provinces of Washington, DC. A state is the highest authority over a territory, with its population not necessarily dependent on a federal authority.

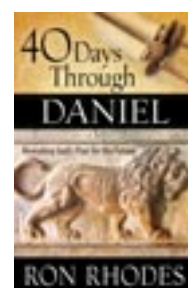
Why the success? Here we point to Revelation 18:3: "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies." This indicates that the success—based on merchandise—is not limited to the European Union but is global. Note the words, "all nations ... kings of the earth ... merchants of the earth."

This type of development on the European continent is unprecedented. Daniel the prophet, when defining the fourth Gentile superpower, could not find a suitable animal for it. Thus, he writes: "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces" (Daniel 7:23).

8295

(See *40 Days Through Daniel*,


Item #2304, \$15.99.)



 **G H A N A**

## Court Upholds Law Criminalizing Gay Sex

Ghana's Supreme Court upheld a six-decade-old law criminalizing gay sex as the west African country awaits another court decision on whether to introduce even harsher penalties in a new bill.

 The Ghanaian Criminal Code of 1960 prohibits same-sex sexual acts, calling them “unnatural carnal knowledge.” Offenders face up to three years in jail.

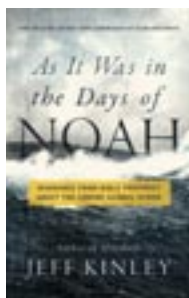
The sentence will be lengthened if the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill passed in February takes effect, and the government would intensify a crackdown on those accused of promoting lesbian, gay or other minority sexual or gender identities.

The court postponed ruling on whether the bill should be transmitted to President Nana Akufo-Addo for approval, saying it should first be determined if the bill is constitutional.

-[www.nbcnews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com), 25 July 2024

**Commentary:** Our answer comes from Scripture. The Old Testament says: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). Romans 1:24-27 details: “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served

the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and




receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” 8304

(See *As It Was in the Days of Noah*, Item #2286, \$16.99.)

 **U S A**

## Crime Rate Down?

The overall crime rate in the United States is 47.70. The violent crime rate in the United States has decreased sharply over the past 25 years.

 Crimes rates vary significantly between the states, with states with such as Alaska, New Mexico, and Tennessee experiencing much higher crime rates than states such as Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Some of the world's lowest crime rates are seen in Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Japan, and New Zealand. Each of these countries has very effective law enforcement, and Denmark, Norway, and Japan have some of the most restrictive gun laws in the world.

-[worldpopulationreview.com](http://worldpopulationreview.com), 2024

### Countries with the Highest Crime Rate

Country	Crime Index (Number) ↓
Venezuela	82.1
Papua New Guinea	80.4
Afghanistan	78.4
Haiti	78.3
South Africa	75.5
Honduras	74.3
Trinidad and Tobago	70.8
Syria	69.1
Guyana	68.8
Peru	67.5

**Commentary:** These statistics, also confirmed by other sources, clearly show that crime is going down. That is quite surprising when we hear today more than ever that wars and rumors of wars, violent crime, burglary, theft, etc. are on the increase. Even ministers of the Gospel loudly proclaim that we are living in a chaotic time: governments unable to govern, the cost-of-living skyrocketing, inflation being unstoppable, etc. But in reality, that's not true. In plain words, we—that is, the entire world—never had it so good.

For the USA in particular, Pew Research reports:

Both the FBI and [Bureau of Justice] data show dramatic declines in U.S. violent and property crime rates since the early 1990s, when crime spiked across much of the nation.


Using the FBI data, the violent crime rate fell 49% between 1993 and 2022, with large decreases in

(continued next page)

 ISRAEL

## Among Happiest Nations Worldwide

About a decade ago, the United Nations decided to measure the happiness of citizens in various countries.

 This global happiness index is based on a survey asking respondents to rate their happiness on a scale from 1-10, the help they receive from the state in times of need, the degree of freedom in their country, and the level of corruption. Unsurprisingly, Finland consistently ranks as the happiest country, primarily due to its minimal economic disparity. Meanwhile, Israel continues to climb the ranks, positioning itself among the top 10 happiest countries.

Following the crisis on October 7, many anticipated a significant mental



**Group of Jewish Israeli students visiting the Western Wall (HaKotel) with their teachers and balloons in their hands, Jerusalem, Israel.**

health downturn in Israel. Contrary to these predictions, the Health Ministry reported a decrease in suicides from October-December compared to previous years, including the pandemic period. This unexpected resilience prompts a deeper exploration into the unique aspects of Israeli society that contribute to its high happiness levels.

Globally, humanity has never experienced such high living standards, with

record-low morbidity rates, unprecedented life expectancy, and minimal levels of hunger and poverty. Yet, paradoxically, Western societies face an alarming rise in depression rates, now the second leading cause of death by suicide. Despite the plethora of self-help books and happiness guides, life satisfaction in these cultures hasn't improved for generations. The demand for antidepressants has surged by 50% since the 1990s.

One of the key elements measured in the happiness survey is the residents' willingness to help strangers. Israel excels in this regard, demonstrating a strong culture of mutual aid, especially in times of distress.

An entire chapter in the happiness index was devoted to the preference for an unconventional life. Many Israelis thrive on excitement and action, finding routine

*(continued next page)*

## Crime Rate (continued from page 30)

the rates of robbery (-74%), aggravated assault (-39%) and murder/non-negligent manslaughter (-34%). It's not possible to calculate the change in the rape rate during this period because the FBI revised its definition of the offense in 2013.

*-www.pewresearch.org, 24 April 2024*

Another reliable source, coindex.net, lists the five countries with the highest crime rate: 1) Myanmar, 2) Colombia, 3) Mexico, 4) Paraguay, and 5) Democratic Republic of Congo.

One thing seems to fit the picture globally: The poorest countries top the list for the most crime.

Biblically speaking, this is the stage of the end times when humanity will glorify his own self-produced peace and prosperity, and subsequently accept the rulership of Antichrist. Daniel writes: "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many; he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Daniel 8:25).

In chapter 7, Daniel's first night vision reveals the fourth and last Gentile superpower and the Antichrist's work of deception: "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand

until a time and times and the dividing of time"  
(Daniel 7:25).

8300


(See *Discovering Daniel*, Item #2423, \$16.99.)



 **BRAZIL**

## Tax the Super-Rich?

According to the proposal before the Group of 20, individuals with over \$1 billion in total assets would be required to pay the equivalent of 2% of their wealth in income tax.

 Brazil's Finance Minister Fernando Haddad told reporters that the final declaration will mention a proposal to tax the super-rich, but he didn't detail wording or whether it will specifically cite the 2% proposition.

France, Spain and South Africa—which will chair the G20 in 2025—had expressed support, an official from the Brazilian Ministry of Finance told journalists. But U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen reiterated at a news conference that the U.S. does not support the initiative.

Billionaires currently pay the equivalent of 0.3% of their wealth in taxes, according to a report from French economist Gabriel Zucman commissioned by Brazil.

The richest 1% have amassed \$42 trillion in new wealth over the past decade,

## Happiest Nations (continued from page 31)

and calmness less appealing. This craving for an unconventional life is part of the Israeli identity, making the country's citizens resilient and adaptable.

*-www.jpost.com, 24 July 2024*

**Commentary:** Israel is different; it's as simple as that. They are being threatened with destruction by many entities. But, among the top five most happy nations, Israel has reached



nearly 36 times more than the entire bottom 50% of the world's population, according to an Oxfam analysis released ahead of the finance ministers' meeting.

The global alliance against hunger and poverty aims to implement a mechanism to mobilize funds and knowledge to support the expansion of policies and programs to combat inequality and poverty, according to a statement from Brazil's G20 press office. It would be managed by a secretariat located at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome and Brasilia until 2030, with half of its costs covered by Brazil, [President] Lula said in his speech.

*-abcnews.go.com, 25 July 2024*

**Commentary:** Paying taxes is the duty of virtually all citizens on planet earth. The question always is, who pays what and

fourth place, followed by the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and New Zealand.

What was written about 3,500 years ago identifies the uniqueness of Israel: "Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou

how much? The article indicates that billionaires pay the equivalent of 0.3% of their wealth in taxes. According to SSA.gov, Social Security taxes are collected as follows: "Social Security is financed through a dedicated payroll tax. Employers and employees each pay 6.2 percent of wages up to the taxable maximum of \$168,600 (in 2024), while the self-employed pay 12.4 percent."

The decisions or proposals of the G20 finance ministers are not binding, much less enforceable.

What does the future hold? From Scripture, we know the statement Jesus made, "For ye have the poor with you always" (Mark 14:7a). At the very end, we read that there will be equality: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (Revelation 6:15). 8303

*(See Revealing Revelation, Item #2394, \$17.99.)*

shalt tread upon their high places" (Deuteronomy 33:29). 8302

*(See What Should We Think About Israel? Item #2358, \$17.99.)*

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## ACCESS DENIED

Has it ever happened to you that you forgot your password? A coworker comes back from vacation: “Hey Peter, I can’t get into the program anymore; I have forgotten my password.” It is common practice today that one must identify oneself with a username and password, to gain access to a certain internet program or service.



By Peter Malgo

**T**he Bible also talks about such conditions that must be fulfilled to gain access to certain places, or to be present and participate at certain events. A very interesting story illustrating this is found in the Book of Judges, where a kind of password or code word is used. A dispute had broken out between Gilead and Ephraim. Jephthah, the leader of Gilead, wanted to punish the men of Ephraim. To capture them, the Gileadites occupied the ford over the Jordan, which the men of Ephraim wanted to use as an escape route. Uninvolved individuals, however, were still allowed to cross the Jordan. The Gileadites demanded a password to identify the men: “...And it was so, that when those Ephraimites which were escaped said, Let me go over; that the men of Gilead said unto him, Art thou an Ephraimite? If he said, Nay; Then said they unto

him, Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passages of Jordan” (Judges 12:5-6). Anyone who wanted to make the crossing had to identify himself by means of this password, and thus prove he was not a fleeing Ephraimite. Otherwise, he was doomed.

In the New Testament, Jesus explains by way of parable that not everyone automatically has access to the heavenly wedding feast: “And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?” (Matthew 22:11-12). The uninvited guest was then thrown out. He was not allowed to partake in the festivities, because he did not





# Just for You!

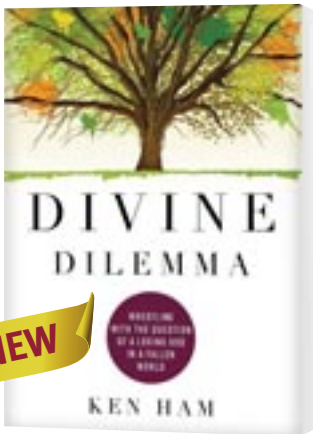
meet the requirements: He was not wearing wedding clothes.

As early as Psalm 24:3, the question is raised as to who has access to God, to heavenly glory: “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place?” This question is very important for each one of us. When we became children of God and were born again to a living hope, the living God Himself gave us the “access data.” Yes, He even gave us a whole new identity! “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor 5:17). “...For he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).

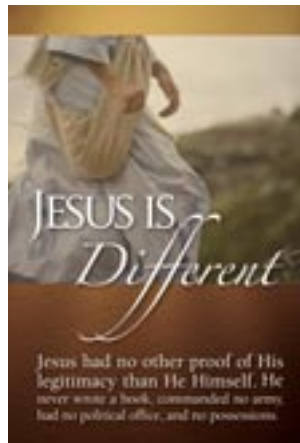
God has given us a password: Jesus! Several Biblical passages speak of this: “By whom also

we have access by faith into this grace...” (Romans 5:2). “...Through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (Ephesians 2:18). The uniqueness of Jesus’ name is also evident in Acts 4:12: “...There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Of course, there are some who have never used this password. They are spiritually in the greatest danger of their lives! And others—children of God—sometimes forget the password, and seek solution to their problems everywhere but with Jesus.

I would like to encourage everyone: Use God’s password, which is “Jesus.” God will not necessarily solve your problem, but He will free you from the problem. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrew 4:16). (MC)



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 **BOLIVIA**

# The Gospel and the Bible

Proclaiming the gospel and Bible teaching among Bolivia's Old Colony Mennonites.

BY MATHIAS AND DORO RINDLISBACHER, VILLA NUEVA



**Building extension at the mission site for the planned Bible classes**

**T**wo years ago, Midnight Call purchased a small parcel of land in the village of Villa Nueva, 1½ hours from the city of Santa Cruz, to start a new ministry among the ethnic German Mennonites. We're focused on two goals: reaching people with the redeeming gospel, and teaching Christians the Word of God, to shepherd them in conforming to Christ.

## Proclaiming the Gospel

There are over 100,000 Old Colony Mennonites in Bolivia, in more than 100 different colonies. They live by strict laws, trying not to mix with the modern world system. Cars, cell phones, and electricity are forbidden. Sports like soccer and volleyball are also prohibited. Traditional clothing and horse-drawn carriages define the scene in the colonies.



The Mennonites in these colonies have the understanding that the only people who can go to heaven belong to the colony and respect its laws. If someone doesn't conform to the colony's lifestyle, he is shunned and avoided. According to the colony, that person is headed to hell. His sins can be forgiven and he can be restored to the community through repentance and penance before the elder. This puts him back on the right path (to heaven).

Although the Bible is used as a schoolbook and for sermons, and the Mennonite catechism is learned by heart in the colony's own schools, only excerpts of the content are understood—if that. The Old Colony Mennonites have the Bible close at hand, yet they're far removed from its content and true meaning. They need the

gospel, and people who will explain biblical truths to them during personal visits. Even if many are hostile to this, God always enables open hearts to receive the seed of the sown Word.

### Bible Teaching

We'd like to begin offering regular Bible lessons in September of this year. The purpose is to spiritually equip born-again Mennonites who have left the colony. These people live in modern villages and attend a local Mennonite church. We want to offer solid, Bible-based instruction alongside these local churches, enabling brothers and sisters (whether laypeople or those in positions of authority) to capably complement their local body and follow Christ in faithfulness to the Scriptures. (MR0724)

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MC0924



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## Letters to the Editor

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

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

# GIFTS FOR TODAY?... OLD MAGAZINES... LAW AND GRACE

## Gifts for Today?

Dear Midnight Call,

I have been a subscriber and supporter of your ministry for many years. Sorry to say, for me it seems you have lost your way.

I was deeply troubled by the article by Norbert Lieth, "Does the Holy Spirit Give New Revelations?" He treads carefully, but it seems he is a cessationist, and I believe that stance is in error.

Where does he get off deciding which gifts of the Spirit will cease? I speak in tongues every day of my life.

It's sad that so many of God's people today are putting God in a box. He can do whatever He chooses. I received the gift of tongues when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, and am moving forward and growing in the Lord.

-P. Tarantino, CA

**Answer:** Regarding gifts, the apostle Paul asked seven questions in 1 Corinthians 12:29-30; all are categorically answered with **no**. Therefore, the teaching that one must speak in tongues at his or her rebirth is unbiblical. We are admonished in 1

John 4a, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." We know that the devil himself can appear as an angel of light, and desires to confuse the Church. The Church is not built upon the confirmation of gifts, but as Ephesians 2:20 says, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

## Old Magazines

Dear Midnight Call,

I love your magazine—so much so that I have kept them for years. Reading, re-reading, referring back to different articles.

I am getting old, without a lot of years left. Do you have a suggestion as to what I can do with these older but most wonderful magazines? I cannot just throw them away.

-G. McKinney, MO

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we have no suggestion regarding back issues of *Midnight Call*. It costs too much to send them back to us, and besides, we always have a certain number of overprints. Unless you know someone who would like to read them,



# Letters to the Editor

there is nothing else but to “just throw them away,” as you write.

## Law and Grace

I recently purchased 4 pamphlets; *The Seven Dispensations in the Bible* (wonderful), *Daniel’s 70 Weeks of Years* (marvelous/so informative), but I was sorely disappointed when I read *The Bible Is True*, where on page 14 the author claimed Paul replaced Judas. Acts 1:21-26 explains how Paul was not qualified, as he did not travel with Jesus and the twelve from the baptism of John, right up to being a witness of the resurrection. So, they chose between Barsabas and Matthias, and voted in Matthias.

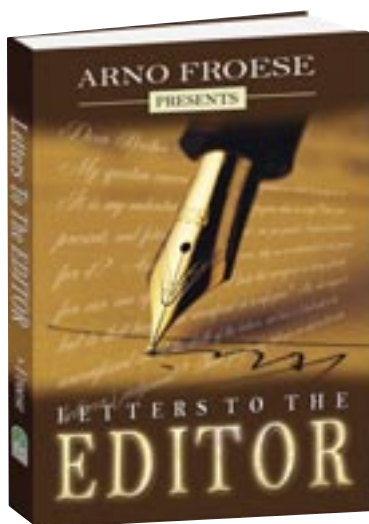
As in your *Seven Dispensations* pamphlet, the dispensation under the Law cannot be interspersed with the dispensation of grace. Paul was, with a few exceptions, mainly a minister to the Gentiles on the Gospel of grace (heavenly), and the Law or the Gospel of the kingdom was earthly—NEVER to be

combined. They will ever be separate, as together they contradict each other. I hope you agree and will address this issue.

-R. Edwards

**Answer:** Who replaced Judas? We think Paul. Why? Because Matthias was chosen before the rebirth of the apostles. He was chosen on the initiative of man by way of democracy. Paul was chosen directly by the Lord Himself. Of course, the real answer will come when we shall read the twelve names of the twelve apostles on the foundation of the New Jerusalem.

Yes, the Law can be interspersed with the dispensation of grace. The Law is God’s Word; it is eternal, but the Law does not provide for salvation—the rebirth. Ephesians 6:2 shows the validity of the Law: “Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.” There is only one Gospel: beginning in Genesis, and ending in Revelation. If there are “contradictions,” as you write, please identify them. (MC)



## Midnight Call Magazine’s #1 Feature!

*Letters to the Editor* consists of 438 pages, divided into 22 chapters arranged topically, all from original letters that appeared in *Midnight Call* magazine. Discover what readers think about:

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ITEM #1045

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Author: Arno Froese

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt” (Exodus 10:21).

**BY ARNO FROESE**

**T**en horrible judgments came upon Egypt, because they refused to “let my people go.” The above Scripture describes the ninth plague. Most unusual is the statement, “darkness which may be felt.” With this, the Bible reveals that darkness is matter; it is much more than the absence of light. Here we are reminded of what many scientists speak of as a “black hole.” Indeed, in outer space there is nothing but darkness.

This also reminds us of the article from *The Media Line* regarding Egypt’s extensive black-outs.

Amid extreme temperatures, the state-owned electricity company is struggling to meet the demand for electricity and air conditioning in a population of over 114 million.

Government officials blame the power crisis on the ongoing high temperatures and supply issues, which “disrupted pre-planned coordination to secure the necessary fuel quantities for the increased summer consumption.”

-*themedialine.org*, 1 July 2024

A contributing factor is Israel’s natural gas supply reduction, which they claim is in response to Egypt’s lack of cooperation relating to the Gaza war.

Another article, this time from *The Jerusalem Post*, reveals how Israel—despite now having an abundance of natural gas—continues to build gigantic solar energy storage facilities.

Enlight Renewable Energy has commissioned two new projects in Israel, bringing their number of solar storage units in the country up to 9, the company announced.

By the end of 2024, Enlight estimates that with the help of international partners, 632 MW of generation and 1,880 MWh of storage will be operating in an integrated configuration.

Enlight now has a total of four projects connected to the grid in the Gaza border communities since October 2023. Adding to the achievement, these projects were completed despite delays caused by the security situation in the area.

-*www.jpost.com*, 9 July 2024

Back to Exodus 10; we see Egypt in total darkness, “even darkness which may be felt.” Verse 23 declares: “They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.” In the land of darkness, Israel had light.

What a mighty message for us believers. We are living in a world of darkness. The apostle

Paul warns, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

It is unfortunate that so many dear servants of the Lord attempt to enlighten their government politically, which will never work. So, what are we supposed to do? Here the answer in Ephesians 6:12: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Quite clearly, not political; we stand in opposition to “the rulers of the darkness of this world.”

We do not have identifiable enemies (flesh and blood). Presently, the “favorite” enemies are Russia, Iran, North Korea, China, etc. Yet within these nations, Jesus is building His Church—light in the midst of darkness.

In the very instructive chapter 5 of Matthew, Jesus admonishes us: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (verse 16). Note carefully that the light is the Lord Jesus Christ, who declared, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

When we practice God’s instruction, something happens to those in darkness: “may see your good works.” Unfortunately, we often do the opposite: showing off our works. Thus, the light is darkened.

In the meantime, Israel is fighting for its survival, but we hear the prophet Joel proclaim their future: “The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:16). <sup>MC</sup>

MC0924

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for Israel**



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

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## Multiplying Financial Gifts for Prosperous Real Estate Investments: A Journey of Prayer, Faith, and Gratitude

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

Shalom from all of us here at the Ebenezer Home. Despite times of economic uncertainty and global distress—and especially with the situation here in Israel—it is often through the most challenging periods that the seeds of opportunity and growth are sown.

Today, I am writing to you with a heart full of gratitude and thankfulness about how our Father made it all possible. This article explores the transformative power of financial gifts when wisely invested in real estate, guided by faith and the principles found in the Bible. We also extend heartfelt thanks to all our donors, whose generosity has made these endeavors possible.

### The Biblical Foundation of Wise Investments

The Bible offers timeless wisdom on the principles of stewardship and multiplication. One such passage vividly illustrates the importance of prudent investment; it is the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. In this parable, a master (our Master) entrusts his servants (us) with different amounts of money before leaving on a journey. When he returned, the master rewarded the servants who invested and multiplied their talents, but chastised the servant who buried his talent out of fear.

“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who

does not have, even what he has will be taken away” (Matthew 25:29).

This parable teaches us the importance of taking calculated risks and making wise investments to **multiply** the resources we have been given. In the realm of real estate for His service, this principle is indeed true.

We know nothing is secure here on earth, so we invest in our heavenly future each day. Part of that is serving the elderly, the vision our Father has entrusted to us over the years. But until He takes us home, real estate has long been considered one of the most stable and lucrative investment opportunities. When we receive a financial gift, we can strategically invest it in real estate to yield significant returns. Here are some key steps we used to multiply some financial gifts successfully through real estate investments.

We were able to purchase the property across the street from the Ebenezer Home, from the state some years ago, because it was a deserted property after the State of Israel was founded. In recent weeks, we finalized the deal and registered it in the name of the Ebenezer Home—only to find out, to our great surprise, that there was a lot more land belonging to it! To make a long story short, now we own even more than we first thought: God miraculously multiplied not only the bread and fish, but also the land we now own!



Through this opportunity, it opened up the way for us to consider the idea of building more rooms for the elderly, as the demand is extremely high. If managed well, it will be a wonderful chance to expand the Home and manifest our vision with your help.

In this time of economic uncertainty, the generosity of your gifts has been a beacon of hope and an instrument of change. The financial gifts entrusted to us have not only been preserved but also multiplied, due to real estate investments that will provide stability and growth for the future and care of the elderly.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our donors. Your contributions are more than just financial support; they are acts of faith and partnership in a shared vision of the Ebenezer family and stewardship. Your generosity has enabled us to navigate through these challenging times with resilience and optimism, turning potential setbacks into remarkable points of faith.

We are working on a larger video update, and hope to post this soon. This video will go into much greater detail. So, if you haven't subscribed to our YouTube channel, please go to: [www.youtube.com/EbenezerSeniorCitizensHome](http://www.youtube.com/EbenezerSeniorCitizensHome) and click the subscribe button.

A prayer request: Please pray for wisdom and His protection as we continue to face the local war challenges. Pray for our residents and team to rest in Messiah Yeshua and release all in His hands. Thank the Lord with us for the steps we could take in faith to multiply His gifts!

Let us remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:21: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." Together, let us embrace this journey in prayer and faith, awaiting the soon return of our King and Messiah Yeshua!



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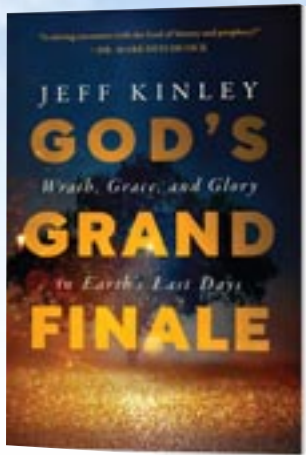
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# Midnight Call's **September Resource Guide**



## A God-Centered Overview of Revelation

*God's Grand Finale* examines the 13 characteristics of God that Revelation uniquely and vividly illustrates through its foretelling of earth's last days. As you read, you will

- develop a clear overview of end times events
- experience how God uses the apocalyptic realities of Revelation to reveal Himself to you
- grow in faith as these transformational truths about God deepen your reverence for Him

GOD'S GRAND FINALE ITEM #2408

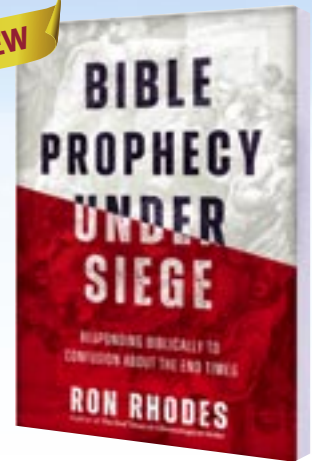
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## Understanding and Answering Claims about Prophecy

Prophecy expert Ron Rhodes offers you careful guidance through differing viewpoints, and you will

- learn the ways Bible prophecy is under siege and how to respond to false claims biblically
- gain helpful historical insights about the rapture and other prophetic issues
- be emboldened to hold firmly to prophetic biblical truth during trying times
- be encouraged to live with conviction rooted in God's Word



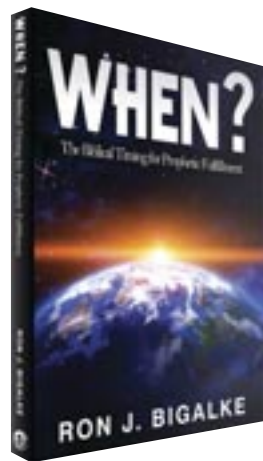
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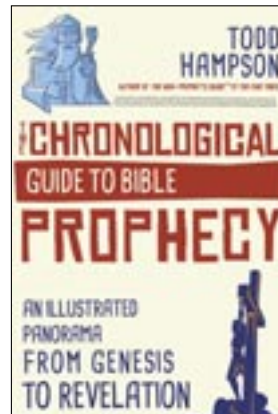
## Know the Timing of Biblical Prophecy

Respected author Dr. Ron J. Bigalke assesses the views of prophetic timing in relation to amillennialism, postmillennialism and premillennialism, with an extended emphasis upon the Biblical texts that describe Christ's return to the Earth. This volume will prove to be an invaluable reference in understanding the schedule of prophetic events—and why such doctrines are relevant to each of our lives.



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## A Big-Picture Overview of Bible Prophecy

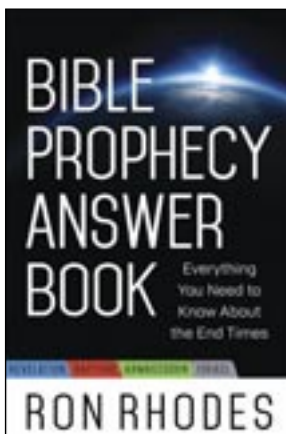
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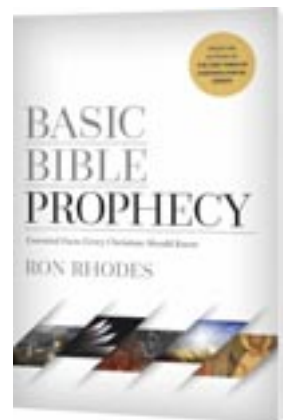
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Author: Ron Rhodes



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## Israel: Super Sign of the End Times

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Authors: Tim LaHaye and

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## Are We on the Road to the Apocalypse?

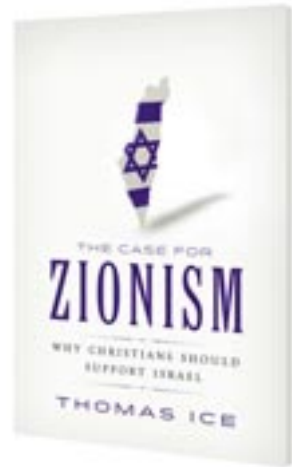
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Author: Mark Hitchcock



## The Biblical and Legal Rights of Modern Israel

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THE CASE FOR ZIONISM

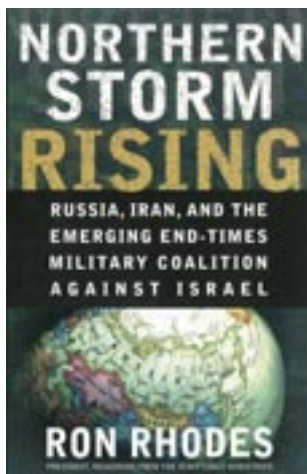
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Author: Thomas Ice

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- Muslim leaders' growing antagonism toward Israel and the United States
- Iran's development of nuclear weapons and the resulting threat to global security
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## The Millenia-Old Love God Has for His People

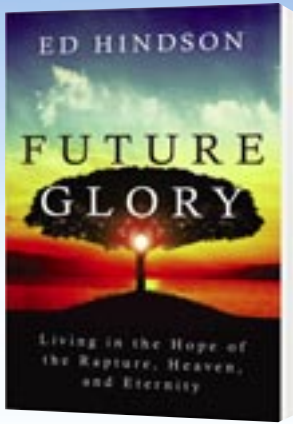
Tracing the history of the Jewish people to the present day, the authors look at prophecy after prophecy that clearly attest to the Lord's miraculous promises. From historical records to personal, dramatic stories, *Miracle of Israel* shows us that in keeping epic promises to the nation of Israel, God's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

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Authors: Gary Frazier and Jim Fletcher



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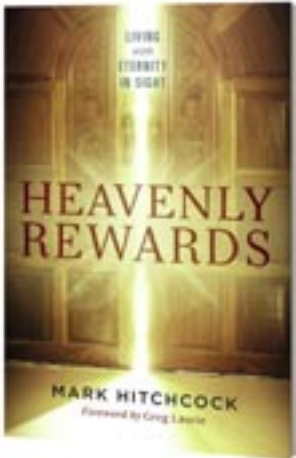
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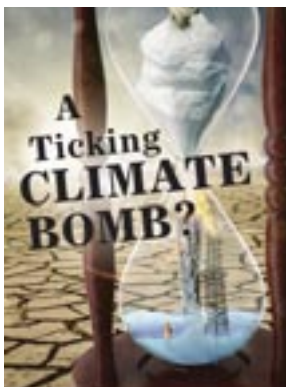
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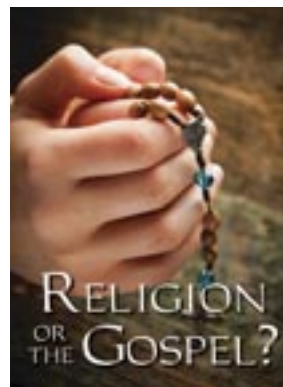


## A Ticking Climate Bomb?

The Bible isn't a richly illustrated, glossy magazine like the leading scientific journals. The latest article in it was written a long time ago. I search for the phrase "climate change," to no avail. But I believe the Bible still concretely addresses the topic.

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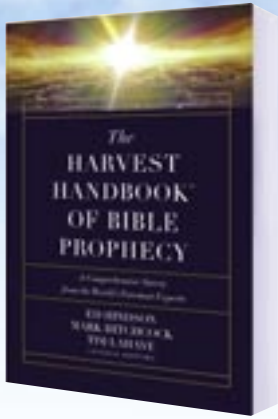


## Religion or the Gospel?

Where can "God" be found now? Which religion is the right one; which one relieves and satisfies our deepest human longings? Is there really one objectively true religion, or do we just need to be tolerant of everyone?

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

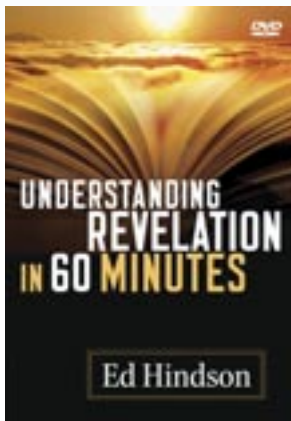
You will gain clear and useful insights about the future in this A-to-Z handbook, which is written to provide

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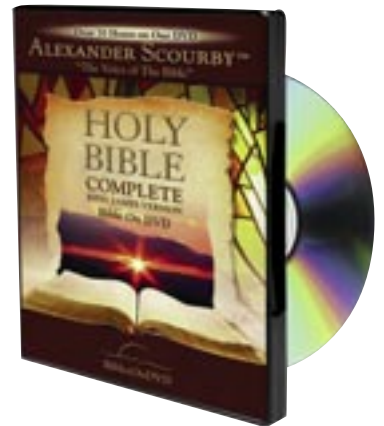
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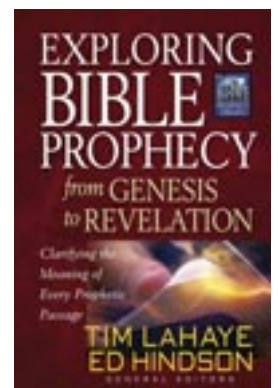
Written by Bible scholars but created for everyday readers and Bible students, this volume makes it possible for users to expand their knowledge of prophecy in ways unmatched by other books. Among the notable features are...

- useful charts, diagrams, and timelines
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- helpful word definitions
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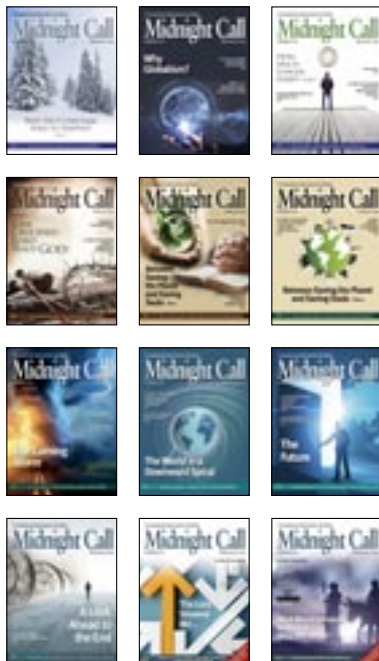


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It is a given that **reading** has drastically declined during the past few years, due to television and internet in particular. We all know the result: Hundreds of great Bible-based magazines have ceased publication over the decades. Slowly but surely, the words of our Lord, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy” (Revelation 1:3a), are being replaced with an additional word—“see.” Subsequently, reading receives a lower priority.

How does this relate to our **Automatic Subscription Renewal Program**? Here are a few facts: The English edition of *Midnight Call* magazine began in 1968. Since those days, subscription costs have gone up. In January 1995, a year’s subscription became \$28.95.

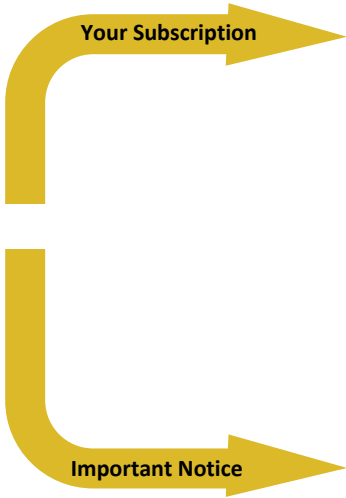
All of us have experienced increases in the cost of products we buy. An invoice dated 23 July 2019 lists the cost of a thousand sheets of 24 x 36 paper at \$86.87. Identical paper from the same supplier on 31 May 2023 costs us \$153.59. Thus, the question arises: How can we continue paying such high prices for paper, and still follow our Lord’s words, “the gospel must ... be published” (Mark 13:10)?

That’s where our **Automatic Subscription Renewal Program (ASRP)** comes in. Each renewal notice we send costs a little over a dollar. Needless to say, when five subscription renewals are sent out, the cost multiplies. Another cost is the Business Reply Envelope; we are charged \$0.75 for each envelope received. Additionally, there are labor costs: Envelopes must be opened and sorted, data entry done, checks deposited, etc.

But here is the good news: The cost of printing renewal notices, mailing, data entry, etc. can be eliminated, thus nearly **FREE!** How? Before your subscription expires, the **Automatic Subscription Renewal Program** will charge the amount from your card to the account of Midnight Call Ministries.

There is even more good news: By choosing this **ASRP** method, we can reduce the 12-month subscription rate for *Midnight Call* magazine to the low price of only \$19.95—this despite exorbitant cost increases.

See coupon above for how to authorize Midnight Call Ministries to deduct from your account annually, a one-year subscription for only \$19.95—a huge savings to you **and** Midnight Call Ministries!



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