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Midnight Call

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The Biblical Evidence
P. 13**

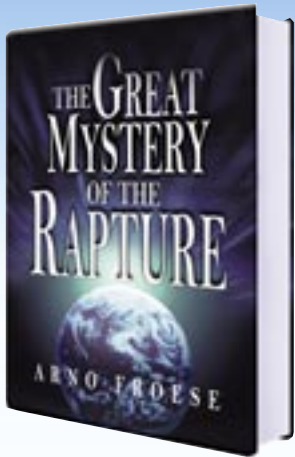
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
• Isaiah 19
• Gospel to the World
• Revelation in
Chronological Order
P. 37

**Watch Out That
No One
Deceives You –
Part 2**

**Emergent 10 Kings:
Endtime Election
Escapades
– Part 1
P. 18**



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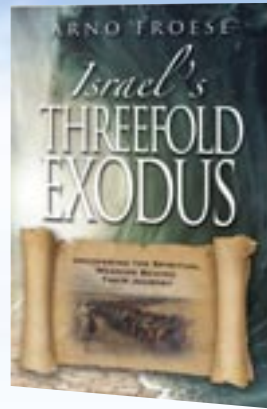
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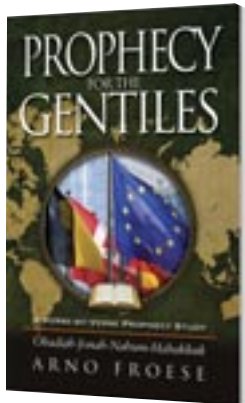
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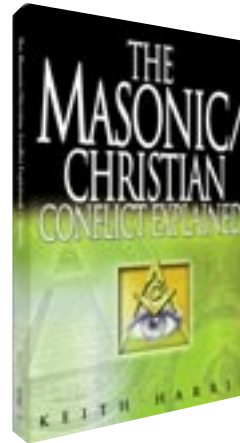
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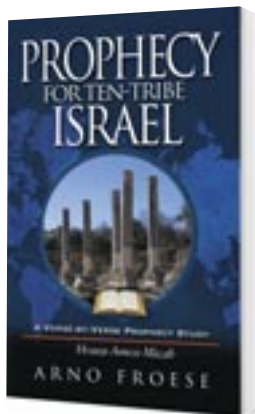
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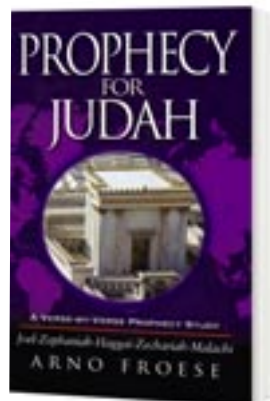
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6 COVER STORY

Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 2

By Stephan Beitz

Aren't we on the verge of the time of the Antichrist, global government, and global control? Mankind is being increasingly primed to accept a system of deception. Greed is the order of the day, since materialism and consumption have become the gods of our society.



13 Are There Real Prophecies? The Biblical Evidence

By Alexander Seibel

18 Money: Ends and Trends

Emergent 10 Kings: Endtime Election Escapades – Part 1

By Wilfred Hahn

24 Bad Calls

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

33 Just For You!

Unheeded Warning

By Peter Malgo

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editorial By Norbert Lieth

35 The Ebenezer Home – Haifa, Israel By David Phillips

37 Letters to the Editor By Arno Froese
ISAIAH 19...GOSPEL TO THE WORLD...REVELATION IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

39 Action for Israel By Arno Froese

41 Fellow Laborers By Elia Morise



28 EU Digital Vaccination Passports Coming



29 AUSTRIA A Move to Deport Halloween

29 NORTH KOREA Partially Reopens Tourism After 5 Years

30 UN 10.3 Billion Population in 2080?

31 GERMANY Descendants of German Jews Claim EU Citizenship

32 USA Undocumented Immigrants



“God offers us riches in Jesus Christ that surpass all else.”



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

The actor Jim Carrey once said: “I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it’s not the answer.”

Wealth, success, and security can be wished for everyone. They are gifts from God, and many also benefit from successful people. The Bible speaks of various wealthy people, and usually describes their riches as a blessing. Just think of Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon, Lydia the merchant of purple, and Philemon, to name a few. But they were truly rich only through their relationship to God.

There are other examples. The parable the Lord Jesus told of the rich landowner (Luke 12:16-20) speaks to this. The man lives in abundance, and yet is always worried. For someone in a position of great responsibility, this is, of course, quite normal. He doesn’t know how to deal with the yields of his land. This too is fine; no one would say anything. So, he tears down the old

barns and builds bigger ones. That also is good; the man acts with forethought and is productive. He now feels that all his wishes have been fulfilled. This, however, is shortsighted, and no longer quite so good. He only thinks about this world and not beyond it. He believes that once his barns are filled with earthly goods, his soul will then be satisfied and he will be able to rest. That is not good at all.

In his deception, he talks to himself: “And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19). Now this is bad. Despite all his foresight, he remains shortsighted. No matter how farsighted, everyone that has no spiritual view beyond the earthly boundaries, is ultimately shortsighted. He lacks the riches in God which transcend all boundaries. Thus, he is not referred to by name ... not known as a famous personality who achieved a lot and had great influence ... not someone who was envied and

EDITOR'S NOTE

courted by others ... not mentioned in trade magazines and rankings, but is simply known as a fool ... as someone who missed the most important thing in life.

When such folly fills the end of a life, the situation is very bleak indeed. "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). One can pour the whole world into the hollow of one's soul, and still remain unfulfilled. Wherever man goes without Jesus, happiness won't last; sooner or later he will be disappointed. God offers us riches in Jesus Christ that surpass all else. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7). To go into eternity without debt (guilt), that is wealth.

The letter to the Ephesians goes on to speak of "the riches of the glory of his inheritance" (1:18); "the exceeding riches of his grace in in his kindness toward us" (2:7); "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (3:8); and "the riches of his glory ... with might by his Spirit" (3:16).

It is well worth it to quietly contemplate this and to give thanks to God. In addition to all that He gives us, the Father has blessed us in Jesus Christ and bestowed His gifts upon us. If you know Him in your life, you can truly count yourself rich—and that is the best thing of all! (MC)

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OUR TASK

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

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

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

Stephan Beitze

There are efforts to implant a deceitful structure into people themselves. In many circles (politics, business, society, etc.), there is talk of the need for a global reset. Since global issues are at stake, governments need to shed their nationalism and delegate power (at least temporarily) to a global government. A kind of socialism would be introduced, in which large fortunes would be taxed and individual rights would give way to the (supposed) common good. According to many, the solution the world needs is this global reset—to start over with new rules. But then, by what rules will the world be run? And who gets to choose?

We can see governments striving to control and locate every person technologically, and the Covid crisis has accelerated the process. Everyone's identity is being managed globally on a political and technological level. And so, through the use of technology, an unelected globalized government is growing. Today, there is an emerging group of leaders, institutions, and corporations that are above other people—often even above governments—due to their economic power. The WHO dictates the actions of nations. Under the pretext of health issues, democratic values and freedom of thought and will are becoming increasingly restricted. Some critical observers are even speaking of a post-democratic world. Governmental use of force is becoming more commonplace. Whoever has money and power

is dominant. Enforcing a system based on lies requires violence. This is what Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, said: "It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself." Fear is an ideal tool to impose any number of things. And it seems that the world isn't shying away from any method to "colonize" people's minds. Technologies are even being developed that could eventually achieve complete symbiosis with artificial intelligence in the long term.

When we as believers hear these things, we immediately remember that Bible prophecies have already foretold this reality, like the vision of Nebuchadnezzar's statue with feet of iron mixed with clay (Dan 2:40-43; cf. Dan 7:7, 24). We observe something similar in the end-time prophecy of Revelation 13 and 17, which is about the



Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 2

When a society deliberately pushes God aside, it's not surprising that the laws that were meant to protect our fellow man are dissolving more and more, or even accomplishing the opposite.



“beast” being given an accumulation of power. Thus, a legitimate question: Aren't we on the verge of the time of the Antichrist, global government, and global control? Because mankind is being increasingly primed to accept a system of deception.

This brings us to the tenth commandment: Since we're incapable of living up to it, the last commandment (not to covet what others have, be it goods or family) is of course swept aside. Greed is the order of the day, since materialism and consumption have become the gods of our society. The greed (desire) for self-actualization has gone so far that there are those who order babies from a catalog. This is a system that takes advantage of women who are prepared to donate their bodies to carry and birth a child that will belong to someone else, out of economic necessity. Egocentric people willfully overlook others' needs—especially that of the child.

In short, as God disappears from sight, morality is also being wiped out and replaced with values that can change according to the whims of those with economic or political power. Family, life, and property were once protected under God's law. All of that protection is now being lost and supplanted by various ideologies. Lawlessness is simply taking over. We live in a time of apostasy. We can find the New Testament parallel to the aforementioned characteristics of people in apostasy. These people consistently destroy the principles of the Ten Commandments in the last days. Paul writes of them: “For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance

of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people” (2 Tim 3:2-5).

What the Apostle recorded more than 1900 years ago is like an MRI of our time. The values that once characterized Christianity have been lost. Everything revolves around the individual, and to the detriment of his neighbor. And when a society deliberately pushes God aside, it’s not surprising that the laws that were meant to protect our fellow man are dissolving more and more, or even accomplishing the opposite.

Protection from Deception

Amid these dangerous influences of deception and apostasy, the Apostle also gives us some helpful countermeasures for victorious resistance:

1. Protection through example: The Apostle presents himself, Timothy’s mother, and Timothy’s grandmother as examples: “You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me ... But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it” (2 Tim 3:10-11, 14).

Surely, we also have such examples around us (in addition to the biblical

ones). There were (and are) brothers and sisters in the Lord who consistently walked (and walk) the narrow path with Him, and whom the Lord was able to use in a wonderful way. Do you know someone who is an example through their testimony, family, and ministry? Imitate that person! Why are we inclined to seek new experiences or teaching? Why do we try to explore new approaches, thinking they’ll bring us contentment? Such is the influence of the fallen system that surrounds us: Only the faithful dare swim firmly against the tide. But they still exist. We’re admonished in 3 John 11, “Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.”

The author of Hebrews introduces us to the gallery of heroes of the faith (ch. 11), with the following warning: “But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls” (Heb 10:39). “Shrink back” (Gr. *Hupostolē*) is probably a metaphor for drawing in the sail to reduce the speed of a ship. In the life of faith, this image means not remaining in the truth. So, this is another term for apostasy.

After listing out the faithfulness of these heroes, despite their struggles, hardships, and even martyrdom, the author gives the following directive: “Therefore, since we are surrounded

Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 2

It's vital that we pay attention to what we're filling our minds with. How are we using—or wasting—our free time? Our actions will follow the content of our thoughts.



by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:1-2).

Remaining true wasn't easy for any of these heroes of the faith—not even for the Lord Jesus. Its price was severe struggle, tears, and blood-soaked sweat in Gethsemane, and His suffering and death on Calvary. But in that steadfastness, Jesus brought us the fullness of blessing. It's worth it to follow these examples!

2. Protection through the Word: Paul encourages Timothy, and by extension us: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15).

In the context of warnings about the end times and the examples listed in chapter 3, the Apostle continues: “and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:15-17).

Why would we ever want to pay attention to questionable sources, when safety, blessing, and everything we need for healthy maturity are found in the Bible? I fear that God will have the same thing to say of our generation that He did of His people Israel long ago: “for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jer 2:13).

Let us faithfully serve the Lord where he has placed us, doing the works He has prepared for us. If we abide by this, we'll have no time for squandering our opportunities under this system characterized by apostasy.

We must renew our minds. We need to be directing our thoughts to God and His Word, not letting ourselves be ruled by worldly principles: "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col 3:1-2).

It's vital that we pay attention to what we're filling our minds with. How are we using—or wasting—our free time? Our actions will follow the content of our thoughts. If our thoughts contain a lot of worldliness, then we will act like the world. But if our minds are full of Christ, His Word, and His presence, then we will act like Christ and become more and more like Him. Therefore, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col 3:16a).

Furthermore, there is also the work of the Holy Spirit, who was given to us (among other things) to lead us into all truth (John 16:13). But He can only do this through the Word that He Himself inspired, reminding us of what we have learned.

3. Protection through ministry: The Apostle gives us another form of protection from apostasy: "I charge you

in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching ... As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Tim 4:1-2, 5).

The Lord is using Paul's exhortation to Timothy to show all of us the importance of carrying out the commission He has given and prepared for us (Eph 2:10). Rather than wasting time investing in the world and opening our ears to its deception, let us faithfully serve the Lord where he has placed us, doing the works He has prepared for us. If we abide by this, we'll have no time for squandering our opportunities under this system characterized by apostasy.

The Reward for Resisting Temptation

In the face of the devil's attacks and the powerful influence of deception and apostasy, one might question whether staying faithful to the Lord and His Word is really worth it. It would be much easier to simply go with the flow. So, Paul closes this sad and solemn letter with a few words of

Watch Out That No One Deceives You – Part 2

We don't know how much time will pass before the Lord returns. The opposition is great, the struggle brutal, and the temptation tremendous.

joy, comfort, hope, and encouragement for the future.

1. The satisfaction of finishing the race: One of the Christian's greatest joys is knowing he has accomplished his task. The Apostle Paul testifies of his life, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim 4:7). Is anything greater or more fulfilling than coming to the end of our earthly existence, after having been faithful and accomplishing the works that God created and empowered us for? If the Lord were to call us home today, would we be in a position to give the same testimony as the Apostle?

2. The anticipation of the reward: If the first point seems insufficient, God's Spirit uses the Apostle to give us a glimpse of the moment after the Rapture of the Church, at the time of Christ's judgment: "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing" (2 Tim 4:8). Once the Lord brings us home, our ministry and Christian life will be analyzed in detail, and the appropriate reward given. With that in mind, it's truly worth fighting for to invest in eternity and serve faith-

fully! And this reward is also connected to constant expectation of the Lord's return. In Revelation 22:12, the Lord Jesus promises: "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done." It's truly worth it to serve the Lord faithfully!

3. Strengthened despite resistance: We don't know how much time will pass before the Lord returns. The opposition is great, the struggle brutal, and the temptation tremendous. Sometimes, like the Apostle, we might feel like there is no one left by our side (2 Tim 4:16). But in the same breath, he confidently states a truth that also applies to us today: "But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (vv. 17-18).

Let's finish the race bravely and boldly, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12:2a).

(MR0822/1264)

ARE THERE REAL PROPHECIES?

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCE

Alexander Seibel

The incredible phenomenon of prophecy has already convinced many doubters and skeptics, bringing them to faith in Jesus Christ. The author of this article is one of them.



Second Peter contains a unique term. Chapter 2, verse 3 says that people are seduced with “false” words. The original word is *plastos*, and this is the only place it appears in the New Testament. It is reminiscent of “plastic,” sharing the same linguistic roots.

Today, there are artificial objects, plants, flowers, or foods that seem deceptively realistic. Plastic fruit shines attractively from shop windows. It looks good enough to eat, but there’s no nutritional value, and even greater disappointment. This is the kind of spiritual food that the world, with its sects, philosophies, and ideologies, has to offer. It leaves hungry souls empty, offering an indigestible substitute for living food. And sometimes, it’s fatal.

The contrast with the true Word of God—called “prophetic” in the same epistle (2 Pet 1:19)—is even more impressive. Prophetic: in other words, living, active and self-fulfilling, whether in judgment or in grace.

And it’s precisely this wonderful phenomenon of prophecy that has convinced many doubters and skeptics, bringing them to living faith in Jesus.

Examples of Prophetic Fulfillment

A Christian witnessed to a Jew about the resurrected Messiah. They looked at the Bible together. The book of the

prophet Daniel recorded how the Messiah would come and be killed, after which the sanctuary would be destroyed (Dan 9:26). This sanctuary—the temple—has been in ruins for almost two millennia now, so the Messiah should have appeared prior to that. But the Jewish people are still awaiting the coming of the Anointed One. Something doesn’t add up.

It gradually dawned on this son of Abraham that only one person appeared as Messiah before the destruction of the temple. This person was also rejected, as we see in this prophecy (among others): Jesus of Nazareth. When the Christian then showed him Zechariah’s prophecy, which says that the Jews will look upon the living God whom they have pierced (Zech 12:10), he recognized his true and living Savior. He gave his life to this living Jesus Christ, confessing like Thomas, “My Lord and my God!”

There are numerous cases of seekers who found faith through the prophetic Word, not least the author of these words. His atheism was undone by the prophecies about the people of Israel.

Psalm 83, for example, shows how relevant and alive biblical prophecy is: “For behold, your enemies make an uproar; those who hate you have raised their heads. They lay crafty plans against your people; they consult together against your treasured ones.

The Bible is the only book in humanity's historical record in which history isn't written retrospectively, but in advance. This is absolutely unique.

They say, 'Come, let us wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!'" (vv. 2-4). Although around 3,000 years old, this passage reads like it could have come from present-day Hezbollah, Hamas, or Iran. You might think that Iran's president was meditating on Psalm 83 during his "quiet time."

The Bible is unique in its abundance of prophecy. No religious book in the world has detailed prophecy, be it the Quran, the Bhagavad Gita, the Edda, or any other volume. The Bible is the only book in humanity's historical record in which history isn't written retrospectively, but in advance. This is absolutely unique.

For example, compare Deuteronomy 28 with the development of the people of Israel. If you're being intellectually honest, you have to recognize that it was written by an omniscient God, or at least someone who knows the future. The two great catastrophes in the history of this people are foretold here in the most extensive prophetic section of the Bible. Verse 36 predicts the first exodus, and verse 64 the second worldwide diaspora. It's



also worth noting how verse 36 mentions a king in the context of the first diaspora. And in fact, when Israel was taken into exile among a foreign people in Babylon, it's expressly stated that the nation still had a king: Zedekiah, Jerusalem's last king.

But in verse 64, a king is no longer mentioned in reference to the second (worldwide) diaspora. And this was the case in 70 AD, when Israel was scattered among the nations after Jerusalem's destruction. The Jews no longer had a king. Jesus of Nazareth, the true King of the Jews, had been rejected by the previous generation.

God competes with the claims of a multi-religious pagan world with this argument: "Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods" (Isa 41:23). You can see that God is the true God by the fact that He reveals what is to come.

Are There Real Prophecies? The Biblical Evidence

David describes the Crucifixion with astonishing detail (Ps 22). He speaks of hands and feet being pierced (v. 16), and at a time when the practice didn't yet exist. In that era, the Jews' method of execution was stoning. The fact that Jesus' feet were pierced appears in black and white—not in the New Testament, but in the Old.



Since Einstein, we've known that time and space aren't independent variables, but are closely interwoven. A spatially omnipresent Creator (which is the definition of God) must therefore be temporally omnipresent as well. And this is exactly what God, the author of the Bible, provides proof of. He can predict events that are still awaiting fulfillment thousands of years later. Their temporal distance poses no problem for God; a thousand years are like a day, and a day like a thousand years to Him (2 Pet 3:8).

Examples of Prophetic Details

For example, David describes the Crucifixion with astonishing detail (Ps 22). He speaks of hands and feet being pierced (v. 16), and at a time when the

practice didn't yet exist. In that era, the Jews' method of execution was stoning. The fact that Jesus' feet were pierced appears in black and white—not in the New Testament, but in the Old.

There's another incident that's worth mentioning here, and it's astonishingly relevant—especially today. A strange event is described in Revelation chapter 11. It describes the killing of the two witnesses of God by the beast from the bottomless pit (v. 7). Afterwards, their bodies lie in the streets of the city of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days, while the whole world congratulates itself on the end of these two prophets. And then they return to life.

One Bible commentator who lived at the end of the 18th century, wondered how it would be possible for an event to be noticed by the entire world, despite taking place in such a short time.

When America was discovered, it took nearly half a year for people on the European continent to learn about it. When Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865, it took 10 days for Europe to find out. In the meantime,

When something sensational happens anywhere on the planet, you can usually see it on the news that same day, even that same hour. But Revelation was written almost two millennia ago, when technology to enable rapid global communication was utterly unimaginable. How is such precision possible? Only the living God could know such a thing!

the US already had put a new president in office.

The book of Revelation literally says that the whole world sees this event: “For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies...” (v. 9).

When these four terms (peoples, tribes, languages, and nations) are used in Revelation, they’re not referring to a limited group but to the entire inhabited earth. Our aforementioned commentator therefore concluded that this brief event could nevertheless reach the eyes of the world through a maturation of the technology of telegraphy (at the end of the 19th century, no other possible means of transmission existed).

This is no longer a question in our world. When something sensational happens anywhere on the planet, you can usually see it on the news that same day, even that same hour. But Revelation was written almost two millennia ago, when technology to enable rapid global communication was utterly unimaginable. How is such precision possible? Only the living God could know such a thing!

I could give example after example of how only someone with a full bird’s eye view of events, someone beyond concepts of past, present, and future—i.e., God—could reveal such details. Therefore, He is also the true author of the Bible.

Proof of God?

Seen both scientifically and physically, this is clear evidence of a transcendent intelligence. Prophecy cannot be physically explained by any inherent connections. Scientifically speaking, it’s simply inconceivable that an existing paradigm (the present) could already be connected to a framework that doesn’t yet exist (the future). Herein lies the incontrovertible end of all clever interpretations, which attempt to define events only according to the laws of the visible world.

If detailed prophecy exists, then it is the proof that the true God has spoken. He lives, He has overcome death, and He is not an invention of man. And this true God will return, as the prophets of old foretold. Let’s get ready!

(MR0224/1415)



EMERGENT 10 KINGS: ENDTIME ELECTION ESCAPADES – PART 1



It will be obvious to most that the world faces tumultuous times. Major developments are coming into focus ... visible for those who have "eyes to see." Ezekiel 12:2 is still pertinent to our time. "Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people."

By Wilfred Hahn

Study of Bible prophecy can provide contemporary insights, we believe. Yet most people, unfortunately, will have little idea of the "toxic brew" that is being concocted for just this time ... and near future. We are now living in that last sliver of time just before the regime represented by the 7th head (Revelation 17) bursts onto the scene.

This is the time of the 10 kings. In terms of political economy, we have dubbed this era as leading to minilateralism. What is this? It is the geopolitical fragmentation of international relationships, which we believe will eventually pave the way for the emergence of the 10 kings (10K).

Minilateralism represents the next stage following globalism (a phase which is now stagnating). Conditions for this occurrence are rapidly falling into place. We briefly explain how the minilateral system unfolded.

During much of the 20th century, global affairs were mainly shaped by a bipolar international system. Superpowers dominated. Then, as of the 1990s, geopolitical affairs moved toward a unipolar course, where the United States had the role of a sole global leader.

For a number of reasons, this pushed the expansion of minilateralism: where smaller groups of countries could pursue their interests with

We return to the topic of the 10 kings. Why? As has been mentioned, this topic likely is very timely. The 10 kings will emerge very soon. Indeed, some may already be on the scene!

other like-minded nations, without being limited by different values or the interference of the United States. Minilateralist initiatives were more agile and adaptable.

Not infrequently overlooked is the fact that the 10K coalition takes shape before the Antichrist makes his appearance. As such, focusing on the 10 Kings is likely to be more germane for our time than looking for the identity of the Antichrist. As it is, we are to be looking for our Redeemer ... not the Antichrist. In any case, the 10 kings are likely to emerge first.

Of great interest is the fact that we are living and experiencing these prophecies today. We live during the period that the Bible shows as being under the lineage of Rome. How do we know?

We will attempt to provide an explanation that will not confuse the reader. It is a difficult topic, as we must also consider all the kings mentioned in Revelation 17 ... not just the 10K. In total, there are 18 kings mentioned.

A key to understanding this chapter is to keep apart two groups of kings: First, there are 7 kings that are shown as heads on the beast in Revelation 17. These we have dubbed the

Ruler Kings (RK). They hold power (rulership) consecutively, and then at the end, are followed by an 8th king (also a ruler king).

The second group of sovereigns mentioned in Revelation 17 are 10 kings that are shown as horns. All 10 of these horns reside on the 7th head. We have called this group the 10K.

Now we come back to our identification of Roman lineage applying to the last three Ruler Kings—the 6th, and 7th head the 8th king (which is of the seven Ruler Kings). As the 10 kings (10K) are on the seventh head, they are also of Roman lineage.

To re-emphasize, there are actually 3 stages of Ruler Kings in the Roman period. The Bible outlines 3 final Roman related Ruler King regimes that take place consecutively: first, the 6th head [who is now] on the beast shown in Revelation 17 (and also several other depictions). Second, the 7th head follows the 6th, which itself is comprised of a coalition of 10 kings that are shown as 10 horns. This latter group then gives rise to an 8th king mentioned in Revelation 17:11, as he belongs to the 7 kings shown as 7 heads, who is the Antichrist.



This last sequence is plainly revealed in Daniel 7:8: “[...] there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them [10 kings].” Hopefully, the reader will find these explanations helpful.

We return to the topic of the 10 kings. Why? As has been mentioned, this topic likely is very timely. The 10 kings will emerge very soon. Indeed, some may already be on the scene! A frequent question on this topic that has challenged Bible prophecy readers is this: What are the identities of the 10 kings? Just which countries will together form a 10-country coalition? All kinds of answers have been offered over the centuries, but virtually all of them have been wrong. As most always is the case, the identification of the kings focuses on current and recent history.

We have published much research on this topic over the years. Our conclusion has been that it is possible to exclude nations that are not qualified to become members of this coalition. But it is not possible to confirm the identity of any one country being a member of the 10K—candidates, yes, but not certifiably so. As such, there is much speculation and wrong teaching on this matter.

Yet, the Bible is very clear about the existence and nature of this rebellious group. The 10 kings—10 nations that are led by human beings (not

demons)—are heads of state for 10 different countries.

As a short summary, we would not be surprised to see that most if not all of these 10 members end up coming from Roman Offshoot countries. But which exactly? We cannot know. However, this writer does believe that some of the birth pangs of this coalition can already be discerned today.

Of course, a related question of great interest is whether the United States will be one of these 10 kings (10K). We have always concluded that this indeed will not be the case ... presuming, of course, that some truly cataclysmic event doesn't happen first.

The main reason the US does not qualify as a 10-king (10K) nation is that it is too large. After all, presently it is a single superpower that doesn't need to be part of a global coalition. In fact, if anything, it could be very plausible that part of the reason that a 10-king coalition emerges is precisely that: There exists a large superpower that dictates or hinders or doesn't comply with the wishes of the rest of the world. The 10K may therefore be a collaboration designed to circumvent the US geopolitically. There are other possible reasons as well. However, we do see that the “minilateralism” trend experienced today (as mentioned earlier) is the best fitting explanation.

Were Nebuchadnezzar’s vision to apply to our day, we would note that the feet would be quite lopsided and deformed. Why? There would be a big, oversized toe if the United States were a member of this group.

The most compelling proof that the US will not be a member of the 10-king coalition comprising the 7th head is simple podiatry. What do feet have to do with this topic? The reader will surely know that the 10 kings or horns are also shown as 10 toes in Daniel 2:41-42.

America: If the Shoe Fits

Let’s continue applying our laymen’s podiatry—the study and treatment of feet. We recall that Daniel saw 10 toes in the prophetic image of Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. We know that the 10 toes are a parallel symbol to that of the 10 horns, shown in both Daniel and Revelation.

As such, it is a prophecy provided through symbols and graphics. Symbols must have literal meanings, as is the case with all symbols in Scripture. This being so, we can then draw meaningful conclusions by simply looking at symbols.

As such, Nebuchadnezzar’s vision of a large human statue made of various materials (Daniel 2) contains a very important clue (among others).

Studying this picture, one is likely to uncover an ill-fitting fact. Were Nebuchadnezzar’s vision to apply to our day, we would note that the feet



would be quite lopsided and deformed. Why? There would be a big, oversized toe if the United States were a member of this group.

Consider that a foot has one big toe and four progressively smaller ones. While there are size differences in our toes, none are so large that they are bigger than the foot itself, for instance. Proportionality must be observed.

Every indication that the Bible gives us about the final, last-day, 10-king power coalition is that each member is roughly proportionate in size. First, in Daniel 2 we are shown a normal set of 10 toes. In Daniel 7



Our generation is currently living at the tail end of the 6th “head’s” rule ... and the 7th is about to be unveiled in the near future. There is yet one more world ruler that follows the 7th head (but not shown as a head). This one is very evil—the Antichrist.

as well as Revelation 12, 13, and 17, they are shown as 10 typical horns.

However, a little later—continuing the “horn” imagery—the 10 horns are implicitly compared to an emerging 11th horn, which is said to have been small and which then uproots three of the existing horns (see the previously quoted verse, Daniel 7:8).

As such, we are led to recognize that the final 10 kings will not be small in size, nor is there any indication that the size of the horns will not be normal. We can reasonably conclude that the visions do not allow for outsized toes and feet, nor any grotesquely enlarged horns. The size differences would be normal ... just as the big toe is bigger than the smallest of the toes.

But that is not what we would observe were Nebuchadnezzar’s vision to apply to our era in the world today. Presently, significant size differences would be noted. Consider that only one, hugely outsized big toe would be visible. It certainly could not fit into the end-time glass slipper.

Given America’s status as a superpower and its huge economic influence upon the earth, it must be concluded that America today could

not qualify as a member. It is just too large to be a big toe on either of the two feet that Nebuchadnezzar saw. A foot with such a large toe would not be functional.

It therefore must also be concluded that America likely will no longer be the most influential power in the world. While the specific reasons for this shrinking are not known, in one way or another, this country will diminish in terms of international influence. If it is not to be a member of the 10-king coalition, it will surely be subject to its rule.

Our generation is currently living at the tail end of the 6th “head’s” rule ... and the 7th is about to be unveiled in the near future. There is yet one more world ruler that follows the 7th head (but not shown as a head). This one is very evil—the Antichrist.

Ten sovereign kings (nation rulers) will pool their power together and then agree to put it at the disposal of the Antichrist (Revelation 17:13). Interestingly, a power coalition of the type prophesied here is a unique arrangement in global geopolitical history.

The general pattern throughout world history has been that only one

nation would dominate the known world or its regions at that time. Even in our modern age, this has been the case. It has been a long, long time since the world has not been dominated by one prominent and powerful country.

Viewing developments in the world today, after one hundred years of rapid globalization, international relationships and nation groups are fragmenting as perhaps never before.

What is the agenda? Many nations are rankled with the global institutions (International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations, and many others) that are dominating policy and have proven to be inflexible at times. Most of these organizations were launched in the late 1940s (prompted by the horrors of the two World Wars).

Already in the early 1950s, counter groups were mobilizing.

But the state of disgruntlement and wanton ambitions of certain key countries have greatly accelerated this fragmentation development. It is a recombinant puzzle. Which 10 nations will break off from present global protocols, to form an independent group of 10 who are capable of dominating the world in these last days? As mentioned, conditions are indeed underway.

The trend of fragmentation contributes to the geopolitical fluidity of our times. Changes can happen very quickly. ^(MC)

(For more information on global fragmentation, see the recent article, "Restless Nations Jostling to Usher in the 10 Kings," in the January 2024 magazine. In Part 2, we will examine the role of volatile elections in our day ushering in the 10-King era.)



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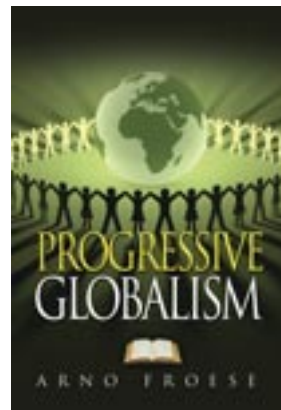
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Author: Arno Froese



Bad Calls

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

A “bad call” is an idiom for a poor decision or idea. In the world of sports, a bad call is an informal term used to describe a referee decision (or “call”) that was an obvious error and often radically impacts the result of a game. For example, in the 17 December 2017 game against the New England Patriots, the Pittsburgh Steelers felt they got robbed on a controversial non-catch call.

There are several suggestions as to why Belshazzar “held a great feast” at this time. Perhaps his attitude was Epicurean: “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.”

In the final two minutes of the game, Steelers tight end Jesse James dove into the end zone for what would have been a game-winning touchdown, in a crucial matchup to determine the leading team for the playoffs. But a controversial replay review overturned the touchdown, resulting in much confusion thereafter regarding the NFL’s ruling. Everyone agreed the call changed the final momentum of the game.

Officiating in the NFL has been one of the leading storylines in recent seasons due to obvious inconsistencies. Referees have become the repeated topic of conversation for a plethora of questionable calls. Much displeasure has been expressed regarding less than acceptable officiating, even to the degree that the NFL is considered rigged in favor of teams that referees want to win. According to coaches and executives, the abundance of bad calls indicates a system that needs major renovation.

Belshazzar had a series of bad calls—not related to officiating; rather, wrongs involving his alleged sovereignty. He made a bad call when he determined to hold a great feast when enemy armies were surrounding Babylon (Dan 5:1). Belshazzar also made a bad call in profaning the holy name of God, when “he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem” (v. 2). He made another bad call when he summoned the incapable “conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners” to interpret the cryptic inscription on the

palace wall (v. 7). His final bad call was not repenting when Daniel interpreted the handwriting (vv. 13-31).

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

(Dan 5:1-12) A quarter of a century elapsed between the events of Daniel 4 and chapter 5. During those years, additional revelations were given to Daniel, which are recorded in chapters 7 (cf. v. 1) and 8 (cf. v. 1). The identity of “Belshazzar the king” (5:1) has been debated for decades. When he died in 562 BC, Nebuchadnezzar son’s Evil-Merodach (also known as Amel-Marduk) ascended the throne of Babylon. But he was murdered two years later by his brother-in-law Neriglissar, who then reigned briefly until he died of natural causes in 556 BC. His son Labashi-Marduk succeeded him, but was assassinated less than a year into his reign as king.

Nabonidus seized the throne in 556 BC, and reigned until 29 October 539, when the events recorded in Daniel 5 occurred. He was a military man and preferred the lifestyle of a field soldier, as opposed to reigning as king in the megalopolis of Babylon. He permitted his son Belshazzar to rule with him as co-regent. Nabonidus resided in Tema, Arabia while Belshazzar occupied the throne in the capital city.

The number of those in attendance at the feast (“the thousand”) is unextraordinary in comparison to the historical context. Nabonidus was fighting the Persians yet was already

Bad Calls

In the midst of the great feast and festivities, God abruptly gave a message to the assembled guests through a most unusual source. Suddenly, “a man’s hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall” (5:5).

captured, and the forces of the united Medes and Persians were already poised outside Babylon, prepared to conquer the city. There are several suggestions as to why Belshazzar “held a great feast” at this time. Perhaps his attitude was Epicurean: “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.” Another idea is that the king believed the colossal fortifications and walls would protect the city indefinitely from any invaders. What is more likely is that Belshazzar was oblivious to the fact that the city was soon to be invaded, because history records that the Persian army conquered the city by stealth.

Belshazzar was certainly arrogant and riotous, and obviously loved his wine and revelry. His first act of arrogance was to profane the name of God by tampering with the sacred vessels of the Temple in Jerusalem, to celebrate and worship the Babylonian gods (vv. 2-4). The revelry at the feast was defiance and idolatry toward the living God. The king’s arrogance would soon result in him knowing by direct experience that “the King of heaven . . . is able to humble those who walk in pride” (4:37).

In the midst of the great feast and festivities, God abruptly gave a message to the assembled guests through a most unusual source. Suddenly, “a man’s hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall” (5:5). Rightly so, Belshazzar was terrified, and not one of his staff could read or make known the inscription, which was to the king’s great alarm (vv. 6-9). Eventually, the queen

entered the hall, and she reminded the king that there was a man in his kingdom who assisted Nebuchadnezzar with “an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight,” and Daniel would “declare the interpretation” if summoned (vv. 10-12).

THE HANDWRITING EXPLAINED

(Dan 5:13-31) “Then Daniel was brought in before the king,” and questioned as to whether he was indeed the same individual who assisted Nebuchadnezzar to understand things difficult (vv. 13-16). The promise of authority and reward in the kingdom was extended to Daniel, yet the prophet indicated his lack of interest in the offer (for he was content to be God’s servant). Nevertheless, he would interpret the inscription (v. 17). Prior to that explanation, Daniel took the opportunity to review his personal history with Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 18-21), and particularly how God removed the king from his throne because of his arrogance. The lesson from Nebuchadnezzar’s experience is “that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and *that* He sets over it whomever He wishes” (v. 21; 4:17).

Belshazzar manifested the same arrogance that Nebuchadnezzar previously displayed (vv. 22-23). Although he knew the history of the previous king, Belshazzar was not humbled by that reality. He was honoring gods that did not exist, and not glorifying the liv-

Daniel 5 reveals how a righteous God judges debauchery and idolatry. God holds all people accountable! The mighty God continues to work His plans for humanity.

ing God, in whose power was the authority and life of the king.

The inscription on the wall contained four words: “mene, mene, tekel, upharsin,” which in Aramaic can be translated literally as, “it has been counted and counted, weighed and divided.” The first word *mene* has the idea of numbering. God was in the process of judging the kingdom of Belshazzar. The repetition of the word was probably for emphasis.

Tekel means “weighed” and implies that the king was placed in a balance scale and found lacking in true substance. Belshazzar’s kingdom was in the process of judgment to determine if it could be measured to God’s standard. *Upharsin* means divided (*u* is equivalent to the English word “and,” while *pharin* is the plural of *peres*); it is the present tense form of the verb. Belshazzar’s kingdom was being divided because of his arrogance. Daniel changed the tense of the verb in Aramaic to a perfect tense, *peres* (v. 27), indicating that the kingdom was already divided. The Medes and the Persians would fulfill the prophecy as they invaded the city (v. 28). Isaiah and Jeremiah already prophesied that Babylon would fall to the Medes and Persians (Isa 13:17-22; 21:1-10; 45:1-7; Jer 51:33-58).

Belshazzar rewarded Daniel but his actions were meaningless, since the position would not endure the night (Dan 5:29-31). Belshazzar “was slain” the very night of the writing on the wall (v. 30), and the great city of Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians, who

were led by the man identified in verse 31 as “Darius the Mede.” The identity of Darius is uncertain, since he is only known as “the Mede” in the Bible; all the arguments concerning his identity are based upon relatively scarce factual material.

Daniel 5 reveals how a righteous God judges debauchery and idolatry. *God holds all people accountable!* The mighty God continues to work His plans for humanity. The historicity of chapter 5 is important to the development of the book of Daniel, and should not be neglected. However, the occurrence of events within the kingdom of Belshazzar illustrates future historical events. For instance, it is entirely possible that Daniel 5 (in addition to the other chapters) will give tremendous encouragement to believers in the future, who find they are enduring great persecution.

There are several lessons to be discerned from Daniel 5. (1) The Gentile world powers will have dominance over Israel. (2) The Gentile world ruler will have great arrogance in his ability. (3) God is in control of all things, including the life and ways of humanity. (4) The Gentile world powers will be judged in rapid succession when God’s revelation occurs. (5) And, just as Babylon was conquered with haste, so will the world be when the Day of the Lord occurs (1 Thess 5:1-3). However, God’s people are not in darkness that the day should overtake them, but are to be sober minded concerning these things (vv. 4-6). (1414)



WORLD FOCUS



Digital Vaccination Passports Coming

Five European nations—Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Greece, and Latvia—will begin testing a digital vaccination passport.

The passport will be available in both digital and paper forms, each bearing a unique QR code to ensure authenticity.

It supports seamless travel within the EU and extends to Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. Issued in local languages and English, it aligns with EU health and safety norms.

Yet, this digital tool raises significant concerns. It could allow unprecedented surveillance and control over personal health data.

There are fears about the erosion of privacy and the potential misuse of sensitive information. Moreover, the role of pharmaceutical companies in this scenario can't be overlooked.

The digital vaccination passport could also set a global standard for health data sharing, inspiring other regions to adopt similar measures.

-www.riotimesonline.com, 26 July 2024

Commentary: While there are legitimate concerns about potential misuse of sensitive information, the old



saying applies: “You can’t stop progress.” Less than 50 years ago, a cell phone was an expensive and rather awkward device. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X (brick phone) became available commercially in 1983 (for \$3,995). Just think of such a phone, with a weight of 2 kg (4.4 lbs.). Today, children as young as five already have their own cell phone. The younger generation views using cell phones as automatic as turning on the water tap or flipping on a light switch.

When grocery shopping, the shopping list may be stored on the cell phone. Shopping for virtually anything can be accomplished us-

ing this electronic gadget and the internet. The article ends with the words, “It’s about how we balance innovation with individual freedoms in a connected world.” Planet earth is more connected today than ever before; and, we must add, there is more peace, prosperity, and security. While in some places—such as Ukraine and Israel—active wars are being fought, there is little serious military confrontation in the rest of the world.

This is in line with Bible prophecy. Revelation 13:8 documents: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” One day that will be a reality.

This process is the devil’s imitation of the coming kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ: “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things

in earth, and things under the earth” (Philippians 2:10). 8306


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



 **AUSTRIA**

A Move to Deport Halloween

It's almost Halloween—and all those ghosts, goblins, tricks and treats are giving Hans Kohler the creeps.

 So the mayor of Rankweil, a town near the border with Switzerland, has launched a one-man campaign disparaging Halloween as a “bad American habit” and urging families to skip it this year.

Although Halloween has become increasingly popular across Europe—complete with carved pumpkins, witches on broomsticks, makeshift houses of horror and costumed children rushing door to door for candy—it's begun to breed a backlash.

Yet, Halloween is big business in Europe.

In Britain, where Halloween celebrations rival those in the United States, it's the most lucrative day of the year for costume and party retailers.

“Without Halloween, I don't think we could exist, to be honest,” said Pendra Maisuria, owner of Escapade, a London costume shop that rakes in 30 percent of its annual sales in the run-up to Oct. 31. The Metropolitan Police, meanwhile, hasn't logged any significant increase in crime.

-Associated Press, 27 October 2005

Commentary: This article is not “news,” for it was published in the *Kansas City Star* on 27 October 2005.



Why has Halloween succeeded? Because it is “big business.”

The New York Public Library reveals some history:

All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween as it is commonly referred, is a global celebration on October 31. It developed from the ancient Celtic ritual of Samhain, which was, in the simplest terms, a festival celebrating the changing of the seasons from light to dark (summer to winter). This would usually take place around November 1.

Traditionally, a bonfire would be lit, sweets would be prepared, and costumes would be worn to ward off evil spirits as the ancient Celts believed that, at this time of year, the veil separating the worlds of the living and the dead was at its thinnest.

Despite the best efforts of the church, people still continued to celebrate Halloween with traditional bonfires, costumes, treats, and a focus on spirits of the dead.

-www.nypl.org, 26 October 2018

What is of interest is that according to a Google search, substitutions for Halloween celebration are common in churches:

Fresh Halloween Ideas for Today's Church

- Trunk-or-Treat with a Twist
- Harvest Festival with Prayer Booth

- Movie Night with Seasonal Films
- Community Service Day
- Pumpkin Carving Bible Stories
- Scripture Scavenger Hunt
- Christian Music Concert
- Family-Friendly Movie Character Walkthrough

At the end of the article, another appears titled, “13 Creative Ideas Your Church Can Do During Halloween.”

What about doing nothing? Or better yet, follow Scriptures such as: “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). 8320

(See 101 Answers to Questions About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare, Item #2289, \$15.99.)

 **NORTH KOREA**

Partially Reopens Tourism After 5 Years

North Korea will be partially resuming international tourism this year after nearly half a decade, according to tourist operators.

 The Beijing-based tourism agency, Koryo Tours, which specializes in tourism to North Korea, announced that tourism to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will resume in December of this year.


Tours will only be organized for the North Korean city of Samjiyon but the

(continued next page)

 UN

10.3 Billion Population in 2080?

The world population is predicted to peak at about 10.3 billion people in the 2080s, according to a report by the United Nations.

 The agency's 2024 World Population Prospects study projects the population will begin to fall after that, to about 10.2 billion people by the century's end. Though, immigration can help slow the decrease.

Globally, the fertility rate is 2.3 births per woman, compared to 3.3 births in 1990. It takes 2.1 births per woman to maintain a population size, barring immigration. More than half of the world's countries have fallen below that rate.

Tourism (continued from page 29)

reopening may be extended to other locations, Koryo Tours said.

The Hermit Kingdom closed its borders at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, banning almost all outsiders from entering the country for business, travel, or non-vital diplomatic relations. The country only partially started to re-open its borders last year.

The country has struggled to open itself fully since the pandemic, when the regime could not field the necessary resources and infrastructure to effectively combat the outbreak within its borders.

-www.foxnews.com, 15 August 2024

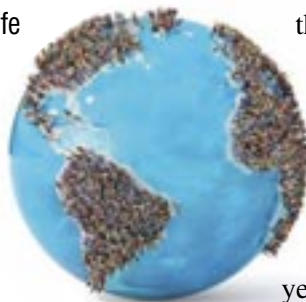
Commentary: Step by step, we are seeing North Korea ready to interact with other

Additionally, the global life expectancy is beginning to climb again post-COVID pandemic, and is now 73.3 years of age. It is anticipated to climb to 77.4 years in 2054.

-www.npr.org, 12 July 2024

Commentary: "Though, immigration can slow the decrease" is an oxymoron; immigration may add to the population in one place, but it decreases the number in another.

Worldometers.info shows life expectancy was 46.5 years globally in 1950; this has grown to 73.4 years in 2023. Wikipedia lists countries with



the highest life expectancy in 2022: leading is Japan at 84 years, Switzerland 83.5, Australia 83.2, Sweden 83.1, Spain 83.1, Israel 82.7, and USA 77.4 years.

There are multiple reasons for higher life expectancy: 1) modern medicine, 2) food, and 3) comfort of life. However, nothing changes what is written in Hebrews 9:27: "And as it



is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." 8297
(See *When Death Comes*, Item #1056, \$12.99.)

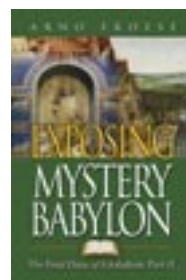


A photo shows a general view of North Korea's northern city of Samjiyon
(ED JONES/AFP via Getty Images)

nations; most recently, reaching out to Russia and Iran. With their economic situation becoming more dire after tightening their borders during the pandemic, and amid ongoing Western sanctions, they are seeking ways to boost their income. Tourism seems like an unusual choice by their standards, yet there is no doubt that an influx of ready-to-spend visitors

(mostly from China) is a tantalizing prospect.

This proves that even the most hermit-like nation cannot avoid the trappings of world unity in the name of merchandise. As Revelation 18:3 reads, "For **all** nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her [Mystery Babylon's] 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." 8321


-By K. Farmer

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

 GERMANY

Descendants of German Jews Claim EU Citizenship

Scott Mayerowitz grew up in New Jersey in a household with resentment toward Germany, his family's motherland.

 He has ancestors who were killed in the Holocaust, and his Jewish grandparents were forced to flee their homes there in the 1930s because of the Nazis.

But as the former political reporter turned travel consultant stood at the German consulate in New York in May 2024 during what he called a “very moving” naturalization ceremony to become a German citizen, he said he was surprised by his feelings.

Enshrined in the German constitution since 1949, Article 116 (2) of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany grants former German citizens who were persecuted and their descendants restored German citizenship.

For people who can prove their ancestral links and gather the required documents, German citizenship—and with it, European Union citizenship—is within reach.

Ann Barnett, 30, of Arlington, Virginia, said she was fortunate when applying to restore her German citizenship through a grandparent that a family member had paved the way before her by procuring all the old documents.

Barnett said she feels Germany has worked hard “to establish means of atonement for their wrongdoings and



Scott Mayerowitz, right, poses with Consul General David Gill in New York at his naturalization ceremony to become a German citizen. Courtesy Scott Mayerowitz

crimes against humanity”—a perspective that's given her hope, even as the idea of traveling to Europe soon on her new German passport makes her stomach flutter with nerves.

“Seeking dual citizenship and a fire escape plan is good planning. It isn't an issue of loyalty, but it could be an issue of survival,” [Stewart] Koesten said, referring to anti-immigration, anti-semitism, increasing gun incidents in schools, violence on the streets, political issues and income taxes among reasons a family might want an “emergency plan.”

Erin Levi, 41, a travel writer in Connecticut, said she has always wanted to live in Europe and envied friends who had the option to stay longer than a visa allows. She said she feels a bit safer in Germany, too, than other countries with rising anti-semitism.

“I think Germany has become such a strong ally and supporter of Israel. It's incredible to see the responsibility they've taken for the atrocities they committed. There aren't that many other countries that have,” she said.

-www.cnn.com, 7 August 2024

Commentary: Throughout most of the diaspora—when they were scattered throughout the world, but mainly in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa—Jews and their descendants were not entitled to full citizenship in the countries they inhabited. In fact, there were often laws that prescribed where they could live, study, work ... even the clothes they had to wear. The emancipation of Jews in Europe only really started in the 1800s.

So, it is not surprising that Jews—this continuously oppressed people—seek backup citizenships. Many “make aliyah” to Israel to secure Israeli citizenship, even if they later return to the place of their birth.

The specter of antisemitism is evident everywhere, not only from Muslims but also—distressingly—from left-wing and right-wing antisemites in Western countries. Therefore, it is understandable that modern Jews want to collect citizenships to give them options if and when their country becomes unsafe.

We know that eventually, God will gather all of His people to their land: “And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country” (Ezekiel 34:13).

8329


-By J. Froese

(See *The Case for Zionism*, Item #2327, \$14.99.)

 **USA**

Undocumented Immigrants

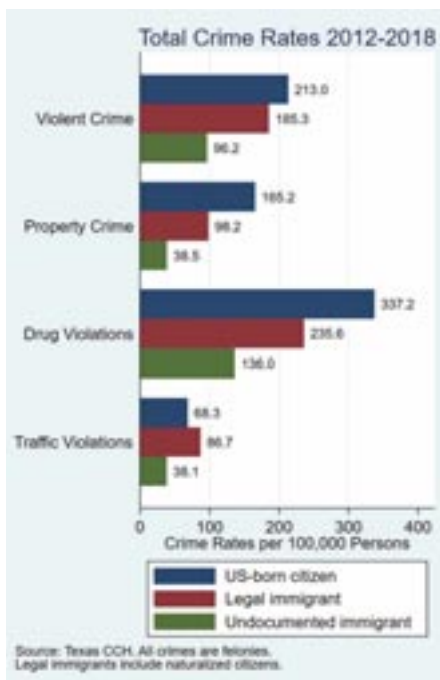
Contrary to public perception, we observe considerably lower felony arrest rates among undocumented immigrants compared to legal immigrants and native-born US citizens and find no evidence that undocumented criminality has increased in recent years.

 Our findings help us understand why the most aggressive immigrant removal programs have not delivered on their crime reduction promises and are unlikely to do so in the future.

We make use of uniquely comprehensive arrest data from the Texas Department of Public Safety to compare the criminality of undocumented immigrants to legal immigrants and native-born US citizens between 2012 and 2018. We find that undocumented immigrants have substantially lower crime rates than native-born citizens and legal immigrants across a range of felony offenses. Relative to undocumented immigrants, US-born citizens are over 2 times more likely to be arrested for violent crimes, 2.5 times more likely to be arrested for drug crimes, and over 4 times more likely to be arrested for property crimes.

-www.pnas.org, 7 December 2020

Commentary: The above article, published by the United States National Academy of Science and edited by Douglas S. Massey of Princeton University, is of interest since there is much misinformation regarding for-



eigners, not only in the US but also increasingly in Europe as well.

Our interest lies exclusively in truth, and that based on the Bible.

To Israel, the Lord commanded: “But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:34). The New Testament confirms: “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels un-awares” (Hebrews 13:2).

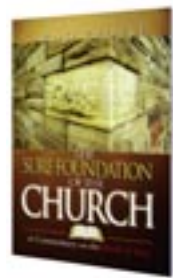
A recent article in *Christianity Today* showed that over 50% of Spanish language churches have been established since the year 2000. What a blessing!

Regarding crime, the respectable Cato Institute (libertarian think tank)

confirms: “The results are similar to our other work on illegal immigration and crime in Texas. In 2018, the illegal immigrant criminal conviction rate was 782 per 100,000 illegal immigrants, 535 per 100,000 legal immigrants, and 1,422 per 100,000 native-born Americans. The illegal immigrant criminal conviction rate was 45 percent below that of native-born Americans in Texas.”

A report from WorldPopulationReview.com shows the richest and most successful countries have a high percentage of foreign-born residents: UAE 83.1%, Saudi Arabia 38.7%, Australia 30.1%, Switzerland 28.8%, and USA 15.3%.

As believers, let us rejoice that Jesus is building His Church. Regardless of geopolitical circumstances, He is the first and the last; one day He will rule



the whole world from Jerusalem and judge righteously.

8307

(See *The Sure Foundation of the Church*, Item #1066, \$18.50.)

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UNHEEDED WARNING



By Peter Malgo

The intensity of natural catastrophes is ever increasing around the world. Hardly a week passes that we do not receive new reports of devastation. Not too long ago, Australia was especially hard hit. In over 100 years of record keeping, it showed the highest amount of precipitation ever recorded. And this led to the most severe flooding.

The flooded area was as large as the countries Germany and France combined. Only a little later, Australia was then hit by a monster cyclone, a storm of unprecedented power. While the ensuing flooding kept rescue workers in high gear, bushfires in the western part of the country got out of control.

At the same time, other unimaginable disasters occurred elsewhere in the world. After heavy storms, an entire mountainside slid down in Brazil, killing hundreds of people. A resident of that village was barely able to save his children, but had to watch helplessly as his wife was swept away by the masses of mud. "I could have handled losing everything, but not my wife," he said, sobbing.

The list of these disasters could go on endlessly: floods in China, volcanic eruptions in Japan, earthquakes in Haiti, fires on Mount Carmel in Israel, blizzards in

the United States, a tsunami in Indonesia. Multitudes of people lost their lives. But it was particularly tragic that many of them could have been saved, if only they had heeded the warnings of the security forces and followed their instructions! Indeed, some preferred to stay in their homes, not suspecting that soon hot lava would be flowing in ... that a tidal wave would wash over them in the next few minutes ... or a fire would prevent all avenues of escape. Parts of southern Germany were recently under high water. A newspaper article described how people who wanted to drive on a flooded road simply removed a barrier in the area. The police spokesman stated, "Drivers are obviously not aware that they are putting themselves in grave danger, for a landslide is threatening to happen."

Besides these natural disasters which threaten our physical lives, we as Christians also run the risk of getting into



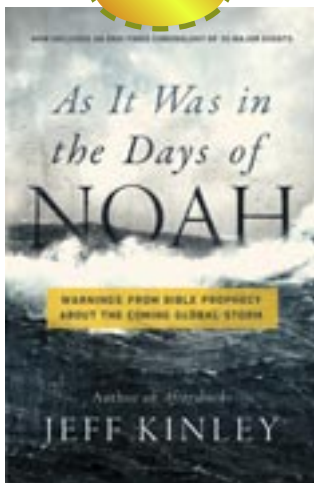
Just for You!

zones where our spiritual life is attacked. The Bible gives us many warnings. But do we ever heed such warnings? This is shown us very drastically in the judgment of Sodom. God wanted to save the whole family of Lot, and said: "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed" (Genesis 19:17). But Lot's "wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (verse 26). God also wants to keep us away from danger zones and from going down wrong paths. Therefore, He speaks to us through circumstances, through His Word, through the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit into our conscience. But do we pay attention to it? In Numbers 22:22 and onward, it is told how God tried to turn Balaam away from

his wrong path through an angel. In the end, God had to use very unusual means to open Balaam's eyes.

Today, we live at a time in which the seductive skills of the adversary are increasing tremendously. Jesus Himself compares the end times with the time of Noah. It is said of Noah's contemporaries, that they did not notice anything "until the flood came and swept them all away." And Jesus continued: "So shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:39b). "Watch therefore" (verse 42a). Paul later writes to the Corinthians: "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor 10:11-12). (MC)

Revised



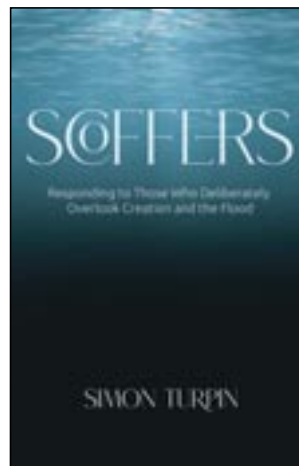
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Missing Mansions

By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

Let's travel back in history to about 2,000 years ago. How I love to think about this moment when Yeshua was walking here on earth with us. Can you imagine how wonderful that must have been, to walk beside Him and speak face to face with Him?

The night before He was crucified, Yeshua shared with His disciples how He would be leaving them. Of course, they wanted to go with Him, but He explained that they could not (John 13:33); it was impossible.

Peter, as usual, wanted to know where He was going. He was always the first one to ask questions, and he wanted to know why they couldn't go with Him like at other times. Yeshua assured them that they would eventually follow Him, but that He, Yeshua, had to be the first to go (John 13:36-37).

Yeshua explained: "In my Father's house are many rooms: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will take you to myself; that where I am, you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

What Yeshua said has confused and still confuses many, especially because

of how some translations translate the word "house" and "mansions." But let's look at the Greek meaning of these words. In Greek, the word for "house" simply means "an abode," literally or figuratively; and by implication, it means "a family" (*Mishpacha* in Hebrew). The word translated "mansions" or "rooms" literally means, "the act of staying or residing." We see that putting the Greek together, Yeshua is simply saying that in God's home (heaven), there will be many other people of the saved family of God, all abiding together and worshipping the Lamb in His house. What a beautiful picture!

Within God's heavenly house, Christians will live in the presence of the Father. This picture is quite different from the idea of rows of mansions on streets of gold (like in the new Jerusalem), which is the image many people have of what Yeshua is saying here. But we see that He first refers to the "family"; and yes, we are one big family. That is why I can freely call you my brothers and sisters. This knowledge is so wonderful, I must say hal-lelujah ("praise God" in Hebrew)!



Our Messiah is preparing a place in heaven for His own: those who have come to Him in faith, and those whom the Holy Spirit is preparing for heaven—the redeemed here on earth. Revelation 7:9 tells us that there will be “a great multitude in heaven which no man can number,” all standing before the throne. Here again, the imagery is of multitudes together, not living separately in different mansions.

This brings me to your spiritual family here in Israel. Some of your family lives in the Ebenezer Home, but still others are on the waiting list. Although we realize our heavenly home is not limited in space, and there will be a place for each one of us, this is simply not the case here at the Ebenezer Home. We are short on

space, and our Home is way too small to meet the ever-growing need of our expanding and growing family. We are bursting at the seams, with many on the outside who still need a place to call home.

That’s why we are thrilled to announce we are finally on the brink of expanding our walls! Your support is helping to accomplish this and bring this vision to reality. We can’t thank you enough for being part of this mission and vision. In next month’s article, we will share a special update so you can read how God is opening doors to move ahead with the plans for an expansion. Thank you again for all of your prayers and support, as we press on in the call and vision He has given us.



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MC1024
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Note: All letters will be answered by the Executive Editor, Arno Froese.

ISAIAH 19...

GOSPEL TO THE WORLD...

REVELATION IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Isaiah 19

Dear Brother Froese,

In the *Midnight Call* July 2024, on page 30 you state, "In plain words, your nation (by whatever name) has no future, nor does planet earth." Over the years that I have read *Midnight Call*, you have many times made such statements, with the only exception being the nation of Israel.

I would like to have your response to Isaiah 19:1-25, where Egypt is with Israel in the millennial kingdom. The *Scofield Bible* heads this chapter with the title, "The burden of Egypt. Looks forward through desolations to kingdom blessing with Israel."

I look forward to your reply.

-J. Fisler, PA

Answer: Based on my understanding, much of Isaiah 19 was fulfilled during the intervening 2,700 or so years of history. The Egyptians have seen many horrifying wars, oppression, with sometimes scorch-

ing sun and horrible droughts. But in the end, there is truth, healing, and salvation. And indeed, Egypt, Assyria, and Israel will be a blessing in the earth. That future is the millennium.

Regarding "no future," read Daniel 2:44: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Israel is different; she is mentioned in Revelation 21:12: "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."

Gospel to the World

In Matthew 24:14, it says the Gospel will be preached all over the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Does this mean that Jesus has to wait till everyone hears the Gospel before He comes back? Many Christians think



that Jesus' return is imminent. Some countries are less than 1% Christian. There are people who have never heard of Jesus or the Gospel.

Only about two billion people are Christian. Isn't it going to take an awful long time to reach the six billion who are not?

-S. England, NH

Answer: Titus 2:13 says: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." We are instructed to look for Him. There is no date or special event given preceding the coming of the Lord. We are to wait.

I do not encourage using human calculations and assumptions, because they are mostly based on circumstances and not the Word of God. Remember, there are Christians by religion and Christians who are actual believers, born again of the Spirit. What does Jesus say about us, the small flock, the few believers? "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). And He also said: "I will build my church."

Revelation in Chronological Order

Dear Arno Froese,

The book of Revelation is actually two prophecies. The clue to this is in chapter 10, where an angel gives John an open book containing a great deal of prophecy. Then the angel says in verse 11, "...Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues and kings." As John was a prisoner on Patmos, the

only way to accomplish this was to write another prophecy, which we know as chapters 12–22. Chapters 1–11 are the first prophecy, and 12–22 the second. Chapters 6–11 cover the same events as 13–20; 21–22 are added material about the New Jerusalem.

One must put 6 and 13 together to study the Tribulation; 7:9-17 and 15:2-3 together for the Rapture of the Tribulation Saints; 8–9 and 11:15-19, together with 16 for the great day of His wrath. The Trumpet Judgments become the Vial Judgments. They start with 1/3 being hurt, and end with all being hurt.

Chapters 17 and 18 show how wicked end-time Babylon is, and why God's wrath fell upon her, as in the Trumpet and Vial judgments. Babylon actually fell, as mentioned in 11:13 and the corresponding verses of 16:17-19.

-M. Russell, NY

Answer: Thank you for the additional information and thoughts on the chronological order of Revelation.

The issue is, *when will what* be fulfilled? For example, Revelation 6:4 says, "...take peace from the earth...kill one another..." When is that to begin? It started when Adam and Eve were expelled from Paradise. Then followed the first murder—Cain killing his brother Abel.

My understanding of chronological order is from the beginning in Genesis to the end of Revelation. Of course, your division of Revelation is helpful. (MC)

“Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem” (Zechariah 1:17).

BY ARNO FROESE

There is much room for interpretation, but in brief, the Jews have suffered at the hand of the Gentiles for over two millennia—that cannot be denied. So, it is not just coincidental or a passing thought, but God’s clear intention that because of the suffering of the Jews, “Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem” (v. 16).

In the introductory Scripture, we notice the little word “yet” four times. Quite logically, that stands in opposition to the four Gentile world empires: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. We must add that when Rome is mentioned, it not only refers to the city in Italy (Europe) but also literally the entire world. Europeans sailed around the world and subjected the nations of the world to their authority. Take, for instance, the Americas: 35 sovereign nations were established by

Europeans. Looking to the east, we also notice that many geopolitical identities find their origin in European colonization. To the south in Africa, we find that about 54 countries were established by European colonial powers.

Zechariah then sees “four horns.” After asking their identity, he receives the answer: “These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem” (v. 19b). Now, in opposition to the four Gentile superpowers, we read in verse 20: “And the Lord showed me four carpenters.” The Hebrew word *charash*, pronounced *khaw-rawsh*, is translated “smith” or “craftsman,” not carpenter.

These four unnamed blacksmiths are heavenly, divine entities, and their task is to destroy the nations: “Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the

horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it” (v. 21).

Zechariah, as virtually all prophets, proclaims the merciless judgment of God upon His nation, but always concludes with comfort and hope for Israel.

That, incidentally, applies to each of us who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who poured out His life in His blood on Calvary’s Cross, paying once and for all for our trespasses. Have you received Him?

At this point in time, Israel is still at war. Moreover, it is being threatened, not only by Hamas in the south, but also by Hezbollah in the north. Not to mention from the east—Iran—and from the south—the Houthis.

Just recently, the Turkish president warned Israel not to invade Lebanon to avoid Turkey sending troops to defend it.

Now come the strange and unusual aspect: Based on WorldPopulation Review.com’s listing of the world’s happiest nations for 2024, while the northern European countries are always on top, Israel comes in fifth place. The world is nervous, but in Israel a calmness prevails.

We as believers will continue to pray for Israel, particularly for the Church there as well as in countries that are enemies of Israel. Let us remember what Paul wrote in Romans 9:4: “Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.” ^{MC}

MC1024

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



 **EGYPT**

How the War in Gaza Opened the Egyptians' Eyes

About refugees from Gaza, and a remarkable ministry trip through Egypt at the start of 2024.

BY ELIA MORISE

I'd like to begin this account with Hosea 11:1b: "Out of Egypt I called my son." Egypt has always been known for its hospitality. We can read that Abraham was once in Egypt, and later Joseph, and then his father with the other clans of Israel. Moses was born in Egypt, and Joseph and Mary eventually went there with Jesus as refugees (cf. Matt 2:13-15). In light of this, I invite all of you to visit my homeland and enjoy its hospitality for yourselves.

In February, I was able to conduct an intensive evangelistic trip to Egypt, visiting various places. There's so much I could write about the six outreach events I led, but I'll try to rein it in and keep things brief.

This time I saw Egypt through completely different eyes. So many new changes have taken place, the likes of which I've hardly seen in Europe—for example, new highways with six lanes in each direction. As a result, routes between



Egyptian Christians cooking soup for refugees from Gaza

cities have greatly improved. Several bridges have even been built in the major city of Cairo, helping with the flow of traffic.

On the spiritual side, I was able to observe a great revival in the Church of Jesus. After many years, the Christian community has finally been permitted to renovate its parish halls or even build new



Relief supplies, like mattresses and food, for the refugees from Gaza



churches. Permits are required, of course, but it's finally possible. And I was pleased that in every service I attended—no matter which church—prayers were said for the president and his government.

One special event I was able to arrange was a meeting with a pastor from Gaza. He told me how Hamas had hidden one of its weapons caches behind his church, and had done the same in the basement of a large hospital. Although Israel usually doesn't attack churches, hospitals, or mosques, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) issued a very clear warning, calling on people like this pastor to evacuate their homes. They were to head south to Rafah, which borders Egypt. After-

wards, the IDF bombed both the hospital and the building where this pastor's church was located. But the true targets were the Hamas weapons depots there, according to this pastor, and not the church or hospital.

Thanks to gifts from other believers, a group of young Egyptian Christians (some of whom work for the Red Cross) have been able to help Gazan church members who have lost their homes. They're providing jackets, clothing, mattresses, and blankets, as well as a great deal of food. Vegetable soup was being cooked and served from a large pot every day.

Another Egyptian team hosted a time of songs and games for the children, as well as a time of devotion and

praise for the adults. You can see from the photos that it's a difficult situation, but God's children are one body, whether from Gaza or Egypt.

A Christian school on the Egyptian side of the border has been evacuated, so that refugees can shower and sleep there. This hospitality was naturally extended to Muslims as well, as fellow human beings for whom our Lord shed His blood. Jesus wants to help all people: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

Unfortunately, some Muslim refugees from Gaza have been observed fighting and robbing each other. I even know of two cases of rape, despite the great hard-

ship in the community. It's a great burden the Egyptian government continues to bear, and they've needed to provide additional police protection to help these Muslims in their time of need. It has resulted in Egyptians opening their eyes to the circumstances of their fellow Muslims in Gaza, and to the suffering that Israel has had to endure alongside them. Many acknowledge that Israel was right to attack.

Despite everything that's happening, we can't take our eyes off our compass: God's Word. The Lord is approaching His goal and will achieve the promise He made in Isaiah 19:25: "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

Thank you for all your prayers and for supporting Midnight Call's ministry to the Arabic peoples. (MR0524)



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

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MC1024

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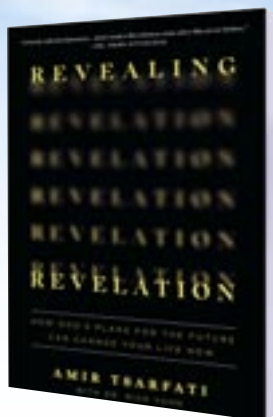
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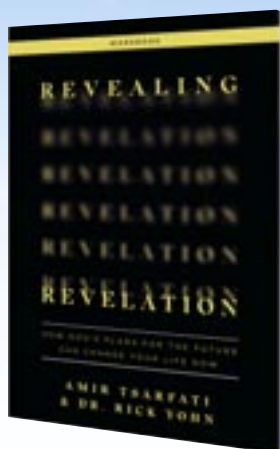
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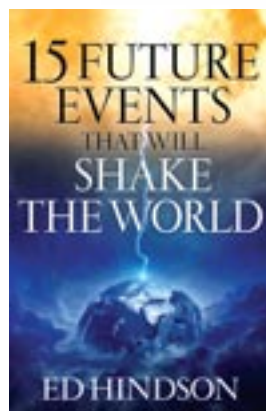
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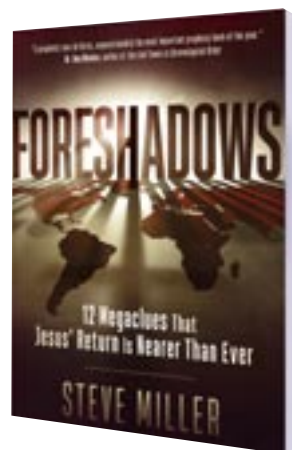
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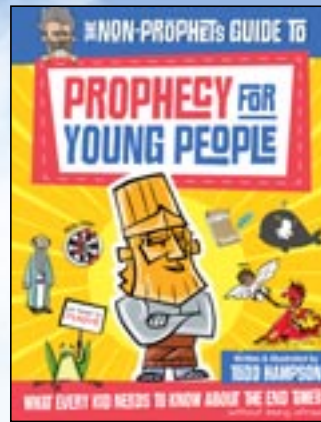
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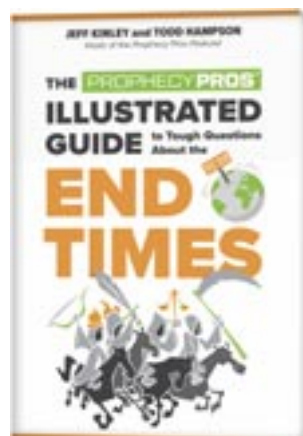
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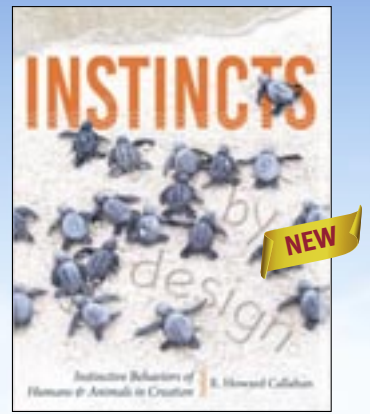
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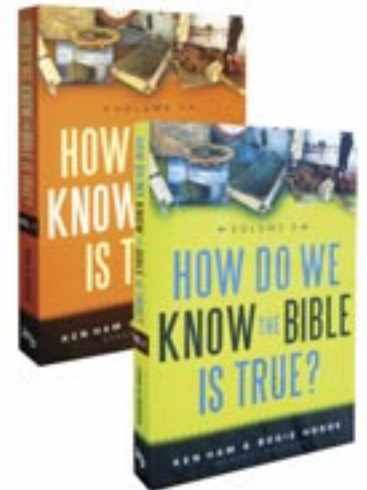
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