

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

midnightcall.com

June 2022—\$4.75

Got Truth?
P. 17

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Balaam in Heaven?
- Salvation for Jews
- The 144,000
P. 41



UNTIL HE COMES

Timely Tracts for Gospel Outreach



Be Ready at Any Time

A Christianity that is only interested in this world, is ignoring the warning, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

AND THEY KNEW NOT ITEM #9117

Tract • Size: 8" x 3.375"

\$3 for 100

Author: Heinrich Angst



There is a true love story that has an eternal happy ending.

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY ITEM #9116

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100

Author: Manfred Paul



Are you ready to face eternity?

No one really knows when it's your time to enter eternity.

It is always best to be prepared!

8 MINUTES TO ETERNITY

ITEM #9113

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100

Author: Normando Fontoura



I WANT TO GO TO

HEAVEN! ITEM #9112

Tract • Size: 8" x 3.375"

\$3 for 100

Author: Norbert Lieth



"If I live an honest life...how can I be convicted of sin?"

ONLY ONE WAY: WHAT DECISION WILL YOU MAKE?

ITEM #9114

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100

Will you have time for God?



God has time for you. Take time for Him before it's too late.

Without God, life is a big deception. Without God, we live in the present, only dreaming of the future and forgetting what is most important.

TOO LATE ITEM #9115

Tract • Size: 6" x 4.25"

\$3 for 100



6 COVER STORY

Until He Comes

By Norbert Lieth

We should always be oriented toward the Lord's return. The Lord's Supper reminds us of the first coming of Jesus, who instituted it as a New Covenant shortly before His death on the Cross. Celebrating the Lord's Supper can remind us of this promise, which should remain alive in us.



26 USA
Churches Face Clergy Shortage

27 WORLD
Military Spending at Record Levels

27 EU
New Regulations on Big Tech

28 AUSTRALIA
China Warned on Solomon Islands

29 EUROPE



World's Biggest Particle Collider Restarts

30 SAUDI ARABIA
Mending Fences with Iran?

12 Money: Ends and Trends

World Economic Control Prophesied: Lightning Developments – Part 2

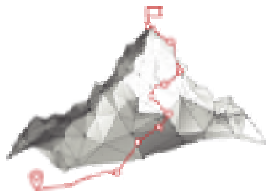
By Wilfred Hahn

17 Got Truth?

By Dr. Ron J. Bigalke

21 What Awaits Us

By Nathanael Winkler



32 The Nature of Jezebel and the Depths of Satan

By Wim Malgo

34 Just For You!

At the Optician

By Peter Malgo

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editorial By Norbert Lieth

31 Fellow Laborers By Richard and Lydia Babola

36 The Ebenezer Home – Haifa, Israel By David Phillips

39 Action for Israel By Arno Froese

41 Letters to the Editor By Arno Froese

BALAAM IN HEAVEN?...SALVATION FOR JEWS...THE 144,000



Grace Alone



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

My wife's only brother recently passed away at the age of 68 years; he was very dear to all of us. He came from the Lutheran Church, and his baptismal verse was Psalm 25:7: "Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD."

When standing at a grave, one inevitably thinks of the past. What happened during all those years? What is it that counts in the end? "Remember not the sins of my youth..." We know all the sins of past years, as well as those of our youth: be it pranks, fights, petty theft, alcohol abuse, moral offenses, membership in youth cliques or gangs. With the years, quite a bit is added to this list, and the sum total of our sins keeps growing. Paul writes to Timothy: "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace..." (2 Tim. 2:22).

David knows that nothing is forgotten by God. If we have to appear before God with the sins of past years, then we'd be in a bad way. What should we do with our guilt? It sticks to us, follows us, and reaches us when at last we stand


before God and everything is revealed. "According to thy mercy remember thou me..." It is very interesting and significant that David did not pray: "But remember my good deeds: how I obeyed my father when I worked in the fields keeping the sheep; when I spared Saul; when I defeated Goliath; when I won victories for the people and executed justice." No, good deeds cannot atone for sin. The prophet Haggai explains that a thing cannot be made holy through being touched by the sacred. However, conversely, it is a fact that something becomes contaminated when touched by the unholy (Haggai 2:11-13). In other words: if clean laundry is mixed with dirty laundry, the latter will not become clean; rather, the clean will become unclean. That is why David prayed: "But remember me according to thy mercy..."

It is grace that saves us—nothing else—and this grace is fully given to us in Jesus. It is not about our good works, but about *His work*: Calvary, resurrection, ascension. Jesus is the only One who could touch unclean people with His holy hands, thereby making them clean, but without Himself becoming contaminated (Matt

EDITOR'S NOTE

8:3). God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ is thus the only thing that guarantees us forgiveness and prepares us to one day stand before God. With Jesus, one can die joyfully. It once made a great impression on me when I was privileged to be with a dying person, who kept pointing out repeatedly: "Jesus has forgiven me all my sins."

Whoever believes in Christ and gives his life over to Him will have all sins forgiven and be declared righteous. The sins will never again be brought up by God. Anything else would diminish the work of Jesus. So David continues to pray and emphasizes: "Good and upright is the LORD; therefore will he teach sinners in the way" (Ps 25:8).

This "way" is without a doubt the Lord Jesus (John 14:6). There is no other way to forgiveness and eternal life (Acts 4:12). There is no way to bypass Him. And so David continues to write: "His soul shall dwell at ease" (Ps 25:13a). Anyone who is secure in Jesus will be secure in Him also at the end of life, and will be brought into His kingdom to dwell in joy eternally. "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). 

In light of the times, *News From Israel* is a necessary monthly magazine that will keep you updated on breaking developments throughout the Middle East. *News From Israel* uncovers hidden information the news media leaves out!



To start or renew your *News From Israel* magazine subscription, use the order form in the insert or pg. 47, call 800-845-2420 with your credit card ready, or order online at midnightcall.com/nfi

• 32 pages • \$ 18 for a one-year subscription • 12 issues

☎ 1-800-845-2420

Published 12 times a year by
MIDNIGHT CALL, INC.

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

Physical Location:

4694 Platt Springs Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

Founder — Dr. Wim Malgo (1922–92)

International Editor — René Malgo

Executive Editor — Arno Froese

Contributing Authors — Norbert Lieth,
Wilfred Hahn, Dr. Ron J. Bigalke,
Johannes Pflaum, Samuel
Rindlisbacher, René Malgo,
Stephan Beitzke and Thomas Lieth

Layout Designer: Michelle Kim • *Text Typists:* Joel Froese and Susi Steiger

• *Copy Editor:* Kimberly Farmer • *Customer Service:* Andrea
Giles, Kimberly Farmer, Debbie Hale

• *General Manager:* Simon Froese • *Production Manager:* Brian Corbett

• *Pre-Press:* Alec Rucker • *Pressroom:* James D. Bond, Jeff Bowers
and Chad Vining • *Post Press:* Teresa Vining, Melissa Martin, Andrea
Giles, Cyndal Sweet, Stone Hughes and Debbie Hale

• *Special Order:* Andrea Giles • *German-English Translators:* Barbara
Lavery, Melanie Makin and Helga Tirrell

• *Webmasters:* Ricardo Rempel and Matias Steiger

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

USA, \$28.95 • Canada, \$34.50 • All other countries, \$48

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRY

Please send your new address and the name and address *exactly* as it appears on this magazine or envelope for best service. Please send all changes and inquiries directly to our US address.

MAILING ADDRESS

USA and Canada:

PO Box 84309

Lexington, SC 29073

PHONE

Toll free phone: 1-800-845-2420

Local and International: +1 (803) 755-0733

WEBSITE

midnightcall.com

INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

"Mitternachtsruf" (German) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Middernachtsroep" (Dutch) Postbus 193, 3940 AD Doorn, Netherlands; "L'Appel de Minuit" (French) Ringwiesenstrasse 12a, 8600 Dübendorf, Switzerland; "Chamada de Meia Noite" (Portuguese) Obra Missionaria Chamada de Meia Noite, Caixa Postal 1688, 90001-970 Porto Alegre RS, Brazil; "Llamada de Medianoche" (Spanish) PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073; "CDM Italia" (Italian) Via Monte Rosa 88 D, IT 10155 Torino TO; "Ejfeji Kialtas" (Hungarian) HU 1135 Budapest, Pálóc utca 2; "Miezul Noptii" (Romanian) O.P. 3, CP. 136, 310540 Arad, Romania

OUR TASK

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

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

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day, 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-tribulation appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

WE BELIEVE in the immortality of our souls and the resurrection of our bodies, and in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.



UNTIL HE COMES

Norbert Lieth

What does the Lord's
Supper tell us from a
biblical perspective,
and what does it say
regarding the
expectation of the
Lord's imminent
return?



In 1 Corinthians 11:26, the Apostle Paul writes, “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come.” From these words of instruction, we can draw seven conclusions for our lives.

Two Features Until He Comes

The Apostle Paul didn’t receive the Lord’s Supper from the other Apostles, but from the Lord Himself in a separate revelation. So, he introduces the Lord’s Supper in this way: “I have received of the Lord...” (v. 23). Therefore, Paul, for his part, is narrating the Lord’s Supper for the Church. He continues to write, “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come.”

This addition is not irrelevant for the Church. We should always be oriented toward the Lord’s return. The Lord’s Supper reminds us of the first coming of Jesus, who instituted it as a New Covenant shortly before His death on the Cross. Even then the Lord said, “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Matt 26:29).

Celebrating the Lord’s Supper can remind us of this promise, which should remain alive in us. This makes it clear that the Lord’s Supper isn’t limited to the first church, but will always be valid.

Corpus Christi and the Lord’s Supper

On Corpus Christi (usually celebrated in June), many Catholics worldwide march through the streets in solemn processions. Although most Western Catholics no longer believe in it according to surveys, these marchers are making a public confession of what is officially one of the Roman Catholic Church’s most important dogmas: the so-called real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the sacrament. The Catholic Church believes that the bread (the host) and the wine are changed into the body and blood of the glorified God-Man, Jesus Christ, as an act of divine grace through the Eucharistic Prayer. The praying priest acts as Christ’s representative. Outwardly, the elements are still perceived as bread and wine, but in essence, they have become Christ. This is why devout Catholics also worship and venerate the host. This doctrine of transubstantiation is generally rejected by Protestants, and is one of the most important points of doctrine that separates the Catholic Church from Reformed and evangelical churches.

Until He Comes

“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

The Church Body Until He Comes

“For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread” (1 Cor 10:17).

The Church was formed at Pentecost, but still on fully Jewish soil and within the framework of Judaism. This is what Jesus was promising when he said, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt 16:18). At this point, there is no mention of the Church as the body of Christ, consisting of Jews and Gentiles. This was still a secret until Ephesians had been written, and was primarily revealed to Paul.

When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, he wasn’t yet speaking of the Church as His body, but of His own physical body. “Take, eat; this is my body” (Matt 26:26b).

As the events recorded in Acts progressed, the Gentiles were added to the Jewish church. God Himself foreshadowed this by showing Peter the vision of a four-cornered cloth being lowered from heaven three times, containing unclean animals (Acts 10). This addition took place in the physical world, through the subsequent conversion of Cornelius and his household. So, they experienced their own Pentecost as a

sign that something completely new had arisen, which had not been made known before (Acts 11).

It was at precisely this time that Paul, the Apostle to the nations, was being converted and called. The center of ministry also moved from Jerusalem to Antioch, where those who believed in Jesus were called Christians for the first time (Acts 11:26). Consequently, Christianity as we know it today emerged from there. It consists of Jews and Gentiles, which represent the one body of Christ and form a “new man” (Eph 2:15-16). We celebrate this bodily unity in communion with Jesus through the Lord’s Supper, until Christ returns. Paul was appointed to pass this on to the Church body.

After Jesus returns for His Church (the Rapture), the Lord will turn back to Israel as a nation (Rom 11). Then, when He appears in glory, He will again drink of the fruit of the vine in His kingdom. The Lord’s Supper gives us a wonderful focus on both our Lord’s death and His return: first for the Church, and later for Israel and the nations.

Unity Until He Comes

The Apostle warns regarding the Lord’s Supper, “For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he wasn't yet speaking of the Church as His body, but of His own physical body. "Take, eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26b).



that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it" (1 Cor 11:18).

There were divisions in Corinth, and cliques were forming. The well-to-do despised those who weren't so well off. Some ate their fill early, even becoming drunk, and the others remained hungry. Some boasted, and others were ashamed. It was customary to go over to the Lord's Supper together after a so-called Agape Feast (love feast). That meal was named for love, but in reality, it demonstrated anything but.

At that time, there were also converted slaves, who were not granted

access like the rich and respected. As far as the Church body is concerned, it is one and there is no longer any difference: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28).

This unity must be maintained by all means until Jesus returns.

In our churches, how quickly small groups emerge which set themselves apart; Christians who set themselves above others and act lovelessly. How quickly people are pushed to the periphery, and how quickly others are

Until He Comes

Jesus died for us wicked creatures so that we could live. He took our sins upon Himself and carried them away. Whoever believes in Jesus no longer has a “past,” but a glorious future. Jesus is returning because He rose from the dead.

demeaned. Let’s be alert to our unity, especially in this exciting, changing time when there are so many opinions. We don’t have to agree on everything, but we can remain one by having the mind of Christ.

Salvation Remains the Central Message Until He Comes

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till he come” (1 Cor 11:26).

Jesus died for us wicked creatures so that we could live. He took our sins upon Himself and carried them away. Whoever believes in Jesus no longer has a “past,” but a glorious future. Jesus is returning because He rose from the dead. We were justified through His resurrection, and in His resurrection lies the promise that those who believe in Him will also be resurrected.

This is the central message of Christianity, which we must always uphold and never lose sight of. We are called to remember it until He returns. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper is itself a message of proclamation. The message of His death on the Cross, His resurrection, and His Second Coming are inseparable.

The Last Supper Is a Fulfillment of Biblical Prophecy Until He Comes

Just over 2,000 years ago, the Lord gave the command to observe the Lord’s Supper. It’s been celebrated ever since on a wide variety of occasions, in different places and at different times, over the course of two millennia. This is what characterizes the Church: it has been validated by the Lord, which makes biblical prophecy so valuable.

Jesus said that heaven and earth would pass away, but not His words (Matt 24:35). The Lord’s Supper clearly speaks, and is a wonderful indication of the reliability of our Lord’s Word.

People who put their hope in others are disappointed by them. Ideologies come apart, the words of great men vanish, and promises crumble into dust. But the Word of our God lives on unabated. Those who build upon it do well.

A New Covenant Until He Comes

“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Cor 11:25).

Before the Lord’s Supper was established, Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples as a symbol of the Old

Let's be alert to our unity, especially in this exciting, changing time when there are so many opinions. We don't have to agree on everything, but we can remain one by having the mind of Christ.

Covenant. After all, He fulfilled the whole of the law. Then He instituted the Lord's Supper and, in a manner of speaking, the New Covenant. This New Covenant had already been promised to the people of Israel in Jeremiah 31. But because Israel had rejected the Lord, the nations have become His beneficiaries (Heb 8). When the Lord returns, the remnant of Israel will also be introduced into this covenant (Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 11:19-20).

The New Covenant is based on His blood, and is therefore better than the old one that Moses instituted. We are committed to this New Covenant as a Church until He returns. That's why Paul also says, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (2 Cor 3:6).

Take His Word Seriously Until He Comes

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (1 Cor 11:28).

We want to continue taking our Lord's Word seriously. Because the Corinthians were causing divisions, drawing distinctions, and turning the love feast into its opposite at that time, God's judgment came upon some of



them. They had wrongly discerned the body of the Lord—which is one—and God did not tolerate it (v. 29).

We want to courageously hold fast to the Lord's Word, especially in our time, when so many radical changes are taking place that are against God's Word. And, despite our differences, we want to maintain a spiritual bond with every brother and sister. But we must force out clear heresies and anything that would lead us away from God's Word.

We want to persevere until He comes.

(MR0621/1170)



WORLD ECONOMIC CONTROL PROPHESED: LIGHTNING DEVELOPMENTS – PART 2



We continue our three-part study of Joseph's life and his prophetic foreshadowing of worldwide conditions in the last days. To this point in the story, Joseph had responded to the first pleas of starving Egyptians. Joseph collected ALL the money that was found in Egypt. Joseph took every last penny in return for grain he sold, so that people might eat and be saved from the famine.

By Wilfred Hahn

He deposited all of this money into Pharaoh's coffers. Joseph then controlled all payment specie (money) in Egypt.

What happened next? Predictably, once all the monetary savings of the people had been depleted (ending up in Pharaoh's coffers), the people then faced a cash-crunch—what Wall Street practitioners today call a “liquidity crisis.” There was no more transactional specie (cash) circulating in the land after that point.

Thereafter, from that time on, people could only barter.

The famine continued for another year.

At this point, the populace again had no grain or money left. What to do next? They needed to replenish their cupboards.

They again begged Joseph to give them food. What did Joseph do in response? He provided handouts. Actually, no, that would be a false

statement. Truly, what did he do next? He demanded the people's livestock.

In an agrarian society, as existed during that time, livestock represented assets that generated a large part of household income. Consider also that in that era, livestock was the equivalent of today's industrial capital. They were the equivalent to our factories and transportation systems today. Horses, cattle, sheep, and other animals in Joseph's time were the means to the production of wool, butter, and many other products. What was the result?

Here is what the hungry people did: “[...] they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, their sheep and goats, their cattle and donkeys. And he brought them through that year with food in exchange for all their livestock” (Genesis 47:17).

While it is true that Joseph succeeded in saving many lives, his mission was not performed entirely in the spirit of a merciful rescue operation. Egyptians and others seeking to buy grain, had to virtually sell their souls and freedoms to gain access to grain.



Now Joseph—on behalf of Pharaoh—was in control of ALL the capital stock of Egypt. Joseph had secured ownership of the land-based transportation system (donkeys and horses) and the productive capacity of factories (livestock). He could now sell the outputs of milk and meat, as well as transportation services.

Pharaoh had become a countrywide rentier.

However, the takeover by the state didn't stop there. Relentlessly, the famine continued yet another year.

People needed more grain, and they again became desperate. What were they forced to do? They now said to Joseph: “Buy us and our land in exchange for food, and we with our land will be in bondage to Pharaoh” (verse 19). What did Joseph do next?

He reduced the people to complete servitude. He took all their land. Now, everything from one end of Egypt to the other became the property of the state and under the control of one man—Pharaoh (with the exception of a small amount of land that was owned by the priests and special elites).

At this point, the populace owned absolutely nothing and were totally enslaved. They

probably remained as such until the end of their lives.

Will the Real Joseph Stand Up?

Are there two Josephs mentioned in the Bible, or are we dealing with the one and the same?

Many see Joseph as an Old Testament picture of Christ. We would not disagree. He suffered so that he might be able to save his family in Egypt; to go ahead and, like Jesus, prepare a place for them (John 14:3). It is also noted that Joseph is the only major person in the Israelite lineage of Christ found in the Bible, of which no character flaw or sin is explicitly mentioned.

Joseph surely was a sinner like every other human being, so why are his sins not mentioned? Yet, we do discover that through his errors, this instrument of God—like all the



People who have power and/or the opportunity, will most often choose wealth ... and more wealth. That is certainly the case in our day. Elites and plutocrats become ever richer.



others from Abraham to King David—has bequeathed lessons to mankind that are very relevant for our day.

An impartial examination of Joseph's life reveals that the results of his actions were not entirely beneficial, nor his techniques virtuous. That statement will likely strike the reader as disrespectful. Should this be said of Joseph, a venerated person mentioned in the Bible?

While it is true that Joseph succeeded in saving many lives, his mission was not performed entirely in the spirit of a merciful rescue operation. Egyptians and others seeking to buy grain, had to virtually sell their souls and freedoms to gain access to grain.

We note that Joseph did not donate the grain to needy people, but instead required payment.

Think of it. People were starving, and he asked for money for grain. Few Christian aid organizations today would think they are fulfilling Christ's command to "feed the poor" (Luke 11:41) or their enemies (Romans 12:20) if they were profiting from their ministries.

To the contrary, the entire ownership structure of the land of Egypt was changed virtually overnight from private ownership to vassalage. With the exception of a few Egyptian priests, the immediate family of Joseph, and probably some other high-ranking elites—the entire land of Egypt came under the direct ownership of Pharaoh.

Moreover, we are told that as a result of Joseph's policies, a system of onerous taxation resulted that is "still in force today" (Genesis 47:26). Indeed, government taxation is the norm today.

Just imagine what would happen if this type of "absolute" power that Joseph attained for Pharaoh, were given to a diabolical entity or person in our day? Indeed, the Bible does clearly indicate that just such an individual is prophesied to appear in the last days.

Thankfully, Joseph was a person whom God prospered and blessed in almost everything that he did (Genesis 39:2). Yet, as mentioned, the Bible remains silent in its judgment of his techniques. It will be evident to any reader that the consequences of Joseph's actions were not entirely ideal.

As such, a major conundrum must be noted in this story: People were saved from hunger

There is one other lesson. Just as Mammon and God are incompatible, so are charity and profit. One cannot give equal weight to both. On earth, at least, money and wealth eventually win out.

on the one hand, yet taken captive in the process on the other. It is clear that the whole saga turned out to be a giant opportunity for the secular Pharaoh to gain power and wealth at the expense of those in need.

But, did this need to occur? Joseph could have saved everyone from hunger without making Pharaoh an extremely wealthy potentate, and everyone else an oppressed vassal. So, why did he not choose to do so?

We can recognize here the classic problem of mankind. People who have power and/or the opportunity, will most often choose wealth ... and more wealth. That is certainly the case in our day. Elites and plutocrats become ever richer.

There is one other lesson. Just as Mammon and God are incompatible, so are charity and profit. One cannot give equal weight to both. On earth, at least, money and wealth eventually win out.

Other Prophetic Parallels to Today

It may well be asked: If Joseph's actions did indeed save millions of lives, then what does anything else matter? Wasn't the trade-off worth it—putting entire populations into vassalage, and even further widening the imbalances of the wealth distribution?

That may appear to be the same type of situation faced by those today, who are making policy decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Should we save everyone from dying from the virus, but completely destroy the global economy and place massive debts upon the shoulders of citizens? How can it be ensured that the stimulus of massive new indebtedness (created by fiat) will be distributed fairly?

Is everyone being forced into economic bondage? Attempts may be made to achieve fairness. But it would be foolishness to believe that mankind's primordial unfaithfulness with money will suddenly turn benevolent. Pharaoh, as we have shown, ended up being super-rich. The same tendency is at work today, especially so when crises are seized as catalysts for major wealth heists and transfers.

Once policymakers begin going down the road of fiat money (Modern Money Theory) and economic interventions, there is no easy return. Temporary government policies and interventions tend to eventually become permanent fixtures. Even Joseph faced this dilemma. After serving Pharaoh for 26 years—including 12 years after the famine was over—he claimed that he was still saving lives (Genesis 50:20). Here we note that a temporary government policy measure will tend to become a permanent one.

Another specter of the Joseph story is that “[...] all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world” (Genesis 41:57). Here, in the first book of the Bible, we find the very roots of modern-day “globalization.”



If our estimates are correct, we can conclude that it required a three-and-one-half year period to bring the entire world under the control of one system, under the authority of one man.

The whole world converged together for reasons of “bread” (a euphemism for “money”). Egypt had become the world’s commercial center, and its grain became the senior currency of that epoch.

Pharaoh came to this position of controlling the entire world, by dispensing the means of obtaining bread and prosperity. Here we see that the incentive of gaining “bread” had been harnessed by one centralized system ... even one man. We may see that aspects of that process are again sweeping the entire world today, under the guise of the promise of more bread for the entire world.

An Endtime Trap Foreshadowed

How long did it take for the entire known world of Joseph’s time to come under economic bondage to Pharaoh? According to this writer’s calculations, once the drought began, this process required only a period of three-and-one-half years.

Three one-year periods are indicated, and an additional half year is deduced. Explicitly mentioned to last a year are these two yearly stages: Livestock was used as payment for one year of grain supply (Genesis 47:17). Another year was survived by giving up ownership of land and their “bodies” (verse 18).

What about the period before these two yearly spans? In response to the first request for grain, Joseph took all the money in the land (verses 13-15). We judge that the monetary transactions

could not have purchased more than a year’s worth of grain consumption. As it was in those times, most wealth was represented by livestock and land. Transactional money did not play as significant a role in the livelihoods of people as today.

As already reviewed, Joseph did not buy the excess grain during the plenty period in the first place. Therefore, the seven years of plenty would not have produced a big cash hoard in people’s pockets, which may have been sufficient to purchase an adequate grain supply for all year.

With this logic, we so far count the duration of three years on the road to serfdom for Egypt’s population.

We next note that the Nile Basin at times supported two grain harvests each year. As such, it would be logical to assume that people would only have laid aside provisions of grain for one half-year, this being long enough to last until the next harvest. That suggests that six months of drought would have first taken place before food shortages began to occur. As of that point, money would have been used to purchase the next year’s grain supply.

If our estimates are correct, we can conclude that it required a three-and-one-half year period to bring the entire world under the control of one system, under the authority of one man.

In the final part of this series, we focus on the prophetic indications of global economic bondage of the entire world. What can yet be expected to occur in the future? (MC)

Got Truth?

DR. RON J. BIGALKE



***A Few Good Men* is a 1992 American legal drama featuring an ensemble cast. The film is focused upon the court martial of two U.S. Marines who are charged with the murder of a fellow Marine, and the challenges their lawyers must overcome as they prepare a case to defend their clients.**

Tom Cruise is one of the stars; he plays the role of Lieutenant (junior grade) Daniel Kaffee. Cruise's character receives the case because he is both inexperienced and unenthusiastic, with a proclivity for plea bargains.

The two Marines insist they heeded a "code red" order (a violent extrajudicial punishment) from their platoon commander and that they never intended to murder their fellow Marine. Jack Nicholson plays the role of Colonel Nathan R. Jessup, who

is ultimately responsible for ordering the "code red" as a means of discipline. One climactic scene has Nicholson's character (Jessup) called as a witness to be interrogated by Kaffee. Jessup spars with notable composure to Kaffee's questioning, but is unnerved when the Cruise character identifies a contradiction in his testimony.

Jessup becomes irate and disgusted by what he perceives as Kaffee's disrespect toward the Marines. Nicholson's character extols the military's importance and his

Got Truth?

Most people would say they want to be told the truth. Certainly, no one finds pleasure in being told a lie. And yet the truth can be unsettling to the degree that some do not want to hear it.

own worth for national security.

Recognizing his interrogation is failing, Kaffee asks Jessup directly if he ordered the “code red.”

Cruise’s character wants

answers and yells, “I want the truth!”

Jessup retorts, “You can’t handle

the truth!” Second John is written for those *who can* handle the truth.

Most people would say they want to be told the truth. Certainly, no one finds pleasure in being told a lie. And yet the truth can be unsettling to the degree that some do not want to hear it. Human nature is such that people do not like being told anything they believe or do is wrong. Jesus promised, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32).

Practice the Truth

(2 John 1-6) Second John is addressed “to the chosen lady [a local church] and her children [the believers constituting that church].” The church was “chosen” in that it consisted of elect persons: believers in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The doctrine of election is a component of the greater concept of predestination, which is the sovereign determination and fore-



knowledge of God. Whenever the word election is used in Scripture, it always refers to God’s eternal choosing of those He eventually calls and justifies.

Election is never used in relation to those who perish eternally.

John (the author of this letter) loved this church “in truth” in addition to “all who know the truth” (v. 1). The basis of this love was the truth that believers share in common with one another. Scripture is God’s revelation of truth by means of the Holy Spirit, who impelled erring persons as penmen, yet miraculously superintended them as they wrote, thereby preventing any error or omission. Truth results in an authentic, Christlike community and unites believers (cf. John 17:6-23). “The truth” is God’s revelation in Scripture, the Holy Bible. Truth is unchanging “and will be with us forever” (2 John 2). The trustworthiness of Scripture means it is credible and worthy of belief. God gave His Word to reveal Himself and His will for humanity. Scripture makes errant humans wise unto salvation, and hearing and heeding it will certainly grant a person all the strength and wisdom needed for life. Truth does not change from age to age or from generation to generation. The same Holy Spirit who enabled

the human authors of the Bible to record what God desired to have written as Scripture, also permanently “abides” with genuine believers.

“Grace, mercy and peace” are the qualities that result from “truth and love” (v. 3). A distinctly Christlike character is developed when truth and love exist together in a harmonious manner (cf. Eph 4:15). “Grace” is God’s unmerited favor. “Mercy” is compassion for those who are guilty and wretched. “Peace” is the harmony that results from God’s grace and mercy. All three blessings are “from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.”

The joy of a pastor is knowing that church members are “walking in truth” (v. 4). The truth is not merely something to be believed with the mind, but also is to be practiced in everyday behavior. Jesus was the living incarnation of truth, so it can be expected that His followers also live in conformity to truthfulness.

The command to “love one another” is not “a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning” (v. 5). Continuing to walk in obedience to biblical truth means continuing to love fellow believers. This is an important admonition because false teachers will encourage departure from what has been “heard from the beginning” (v. 6). First John 2:7 nearly states the same truth: “Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the

beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.” The integrity of a believer’s life is evident in love for fellow believers (John 13:35; 1 John 4:20-21).

To love God is to “walk according to His commandments” (2 John 6). Genuine believers express love for God by obeying His commandments, in addition to loving others. God’s “commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3b), for they are what is best for all people. The principal end of humanity is “to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever” (*Westminster Catechism Q1*). Those who love also obey! Love is essentially obeying God (1 John 2:3).

Protect the Truth

(2 John 7-13) Second John now emphasizes the importance of the doctrine that Jesus is God’s Son (i.e., He is both God and Man). The immediate problem in 2nd John is “many deceivers . . . who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh” (v. 7). Jesus’ “coming in the flesh” means He truly did take full humanity upon Himself and lived a truly human life.

In taking humanity upon Himself, Jesus did not experience any loss of His divine nature, for He continued to be fully God. Scripture insists that Jesus Christ continues to be fully God and fully man. Jesus was, is, and always will be God. He is the eternal Word of God who appeared in human form (John 1:1-14). Jesus is truly

The test of biblical fidelity is not what a person thinks or feels, or even what someone else has done or said; rather, it is: what does the Holy Bible reveal?

and properly God, while being truly and properly human. The two genuine natures of deity and humanity are united in one person, yet each of the two genuine natures is properly distinct in that person. The Bible declares that those who deny Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh are deceivers and have the spirit of antichrist. First John 2:18-23 and 4:3 previously warned against such false teaching. The ultimate fulfillment of that spirit is the Antichrist, who will lead humanity in a last days rebellion against God.

Scripture affirms the need to be watchful concerning false teaching (v. 8). There is “a full reward” for doing so, and loss for compromise! Always test all teachings by Scripture. Even test your knowledge and personal encounters by the Holy Bible, but never examine Scripture on the basis of experience. “Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God” (v. 9a).

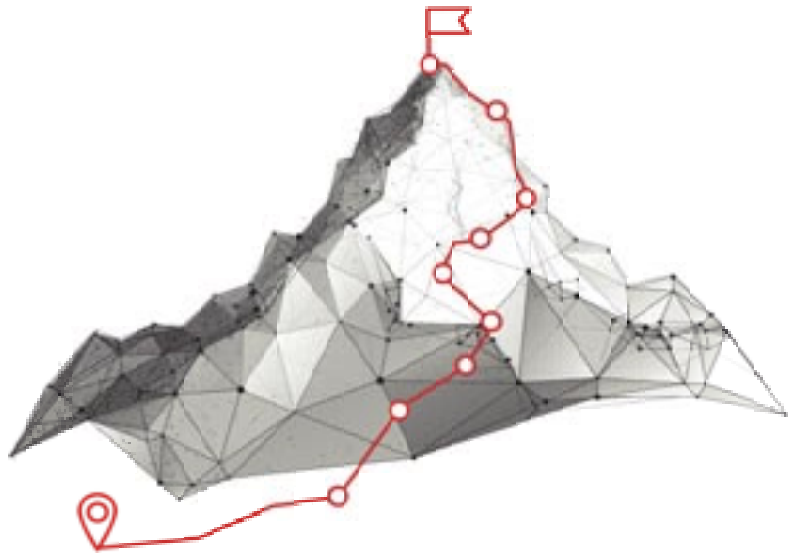
The test of biblical fidelity is not what a person thinks or feels, or even what someone else has done or said; rather, it is: what does the Holy Bible reveal? “The one who abides in the teaching [of Scripture] . . . has both the Father and the Son” (v. 9b). A vital personal relationship with God is the result of living in accordance with the truth of the Bible—not merely affirming correct doctrine (orthodoxy) without a change of heart or practical

outworking of those beliefs (orthopraxis).

The statement, “do not receive him [the false teacher] into your house” (v. 10) means not giving an opportunity to promote what is false with others of the particular local church (“the chosen lady”), who may be influenced in a negative manner. Even giving “a greeting” in public may be regarded by others as giving approval to false views concerning Jesus, and would be participating in the “evil deeds” of the deceivers (v. 11). Scripture forbids giving aid or encouragement to those whose teachings are destructive. While one does not give approval to the false teachings, it is still necessary to demonstrate concern for their personal relationship with God. Protecting the truth does not mean being intolerant and unloving.

John had more things to write in his brief letter, but ceased doing so in “hope” of a personal visit to “speak face to face.” A personal encounter is always preferable to “paper and ink,” for there would be “joy” in that “face to face” interaction (v. 12). The concluding reference to “the children of your chosen sister” (v. 13) is a reminder to guard against false teaching, *for believers in Jesus Christ are more than just one particular group*. Faith is living in an authentic, Christlike community, not isolation. (1214)

What Awaits Us



NATHANAEL WINKLER

The current state of the world is causing many Christians to reflect. How should we be conducting ourselves? What can and cannot be known from the prophetic Word about what's to come? Second Thessalonians gives the answer.

More and more believers are worried about whether the anti-Christian kingdom is just around the corner. In light of the current state of the world, the Apostle Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians (and the second in particular) are a helpful guide.

The church in Thessalonica was established through the Apostle Paul's ministry over a period of about three weeks. Soon after this, Christians who were still young in the faith were already facing persecution. They nevertheless remained firm in their confession and moral conduct: "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia" (1 Thess 1:6-7).

Their love grew strong (2 Thess 1:3-4; cf. 1 Thess 1:3; 4:9), and that made the church strong: "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing" (2 Thess 1:3).

Regardless of what the situation was or how the individual church member was feeling about it at the time, there was unity. Love came before all else. However, because of the difficult circumstances the Thessalonian Christians found themselves in, confusion and uncertainty were arising. So, Paul wrote the first letter to address questions that were already circulating among the Thessalonians, due to those who had already died (1 Thess 4:13-18). Paul encouraged them that no matter what happened, "then

What Awaits Us

The church in Thessalonica was established over a period of about three weeks through the Apostle Paul's ministry.



we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words” (vv. 17-18; cf. 1 Thess 5:1-8).

The reason for the second letter was that the fire of persecution was causing the Thessalonians to think that the Day of the Lord had come (2 Thess 2:2-3). Paul began this epistle with extraordinary encouragement for persecuted Christians: “Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering” (2 Thess 1:4-5).

To the Apostle, these sufferings were even a sign of God's favor! The faithful Thessalonians were being attacked because they were light. The church itself, by contrast, was surprised by the sharp winds of persecution. Because of this, members were allowing false teachers to

deceive them into thinking that the Day of the Lord was already here, and that the Lord's second coming was imminent. This caused some to stop living their everyday lives or working, since such things were supposedly no longer worthwhile: “For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living” (2 Thess 3:11-12).

So, it was into these circumstances that Paul wrote about the Lord's return, using brief words to clarify what he had already said in greater detail when he had been with them in Thessalonica. As a result, his remarks leave many questions unanswered for the modern reader. But we can state the following, which is as true for us today as it was for the Thessalonians then.

In chapter 2, verse 1, the Apostle writes, “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him...” He uses the same words that Christ did in His end-time discourses, and addresses two events with relation to the Day of the Lord.

First, the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The same Greek root word is also used four times in Matthew 24 in reference to Jesus' return.

Second, being united or gathered up to Him. The Greek word for this can also be found in the Lord's end-time discourses in Matthew 24:31: “And he will send out his angels with a

“Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.”

loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

This is followed by the warning: “Not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come” (2 Thess 2:2). Again, we find the same Greek word for “alarm” in this quote from Jesus: “And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet” (Matt 24:6; cf. Mark 13:7).

There are three things that Christians should not allow to confuse them: a spirit, a word, or a letter purported to be from the Apostles. In other words, there is no authority that could have told believers that the Day of Christ is here. By “Day of Christ,” Paul (and other translations) means the Day of the Lord, the day of judgment already announced under the Old Covenant. For Jesus Christ is the judge appointed by God over the living and the dead (Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom 2:16; Rev 19:11-21).

Paul continues: “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction” (2 Thess 2:3). Before the Day of the Lord arrives, something else absolutely must come first. Two things, in fact.

First, the rebellion. The Greek term could denote one that is military, political, or religious. In this case, it means a conscious turning

away from Christ in a world that was once familiar with Him. The Lord speaks about this in His end-time discourses: “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matt 24:9-13).

Before the end—before the Day of the Lord—many people will take offense. At what? At God, at His ordinances, and ultimately His Gospel. It indicates a decline in Christianity, which can also be observed today in the gender confusion or LGBTQ ideologies being promoted by countries in which Christianity was once influential.

Second, the man of lawlessness will be revealed in the course of this apostasy from Christianity. The Bible also calls him “the prince who is to come” (Dan 9:26), the little horn (Dan 7:8), the beast (Rev 13:2-10), and the Antichrist. What do we know about him?

Paul writes that the Antichrist is the one “who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God ... And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The com-

What Awaits Us

Today, we're seeing more and more how such total control really is possible.

ing of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved" (2 Thess 2:4, 8-10).

This mysterious figure is someone who also represents an entire system. In Revelation 13, we see two antichrist figures: the beast out of the sea (vv. 1-10), and the beast out of the earth (vv. 11-18). Verses 16 and 17 make it clear that there is also a system connected with the Antichrist's rise to power: "Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name" (cf. Rev 17:12-13).

Today, we're seeing more and more how such total control is really possible. Taking current developments into consideration, as well as what the Bible says about the Antichrist's system, things could become truly terrifying. We could fall into the same trap that some of the Thessalonians did, folding our hands and living disorderly lives, since taking responsibility for our actions and living in an orderly way is no longer worth it. But Thomas Ice and Timothy Demy admonish: "Biblical teaching regarding the Antichrist is not given to make us anxious, but to make us aware. Awareness of God's victory over Antichrist and all evil gives assurance to believers that both the present and the future are firmly in the grasp of God. We should be concerned about the Antichrist, not just

because the Bible speaks of him or out of curiosity, but because he provides insight into the mystery of lawlessness that is already at work (2 Thessalonians 2:7). The pattern of evil which will be clearly played out in the future and personified in the Antichrist should be our concern, so that we can skillfully resist evil in the present" (*The Truth About the Antichrist and His Kingdom*, pp. 40-41).

Bible teacher John Phillips writes about the person of the Antichrist: "The Antichrist will be an attractive and charismatic figure, a genius, a demon-controlled, devil-taught charmer of men. He will have answers to the horrendous problems of mankind. He will be all things to all men: a political statesman, a social lion, a financial wizard, an intellectual giant, a religious deceiver, a masterful orator, a gifted organizer. He will be Satan's masterpiece of deception, the world's false messiah. With boundless enthusiasm the masses will follow him and readily enthrone him in their hearts as the world's savior and god" (*Exploring the Future: A Comprehensive Guide to Bible Prophecy*, p. 272).

According to Paul, the Antichrist will sit in the temple of God (v. 4). It could be said, like father, like son! His "father" is the devil: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north'" (Isa 14:12-13).

Gender confusion or LGBTQ ideologies are being promoted by countries in which Christianity was once influential.



The son of perdition, ruled by the devil, thus wants to reveal himself where God reveals Himself. Will this place be a future temple in Jerusalem? Some interpreters assume so, but it's important to note that Paul always considered and referred to the Church as the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21).

Next, he writes: “And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way” (vv. 6-7).

Who is doing the restraining? The text doesn't say! The Thessalonians knew because Paul had already spoken to them about it: “Do you not remember that when I was with you I told you these things?” (v. 5).

Interpreters have put forth many suggestions: the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Archangel Michael, the Gospel that has yet to be proclaimed to the world, the host of angels, the condition of the people of Israel, the bondage of Satan, the providence of God, and many more. *The MacArthur Study Bible*

explains: “The power that holds back Satan from bringing the final apostasy and unveiling his Satan-possessed false Christ must be divinely supernatural. It must be God's power in operation that holds back Satan, so that the man of sin, the son of destruction, won't be able to come until God permits it by removing the restraining power. The reason for the restraint was so that the Antichrist would be revealed at God's appointed time and no sooner.”

Whoever or whatever this restrainer may be, until the Lord comes: “So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word” (2 Thess 2:15-17).

In the end, here is what Paul says to the afflicted Christians in Thessalonica: No matter how bad it gets, “As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good” (2 Thess 3:13). This also applies to us. There are many things that we can't know, and some may frighten and distress us. But we should never tire of loving and doing good—following the example of the Thessalonians.

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all ... The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all” (2 Thess 3:16, 18).

(MR0222/1212)



WORLD FOCUS



Churches Face Clergy Shortage

For eight years, Keith Mudiappa accepted the challenges of serving as pastor at his nondenominational Minneapolis church—the 70-hour workweeks, the low pay, the calls from parishioners at all hours—in exchange for the joy of seeing people come to the faith.

But the rewards of the job were tough to come by during nearly two years of online-only services. Late last year, Mr. Mudiappa quit and moved with his wife and children to Florida. He now works at a bank.

Though no national data about clergy resignations exists, an October study from the Barna Group, which studies faith in the U.S., found that 38% of pastors were seriously considering leaving full-time ministry, up from 29% in January 2021. Among pastors under age 45, nearly half were considering quitting.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at least 10% of its roughly 120 churches in Montana are looking for a pastor—and still more don't have a pastor but can't afford to hire one. Some are beginning to explore sharing a pastor with other mainline denominations, including Methodists and Presbyterians.



Clergy leaving the pulpit now have more options than they did a quarter-century ago. In addition to those making wholesale career changes, some go into chaplain roles. Others are moving to nonprofits, which usually have more limited hours and emotional expectations.

Mr. Mudiappa said he works regular hours now in Florida and earns almost 39% more. His wife, who also worked at the church in Minneapolis, can stay home with their two children.

“I was always on the phone. You feel guilty spending time with your family, because there are a lot of other needs,” he said. “I’m enjoying weekends now. The weekends used to be chaos.”

-*www.wsj.com*, 21 February 2022

Commentary: Seems like the USA is following in the footsteps of Europe. Wikipedia states: “In the 2005 Eurobarometer survey 23% of the Swedish population said that they don't believe there is any sort of spirit, God or life force and in the 2010 Eurobarometer

survey 34% said the same.” The rich and very successful European nations show the least interest in religion, while the not-so-successful nations in the south and east claim a greater percentage of religious faith among their citizens.

A study by ReligiousNews.com found that 34 Protestant denominations closed 4,500 churches in 2019, but 3,000 new congregations were started.

When one takes a closer look at the various studies and statistics, it becomes clear that most of the information does not represent the true Church of Jesus Christ—the body of born-again believers. Despite the closing of many churches, it is not a determining factor in growth of the real Church. Decisive are the Lord's own words: “I will build my church.” He then adds: “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The body of believers is not affected by church closings.

We take this opportunity to admonish all true believers to pray for their pastors.




7706

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

WORLD

Military Spending at Record Levels

Global military spending rose again in 2021, setting new records as Russia continued to beef up its military prior to its invasion of Ukraine, researchers said, predicting the trend would continue in Europe in particular.

 “In 2021 military spending rose for the seventh consecutive time to reach \$2.1 trillion. That is the highest figure we have ever had,” Diego Lopes da Silva, senior researcher at Sipri, told AFP.

As tensions have increased in Europe, more NATO countries have stepped up spending.

Eight member countries last year reached the targeted two percent of GDP for spending, one fewer than the year before but up from only two in 2014, Sipri said.

China, the world’s second largest military spender at an estimated \$293 billion, boosted its expenditure by 4.7 percent, marking the 27th straight year of increased spending.

The country’s military buildup has in turn caused its regional neighbors to beef up their military budgets, with Japan adding \$7 billion, an increase of 7.3 percent—the highest annual increase since 1972.

Australia also spent four percent more on its military, reaching \$31.8 billion in 2021.

India, the world’s third largest spender at \$76.6 billion, also increased funding in 2021, but by a more modest 0.9 percent.

Military spending worldwide Valentin RAKOVSKY AFP



The UK took over the number four spot, with a three percent increase in military spending to \$68.4 billion, replacing Saudi Arabia which instead decreased spending by 17 percent to an estimated \$55.6 billion.

-news.yahoo.com, 22 April 2022

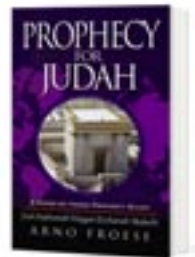
Commentary: Why the significant increase in military spending? The obvious reason is Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. But in our opinion, the real reason is namely the unknown; particularly in view of the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons.

A number of reputable Christian sources point to the battle of Armageddon. We, however, do not think so. Why? Because peace, prosperity, and security form a trinity needed to unite the world. This is already the case in the so-called Western (European) world. Peace, prosperity, and security are needed to prepare humanity to accept the ultimate world leader—Antichrist.

In the meantime, however, the world will continue to foreshadow what Joel 3:9-10 says: “Proclaim ye

this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.” 7743


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



 **EU**

New Regulations on Big Tech

European policymakers reached a deal in Brussels on a sweeping new law to force the world’s largest tech companies to more aggressively police their platforms for illegal content, paving the way for one of the most expansive regulations to date to address a broad range of harms caused by social networks, shopping websites and search engines.

 The agreement solidifies a two-bill plan, which also includes the Digital Markets Act, a competition bill that would establish new rules to prevent “gatekeepers” from abusing their power to squash smaller rivals. Both bills await votes from the Parliament and policymakers from the 27 countries in the Union, which are widely viewed as a formality.

“The Digital Services Act will make sure that what is illegal offline is also seen & dealt with as illegal online—not

(continued next page)

Big Tech (continued from page 27)

as a slogan, as reality! And always protecting freedom of expression!” tweeted Margrethe Vestager, Europe’s top digital enforcer.

Washington lawmakers have failed to pass comprehensive tech legislation despite years of promises of a crackdown on the industry as Apple, Facebook, Google and Amazon amassed power and influence for decades with minimal regulation.

The deal on the Digital Services Act is a blow to Google, Facebook and other major tech companies, which have aggressively lobbied against some aspects of the legislation. These companies could face fines of up to 6 percent of global revenue if they break the rules.

-www.msn.com, 22 April 2022

Commentary: This new law attempts to regulate “illegal content ... social networks, shopping websites and search engines.”

Global laws will and must be implemented.

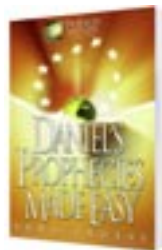
Take, for example, the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), headquartered in Montreal, Canada. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It “codifies the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.” Does it work? Absolutely! Today, one can buy an air-

line ticket to fly virtually anywhere in the world at any time.

Statistica.com reports 38 airline hijackings in 1990, dropping to one in 2005, zero in 2020, and 3 in 2021. What is the reason for the precipitous decline? International cooperation. Strict rules and regulations must be complied with by every airline in the world; otherwise, they are in danger of being red-flagged, meaning their planes cannot land anywhere else, nor will anyone land in their country.

Now, with the digitized global economy, more and more international rules and regulations will be implemented. Where will this lead? Global peace, prosperity, and security.

The prophet Daniel seems to identify the last global rulership: “And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all” (Daniel 11:36-37). That’s in the works today.



7744
(See *Daniel's Prophecies Made Easy*, Item #1057, \$12.)

AUSTRALIA China Warned on Solomon Islands

Scott Morrison says China building a military base on Solomon Islands would be the “red line” for Australia and the United States, but did not say how Australia would respond if it happened.

 There are concerns about a recently signed security agreement between China and Solomon Islands and what it could mean for Australia and other pacific countries, especially if China uses the deal to expand its military presence to the region.

“We won’t be having Chinese military naval bases in our region on our doorstep.”

Mr. Morrison would not say how he would respond if re-elected, if the “red line” was crossed and China did move to establish a military base.

Shadow Treasurer Jim Chalmers flagged that he believed cuts to foreign aid by the government were partly to blame for the controversial deal going ahead, “by being a credible partner on climate change, having a credible climate change policy.”

The government has faced sustained criticism from the opposition about the deal, with Labor arguing that the Coalition should have done more to prevent it, including sending Foreign Minister Marise Payne to Solomon Islands when concerns about the pact first arose last year.

-www.abc.net.au, 23 April 2022

(continued next page)

Solomon Islands (continued from page 28)

Commentary: Solomon Islands has a population of just 702,000 people. Religiously, 73.4% are Protestant. Life expectancy stands at 76.7 years, and per-capita GDP is listed at \$2,500 for 2020. Their main export partner is China at 65%; import partners are China at 24% and Australia at 13%. So, the bottom line is money, and rich communist China has the upper hand.

The World Economic Forum lists five of the most generous foreign aid contributors on a per-capita basis: Sweden, 1.41%; United Arab Emirates, 1.09%; Norway, 1.05%; Luxembourg, 0.93%; Denmark, 0.85%. Australia does not make the top 20, with only 0.27% of its national income marked for foreign aid.

Based on several other sources, China has now become the world's largest foreign aid contributor.

It seems rather ironic that communist China is outspending the capitalist world. Therefore, Australia stands relatively empty-handed in their attempt to reverse Solomon Islands' decision to more or less become a protectorate of China.

In summary, welcome to globalism and welcome to the love of money, which the Bible says is the root of all evil.

7745

(See *Progressive Globalism*, Item

#1092, \$5.50.)




EUROPE

World's Biggest Particle Collider Restarts

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), located near Geneva, is perhaps best known for helping confirm the subatomic Higgs boson in 2012.



 The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) announced the restart, saying that “two beams of protons circulated in opposite directions around the Large Hadron Collider’s 27-kilometer (16.8-mile) ring.”

The LHC allows researchers to study the “dark universe”—the subatomic particles that make up some 96% of matter in the known universe, along with the forces that hold them together.

The particle accelerator consists of a ring of superconducting magnets which direct beams of energy around a circular route. The particles travel at high speeds in opposite directions and are made to collide into one another.

In 2012, the LHC allowed scientists to confirm a particle consistent with the Higgs boson particle, nicknamed the “God particle.”

The experiments are taking place more than 100 meters (330 feet) under the border area of Switzerland and France.

Scientists are expecting to conduct an unprecedented number of collisions and

hope to make a series of groundbreaking discoveries.

-www.du.com, 22 April 2022

Commentary: Here we are reminded of Genesis 11:6: “And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” While the world does not speak one language, with artificial intelligence at your service, any language, at any time, anywhere in the world can be translated instantly if not perfectly.

We noticed the words “God particle.” Our Bible reads: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). That chapter ends with: “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day” (Genesis 1:31). Nevertheless, man will not give up in his attempt to circumvent God’s Word, trying to rewrite the origin of life and the universe.

The future of planet earth is described by the apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:12: “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” Yet this is not the end; verse 13 reads: “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”


7746

(See *Cosmos, Creator, and Human Destiny*, Item #2251, \$30.)

SAUDI ARABIA

Mending Fences with Iran?

Iran revealed that it held a fifth round of talks with Saudi Arabia. The negotiations between the two regional heavyweights were “progressive and positive,” according to an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman.

 The ministry spokesman said talks were underway on sending 40,000 Iranian pilgrims to the Hajj in the Saudi city of Mecca this year.

Riyadh severed ties with Tehran in 2016 after Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in the Iranian capital following the execution of a Shi’ite cleric in Saudi Arabia.

Frustrated with what they see as the US’ waning interest in their security concerns, Gulf Arab states have begun taking matters into their own hands of late, reaching out to rivals and enemies to fend off conflicts that can wreak havoc on their economies.

Meanwhile, both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have been mending fences in the region.

Saudi Arabia has de-escalated its war in Yemen through a rare truce and begun a rapprochement with Lebanon after an unprecedented rupture of ties last year. Both countries are arenas for proxy conflicts between Riyadh and Tehran.

-www.cnn.com, 25 April 2022

Commentary: Two countries that practice rival forms of Islam, Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia, are now seeking to calm tensions, due to the desire to

“fend off conflicts that can wreak havoc on their economies,” as the article states. We have repeatedly mentioned that economic ties between countries—even those thought to be bitter enemies—will in the end cause world unity, in line with Bible prophecy: “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication [Mystery Babylon], 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” (Rev 18:3).

Another important part of the article not quoted states: “The clearest manifestation of this rethink was the Gulf states’ muted reaction to the war in Ukraine. The US allies haven’t wholeheartedly come out in support of the Biden administration’s position on Russia’s war there, and regional officials have pointed to the conflict as a sign of a changing world order where the West may have less say than it once did.” We are drawing closer to a time of more parity between the nations of the world, as countries of the East no longer view the West as having the ultimate say in world events. This is in preparation for the time when “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” (Rev 13:8).


7742

(By K. Farmer)

(See Revelation 13: Satan’s Last Victory, Item #1067, \$11.95.)

ISRAEL

Ancient Samaritan Oil Lamp Discovered

 A nearly completely intact clay oil lamp from 2,300 years ago was found near a stone bath during recent conservation work at the Mount Gerizim National Park.

The archaeological site on the Mount of Blessing at the top of Mount Gerizim spreads over 400 dunams. It includes remains from a large Samaritan city from the Persian-Hellenistic period which was built around a sacred precinct. The precinct was surrounded by a well-fortified wall and in the center stood the Samaritan Temple.

The Samaritans are mentioned in the Bible and view themselves as descendants of the Northern Israelite tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh and Levi, who survived the destruction of the Kingdom of Israel by the Assyrians in 722 BCE. Today members of the tiny sect who number in the hundreds live in two locations, on Mount Gerizim and in the Israeli city of Holon.

-www.jpost.com, 2 May 2022

NO COMMENTARY

Visit midnightcall.com/pn



Need More Up-to-Date News?

Prophetic News

Subscribe FREE to Prophetic News
Prophecy-Related NEWS Emails 5 Times a Week



CAMEROON

Health Initiative for the Gospel

A health initiative that was blessed, and gratitude for God's grace.

BY RICHARD AND LYDIA BABOLA, YAOUNDÉ

Last summer, we ran a free health campaign in the countryside, paired with sharing the Gospel through distributing literature. The initiative was led by our daughter Manuela, who is a doctor. She received support from one of her former classmates, a volunteer from Yaoundé, and the two nurses at the village's health center (which is affiliated with the local Presbyterian church). More than 144 patients received free care during the campaign, which was financed by the Babola family, as well as other friends and fellow believers.

The spiritual component consisted of distributing pamphlets to patients in the hospital. We decided on our two newest publications, "Jesus Has the Last Word" and "The Rapture: A Motivation for Everyday Life" [*not available in English*].

For a first attempt, the campaign was a real success. Out of a population of 1,700 inhabitants, we were able to reach 8.5% (with children and the

elderly most represented). Lord willing, we intend to make this an annual event.

As parents, we were so pleased by our daughter's initiative. We have told her time and again that we were only able to finance her medical studies by God's grace, and to never forget to thank God for it, giving Him a tithe of her labor in her field of expertise.

Shortly afterward, we were also able to hold a conference with our friends with a heart for prophecy at the Hôtel des Députés. It was on the book of Hosea. I, Richard, spoke about the three prophetic days of Hosea 6:1-3.

Thank you for continuing to pray for us, because Cameroon's socio-economic and political situation is currently unstable. And may God keep you too, for the evil wind that Satan is blowing doesn't spare the Church, wherever it may be.

(MR0322)



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

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

MC0622

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support "Fellow Laborers."

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Web: midnightcall.com/fl

The Nature of Jezebel and the Depths of Satan

Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 29. Revelation 2:20-24.

“I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel...to commit fornication” (Rev 2:20). What does that mean? Since Hosea, marriage has been and continues to be an illustration of the intimate, faithful relationship between the Lord and His own (cf. Hos 2:19-20). Isaiah 54:5-8 is a moving example:

“For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.”

Marriage is undoubtedly a shadow of the Lord's wonderful relationship with His people. Just consider Ezekiel 16:8a: “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love.” In the New Testament, Paul puts it poignantly: “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” (2 Cor 11:2). And in Ephesians 5:32, he explains,

“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Therefore, unfaithfulness to the Lord (regardless of form) is fornication, adultery, and sorcery. And that is Jezebel's nature. When Joram asked, “Is it peace, Jehu?” Jehu replied, “What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?” (2 Kings 9:22).

In order to better understand this spiritual fornication, it's important to absorb what Jeremiah 3:6 says: “The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot” (cf. Ezek 16:15; Mark 8:38; James 4:4).

The prophetess Jezebel doesn't just defile the church through sexual debauchery, but also through dreadful straying from following Jesus: godless misconduct is tolerated on Christian soil. Instead of breaking with Rome's pagan idolatry and the local customs with enthusiasm, Christians were (and still are) incorporating any number of them into their spiritual life. They sacrificed total obedience to Jesus' absolute claim, in order to assimilate with the world. This is the yeast that leavens the entire lump, and it begins with false tolerance toward yourself.



Marriage is undoubtedly a shadow of the Lord's wonderful relationship with His people.

Today, we're observing a careless relaxation of Christ's commands, a frivolous conformity to worldly thought patterns and lifestyles, all in the name of "spiritual freedom." That was the evil in Thyatira, and that same evil is still devouring in our time. Thyatira could have reached a decisive turning point, but nothing happened: "And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not" (Rev 2::21).

Under the Old Covenant, if someone was suspected of having leprosy, the priest would inspect that person thoroughly and then isolate him for seven days. In other words, he was given a week's grace period. If leprosy still couldn't be clearly diagnosed after these seven days, he was "shut up" for another seven days (Lev 13:1ff.). If it was determined to be leprosy, that person was unclean and was cast out of the community. To extend this to Jezebel, she was given time to repent but did not. Hence the verdict: "Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death" (Rev 2:22-23a).

A staggeringly serious word! The living God is threatening and executing a judgment. It also becomes clear here that the seduced in Thyatira are not being judged for their sin (although it was very serious). They are being judged because they are unwilling to repent: "except they repent of their deeds..."

We always want things to change for the better, and pray for it: a spiritual change in our family, in our workplace, in our church. But what if we're not

fulfilling the only prerequisite? Repent. Then comes judgment. The Lord throws Jezebel and her followers, who hold fast to evil, "into a bed." In other words, He throws her into a powerless situation. A bedridden man is helpless. "Into great tribulation," says the Lord. Maybe He's thrown you "into a bed" as well. Why? Because He loves you and wants you to finally come to repentance. The disasters in our lives aren't always temptation from the devil.

Verses 24-25 also show that this intermingled doctrine of Jezebel evidently had the intent of knowing the depths of Satan: "...as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come."

What does it mean to "know the depths of Satan"? It's the same thing Paul is talking about in Romans 6:15: "What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid." In other words, should we do what is of the devil, so that we can experience salvation even more? Should we go into the depths of Satan, to understand the depths of Jesus Christ? Never!

There is another aspect to knowing the depths of Satan. Let's return to the false identification of the source of our challenges, when every temptation is being assessed as a satanic or demonic attack. Some people are actually dealing with Satan and demonic bondage. They want to "know the depths of Satan"; as a result, they no longer have the strength to engage with Jesus' victory. But Jesus is the Victor, and all power in heaven and on earth has been given to Him! (MR0821/1176)



AT THE OPTICIAN



By Peter Malgo

A stumble causes my glasses to fall to the floor, breaking them in two. Has that ever happened to you? Aside from the nuisance of having to make the trip to the optician, the real difficulty lies in the fact that I can no longer see well.

Everything is blurred: I cannot read, cannot see small objects, and can hardly tell what time it is. In short, finding my bearings has become very limited. So it is with us Christians when we fall into sin. Yet sin is not a mere mishap, but a very serious incident; a breach that greatly impedes our ability to see Jesus. When we were born again, we received new glasses, so to speak, that enabled us to recognize spiritual connections.

Having been blind, we now see and look to the eternal, to our Lord Jesus who is everlasting. Second Corinthians 4:18 aptly describes it: “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Paul knew of what he spoke. He experienced this very thing in a wonderful way at his conversion.

Ananias prayed, saying: “...that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as if it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith...” (Acts 9:17-18). Paul immediately was given a clear view of the lost world, the need to proclaim Jesus and to lead people to Him. He describes the helplessness of those who don’t know God and therefore are spiritually blind: “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor 4:4).

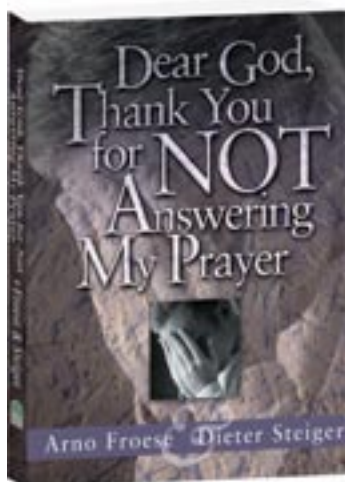
Are our “glasses” still in working order? Or has there been some almost imperceptible damage? Is there something between us and the Lord that clouds our view? The sin that causes our “glasses” to break makes us unable to keep our focus on Jesus, to



look for the eternal, invisible truths. Rather, we are seduced to regard the temporal. Sin literally ensnares us in the things of this world. We suddenly no longer recognize God's standard. All of a sudden, sin does not seem so bad. Without our spiritual glasses, we are also no longer able to recognize how late it is in God's plan of salvation. We can no longer see the hand on God's clock for the world. Suddenly, we begin to postpone spiritually important matters: "There is still time ... My Lord is far from coming." When we no longer expect our Lord's immediate return, we really have to ask ourselves, what is it that came between us and the Lord? Without my glasses, I cannot read. In just the same way, I am not able to read God's Word when my spiritual glasses are damaged. I can, of course, open the Bible, but the Word doesn't speak to me any-

more. Is that perhaps the case with you?

If so, then it is high time to take your defective glasses to the heavenly Optician! He will not repair them, but give you a completely new set. Jesus makes all things new: He doesn't just patch things up. After getting up each morning, I use a special cleaning cloth to wipe my glasses, because it is not possible to prevent some soiling of the lenses during the past day. Sometimes, I even have to cleanse them a second time so I can see clearly. The same holds true for our spiritual glasses. Every day anew, we should go to the Lord and lay claim to the cleansing power of His blood. If we don't do that, our vision will get more and more blurred, and our field of vision narrowed. Let us therefore lay aside everything that cannot endure before our Lord, and look to Jesus, the Victor of Calvary. He is coming soon! (MC)



Have you ever felt that, because your prayers were not immediately answered, God was disregarding you?

Prayer is one of the most important aspects of our Christian life, yet many of us become discouraged, disappointed and disheartened regarding the quality of our prayer life. We may become angry when a prayer is not answered according to what we think we need. We may have no difficulty in proclaiming God's sovereignty to others, while personally finding it tough to accept that God knows what is best. Often, we may even find ourselves desperate and depressed, crying out to the Lord for deliverance ... yet He seems to send none. What must we do?

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR NOT ANSWERING MY PRAYER ITEM #1047

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$12.99~~ **Clearance \$5** Authors: Arno Froese and Dieter Steiger



Israel's 74th Independence Day: Can These Dry Bones Live?



By David Phillips *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*

“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest” (Ezekiel 37:1-3).

Israel celebrates its 74th Independence Day on May 5, 2022. This day comes after two memorial days; a week before Independence Day is the Holocaust Memorial, remembering the 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. A day before Independence Day is the memorial of the fallen soldiers and those who fell in guarding the country during the past 74 years. This year we remember just over 23,930 soldiers, police, and other on-duty men and women who lost their lives for the existence of Israel—not to mention the terror victims and all their family members.

Looking at the above verse and God's question to Ezekiel, “Son of man, can these bones live?” Ezekiel gives the correct answer. He knows the sovereignty of God, and he understands it is only by God's sovereign power, mercy, and grace that the people of Israel would come out of the Diaspora; out of the many persecutions they faced over the past decades, on their way to the Promised Land.

“Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the



skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them” (Ezek 37:4-8).

We know Ezekiel as a prophet of God’s judgment, whom God used to pass on His verdict to a sinful people. This time, God gave him a very special prophecy to share. He had to command those dry bones to come together and to be gathered as a people once more. But still, there was no breath in them. In Hebrew it says *Ruach*, which means there was no spirit in them; they were physically alive, but spiritually dead.

About a week before Independence Day, Israel remembers those who did not make it through the Holocaust and perished. Quite a few of the Jewish believers who survived the Holocaust found a place in our Ebenezer Home. We remember these days with a special sensitivity for those who are still alive and among us. They are a minority, as these survivors are quite old. But as we listen

to the testimonies of those who remain and live among us, we can see how the coming verses in this passage have been manifested in them.

“Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army” (Ezek 37:9-10).

Again, breath in Hebrew is *Ruach* or “spirit.” Those that survived and accepted Yeshua are full of His Spirit (*Ruach*). Surviving the trials of life and reaching a ripe old age, some of these Holocaust survivors are now with us at the Ebenezer Home: giving us all the honor to love and care for them on this last leg of their earthly journey.



A day before Independence Day, the families and friends of the fallen in Israel come together and share memories of the past. May the Holy One of Israel open the hearts of those who have scars of the past to the love of Yeshua, and may they find the power to forgive and go on ... but this time, with the Spirit of the Lord in them: the Holy Spirit.

It is difficult to comfort the mourning or those who are in pain, but we know we can help them overcome simply by pouring out the love of our Messiah Yeshua through our help and care.

The Ebenezer Home currently has 7 Holocaust survivors; each has his or her distinct memories. Join us in prayer as we comfort them through these difficult days, full of memories and loss.

We thank the Lord for our country, that He continues to keep and protect us through every trial, persecution, ter-

rorist attack, and war. Thank you for your prayers, and know that Ebenezer's residents and team also pray for you and for your country; those of you who live in the USA will soon celebrate your own nation's Independence Day on July 4th. Thank you for standing together with us, and thank you for your love and support. This month's donations are dedicated to Ebenezer's Building & Renovation Project.

Looking forward to our new home in heaven, where there are no more tears, sorrow or pain!

Stay tuned for next month's issue, where you will be able to read about one of the Home's special Holocaust survivors: how she lived alone in the woods for two years at the age of 8, and found faith in Messiah Yeshua while trying to survive the horrors of WWII.



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

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

MC0622
EH

Yes, I wish to support the Ebenezer Home Project.

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Web: midnightcall.com/ebenezer

BY ARNO FROESE

“God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows” (Numbers 24:8).

It is significant that these words were spoken by Balaam, a non-Israelite prophet, who apparently had a living connection with the God of Israel.

His prophecies are quite astonishing. In chapter 23, we read: “He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them” (verse 21). We note no “iniquity” and no “perverseness.” That is strange because, during Moses’ time, God said: “Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice” (Numbers 14:22).

This holds an important lesson for the world. Balaam, the Gentile prophet, was not allowed to look into the family of Israel, because he was not one of them. He could only behold Israel from the outside—from God’s perspective.

Do we have historical records of Balaam?

Recent archaeological discoveries have added significant information about Balaam. In 1967, a Dutch expedition under H. Franken discovered fragments of inscriptions written on plaster at a Transjordanian site named Tell Deir ‘Alla, located about 5 mi. (8 km.)

east of the Jordan...the inscriptions attest the name of a seer, *bl’ m brb ‘r*—“Balaam, son of Beor”—for the first time in an extra-biblical source of the biblical period.

-www.clgonline.org, 4 July 2020

We also know that Balaam is mentioned in the New Testament. Revelation 2:14 documents: “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling-block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

We want to highlight the word “arrows” in the introductory verse. It was the choice weapon to fight the enemy from a distance ... not like using a sword or spear. That is God’s intention with Israel even today. He has not revealed Himself to the people as of yet, but we know from Scripture that it will take place after the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.

Arrows for Protection

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* reveals a different type of arrow; it shoots down and destroys incoming missiles from the enemy. Here are some excerpts:

Germany has received approval from Israel and the United States to purchase the Arrow-3 missile defense system, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Should Germany buy the system, it would mark the first time that the Arrow 3, one of Israel's most advanced air defense systems that is capable of intercepting ballistic missiles at altitudes of over 100 km. (62 miles) and has a reported range of up to 2,400 km. (1,490 miles), has been sold to another country.

"We must all prepare ourselves for the fact that we have a neighbor that is currently prepared to use force to assert its interests. That's why we have to work together to make sure that doesn't happen," Scholz said in an interview with German television.

The Arrow 3 is a highly maneuverable system designed to provide ultimate air defense by intercepting ballistic missiles when they are still outside of the Earth's atmosphere. It is considered one of the world's best interceptors due to its breakthrough technological capabilities. The Arrow 3 is the only interceptor that doesn't carry a warhead but intercepts an incoming missile by crashing into it.


-www.jpost.com, 6 April 2022

The system developed by Israel in conjunction with the US, is now made available to other countries. First Germany; others will follow.

These developing events clearly demonstrate that we as believers should be on guard against incoming "arrows" from the powers of darkness: not of this world, but actually arising from "wickedness in the heavenly places," as we read in Ephesians 6:12 (ASV).

We are in error when we identify nations, parties, or people; they are flesh and blood. Something much more powerful stands behind them.

This is especially significant for us believers, for the Bible says, "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4b). Let us, therefore, arm ourselves with God's arrows, so we "may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). (MC)



MIDNIGHT CALL

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

Mail to: Midnight Call Ministries, PO Box 84309, Lexington, SC 29073 MC0622

After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to support "Action for Israel."

monthly one time \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Security Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

With credit card ready, call: 800-845-2420

Web: midnightcall.com/afi



Letters to the Editor

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

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

BALAAM IN HEAVEN?... SALVATION FOR JEWS...THE 144,000

Balaam in Heaven?

I was wondering, did King Saul, Solomon, and Balaam go to heaven when they died? After all, Balaam was a pagan prophet, and Saul and Solomon failed.

-S.England,NH

Answer: Balaam declared about Israel, "Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee" (Numbers 24:9b). The three persons mentioned lived before salvation was accomplished on Calvary's Cross. However, they believed and communed with God. They followed in the footsteps of Abraham, who "believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3).

Salvation for Jews

If a Jew that believes and serves God but doesn't accept Jesus as Savior, being Orthodox, will he go to heaven at death or when he dies?

-B.Smith,NE

Answer: The prophets of old spoke of the New Covenant: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 31:31). Note also Hebrews 8:13. John 3:36 applies to all people: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that

believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

The 144,000

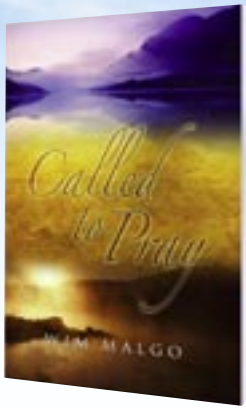
Dear Mr. Froese,

Are the 144,000 Jews in heaven as raptured virgins, or are they on earth? Revelation 7:2 says the angel is ascending, not descending to seal the 144,000. In Revelation 14:1-5, the 144,000 are with Jesus on Mount Zion: they are redeemed as firstfruits and follow Jesus wherever He goes. Is the angel climbing Jacob's ladder of Genesis 28:12-13?

-R.Catlett,TX

Answer: The 144,000 Jews are sealed and thus protected during the Great Tribulation. The word "ascending" is translated differently, with meanings such as, "from the rising of the sun" or, "from the east." In Revelation 14 they are in heaven, because they are in the presence of the four living creatures and the 24 elders. Please keep in mind that from heavenly, spiritual perspectives, time and spatial dimensions do not exist. From chapter 7, we learn that they are on earth. Many scholars believe that they will be proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world, because after the sealing, we read of a great multitude of all nations who have become believers. I don't see the relation to Jacob's ladder here. (MC)

Midnight Call's June Resource Guide



Be a Prayer Warrior

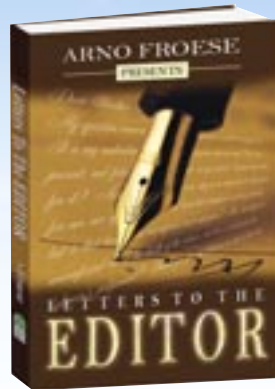
This is one of our least popular, but most important books. What true prayer is all about, how it affects each of us, our family and surroundings is the content of this remarkable book. It ends with the words, "You are called to pray!"

CALLED TO PRAY ITEM #1032

144 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$11.90~~
Clearance \$3

Author: Dr. Wim Malgo



Midnight Call Magazine's #1 Feature!

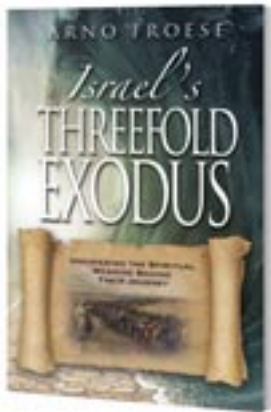
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ITEM #1045

438 Pages • **Hardcover**

~~\$22.99~~
Clearance \$8

Author: Arno Froese



Take an amazing journey with God's chosen people, into the past, the present and the future.

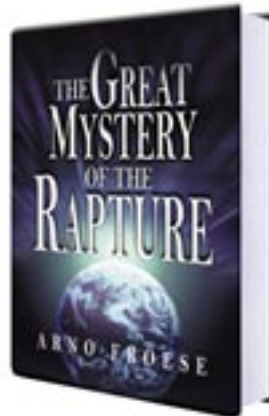
ISRAEL'S THREEFOLD EXODUS

ITEM #1088

128 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.50~~
Clearance \$4

Author: Arno Froese



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

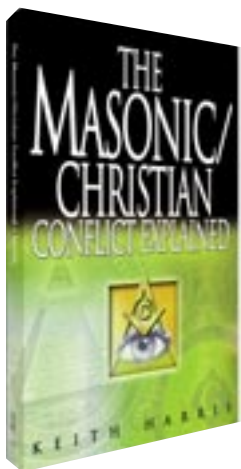
THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE

RAPTURE ITEM #1038

368 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$18.99~~
Clearance \$8

Author: Arno Froese



Biblical Analysis of a Controversial Subject

How much of Freemasonry has infiltrated our churches? Why are Masons allowed to retain their positions of leadership in our churches? Why is Freemasonry touted as a harmless fraternal organization, when its roots are steeped in mysticism, magic and murder?

THE MASONIC/CHRISTIAN CONFLICT EXPLAINED ITEM #1058

176 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Keith Harris

~~\$12~~ **Clearance \$3**



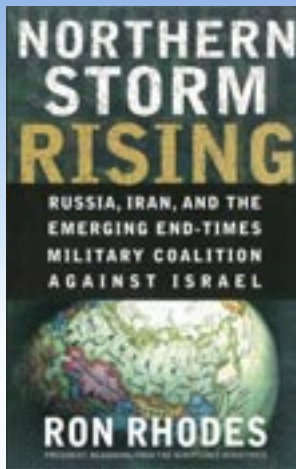
A Complete Biblical Study of Death and the Afterlife

When Death Comes is a biblically based study answering life's questions about death and the afterlife. This is a great tool for the minister as well as the layman who wishes to have answers to some of life's most puzzling questions.

WHEN DEATH COMES ITEM #1056

224 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Keith Harris

~~\$12.99~~ **Clearance \$5**



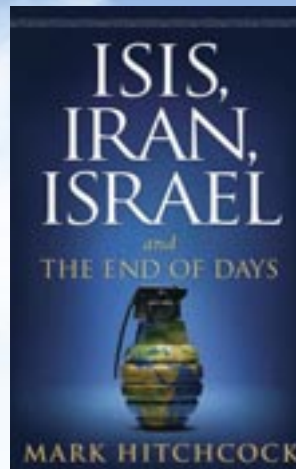
The Stage Is Set for a Cataclysmic War

Rhodes analyzes current events in the light of biblical prophecy and empowers readers to “interpret the signs of the times” (Matthew 16:3).

NORTHERN STORM RISING ITEM #2294

246 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ **Sale \$10** Author: Ron Rhodes



Are We on the Road to the Apocalypse?

ISIS, IRAN, ISRAEL AND THE END OF DAYS

ITEM #2283

240 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~
Sale \$10

Author: Mark Hitchcock



Why Has Peace Been So Elusive for Israel?

ISRAEL ON HIGH ALERT

ITEM #2343

272 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~
Sale \$10

Author: Ron Rhodes



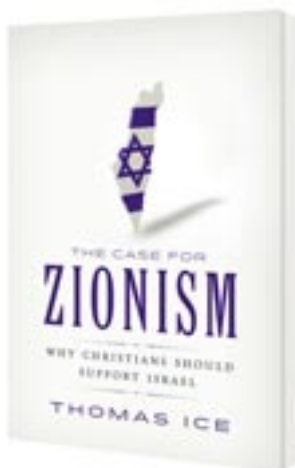
Israel: Super Sign of the End Times

TARGET ISRAEL ITEM #2293

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~ **Sale \$10**

Authors: Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson



The Biblical and Legal Rights of Modern Israel

In this presentation, Thomas Ice answers many of the contemporary arguments being used by both secular and religious communities to undermine what he believes is the hand of God at work in our own day.

THE CASE FOR ZIONISM

ITEM #2327

222 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$10**

Author: Thomas Ice



The Millenia-Old Love God Has for His People

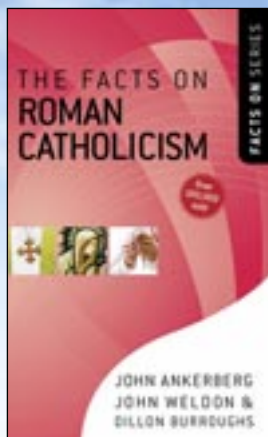
Tracing the history of the Jewish people to the present day, the authors look at prophecy after prophecy that clearly attest to the Lord’s miraculous promises. From historical records to personal, dramatic stories, *Miracle of Israel* shows us that in keeping epic promises to the nation of Israel, God’s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

MIRACLE OF ISRAEL ITEM #2303

189 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ **Sale \$10**

Authors: Gary Frazier and Jim Fletcher



What does the Catholic Church teach concerning salvation?

Presented in a convenient question-and-answer format, readers are given a general overview and detailed information based on a biblical evaluation of the Roman Catholic Church. They discover similarities and differences between the basic theologies of Catholicism and Protestantism.

Topics include:

- Have the basic doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church changed?
- What are the sacraments, and how do they function in the life of a Catholic believer?

THE FACTS ON ROMAN CATHOLICISM ITEM #2334

~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5** 96 pgs. • Paperback

Authors: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs

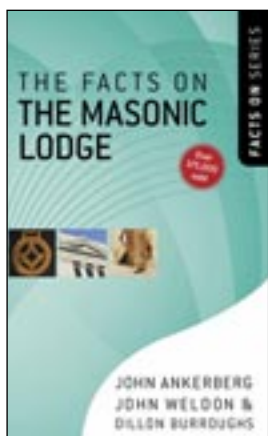
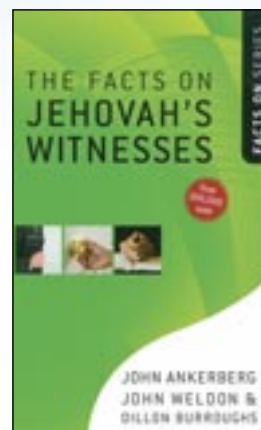
What is the Watchtower Society?

Known for their extensive research and Bible knowledge, these authors offer readers the essential facts they need to evaluate and discuss today's issues regarding the Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious organization, and the Watchtower Society. The concise, easy-to-follow information helps readers answer such questions as:

- Is the Watchtower Society's translation of the Bible accurate?
- Is the Society's teaching on salvation biblical?

THE FACTS ON JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES ITEM #2336 • 96 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5** Authors: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs



Is Masonry a religion?

The Facts on the Masonic Lodge provides concise, straightforward answers to questions that include:

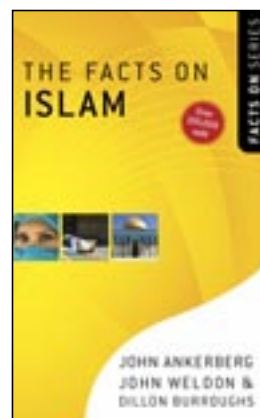
- What do the Masons teach about Jesus, salvation, and life after death?
- What do Masonic symbols represent?
- Are Masonry and Christianity compatible?
- Why is understanding Masonry important today?

THE FACTS ON THE MASONIC LODGE

ITEM #2337 • 96 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5**

Authors: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs



Easy-to-understand, factual, and relevant information about Islam

The concise, easy-to-follow information helps readers answer such questions as:

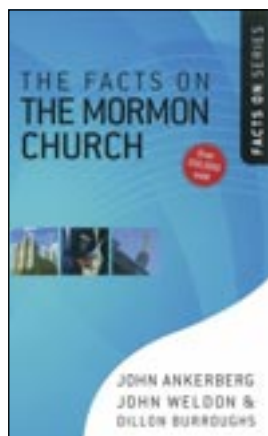
- How did Islam begin and who was Muhammad?
- What do Muslims believe and what do they teach about Jesus?
- Is Allah the same "person" as the biblical God?

THE FACTS ON ISLAM ITEM #2354

96 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$5.99~~ **Sale \$5**

Authors: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs



How did Mormonism originate?

Readers find well-researched and easy-to-understand answers to many of the common and not-so-common questions surrounding this high-profile church, all in a handy, quick-reference format. Topics include:

- Who was Joseph Smith?
- Is it a Christian religion? What does it teach about God?
- What is the Mormon doctrine regarding salvation? Life after death?

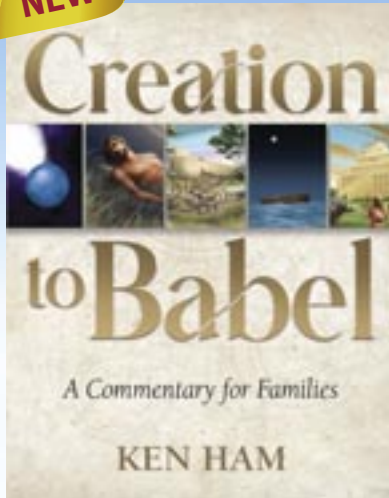
THE FACTS ON THE MORMON CHURCH

ITEM #2335 • 96 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5**

Authors: John Ankerberg, John Weldon, Dillon Burroughs

NEW



Ensure the next generation understands God's greatness and authority

In *Creation to Babel*, today's Christian family will find a unique commentary on Genesis 1-11 to ensure the biblical foundation is established in their children's hearts.

- Provides answers to the most-asked questions people have about these passages with applications to personal living.
- Helps families put themselves under the authority of the Word, and not over it.

CREATION TO BABEL ITEM #2390

288 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$21.99~~ **Sale \$18**

Author: Ken Ham

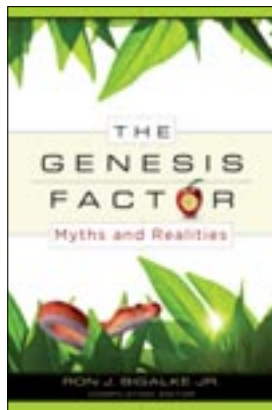
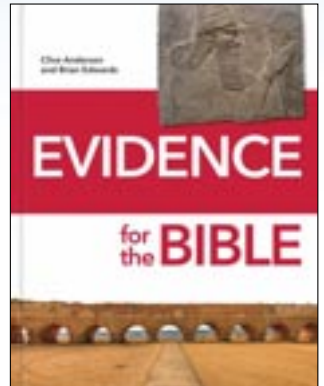
Archaeology throws dramatic light on the biblical record.

EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE ITEM #2341

252 pgs. • **Hardcover**

~~\$29.99~~ **Sale \$25**

Authors: Clive Anderson and Brian Edwards



The book of Genesis is constantly under attack from many sources...

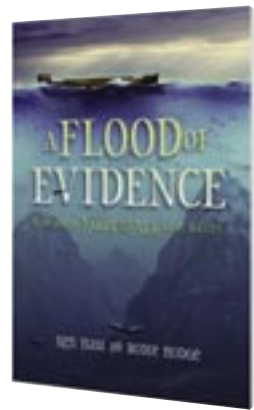
THE GENESIS FACTOR

ITEM #2239

254 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$13.99~~ **Sale \$10**

Editor: Ron J. Bigalke Jr.



What You Need to Know About the Flood

A FLOOD OF EVIDENCE

ITEM #2345

304 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~ **Sale \$12**

Authors: Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge

If you were asked how you know the Bible is true, do you have an answer?

Volume 1:

- Is the Bible totally without error?
- Did the resurrection really happen?
- How do we know that the 66 books of the Bible are from God?
- Does the Bible contradict itself?
- How were people saved before Jesus came?

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE? - VOL. 1 ITEM #2267 • 300 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12**

General Editors: Ken Ham & Bodie Hodge

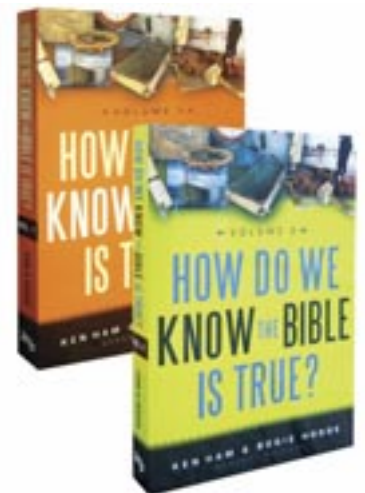
Volume 2:

- Who made God; where did God come from?
- Has Noah's ark been found?
- Hasn't Bible text been changed over the years?
- Is Hell real?
- Did the ten plagues of Egypt really happen?

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE? - VOL. 2 ITEM #2276 • 352 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$14.99~~ **Sale \$12**

General Editors: Ken Ham & Bodie Hodge





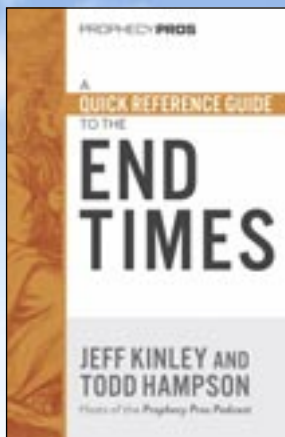
Understand the Battle Before You Enter It

SPiritual WARFARE IN THE END TIMES ITEM #2370

224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$15.99~~
Sale \$12

Author: Ron Rhodes



Scripture-Based Knowledge About the End Times

- In what basic order will the end times unfold?
- How do we know Jesus is literally returning to earth?
- How should Christians live if Jesus might return any day now?

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE END TIMES ITEM #2371

64 pgs. • Paperback

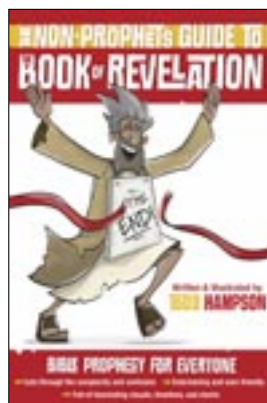
~~\$6.99~~ **Sale \$5**

Authors: Jeff Kinley and Todd Hampson



Everything you need to know about fighting—and winning—your spiritual battles

Discern between cultural myths and biblical facts about the supernatural.



Everything You Wanted to Understand About the Book of Revelation Explained

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE ITEM #2368 • 224 pgs. • Paperback

~~\$17.99~~ **Sale \$14** Author: Todd Hampson

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION ITEM #2361

224 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Todd Hampson

~~\$16.99~~
Sale \$12



I Believe Jesus Will Return... What More Do I Need to Know?

Combines engaging illustrations with down-to-earth explanations to help you navigate the ins and outs of Bible prophecy.

THE NON-PROPHET'S GUIDE TO THE END TIMES ITEM #2353

224 pgs. • Paperback • Author: Todd Hampson

~~\$16.99~~ **Sale \$12**

midnightcall.com/specials
Sign up for FREE weekly special offer emails.

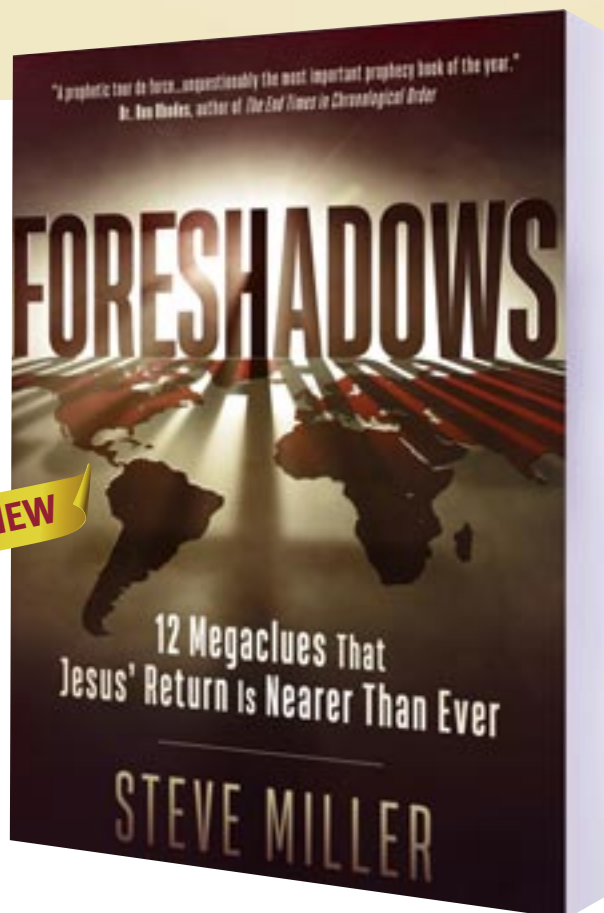


Your Subscription

Important Notice

When renewing your subscription online, please be sure to go to our online bookstore: midnightcall.com/store and click on "Subscriptions." Subscription orders and renewals through third parties (Amazon, SubscriptionCore, DiscountMags, etc.) can experience 60- to 90-day delays due to the intermediaries involved. Plus, when you order directly from us, 100% of your payment is used to support the work of Midnight Call Ministries.

Important Clues That Inform Us of What Is to Come



Foreshadows explores 12 major trends that point toward Jesus' ever-nearing return—illuminating how God's faithfulness, wisdom, and sovereignty are on display all around us. As you read, you will...

- identify occurrences in today's world that align with specific end-times prophecies outlined in the Bible
- discover how to walk "not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16)
- grow in your trust and reverence of God, looking with confidence and wonder toward the future He has promised to those who are His children

Foreshadows will equip you to recognize the signs pointing to the end times while inspiring you to take hope in the knowledge God holds our chaotic world firmly within His control. Behind the scenes, He is at work—setting the stage for Christ's return and the glorious eternity that will follow!

FORESHADOWS ITEM #2393

336 pgs. • Paperback

\$17.99 NEW Author: Steve Miller