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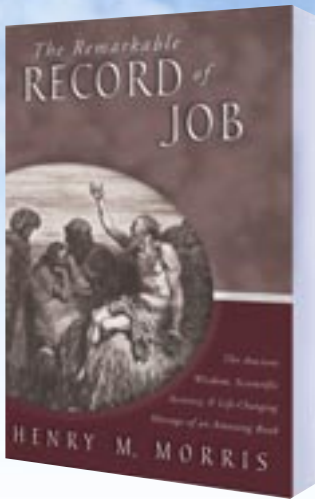
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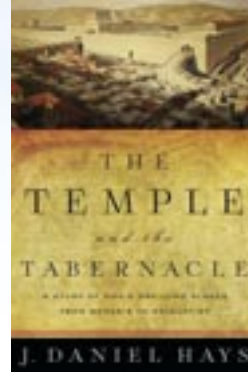
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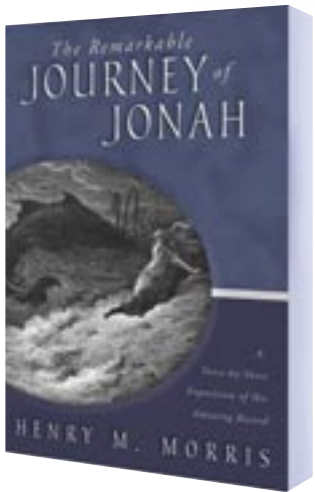
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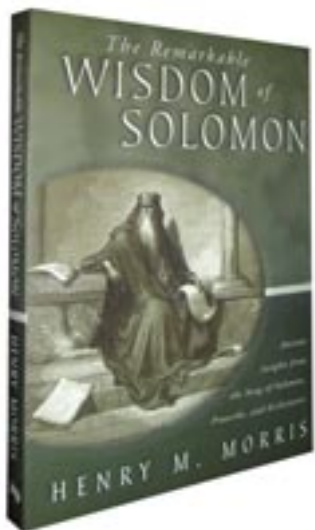
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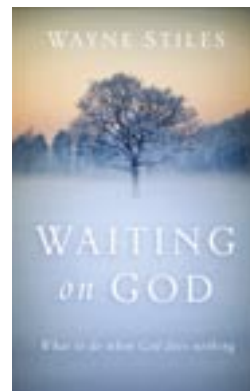


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“Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly...”



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

The degree to which Christ is at home with us can be seen by the amount of space we give to His Word. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col 3:16).

The evangelist Erino Dapozzo (1901-1974) once asked for used Bibles for missionary use in a Swiss newspaper. The owner of a hotel contacted him, and when Dapozzo went to see him, he was amazed at the number of Bibles gathered there. The hotelier pointed to the church across the street, and explained that many couples got married there and always received a Bible. Afterward, they would come to the hotel with their guests. Then, as the couples left, most of them would tear out the page that had their names and the date recorded, leaving the Holy Scripture behind. Thus, 62 unused Bibles had accumulated at the hotel.

Unfortunately, many people do not know how helpful the Word of God is for their life, and what they miss when they go through life without it. The Bible is the best counselor, especially for life within a marriage. Holy Scripture has a healing effect on the mind and soul, and thus also on the

body. Reading it brings peace and calm, yet also serves to awaken us. The Bible leads us into a closer relationship with our Creator and the salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. It alone conveys the truth about God. It transmits a living hope and allows us a glance, beyond the boundaries of everyday life, into eternity. It testifies to the certainty of God’s wonderful plan of salvation for this world. The Word of God provides wholesome teaching instead of unwholesome emptiness. It exposes sin and wrongdoing, but also shows us God’s mercy and the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. God’s Word is alive because it comes from His eternal Spirit, and because Jesus is the personified Word of God.

The apostle Paul—and not only him—placed great importance on intense personal and congregational study of God’s Word: “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Jesus Christ” (Col 1:28). Here Paul addresses the teaching ministry of the church, and has a threefold objective in mind: 1) to exhort every person; 2) to teach all people in all wisdom; 3) so that we may present every individual perfect in Christ.

The intent is to lead the Christian into all the riches of Christ. Paul strove mightily to achieve that goal. No effort was too much for him, as he says in the following verse 29: "Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."

Striving means to deal intensely with something and focus on it. Fighting is a total mental and physical engagement, requiring every effort. Wrestling means refusing to give up, even when reaching the limits of strength. One is not willing to lose; one absolutely wants to win. Paul was urged to this kind of devotion by the effective power of God.

God obviously wants us to delve deeper into His Word and grow in the knowledge of Him (Eph 1:17; 2 Pet 3:18). This knowledge we can only glean from the Word of God. But it is not enough to read a certain section of the Bible by habit every day. It is necessary to study, to explore and think deeply, to observe the connections and parallels. It would surely have no small impact on our congregational life and our families if the Word of Christ were to "dwell richly" in our homes. Not by coercion and exaggerated rules, but with wisdom and love. How much Christ is present in our home can be seen by how much room we give His Word. (MC)

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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.



What Matters in the End

Norbert Lieth

Through His interactions with His Apostles and by means of a remarkable parable, the Lord demonstrates what matters in the end and how His prophetic Word will be fulfilled. An interpretation and encouragement for our personal lives.

What will matter when Christ returns? What matters to us now? Catherine of Siena once said, “Sleep no more, for love of Christ crucified, and for your own profit, during the little time that remains to us: for time is short, and you are to die, and know not when.” When the rich young man asked the Lord what good things he should do to obtain eternal life, “he went away sorrowful” because the Lord said to him, “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me” (Matt 19:21). Peter then asked what he and the other Apostles would receive, since they had given up everything for the Lord. Jesus answered with a view into the future of the messianic kingdom, using a parable that is remarkable in terms of redemptive history.

The Twelve Thrones of the Apostles

“Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first” (Matt 19:27-30).

By “regeneration,” the Lord means the reconfiguration of all things. It concerns the

renewal of the earth for the messianic kingdom. This means that Jesus will come again. And when He appears, this earth will be reshaped and creation set free (Rom 8:18-23). Jesus’ throne of glory will be established in Jerusalem (Matt 25:31), and His twelve Apostles will sit with Him on twelve thrones and judge the twelve tribes of Israel. This judging role involves co-ruling, since they are sitting on twelve thrones.

It’s worth noting that Jesus addressed Peter’s questions. He didn’t minimize them or reprimand him for exaggerating. To the contrary! The question is so important and genuine that the Lord gave it a serious answer. He knew about the future of His Apostles: they would leave their homes, be separated from their families, relinquish their possessions (Matt 4:20-22), be hated and persecuted (Luke 21:12), and forget themselves for Jesus’ sake.

Applying this to ourselves, the meaning of what Jesus said to the Apostles with respect to the messianic kingdom is: the Christian life doesn’t consist of flights of fancy, wealth, or earthly peace. It is instead accompanied by hatred, persecution, criticism, rejection, hardship, and danger. Christians are led to Jesus by way of the “Via Dolorosa.” But Christians are also led by Jesus into glory. Christians have a peace and a living hope in God, and will judge the world rather than being judged with it (1 Cor 6:2-3).

Yes, it’s worth it to follow the Lord. It’s worth it to overcome and let go. It’s worth it to make a decisive choice. It’s worth it to sacrifice for His sake.

What Matters in the End

“Sleep no more, for love of Christ crucified, and for your own profit, during the little time that remains to us: for time is short, and you are to die, and know not when.” – Catherine of Siena

The Messianic Kingdom

As previously mentioned, Jesus is explaining the messianic kingdom on earth. He isn't yet speaking of the body of Christ, His Church, or even the Apostle Paul. The focus is on twelve thrones for twelve Apostles, not thirteen. We can see from the story of the rich young ruler that good works are important to enter this kingdom and receive eternal life. But on the other hand, Paul later emphasized that we don't enter heaven through our works, only by faith. Jesus told the rich young man that anyone clinging to wealth will have a difficult time getting into the kingdom; a camel is more likely to pass through the eye of a needle! In light of this, Peter began his question with, “Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?” (Matt 19:27).

The Position of the Twelve Apostles

The fact is, Jesus' Jewish Apostles had a special position. They belong to the foundation of the Church (1 Cor 3:10; Eph 2:20). They will be with us in heaven (1 Pet 1:4). But they also have a special position that is theirs alone in relation to Israel and the messianic kingdom. Explicitly, these twelve individuals will sit on twelve thrones (Judas having been replaced by Matthias: Acts 1:15-26).

There is a parallel in Revelation 21:14. It describes the New Jerusalem, which has twelve stones as its foundation. These stones bear the names of the twelve Apostles. This shows that,

looking back, their journey had been worthwhile. Some of them were forgotten in history: Andrew, Bartholomew, Thomas, Philip, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Judas the brother of James, Matthew ... all were likely martyred, with the exception of John. But God engraved them all in the new Jerusalem, and will place them on thrones in the future. We can see what mattered in the end.

God will also remember your deeds. Some people have become known as great men and women in church history; others have been completely forgotten and aren't mentioned anywhere. But the Lord knows them and knows about them! “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Heb 6:10). Whatever you have done in the church or in your family is known to God.

The First Shall Be Last, and the Last Shall Be First

Regarding the messianic kingdom, Jesus told His disciples, “But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first” (Matt 19:30).

The Pharisees, elders, and scribes were the first to stand before the people. The Apostles, however, are the last. Paul writes, “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men” (1 Cor 4:9). But in the end, they will be the first to sit on the throne with Jesus.

The Christian life doesn't consist of flights of fancy, wealth, or earthly peace. It is instead accompanied by hatred, persecution, criticism, rejection, hardship, and danger.

The generation living when Jesus was on earth can be considered the first. These people in Israel had Jesus among them. However, since they rejected Him and loved their own lives, they became the last. They lost the messianic kingdom. During the Great Tribulation, the last generation of Israel will once again give up everything like the Apostles. They will be overcomers and martyrs. And so, they are raised to first position and enter the messianic kingdom.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Rev 20:4).

A Parable for Redemptive History

The Lord then underscores this principle of first and last with a parable:

“For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the



labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have

What Matters in the End

“For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.”



first who became last, and vice versa.

The Fivefold Call

The vineyard owner is a depiction of God. It's noteworthy that he goes five times to call people to work in his vineyard: “early in the morning” is 6 am; “the third hour” is 9 am; the “sixth hour” and “ninth hour” are 12 and 3 pm respectively; the “eleventh hour” is 5 pm,

and “even” is 6 pm. The vineyard owner only negotiates a wage of one denarius with the first group of workers—not any of the others. When settling the accounts, the first are disappointed and grumbling against their master. They insist on justice. They can't understand what their lord is doing.

received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen” (Matt 20:1-16).

The meaning can be understood in terms of redemptive history. The following interpretation isn't necessarily one originally intended by the Lord in every detail, since He wasn't yet speaking about the Church as His body. But it's definitely noteworthy that applying it to the whole of redemptive history works well.

The point of a parable isn't to establish dogmatics from each little detail; clearly defined teaching is found in the epistles. Rather, parables seek to showcase a specific truth. So, the aim of this parable is to explain that in redemptive history, there were people who were once

First, those called first thing in the morning (at 6 am), who agree to work for wages, are reminiscent of early Israel. There was a covenant with Israel, a law: “Do this and you will receive.” Israel always invoked this covenant. And Israel was not at all agreeable, but jealous when the Lord called others with-

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“So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.”

out conditions. As Paul writes: “What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone” (Rom 9:30-32).

Second, those who are called at 9 am are not negotiated with and are merely told, “whatsoever is right I will give you.” These are representative of the Apostles (Acts 1). They are the first of a new Age of Grace (9 am) after the Age of the Law (6 am). Theirs is a time of transition. The first stand on a foundation of law, the others on faith and trust (cf. Rom 1:5).

Third are those called at 12 pm and 3 pm. These two times are connected with each other. This is an illustration of the calling of the first Jewish church (Acts 2—10), and the somewhat later addition of the Gentiles (Acts 10—28).

Fourth, at 5 pm, the vineyard owner goes out again and calls the final workers to his vineyard. This is the last hour before the end of the working day, when the accounts are settled. In terms of redemptive history, this could indicate the end times we’re living in today. John writes prophetically about when the time of the Antichrist becomes apparent, “Little children, it is the last time...” (1 John 2:18). And Paul writes, “And that, knowing the time,

that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Rom 13:11).

Fifth, it will finally be 6 pm. The lord of the vineyard comes, calls his workers over, and settles accounts with them. He says, “So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen” (Matt 20:16). The ones who are called are Israel under the Law. Israel invoked the Law and lost. They were under obedience to the Law. The “chosen” or “elect” refer to the Church of Jews and Gentiles, and to the Age of Grace they exist in. They become conquerors and are under faithful obedience. “Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded” (Rom 11:5-7).

As far as redemptive history is concerned, the first became last and the last became first.

Personal Application of the Parable

The personal application is: allow yourself to be called!

It may be the last hour; we’re living in the end times, and Jesus wants to use you. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:16). C. H. Spurgeon said, “Time present is the only time I may ever have.”

What Matters in the End

“Time present is the only time I may ever have.” – C. H. Spurgeon

One day, we will all look back and see what mattered in the end. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor 15:58).

Are we actually growing? Are we moving forward and allowing ourselves to be led into the unknown? Or are we stagnating, even retreating? Wim Malgo, the founder of Midnight Call Ministries, always said that “standing still is going backward.”

Someone once stressed that, “Through His death and resurrection, Jesus did everything to bring you to heaven. But now He also wants to bring heaven to earth through you!”

Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf saw a Passion painting by Italian painter Domenico Fetti with the caption, “This have I done for you; now what will you do for Me?” This moved von Zinzendorf to give his life to Jesus anew. He became the leader of the Unity of the Brethren Church (later the Moravian Church). They worked among Inuits, the Khoekhoe, Indians, and slaves. Von Zinzendorf financed much of it with his own fortune.

God takes your decision very seriously. Maybe you’re thinking, “I’m unfit; I’m full of mistakes; I need to prove myself a lot more first.” But nobody is too unfit or unsuitable for God. Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Show me a man who has never made a mistake, and I will show you one who has never tried anything.”

Was the drunken Noah suitable? What about the elderly Abraham and his wife, who once served idols in Chaldea? Or Jacob the liar? Moses the murderer? Rahab the prostitute? Young dyspeptic Timothy? The irascible Peter? The sleepy, frightened, and constantly failing disciples? None of them were fit, and yet they all allowed themselves to be called; they were sincere and devoted in their hearts. They kept the Lord in mind, even if they failed occasionally.

Do you know what’s special about the bumblebee? Bumblebees shouldn’t really be able to fly. They are physically unsuited to it. All the laws of nature oppose a bumblebee flying: from its physique to its too-short wings, to its weight. But the bumblebees don’t care; they fly anyway.

Don’t assume that it always has to involve something outwardly great. But it may. If you feel the urge to do more, give in! Missions, theological training ... Michael Kotsch cites D. L. Moody as an example: “Moody had become wealthy through his business in the Chicago boot and shoe industry, and retired from business life in 1860 in order to be able to fully pursue his spiritual calling. He didn’t perceive this as a loss because, according to his conviction, a person can only find real happiness through complete surrender to God.”

Your calling may be in your church, among youth, or in your family. Distinguished church and publishing house founder Johann Gerhard Oncken is an example of God’s diversity

God doesn't just select certain individuals; He wants to use everyone in His vineyard.

of vocations. Michael Kotsch writes: "Oncken was known for his belief that not just a few staff, but all members of a church should be active in missionary work ... In 1862, while traveling to England, the theologian Dr. Guthrie asked him, 'How many missionaries do you have?' Oncken replied, 'Seven thousand!' The clergyman replied, 'Pardon me, I was asking about the number of missionaries.' 'I



know,' Oncken replied, 'but every member of our church is a missionary.'" Or, "When asked, 'Why doesn't your church have a bell tower?' one of the church brethren aptly replied, 'We don't need bells; we invite people personally.'"

Being a missionary doesn't mean that everyone needs to have super evangelistic skills, but rather that everyone uses the gifts they were given by the Holy Spirit. These gifts can be very different. Someone has a gift of prayer, another that of hospitality, pastoral care, an especially pleasant nature, service, deacon's ministry, church work, serving through visits, or in their families. For example, don't say, "I'm just a mother!" What do you mean "just"? Don't let the world's opinion tear you down. The world and its influencers have no idea what will matter in the end.

A doctor in China summarized her complete trust in God with the following sentence: "If you have Jesus in your heart, it doesn't matter what work you do or what position you hold. All that matters is that you love Him and are loyal to Him!"

Scripture says of the vineyard owner in the last hour, "And about the eleventh hour [5 pm] he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard..." (Matt 20:6-7).

Are you still standing idly by, thinking, "I haven't been called"? He says to you, and to all of us, "Go ye also into the vineyard." God doesn't just select certain individuals; He wants to use everyone in His vineyard. Hans Gerd Krabbe expresses this in the following prayer: "Lord, teach us to remember that each one of us will one day have to answer to you for what he has done here on earth and for what he has failed to do. Teach us to remember that you have gifted and commissioned each of us to make peace, practice love, sow joy, awaken hope! Please help us to do so."

When the big settling of accounts comes, we'll know what really mattered.

(MR0821/1181)



WORLD ECONOMIC CONTROL PROPHESED: THE TRIBULATION FORESHADOWED – PART 3



We continue our series on the topic of prophesied economic conditions expected in the last days. We have identified Joseph's story and lifetime as a foreshadowing of end-time outcomes. We drew some significant conclusions in the previous part.

By Wilfred Hahn

Among these was the estimation that it only required three and a half years for Joseph and the Pharaoh to economically enslave the entire population of Egypt. That is lightning quick. Indeed, the Bible well warns that last-day trends and developments are sudden and short.

Is it a coincidence that the first and second halves of the prophesied Tribulation, are also three and a half years? We think not. In fact, we are inclined to view the first half of the Tribulation period as lining up with Joseph's story.

This period, in this writer's view, ends with the closing of the money snare—the ability to limit buying and selling (Revelation 13:17).

This first three- and one-half year period of the seven-year famine can be seen as a parallel to the "the beginning of birth pains" that we read about in

Matthew 24:8. It serves as a foreshadowing of the first half of the seven-year Tribulation. By the end of that period, the False Prophet will have led the entire world into economic and monetary bondage.

It is during this period that a great world ruler gains increasing power, the Antichrist. He first brings the world under his control in the name of peace and prosperity. Then, once he has much of the world in his grip, he tightens the noose and brings doom to the earth. He starts the Great Tribulation, the second three- and one-half years (also known as Jacob's trouble: Jeremiah 30:7).

Is the alignment between Joseph and the Antichrist a coincidence, or just a senseless stretch of the imagination? Indeed, it may seem a sacrilege to frame such an irreverent question. Yet there

Jesus Christ came to offer spiritual life for an eternity. The Antichrist comes to do the opposite.

are many instructive parallels, and also some key differences.

The final, diabolical, last-day ruler upon earth, specifically strategizes his actions under the guise of a false Christ, the Antichrist. If it is agreed that Joseph was a type of Christ, then wouldn't it only follow that the Antichrist would act as an Anti-Joseph?

Whereas Joseph had a benevolent calling enabled by God to save physical lives, the Antichrist is a demonically-inspired person that seeks to physically entrap mankind for the purpose of destruction and his worship.

Jesus Christ came to offer spiritual life for an eternity. The Antichrist comes to do the opposite.

Today, many people are looking for a modern-day Joseph—an economic savior. They want to find solace in a comfortable life, low mortgage payments, a secure job, steadily growing financial wealth, expanding export markets, and an unfettered playing field for the globe's burgeoning multinational corporations. It is the sure road to prosperity, say many leaders and politicians. It is the sure route to "A world free of poverty" (the slogan of the World Bank).

Much of the world—certainly the societies in the West—has already for-

feited their spiritual futures in their primary pursuit of earthly prosperity and happiness. Anyone who offers workable solutions to that end—real or imagined—will be gladly received.

However, to gain the comforts and conveniences of our times, we must agree to accept vulnerabilities. It is a required trade-off. We must fully participate with our hearts, our land, and our factories to serve this global system, so that we might take part in the promised fruits of a worldwide economic order.

So it may be. However, humanity risks falling captive to an Anti-Joseph; the very same that plans, as mentioned, a brutal end-time money snare for the world. A series of world crises drives humanity to give up its money, land, and economic freedoms.

Eventually, one man, seizing the opportunity, will arrive at the pinnacle of power to take control—Antichrist.

Were the people angry with Joseph when he enslaved them? Not at all. "You have saved our lives,' they said. 'May we find favor in the eyes of our lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh'" (Genesis 47:25). Here we see that they willingly gave themselves up in bondage to Pharaoh, so that they might have no existential concerns.

The entire world will do so again, the Bible indicates. Only this time, it



Already, we can see the facilitating infrastructure being built up rapidly, which will enable a worldwide repressive regime to take full economic and financial control.

will be in response to the Anti-Joseph. They will willingly allow themselves to become economically and financially enslaved to a diabolically-inspired person. Why? So that they might have grain ... that they may have economic benefits.

The Anti-Joseph could arise very soon. Already, we can see the facilitating infrastructure being built up rapidly, which will enable a worldwide repressive regime to take full economic and financial control.

The recent global jitters with the Covid-19 pandemic, prompted many more urgent steps to that future outcome—one that now is at the very doorstep. The scale of the interventions that have been made to counter the worldwide economic impact of the virus outbreak, is simply without precedent. These will have disastrous implications for mankind across the world, should the same course continue to be pursued. This cannot be overstated.

All of this hastens the day described in Revelation 13:17. That is the point at which the False Prophet is able to control all buying and selling upon earth. Life can no longer be lived outside of this system ... meaning certain death. The majority of the world's

population will opt to receive the “mark.” Those that do not are certain to die—are killed, persecuted, or unable to survive.

What does “that no man might buy or sell” imply? It clearly means that NOBODY ... ANYWHERE ... will be able buy or sell ... ANYTHING ... unless they subordinate themselves to the “Beast and its image.” They must first take the mark. This is a penultimate event in the Tribulation period.

The question we want to direct our attention to is: What systemic controls and/or developments are yet required for a global regime to be put in place, so that NO ONE on earth can either buy or sell without permission?

What needs to take form before this event can actually occur? Can we anticipate the time that the Endtime Money Trap has advanced to the point where it may snap shut?

Grossly simplified, for the economic limitations that are prophesied in Revelation 13:17 to be fulfilled, at least four things must first happen:

1. First, a globally integrated and closed financial system must exist. Necessary and common technologies must be in place. That means that not even a little bank in Tupelo, Missis-

A reassessment is now needed, given the recent rapid developments over the past several years in response to economic crises, and lately, the global COVID-19 pandemic. A significant advance in the timeline of the Endtime Money Snare has occurred.

sippi or the Island of Tuvalu will be able to facilitate any type of transaction (whether buying food or selling a house) outside of this closed system.

2. Next, a system of central banking and national accounting must be endorsed everywhere. This results in a commonly shared monetary philosophy around the world (not necessarily a one-world currency) which, crucially, has an influential hold over financial markets and human behavior. In other words, the entire world must agree to play by the same monetary rules and values. Central bank officials must carry out the same policies, coordinating their actions.

3. The legal statutes and regulatory institutions, which oversee the financial activities of capital markets of individual countries, must be superseded (or subjugated) by a centralized worldwide authority. This is to ensure that unified actions can be enforced. It would also mean that government treasury operations could be coordinated and controlled as well.

4. Finally, a unified global “political economy” must exist (taking the form of a very small group of powerful countries ... perhaps the 10 Kings ... then eventually a single autocrat) that



is powerful enough to enforce such monetary controls upon the entire world at a given time. Mankind must collectively agree to pursue this financial capture and to appoint a policymaker that will put in place such conditions and policies.

Global Money Control: We Are Nearly There

Having listed the four main steps to the Endtime Money Trap, just how far along is the world? Steps #1 and #2 are well advanced. For all intents and purposes, we could say that these two requirements are already in place.

What about the final two steps remaining to be completed?

A reassessment is now needed, given the recent rapid developments over the past several years in response to economic crises, and lately, the global COVID-19 pandemic. A signif-



As technocrats and political strategists well know, there is nothing as effective as a fearsome crisis to unify political consensus and to compel change.

icant advance in the timeline of the Endtime Money Snare has occurred.

In recent years, our view had been that global initiatives in this direction were indeed advancing, but were not yet firmly in place. After all, further unifying developments in this direction were difficult. Why? Because individual countries were reluctant to give up any sovereignty.

Then, how can these last two required steps ever fall in place? Our view had been that one or more global crises of some type or another must first occur.

And indeed, that has and is occurring ... quickly. The global responses to COVID-19 are chipping away at the resistance of sovereignty. Even countries such as Germany have momentarily changed their views. This country has significantly loosened its fiscal policies. Nevertheless, it faces certain meltdown in the EU (European Union) if it does not accept EU financial unification. In the meantime, the war between Russia and Ukraine is pulling the world together geopolitically ... although in the form of two factions: Russia and most non-aligned countries (Iran, China, India, Egypt, and others), and NATO and America.

These actions could be momentous, as it would further promote the third

step, though not yet its full completion. Eventually, the United States would also need to take part in the secession from sovereignty. That is most certainly not yet occurring at this time. In that respect, it can be said that the U.S. government administration of Donald Trump held back the clock. Of course, this situation is now reversing rapidly. At some point, it must if Bible prophecy is to be fulfilled. After all, prophecy is the foreknowledge of what future society and humans will choose to do.

As technocrats and political strategists well know, there is nothing as effective as a fearsome crisis to unify political consensus and to compel change. Quoting the late Milton Friedman (a well-known monetarist economist): “Only a crisis, real or perceived, produces real change.” A more diabolical quote expressing the same principle, comes from Nazi political theologian Carl Schmitt: “Sovereign is he who decides the state of emergency.”

Global emergencies and crises can be expected to continue. Prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes. The Endtime Money Snare is rushing forward. Only the Lord tarries, the Church and the Paraclete first to be removed. (MC)

Worshiping God in Distressing Times



DR. RON J. BIGALKE

A common misconception among those who have just trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation is that God will solve every problem.

While it is true that the basic spiritual problem (viz. estrangement from God) is resolved by grace through faith in Jesus, that solution often results in circumstances that were never experienced previously. For instance, one's newly formed trust in Christ as Savior may result in questions such as, "Why do good people suffer and the ungodly prosper?" "Why does God not answer my prayer?" Or, "Why does seeking to live by God's grace and for His glory, result in hostility from other people?" Be encouraged: the Bible does address believers who experience difficult circumstances (1 Pet 4:12-13).

The life of faith is not always easy. If a believer claims to be without obstacles, he or she is very likely not maturing spiritually, not being truthful, or living a sheltered life. Habakkuk was not that kind of person. As he considered his time, Habakkuk found himself struggling with basic questions and doubt. He had difficulty reconciling what he knew of God in relation to what he observed in his own nation, and even internationally.

Habakkuk knew what it was like to live during a time of national revival, and then to witness God's people drift into lethargy and sin. The religious reforms that King Josiah insti-

Worshipping God in Distressing Times

The Lord God is involved in human affairs, though His actions may not be readily understood.

tuted were being forgotten when he died in 609 BC, and his son and successor Jehoiakim led the nation into a period of spiritual decline. Furthermore, there were atrocities which seemed to indicate that God was apathetic. Habakkuk responded correctly by seeking the Lord's guidance. As a prophet, he dialogued with God concerning his perplexity (chs. 1—2), which culminated in his praise (ch. 3).

THE PROPHET'S CONCERN

(Hab 1) The book of Habakkuk teaches how to respond to crises of faith. Habakkuk's problems are not likely to bother someone who does not trust in God, because that person considers history as lacking purpose and understands events to be determined by chance. The believer, however, who trusts in an omnibenevolent and omnipotent God, must grapple with such problems.

Habakkuk had a burden (1:1). Chapters 1—2 indicate the two questions Habakkuk asked God and the answers he received. The first question is, "How long, O LORD, will I call for help, and You will not hear?" In verses 2-4, the prophet exhibited an attitude of impatience to God's seeming indifference. Habakkuk prayed to God during a time of danger and difficulty, and pleaded to the Lord for an answer to his question.

Habakkuk's faith resulted in concerns, especially as he remembered prior times of revival under King Josiah. He witnessed "iniquity . . . wickedness . . . destruction and violence . . . strife . . . and contention," prompting him to inquire

why God would be indifferent to such prevalent and rampant sin and trouble among the people of Judah. Habakkuk perceived God as silent and thus unconcerned with the lives of His people. The existence of decadent and profane governments in many parts of the world today, causes people to still wonder if God is truly indifferent.

God answered Habakkuk by giving him a revelation rather than an explanation, because it was more relevant for the Lord to reveal Himself and His work to His servant (vv. 5-11). Indeed, the Lord God is involved in human affairs, though His actions may not be readily understood. God announced that He would be "raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people." Habakkuk hoped God would bring forth revival; however, the Lord had repeatedly warned His people there would be consequences in forsaking Him as they had done (cf. 2 Chron 36:14-21). The Lord God continues to be involved in human affairs, perhaps in acts unseen and through unexpected means. Simply because one cannot understand what God is doing in history, does not mean He is not active.

Habakkuk was not satisfied with God's first answer, because it only created a new problem that was even more confusing; namely, how a holy God could use a nation more wicked than Judah to punish His own people. The prophet's confusion did not mean He abandoned faith in God, for unbelief is rebellion—the failure to accept what God says and how He acts. Habakkuk demonstrated patience as he considered the character of God.

He reaffirmed his faith in God's holiness and omnipotence (vv. 12-13). Regardless of what occurred, the prophet knew that God is "too pure to approve evil." He could not explain the problem that evil creates, but neither did the prophet ignore it (vv. 14-17). For the present, Habakkuk would patiently wait for God to answer, and expected the Lord to reprove (correct) him.

THE PROPHET'S STAND AND PATIENCE

(Hab 2) Habakkuk did not understand what God was doing, yet he knew the Lord is always right; thus, he awaited reproof. He compared himself to a watchman on the walls of Jerusalem, waiting patiently for God's answer that could be shared with the people. God revealed that He would indeed judge the Chaldeans for their sins (2:1-4), which are described in five woes (vv. 5-20).

Habakkuk patiently trusted God to fulfill His words. The judgment may not be immediate, yet it was certain to occur: "It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail" (v. 3b). In contrast to the proud, "the righteous will live by . . . faith" (v. 4c). Authentic faith looks beyond self to the Lord God, while the proud are always fixated upon themselves.

The biblical assertion that the righteous live by faith is quoted in Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38; it is a verse that changed the world. The "righteous" person is not someone who has satisfied all God's commands by means of good works. Scripture declares, "by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified" (Gal 2:16b; cf. Rom 3:20). Justifi-

cation is a legal (forensic) term with regard to acquittal; it refers to God's action whereby He makes human beings—who are sinners and worthy of condemnation—acceptable (righteous) before the One who is perfectly holy. Not only is salvation by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9), but also the righteous (justified) *live* by faith, which is called sanctification.

False gods do not have to be made of wood, stone, gold, or silver (Hab 2:19), yet are just as useless and worthless to save if they are. In contrast to lifeless idols, the prophet Habakkuk worshiped the living God, who rules the universe from "His holy temple" (v. 20). Though he did not understand all God's actions, the Lord reminded His servant of His power and wisdom, and His ultimate triumph over wickedness. God is holy and just, and will always act fairly.

Habakkuk prayed and prophesied during a time of crisis. He teaches how to confront doubts and questions with honesty. One does that by humbly seeking the Lord's direction; waiting for the Word of God, the Bible, to provide guidance, and then worshiping God regardless of any limited perception. The Lord God will not always alter the circumstances, yet He can change you and me to live by faith in response to our experiences.

THE PROPHET'S PRAYER

Chapter 3 records Habakkuk's joyous response. Understanding what the Lord would do caused the prophet to tremble (3:1-2). Previously, the prophet was troubled that God was doing too little, and now he became concerned that the Lord would do too much. He prayed for revival, knowing that it is a sovereign work of the Lord

Worshipping God in Distressing Times



Habakkuk depicted a declining economy: “the fields produce no food,” and there were “no cattle in the stalls” (Hab 3:17; cf. Deut 28:15-24). What had provided happiness, satisfaction, and security was gone. Nevertheless, the Lord God would continue working His divine purposes for those who love Him, “to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28).

and not a human achievement. Knowing how God worked previously to revive His people and how they responded, Habakkuk wanted to witness that again. All that is needed for revival to occur is to beseech the Lord, pleading for His reviving work.

Habakkuk also pleaded for God’s judgment not to be too severe, but “in wrath remember mercy” (v. 2). He knew that God’s promised wrath of the Babylonian invasion was certain, and agreed that the people of Judah were deserving of the Lord’s chastisement. Thus, he prayed for it to accomplish good. Knowing God’s compassionate nature, Habakkuk pleaded for the expression of divine love to be mercy.

A poetic description of God’s prior relationship with Israel is given in verses 3-15. These verses reveal what He is like, and thus prove that true worship is always focused upon the Lord. Habakkuk’s concluding thoughts (vv. 16-19) indicate that he trembled at the expectation of God’s coming judgment, yet waited “quietly for the day of distress” (v. 16). Even when considering the impending calamity, the prophet would “rejoice in the God of [his] salvation” (v. 18). Habakkuk would not have responded as he did if dependent upon his emotions. As he considered the present disintegration of his

nation, the prophet’s “inward parts trembled” (v. 16). Habakkuk’s fear diminished only when he considered the glory, holiness, and power of God. Living by faith means focusing upon the Lord’s goodness, greatness, and glory.

One of the characteristics of faith is the resolve to wait patiently for the Lord to act. The prophet Isaiah (28:16) referred to the one who believes as he or she who is “not disturbed” (i.e., does not act in a hurry; cf. Exod 14:13; Ruth 3:18; Ps 37:7; 46:10). Habakkuk could be patient because he knew the Lord God is involved in human affairs, though His actions may not be readily understood.

Habakkuk depicted a declining economy: “the fields produce no food,” and there were “no cattle in the stalls” (Hab 3:17; cf. Deut 28:15-24). What had provided happiness, satisfaction, and security was gone. Nevertheless, the Lord God would continue working His divine purposes for those who love Him, “to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28). Habakkuk was, therefore, resolved to rejoice in the God of his salvation, who alone provides strength for living (Hab 3:18-19). The one who trusts in God is always safe and secure, and can rejoice in the Lord regardless of the circumstances.

(1215)




WORLD FOCUS



USA

Emotion-Sensing Artificial Intelligence

Software that uses machine learning to attempt to detect human emotions is emerging as the latest flashpoint in the debate over the use of artificial intelligence.

 Proponents argue that such programs, when used narrowly, can help teachers, caregivers and even salespeople do their jobs better. Critics say the science is unsound and the use of the technology dangerous.

Though emotion-tracking technology has been evolving for a while, it's rapidly moving into broader use now, propelled in part by the pandemic-era spread of videoconferencing.

Critics have been sounding alarms over mood-detection tech for some time.

"Emotion AI is a severely flawed theoretical technology, based in racist pseudoscience, and companies trying to market it for sales, schools, or workplaces should just not," Fight for the Future's Caitlin Seeley George said in a statement to Axios.

"It relies on the assumption that all people use the same facial expressions, voice patterns, and body language. This assumption ends up discriminating against people of differ-

ent cultures, different races, and different abilities."

Those working on the technology say that it's still in its early stages but can be a valuable tool if applied only to very specific cases and sold only to companies who agree to limit its use.

"Our multi-disciplinary research team works with students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders in education to explore how human-AI collaboration in education can help support individual learners' needs, provide more personalized experiences and improve learning outcomes," the company said in a statement to Axios.

-www.axios.com, 25 April 2022

Commentary: When reading Western-oriented news sources about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and comparing it with Russian news sources, it reveals diametrically opposed analysis of the same event. That can also be said about the almost past coronavirus pandemic. It seems that only one who is well-read, trained, and experienced can somehow find the correct middle path.

Artificial intelligence to the rescue. Though the article indicates it's



Illustration: Annelise Capossela/Axios

still in the early development stages, the outcome is not subject to debate; it will happen.

A simple example: traveling internationally, a passport is required; however, the government-issued passport alone is no longer the absolute authority. The main page with one's personal details and picture is scanned by a computer, looked up on a database, and only if found to be satisfactory is one allowed to enter a country.

However, on a recent return from overseas, this writer experienced something for the first time: coming through the customs and immigration line, the officer in charge just asked us to look into the camera. He did not need to see the passport. An instant after the picture was taken, we were allowed to proceed. This clearly reveals that facial recognition data is already digitally stored and available for all US customs and

(continued next page)

Emotion Sensing *(continued from page 23)*

immigration officers throughout the US.

Since the Bible has long ceased from being the ultimate authority, mankind must create something unknown heretofore: detecting the soul of a person—the emotions. Needless to say, this would be a welcome tool in the US, due to the near continual occurrence of mass shootings such as recently happened in New York and Texas. This type of progress will continue until man totally relies on his manufactured artificial intelligence. The result will be eliminating those who think and act contrary to

the global laws now in the process of being developed.


7759

(See Progressive Globalism, Item #1092, \$5.50.)



INDIA
Government Bans All Wheat Exports

India, the world's second largest producer of wheat, has banned all exports with immediate effect after a heatwave affected the crop.

 A key aim is to control rising domestic prices. Global wheat prices have increased by more than 40% since the beginning of the year.

Even though it is the world's second largest producer of wheat, India con-



India, the world's second-biggest wheat producer, has blocked all exports of the grain with immediate effect.
Bloomberg | Bloomberg | Getty Images

sumes most of the wheat it produces. It had set a goal of exporting 10m tons of the grain in 2022-23, looking to capitalize on global disruption to wheat supplies from the war and find new markets for its wheat in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Apart from problems with weather damaging harvests, India's vast stocks of wheat—a buffer against famine—have been strained by distribution of free grain during the pandemic to about 800 million people.

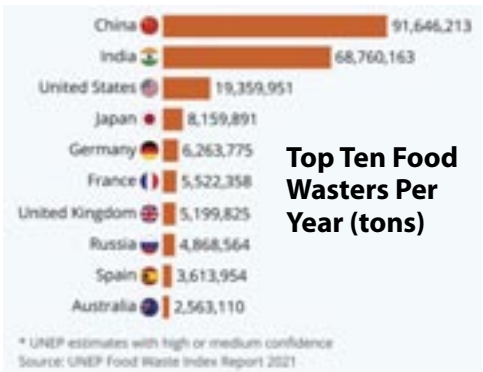
To balance supply and demand, the government needs about 25m tons of wheat each year for an extensive food welfare program that usually feeds more than 80 million people.

-www.theguardian.com, 14 May 2022

Commentary: Alarming reports about possible food shortages are nothing new. Way back in the 1960s and 70s, statistics and articles published indicated that the world will run out of food. In fact, already in 1798, Thomas Malthus wrote that the world would not be able to support its bur-

geoning population. Wrong!

Forbes/Statista published the following under the headline, “The Enormous Scale of Global Food Waste”:



This writer recalls that in the 1960s, as a member of the West Australian Wheat Board, recommendations were made to all farmers to reduce acreage due to the drop in wheat prices at that time.

While we cannot vouch for the accuracy of Forbes/Statista, it is a valid guideline to show that food production is at an all-time high and expected to grow significantly in the future.

We must add Matthew 5:45b: “for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” This reminds us that the harvest ultimately depends on God.


7761

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

ISRAEL

Expansion of West Bank Subdivisions

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett welcomed a recent decision to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank that the Palestinians and most of the international community view as illegal.

 “In the face of enemy violence, the Zionist answer has always been settlement, security and immigration,” Bennett said. “We approved here in Elkana, to my understanding, the largest volume of construction at once, since the establishment of the town.”

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and the Palestinians want it to form the main part of their future state. Israel has already built more than 130 settlements that today are home to nearly 500,000 settlers. Nearly 3 million Palestinians live in the West Bank under Israeli military rule.

Bennett, a longtime supporter of settlements who once led the main settler council, is opposed to Palestinian statehood. He leads a government that includes parties from across Israel’s political spectrum, including some opposed to settlements.

In the interest of keeping the coalition together, they have ruled out any major peace initiatives or outright annexation, while continuing to expand settlements and taking some steps to help the Palestinians economically.

-apnews.com, 17 May 2022

Commentary: We note that the “international community [views the subdivisions] as illegal.” We object; historically, the international community has always supported “winner takes all.” We must also note that Arab Palestinians have never supported any type of existence of a Jewish State. The Arab League voted against the partition of British Palestine. Now, 75 years later, the so-called Two-State Solution is no more than a pipe dream.

Readers will notice that this writer does not accept the definition “settlements,” instead using the proper term “subdivisions.” The word “settlements” would aptly apply to the 35 nations established on the American continent (North and South) by Europeans. The original inhabitants were not asked, nor did they give permission for the settlers to take their land.

What’s different here is that we are dealing with God’s land—the clearly defined geographical territory God gave Abraham and his descendants: “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river,

the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18).

7760

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




AUSTRALIA

Solar Power at Night?

The sun always sets on solar power eventually, right? Not necessarily, according to an astounding new research project. Newly developed technology similar to night-vision goggles may have just made solar power at night a real possibility.



Solar panels line a field in the United States.
(Credit: American Public Power Association)

 Scientists from the ARC Center of Excellence in Exciton Science and the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) report a major milestone in thermal capture technology. They’ve developed a device capable of generating electricity from thermal radiation.

During development, the team made use of a power-generation device called a “thermo-radiative diode,” which is quite similar to the technology found in night-vision goggles.

Rune Strandberg, a Norwegian scientist, was the first researcher to consider the theoretical possibility of such a device. Now, scientists at Stanford University are currently conducting their own research on the potential possibilities of collecting thermal energy at night.

(continued next page)

Solar Power (continued from page 25)

To be clear, the successful test put together by the team only produced a very small amount of energy (about 0.001% of a solar cell). At this early stage, though, all that really matters is that the device works.

-studyfinds.org, 18 May 2022

Commentary: One sensational report after another is a daily routine in the top-level scientific world.

So the question, how far will mankind go? Our answer, based on Holy Scripture: there is no limit. In the end, it's not an issue of harnessing electricity, thus resulting in clean power, but the real goal will always be the creation of a manmade god. That is almost natural, since man continues to distance himself from




the God of creation. Thus, his inventive mind is forced to look for a substitute.

7757

(See *Refuting Evolution*, Item #2235, \$10.)

CHINA Restrictions on Minors Live-Streaming

China's regulators have moved to ban minors from participating in the country's live-streaming industry to protect "their physical and mental health," the latest in a series of crackdowns on a sector that gained huge popularity amid the coronavirus lockdowns of 2020.

 The new rules also prohibit those under 16 from live-streaming, while users aged between 16 and 18 must obtain permission from their parents or guardians before doing live streams.

Regulators also want Big Tech to improve and upgrade their "youth mode," a feature deployed by tech firms last year under state pressure to protect teenagers from gaming addiction and inappropriate content.

After more than doubling in size during the first year of the pandemic as consumers stuck at home turned to live streams for entertainment and shopping, the industry amassed more than 600 million users by mid 2021, according to market consulting firm iiMedia Research.

China's most popular live-streaming e-commerce platforms are TikTok's Chinese sister app Douyin, Alibaba Group Holding's Taobao Live, and Kuaishou Technology's short video platform, while Huya and Douyu are the most popular video game streamers, according to iiMedia Research. Alibaba owns the *South China Morning Post*.

-finance.yahoo.com, 9 May 2022

Commentary: The Chinese government's ability to implement restrictions is mainly due to a one-party system. They claim the goal is to protect minors' "physical and mental health." There is little doubt that

these measures will indeed improve the physical and mental health of minors. The result is almost natural to see; namely, a more disciplined group of young people representing China's future.

These types of developments in China and other countries are part of the Eastern world's attempt to catch up to or supersede the Western world. We have stated repeatedly that whether it's intellectualism, scientific achievements, etc., they are intended to make China independent from the West's monopoly in the high-tech sector.

What is China's future? When we examine the virtually miraculous economic growth during the past three to five decades, we may assume China will become the undisputed world power.

But what is the real future? Here we can with assurance quote Scripture, which not only applies to China, but also the entire world: "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all



these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

7749

(See *Daniel's 70 Weeks of Years*, Item #1073, \$3.50.)

NORTH KOREA

Over One Million Covid Cases

More than a million people have now been sickened by what Pyongyang is calling a “fever,” state media said.

Some 50 people have died, but it’s unclear how many of those suspected cases tested positive for Covid.

North Korea has only limited testing capacity, so few cases are confirmed.

The country announced its first confirmed Covid cases—although experts believe the virus has likely been circulating for some time.

It is extremely unlikely the North would ever accept help from South Korea. It will be far more palatable if the offer comes from an international organization such as the United Nations, even if that means South Korea’s supplies need to be redirected and packaged up in this way.

-www.bbc.com, 16 May 2022

Commentary: The most reclusive country in the world has finally succumbed to the devastation of a widespread Covid outbreak, although as the article states, “...experts believe the virus has likely been circulating for some time.”

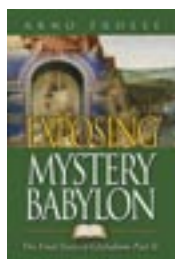
It appears that the government is surreptitiously letting it be known that foreign aid will be needed, as part of the article not quoted above mentions: “...the fact that it is report-



Employees spray disinfectant and wipe surfaces in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang

ing its daily deaths and case numbers is seen as an indication that it needs and wants help.”

What this shows is that the most tightly controlled borders still cannot stop the miniscule coronavirus from plaguing its citizens. This has the potential to be a stepping-stone to opening up to other nations, as even places like North Korea won’t be able to resist the forces of globalization in the long run. Prophecy reveals that “Satan ... deceiveth the **whole** world” (Revelation 12:9), so that “**all** nations [will] drink of the wine of the wrath of her [Mystery Babylon’s] fornication” (14:8b).



7755

(By K. Farmer)

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

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DENMARK

Referendum on EU Defense

Historically skeptical about European Union efforts to deepen cooperation, Danish voters will choose whether to abandon the country’s decision three decades ago to opt out of the bloc’s common defense policy.

The Danish referendum comes as the latest example of European countries seeking closer defense links with allies in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. It follows Sweden and Finland’s historic bids to join NATO.

Denmark joining the EU defense policy would have a relatively modest impact on Europe’s security architecture, particularly compared to Sweden and Finland joining NATO. But Christine Nissen, a researcher with the Danish Institute for International Studies, said both moves are “part of the same story,” and would strengthen military cooperation on a continent stunned by the war in Ukraine.

She said the main effect of abandoning the opt-out decision would be that Danish officials could stay in the room when EU colleagues discuss defense topics and Danish forces could take part in the bloc’s military operations.

Denmark, a founding member of NATO, has stayed on the sidelines of EU efforts to build a common security and defense policy in parallel with the trans-Atlantic alliance. It was one of four opt-out moves that Danes insisted on before adopting the EU’s Maastricht Treaty, which laid the foundation for political and economic union.

-www.npr.org, 31 May 2022

NO COMMENTARY



The Bridge Between God and Us

Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 30. Revelation 2:23-29.

The Lord, who has eyes like a flame of fire, says in the letter to Thyatira, “And all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins [minds] and hearts: and I will give unto every one according to your works” (Rev 2:23b).

It is noticeable that not only should the church at Thyatira recognize that the Lord searches minds and hearts, but also all churches. That includes us! We, as the Church of Jesus, should realize that His eyes are like a flame of fire, and that He explores our hearts and minds to know our deepest motivations.

But it is also a great consolation that the Lord doesn't let the faithful out of His sight. The Christian Standard Bible says, “I say to the rest of you in Thyatira...” (v. 24). This remnant of the faithful in Thyatira hadn't accepted Jezebel's doctrine. That is why they are told, “...I will put upon you none other burden. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come” (Rev 2:24-25).

The Lord doesn't place any other burden on the ones who hold fast to their first love for the Lord, and to holy single-mindedness in following Jesus—whoever doesn't tolerate mixing. But

We've gained a new position through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and so our condition must also be renewed.

He warns them very urgently not to let go of anything; not to let anything rob them of what they possess. For how long? Until Jesus comes again: "...he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end" (v. 26a).

What could prevent holding fast until the end? Unwillingness to repent. But the chance to radically change for the better is there! The first step toward true repentance (and averting judgment) is not to try to cover up sin that the Lord has revealed to us. We must instead agree with Him and confess it to Him.

The letter to Thyatira also includes the Lord's urgent admonition at the end: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (v. 29). However, this admonition only comes after the promise to overcomers, in contrast with the order in the letters to the other churches.

The promise to overcomers, addressed to Thyatira, reads: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star" (vv. 26-28).

"He shall rule them with a rod of iron" reminds us of the child who will be caught up to God and will rule the Gentiles with a rod of iron (Rev 12). This power over the peoples was prophetically foreshadowed in the victories of Joshua, David, and Solomon. When Israel entered the land of Canaan, they gained power over the Gentiles through Joshua. In other words, his enemies became his subjects. The Lord had promised, "Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours" (Deut 11:24a). The Lord has promised future overcomers, "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him" (2 Tim 2:12a). Even today, overcomers already have this judicial power over the peoples: they already have power over hostile forces, because Jesus is the Victor!

It should be noted that Revelation's first four promises to overcomers have four stages, namely:

- The tree of life
- Eternal life; the first death no longer has any power
- Hidden manna
- Exercise of judicial power and government through Jesus' victory

All of this is in Jesus alone, through Jesus alone, and with Jesus alone! While the progression of prophetic models in the

The Bridge Between God and Us

Old Testament has now come to an end, the three promises to overcomers, given to the three remaining churches, speak of things that are still in the future. They indicate majestic events in world history that are yet to come.

All of the promises to overcomers, however, uniquely point to the indescribably glorious future that will be bestowed upon those who actually become overcomers through Jesus Christ. The fullness of this glory can hardly be described in words; as Paul says, “. . . Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor 2:9). So, it would be presumptuous to claim to be able to analyze these promises of future glory down to the last detail.

Each of the seven letters contains a promise for a specific overcomer, and yet all of these promises are made to all of God’s children who overcome. Every dark area in your life will be filled with an indescribable portion of glory in eternity, if you claim the victory of Jesus over it. Whoever victoriously fights the good fight of faith and overcomes through suffering, will also receive the corresponding reward of God’s unspeakable glory. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 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” (2 Cor 4:17-18).

When we talk about overcoming, it’s ultimately about the bridge between our position before God and our condition in everyday life. In his first epistle, John says, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9). The new man in you, the reborn spirit, cannot sin; it is flawless. Romans 8:1 also testifies to this: “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

That’s our fundamental position before God, and must be the state of our everyday life. In other words, we must overcome our flesh and blood, the sinful self, by the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can do this if we consider ourselves “crucified with him” (Gal 2:19-20; Rom 6:6-8). Scripture says this about our condition: “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

We’ve gained a new position through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and so our condition must also be renewed. Every area of our life—character, thoughts, speech, actions—should be dominated by what has been made new in our life (2 Cor 5:17).

(MR1121/1200)



BRAZIL

Encouragement Despite Covid

The 22nd Prophecy Congress in Brazil, held in October 2021, was a success despite all the Covid restrictions. A thankful look back.

BY MARKUS AND ELLEN STEIGER, PORTO ALEGRE

There were 470 participants from all over Brazil, as well as 34 staff, all following the local rules well. Many testified to how grateful they are that we are holding the convention again, as they'd missed those days in Águas de Lindóia. Upon our arrival, we met some familiar faces that had been marked by the pandemic. Some had grown significantly older in those two years. But as the days went by, those signs of aging seemed to reverse more and more. They became happier and no longer had that sad look in their eyes. Glory to the Lord for that!

We knew quite early on that Eretz Soref would be unable to attend, so we recorded a message from him in June of 2021. Then, it was uncertain for some time whether Norbert Lieth would manage

to make it, so we had a plan B in place in case he had to cancel. But at the end of September, he was able to confirm his attendance. The Israeli government had originally prevented Meno Kalisher from coming (plan C), but he was finally able to confirm his attendance on October 6th. However, we hadn't anticipated that our own Mehdi Mouazen from Brazil wouldn't be able to come. Three days before the Congress began, he tested positive for Covid as the result of work-related travel to Dubai (despite vaccinations and a prior infection). His lecture was recorded on short notice and shown via projector. Roger Liebi had been a firm yes from the beginning, and he even agreed to take on additional talks (plan D) if any of the other speakers had to back out. In hindsight, we



Our staff



The book table




During the Congress

can only thank the Lord from the bottom of our hearts for how wonderfully He arranged everything, used the speakers, and granted them success. So many attendees told us how much good the encouraging lectures had done them.

In the days leading up to the conference, we had also prayed a lot for the book table (in addition to everything else). How would it work during a pandemic? Normally, the book table is swarmed. How could we adapt it for social distancing regulations?

Would we still be able to sell enough? God also wonderfully solved these anxious questions. Taking the number of participants into account, sales per person were even better than two years prior, when we'd had nearly 900 in attendance. Another answered prayer! Everyone was very orderly and understanding. And we didn't hear of any infections in the weeks following the Congress.

Like we do every year, we announced the dates of this year's Congress as we wrapped up this one (October 19-22, 2022). The topic will be "The Church of Jesus in the End Times: Dangers and Protection from Them." Since our two "locals," Daniel Lima and Sidney Machado, had been so well received at the 2020 online Congress, we assigned a message to each of them, to the delight of some participants. Jeff Kinley (USA) will be there as well, and of course Meno Kalisher (Israel) and Norbert Lieth (Switzerland) will be part of the preaching team again. Within three weeks of the 2021 Congress, we had already received over 120 registrations. The Lord is faithful! (MR0322)



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BLOCKED PROGRESS



A cargo ship loses part of its freight during a turning maneuver near Cologne, Germany. The Rhine is thus blocked for all shipping; no further progress.

By Peter Malgo

On the A-1 (Autobahn), a massive crash leads to miles of traffic jams; the highway is closed.

After a fire, the Eurostar (high-speed rail) service between Great Britain and the European mainland is disrupted. Close to 20,000 travelers are stuck, among them several thousand rugby fans from Scotland, who want to see the final game in Paris. Thus, they miss the event.

I drive my car up a narrow mountain road. My goal is to reach a vacation home. Suddenly, after a curve, I am stopped. “You cannot continue driving here; there is an accident up ahead.” No progress—stop!

Accidents, crashes, fires, bad weather, etc. often render progress impossible. Planned goals cannot be achieved. It is not much different on our journey through life. Sometimes,

unexpected circumstances cross our path and render our planned goal impossible to reach. But could it have been the gracious hand of our Lord that intervened in our life’s voyage, because we were in danger of losing sight of our eternal goal as we pursued our own objectives? Have we perhaps been thrown off track because our life turned out different from what we imagined? Did we even run aground?

On our journey through life, there are various events, stages, and milestones we expect, look forward to, and strive for. Graduation from school, the wedding, the new apartment, the first child, becoming grandparents, then retirement ... and finally, it dawns on us that there is nothing else worth looking forward to. All the phases of life, once so eagerly anticipated, are now gone, finished and over.



Just for You!

Really? Yes, for people who don't know Jesus as Savior, that is the reality. For them, there is no future; only waiting for the end, for death. For some, living in a nursing home—that is the sad truth. How different it is for God's children! We are waiting for a glorious future: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13). And we are "looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Waiting for Jesus, being focused on His coming—may this goal become ever more real in our lives and be a great comfort to us, so that any expectation of other things will fade into the background. If the meaning of our life lies only in this world and our goals are merely earthly-oriented, then we have

missed out on real life. True life is eternal. Paul encourages us to pursue the eternal goal, "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:14). No one can take this goal from us. It is quite possible to be stranded on the way to earthly goals, to be blocked from progress and not accomplish what we intended. All the more then the heavenly goal shines forth: eternal glory!

Maybe we couldn't get our dream job. Perhaps starting a family did not go as harmoniously as we had thought. The time after retirement also turned out quite different from what we imagined. While contemplating all of that, questions about the meaning of life arise in our innermost spirit.

God has a wonderful, glorious purpose for your and my life: the true life here on earth; and thereafter, the eternal life in glory. ☺

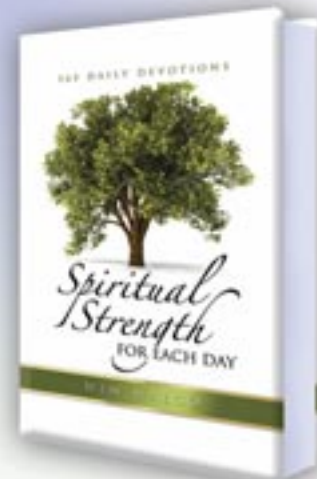
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I Will Praise Him ...

The testimony of Jaffa Sapir, an Ebenezer Resident



By **David Phillips** *COO (Chief Operating Officer)*

This month's issue, I wanted to give you a glimpse into another one of our dear residents' lives. Each resident has a story to tell, a life forever changed for the glory of God. Some are filled with joy, others with sorrow and tears. Jaffa is one such resident, a young Holocaust survivor, about whom you will find yourself both crying and in awe at what she endured. But yet, even amid the heartache she was enduring, she was about to get the surprise of her life! Something she never expected, something she thought was completely impossible. Yet her Heavenly Father, whom she had come to rely on so heavily, had a tremendous gift in store for her! But wait ... I must let you read it for yourself. May I introduce you to a very special sister in Yeshua, Jaffa Sapir.

"My name is Jaffa Sapir, and I was born in May 1929 in the former USSR. I am a Holocaust survivor who knows and loves Yeshua the Messiah very much!

"Soon after the war began, I was separated from my family. My father, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews were killed early in the war,

leaving behind my three brothers and myself with no one to care for us (we believed at the time that our older brother and sister had also been killed).

"Soon, because of a lack of food within the city, I was separated from my three brothers, aged 10-14, and I never saw them again.

"When I was only 8 years old, I hid alone in the forest for two years, coming out from time to time to beg for food in nearby villages. During this time, someone literally dropped a Bible into my lap, which I read while in hiding. It was through this experience that I came to faith in Yeshua. This time became a time of much prayer.

"During and after the war, I experienced much trauma and suffering in my life. I believed all of my family had been murdered during the war, and only years later, after arriving in Israel as an adult, did I realize that the most incredible gift awaited me! My older brother and sister had escaped and made Aliyah to Israel, and really hadn't been killed with the rest of my family! After so many years, the three of us siblings



were reunited as a family once more! God is so good!”

Jaffa continues to explain how she married young and had three sons. While her sons were still young, she and her husband divorced, and only after their divorce did she make Aliyah (immigrated) to Israel as a single mother. She lived in a kibbutz, working at a factory while single-handedly raising her three children. When she retired, she moved to Nahariya, where she lived alone for many years.

Because of her declining health at 85, Jaffa decided it was time to move into an elderly home. She explains, “For me, living in the Ebenezer Home is very important, because I can participate in the morning devotions and prayer meetings, which I greatly enjoy.”

Jaffa has much gratitude for all God has done for her, and never passes up an opportunity to share with others how God is her Father, and how much He has loved and cared

for her through all! She desires that all come to realize Yeshua’s great love for them!

Jaffa speaks many languages, and thoroughly enjoys bringing a smile to the residents’ faces, encouraging and singing for them. She actively follows the lives of her sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and prays for each one of them. Jaffa has a generous heart toward everyone she meets, and you will often see her with her hands raised high, exclaiming, “Toda LaEl!” (“Thank you, God!”) as she shares her story with you.

The Ebenezer Building and Renovation Project is to help provide Jaffa and many brothers and sisters like her with the spiritual as well as physical and medical care needed. We can’t thank you enough for being part of the Ebenezer family and joining hands with us, as we seek to love, serve, minister to, and care for these precious elderly brothers and sisters in Yeshua! Thank you!



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

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BY ARNO FROESE

In the above verse, we notice the words “I will.” Thus, we realize that the return of the Jews to the land of Israel is the will of God. The question we ask is, how does He implement His will?

The Jerusalem Post proclaims that at the beginning of 2022, Israel’s population stood at 9.5 million.

Where did it all begin? Doubtless, from the “I will” of God. But how did it progress in practical terms? We know, for example, that the Declaration of the State of Israel occurred in May 1948. Since that time, three million Jews have made Aliyah. Jewish Virtual Library reports: “The First Aliyah followed pogroms in Russia in 1881-1882. The first group of 14 Biluim arrived at Jaffa port on July 6, 1882. Most of the *olim* (immigrants) during this period came from Eastern Europe; a small number also arrived from Yemen. Members of Hibbat Zion and Bilu, two early Zionist movements that were the mainstays of the First Aliyah, defined their goal as ‘the political, national, and spiritual resurrection of the Jewish people in Palestine.’”

We note the words “spiritual resurrection.” How did it work? The article

“Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 11:17).

further states: “In all, nearly 35,000 Jews came to Palestine during the First Aliyah. Almost half of them left the country within several years of their arrival, some 15,000 established new rural settlements, and the rest moved to the towns.”

Most of the Jews of the First Aliyah came from Russia. But the Second Aliyah was different: “The Second Aliyah consisted of young men and women, mainly from Russia, many of them imbued with socialist ideas. These young men and women were guided not only by a more conscious and consistent national ideology, but were also fired by the ideal of laying the foundation for a workers’ commonwealth in the Eretz Yisrael” (archive.jewishagency.org).

This group, although again mainly from Russia, had a distinctly different ideology; not spiritual restoration, but restoring the land and defending oneself. It was the 5th of January 1930 when, under the leadership of David Ben Gurion, the Mapai Party—*Mifletet Poalei Eretz Yisrael*: literally, “Workers’ Party of the Land of Israel”—was founded, “a democratic socialist political party in Israel.”

Quite interestingly, not those of a religious ideology, but in plain words, the communist workers' party was the decisive implementer of settlements—"kibbutzim." This term came from the Russian "kolkhoz," a communist settlement. Many of these kibbutzim became extremely successful; to this day, there are millionaires and even billionaires among them.

What was their goal? "Establishment of a welfare state, providing minimum income, security, and free (or almost free) access to housing subsidies and health and social services" (en.wikipedia.org).

When we analyze Israel's modern history, we are faced with the irrevocable "I will" of God. In plain words, the beginning of modern Israel was based on communist ideology.

The same prophet Ezekiel—who occupies himself mostly with the land of Israel—is commanded by God not to speak to the people in the first place, but to the topographical land: "Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord" (Ezekiel 36:1). Then in verse 8, He gives the reason: "But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to

come." First, the land is being prepared for the people to come.

Later in the same chapter, we read of their twofold conversion: 1) "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (verse 26). Note carefully, "a new heart" and "a new spirit." But that's not the end. 2) Verse 27 declares: "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." That is yet to come.

We are not surprised, therefore, when we hear so much about Christian Zionism—Messianic believers. They have to be very careful in their public-facing operations. A number of ultra-Orthodox organizations often fight with desperate means to hinder the proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah.

Another source reported that one-third of Russian Jews coming to Israel, while reaping many benefits as new immigrants and receiving Israeli citizenship, then return to Russia. What is the reason? Russia is their home country; it's the land of their language, culture, ideology, and history.

This type of development is a prophetic warning for the Church. We may not turn back. Here is what we read in Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible for those who

were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

While this Scripture is often used to support the teaching that one can lose his salvation, it actually proves the opposite. It is impossible to lose my salvation after I have been reborn, and then be reborn again. Our rebirth is based on God’s “I will.” The new spirit born within the believer is the work of God; it is eternal. But those who do turn back will experience the fulfillment of 1 Corinthians 3:15: “If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

God’s work with us is not finished, but it can be at any moment. When the

last one from among the Gentiles is added to His spiritual temple, then eternity has begun.

God’s “I will” for His people Israel is targeted toward this fulfillment: “And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore” (Ezekiel 37:28).

Explanation of Action for Israel

After the Yom Kippur War in 1973, our late founder, Dr. Wim Malgo, established an emergency fund for poor families in Israel who had lost a loved one in the war. Later, several building projects were undertaken. One of the major projects included part of the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center (now called the Shamir Medical Center).

As of late, Action for Israel funds are mainly designated for believers in Israel in need. (MC)

**Action
for Israel**



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

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

RAPTURE—WHEN?... BRING JEWS TO ISRAEL... SAVED ETERNALLY

Rapture—When?

Mr. Arno Froese,

Regarding 2 Thessalonians 2, verses 1 and 3, the subject and key word is **gathering** together unto Him. It is obvious that the writer is addressing the Rapture of the Church.

BUT ... Paul says two things must happen before this event takes place. "Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except...**" He is still talking about the gathering together: the Rapture of the church.

1: "There come a falling away first" (from Jesus, the Church, and faith in the Scriptures).

2: "And that man of sin be revealed" (man of sin the first 3 1/2 years, the Antichrist; the last 3 1/2 years, when he sits in the temple as God ... Jacob's trouble).

So ... how can we be up in heaven when Paul says those two events must happen before our gathering together unto Him?

If there is no Tribulation for the 21st century, born-again Church (the Church that appears to be taking it easy), then God the Father must apologize to the 1st century Church and to all the apostles, for they died (were murdered). But if we prepare ourselves for the worst ... prayerfully, spiritually, and mentally, by giving everyday thought to what could occur ... maybe then we can face the sword, the guillotine, by God's grace ... and not take the mark if not caught off guard.

-B. Richner, GA

Answer: "The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" is the "Day of Christ." "Our gathering together unto Him" is the Rapture.

Remember who we are: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?" (1 Corinthians 3:16a; cf. 6:19). Peter explains: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Paul confirms: "In whom all the

building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:21-22). When that temple is perfected, finished, and the last "lively stone" is added, then the Lord takes possession of His temple, as He did during Moses' time, and later Solomon's temple.

We are the salt and light of the earth. As long as there is a tiny, little spark of light, darkness cannot have full reign.

In summary, the Great Tribulation cannot begin unless God the Holy Spirit, dwelling in His Church, "be taken out of the way" (2 Thess 2:7b).

Bring Jews to Israel

Please bring Ukrainian Jews to well-insulated apartments in the Negev. There it will be warm, safe from Russian and Iranian bombs, and make a contribution to your society. Why won't you? We will contribute to you when you bring Ukrainian Jews to Israel.

-G. Mellish, NC

Answer: Israel has the best communications and intelligence services in the world; they know where the Jews are in Ukraine. Many are being brought out, but some desire to go to other countries.

Here are some facts. DW.com writes: "With 200,000 Ukrainian Jews eligible for immigration to Israel, it seems to have already begun." Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of Ukrainian Jews choose Germany instead. *The New York Times* reports, "Most Ukrainians seeking refuge in Israel are non-Jews."

Most importantly, the Jewish Agency for Israel is responsible for bringing Jews to the land of Israel. Any Jew anywhere in the world can apply for migration to Israel. Without any cost, the Jewish Agency will bring them to the land of Israel if they so choose. Please note that the Jewish Agency has brought back over 3 million people from around the world to the land of Israel since 1948.

There are a number of private and non-profit organizations that assist Jews in foreign countries with returning to Israel, but with very limited success when compared to the official Israeli organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel (HaSochnut HaYehudit L'Eretz Yisra'el).

Saved Eternally

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, it says God will destroy those who defile the Spirit. That our bodies are God's spiritual temple. Since I have done this, does it mean I am damned to hell?

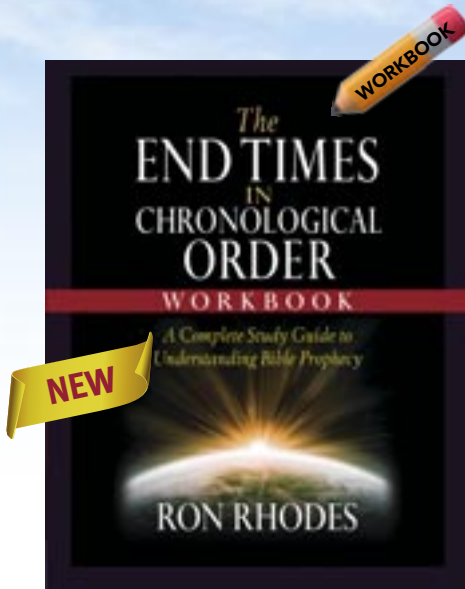
I have always believed that Jesus paid for all sins. Do I still have a chance at salvation?

-E. Wanner, ND

Answer: You are right, "Jesus paid for all our sins." Now carefully read 1 Corinthians 3:14-15. This speaks of the spiritual life. Even if one "suffers loss" as far as reward is concerned, the Scripture continues: "but he himself shall be saved."

Verses 16 and 17 emphasize that sin against the body will result in destruction. That may be sickness, or in some cases death, but note that's the physical body—not the spiritual one. (MC)

Midnight Call's July Resource Guide



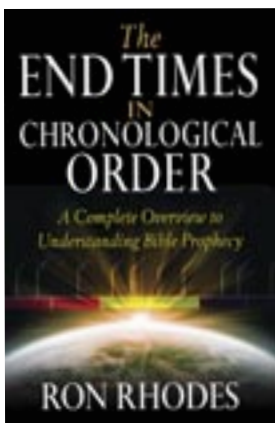
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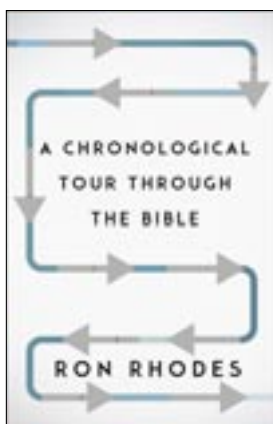
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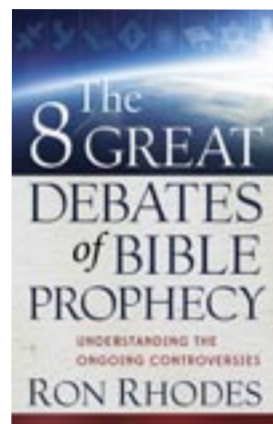
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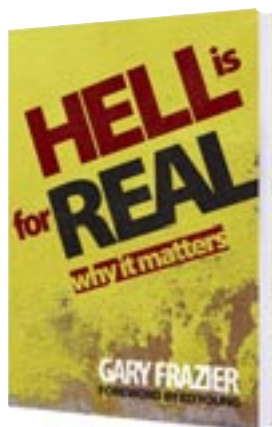
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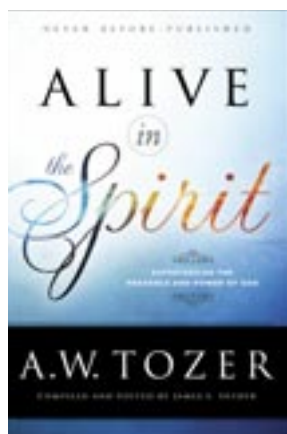
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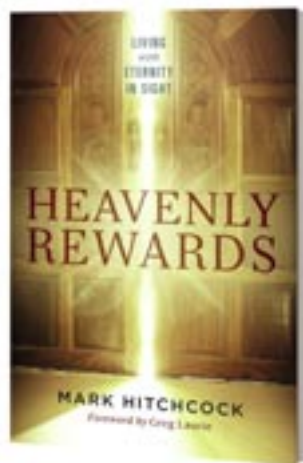
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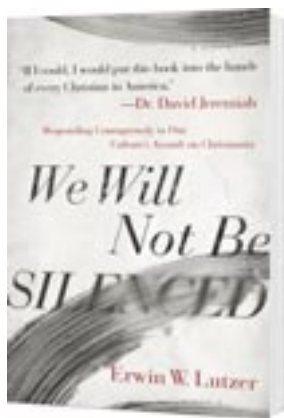
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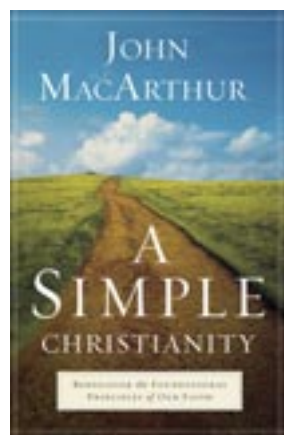
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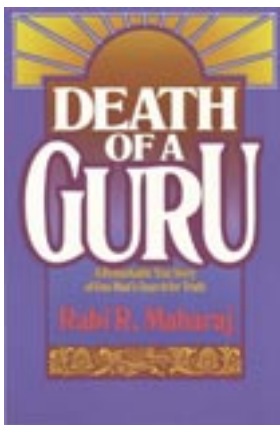
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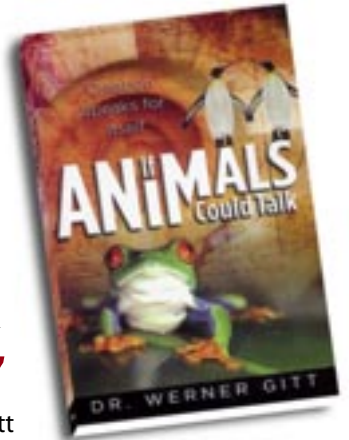
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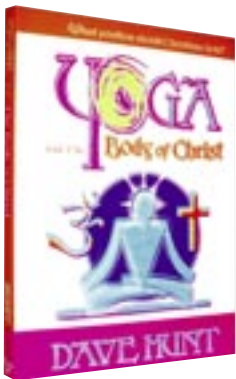
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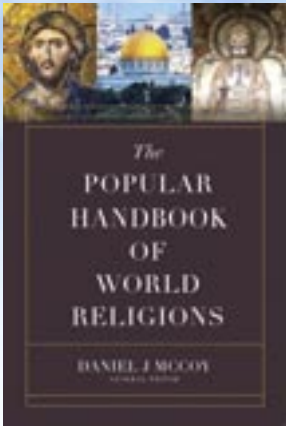
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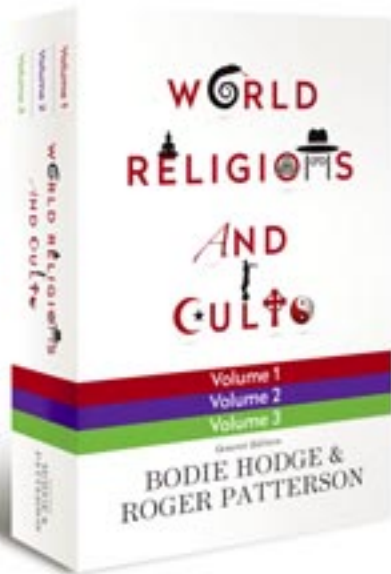
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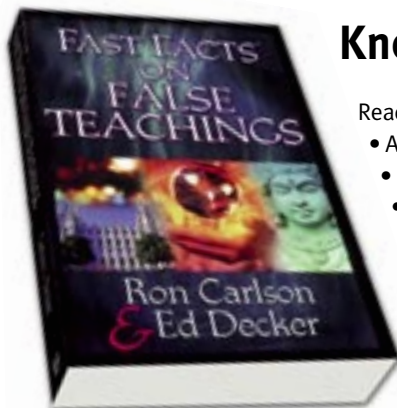
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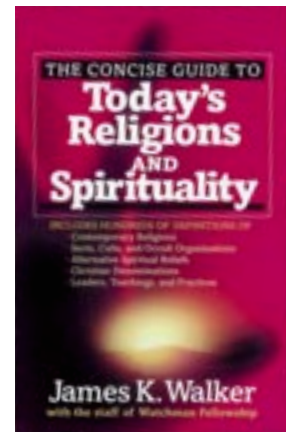
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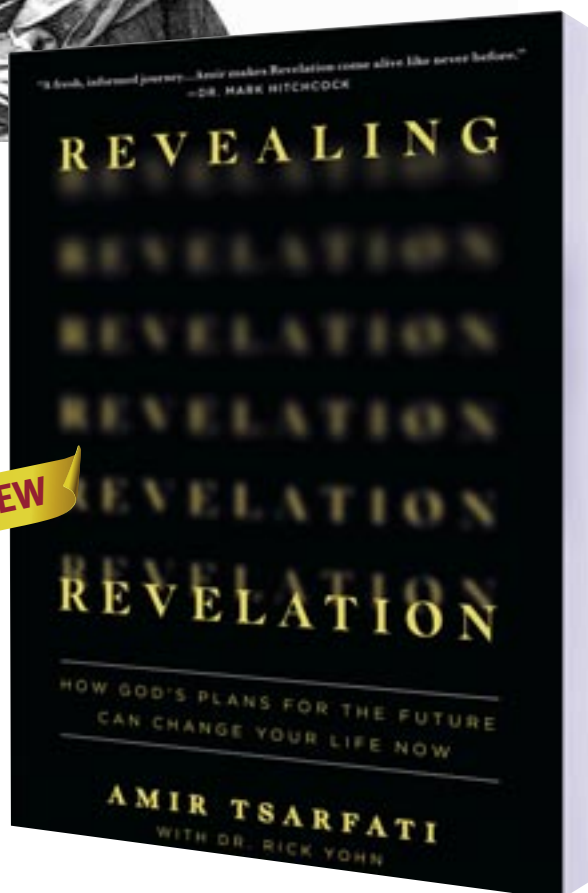
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