

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

Midnight Call

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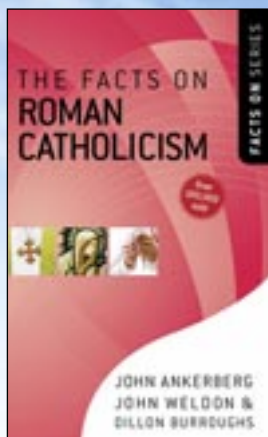
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What does the Catholic Church teach concerning salvation?

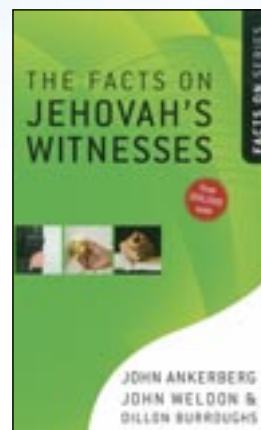
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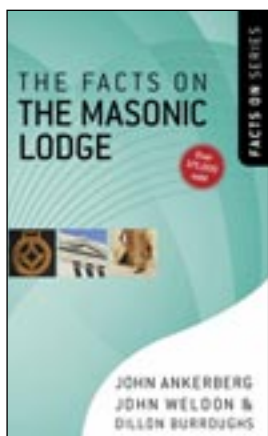
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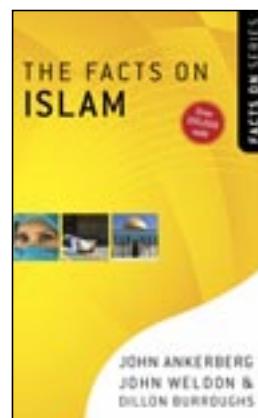
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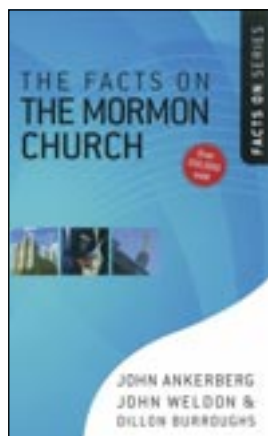
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Is God Unpredictable?



By Norbert Lieth

Director of Missions, Midnight Call International

We read in John 13:7 that Jesus said: “What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.” This verse had, of course, a very concrete meaning at the time; but without doubt, we may also apply it to our lives today.

For instance, what about suffering? We often don't understand God; in fact, most of the time we do not. Why does He allow this or that? Why do others receive help while I don't? Did I do something wrong? I tried my best. Am I displeasing God? Why does the Lord act one way this time and differently the next? Is God arbitrary and unpredictable? Is He even unjust?

To comprehend God is difficult for us. He is the eternal, invisible Spirit. His thoughts and His ways are infinitely higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). God is incomprehensible. Only through the Son of God can we understand God's actions. Everything we know about Him we know through Jesus. Even the Creation, which tells us about God, was created by Jesus. The Word that reveals God to us is in the person of Jesus—He is the image of the invisible God (John 1:18). And when we look at Jesus, we see

that God stands by us totally and completely. We recognize the all-pervading, unconditional love, ready to give all to draw us to Himself. We see how the Almighty does everything so He may be our Father and we His children. In Jesus, His way of life and suffering, we realize we can trust God completely. And in the resurrection of Jesus, we see the wonderful end to all suffering.

The Word of God tells us, “all things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28a). That is revelation and knowledge enough; that's all we need. If we rely on this statement, we find peace and can continue to trust Him. Everything contributes to the good—this means that in the end, everything will be fine. Whatever we experience here on earth is really of secondary importance. Everything that happens to us, the Lord will not use against us but rather to our benefit.

Job's story of suffering was catastrophic. Demonic powers were behind it, and God allowed it. Why? To give us a spiritual lesson. Job lost his belongings and his beloved children in one fell swoop. He lost his health and the

support of his closest friends. Inevitably, the question “Why?” rose up in Job. But his story ended in the best way possible: The Lord revealed Himself to Job. He was confronted by the Creator and Sustainer of Creation, by the One who made everything so incomprehensively beautiful, each part complementing the next one.

Job then understood, gained insight, and received double blessings. The relationship with his wife was restored, and they again were given ten children. What about Satan? He was beaten; he was the big loser. The angels of God, on the other hand, rejoiced about this glorious ending. Job had persevered; despite his internal struggles, he had held fast to his Savior.

In view of Job’s perseverance, James calls those happy who endure in the same way and cling to their Savior (James 5:11). And God tells us through Job’s example: 1) Our Savior lives. 2) When all hostility to God has been overcome, the Lord is there waiting. 3) One day, free from our earthly body, we will see our Redeemer. 4) We will not be strangers to Him. 5) And even now, we can long for that day (Job 19:25-27).

Afterwards, we will find out. With this in mind, I wish you blessed perseverance through March. ☺

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OUR TASK

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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 in the infallibility of the Holy Scripture, which is God’s Word, and in the eternal Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and shed His blood to save mankind. He died and arose bodily the third day, was seen by over 500, and later ascended into heaven.

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ died in the place of each individual sinner and that all who believe in Him as their personal Savior are justified through His shed blood and have become children of God.

WE BELIEVE that Israel is God’s chosen people, and that the restoration of the Jews to their own land is the fulfillment of the Word of God.

WE BELIEVE in the imminent, pre-tribunational 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.



HOW MUCH LONGER, LORD? PART 1

Fredy Peter

“What will become of me?” This is the question many people are asking themselves in the midst of misery, suffering, and injustice in their marriages, families, relationships, neighborhoods, at work, or in society. Psalm 94 provides the answers we all need today.

How can we reconcile God's omnipotence with rough personal experiences, societal developments, and the situation in the Middle East and around the world? We ask, "Lord, where are you? Why are your godly ones helpless and suffering, while the ungodly are strong and prosperous? Why is there so much injustice instead of justice? How much longer, Lord?"

This question is as old as mankind itself and is explicitly asked in Psalm 94. This psalm is the heart's cry of all generations of believers suffering injustice. It also contains a description of society that couldn't be more fitting for our 21st century. Psalm 94 shows the apparent triumph of the unjust over the just. But it then gives reasons why the children of God can be confident despite incomprehensible suffering. As we read it, we must not lose sight of the fact that this psalm is intended primarily for Israel, since the Psalms are Israel's songbook.

Psalm 94 is a song that is both personal and prophetic. It depicts the end-time conditions that will prevail shortly before Jesus' return and the establishment of His reign on earth. The afflicted, believing remnant of Israel will sing this psalm with pleas and supplication during the Great Tribulation: How much longer, Lord?

Who is this believing remnant? And how do we know that this psalm is describing the time leading up to Jesus' return? In order to answer these two questions, we'll have to dig a little deeper.

The next event on God's prophetic agenda is the Rapture. Paul describes this glorious event in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 as follows: "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a

cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words."

After that, the seven-year Tribulation will begin with the Antichrist's reign of terror, followed by unprecedented judgments from God. Jesus describes this in Mark 13:20: "And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days."

The "chosen ones" or "elect," of whom the Lord speaks in this passage, are the believing remnant. They are people who come to a living, saving faith in Christ during this time of judgment. Because they follow Jesus, they will refuse to worship the Antichrist or to accept his "mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name" (Rev 13:17). As a consequence of rejecting the mark, they are no longer able to buy or sell anything and are viciously persecuted. This era of total control and its consequences is just around the corner.

A television program recently showed how China is monitoring the population of Shanghai and other test cities using countless cameras on streets and homes: "If someone crosses an intersection and runs a red light, for example, their name and picture will appear in real time on a digital pillar nearby as a means of shaming them. China hopes this will bring more security and order. And what the camera misses, the cell phone sees [...] In China, there is a 'social credit

We must not lose sight of the fact that Psalm 94 is intended primarily for Israel, since the Psalms are Israel’s songbook.



It’s easy to say, “Well, that’s China. It’s so far away and doesn’t affect us.” But is that really true? The report also showed that more and more other governments are participating in this system. For example, if a Chinese citizen with a social credit score of more than 700 points enters Luxembourg today, it is easier for them to obtain a Schengen visa (enabling them to travel freely through most of Europe).

rating’ system. The state determines, by secret criteria, how honest, wealthy, trustworthy, and politically correct someone is and awards them correspondingly with digital credit points (resulting in a score between 350 and 950 points). [...] With China’s 1.8 billion cell phone users reserving, ordering, and paying for everything via apps, this is a frightening development, because those with low credit scores are restricted in their freedoms of movement and action. [...] One of the few remaining independent journalists there confirmed that he was no longer able to travel by air or train. When he attempts to make a reservation, the following message appears on his cell phone: ‘You are registered as a dishonest person. You are temporarily unable to purchase a ticket.’ He can no longer buy an apartment or start a business” (from news program “Review,” April 25, 2018).

The Antichrist’s rule is casting its shadow! And so, we anxiously ask: How much longer, Lord?

The seven-year Tribulation will ultimately end with the Lord Jesus’ visible return in great power and glory, to judge and establish the millennial kingdom of peace.

How do we know that Psalm 94 is primarily intended for the Jewish remnant and describes that awful time before Jesus’ return? As previously mentioned, the Psalms are the song and prayerbook of the people of Israel. This is corroborated in the psalm by the Lord’s people being mentioned twice (vv. 5, 14) and the God of Jacob once (v. 7). Additionally, Psalm 94 is part of a series of eight so-called “Homage Psalms,” beginning with Psalm 93 and ending with Psalm 100.

Incidentally, in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), all of these Psalms except for Psalm 100 are attributed to David. There is no reason to doubt this infor-

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mation from Jewish translators, who began their fundamental work in Alexandria as early as 280 BC.

Psalms 93—100 describe the establishment of Jesus Christ's millennial kingdom and, according to Arno Gaebelein, sing "mostly about His rule as Judge and the blessings of the coming age."

Jesus Is the King of Israel and the Ruler Over All Nations

- Psalm 93 describes the Lord as King.
- Psalm 95 describes the worship of the King.
- Psalm 96 describes the majesty of the King.
- Psalm 97 describes the power of the King.
- Psalm 98 describes praise for the King.
- Psalm 99 describes the holiness of the King.
- And finally, Psalm 100 describes enthusiastic thanks to the King.

In the midst of this series about God's coming sovereign rule over Israel, sits Psalm 94. How does it relate? Psalm 94 is about the King's righteous judgment that precedes the establishment of His kingdom! And that brings us to the first stanza of this prophetic and very personal song. It is the introduction to the whole topic and consists of three verses. It's about:

Burning Questions

"O LORD, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance, shine forth!" (Ps 94:1). Quite a remarkable beginning, because this is the only

place in the whole Bible where the Lord is named "God of vengeance."

We like to refer to the Lord using such expressions as "God of love" (2 Cor 13:11); "God of peace" (Phil 4:9); "God of endurance and encouragement" (Rom 15:5); "God of all grace" (1 Pet 5:10); or "God of all comfort" (2 Cor 1:3). But "God of vengeance," and twice at that? That's almost unbearable in our tolerant time! Isn't it?

A. W. Pink once wrote in this regard: "It is sad indeed to find so many professing Christians who appear to regard the wrath of God as something for which they need to make an apology, or who at least wish there were no such thing. [...] Others harbor the delusion that God's wrath is not consistent with His goodness, and so seek to banish it from their thoughts. [...] But what saith the Scriptures? As we turn to them we find that God has made no attempt to conceal the facts concerning His wrath. He is not ashamed to make it known that vengeance and fury belong unto Him. [...] Now the wrath of God is as much a divine perfection as is His faithfulness, power, or mercy. [...] The very nature of God makes Hell as real a necessity, as imperatively and eternally requisite, as Heaven is" (from *Attributes of God*, chapter 18, "The Wrath of God").

God is holy, which means separate. From what? Completely separate from sin. This attribute also requires that He hate sin. "You who are of purer eyes than to see evil" (Hab 1:13a). How then are we to stand before this

In the syntax of the Psalms, the proud are those who consciously rise up against God, rejoicing when they transgress His divine ordinances.

holy God and have fellowship with Him for eternity? That's why we need someone to remove our guilt. And that's precisely what Jesus did on the Cross!

God isn't just holy, but also omniscient. He knows the motives behind every action. He is the only One who can truly judge fairly. However, God's vengeance has nothing to do with an uncontrolled fit of rage, and everything to do with just retribution for every injustice. When the psalmist cries out for vengeance, he's calling down God's intervention where earthly justice has failed.

Vengeance and retribution were appropriate for the people of Israel in the Age of the Law. However, they are out of place for believers living in the Age of Grace. We are urged under the New Covenant to love our enemies (cf. Matt 5:44), to overcome evil with good (cf. Rom 12:21), and to suffer and endure (cf. Eph 4:1ff.; Col 3:13). Of course, we're not meant to just turn a blind eye to injustice, but "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God" (Rom 12:19a). Naturally, providing aid to those under threat and self-defense are excluded. This is our innate duty as Christians.

"No man may take revenge, only He to whom all judgment is entrusted. The Psalms of Vengeance are songs of the time of the Lord's return, when He will exact His terrible vengeance on all who have persecuted His people" (Dr. G. Wasserzug).

We can only understand this psalm's choice of words when we recognize its prophetic

meaning: "Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve! O LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?" (Ps 94:2-3).

Who is this "judge of the earth"? The Gospel of John answers the question this way: "For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son" (John 5:22). So, the psalmist is speaking prophetically of Jesus Christ! In that dreadful time of trouble, the persecuted believers will cry out for the Judge: for Jesus, for His shining forth, His manifestation, His second coming. "Lord Jesus, come! How much longer, Lord?"

In the syntax of the Psalms, the proud are those who consciously rise up against God, rejoicing when they transgress His divine ordinances. Jesus' appearance in great power and glory will end the rejoicing of all the ungodly.

Then all the sighs of lament—which have risen to God's throne from the oppressed, persecuted, and afflicted for generations—will be heard. The blasphemies of the most godless of all the godless—Antichrist—will also stop. Paul describes this dramatically in 2 Thessalonians 2:8: "And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming."

The next stanza is about:

Oppressive Conditions

Next, David gets very specific describing the character and deeds of the ungodly. "They pour



“They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast” (Ps 94:4). Isn’t that what we see on a daily basis in the media, in particular against Israel?

out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast” (Ps 94:4).

Isn’t that what we see on a daily basis in the media, in particular against Israel? How the Islamic world and the media get away with such brazen speech and arrogant boastfulness is grotesque.

As we covered earlier, verse 5 proves that this Psalm is about Israel. David knew exactly what he was talking about when he said, “They crush your people, O LORD, and afflict your heritage.”

Even if the New Testament speaks of our inheritance as Christians (e.g., Eph 1:11), this particular passage isn’t about the Church but about Israel. Hebrew poetic convention makes this clear. Poetry in English is primarily based on rhythm—on an equal number of stressed and unstressed syllables: “Let faith, not fear nor fretfulness / Awake the cry, How long? / Let not faintheartedness of soul / Damp thy aspiring song, / Right comes, truth dawns, the night departs / Of error and of wrong” (from “How Long?” by Horatius Bonar).

Poetry in Hebrew is based on stress and accentuation of important words, and most importantly, parallelism. Parallelism means that a verse consists of two or more parallel lines (which, unfortunately isn’t visible in

many English Bible translations). The thought from the first line is repeated or complemented in the second with a related word, or contrasted with a contradictory thought. Verse 5 serves as a convenient example. The first line: “They crush your people, O LORD,” is repeated using other words in the second line: “and afflict your heritage.” Spiritualization is excluded here.

David is not only speaking prophetically of Israel’s external enemies, but also of godless people in Israel itself. It’s a distressing situation: “They kill the widow and the sojourner, and murder the fatherless” (v. 6).

Godless people always target the weakest and most vulnerable: elderly women, foreigners, widows and orphans. David gives the reason for their perverse wickedness in verse 7: “And they say, ‘The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive.’”

When fear of God decreases and knowledge of God declines, mankind does not develop for the better, but the worse. Because if there is no God, then I can do what I want. Without God, I’m not accountable to anyone. This opens the door to every kind of depravity. The seed takes root, and the fruits are becoming more and more visible in society.

(MR0222/1211)



PROPHESED WORLD ORDERS AND RED CHINA: PART 1



There can be no doubt: The world is rapidly realigning itself into strategic nation blocs. In recent decades, a key reflection of this is rising opposition to the US.

By Wilfred Hahn

No longer is the world “globalizing” into one unity. Yes, for now, the world continues to globalize economically ... although at a slower pace than before.

In the past, self-interest and the prospect of increased trade and profits have incentivized the world to move in the direction of globalism and globalization. While it is true that nations today assemble in various international organizations (in the name of peace and prosperity), the apocalyptic Scripture of the Bible does clearly portray continued geopolitical strife in the world, right up to the time of Jesus Christ’s return. “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:7).

That said, the notion that nations will come together in the interest of commerce indeed has been an effective incentive for some centuries ... laying a foundation of globalism and globalization. However, to some surprise, this concept has frayed in recent times. It was long believed by Western policymakers and geopolitical strategists that increased wealth would lead to pro free-

market policies in such areas as macroeconomic stabilization, economic opening with respect to both trade and investment, and the expansion of market forces within the domestic economy.

In short, rising trade liberalization was to lead to societal liberalism and free-market capitalism. But, this has proven false. It was mistaken in its belief that materialism would bind up all of humanity. That may prove true in North America, but in many countries, this has not been the case. Other nations may be more ideological ... not just seeking wealth and domain.

Consider China. Its economy grew rapidly, leading it to become the biggest trading nation in the world in less than 30 years from a standing stop ... surpassing even the United States in this capacity. China has largely achieved this on its own terms, even though it primarily was not a free-market economy and remained communist.

A remarkable development has since occurred in the United States and other countries. There has been a rapid increase in the hatred of China—to unprecedented extremes. Shockingly,

Apparently, China's popularity had already been plummeting before the Covid pandemic spread around the earth.

there are numerous accounts of Asiatic peoples being attacked and accosted in the streets.

According to a recent Pew survey, China's unpopularity has reached a historic high, with Australia's opinion of China leading the way. The poll, conducted in 14 advanced economies—i.e., Japan, Australia, France and the US, to name a few—revealed that a median of 73% of those polled had unfavorable views of China.¹

Why has this occurred? Apparently, China's popularity had already been plummeting before the Covid pandemic spread around the earth.

Without question, the US and China today have become adversaries. China openly intends to become the ruling superpower of the world, thereby disposing the US from its multi-century reign of global influence. Yet at the same time, China assures that it will not be a hegemon. But with all the propaganda—on all sides—where can one find the truth?

China may have been too successful for everyone's liking. Therefore, hyperbole and biased, accusatory propaganda would be the norm for such a time. And indeed, that appears to be what we are witnessing today.

Are the concerns about China warranted? Is it the “big, bad, red China”? What are the true unbiased facts of the situation?

To the reader, please note that this writer prefers not to get entangled with political perspectives. Nonetheless, this does not preclude

us from stating facts. Perhaps these sources may provide some answers. Most importantly, just what does the Bible have to say?

To begin, therefore, we must acknowledge that there is no such thing as a virtuous country. For that matter, there is no Christian nation. All of them are ungodly and sinful. They all must be regarded as “kettles calling the pot black.”

Living Inside a Fishbowl

What is so loathsome about China that would generate so much hatred? What we discover is that these critical opinions about China are highly dependent upon their source ... the vested geopolitical agenda of the commentator. In other words, one must be very careful not to be influenced by the opinions of any media outlet without checking their agenda. For example, comments from US sources (and other nations as well) are very biased and vengeful against China.

However, if one reads media sources from Europe, for example ... or Saudi Arabia, a radically different perspective emerges. One discovers that a different set of values exists.

To illustrate, consider the recent experience with Covid. Greater than 1.1 million Covid-related deaths have occurred (as defined by the World Health Organization) in the US since the beginning of 2020.² Was that an acceptable price to US policymakers, in their effort to keep the wheels of business turning?

What about China? Covid-related deaths there since 2020 have totaled little more than 5,000



(November 2022) ... to repeat, yes, only 5,000 to date.

Please note, however, that a new wave is unfolding in China as it reverses its “Zero-Covid” policies. But this will be modest in comparison to the experiences of other nations. China, to date, as can be noted, has had a very low casualty rate from Covid. And, to recall, China has 4.5 times the population of the US. There can be no question that China has successfully focused on minimizing deaths ... no matter the economic cost. Was this not the right goal to pursue?

Covid Restrictive Measures

Global capital markets were very annoyed with China. Why? Its fervor to eradicate the virus with minimum deaths came at a large economic cost. As factories were shut down from time to time, global trade and economic growth were impacted.

However, China’s Politburo is not driven uppermost by profits. It chooses instead to limit the number of deaths ... no matter the economic costs.

Western nations think differently about this trade-off. America and Canada, for example, wish everything to go back to normal—economic growth, profit increases ... etc.—even as annual Covid deaths continue at high levels. Again, to contrast, China cracks down on virus outbreaks of a few hundred cases and more. “Life” seems more valuable to the Chinese than their economy.

We note numerous policy standpoints that China has taken in recent years that could be argued to have been more virtuous than those of America and other Western nations. But these

are not acknowledged and are obliterated by anti-China propaganda.

We next will mention additional examples of such policy differences.

Surveying Non-Bias

This writer has traveled to more than 60 nations (a goodly sum ... though there are a total of 210 nations in the world today). Doing so, what I have learned is that opinions and interpretation can be radically different and oppositional between countries, even given the same facts.

As such, some of my most cherished discussions have been with people from other hemispheres ... other cultures ... people specifically outside the Anglo–Occidental sphere of countries. They always opened my eyes ... and challenged my consensus views.

To the contrary, most people make no attempts to see out of their fishbowl. The view from outside is sure to be different ... for instance, a circuit pastor in Sri Lanka that I befriended ... or a Muslim university professor traveling down the Nile with us. Their views revealed that I had many opinions that were neither just nor correct. I had been co-opted by home society bias.

This author also reads international publications ... not just from Anglo countries, for instance. I read highlights of *China Daily*, the *Financial Times* (based in London) ... even *Al Jazeera* at times (a state-owned Arabic-language international radio and TV broadcaster of Qatar). Frankly, by comparison, much of the media newscasts in North America are mostly entertainment. They are either pro the Democratic party or Republican party (and never the twain shall meet!).

As we will show, China has made significant efforts to differentiate itself from the rest of the world ... especially so the United States and greater Europe. Its policies are therefore very different from Western nations.



Great Hall of the People
(Chinese Parliament),
Tiananmen Square in
Beijing, China

The Virtues of China?

Of course, we live in an era of extreme geopolitical tension and competition. Governments also wage war through the dissemination of propaganda or through cyber attacks. They seek to influence election results or falsify consensus views over the Internet.

As we will show, China has made significant efforts to differentiate itself from the rest of the world ... especially so the United States and greater Europe. Its policies are therefore very different from Western nations.

To illustrate, let's resume the examination of some of these contrasting positions between the US and China.

1. Cryptocurrency. In September of 2021, the People's Bank of China banned the mining of cryptocurrency. In retrospect, this was both prescient and just. Cryptocurrency never had any value other than as a speculative trading and gambling forum. By comparison, the US Federal Reserve was reluctant to put any restrictions in place, as

it did not want to crimp the profits of Wall Street. The birds finally came home to roost. Many crypto companies went bankrupt, triggering trillions in damages. In contrast, China refused to have cryptocurrency run by special interests. Predictably, US policymakers did not.

2. Celebrity Culture. In 2022, Chinese regulators also intensified a crackdown upon Chinese celebrities and their fans and followers. Why? On grounds that online hordes create "chaos" and promote "extravagant pleasure" (Source: *Financial Times*). The Cyberspace Administration of China released a set of rules to regulate celebrities as part of President Xi Jinping's drive to reform social values in the country. To put it succinctly, China wished to stop the decadent celebrity culture of amusement.

3. Private Language Schools. These had become a significant economic sector, catering to wealthier families. While state schooling is of course without cost, language school was extracurricular and therefore, as it happened, also costly. The Chinese government took the position that education should not be the domain of the elites. To compare, in the West—most certainly so in the US—advanced education can be exceedingly expensive. The wealthy are favored, and many universities are bulge-bracket businesses themselves. This is contrasted to China's perspective, which embraces "common prosperity."

4. Abortion Policy. Recent midterm elections in the US appeared to indicate that the majority of voters were in favor of abortion rights. While a



In August of 2021, China banned children from playing online games for more than three hours a week.



number of pro-abortion rulings have been overturned in recent times, the populace disagrees. China, to compare, has been tightening controls over abortions for “non-medical purposes,” as policymakers heap pressure on women in their battle to counter a demographic crisis. It released new guidelines (Outline for Women’s Development) aimed at improving fertility and reproductive health.

5. Online Video Games Limitation. In August of 2021, China banned children from playing online games for more than three hours a week. Wall Street and global capital markets were incensed ... profits of the big-tech companies were being put in jeopardy. Western investors howled their disapproval. To them, it was near sacrilege to forego profits for any reason ... moral or otherwise. Instead, China chose a policy that was beneficial for young children. There is much research that documents the negative cognitive impact of excessive online gaming. Minors in China can only play games between 8 to 9 pm on Fridays, weekends, and on public holidays, according to a notice from the National Press and Publication Administration.

There are many more examples of different values that could be cited ... for example:

6. Warning to Parents with Bad-Behaving Children.

China’s parliament will consider legislation to punish parents if their young children exhibit “very bad behavior” or commit crimes.

7. High-Tech Crackdown.

8. Anti-Corruption Purges.

9. Corporate Governance Crackdown.

10. International Belt and Road Initiatives.

11. Promoting Equity and “Common Prosperity.”

12. China Condemns “Money Worship” and “Extreme Individualism.”

Reviewing the above, which of the mentioned Chinese initiatives are less virtuous ... or useful than those of the West—America, Canada, and/or Europe? Of course, all nations are of this world, and none would be without error. In this case, we are examining the effects of propaganda and how this can distort comparisons and facts.

Does China deserve one-sided vilification? We would certainly take the position that many of China’s policy initiatives are not without merit.

Next issue, we deal with this question: Does the Bible prophesy that China will leap-frog the US in the future? ^{MC}

ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://tfipost.com/2020/10/china-is-officially-the-most-hated-power-in-the-world-now-no-global-leader-can-afford-to-be-pro-china/>
- 2 <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>



The Garden of Gethsemane Credit: R. Bigalke

DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Two gardens in the Bible—Eden and Gethsemane—prove the significance of choices made. Think of the tremendously different outcomes of decisions made in those two gardens. Two decisions were made, yet how dissimilar they were in what occurred as a result. Each and every day, you and I make choices similar to those made in the two gardens.

The Garden of Eden

The first mention of the Garden of Eden is Genesis 2:8 (“The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed”). Adam would be the only human to occupy the Garden until Eve was created (v. 18). The Garden of Eden was paradise on earth. “Out

of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (v. 9). “Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers” (v. 10).

Two Gardens

God created Adam with free agency, meaning he would be responsible for his acts and character. “Free” meant to act without compulsion from beyond himself, and this in accordance with his nature.

Based upon the description in Genesis 2:8-14, the Garden of Eden is usually said to have existed in the Middle East, somewhere between where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are located today. The description, however, cannot be harmonized with the geography of the post-Flood Middle East, or anywhere else on earth. Genesis says that one river “flowed out of Eden to water the garden,” which then “divided and became four rivers.” The modern Tigris and Euphrates Rivers begin in two different locations, and then join together just prior to flowing into the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, the global Flood would have destroyed and changed the surface of the earth, meaning it is impossible to know where Eden was originally located. The fact that two of the rivers mentioned in Genesis 2 have the same name as the Tigris and Euphrates today is not surprising, because Noah and his family most likely used pre-Flood names they were familiar with to designate post-Flood waters.

God created Adam with free agency, meaning he would be responsible for his acts and character. “Free” meant to act without compulsion from beyond himself, and this in accordance with his nature. Adam possessed “agency,” which could be exercised in action. God created humanity with the agency (power) to accomplish certain actions. The fact that God created humanity in His image, means those actions ought to conform to the

likeness defining that identity. As a free agent, Adam immediately received from God the test of a prohibition: do not eat from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” for the consequences would be death (vv. 16-17). Scripture does not explicitly state why God gave the prohibition, except to suggest that the result “would be to the praise of His glory” (Eph 1:9-12).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam’s decision to disobey God’s one command brought condemnation to all humanity. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ choice to humble Himself “by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8), resulted in salvation for everyone trusting in Him to provide forgiveness for sins. Romans 5 contrasts the choices of Adam and Christ. All the condemnation and death that Adam brought into the world, Christ overcame.

Adam is, therefore, a type of Christ in that he is a representative man whose actions have implications for others. Scripture declares that Adam “is a type of Him who was to come,” namely Christ (Rom 5:14). The acts of Adam and Christ affect everyone they represent, yet there are differences. Adam’s actions brought condemnation and death to all humanity, yet from Christ “there resulted justification of life” to all who believe (vv. 15-19). The difference between Adam and Christ is what each man imputes to others through his actions. Adam’s disobedience

Do you think Adam would have eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, if he knew the dire consequences upon himself and all his progeny? Probably not, given that foresight. Adam did have God’s Word and warning though, which we also have. In that sense, his choice is similar to those we make.

made many sinners, whereas through the obedience of Christ, “the many will be made righteous” (v. 19).

Do you think Adam would have eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, if he knew the dire consequences upon himself and all his progeny? Probably not, given that foresight. Adam did have God’s Word and warning though, which we also have. In that sense, his choice is similar to those we make.

The Garden of Gethsemane

John 13 (vv. 21-30) contains Jesus’ announcement of His betrayal. He previously spoke only briefly concerning His betrayal, yet now instructed His disciples specifically. Even though Jesus spoke of the betrayer and had given the dipped morsel to Judas, the disciples did not anticipate that Judas would be the traitor, because he had been such an expert hypocrite. Though he fooled others, Jesus knew His betrayer, and so dismissed Judas from the company of His disciples and Himself. Judas needed to depart, for Jesus would not deliver His Upper Room discourse in the presence of His betrayer (chs. 14—17).

Judas apparently went directly to the Sanhedrin when he departed the Upper Room. He knew Jesus regularly went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray with His disciples. Luke 22:39 says it “was His custom” to go there. “Judas also . . . knew the place, for Jesus



had often met there with His disciples” (John 18:2). Judas knew precisely where to bring the authorities.

Gethsemane is a garden among a grove of olive trees across the Kidron Valley, at the base of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. According to the four Gospels of the New Testament, Gethsemane is where Jesus agonized as He considered the crucifixion. It is where Jesus prayed His soul to the Father in such anguish that His sweat was like drops of blood: “And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground” (Luke 22:44). Jesus was overwhelmed with grief, even “to the point of death” (Matt 26:38; Mark 14:34).

Two Gardens

Jesus could see a large crowd approaching who would lead Him to death. Yet, to be obedient to His Father and because of His great love for those He came to save, Jesus remained in Gethsemane.



He came with His disciples to Gethsemane, and then left them for a time to pray. Gethsemane is just outside the walls of Jerusalem, so Jesus easily could have seen the soldiers coming to arrest Him. Indeed, when He rejoined three of His disciples, whom He had instructed to keep watch with Him (Matt 26:38), Jesus found them “sleeping and resting” (v. 45). He awakened them and announced that the one who would betray Him was at hand (v. 46).

Jesus could see a large crowd approaching who would lead Him to death. Yet, to be obedient to His Father and because of His great love for those He came to save, Jesus remained in Gethsemane. “So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, ‘Whom do you seek?’” (John 18:4). Jesus did not wait for Judas to identify Him, but presented

Himself to the Roman cohort and “said to them, ‘I am He’” (v. 5).

Conclusion

The history of humanity began in a garden, where God placed the first man He had created (Gen 2:8). Adam’s sin against God in that garden resulted in the Fall of humanity and death entering the world (v. 17; 3:17-19). Thousands of year later, the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, entered a different garden to accept the cup that was His Father’s will (Matt 26:42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42). Ultimately, death will be swallowed in victory (1 Cor 15:54). In the first garden, “not your will but mine” lost paradise. Paradise will be restored because Jesus said, “yet not as I will, but as You will” (Matt 26:39).

Decisions must be made everyday. The choices made in Eden and Gethsemane were diametrically opposed. When considering life decisions, great pause is needed regarding determinations to be made. One must decide whether one wants to be like Adam in the Garden of Eden and ignore God’s Word, so life pursuits become whatever is desirable and seems right to one’s own senses. Then, one must live with the consequence of those decisions and the overwhelming regret that accompanies those choices. The alternative is to be like Jesus in Gethsemane and to heed God’s Word, even when it requires sacrifice. One knows that the Lord can bless such faithfulness greatly beyond imagination.

(1295)

THE HOLY AND TRUE ONE



Excavations at Alaşehir, formerly Philadelphia

An interpretation of the last book of the Bible. Part 35. Revelation 3:7, 10.

Wim Malgo (1922-1992)

When reading the missive to Philadelphia, it's immediately apparent that this church isn't being rebuked. On the contrary, it is the only church that receives the highest praise. As is well known, Philadelphia means "brotherly love." Philadelphia still exists today in modern-day Turkey under the name Alaşehir. The church of Philadelphia was about 13 miles southeast of Sardis, close to the church of which the Lord said, "thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Rev 3:1).

The danger of contagion for the church in Philadelphia couldn't be dismissed outright, since nothing is more contagious than gradual spiritual death. That had already been the case under the Old Covenant. Joshua 7 tells of how one man, Achan, sinned by his actions and brought all the people of Israel down with him.

The beautiful, meaningful name of Philadelphia isn't of Christian origin. The city was founded in 154 BC by the Pergamene king Attalus II. He was surnamed Philadelphus and named this city in his own honor. Although the

city was repeatedly destroyed by earthquakes, it was always rebuilt and prospered.

Why did the exalted Lord reveal Himself so fully and comprehensively to the angel of this church, as opposed to the others? The Lord's special self-revelation consists of Him speaking of what He is and what He has: "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David" (v. 7). He is the holy One. The Philadelphia church is sanctified, not only in position but also by living in sanctification daily. This is evident from the testimony the Lord gives of her: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience..." (v. 10).

In other words, "You kept my Word in all circumstances." This is closely connected to personal sanctification, because whoever keeps the Word is living in sanctification (and vice versa). Whoever wants to live in sanctification must keep the Word. You can't have one without the other. The Lord Jesus Himself prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17).

The Holy and True One

Accordingly, taking His Word seriously means being obedient to His Word, which in turn means being sanctified in His truth. Hence, the Lord's second self-revelation: "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true" (Rev 3:7). Not only does He tell the truth but also, He is truth personified. Thus, He is the sole, absolutely true and complete revelation of what God is: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). He is true in His Word and His promises, so we can depend on Him completely at all times and in all circumstances. The designation, "the true One" underscores the previous statement that He is the holy One.

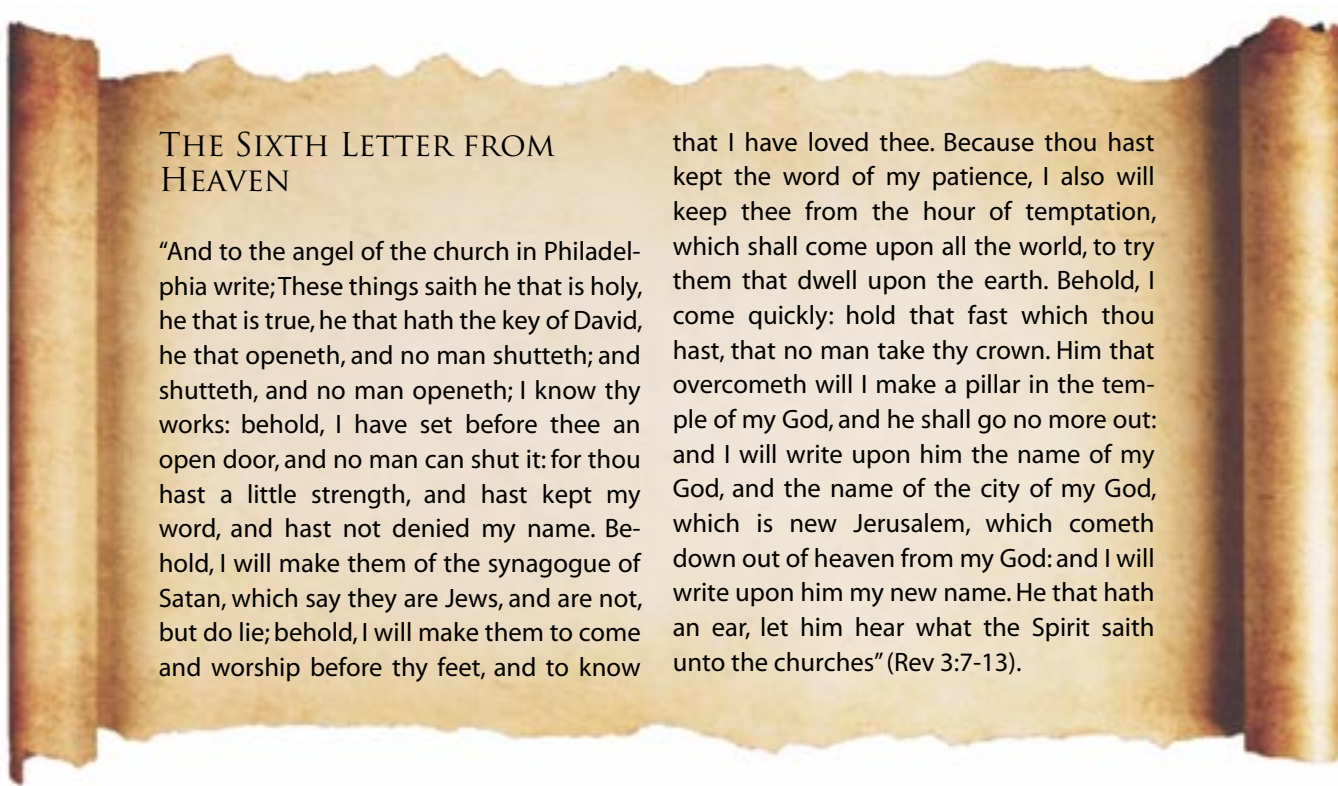
It's no coincidence that after His self-revelation, the Lord also spoke of the sanctified life of the church at Philadelphia: "Because thou

hast kept the word of my patience..." (Rev 3:10). "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love" (Eph 1:4).

The phrase, "before him in love" shows the unique bond between the Lord and His blood-bought ones. God's ultimate goal for each one of us—and for many millions of people from before the foundation of the world—wasn't just that we should convert and become happy children of God, but that we should be holy and blameless before Him. Hence, the letter's introduction: "These things saith he that is holy, he that is true."

The church in Philadelphia conforms to God's purpose.

(MR0722/1247)



THE SIXTH LETTER FROM HEAVEN

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know

that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev 3:7-13).



SOS: A Cry for Help with Everyday Problems

Johannes Vogel

SOS: From “Stressed” and “Off-Course” to the “Salvation of our Souls” through Christ. An evangelistic message of encouragement.

Three dots ... three dashes ... three dots. This is the SOS emergency signal, introduced 117 years ago at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin. Radio technician and future head of the Ministry of Posts Hans Bredow took part in the conference, in which the intent was to make seafaring safer by establishing communications standards. Bredow said, “Every country must set up radio stations for shipping on its coasts.”

A standardized emergency signal was long overdue, because more and more calls for help just weren't getting through. The reason was that there were different radio systems at the time. The Berlin conference on October 3, 1906 put an end to that and established an emergency signal (SOS) which, according to Hans Bredow, was easy to memorize.

Three short, three long, three short—SOS.

But in the first years after its introduction, there were occasions when SOS emergency call signals went unheard. The *Titanic* in 1912, for example. The allegedly unsinkable luxury liner had sent an SOS, but the distress call hadn't reached a number of ships very close to the scene of the accident. This was either because their radio was unstaffed at the time, or it was not using the same frequency. As a result, it was decided after the *Titanic* disaster that all ships with 50 or more passengers must be fitted with a radiotelegraph, which must be monitored at all times. When the SOS emergency call was introduced, its inventors' top priority was for it to be an easily recognizable, Morse code signal that could be understood even through a poor radio connection. The precise combination of



SOS: A Cry for Help with Everyday Problems

“Do you panic over a letter from the IRS in your mailbox?”



SOS met the conditions. Only later was the abbreviation given a meaning and name: SOS: “Save Our Souls.”

Wouldn't that emergency call also be useful in our everyday lives?

We're all aware of situations where we no longer know what to do, and there's a risk of getting lost in our everyday worries. Hence the first point:

S Is for “Stressed”

Our stresses and worries can make our lives miserable. We worry ourselves sick, and then don't know what to do anymore. Do you panic over a letter from the IRS in your mailbox, or rumors about job cuts at work? Do you feel stressed out, even when there isn't a reason to be?

The 1988 song by Bobby McFerrin comes to mind: “Don't Worry, Be Happy!” The term “worry” comes from the old English word

meaning “to strangle or throttle.” That's what your worries do to your productivity and happiness—strangle them.

Worry is nothing more than a destructive waste of time. Stressing about something you can't change is useless, and worrying about something you can change is just foolish! Because every time you indulge in those worrying thoughts, your stressful burden just grows heavier and heavier. This is one of the devil's strategies and is why Jesus Christ makes such a clear statement to us: “Therefore I tell you, do not be anx-

ious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (Matt 6:25).

Jesus was speaking to His followers. They were going to make a difference in their communities by believing in the caring Heavenly Father that Jesus proclaimed and taught about.

Who would they be different from? From all the people who were trusting in themselves, and who were making material or religious things their source of stability in life. In the next verse, Jesus elaborates in very practical terms for His listeners, and also for us today:

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (v. 26).

Man is the only species in God's creation that worries. However, our stresses can't change the past or control the future—just make us miser-

The origin of the word “sin” means missing the target. That’s precisely what happened in the Garden of Eden.



able today! Jesus Christ also emphasizes in the same chapter: “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?” (v. 27).

God has clearly promised that He will provide for those who trust Him with the details of their lives. As your parents’ child, you didn’t ask where the money or food came from. You just accepted it (at least the food, if not the money!). It was your parents’ “problem,” wasn’t it? That’s why anyone who is consumed with worries and stress also loses their sense of direction.

And this is what I call the second aspect:

0 Is for “Off-Course”

If we humans are experts in worrying ourselves sick, we’re also professionals at trying to help ourselves. A survey conducted in 2019 on people’s greatest worries and fears, shows that almost half of those surveyed are very afraid of poverty and social injustice. This is just one

area of life where we’ve reached the limits of our human capabilities. Other examples are:

- the illness of a spouse, children, or parents
- climate change
- the rise in extremism and terrorism
- the breakup of close relationships, loneliness

I don’t know what worries and problems are causing you stress right now, occupying your thoughts, or even keeping you up at night. Full of restlessness, fear, and desperation, we’re looking for direction. Doctors, psychiatrists, psychics, gambling, self-help groups, drugs, meditation, yoga, and more are designed to relieve our worries. That’s the point behind them. And it can happen to every Christian too. “Faith ends where worry begins, and worry ends where faith begins” (George Mueller).

But true faith is counting on God’s possibilities and His intervention. That is why Psalm 118:8 teaches us, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.”

After all, people can only support or guide us to a certain degree. You’ll quickly reach the point where you realize your soul’s distress call, from out of your deepest need, hasn’t actually been received. But who receives every transmission? God—Jesus Christ! In order to receive His help, you must first acknowledge Him as your Creator and Savior. Maybe you’re thinking to yourself, “That means I’ll have to admit that I can’t handle things myself.” But rest



SOS: A Cry for Help with Everyday Problems

assured, unless the leak of sin in your boat is covered with the blood of Jesus Christ, you will perish.

When you are eternally lost—the Bible calls this place hell—God can no longer help you. This eternally lost state begins the moment you close your eyes for the last time on this earth and your life here is over. Only Jesus Christ can open the way to God the Father in heaven and bring you there. A decision to have faith in Jesus Christ, consciously surrendering your life to Him, must happen during your lifetime. Whether you will accept Jesus as your Savior here on earth, or only encounter Him as your Judge in eternity, is a very personal decision. So, before it's too late (like on the *Titanic*), send your SOS to God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ today.

Okay, so how is that supposed to work? I'll explain in point 3:

S Is for "Salvation of Our Souls"

The Bible is full of wonderful truths. From the first page to the last, it is the Word of God: His—God's—very personal message to you and me. But its message is pretty blunt. We read of the first people, who catapulted themselves into a very unfortunate situation. Adam and Eve departed from God's truth and went their own way. We could describe this as falling into sin. The origin of the word "sin" means missing the target. That's precisely what happened in the Garden of Eden.

They fell short of the goal that God had given them. Through the Fall of Man in Genesis, detachment from God (and by extension, sorrow) came into the world. Since then, our souls

have needed salvation—reconciliation with God.

The Bible puts it this way: "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20).

Turn this world's SOS into a personal SMS ("Save My Soul"). That's how you can make your personal emergency call to God: "Save my soul."

You can do it using "Morse code" from Psalm 50:15: "and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." This internationally standardized emergency call works 24/7/365.

God hears every transmission, because He's always on the receiving end.

You can be absolutely certain that God will save you. He's stretching out His hand to you through His Son Jesus Christ! He laid down His life and shed His blood on the Cross at Calvary for your transgressions and mine—our sin. He gave His life so we could have eternal life with God. God's salvation is for eternity, but He's already providing help in your everyday life. As a result, your life gains a very practical, different perspective. If you've made the decision to enlist God's help in your life, then honor Him by making yourself completely available to Him.

The call for your and my everyday life is therefore SOS, but meaning "Save Our Souls" instead of "Stressed, Off-Course Soul."

The salvation of your soul and mine is dear to the heart of God the Creator. He wants to reconnect with you. So, call on Him and send a signal from your heart—SOS—and make a personal SMS out of it—"Save my soul!"

(MR0822/1265)




WORLD FOCUS

WORLD

Metaverse: What Is It?

When we look back in 50 years' time, it is likely that the 2D internet we now all use will seem laughably archaic.

 Not only will the internet likely no longer exist behind a screen, but it is probable that we will interact with it differently.

We'll manipulate objects using augmented reality (AR), explore virtual-reality (VR) worlds, and meld the real and the digital in ways we can currently not imagine.

The metaverse has become an overhyped term, so it's important to note that it doesn't actually yet exist. And even those invested in the concept disagree about exactly what it will be.

Will rival virtual worlds interconnect in a way that simply doesn't happen at the moment between competing technologies? Will we spend more time there than in the real world? Will we need entirely new rules to govern these new spaces?

None of these questions have answers yet, but that hasn't stopped a barrage of interest and hyperbole as firms see a new way of making money.

Herman Narula wants the metaverse to be radically different to the real world.



In the future could your commute to work mean just walking to pick up your VR headset?

"THE SEVEN RULES OF THE METAVERSE"

by Tony Parisi

- Rule #1: There is only one Metaverse.
- Rule #2: The Metaverse is for everyone.
- Rule #3: Nobody controls the Metaverse.
- Rule #4: The Metaverse is open.
- Rule #5: The Metaverse is hardware-independent.
- Rule #6: The Metaverse is a Network.
- Rule #7: The Metaverse is the Internet.

(Source: medium.com)

"Why would we want an office in the metaverse that looks like our real office?" he says. "The whole point of creative spaces in new realities is to expand our experiences, not to simply replicate what we've already had in the real world."

Alex Rice, the co-founder of online security company HackerOne, thinks

there needs to be a lot of thought put into the design of the metaverse before any firm can even consider letting their employees loose in it.

"Imagine something innocuous like a water-cooler conversation in an office," he says. "Imagine that it's happening in a fully-monitored metaverse environment—that is certainly going to have life-changing consequences.

"People could be fired outright for saying something they think is in a private, informal conversation with a colleague that is now subject to mass corporate surveillance."

-www.bbc.com, 9 January 2023

Commentary: We publish just a few excerpts from the BBC article, authored by Jane Wakefield, to illustrate that something is in the works, which even scientists have a hard time agreeing on what form it will take. As far as the outcome for society, of particular interest are the last three words: "mass corporate surveillance."

With the beginning of the internet, we entered the age of communication like never before. Just a little over a century ago, communication was limited to written form: books, periodicals, reports, letters, etc. The

(continued next page)

JAPAN

Battery Factory Coming to South Carolina

Envision AESC, a world-leading Japanese electric vehicle battery technology company, along with Governor Henry McMaster, announced it will build a state-of-the-art battery cell gigafactory in Florence County.

The \$810 million-dollar investment will create 1,170 new jobs and will support the company’s partnership with BMW. The batteries will be installed in electric vehicles that will be produced at the BMW Group’s Plant [in] Spartanburg. The batteries will have 20% more energy density than the current generation, reduce charging time and increase range and efficiency for electric vehicles by 30%. The plant will be 1.5 million square feet and will be powered by 100% net zero carbon energy.



Electric Vehicle Battery Plant coming to Florence County. (Pexels)

With the completion of the Florence County plant and a Kentucky plant, along with an existing plant in Tennessee, the three facilities will contribute to the U.S.’ shift to electric vehicles.

-*www.wistv.com*, 6 December 2022

Commentary: There’s no stopping the push to transition to electric vehicles, now that fossil fuels are increasingly unpopular. With this “state-of-the-art

battery cell gigafactory” coming to a small town like Florence, South Carolina—partnering with German manufacturer BMW, with a plant in another small city called Spartanburg—the global nature of the flow of merchandise is revealed.

We also see how fast technology is moving, with these batteries reducing charging time and increasing “range and efficiency for electric vehicles by 30%.” This reminds us of Daniel 12:4b: “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

May we daily receive the inexhaustible power that comes from “the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (1 Thessalonians 2:13b). 7907

—By K. Farmer

(See *Through the Eyes of the Prophet*, Item #2297, \$10.50.)

Metaverse (continued from page 27)

USDA explained communication 100 years ago, stating: “The heliograph only worked when the sun was shining!” Alexander Graham Bell is credited as the inventor of the telephone in 1876 and the graphophone in 1886. This device was limited to the intellectual elite, the government, and the well-to-do—not the general public.

What a different world we live in today. Anyone, at any time, can communicate with someone living anywhere in the world—not just by voice, but even by high-quality, real-

time video. Elderly people remember that when calling long-distance or overseas, one of the first questions was, “What’s the weather like there?” That has become a useless question because on a smartphone, one can check the weather anytime for any place globally.

What is the significance of these developments for believers? New technologies do not recognize geopolitical borders but totally bridge over language barriers, political convictions, and values. In summary, the

world will continue to unite in two ways: first, by becoming independent from God the Creator. This leads to devaluing the written Word of God, the Bible. Second, when rejecting the Creator, humankind is forced to find another object of worship, which ultimately will be Satan’s masterpiece: his superman, the Antichrist.

7928


(See *Who Is the Antichrist?* Item #2254, \$13.99.)



 **RUSSIA**

Facial Recognition of Putin's Crowd

Social media is awash with claims, repeated on news websites, that Russian President Vladimir Putin surrounded himself with actors for his New Year's address and at previous events. But what's the evidence?

 We used facial recognition software to check some of these allegations.

The Russian president has a track record of posing at events where some of the attendees are not what they seem.

A BBC Russian investigation in 2020 found that some events presented as impromptu conversations with everyday people were actually filled with friendly local officials.

We've used facial recognition software to compare the face of the woman in the New Year picture with those in 2016 and 2017, producing low match results of 29% and 28% respectively.

Next, we compared the images from the events held in 2016 and 2017, which generated a 99.1% score, strongly indicating that these two are of the same person.

The woman at the New Year address has been named in Russian media as Anna Sergeevna Sidorenko, a captain and military doctor. Comparing her face at the event with an image taken from a video interview posted online by the Russian *Izvestia* newspaper gave a



President Putin gave a televised address on New Year's Eve

99.5% match. Her name also appears on a members list of a Russian military regiment published by the Ukrainian intelligence services.

-*www.bbc.com*, 6 January 2023

Commentary: We have long noted that Revelation 13:14-15 predicts a man-made invention that could make judgments about people: "...that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

Here we see manmade technology—namely, facial recognition software—able to quickly and accurately determine if a person in different pictures is the same or not. A 75% match is considered a reasonable cutoff, so these 99.1 and 99.5% matches decisively indicate these are the same person in a way that is even more convincing than expert (human) testimony.

Interestingly, the widespread use of computer facial recognition algorithms at borders and other public locations has made traditional espionage difficult for many intelligence agencies. Previously, they used false identity documents that appeared beyond suspicion, which allowed agents to move behind enemy lines under various covers. This is no longer possible once a face is tied to any identity, which could include something as benign as a family photo posted online. We are now seeing the actual implementation of the total control prophesied in the end times.

7927

—By J. Froese


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



 **USA**

GOAT: A Word to Be Banished

When was the last time you called someone a GOAT? Or declared an "inflection point," or answered a yes-or-no question with "absolutely"?

 Probably too recently, say the faculty of Lake Superior State University, the Michigan college that releases an annual list of words that they say deserve to be "banished" from our vocabularies over "misuse, overuse and uselessness."

(continued next page)

A Word to Be Banished

(continued from page 29)

Out of over 1,500 nominations—from people across the U.S. and as far afield as New Zealand and Namibia—judges declared that this year’s top offender was “GOAT,” the acronym for “greatest of all time.”

Joining “GOAT” in banishment are nine other words and phrases that nominators and judges complained were used so often that they had become disconnected from their literal meanings—like “amazing,” which nominators fretted no longer meant “dazzling” or “awe-inspiring.”

Hundreds of words and phrases have been “banished” by LSSU since 1976. Over the years, LSSU has received tens of thousands of nominations for its annual list.

Joining them are common linguistic bugaboos—frequently misused words like “impact,” redundancies like “exact same” and “completely empty,” or overly verbose phrases like “at this point in time.” (“Why not say ‘now,’ or ‘today?’”, a 1976 nominator asked.)

-www.npr.org, 1 January 2023

Commentary: Words, names, and various definitions continue to change when they no longer fit the issue.



There’s no debate about this GOAT.

One of the words banished was “absolutely.” Why? Because in our modern world, humanity has not determined what is absolute.

As Christians, we know that the Bible proclaims the absolute truth of God. It’s final; it’s eternal. Moreover, the created universe is the result of the spoken word of God—it’s absolute.

In Scripture, the word “goat” is mentioned 35 times, the first time in Genesis 15:9: “And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” Here, the goat served as a sacrifice so God could reveal to Abraham that his descendants would be strangers in the land of Egypt and serve the Egyptians for 400 years (verse 13).

Later in Leviticus, we read of the scapegoat, which was not to be killed but led into the wilderness: “And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the

head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness” (16:21-22). This scapegoat was led by a “fit man” into the wilderness and left there. This doubtless is a prophetic picture of our Lord, of whom Isaiah 53 proclaims: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (v. 6).

In the Old Testament, the keeping of the law with its innumerable sacrifices, obtained only a covering for the sins of the people: “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). But the sacrifice of the Son of God Himself, Jesus Christ, takes away sin: “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (v. 14).

Now, no longer is a scapegoat necessary, but we have access directly, anytime, anywhere on planet earth to receive forgiveness: “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus” (v. 19).

7920

(See *Bloodline*, Item #2355, \$16.99)



 **LEBANON**


LGBT Suffer Discrimination

A new study by the nonprofit organization Legal Action World-wide shows that members of the LGBT community are regularly subjected to “systemic discrimination, stigma, and abuse at home and across public settings, ranging from housing, health-care, and employment, to education, hospitality, and shops.”

Despite Lebanon being portrayed as a haven for queer people in the Middle East, Lebanese still must deal with homophobia and transphobia in their daily lives.



A group consisting mainly of Lebanese women protest to denounce violence against women, the LGBT community and foreign workers, in the capital Beirut's downtown area
(Anwar Amro/AFP via Getty Images)

 This ban came after religious leaders, especially Sunni, Shia, and Druze representatives, condemned celebrations organized by the LGBT community during Pride Month. “Freedom of expression cannot be invoked in this case, since it is a violation of the habits and traditions of our society, contrary to the principles of monotheistic religions,” said Ministry of Interior Bassam Mawlawi at the time, allowing security forces to arrest anyone involved in LGBT events.

For the past three years, Lebanon has been facing one of the worst economic crises in the last 150 years, according to the World Bank. “Queer people are being used by the state to move attention away from the socioeconomic problems the whole of the population is facing,” said Tarek Zeidan.

-themedialine.org, 26 November 2022

Commentary: Lebanon used to be called the Switzerland of the Middle East. The country is rich in ancient history, popular with global tourists, and known for liberal values befitting the European culture. But now, it has experience unprecedented crises as its government cannot fully function without the support of Hezbollah. According to Wikipedia, the Arab League plus 23 other nations “have listed the entire organization Hezbollah as a terrorist group.”

The once rich country’s population is presently listed as 5.2 million, of which 68% are Muslim. It is now close to poverty, with a per capita GDP of only \$11,600.

While most progressive and industrialized nations have recognized the LGBT movement as legitimate, Muslim countries in general do not.

Here we must direct our attention to God’s Word. Romans 1:27 documents: “And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that

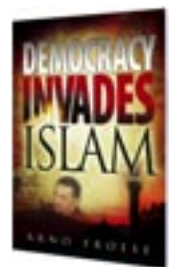
which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” While we read in the Old Testament about the great wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah, the book of Jude in the New Testament says: “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (v. 7).

Are these signs of the end times? Yes. One particular activity is recorded in Genesis 19:9: “And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.” The sodomites took over political authority, enforcing their own laws

based on a “reprobate mind,” as Romans 1:28 records.

7926

(See *Democracy Invades Islam*, Item #1072, \$12.95.)



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SWEDEN

Rare Earth Deposits Found

The beginning of the end of Europe's dependency on China for precious rare earth materials may lie buried deep under the rugged reaches of northern Sweden, well above the Arctic Circle.

 Sweden's iron-ore miner LKAB said it has identified "significant deposits" in Lapland of rare earth elements that are essential for the manufacture of smartphones, electric vehicles and wind turbines.

The government-owned company that mines iron ore at Kiruna, almost 600 miles north of Stockholm, said there are more than 1 million tons of rare earth oxides.

The E.U., eager to learn from the past and reduce one-sided dependencies like the one it developed on Russia for oil and gas, only starting to cut ties recently after the war in Ukraine started with Moscow's full-scale invasion on Feb. 24.

"This must change," said Swedish Industry Minister Ebba Busch, as European commissioners traveled to Kiruna to mark the start of Sweden's six-month rotating E.U. presidency. "In the short run, we need to diversify our trade, but in the long run we can't rely on trade agreements only. Electrification, the E.U.'s self-sufficiency and independence from Russia and China will begin in the mine."

-www.nbcnews.com, 13 January 2023

Commentary: The united voice of the West is loud and clear: Russia is the villain. Thus, the search for rare earth deposits is racing forward.

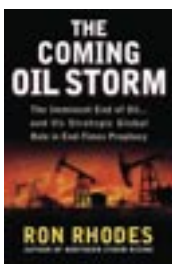
Again we see how many experts in the field failed to accurately predict the future. Example: in Germany, forecasts were published warning of an incoming catastrophe unprecedented in history. Germany would be faced with incredible suffering because of the lack of gas supplied by Russia. In reality, according to a German source, natural gas consumption for January 2023 is 25% lower than previous years. Storage facilities for natural gas are virtually filled to the brim at over 90%.

This shows that a modern, industrialized nation can cope even without Russian natural gas. Needless to say, the war will end sooner or later, and everything will go back to pre-war levels. In plain words, there's no stopping the world's progress toward unity, prosperity, and security. Money is king: money rules. Not without reason, the Bible says: "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10a). It continues by warning the believer: "which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

7931

(See *The Coming Oil Storm*, Item

#2248, \$13.99.)




DENMARK

Mandatory Military Service for Women

Denmark plans compulsory military conscription for women, as the Nordic country seeks to significantly boost the size of its armed forces.



Soldiers parade through Aalborg, Denmark.
Photographer: Henning Bagger/AFP/Getty Images

 The move can help Denmark meet its requirements under its Nato membership.

It would also be "beneficial" for the military if it had more women employed, Danish Defense Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Jakob Ellemann-Jensen said in an interview with broadcaster TV2.

Currently, women can join on a voluntary basis while men generally are required to serve if they are called on under a lottery system.

The Defense Minister announced the plan as his office published the conclusions of a biannual report by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which criticized Denmark for failing to invest enough in its military, mainly on land and at sea.

-www.straitstimes.com, 26 January 2023

NO COMMENTARY



GUATEMALA

Delighting in the Bible, and Broken Glass

BY ANDRÉ BEITZE, GUATEMALA CITY

About one special month, the bookstore as a place for spiritual restoration, and a dangerous “guest.”



Every August, Christians in Guatemala celebrate the month of the Bible. Churches and Christian schools hold contests (for example, who can memorize the most verses), and the prize is often a Bible. The concept was new to us when we arrived in this country, and 24 years later, we’re still amazed that the joy of this month hasn’t declined among believers in the least. Interest in Bibles and bib-

lical literature is especially high in August, and noticeable in our bookstore.

Spiritual conversations often arise with customers in the store: people may share how a tract led them to the Lord, or a book spoke to them and caused them to turn to Christ, radically changing their lives. Others pour out their hearts, seeking advice on difficult situations they’re going through. Thus, we’re repeatedly



Lots of people in the bookstore in August, the "month of the Bible."



The break-in was captured on our security camera.



André and Ingrid Beitze

in need of the Lord's guidance to share the right word at the right time.

The work in Guatemala isn't without its dangers. One morning, I entered the office to find that a glass panel next to the front door had been smashed in. I asked my father what had happened, and he told me that someone had

tried to break in. When the thief's efforts were unsuccessful, he had scaled the front of the house to try getting in from above—all in broad daylight! But he was discovered and fled quickly. Yes, we need the Lord's protection and preservation at all times.

(MR1122)



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

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“And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel” (Ezekiel 47:22).

BY ARNO FROESE

This prophecy is quite exciting to read, for it give the answer to Israel’s conflict with the Arab Palestinians. These words of the prophet Ezekiel, written over 2,600 years ago, nullify the attempt to divide the Promised Land into two different identities: one Jewish and one Arab. Based on our understanding of this Scripture, it’s not going to happen. The “strangers” will receive an inheritance within the land of Israel.

When dealing with this subject, it is important for us to rely on Scripture. God is not dependent on, hindered, or incapacitated by what politicians do or don’t do. The counsel of the eternal One totally ignores geopolitical realities. The much-praised “Two State Solution” is simply voided by the Word of God: “...born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.”

Moderate Imam Speaks

In an article by TheMediaLine.org on 2 January 2023, Imam Hassen Chalghoumi, a Tunisian-born French citizen, notes “the silent majority” of Muslims stand in “opposition to Islamist tenets [but are] drowned out by the howls of extremists.” Furthermore, he states:

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians [...] must end in talks and treaties. “They have to negotiate in order to live together because it’s a fact and it’s not too late.”

Message for the Palestinians: “For your stability, you need accords” with Israel. “We Muslims, we have the right to have peace and accords with Israel [...] and we need peace with Israel.”

“Al-Aqsa Mosque [in Jerusalem] is for all Muslims and not only for Palestinians. I don’t need the authorization of the Palestinian Authority to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque.”

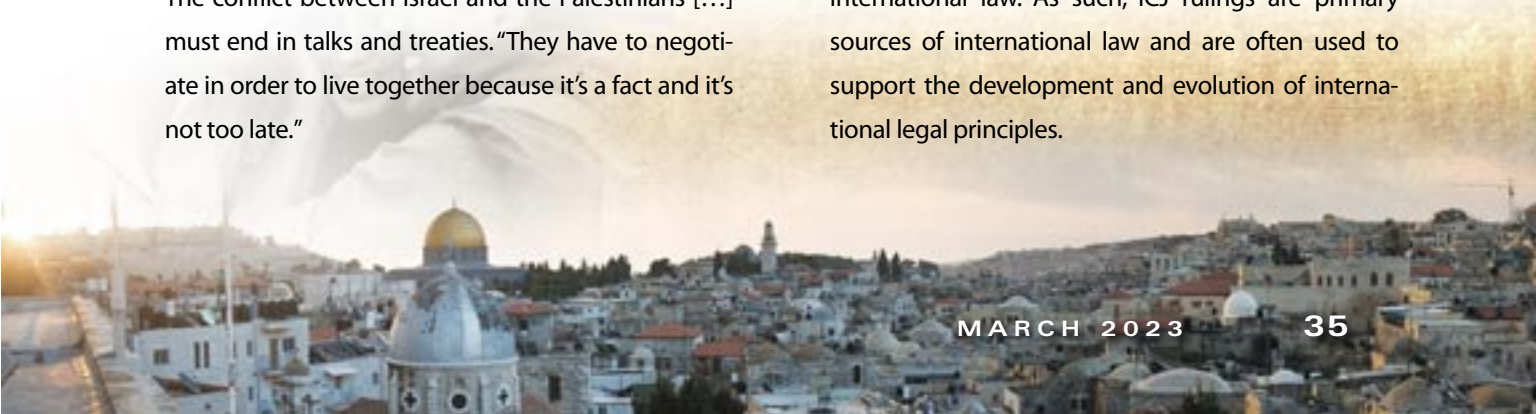
The Iman concludes:

“We are not active enough on social media. We have to denounce every bad action and be present on social media.

“With the economic crisis, someone has to be held responsible and that is the minorities, and so anti-semitism and racism will grow in Europe. It is not very positive in Europe but that means there is a lot of work to do.”

Recently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague, Netherlands released their opinion on “Israel’s ‘annexation’ of territories and the ‘legal status’ of the occupation”:

The ICJ has the authority to interpret and apply international treaties and conventions, and its decisions are considered to be authoritative interpretations of international law. As such, ICJ rulings are primary sources of international law and are often used to support the development and evolution of international legal principles.



The resolution passed with 87 votes in favor to 26 against, with 53 abstentions. All the Arab states, including those that recently have normalized relations with Israel, voted in favor.

-*themedialine.org*, 1 January 2023

Of the 166 voting members of the United Nations, 87 agreed that Israel's "annexation" is illegal. If one would take the time to view the borders of these 87 countries historically, some of them would barely be recognized on a modern map. What kind of international law determined the borders, not only of these 87 countries, but also the rest of the world? The answer is one word: war. The winner determined the loser's boundaries.

Another article from *The Times of Israel* on 3 January 2023, is headlined, "UN condemned Israel more than all other countries combined in 2022." When we ask why, the simple answer is that all nations of the world will, in the end, be condemned by their own resolutions. Here an excerpt:

Russia was the focus of six resolutions condemning its invasion of Ukraine. North Korea, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Iran and the US were hit with one resolution each.

Since 2015, the General Assembly has adopted 140 resolutions criticizing Israel, mainly over its treatment of the Palestinians, its relationships with neighboring countries and other alleged wrongdoings. Over the same period, it has passed 68 resolutions against all other countries, UN Watch said.

In summary, Israel is being falsely accused. Not once, but over and over again. For believers who read their Bible, this is not to be understood as a negative development but rather a positive one, confirming Israel's uniqueness among the nations of the world. Rightly, the Gentile prophet Balaam proclaimed almost 3,500 years ago: "the people [Israel] shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations" (Numbers 23:9b).

We know that David was unjustly persecuted. He cried out to God: "They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty..." (Psalm 69:4). Later in the New Testament, Jesus confirms: "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause" (John 15:25). ^(MC)

**Action
for Israel**



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

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Project: Bringing Back a Beloved Place for Our Residents

Earlier this year, with the coronavirus period mostly behind us, we were able to empty our front entrance balcony of the tent we had set up for family visits outside the facility.

By David Phillips *CEO (Chief Executive Officer)*

Within a short time of taking this tent down, to our great delight, our residents soon found a place they greatly enjoyed sitting outside in. It brings such a smile to my face as I see the residents gathered together, singing, playing games, or just enjoying one another's company in the outdoors, instead of "coronavirus limitations on life."

But with the change of weather, a place they had come to so thoroughly enjoy, became a place they couldn't enjoy very much due to the cold, rainy, and windy weather, and even in summer, the strong winds we have here. We gathered together to figure out a way we could bring this beloved place back for their enjoyment.



After discussing how to make this place adequate for them to enjoy throughout the year, it was decided that the best way is to enclose it with windows that could be opened in the heat and closed during the stormy and cold weather. Adding windows and a nice seating area for them to be able to enjoy sitting out there, will cost us roughly \$16,000. This price includes sets of comfortable chairs and a coffee table for their convenience. With your help, we plan to use the donations raised this month to make this a reality.

Will you help us bring this beloved place back to our residents?



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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I AM AFRAID



According to a study done at the University of Zurich, one in five people are affected by fear. In Switzerland alone, 710,000 people are troubled by it. Anxiety is the most common psychological problem and is manifest across a wide spectrum.

By Peter Malgo

From panic attacks to a specific phobia, anything is possible. Common phobias include fear of heights, claustrophobia in elevators or tunnels, and fear of spiders. Anxiety often begins indirectly, triggered by nagging worries that are intensified by family burdens, stress at work, or illness.

Fear has become such a dominant topic that, for instance, a conference was held about it at an Army Training Center in Lucerne. Material concerns, existential fear, and fear of losing everything are rampant. The global inflationary crisis is causing sleepless nights for thousands of people ... fear of the future. From the Bible, we know that such financial tremors and upsets are nothing extraordinary. These events are only shadows of far worse future developments.

What about us Christians? Are we afraid of the future as well? The prophet Haggai speaks to this: “Now therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled

with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes” (Haggai 1:5-6). Yet-to-come events are described in a very drastic manner in Revelation 18: “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore ... For in one hour such great riches came to nothing” (vv. 11, 17). These predictions of the future cause all kind of fears, to which even born-again Christians are not immune.

David also experienced great fear at times: “The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distress!” (Psalm 25:17). David was often in situations that caused well-founded fear. We only need remember his flight from Saul, the persecuting enemy who was trying to kill him. But David in particular gives us the best example of how we can face a Goliath without fear. Fear is an enemy of faith. If we allow fear to dominate us, we are unable to lead a life of trust in the Lord’s control over all situations.

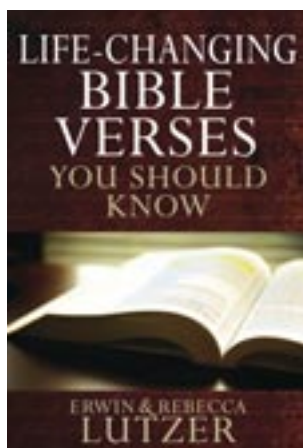
David also experienced great fear at times: “The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distress!” (Psalm 25:17). David was often in situations that caused well-founded fear.

It is God’s express will to free us from fears of all kinds and lead us to a victorious life of faith. Do we believe that? Two chapters later, in Psalm 27, David professes this triumphant attitude of faith: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?”

Fear is a consequence of sin. It dominates the world, and can be vague or specific. Following Adam’s disobedience of God, we read: “I was afraid ... and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10). This very real fear also affects us children of God when we become guilty. It is a helpful fear, meant to drive us back to the Cross. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us

from all sin (1 John 1:9). Fear itself is not a sin, but is very much connected to sin. Thus, the vague fear that overwhelms us at times is sinful, because it is due to a lack of trust in God. He wants to free us from all our fears: “You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance” (Psalm 32:7).

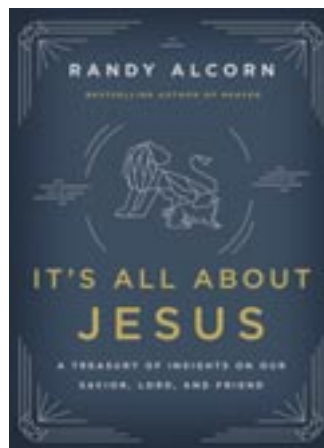
The Apostle Paul writes of some of the fears he faced again and again and how he overcame them: “Therefore I take pleasure ... in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12:10). May you too have the grace to overcome all fear in and through Jesus, and to lead a victorious life of faith. (MC)



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Letters to the Editor

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

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

TOTAL CONTROL... BIBLE TRANSLATIONS... MEMORIES

Total Control

Dear Arno Froese,

Reading back issues of the *Midnight Call* (2005), I noticed “Homeland Security” started biometric screening at 50 of the busiest land border crossings in 10 US states. Much advancement of security has developed since this writing 18 years ago. Today, full technology is available for total control. With the truth being suppressed, people focus only on their many cares: economy, weather, etc. To me, it can only bring to mind how close we are to seeing the Rapture, with the appearance of the man of sin. As we trust in the Lord and await the drama soon to begin, may more be saved in these last days.

-I. Lee, IL

Answer: Real truth has been suppressed for the last 6,000 years. But now, we are approaching the climax, defined by one word—equality, with the assistance of high-tech. That is the process of fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Technology is increasingly controlling hu-

manity. The way for the great imitator of Jesus is being paved, “And all the world wondered after the beast.” Thankfully, we, the Church of Jesus Christ, will be raptured into His presence. Then, total darkness will prevail on planet earth.

Bible Translations

Dear Brother Arno,

You beloved folks are right-on with Scripture interpretation—praise the Lord. Yes, this is your old “NO KJV” brother. Please do me a favor: using a current English dictionary, please explain to me the term Holy Ghost. If you find it “difficult” (without being disrespectful to the precious Holy Spirit of our Heavenly Father), then why do you continue to use a 400-year-old translation based on theatrical language? Please, brother, folks of 2023 out here in the trenches do NOT appreciate the KJV language (or any language NOT found in their home dictionaries). By your own advice in an MC magazine many months back, the NIV is easier to understand. Why are you



using a less easy-to-understand version for public use?

-D. Woods, IA

Answer: When I became a believer in 1967, I started to read the Bible in English for the first time (KJV). Despite not having any schooling in the English language, I didn't have a problem understanding the words written. Admittedly, there are sometimes words or phrases that are a bit confusing. For me, the KJV is tradition. When Bible questions are the issue, I consult many different translations. My standard answer: the Word of God is perfect, but no translation is.

Memories

Dear Arno Froese,

You and Midnight Call have been a huge blessing to me. About 22 years ago, "out of the blue," something arrived from Midnight

Call. I had never heard of it. "Something"—I believe the Holy Spirit—caused me to pick it up, read it, and subscribe.

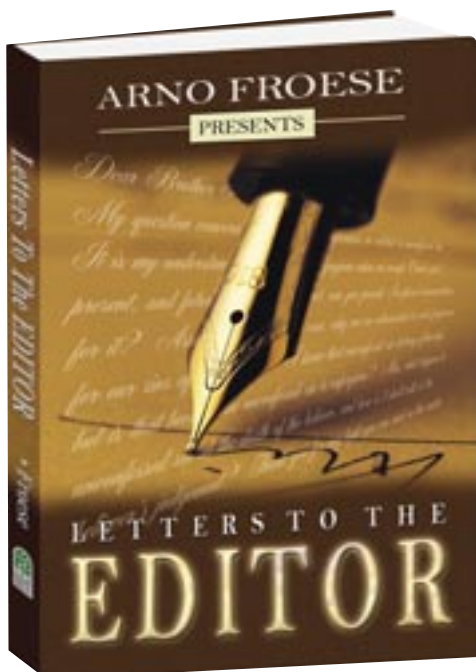
The first time I saw you (you don't know me) was at a Prophecy Congress in Myrtle Beach—quite full.

Such wonderful blessings, memories, and exposure to great speakers. All the while, expanding my faith in Jesus and waking me up to see the times. Thank God for Midnight Call.

-C. Mitchell, NC

Answer: I too often fondly recall the times of the various Prophecy Congresses we held, particularly in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Your words were very refreshing. I pray that our Lord will meet you with His blessing, His presence, and His joy, particularly now during these end times. (MC)



Midnight Call Magazine's #1 Feature!

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

- Homosexual at Birth?
- Suicide
- Dancing in Church
- Gambling
- Guns
- And much, much more!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ITEM #1045

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Author: Arno Froese

Midnight Call's **March Resource Guide**



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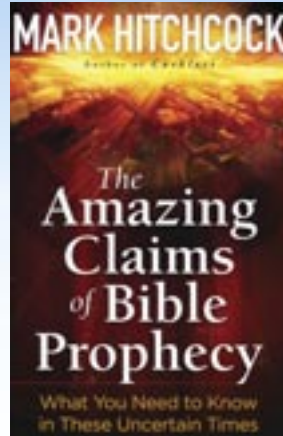
The Most Asked Prophecy Questions will enrich your knowledge of one of the Bible's most important subjects—and empower you to live in light of Jesus' soon return, heaven, and eternity.

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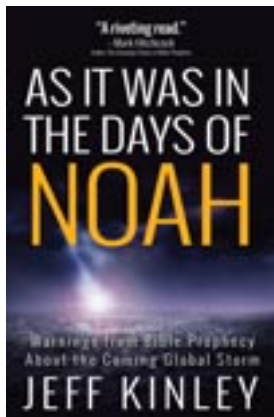


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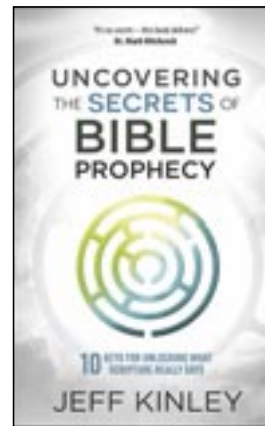
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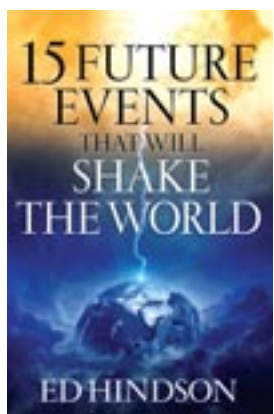


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Author: Ed Hindson



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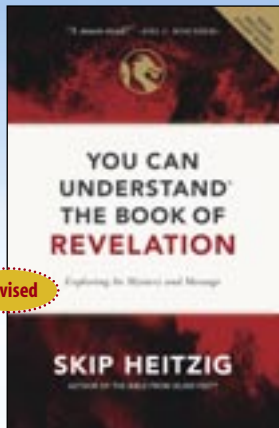
- Why do some believers object to the idea of a rapture?
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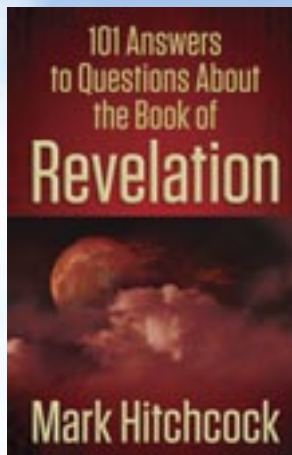
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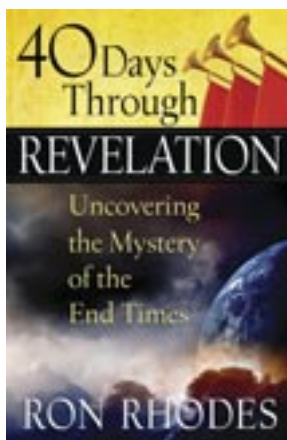
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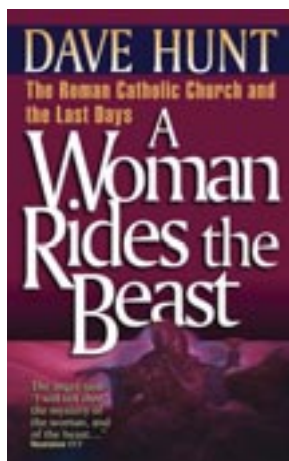
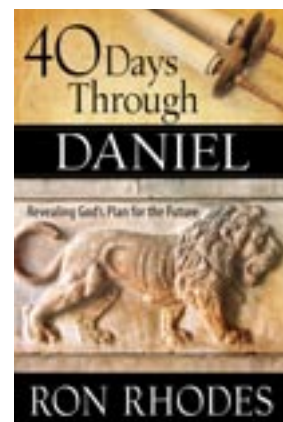
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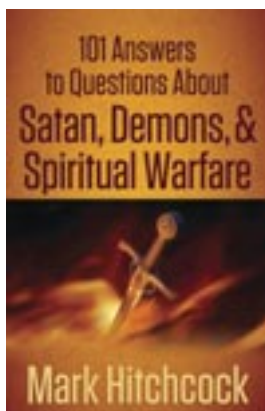
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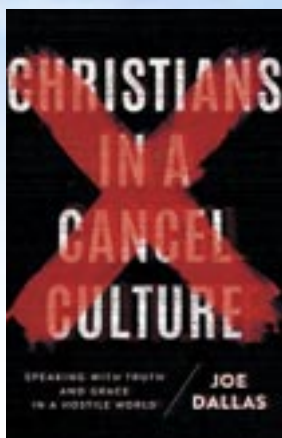
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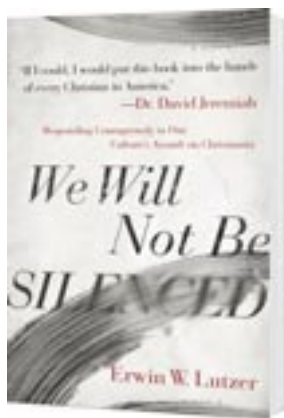
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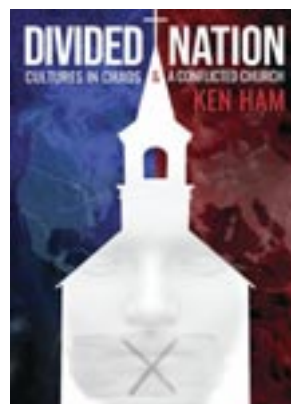
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Has the Church Lost Its Influence?

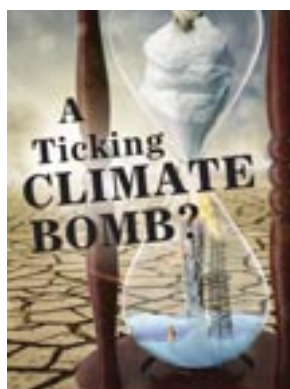
To combat today's chaotic culture and the conflicted church, Ham addresses five specific issues:

- There is no neutral position
- There is no non-religious position
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- Creation apologetics
- How to think foundationally to develop a truly Christian worldview

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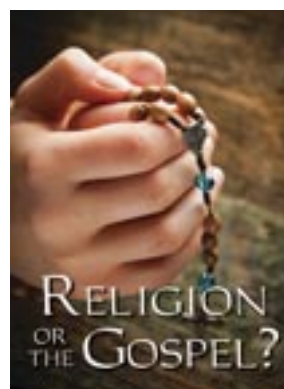


A Ticking Climate Bomb?

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

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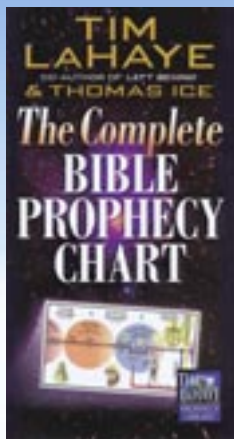


Religion or the Gospel?

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

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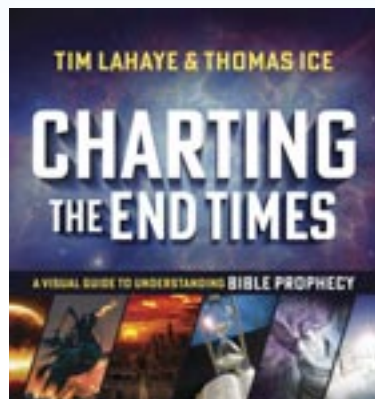
A panorama of the ages on one full-color master chart

Beginning with eternity past and looking all the way to the prophetic future, LaHaye and Ice provide a compelling overview of key points and events in Bible history. Certain to become a much-used resource, God's Prophetic Plan Chart is a unique and handy reference tool for Bible teachers and everyone interested in future events. (Same chart included in *Charting the End Times*.)

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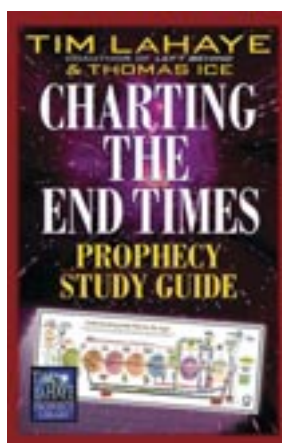
A Visual Guide to Understanding Bible Prophecy

Prophecy experts (the late) Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice teamed up to produce a visual resource unmatched by anything available in the Christian book marketplace! The result of decades of careful research and Bible study, the charts and well-written explanatory text provide a fascinating picture of the times ahead. *Charting the End Times* includes...

- A foldout portraying God's complete plan for the ages
- More than 50 full-color charts and diagrams
- Timelines of the end times
- A comprehensive overview of the key elements of the last days
- Clear answers to tough end-times questions

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Instructive, practical study guide

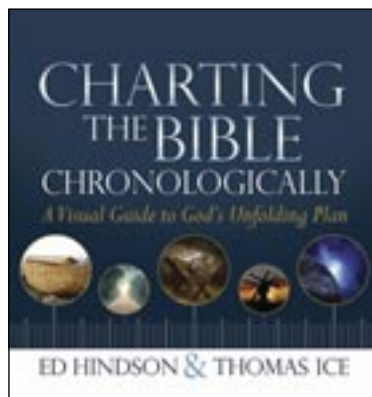
Designed for use by individuals or study groups, *Charting the End Times Prophecy Study Guide* takes readers step by step through the high points of Bible prophecy with helpful charts that offer a clear picture of what will happen and when in the last days. Readers will welcome this interactive study about the Rapture, the Tribulation, the return of Christ, the judgment, the Millennial kingdom, heaven, and more.

A dynamic resource that can be used with or without the companion book.

CHARTING THE END TIMES PROPHECY STUDY GUIDE ITEM #2321

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~~\$9.99~~ **Sale \$6** Authors: Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice



God's Plan Made Clear from Beginning to End

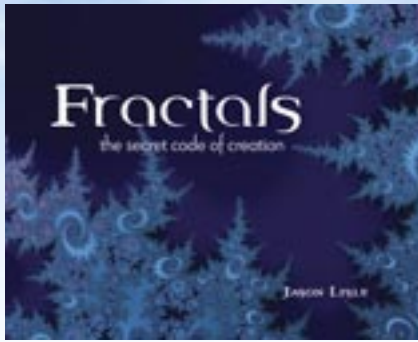
The Bible follows the rise and fall of kingdoms and governments, covers millennia of ancient history, and reveals God's plan for humanity through powerful accounts that still speak today. *Charting the Bible Chronologically* by authors Ed Hindson and Thomas Ice gives readers a panoramic view of the events recorded in Scripture, all laid out in chronological order. Included in this book's 40-plus full-color charts are...

- Timelines of biblical history
- Overviews of major empires
- A master foldout chart of the entire Bible

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~~\$29.99~~ **Sale \$22** Authors: Ed Hindson and Thomas Ice

Is there a secret code embedded in Math itself?



The artworks displayed in this book have always existed, built into the numbers at creation. Dr. Lisle suggests that only the Christian worldview can make sense of this secret code. As such, the images in this book are a demonstration of the truth of that worldview.

- Demonstrates that even abstract concepts like numbers could not exist apart from God
- Shows the beauty of God's design and creation through full-color representations of numbers
- Confirms that the Christian worldview makes sense of mathematics and mathematical properties

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Author: Gary Bates

Both Scientist and Man of Faith

This timeless classic demonstrating the human brilliance of this most honored of scientists and man of faith is now available again after more than 100 years. Newton's (1642 – 1727) scientific accomplishments in astronomy, mathematics, and physics form the foundation of many areas of science today, yet you may not know of his incredible belief in God that was at the heart of his search for knowledge.



A Devastating Response To Darwinism

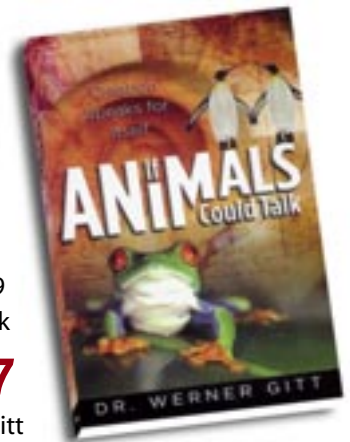
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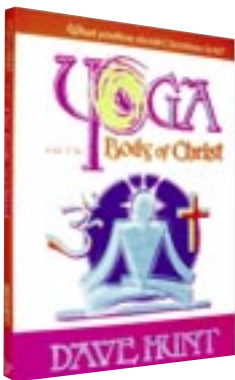
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A Panoramic Survey of the End Times and Beyond

From bestselling author Ron Rhodes comes *40 Days Through Bible Prophecy*: an engaging and accessible survey of what God has made known about our future through His Word. Get ready to understand—or rediscover—how prophetic Scripture impacts your life today!

With helpful question-and-answer sections and insightful outlines of key takeaways, Ron has designed this study to help you retain the big-picture truths of Bible prophecy.

You will

- gain fluency in Bible prophecy vocabulary, learning terms like *rapture*, *millennial kingdom*, and *eternal state*
- identify the chronology of prophetic events, from what has already occurred to what is still to come
- get to know the prominent personalities of the end times, including the two witnesses, the antichrist, and the false prophet

Approach every part of God's Word with confidence and clarity! *40 Days Through Bible Prophecy* will encourage you to grow in faith as you gain an accurate understanding of God's soon-to-be-fulfilled promises.

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