

The International Prophetic Voice for the Endtimes

# Midnight Call

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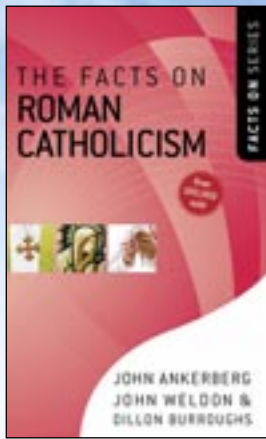
March 2024—\$6.95

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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# Why the Resurrection?



## What does the Catholic Church teach concerning salvation?

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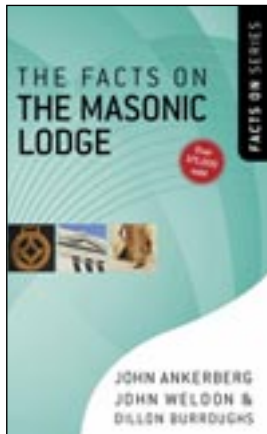
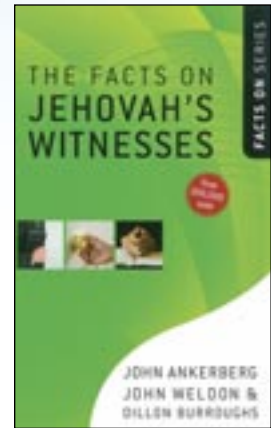
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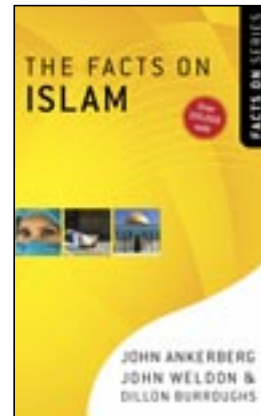
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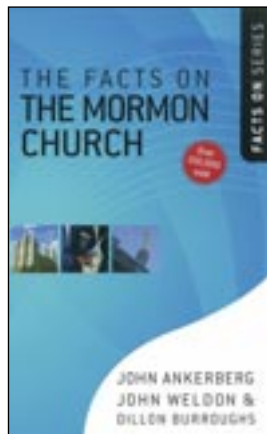
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## The Comforting Hand

**By Norbert Lieth**

*Director of Missions, Midnight Call International*

**T**he Apostle Paul writes: “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3). The overall theme of our Easter Conference this year is “Infinite Consolation.” The various speakers and singing groups aim to draw us to the consolation that comes from eternity with Him.

We read the following about John being confronted by the glory of Jesus: “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Rev 1:17-18). What unimagined comfort there is in those words! Death and fear have been overcome by Him. Jesus has the ultimate power, not the devil (Heb 2:14).

The Lord placed His hand on John and lifted him up again. It was the hand

that had been pierced on the cross (Psalm 22:16), and with which He also rose from the dead (Luke 24:39). The hand which, when seen by the disciple Thomas, made him cry out: “My LORD and my God” (John 20:28). The hand that had blessed the disciples before the Lord’s ascension into heaven (Luke 24:50-51). For every believer, it is the hand of consolation and perpetual uplifting, the hand indicating the hope toward resurrection. And this saving hand of Jesus will welcome everyone to eternity who has confidently clasped it in faith. About this hand, Jesus said: “I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:28).

Jesus is the first, standing above all; and He is the last, to be there when all earthly things have passed away. To say it with Job: “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and

## EDITOR'S NOTE

though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:25-26). Jesus lives from eternity to eternity, and He has said, "because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19b).

There is no greater consolation for suffering Christians, no hope more far-reaching than the fact that Jesus will return to take those who are His to where He is. All who put their hope in Him by faith will not be put to shame. The book of Revelation opens the curtain a little to our glorious future. There we see Jesus as King, to whom the story of salvation belongs. We see God on His throne of glory; we see a new Jerusalem, a new heaven and a new earth. We see the resurrected, and how those who once suffered are eternally comforted. Let us stay focused on this hope as we await the Lord Jesus!

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work" (2 Thess 2:16-17). United in God's consolation, we wish you a blessed Easter. (MC)

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### OUR TASK

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

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

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

**WE BELIEVE** in the imminent, pre-tribulational appearance of Jesus Christ for the Rapture of His Church (all born again believers).

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



# Why the Resurrection?

**Norbert Lieth**

Christ conquered death for us through His resurrection. This miracle of deliverance has far-reaching consequences for our life, even into eternity, when we accept it in faith. A biblical encouragement.

The Lord Jesus' bodily resurrection is a reality, and it answers many of life's essential questions. His resurrection sheds light on the darkness that engulfs us. This is seen especially clearly through the account of the resurrection in John 20.

### **The resurrection puts an end to hopelessness.**

"Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb" (John 20:1).

We humans always seem to bump against the wall of our limitations. In the Gospel of Mark, the women ask, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" (Mark 16:3). Despite our progress, developments, and ingenuity, we're all in the same position as far as death is concerned. It is insurmountable, and we are hopeless.

The February 2021 issue of *Migros Magazine* interviewed psychoanalyst Peter Schneider and author Andrea Schafroth about their book *Jung-bleiben ist auch keine Lösung* ("Staying Young Isn't the Solution, Either"). Their conclusion sounds hopeless, even though it's presented humorously. Using multiple techniques, the authors arrive at the following points: Ultimately, some ailments have no hope of a cure.—Health in particular is something that you will lose.—You know it isn't really getting better, but it's definitely getting worse.—Age-related problems are nothing more than dying in installments.—Assisted living facilities are a kind of in-between world; a lobby where people wait for their appointment with death.—Most people are afraid of dying, and are tormented

by the question of what's coming next or whether they've found the meaning of life.

So much for "Staying Young Isn't the Solution, Either." Israeli satirist Ephraim Kishon said of dying, "I don't feel old because I've got so many years behind me, but because there are so few years ahead of me." He means to be humorous, but it bears witness to the tragedy and disappointment of wanting to live and not being able to. As Woody Allen once said, "I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

Throughout mankind's history, there has never been a greater sense of helplessness and hopelessness than when facing death. A doctor's tombstone is said to have read, "Here lies my dear husband Dr. Grimm; and all he healed lie next to him."

Death is the great stumbling block that everyone will trip over. All except one: Jesus! "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" He has the power and removes the stone from us: the stone of hopelessness, fear, oppressive guilt, and everything that weighs us down apart from God.

What man longs for most is an eternal, care-free life. That is precisely what God gives. The resurrected Jesus is the answer. The stone has been removed; the way to resurrection is free—"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim 1:9-10).

## Why the Resurrection?

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His resurrection sheds light on the darkness that engulfs us.

### **The resurrection puts an end to works-based righteousness.**

“Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself” (John 20:6-7).

At a funeral, the head of the deceased was wrapped in a face cloth. This cloth is a symbol of work, toil, struggle, and exertion. After the fall, God said to Adam, “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Gen 3:19). Our life is toil, work, exertion, and in the end, we die. The Lord Jesus’ face cloth was folded up and lying in a special place. This is telling us that the cloth has been laid aside and the work completed; that He has done every work for us and fulfilled the law. We don’t go to heaven by merit of our own achievements, but by what Jesus has done for us. He took the sin upon Himself. And when He had finished the work, He said, “It is finished” (John 19:30).

Some lifeguards will wait until a drowning person has run out of strength and stopped fighting them, before grasping them and getting them to safety. God saved us in the same way: “who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” (2 Tim 1:9). “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” (Rom 3:28).



In an issue of *Our Daily Bread*, Anne Cetas wrote: “The way the word righteousness is pictured in the Chinese language is helpful. It is a combination of two characters. The top word is lamb. The bottom word is me. The lamb covers or is above the person. [. . .] Jesus, the Lamb, sacrificed Himself and shed His blood. He became our ‘cover.’ He makes us righteous, which places us in right relationship with God. Being right with God is a gift from Him. Jesus, the Lamb, is God’s way to cover us.” Because I wanted to be certain this was truly the case, I asked a Chinese Christian friend about it. She replied, “Yes, that’s true. ‘Righteousness’ consists of two parts. The upper part is ‘sheep,’ and the lower part is ‘me.’ If anyone wants to be righteous, he has to say, ‘I need the lamb.’”

Our only hope for heaven is Jesus’ merit, which He bestows upon us. Through Him, we are welcomed by God with open arms.

I read a story of a man who had been keeping an eye on a lamb that looked severely disabled. It had shaggy, matted fur and what appeared to be six legs (two of which hung lifelessly at the back, flopping with each step). But the truth behind the pitiful sight was something else



Every person is searching for life. Aren't many addictions just an expression of this search? Some weep pillows full of tears of longing and despair. "By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him" (Song 3:1).



entirely. One lamb had been bitten by a snake and died. Another lamb had no mother. The shepherd had the idea of skinning the dead lamb and laying its hide over the orphaned lamb. After doing so, he led this pathetic-looking orphan to the ewe that had lost her lamb. She accepted it in place of her own, because of the smell of its fur.

### **The resurrection puts an end to weeping.**

"But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'

She said to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him'" (John 20:11-13).

It's said that the average person produces between 60 and 80 liters (15 to 20 gallons) of tears during their lifetime. Women cry between 30 and 64 times per year, and men between 6 and 17. How many tears has our world seen throughout its history? Tears of sadness, horror, suffering, pain, injustice, war, disease, jealousy, anger, rage. Weeping eyes of inconsolable children, desperate women, and horrified men.

After a tear has evaporated, salt crystals remain. According to Dr. Werner Gitt, every tear crystal contains the microscopic image of a cross. Tears are often an expression of

## Why the Resurrection?

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What man longs for most is an eternal, carefree life. That is precisely what God gives.

sadness and despair, as well as of heartache. There is a secret heartache that is a hidden longing for Jesus. This is what Mary expresses: “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

Did they take Jesus away from you? Those who live apart from Jesus are unconsciously longing for Him. The Bible says, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Rev 21:4). And when God wipes away your tears, it’s once and for all.

### **The resurrection puts an end to seeking.**

“Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (which is to say, Teacher)” (John 20:14-16).

Every person is searching for life. Aren’t many addictions just an expression of this search? Some weep pillows full of tears of longing and despair. “By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him” (Song 3:1).

Many aren’t finding Him because they have the wrong impression of Jesus. Mary thought

He was the gardener. What do you think about Him? His biography is unique, incomparable, and at the same time, an invitation to live. When He reveals Himself to you and speaks to you personally, you have found the One you’re longing for. And when you have found Him, you’ll simply be in awe. Then you’ll recognize who He is, what He means to you, and what you have in Him. You will know that you have been cared for and loved. You’ll discover that Jesus is far more than what you’d thought of him, just as Mary did in her encounter with the supposed gardener. He is the Teacher, who fills your emptiness with His teaching.

An old man once said, “It took me 42 years to learn three things: first, that I was a lost sinner; second, that there was nothing I could do to be saved; and third, that the Lord Jesus did everything for me to be saved.”

A professor was once asked to name his greatest discovery. He replied, “My greatest discovery was Jesus Christ!”

### **The resurrection puts an end to uncertainty.**

“Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God”’” (John 20:17).

Gabriel Marcel was a French philosopher born in 1889. On his 40th birthday (March 5, 1929), his diary records: “I have no more doubts. This morning’s happiness is miraculous. For the first time I have clearly experienced grace. A terrible thing to say, but so it is. I am hemmed in at last by

When God wipes away your tears, it's once and for all.

Christianity—in, fathoms deep. Happy to be so!” (from *Being and Having*).

People grasp at certainty. What certainty do you have? Finances? Paul writes, “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels...” (2 Cor 4:7). The jar—our body—is earthly and fragile, unlike the treasure that God has placed in us. That treasure is heavenly and unbreakable. Through faith in His Son, God places an imperishable treasure in our mortal life. This is the bright light of the knowledge of God through Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6), the rebirth as an imperishable seed (1 Pet 1:23). What certainty God’s Word conveys through Jesus! He ascended into heaven to God the Father, whereupon He also became God the Father.

Some say, “Nothing’s certain except death and taxes.” But that’s only partly true: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13). This is the end of all uncertainty and ambiguity. No religion provides absolute certainty, but God the Father does.

### **The resurrection puts an end to fear.**

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’” (John 20:19).

Any place the risen Lord enters with His peace, fear must depart. His peace penetrates the midst of fear. “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18a).



Fear accompanies us throughout our lives. It’s as much a part of us as the air we breathe. Reinhold Ruthe writes, “Fear is like a predator attacking me. It’s like a wave overtaking me. Like a tornado racing toward me.”

Jesus said that people’s fear of what’s to come upon the world will increase (Luke 21:26). Just think of the coronavirus, which terrified the whole world. But there are so many other fears: existential fears, fear of dying, fear about the future... What comes next? What will happen to my family? What are we up against? The fear of being alone, of old age, of judgment. But through Jesus—who arose and ascended into heaven—we have the Holy Spirit to rule the fear in our hearts. When He enters our lives, the depths are filled with the glory of His love.

### **The resurrection puts an end to emptiness.**

“And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:22).

Well-known tennis player Ivan Lendl said during a conversation, “I’m afraid to look deep inside

## Why the Resurrection?

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In Jesus, we no longer have a past, only a future.

myself because there might be nothing there...” And famous French philosopher Albert Camus wrote: “To lose one’s life is no great matter; when the time comes I’ll have the courage to lose mine. But what’s intolerable is to see one’s life being drained of meaning, to be told there’s no reason for existing. A man can’t live without some reason for living.” Various activities exist to fill your life: sports, yoga, hobbies, magazines, books. Yet we soon find that the life we’re longing for remains an illusion. The things the world has to offer don’t afford a truly fulfilled and meaningful life, but are like mirages in the desert.

I love the devotions by psychotherapist Reinhold Ruthe. In one passage, he writes: “Atheists say life is pointless; nihilists say that life is meaningless; pessimists say that life is useless; the indifferent say that faith is irrelevant. But Christians say, ‘We’re living a new life.’”

The following passage from the Gospel of John moves me again and again: “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life’ [...] The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’” (John 4:13-14, 28-29).

Jesus gives us a full life. In Jesus, we no longer have a past, only a future. Jesus is life.

He offers us life and fills us with life: with spiritual life and a rebirth that extends into life everlasting.

### **The resurrection puts an end to doubt.**

“Then He said to Thomas, ‘Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.’ And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed’” (John 20:27-29).

Mark Zuckerberg once said, “The biggest risk is not taking any risk.” Many are afraid to trustingly place their lives into the hands of the risen Lord, and they don’t realize what they’re losing. They doubt, and doubts often lead to despair. But whoever accepts the challenge will have cause for worship. He will exclaim, “How could I ever have doubted?!”

Thomas doubted, until the moment he personally encountered the risen Lord. Then he experienced a complete about-face. He recognized that Jesus is the true Son of God, and therefore God. Our thirst won’t be quenched at the mirages, but only at the source of life itself. All our doubts will only cease with the One who is the truth.

Jesus is also challenging you personally: “Come and see! Don’t be an unbeliever, but a believer!” If life is inviting you, seize the opportunity!

(MR0422/1229)



## EVANGELICALS: STAND UP FOR JEWS! – PART 1



It is more prevalent than one would think and wish—antisemitism. Once again, a supposed evangelical Christian spewed an antisemitic remark during a conversation with this writer. The comment was something to the effect that Jews are despicable because they are in positions of control and wealth in the world today.

**By Wilfred Hahn**

I was grieved ... and quiet. Yet, given the history of the Jews, I was not shocked. Once again, God's sentence upon this special people more than 2500 years ago, found a willing complicitor among the Christian Gentiles.

And many antisemitic Christians and Gentiles there remain. In fact, in one form or another, antisemitism is surging today. Sadly, this is also true among supposed Christians, both individually and institutionally.

Since Hamas' attack on Israel, anti-semitism has surged in America. The FBI's head has said that the number of anti-Jewish hate crimes is reaching historic highs. Antisemitism among left-wing college students is widespread.

Even America's richest man, Elon Musk, appears to have chimed in.

Since he took over X (previously named Twitter), antisemitic posts have soared ("gone viral") on his media platform. Responding to an antisemitic post, he replied, "You have said the actual truth." This may have been a regrettable mistake; however, it is worrisome coming from a man of such great influence. (This reminds of another automaker a century earlier, who was a fervent antisemite—Henry Ford.)

Antisemitism is a topic to take very seriously. Why? Because the Bible clearly indicates some serious consequences. For this and a number of other reasons, it is timely to investigate further. Also intersecting this topic, as we will see, is the fate of America.

As we tackle this issue, however, a word of warning to Gentiles. It must



Antisemitism is a topic to take very seriously. Why? Because the Bible clearly indicates some serious consequences.



be approached with great humility. For He is the Judge, the One who says, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay” (Deuteronomy 32:35a). All will fall under judgment: Jew, Gentile, and Christian.

### Why the Jews, According to Scripture

To ensure that we launch our investigation on a firm foundation, let’s begin with what Scripture has to say. After all, it is a document written exclusively by the Jews. We must first remember who it was that God made a covenant with—Abraham—and issued the pronouncements upon all his children and heirs. It was He, Jehovah, that very early inspired the Hebrew prophets to write His taunt, that no false god or idol would ever dare wager.

He stared down all doubters to His glory with the unhedged claim, “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please’” (Isaiah 46:10). Therefore, it is the subject of fact and required belief that all Spirit-inspired prophecy will come to be fulfilled.

The prophecies applying to the Hebrews—almost all of them very plain and clear—are also true, no matter what modern theologians may think or what preferential positions or vested interests some denominations may like to appropriate for themselves. The prophets clearly outlined the result of Israel and Judah’s disobedience, demonstrating God’s foreknowledge of their choices, as well as their yet-coming Millennial role.

Seemingly countless times—in fact, many tens of times—warnings were given to the Israelites that they would be scattered to the four corners of the earth if they did not turn from their errant ways and repent. Not only that, but much worse: “I will pursue them with the sword, famine and plague and will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth, and an object of cursing and horror, of scorn and reproach,

But crucially, something else was also prophesied: that the Jews would be restored. Not just restoration to Old Testament primacy, but rather being placed at the head of the nations ... in other words, the entire world. The Jews will yet rule the world and reign from Zion.

among all the nations where I drive them” (Jeremiah 29:18). Judah would be scattered, its people facing conditions of scorn and persecution during that time of dispersion.

But crucially, something else was also prophesied: that the Jews would be restored. Not just restoration to Old Testament primacy, but rather being placed at the head of the nations ... in other words, the entire world. The Jews will yet rule the world and reign from Zion. The conditional blessings set down by Moses would finally be righted.

For Gentiles that have oppressed the Israelites, there is one more prophecy to acknowledge: “May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them” (Psalm 149:6-9a). Just as played out in the Book of Esther, the Jews themselves will be used as the instruments of God’s vengeance.

These developments—all of them yet to fully unfold in the future—hold some great admonitions for all



people: Christians, Jews, and Gentiles alike.

### Why the Chosen People

Why did God choose the Hebrews as His people? This topic is a stumbling block for many. Why did He make one people superior ... superior in so much that they might be considered “super humans”? To begin, this question reveals an incorrect perspective.

God did not choose the Hebrews for their greatness or superiority in any sense. Said Moses, “The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples” (Deuteronomy 7:7).



The Hebrews were not chosen to have special privileges or might to take over the world, but rather were given a task: “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6b).

To believe that God needs superior numbers, or peoples, or armies, contradicts Scripture. Said Paul: “But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him” (1 Corinthians 1:27-29).

Most Christians who have received undeserved grace would identify with the “lowly things of this world,” having no reason to boast. The same applies to the Hebrew. Therefore, the question of selection may never be fully answered or understood. For the Lord says, “I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion” (Exodus 33:19b).

A point to recognize in the case of the Hebrews is made by Michael Medved, a high-profile talk-show host and author who is a Jew. “According

to Scripture, the Jews have been chosen for distinct responsibilities, not for unique privileges: we accept special obligations, rather than claiming special power.”<sup>1</sup> The Hebrews were not chosen to have special privileges or might to take over the world, but rather were given a task: “I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6b).

The Hebrews were appointed as servants of God. “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend” (Isaiah 41:8). By contrast, believers in Christ (whether Gentile or Jew) become God’s spiritual children. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God” (John 1:12-13). According to Scripture, therefore, it will be the Jews that finally spread the Gospel to the four corners of the earth, after the Church is gone.



The Jew has brought great blessings to the world in many ways. Just as Scripture reveals: “The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind” (Micah 5:7).

### The Blessings of the Jews

The Bible clearly says that the Jew will be a blessing to the world in many ways, this also being the case during the Diaspora. “As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing” (Zechariah 8:13a). And indeed, the Jew has brought great blessings to the world in many ways. Just as Scripture reveals: “The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for man or linger for mankind” (Micah 5:7).

Possibly without major exception, every nation that gave harbor to the Jews eventually prospered and rose in prominence. For example, during the Golden Age of Poland in the mid-1800s, approximately 30% of all Jews were estimated to be living in that country at that time. Later, the Jews were severely persecuted. It has been a long time since Poland has been a prominent country. The same applies to Spain after the 1400s. Before that time, Jews were a large reason for the prosperity and progress of Spain. To no surprise,

Spain rapidly declined after 1492, the year the Jews were expelled.

Other examples could be cited, including Russia and even the Ottoman Empire, a Muslim empire that at one time, allowed a great deal of freedom to the Jews (however, not at other times, and hardly so in Turkey today). But how does this observation reflect upon the world? Frankly, it begs the question of the role of the Jew in America today, in which approximately 70% of the Diaspora “core” Jews live (those living outside Israel). Overall, approximately 40% of “core” Jews worldwide live in the US. Consider that the period since the 1950s has been dubbed by some as the Golden Age of the America Jew. We will consider the implications of this situation in Part 2. (MC)

This is part of a re-edited, four-part excerpt from the 2009 book, *Preserving True Riches in an Age of Deception and Trouble* (secondary title).

### ENDNOTE

- 1 “Why the world hates the Jews,” August 9, 2006. [http://www.townhall.com/columnists/MichaelMedved/2006/08/09/why\\_the\\_world\\_hates\\_the\\_jews](http://www.townhall.com/columnists/MichaelMedved/2006/08/09/why_the_world_hates_the_jews)



DR. RON J. BIGALKE

Acts of disaster have fascinated people since the beginning of time. Religious sects arise worldwide to explain the acts of awesome devastation that are beyond human comprehension and control. Scripture predicts earthquakes, famines, natural disasters, and wars to occur in relation to the end of the age. There have been many times throughout history that people have believed they were living in the time of the end. However, in today's troubled world, more and more people believe that doomsday is imminent.

**T**he term “disaster” is a combination of Latin words meaning “ill-starred,” which refers to the early belief that such occurrences were divine punishments. Etymologically, something disastrous is “ill-starred” and can be synonymous with catastrophe. The present age is one of calamity, cataclysm, and catastrophe. Disaster is everywhere, and continues to be the dominant theme of conversation and news. While the 21st century may not be more disas-

trous than the past, awareness of catastrophe is certainly more heightened. The media have brought disaster into the living room more readily.

In the previous century, many people feared the world was nearing a nuclear apocalypse. Who can forget the pervasive speculation at the turn of the century regarding Y2K (the millennium bug that was supposed to bring forth catastrophic problems at midnight on 1 January 2000, poten-

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tially resulting in the end of the civilized world)? The Mayan calendar became infamous in 2012 when one of its great cycles ended. Media hype and hysteria ensued, with predictions of an apocalypse on 21 December 2012. A few, influential religious leaders then predicted a series of “blood” moons in 2014-15 as heralds of the Lord’s second coming. The latest war between Israel and Hamas has now caused speculations that it may initiate the apocalypse and set the stage for the second coming of Christ.

Every view of the millennium has advocates who have made end-time predictions. Edgar C. Whisenant (1932-2001), a former NASA rocket engineer and premillennial Bible teacher, predicted the return of Christ in 1988, and revised his dates frequent times when proven wrong (as expected). One of the most recent amillennialists to prophesy end-time events was Christian radio broadcaster Harold Camping (1921-2013), who first predicted doomsday events to culminate in 1994, and then falsely prophesied again in 2011. The first major postmillennial thinker in the United States was Christian preacher and theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-58). Edwards speculated that contemporary events of his time proved the millennium was imminent. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, liberal theologians modified postmillennialism by redefining biblical prophecies in terms of a social gospel.

Many devout, knowledgeable, and sincere people have regarded the end of the age as imminent, and many of those individuals have used the Bible to prove such beliefs. What is important to know is they have all been wrong! The failure of those predictions should not cause one to be adverse

to biblical prophecies of the end, because someday they will be fulfilled and Jesus will return in glory and power. While it is easy to refute failed predictions for the Lord’s return, many Christians relate current events to specific biblical prophecies, perceiving them to indicate life is approaching the end of the age. While not declaring a specific day for the second coming, many still do so implicitly. How should Christians respond to all the doomsday predictions and related news events?

Certainly, it is commendable to “discern the signs of the times” (Matt 16:3) and to live with eager anticipation of the Lord’s return (Tit 2:13). Many believers probably do not live enough in expectation of the second coming. Nevertheless, one cannot ignore the explicit statement from Jesus that no one knows “of that day and hour” when the Son is coming (Matt 24:36). The inability to “know which day your Lord is coming” requires alertness, yet also patience (v. 42). Sadly, there have been those in the past who quit their jobs, sold their homes, and closed their bank account(s) so they could devote themselves to prayer and readiness in expectation of a predicted date.

As opposed to squandering one’s resources, Jesus taught His followers to be productive. In the parable of the talents, the Lord told a story in which a man departed on a journey and entrusted his possessions to his servants (Matt 25:14). He “also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert” (Mark 13:34). Jesus commanded His disciples to “be on the alert,” because they would not know the time of His coming (v. 35). Alertness does not mean concocting a prediction for the Lord’s coming; it is faithfulness

## Doomsday Predictions

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A personal doomsday awaits the person who is not prepared for the Lord's return (Matt 24:42-51). Everyday life, whether an accident or illness, can bring a person before the justice of God more readily than a global disaster (Jas 4:13-16).



with one's responsibilities in the present until He returns.

Not knowing the timing for an event can be uncomfortable, yet Jesus encouraged such discomfort so that one would always be ready for His return. The conclusion of His parable of the ten virgins communicates what it means to await the Lord's coming in a prudent and sensible manner: "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour" (Matt 25:13). The time of the Lord's return is not the believer's concern; rather, alertness for His coming means having such expectation impact one's life in the present (cf. Acts 1:10-11).

Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming quickly" (Rev 22:12a). Many people find it difficult to understand why Jesus has not yet returned. Second Peter 3:8-9 reads, "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for

all to come to repentance." The Day of the Lord is certain to occur (v. 10), and just as a human day reaches a conclusion, so also will it. In view of that coming time, Scripture proclaims, "Behold, now is 'THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,' behold, now is 'THE DAY OF SALVATION'" (2 Cor 6:2b). Although the day of salvation has endured for thousands of years, it will certainly reach an end. The opportunity of grace will one day cease. Jesus Christ will return at the appointed time (Rev 19:11-13).

A personal doomsday awaits the person who is not prepared for the Lord's return (Matt 24:42-51). Everyday life, whether an accident or illness, can bring a person before the justice of God more readily than a global disaster (Jas 4:13-16). Regardless of the precise time when biblical prophecies of the end will be fulfilled, all people are to live each and every day in view of eternity.

Many people assume more time than is theirs to have faith in Christ. Many are mistaken in thinking they can indefinitely halt having faith in God, yet just like the leaves that wither, so will our earthly lives. Jesus gave an account of an individual who did not give any thought regarding eternity (Luke 12:20). God responded to him: "You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?"

Jesus articulated the tremendous error involved in only thinking of life in the present and not being mindful regarding eternity. "Behold, now is 'THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,' behold, now is

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Scripture allows one to “discern the signs of the times” (Matt 16:3), yet it is not possible for anyone to know the day and hour for the Lord’s return (24:36).

‘THE DAY OF SALVATION.’” Like the individual that Jesus addressed, we never know when God requires our soul. *Now* is the time to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and only then can we know that we are ready for eternity and will enter heaven.

Far too many Christians are being deceived or troubled by false prophets. God’s words through the prophet Jeremiah are as relevant now as when they were first uttered: “I did not send these prophets, but they ran. I did not speak to them, but they prophesied” (23:21). The truth is, false prophets read into Scripture what just is not there. It is entirely appropriate to pray for their repentance for instigating such confusion. The large majority of doomsday predictions are nothing more than speculation or unreasoned hysteria. Computer experts did not propagate the Y2K panic. Misinterpretation of the Mayan “Long Count” calendar was the reason for a prediction that disaster would occur on 21 December 2012. Scientists criticized the blood moon prophecy. No credible Bible teacher believed the blood moon phenomenon would be anything other than another aspect of God’s marvelous displays of His splendor in creation.

Furthermore, when Christians begin accommodating the false prophecies of religious charlatans and propagate their misinformation (subsequent to the dates arriving and transpiring, with no return of Jesus), the credibility of the church is damaged and the Word of God suffers disrepute. Moreover, those believers who gullibly believed the prognostications of such “prophets,”

become discouraged and may even question the reality of the Lord’s second coming, similar to the Thessalonians who were persuaded by messages contrary to the apostolic teaching (cf. 2 Thess 2:2-5). By contrast, the “noble-minded” Bereans were “examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

A word of clarification is necessary. Scripture indicates that present times are indeed the “last days,” for that is the entire time between the Lord’s first and second coming (cf. Heb 1:2). Nevertheless, 1 John 4:18 exhorts, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.” Consequently, if someone (even if their book[s] are popular) instills an attitude of anxiety or fear within you, as a believer, it is not from God. “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity [cowardice], but of power and love and discipline [resolute judgment]” (2 Tim 1:7).

Jesus taught His disciples that God can be trusted in all things (Matt 6:25-34), because nothing—“things present, nor things to come”—can separate them “from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:38-39). Scripture allows one to “discern the signs of the times” (Matt 16:3), yet it is not possible for anyone to know the day and hour for the Lord’s return (24:36). The end will come, yet the believer’s focus is not upon when but who to serve as His witnesses (Acts 1:7-8), and what to do in the present, which is “make disciples of all the nations” (Matt 28:19). (1367)




# WORLD FOCUS

 USA

## New Google AI 'Thinks More Carefully'

Google has released an artificial intelligence (AI) model which it claims has advanced “reasoning capabilities” to “think more carefully” when answering hard questions.

 AI content generators are known to sometimes invent things, which developers call hallucinations.

Gemini was tested on its problem-solving and knowledge in 57 subject areas including maths and humanities.

Google is making some big claims for its new model, describing it as its “most capable” yet and has suggested it can outperform human experts in a range of intelligence tests.

Gemini can both recognize and generate text, images and audio—but is not a product in its own right.

Gemini appeared to have set a “new standard,” highlighting its ability to learn from sources other than text, such as pictures, according to Chirag Dekate, from analysts Gartner.

However, a new, more powerful version of the OpenAI software is due to be released [in 2024], with chief executive Sam Altman saying the firm’s new products would make its current ones look like “a quaint relative.”



Google says Gemini will power text and image services

But as the technology rapidly evolves, so do fears about its potential to cause harm.

Governments around the world are trying to develop rules or even legislation to contain the possible future risks of AI.

-[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com), 6 December 2023

**Commentary:** Most of us do not really comprehend the term “artificial intelligence” (AI). Frankly, there is no need to. When we turn the light switch on, we know that it works based on experience, but we don’t necessarily fully understand electricity. What we do know about AI is that it functions based on details intelligent designers have put into it. Obviously, the danger is it incorporates misuse. Interestingly, the developers call it “hallucinations.”

Old-time programmers repeat the motto: “Garbage in, garbage out.” In plain words, nothing can come out that is not first put in. However, AI seems to be tracking in a different direction; namely, creative thinking, or as Neil

Gershenfeld titled his 1999 book, *When Things Start to Think*.

The ultimate deception is revealed in Revelation 13:15. This manmade “image of the beast” indeed can think and make decisions: “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.”


8147

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

 CANADA

## A Record Hot Summer?

Every year, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) ranks the top 10 Canadian weather stories. Senior climatologist David Phillips compiles the list and [in 2023], there was no doubt about what would take the number one position: the record-setting wildfires.

 It was the hottest summer in 76 years—2 C warmer than average—going back to when national record-keeping began in 1948.

“People often ask me, ‘Well, gee, what’s your forecast for next year?’ And I usually say, ‘Well, more of the same.’ But I’d be careful to not say that because [this] was such an unusual, expensive

(continued next page)

## Record Hot (continued from page 22)

and impactful year for Canadians,” Phillips said.

El Niños have often been a two-year phenomenon, with the impacts taking off in the second year, he said. That trend is being considered by forward-looking experts at places like World Meteorological Organization and European Climate and Health Observatory, he said.

-[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca), 19 December 2023

**Commentary:** Canada is the world’s second largest country. Yet it is sparsely populated, with only 4 people per square kilometer of land on average; Russia is 9, and the USA 36. Officials dealing with fires—particularly those caused by so-called natural causes—have their hands more than full. In Australia, every year gigantic fires rage in many parts of the country. Obviously, that too increases temperature. We note the “hottest summer” was preceded by another one 76 years ago. How about 176, 276, or 376 years ago? No reliable records are available to document temperature increase or decrease from those times.

The most reliable information regarding the existence of the earth is over 6,000 years old: “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

8166

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



USA

## Reverse Missionaries

On a sunny morning at St. Benedict, the African Catholic Church on Chicago’s South Side, Father Rukulatwa Kiiguta stepped into the center of the sanctuary to preach.



**Father Kenn Wandera, a missionary priest from Kenya, talks with Catholics after Sunday mass at the parish he leads in the rural Appalachian town of Erwin Tenn.**  
Grace Doerfler



“My brothers and sisters, yes, we do have this mission of saving souls by bringing them to Christ,” he told the assembly, looking around at the 50-odd people gathered in the Black Catholic parish, many of whom nodded as he spoke.

Kiiguta moved to the U.S. from his home in Tanzania for exactly that reason. After meeting an American priest who had traveled to East Africa to recruit seminarians, Kiiguta joined the ranks of about 15 African priests in Chicago. He sees his work in the Englewood neighborhood—where many families struggle to make ends meet, but Catholics pour their hearts into their parish—as God’s will.

This missionary’s story reflects a fundamental shift in the American Catholic church. After decades of U.S. missionaries traveling to Africa to

convert and preach, the trend is reversing: Across the country, parishes now rely on the ministry of international priests, many from East Africa and Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the number of American priests is tumbling: there are 10,000 fewer priests now than there were two decades ago.

-[www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com), 25 December 2023

**Commentary:** This writer is reminded of his time in German class in Vienna, Austria back in 2014: two classmates were African priests, who were learning German to minister in Austria. This is not just limited to the Roman Catholic Church; in a number of Christian denominations, clergy from Africa coming to developed nations is not uncommon. This will likely increase in the future, as we see decreasing birth rates, declining interest in Christianity, and a drop in the number of young people willing to become ministers of the Gospel in the West. We cannot help but be reminded of Matthew 9:37-38: “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the



harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” 8156

-By J. Froese


(See *Gospel Reset*, Item #2344, \$14.99.)

 GERMANY

## 350,000 Seek Asylum

Altogether 352,000 people sought asylum in Germany in 2023, with some 329,000 putting in a first application—a rise here of 51%, or 111,000 people, compared with the previous year—the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) has said.



 In response to the latest statistics, the opposition has accused the government of promoting illegal immigration with its policies.

The figures for 2023 show the most asylum applications since 2016, when 722,370 initial applications were filed.

Most of the 2023 applications came from people from Syria (104,561), Turkey (62,624) and Afghanistan (53,282). A majority of the Syrians and Afghans, whose countries are stricken by conflict and human rights violations, received a positive decision.

According to Interior Minister Nancy Faeser of Chancellor Olaf Scholz' Social Democrats (SPD), the statistics demonstrated that the government had to continue to enforce its current policies.

"The asylum numbers for 2023 show that we must rigorously continue our course of limiting irregular migration," she said.

Under the system, she said, processing of applications for people with

little chance of success would be carried out at the bloc's external borders.

Opposition conservatives, however, said the statistics showed that the government was not tackling the problems of migration effectively.

"The government is not coming to grips with the migration crisis," said the deputy leader of the parliamentary party of the bloc formed by the Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party Christian Social Union (CSU).

"Despite the strain on municipalities, the [coalition government] is firmly sticking by its intentions such as making it easier to obtain citizenship, thus giving ever more encouragement for further illegal migration," Andrea Lindholz of the CSU said.

-*www.du.com*, 9 January 2024

**Commentary:** Immigration—both legal and illegal—has caused many governments to lose support and has sprouted new, strongly anti-immigrant political parties. Under the previous German administration of Angela Merkel, she made the popular/unpopular statement: "All are welcome."

Based on Wikipedia, statistics from among the industrial nations show Australia with 30 percent of its population as foreign-born, followed by Switzerland at 29.9, Canada 21.3, Austria 19.9, Germany 15.7, and the USA 15.4.

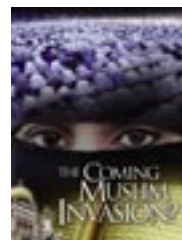
It is interesting to compare the population density of various countries. Germany has 238 people per square

kilometer, Switzerland 220, Austria 109, the USA 36, Canada only 4, and Australia 3.

While many countries have implemented stricter enforcement of immigration policies, it stands to reason that there is no end in sight. As the world becomes more mechanized, industrialized, and globalized, there will be more internationalization.

Based a Google search, at any given moment, there are about 9,700 commercial airliners in the sky, carrying over 1.2 million people. But that's not all; the estimated yearly production of passenger planes is forecast to rise to 2,111 in 2029. In plain words, more people, more travel.

What should the Christian position be? First of all, realize who we are. Ephesians 2:12 reveals our position: "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." Note the words, "aliens ... strangers ... no hope." We need to let these words deeply penetrate our spirit and soul, to realize our blessed fortune. The command God gave to the Israelites is valid for us too: "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him:



for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21).

8163


(See *The Coming Muslim Invasion?* Item #1071, \$2.)



**PERU**

## Largest Trading Partner: China

A massive deep-water port for container ships is being built in Chancay, about 45 miles north of Lima, and it is being financed largely by China, Peru's largest trading partner. The port will host some of the biggest cargo ships in the world and serve as an economic beachhead for China in Latin America, a region historically dominated by the United States [but] where Beijing's investment and influence is growing.

 U.S. officials have reportedly raised concerns with Peru that Chinese investment in the port could have national security implications, given Xi's oft-mentioned ambition of turning China into a "maritime superpower." The port's builder says it is for commercial use only.

NBC News was granted extensive access to the sprawling Chancay Port complex, which is 60% owned by the Chinese state-owned company Cosco, one of the world's biggest shipping companies, and 40% owned by the Peruvian mining company Volcan.

The company hopes the first phase of the megaport—part of Xi's signature Belt and Road infrastructure initiative—will be complete by the time the Chinese leader visits Peru for the next APEC conference in late 2024.

"This new infrastructure is not just a spectacular asset for Peruvian companies but also for those in Chile, Colombia, Brazil and other regional countries conducting business in Asia," said Peru's trade minister Juan Carlos Mathews in London.



Several hundred workers brought in from China are building the port with Peruvians. Florence Goupil for NBC News

The company is promising a "smart port" that runs on automation and the latest digital technology, helping to reduce shipping times from South America to Asia by 10 days or more and removing stopovers in the U.S. and Mexico from the equation.

The trans-Pacific journey currently takes at least 35 days and includes stops at ports such as Long Beach, California. Once the port opens [...] goods could travel from Chancay to Shanghai in as little as 20 days.

Retired Adm. Gonzalo Ríos Polastri, deputy general manager of Cosco Shipping Ports in Chancay, defended the port project, saying local property values had soared up to threefold and that it was being constructed with environmentally friendly methods.

He said he was proud it was being built. "Peru needs investment," Ríos said, adding that the U.S. "is welcome to invest in Peru."

-[www.nbcnews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com), 15 November 2023

**Commentary:** Slogans like, "You can't argue with success," "Time is money," "Merchandise is a must," etc. represent

the might behind China's ever-increasing outreach to the world.

When the Suez Canal was built, shipping time from southeast Asia to Europe was reduced from 24 days to 14. Peru's deep-water harbor will reduce travel time from at least 35 days to 20 through the trans-Pacific. Many experts insist that the US's reluctance to further internationalize has opened the door for China to implement the modern "Silk Road"—open business for the global world.

Regarding "Sinim" in Isaiah 49:12, Wikipedia reveals: "Some English versions simply transliterate the word, others translate the Hebrew as Syene (Aswan), and still others associate Sin with China. Sinim resembles *Sinae*, the Latinization of *Qin*, after the Qin state, founded in 778 BC, and the Qin dynasty, founded in 221 BC by Qin Shi Huang-Di."

What do we know about Christianity in China? "Christianity was introduced to China during the Tang dynasty in the seventh century, probably by Syriac missionaries of Nestorian Christianity who traveled the Silk Road. The religion did not gain a wide foothold until Jesuit missionaries arrived in the 16th century." (pewresearch.org).

Pew Research reveals that in 1949, 2.7% of China's population were registered as Christians, and 6% in 2011. But this information is gathered from the Catholic Church, since they have

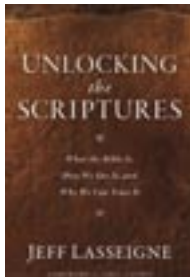
(continued next page)

## Trading Partner (continued from page 25)

a long history in China and are registered.

Historically, we know that Franciscan priest John of Montecorvino traveled to Khanbaliq (today's Beijing) in 1294, and in 1299, he built the first church there.

Unofficially, we know and are encouraged that uncoun- ted millions of Chinese Christians are in the so-called underground church and are multiplying.




It is of interest that the world's largest Bible producer is communist China. 8159  
(See *Unlocking the Scriptures*, Item #2315, \$16.99.)

## RUSSIA

### Scrapping Nuclear Test Ban

Russia is withdrawing its ratification of a landmark deal designed to prohibit nuclear testing. The Russian state дума carried out the first in a series of votes that will lead to the de-ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

 The treaty, which opened for signature in 1996, is designed to stop the testing of all nuclear weapons. Arms control experts believe that ending nuclear weapons tests is an important way to prevent future arms races because it keeps nations from developing new kinds of nuclear weapons for their militaries.

Russia has backed away from several Cold War-era nuclear treaties in recent years. First it violated a treaty that prohibited the development of intermediate-range nuclear missiles. More recently, it suspended its participation in the START agreement with the U.S., which limits the number of deployed nuclear weapons on each side.

“There is this tendency in the last couple of years that Russia wants to have everything the U.S. has,” says Andrey Baklitskiy, a senior researcher at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva, Switzerland.

But at the same time, Putin pointed out that Russia is developing new nuclear weapons, and that the nation may decide to test them.

Russia is not alone in that regard, Lewis says: China has also been hard at work modernizing its nuclear testing facilities at Lop Nur. And the U.S. has also upgraded its test facilities in Nevada in recent years, though the American government remains adamant that it is not planning a return to nuclear testing.

-*www.npr.org*, 17 October 2023

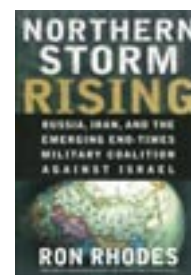
**Commentary:** Particularly since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many nations the world over are rattling their sabers. Does this mean war? Not necessarily. However, as history has shown, war in most cases comes unexpectedly. Today, it seems more unlikely than



**A Russian Yars ballistic missile mounted on a mobile launcher during a rehearsal for the Victory Day military parade in Red Square. Russia has refrained from testing its nuclear weapons since the 1990s.**  
Alexander Zemlianichenko/AP

before because of deep industrial, economic, and trade cooperation between the nations of world. While the Western world in particular has implemented dozens of tariffs and boycotts against Russia, there is sufficient evidence that Russia's international businesses—particularly oil and gas—are on the rise.

We are still at the time of which the prophet Joel spoke some 2,800 years ago: “Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up



the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up” (Joel 3:9). 8150

(See *Northern Storm Rising*, Item #2294, \$15.99.)

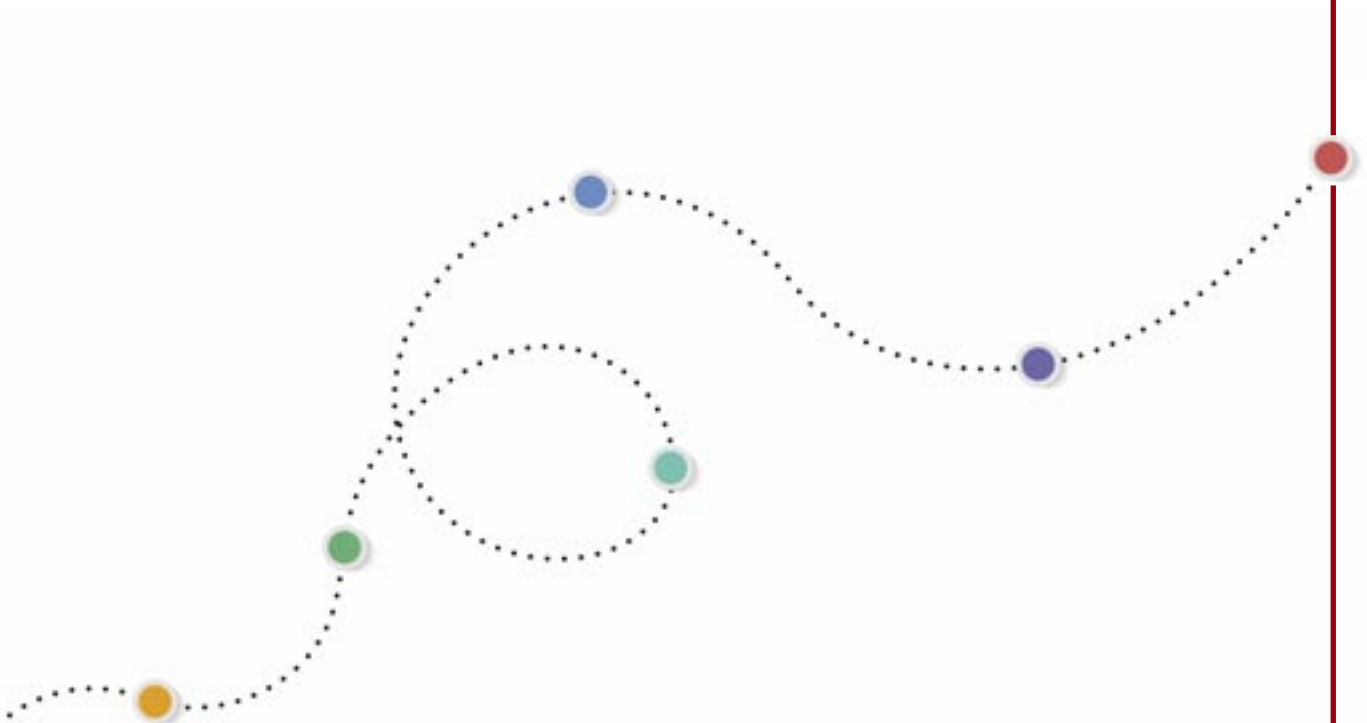
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# The Generation That Will Not Pass Away Until **Jesus** Returns

Reinhold Federolf

Who belongs to it, and who will they be? An exploration.

## C. S. Lewis and “the most embarrassing verse in the Bible”

C. S. Lewis is the best-known Christian author of the last century, becoming world famous after his death through the film adaptations of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Many people see him as an impressive example where biblical prophecy is concerned. The great thinker and World War I soldier published many works of apologetics (defense of the faith), because he had gotten the impression that professional theologians didn't present Christian doctrine resolutely

enough. And yet, Lewis suddenly appeared perplexed and helpless when reading Matthew 24.

In his essay *The World's Last Night*, he agreed with critics who said that the Lord's warning, “Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place” (Luke 21:32), is “the most embarrassing verse in the Bible.” Lewis explained it using the Lord's later statement, “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32; Matt 24:36). To him, it served both as proof of

## The Generation That Will Not Pass Away Until Jesus Returns

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“So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (Matt 24:33-34; Luke 21:32).

the reliability of the Gospels (they recorded the Lord’s “error” instead of concealing it), and proof of the Lord’s incarnation (as a man He didn’t know everything, and could have been wrong concerning the question of the Second Coming).

C. S. Lewis belonged to the Anglican Church, where “end-time speculation” and prophecy are simply not topics of discussion. He wasn’t alone in that; many Christians today belong to churches and congregations where they hear nothing about the Rapture and Jesus’ glorious return, God’s plan for Israel, the signs of the times, the apocalyptic seven years of anti-Christian rule, and the messianic kingdom of peace. The situation could probably be quickly remedied by changing churches. But even those who are less radical can easily obtain good books on prophecy/the end times/Israel, track down relevant content online, or hear a corresponding sermon as a visitor.

C. S. Lewis certainly wasn’t lacking in intelligence or energy. So, why did he arrive at that solution for confusing prophecy, instead of searching for the interconnections in the prophetic Word itself to find the right answer, solving his dilemma? Even before sharing his statement, Lewis conceded the following:

“I have no claim to speak as an expert in any of the studies involved, and merely put forward the reflections which have arisen in my own mind and have seemed to me (per-

haps wrongly) to be helpful. They are all submitted to the correction of wiser heads.”

We recognize the challenge and the necessity of shedding more light on the generation Jesus was speaking of. In fact, this generation is very clearly defined. If there has been uncertainty about it, or incorrect calculations, it’s simply a result of inattention.

“And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time [3 ½ years], and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished” (Dan 12:7).

At the end of the Great Tribulation (the final 3 ½ years), Israel is like softened and prepared clay. She will repent and be transformed into a vessel of blessing through the coming of the glorified Messiah. “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21:28).

Jesus, Israel’s prophets, and the Apostles—especially John in the book of Revelation—have revealed this so clearly that it can be identified beyond a doubt. “So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (Matt 24:33-34; Luke 21:32). What’s going to happen? What will we observe?

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What does “the fullness of the Gentiles” mean? In God’s current redemptive work, the Gospel of Jesus is supposed to reach the ends of the earth.



A few points:

- Israel’s seven-year peace treaty with the charismatic, promising world leader
- The appearance of the two powerful witnesses in Jerusalem, reminiscent of Moses and Elijah
- Exactly 1,260 days after his induction, the world leader murders the two prophets
- The desecration of the Temple and the hideous statue of the Antichrist that comes to life
- The messages of the three angels, heard by everyone in the world
- The apocalyptic, earth-shattering, world-changing earthquakes
- Terrible wars and the annihilation of half of humanity
- Signs in the sky (of the sun, moon, and stars), meteorites, and giant hail
- Deception by the false prophet (miracles, the mark) and the most terrible persecution of all by the “risen” Antichrist

“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36).

Judging from the context of the passage, it is admonishing those living in the Great Tribulation. That generation—the one of the apocalyptic seven years—will not pass away. They are to persevere until Jesus’ glorious return, and then they will enter His kingdom.

### **Didn’t Jesus make a mistake?**

Another seemingly difficult verse follows: “When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes” (Matt 10:23). When will this prophecy be fulfilled? There are three possible explanations for this verse:

1. Jesus has already come to judge Jerusalem in 70 AD, invisibly and allegorically, which is

## The Generation That Will Not Pass Away Until Jesus Returns

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Preterism treats the book of Revelation as symbolic illustrations of early church conflicts, all of which are in the past, having already been fulfilled. This theological trend dismisses the possibility that Revelation is largely about future events.

what the Preterists believe. But that just doesn't make sense. Jesus clearly prophesied that when He came again, Israel would convert. He would not appear as a destroyer, but as Zion's deliverer (Rom 11:26; prophecy from Isa 59:20-21).

2. Jesus was simply mistaken in His human limitations, as C. S. Lewis claimed.

3. There was a 2,000-year interruption. Israel was placed on standby, and punitively made to sit on the bench. Paul expressly proclaims this as the mystery now revealed: "Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved..." (Rom 11:25-26).

What does "the fullness of the Gentiles" mean? In God's current redemptive work, the Gospel of Jesus is supposed to reach the ends of the earth. God, in His unlimited omniscience and omnipresence, has determined the number of Gentiles to be saved. When this multitude has come to believe, the Age of Grace will be concluded with the sudden Rapture, and then the process of Israel's spiritual restoration will begin. The last of the three above explanations is the best, because it neither insults Jesus nor undermines prophecy.

If Matthew 24 (and its many parallel and more detailed chapters in Revelation) had been completely fulfilled by 70 AD, we should be asking ourselves where the extraordinary earth-

quakes, wars, and signs in the sky were clearly observed in the past. This interpretation is intellectual suicide, the opposite of Jesus' promise that the Spirit would lead us into all truth.

### The Preterist assessment of Bible prophecy and the end times

Preterism treats the book of Revelation as symbolic illustrations of early church conflicts, all of which are in the past, having already been fulfilled. This theological trend dismisses the possibility that Revelation is largely about future events.

To varying degrees, this tendency toward higher criticism combines allegorical and symbolic interpretation, with the belief that the book of Revelation doesn't inform the Church of specific prophetic and future developments or judgments. So, the preterist movement mainly teaches that all New Testament prophecies about the end times were already fulfilled—namely, when the Romans attacked and destroyed Jerusalem and Israel in 70 AD.

The result is churches and congregations that show no interest in important apocalyptic prophecies, passages, and topics that concern the last days, and also hardly ever talk about Jesus' return. The logical danger is that we can easily become overwhelmed by events. As we look out into the world today, we can very clearly and undeniably see the preparations for the apocalyptic world stage.

(MR0223/1329)



## 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.

# WHO IS ISRAEL?... THE REAL JEWS... CONTRADICTIONS AND DINOSAURS

## Who Is Israel?

I am in the process of reading Part 1 of “Does Israel Have a Future?” by Norbert Lieth and Johannes Pflaum. I’d like to make some statements about the Christians that believe the church has replaced Israel. God doesn’t change His mind; Israel will always be God’s “chosen people.” Has it even been heard that a people once destroyed has come back into being after thousands of years?

Israel’s rejection by God was not total or final; see Romans 11:1, 27. God doesn’t break His covenants.

Christians have been grafted into the stalk of Israel (Romans 11:17). I take that to mean that in this way, we Christians are really Israelites or Messianic Jews.

*-J. Nelson, PA*

**Answer:** I appreciate your summary of God’s chosen people, Israel. Thank you also for quoting Romans 11. I have often used verse 25 in response to those who claim to be Israel, plainly telling them that they are still blind: for it is written, “blindness in part is happened to Israel.”

## The Real Jews

Dear Brother Froese,

In the December “Action for Israel” column, you wrote for God, claiming that “from (His) perspective” all of Israel “is always one nation, His chosen one.” At the end of history, it is well to view Israel as literally one nation, but after approximately 975 BC, she was divided into two (Jer. 33:24 and Ezek. 37:22 refer to her as two families and two nations, respectively), and further developments would follow. In fact, Abram was promised to be a great nation (singular), yet with Sarah, they would initiate in history a company of many nations (plural), particularly through Isaac and then Jacob/Israel. Indeed, the tribe of Ephraim would become many nations and Manasseh a singularly great nation. As well, every tribe has its own destiny to manifest in the last days. The passages that state these facts are numerous and straightforward. However, it seems that none of your prophetic explanations or that of MC has ever taken into account these promises/“resolutions.”



## Letters to the Editor

We should not “allow it to enter (our) minds that (a teacher) can invalidate God’s irrevocable resolutions, which are guaranteed by the Creator Himself: “the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,” a powerful admonishment borrowed from your column. In the past, in love and with zeal, I have shown how Scripture does not support what you teach. Therefore, as fellow believers and because MC wields substantial influence, I still hope to help you, like Apollo, see the fullness of truth, or else be corrected myself.

I was especially moved to write by the following claim found in the same “Action for Israel” column: “(all) twelve tribes were later known as Jews,” and that “the first time we read the word ‘Jew’ is Esther 2:5.” You teach that “from that point on (in history and the Bible), the terms Israel, Jew and Hebrew are synonymous” as (identifiers of) “the twelve tribes of Israel.” There are sound reasons why this is wrong.

One cannot and will not find an instance in the OT, either before or after 975 BC, where an Israelite citizen of Northern Israel is referred to as a Jew. Also, there is no biblical-historical event or announcement that declares that all Israelites from every tribe, no matter where or how far dispersed, should be called Jews. In agreement, even the secular and respected 1st century Jewish historian,

Josephus, as well as ancient Jewish rabbis, specifically avoid doing it and give each group its unique designation.

Without question, the biblical-historical record (as well as an appeal to secular accounts, both Jewish and otherwise) clearly demonstrates that modern Jewry (approximately 14 million in total worldwide) is essentially derived from the mere Remnant of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, which went into Babylonian captivity and subsequently navigated history.

Judah and Northern Israel, approximately 144 years before the Babylonian captivity of merely Judah’s Remnant, was without question, miniscule compared to the majority of Southern Jewish tribes that never rejoined, or the vast majority of Northern tribes that have never belonged to Southern Judah at any time. This large majority contingent of mainly non-Jewish, Northern Israelites are those who must have produced the company of nations promised to Abram and Sarai; whose names were markedly changed by God to Abraham and Sarah, to specifically signify this eventual promise/resolution from Him.

Regarding such an important subject, we should pursue the undivided mind of Christ and share in it together. And if you can, it is surely your duty to give proof for what you claim/teach about God’s Word, a defense for the hope that is in you.

*-J. Wallace, WI*





**Answer:** According to 2 Chronicles 11:16, "...all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem..." They became Jews.

In the New Testament, Peter addresses the Jews in Jerusalem, "Ye men of Israel." James writes his epistle addressed "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." In Revelation, all the tribes of Israel are sealed beginning with Judah—hence Jews. Paul, a Jew, testifies to be "of the stock of Israel...a Hebrew" (Philippians 3:5).

The name Ephraim is often a collective term for the Ten-Tribe Israel.

God's blessing upon Abraham—"in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 26:4b)—was and continues to be fulfilled through Jesus our Lord.

### **Contradictions and Dinosaurs**

When the 1611 AD Bible was published, it was translated directly from the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, without using a Latin translation. I believe that the Authorized King James Version is accurate and without contradictions, since the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, The Holy Spirit, told the men chosen—the Prophets and Apostles—what words to write and use. There is one author ... the Holy Spirit; 40 writers ... the Prophets and Apostles; 66 books ... 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament ... which tell one story, 1,500 years in the writing thereof. It is the record of GOD revealing Himself to man through His names, which tell of His attributes, as well

as His salvation of mankind through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Perceived contradictions occur from a lack of thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. Of course, it takes time and concentration to read such a BOOK, which is the collection of 66 books creating ONE.

The book of Job goes into detail describing the dinosaurs, a remnant of which were still alive and contemporary with Job. Job chapter 40 tells of the land dinosaur; since the word "dinosaur" was not invented until the year 1841, the land dinosaur is called a "behemoth," and the sea-going dinosaur is called a "leviathan" in the Bible. A careful reading of Job chapters 40—41, should be proof enough that no other animal fits the descriptions contained therein. In addition, secular history confirms their existence in the not-too-distant past, as a skeleton of one was found in Ireland within the past two centuries. When Alexander the Great took his army to India, he found a dinosaur living in a cave, which was worshiped by the natives, who called it a "dragon."

*-C. Riker, ID*

**Answer:** Appreciate your additional input relating to "Contradictions" and "Dinosaurs." Yes, the Bible is absolute, pure, perfect, and without contradiction. When it comes to translations, it's the work of man and subject to errors. This issue, it seems, is all but impossible to explain satisfactorily to anyone not proficient in multiple languages. (MC)



BY ARNO FROESE

“So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents” (1 Kings 12:16).

This was the time when the temple stood on Mount Moriah and the priestly office was still executed, about 3,000 years ago. It was the time when Israel was split into two nations: Judah and the Ten-Tribe Israel. Incidentally, many interpretations say that the Ten-Tribe Israel was lost and integrated into the Gentile world. What does the Bible say? Second Chronicles 11:16 very plainly states, “of all the tribes of Israel.” They joined Judah; subsequently, became Jews.

An article in *Le Monde Diplomatique* reads: “Since the October 7 attacks in Israel, hundreds of Haredi Jews—traditionally opposed to the army—have voluntarily joined up, despite their religious convictions ... Something has changed. In less than a week, and contrary to their custom, several hundred Haredim (the “God-fearing”) have ... temporarily [swapped] their black and white uniform for that of the army” ([www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr), 18 December 2023).

There are various groups of ultra-Orthodox, but in general, they do not recognize Israel as a legitimate Jewish State. Ultra-Orthodox con-

sider Israel’s Independence Day as just a regular workday.

What happened about 3,000 years ago is now taking place in the reverse direction. During those days, Jews from the Ten-Tribe Israel, whose hearts were set toward Jerusalem, became Jews.

Now, however, we see these young Orthodox Jews joining the young non-Orthodox: secular Jews uniting in defense of their country.

Several other reports indicate that an increasing number of Jews in the Diaspora have applied for immigration to Israel ... the land of their fathers, the land God promised in an unconditional covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the twelve tribes of Israel.

In Israel, military service is compulsory when a person turns 18. Men receive training for 32 months, and for women, the minimum is 24 months. What becomes self-evident is that trained young soldiers and those in the reserves, do everything in their power to return to Israel in defense of their country. They are in their land to stay.



An article in *Israel Today* caught our attention: “Events in the country over the past year are reminiscent of the time under King Jehoshaphat of Judah. He had implemented legal reform and established a “Supreme Court” in Jerusalem. And then suddenly the country was invaded. Is it possible that disunity arose among the people back then, but that the people came together again in times of need?” (www.israeltoday.co.il, 14 December 2023).

We also learn from Ezra and Nehemiah how the Israelites united to build their defense of Jerusalem.

Today, we see the Jewish world—both in Israel and in the Diaspora—unites when it comes to defending their land from any and all aggressors.

While we cannot determine how this horrible war—initiated by the Hamas terrorists and their atrocities—will end, one thing we know for sure: Israel will be more secure than ever. It just so

happens that the enemy’s intention—namely, the destruction of Israel—will lead to the security of the land of Israel.

We repeat, the real reason for the conflict in the Middle East surrounding Israel, is the illegal Arab occupation of Promised Land territory: particularly Lebanon, Syria, and parts of Jordan.

We, as believers in Jesus our Lord, continue to pray unceasingly for Israel’s security, with emphasis on the Lord’s grace for His Church in Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.

In conclusion, let us hear what the heathen prophet Balaam was told to declare about Israel: “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly” (Number 24:17-18). (MC)

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# BECAUSE YOU ARE WORTH IT!



By Peter Malgo

With this declaration, a cosmetic company adds appeal to an item advertised on television. The alternative, “Because we are worth it,” appeals in the same way to one’s self esteem. This obviously is the modern trend, because it is part of a central theme in our society: *self-realization*. The Bible also speaks of “being worthy.”

**H**owever, these Biblical statements are always in reference to the future, to eternity. By contrast, the supplier of skin care products pushes the now, the present into the foreground. The future is left in the shadows. The radiant woman in the advertisement for these products says: “I am seventy; not bad, huh?” But what about when this woman turns eighty, and the wrinkles appear anyway? Perhaps then she can only say: “Because it was worth it to me.” It is quite a typical ruse of the industry to align our desires and aspirations with the NOW. Customers are attracted by the joy of the present: looking beautiful, living comfortably, driving a great car... A renowned car maker advertises: “Joy is what moves us—Joy is a BMW.” And all this because *we are worth it*.

Certainly, we may enjoy all of that, but if the present is worth more to us than

the future, then our priorities are wrong. In Acts 13:46, Paul is dealing with people who do not accept the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. He has to tell them: “It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” There are Christians who believe that just as God has called people to eternal life, He has also called people to eternal damnation. According to this, there would be human beings whom God doesn’t deem worthy of eternal life. However, that is in stark contradiction to Paul’s statement quoted above, and to other Biblical statements that God wants *all* people to come to the knowledge of the truth and thus be saved (1 Tim 2:4; John 3:16). It isn’t God who considers man as unworthy to receive eternal life, but man himself. When someone—for whatever reason—



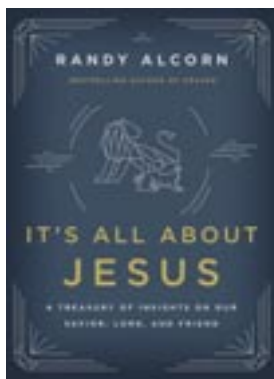
It is our Lord’s intent that we turn to eternal values. “Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth” (Col 3:2).

does not consider himself worthy of eternal life, thus rejecting salvation, it must be infinitely sad for our Lord Jesus, who explicitly paid for *all* people: who valued *all* people to such a degree that He gave His life for them!

Very clearly, it is our Lord’s intent that we turn to eternal values. “Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth” (Col 3:2). Let us also remember His words in Matthew 6:25-26: “Take no thought for your life ... Look at the birds under the sky ... Are you not much more than they?” In Isaiah, God speaks these moving words to restored Israel: “Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine ... Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have

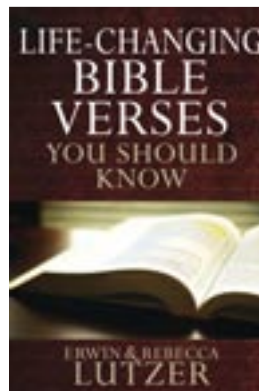
loved thee” (43:1, 4). This also applies to us: He has redeemed us and wants to lead us, so that we become glorious members of His body (Eph 5:27). Yes, He wants to tell us the same thing that He called out to Daniel: “For thou art greatly beloved” (Dan 9:23).

Is that not reason enough to examine our walk here on earth? Do we act worthy of our calling? Will the Lord be able to say of us what He said about Sardis in Revelation: “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy” (Rev 3:4)? May God give us grace to adopt or maintain this manner of life, so that one day we may receive the full measure of reward. (MC)



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## Standing Up for the People of Israel



By David Phillips (*Ebenezer's CEO*)

**P**urim is this month. Similar to the time of Queen Esther, we see a decree sent out from Israel's enemies for the complete annihilation of the entire nation of Israel. Yes, Israel is once again fighting for its very existence. At the time of this writing, our northern border is becoming increasingly intense, with more and more rockets and missiles launched deep into Israeli territory. But it isn't just the nation of Israel they want to destroy; they wish to eliminate the entire Jewish population across the world.

It's incredible to see the similarities between what Queen Esther faced and what we face today. Haman sought to annihilate the entire Jewish population, young and old alike. Today, we face the same thing. It's a spiritual battle, manifested in the physical.

But what did Queen Esther do? Did she remain quiet, knowing what the enemy was intending? Did she protect herself and keep silent? Despite the danger of losing all comfort and facing

probable death, Esther stood up and defended her people. She willingly laid her comfort and life aside, and petitioned for her people before the king (read Esther 4). Queen Esther stood in the gap; the king pointed the scepter to her and granted her LIFE! Our King Yeshua has granted us LIFE. We have faith and continue our vision through His grace.

April begins the Year of Jubilee (known as the Year of Redemption or Release). As Esther called for a fast and went in before the king, we too fall on our knees before the King of kings, on behalf of our people.

Ebenezer also seeks to stand in the gap, defending and pleading the cause of the fatherless and widow. Isaiah 1:17 says, "Learn to do well; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."

Many of our residents have no place to go; no one to stand in the gap for them, to protect and provide for them. Continue to pray with us for His protection and grace during this war, and



**Queen Esther stood in the gap; the king pointed the scepter to her and granted her LIFE! Our King Yeshua has granted us LIFE. We have faith and continue our vision through His grace.**

that we would know how to protect and provide for each resident during this time.

But Ebenezer is more than just someone who stands in the gap and pleads the cause of the believing elderly: We are a family. These residents (and staff) are our people, our brothers and sisters in Messiah. Psalms 68:6 says, “God sets the solitary in families...” This is so true for Ebenezer. One of our Holocaust survivors, who came to us feeling so sad and alone, recently shared, “Now I feel like I have a family—I’m no longer alone.” And it shows. Her face is radiant. She is happy. Finally, she is home!



Deuteronomy 15:11: “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command you, saying, You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor, and to your needy, in your land.”



**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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## **+** SWITZERLAND

# Remember: Israel's Independence Day and the War with Hamas

It was the most well-attended event celebrating Israel in a long time. Friends from near and far gathered to joyfully celebrate. And all along, nobody knew that the Jewish State would be shaken by a devastating attack by Hamas two weeks later.

BY RENÉ MALGO, DÜBENDORF



**M**any attended Israel Day on September 24th, enjoying the fellowship and atmosphere of peace and friendship with Israel, shaped by God's love in Christ. It's something Israel desperately needs today!

Fredi and Beate Winkler, longtime managers of the Beth Shalom Guest House in Haifa, were still in Switzerland on Independence Day. But

as soon as they returned to Israel, the extensive, brutal attack by Hamas broke out on the Sabbath of October 7th. It bore striking resemblance to the Yom Kippur War, almost exactly 50 years later. At the time of that first war, the Winklers were just beginning their service as a young married couple. The war broke out as soon as they were in the country.





Fredi Winkler writes:

“The fact that Hamas was able to surprise Israel to an almost unbelievable degree, shows how completely wrong the country was in its assessment of the situation, and how the intelligence service failed.

“These events are of such shocking scale that it will take time to get an objective picture of what happened. For the first time since the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Israel has declared this attack as war, meaning that martial law has been imposed. It’s hard to guess what the consequences will be... At any rate, these events bring us a big step closer to the end-time events that the Bible describes. Jesus said, ‘See that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.’”

Be not troubled! The God of Israel doesn’t forget or forsake His people, even when some think He has. At the Israel Conference, Nor-

bert Lieth and Nathanael Winkler both spoke in their messages of how we shouldn’t forget that the people of Israel are divinely elected, especially today. They shared some moving examples from the past and present, which demonstrate what happens when Christians forget Israel’s place in God’s plan of salvation.

Second Timothy 2:8 was central to the conference: “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.” As Norbert Lieth emphasized, the Church needs to remember that its Redeemer is from “the seed of David.” We cannot separate Israel from our Lord.

Israel Day was a blessed and happy occasion. It served as an impetus to continue in prayer for God’s first love, and to stand behind the country and its people. It’s unfortunate that two weeks later, we were shown in concrete terms how necessary this is.

(MR1123)



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

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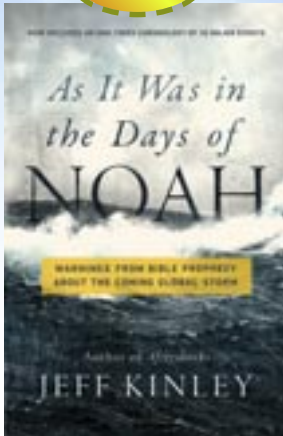
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# Midnight Call's **March Resource Guide**

Revised



## Striking Parallels Between Noah's Day and the End Times

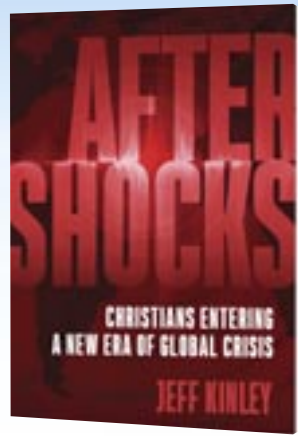
AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

ITEM #2286

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Author: Jeff Kinley



## Uncover God's prophetic plan for the ages — and your place in it.

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Author: Jeff Kinley



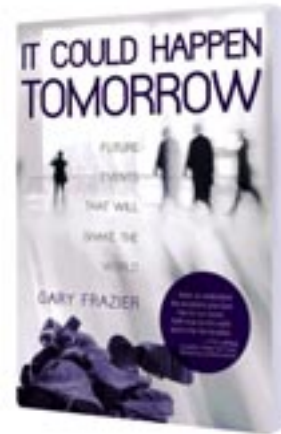
## Facing These Last Days with Your Eyes Wide Open

WAKE THE BRIDE ITEM #2302

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## What makes our generation different?

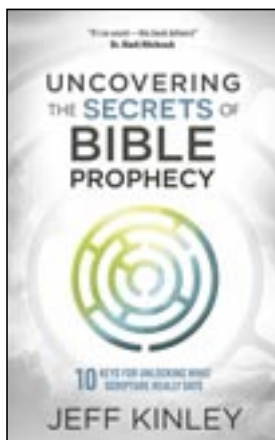
Current events indicate that Old and New Testament prophecies are being fulfilled. Dr. Gary Frazier, a top prophecy scholar, pastor, speaker and author, identifies key indicators along with Biblical references that explain the demise of America, the coming Islamic invasion of Israel, nuclear weapons in Iran, and more.

IT COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW ITEM #2271

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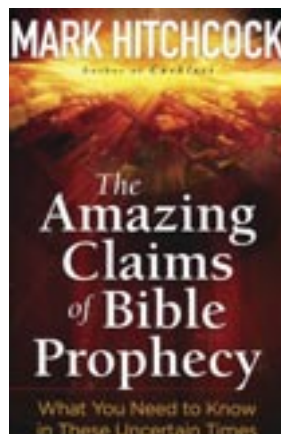
## What God Really Said Will Happen

An extremely helpful guide to understanding the nature and purpose of the prophetic passages in Scripture.

UNCOVERING THE SECRETS OF BIBLE PROPHECY

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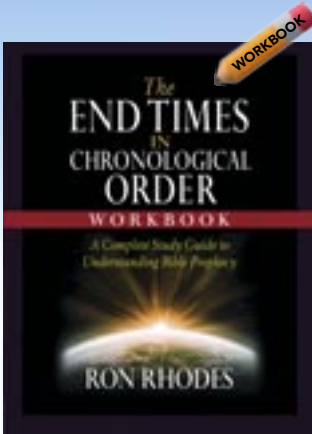
## Earth's Final Hour Is Approaching

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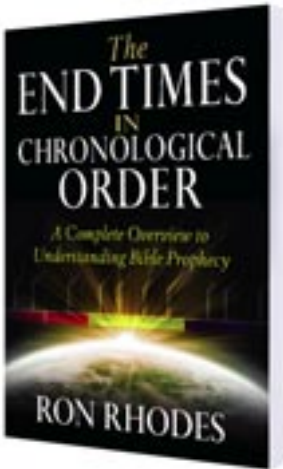


## Answers Your Questions About What Will Happen, and When

With this companion to *The End Times in Chronological Order*, author Ron Rhodes provides a strategically designed guide to help you unpack Bible prophecy. Whether you journey through this workbook on its own or in tandem with the book, this resource illuminates every key concept believers need to know—and where they fit on God’s timeline—from the rapture to the tribulation and the return of Christ, and beyond.

THE END TIMES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER WORKBOOK ITEM #2397

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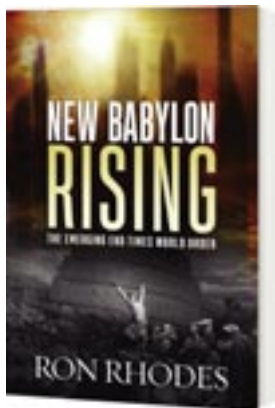
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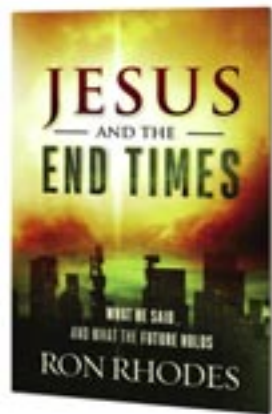
## The Emerging End Times World Order

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## Travel Straight Through the Events of Scripture

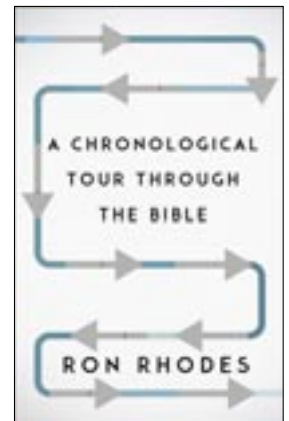
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## How Did Huge Dinosaurs Fit on the Ark? Are Dinosaurs and Dragons the Same Thing?

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## A Stunning Photo Journey of the Cosmos

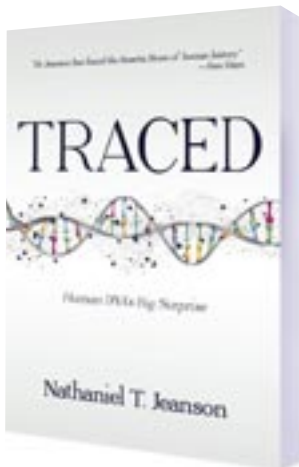
Every page of this beautiful, apologetic resource is filled with amazing facts about the heavens, including:

- The two constellations mentioned in the Bible in the Books of Amos, Job, and Isaiah
- A black hole that is 70 million times more massive than the sun
- Objects we can see with the naked eye that are millions of light years away!

THE HEAVENS ITEM #2391

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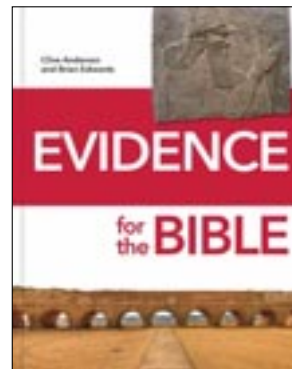


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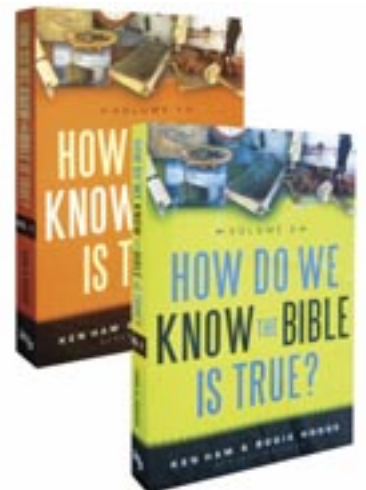
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- Who made God; where did God come from?
- Has Noah's ark been found?
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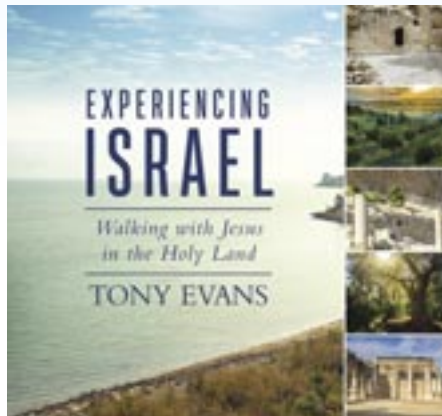
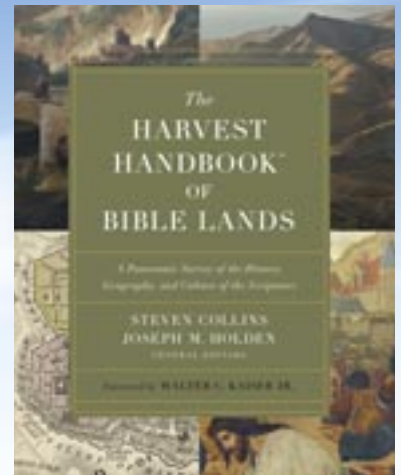
This exciting addition to *The Harvest Handbook* series provides a textual and visual bird's-eye view of ancient Near Eastern biblical geography, culture, history, and chronology. If you're looking for an accurate, readable, and user-friendly resource to further your study of God's Word, *The Harvest Handbook of Bible Lands* provides a valuable backdrop for biblical narratives and literature.

THE HARVEST HANDBOOK OF BIBLE LANDS ITEM #2366

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## Follow in the Footsteps of Your Savior

As you see Israel up close through the pages of this book, you will...

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- gather insights that enrich your knowledge of God's Word and build on the spiritual foundations of your faith
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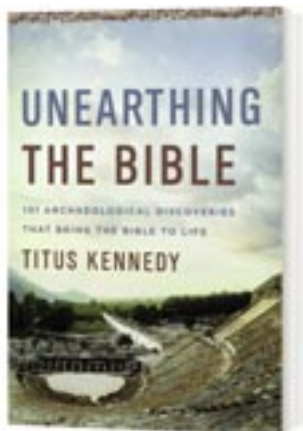
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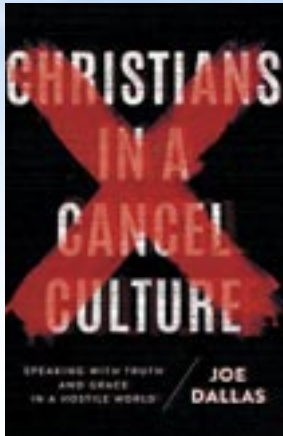
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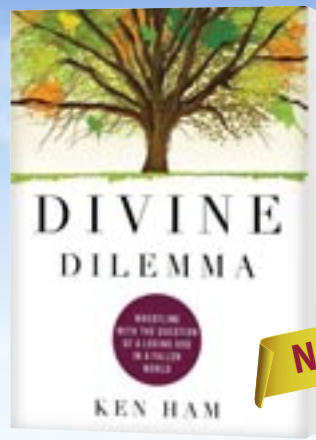


This book will affirm your understanding of the Bible's views on sin, salvation, racism, gender identity, homosexuality, and abortion while teaching you...

- why today's world has grown so hostile to Christians and biblical values
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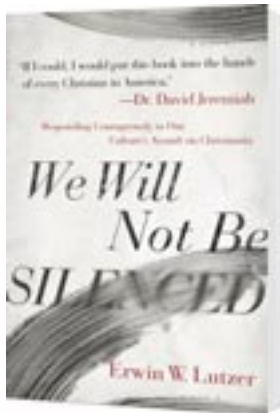
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## Wrestling with the Question of a Loving God in a Fallen World

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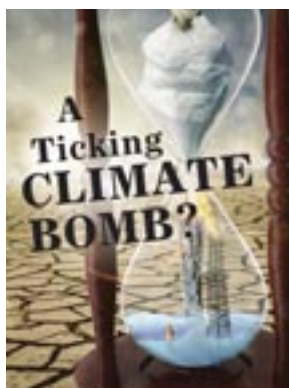


## Has the Church Lost Its Influence?

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

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## A Ticking Climate Bomb?

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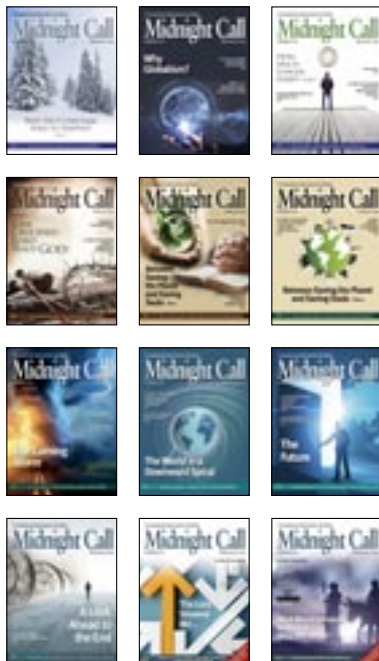


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It is a given that **reading** has drastically declined during the past few years, due to television and internet in particular. We all know the result: Hundreds of great Bible-based magazines have ceased publication over the decades. Slowly but surely,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

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

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

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

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# Understanding and Answering **FALSE** Claims about Prophecy



*Bible Prophecy Under Siege* provides a thorough survey of the misunderstandings and misguided thinking people sometimes have about the last days. Prophecy expert Ron Rhodes offers you careful guidance through these differing viewpoints, and you will

- ✓ learn the ways Bible prophecy is under siege and how to respond to false claims biblically
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With a perspective grounded in the Bible, you will be equipped to discern flawed views on prophecy, rest secure in immovable truth, and grow in anticipation of the day when Christ will make all things new.

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