

LAMPLIGHTER



"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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**The
Tribulation**
What is it?
What is its purpose?



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Observations by the Editor

Our Cover Art

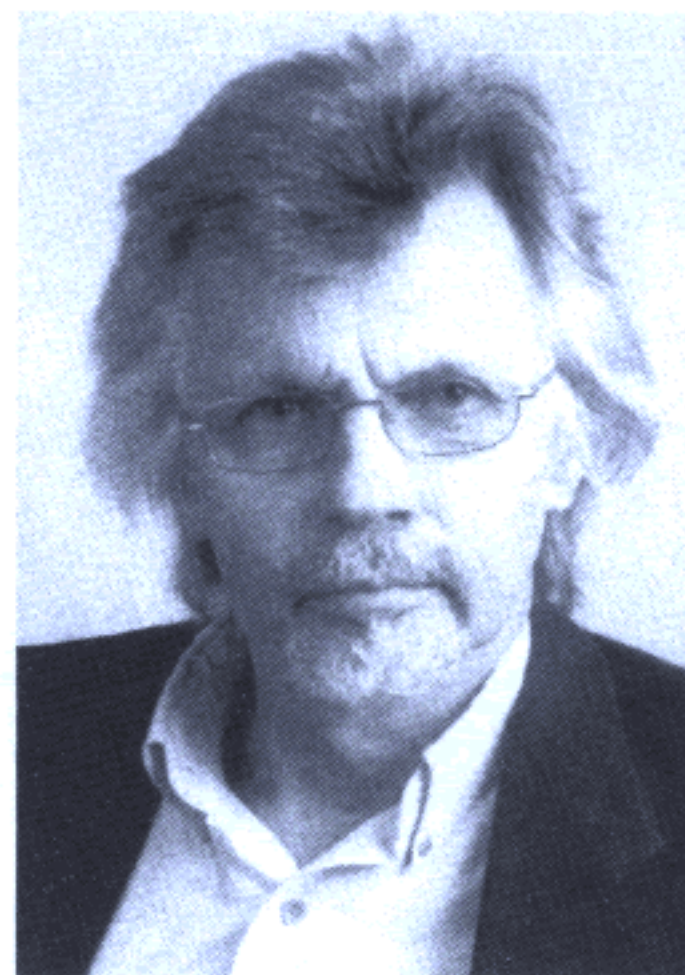
I spend a lot of time searching for the best possible photo or illustration to put on our cover each month.

This month's issue proved to be a real challenge. I found a number of illustrations that were both good art and relevant to the theme, but all of them were horizontal in layout and could not be cropped for a vertical cover.

I was about to give up in frustration when I stumbled across a website that contained a remarkable group of pictures which illustrated various scenes from the book of Revelation. The pictures looked like fine art paintings. I was surprised to discover that all of them were images created digitally on a computer!

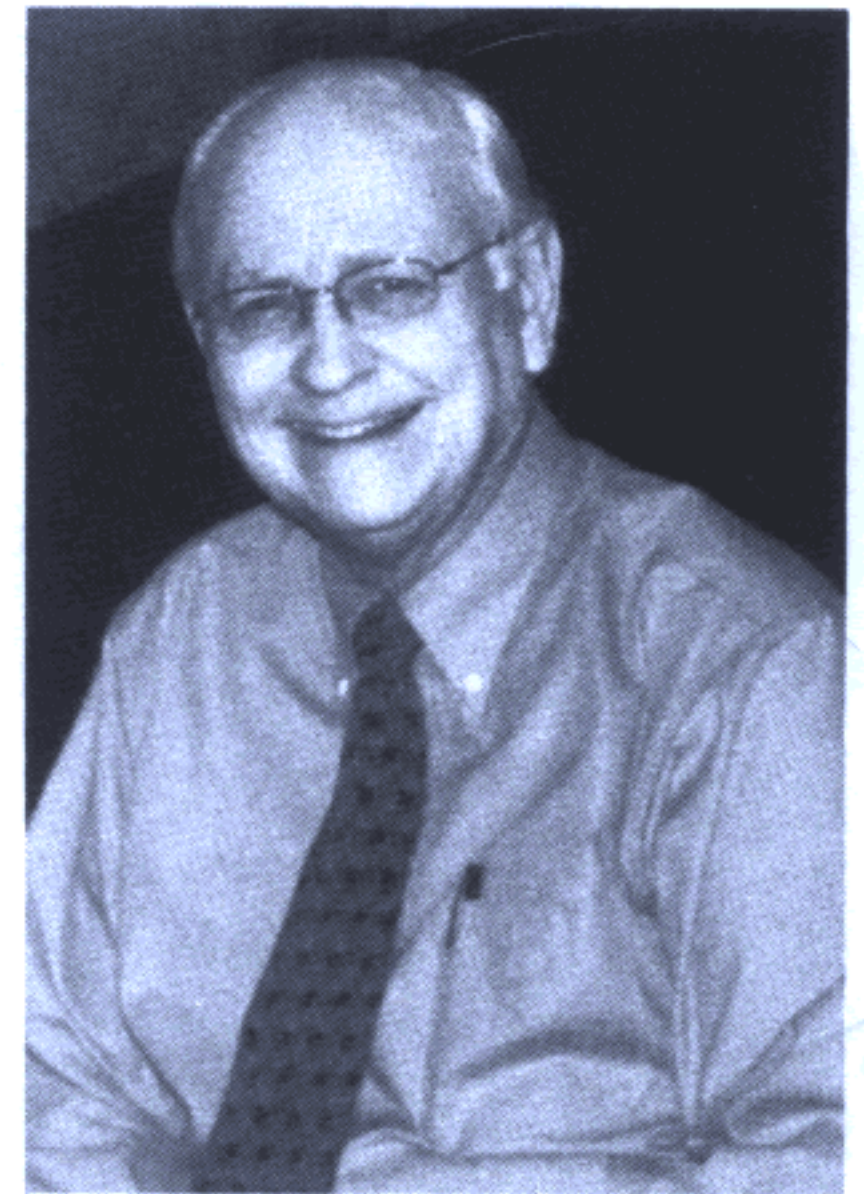
One of those images graces the cover of this month's issue. It illustrates the four horsemen of the Apocalypse which are described in Revelation 6:1-8. This passage tells about a world war that will occur at the beginning of the Tribulation.

The Artist



The very gifted artist who produced the cover image is a British university professor named David Miles. He teaches visual communication at the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, which is a school of the University of Central England in Birmingham.

Professor Miles has thus far produced six images in what he calls his "Apocalypse project." Each image takes approximately one year of spare time work to create.



Dr. David Reagan

The artist strives to be as biblically accurate as possible. Once he conceives an image of a scene, he checks out the details with a theologian. The result is often a very innovative and thought provoking interpretation.

Take this month's cover for example. There have been many illustrations produced of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. But if you will look closely, you will see a fifth horse. Why? Because Revelation 6 says that behind the fourth horse called Death, "Hades was following with him." It doesn't specifically say that Hades is a fifth horse in the vision, but it certainly leaves that impression.

Professor Miles wrote to me:

It is my faith that moved me to develop the series of images based on the "word pictures" in Revelation. So lengthy and time consuming is the exercise, it is only the power of that which they convey, plus the encouragement that I receive from so many around the world, which compels me to continue with this exercise.

The images are copyrighted and can be used only by permission from Professor Miles. You can see his additional illustrations on his website at www.davidmiles.net. You can also contact him through that site. ✚

THE GREAT TRIBULATION

WHAT IS IT? WHEN WILL IT OCCUR? WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?



The four horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6:1-8). The painting is by Pat Marvenko Smith (www.revelationillustrated.com).

Observations by Dr. David R. Reagan

I receive several phone calls each year from people — some of them ministers — asking me if I think we are in the Tribulation yet. I always respond by telling them that when the Tribulation begins, the people who are on earth will not have to call anyone to find out for sure whether or not it has begun. The Tribulation will be a living hell with a degree of violence that is unparalleled in all of history.

The Bible gives us a lot of information about this horrible period of seven years that is fast approaching. The entire book of Zephaniah is devoted to it. In addition to many other Old Testament passages, like

Isaiah 24, fourteen chapters in the book of Revelation focus on it (Revelation 6-19). But despite all this information, there are many myths concerning the Great Tribulation that circulate among Christians. For example, many argue that the first half of this time period will be peaceful and that only the second half will be characterized by intense warfare. Other misconceptions relate to the Antichrist and the Church.

The Biblical Basis

Before we consider some of these myths and misconceptions, let's familiarize ourselves with the concept of the Tribulation. Where does the idea come from, and what does it mean?



The Concept

The first mention of the Tribulation in the Bible is found in Deuteronomy 4:27-30. Before the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, Moses warned them that if they were unfaithful to God, they would be scattered among the nations. He then prophesied that “in the latter days” they would come under “distress,” and the result would be their “return to the Lord.”

Centuries later, Jeremiah used the same terminology when he referred to the Tribulation. He called it “the time of Jacob’s distress” (Jeremiah 30:7). In like manner, Daniel called it “a time of distress,” and he prophesied it would be the worst period of trouble in the history of the Jewish people (Daniel 12:1). Malachi stated it would be a time of refining for the Jews, as when silver is purified by fire (Malachi 3:1-4). And Zechariah used the same imagery when he prophesied that two-thirds of the Jewish people will perish during this time. Of the remnant remaining, he wrote, “I [the Lord] will bring the third part through the fire [and] refine them as silver is refined . . .” (Zechariah 13:8-9).

The Scope

The Jews will not be the only ones to suffer during this period of unparalleled trouble. The Bible makes it clear that all the nations of the world will experience catastrophic calamities.

Isaiah says it will be “a day of reckoning” for all the nations of the world (Isaiah 2:10-17). Zephaniah says that “all the earth will be devoured in the fire of God’s jealousy” (Zephaniah 1:18). Here’s how the psalmist Asaph put it: “A cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams . . . surely, all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs” (Psalm 75:8).

The Length

The prophet Daniel defined the length of the Tribulation. He said God would accomplish all His purposes for the Jewish people during a period of 70 weeks of years (490 years). Sixty-nine of those weeks of years (483 years) would lead up to the death of the Messiah. The final week of years would occur at the end of the age, right before the return of the Messiah (Daniel 9:24-27). This concluding week of years (7 years) corresponds to the Tribulation for, as Daniel put it, it will mark the time when “the prince who is to come” will “make desolate” — a reference to the Antichrist.

The timing established by Daniel is confirmed in the book of Revelation where the Tribulation is divided into two periods of 3½ years each (Revelation 11:3,7 and 13:5). The dividing point between the two halves of the Tribulation will occur when the Antichrist reveals himself by entering the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, stopping the sacrifices, and declaring himself to be god (Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, and Revelation 13:5-6).

The Starting Point

When will this terrible period begin? The Bible says in general terms that it will start after the Jews have been regathered and have been re-established in their homeland and in their sacred city of Jerusalem.

Specifically, the Bible says it will begin at a time when all the world comes together against Israel over the issue of who will control the city of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2-3). In short, we are on the very threshold of the Tribulation today as we witness the United Nations, the European Union, the Vatican, and the Arab nations demanding that the Jews surrender their sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The specific event that will mark the seven year count down of the Tribulation will be the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and her Arab enemies — a treaty that will allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple (Daniel 9:27).

The Nature

The unparalleled horror of the Tribulation is spelled out in detail in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. Isaiah wrote that it will be a day of “the terror of the Lord” when “the pride of men will be abased” (Isaiah 2:10,17,19). Zephaniah proclaimed that it will be a “day of wrath,” “a day of trouble and distress,” and “a day of destruction and desolation” (Zephaniah 1:15). Men will stumble around like they are blind and “their blood will be poured out like dust” (Zephaniah 1:17).

This dreary picture is echoed in the New Testament. Jesus

said it will be a time of tribulation “such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall” (Matthew 24:21). In fact, Jesus said it will be so terrible that if it were not stopped at the end of seven years, it would result in the destruction of all life (Matthew 24:22). The Apostle John states that the chaos will be so great that the leaders of the world will crawl into caves and cry out for the rocks of the mountains to fall upon them (Revelation 6:15-16).

Misconceptions

With this biblical background, let’s turn our attention now to some of the misconceptions that exist regarding the Tribulation. Five of the major ones that I would identify are listed below:

- 1) The Antichrist will rise to world power through cunning, flattery, and deception.
- 2) The whole world will flock to the Antichrist in awe and adoration.
- 3) The Jews will accept the Antichrist as their Messiah.
- 4) There will be 3½ years of peace followed by 3½ years of war.
- 5) The Antichrist will be the most brilliant and effective leader in world history.

The Antichrist’s Rise to Power

The idea that the Antichrist will rise to world power through shrewdness and skilled diplomacy is based on Daniel 8:23-25a. These verses say a king will arise who is “skilled in intrigue” and who “will succeed through the practice of deceit.”

But the same passage also says that he “will destroy to an extraordinary degree.” He will destroy both “mighty men and the people of the saints.” Many of these he will destroy “while they are at peace” (Daniel 8:24-25a).

These verses make it very clear that the Antichrist is going to use *both* diplomacy and military power to gain control of the world. The likeliest scenario is that he will initially rise to power in Europe through the use of shrewd diplomacy. But he will extend his power from his European base through war.

The World’s “Acceptance” of the Antichrist

I believe his conquering of the world through the use of military power is what is pictured in Revelation 6:1-8. This passage pictures the Antichrist going forth at the beginning of the Tribulation with a bow “to conquer.” A red horse representing war “takes peace from the earth.” The result is widespread suffering and the death of one-fourth of humanity by the sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts.

It is a misconception to believe the non-European world will flock to the Antichrist in awe and adoration. The world outside of Europe is not going to submit willingly to the control of the Antichrist, no matter how charismatic and dynamic he may be.

Keep in mind that the nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America have fought for the past 200 years to rid themselves of European colonial rule. They are not going to passively submit themselves to a renewal of that rule. They will fight, and the



result, as Revelation 6 so clearly indicates, will be a horrible world war of unprecedented magnitude.

Acceptance of the Antichrist by the Jews

The idea that the Jews will accept the Antichrist as their Messiah during the Tribulation is based upon a statement by Jesus that is recorded in John 5:43. Jesus said, “I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him.”

But the relevant end time passages in Daniel and Revelation seem to make it clear that the acceptance of the Antichrist by the Jews will be as a political redeemer who miraculously works out a peace settlement that will guarantee their safety and will enable them to rebuild their Temple.

There is no indication that they ever accept the Antichrist as a spiritual redeemer — as their Messiah. In fact, when the Antichrist enters the Temple in the middle of the Tribulation and declares himself to be God, the Jews revolt against him (Revelation 12:13-17).

When the revolt occurs, the Antichrist becomes obsessed with annihilating the Jewish people. That is when the “great tribulation” spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24 will begin.



The Tribulation Holocaust that will occur during the last 3½ years of that terrible period will be far worse than the Nazi Holocaust. Two-thirds of the Jews will be killed (Zechariah 13:8-9). The Antichrist will be possessed by Satan (Daniel 8:24), and Satan is determined to annihilate the Jews.

Satan's obsession with the Jews stems from the fact that he hates them with a passion. He hates them because they gave the world the Bible. He hates them because the Messiah came through them. He hates them because God loves them, and because God chose them to be a witness of what it means to have a relationship with Him. And Satan hates the Jews because God has promised over and over in His Word that at the end of the Tribulation, He is going to bring a great remnant to salvation through faith in their Messiah, Yeshua (Romans 9-11).

The First Half of the Tribulation

Another misconception relates to the nature of the first half of the Tribulation. Many believe that this period of 3½ years is going to be a time of peace that will be followed by 3½ years of war. Some feel so strongly about this that they use the word, Tribulation, to apply only to the second half of the seven year period.

This view is based primarily on a statement Jesus made that is recorded in Matthew 24. According to this passage, Jesus referred to the last half of Daniel's 70th week of years as "the great tribulation" (Matthew 24:21). But it must be kept in mind that these words of Jesus were directed specifically to the Jewish people.

The second half of the Tribulation will truly be the "time of great tribulation" for the Jews. That's because they will live in peace during the first half of the Tribulation under a covenant guaranteed by the Antichrist. During that time, the Antichrist will be focused on conquering the world. Once he has accomplished that goal — as he will (Revelation 13:7-8) — he will go to Jerusalem, enter the Temple, stop the sacrifices, and desecrate the Temple by erecting a statue of himself (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The Jewish people will be outraged and will respond in a revolt. When they do this, the Antichrist will become obsessed with destroying them. That will be his primary goal during the second half of the Tribulation.

So, to summarize, the Jews will live in peace during the first half of the Tribulation, but not the Gentile nations of the world. The wars of the Antichrist will devastate the world. One-fourth of humanity will die in the initial war (Revelation 6:8). That's 1.5 billion people in today's terms. According to Revelation 8 and 9, when the war resumes, one-third of those left alive will die (another 1.5 billion).

The first half of the Tribulation is going to be anything but a time of peace. It will, instead, be a time of unimaginable carnage, for one-half of humanity will die in the first 3½ years!

The Quality of the Antichrist's Leadership

The erroneous concept that the Antichrist will be the world's most brilliant and glorious leader is based on Revelation 13:7 where it says he will gain authority over "every tribe, people, tongue and nation" on planet earth — something no other person has ever done.

But the evidence of prophecy points to the fact that his reign will be anything but brilliant and glorious.

For example, his conquest of the world will devastate the earth. It will be like Napoleon's "victory" in Russia — he will win the battle and lose the war. The Antichrist will end up with a world that is devastated and polluted beyond imagination. Furthermore, the world's subservience to him and worship of him will be based to a large degree on force, deception, and terror — not just genuine admiration.

Also, his obsession with the Jews will undermine his kingdom and ultimately lead to its destruction. Daniel 11:40-45 indicates that when his attention is diverted to the destruction of the Jews, a worldwide revolt will break out against his kingdom. Nations will send armies against him from the North, East and South.

The Antichrist may prove to be a successful military conqueror, but he will be a miserable leader whose world wide empire will last only 3½ years — and during that time, it will be constantly ravaged by internal revolt.

A Misconception Concerning the Church

Another popular misconception about the Tribulation is that the Church will go through it and suffer mightily at the hands of the Antichrist. This concept is based upon verses like Revelation 13:7 which says that the Antichrist will "make war with the saints."

But I believe the saints referred to here are those who are saved *during* the Tribulation. There is going to be a great harvest of souls during the Tribulation. Some will be saved in response to the Rapture. Others will respond to the preaching of the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem (Revelation 11). The response of others will be stimulated by the Tribulation judgments which will motivate many to repent. Still others will respond to the special angel who will be sent by God near the end of the Tribulation to proclaim the Gospel to every living creature (Revelation 14:6-7).

Many will be saved, but most of these will be martyred for their faith (Revelation 7:9-17).

There is no purpose for the Church during the Tribulation. This will be a time of God's judgment upon the unbelieving Gentiles and Jews who have rejected God's grace, love and mercy expressed in Jesus.

Some argue that the Church must go through the Tribulation to be purged or cleansed. But the true Church has already been purified by the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 John 1:7, and Romans 8:1). The Tribulation is not a Protestant purgatory.

The symbolic imagery of the New Testament focuses on the Church as being the Bride of Christ. Is the Bridegroom going to beat up His Bride for seven years before He comes for her? I think not. The Bible says that Jesus is coming to deliver His Bride from the wrath that is to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Also, Revelation 19:8 and 14 pictures Jesus returning *with* His Church at the end of the Tribulation, indicating the Redeemed will be taken out of this world before the Tribulation begins.

Revelation focuses on the Church in its first three chapters. Beginning with chapter 4, there is no more mention of the Church during the entire period of the Tribulation. The Church is not referred to again until Revelation 22:16.

The Purpose

What's it all about? Why is there going to be such carnage? How could a God of grace, mercy and love allow such an outbreak of unbridled terror and bloodshed?

One reason is to satisfy the justice of God. Yes, God is characterized by grace, mercy and love, but He is also a God of perfect justice, righteousness, and holiness. Therefore, He *must* deal with sin. His justice demands it. Even His love compels it. How could a God of true love simply overlook the actions of a murderer or a pedophile?

The prophet Nahum understood the true nature of God. He wrote that "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him" (Nahum 1:7). That is the love and mercy of God. But the same prophet wrote (Nahum 1:2-3);

A jealous and avenging God is the Lord;
The Lord is avenging and wrathful.
The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty
unpunished.

Truly, the Lord is "slow to anger." He allows the iniquities of Mankind to accumulate over long periods of time because He does not wish that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). His desire, instead, is that all should come to repentance. But there is always a day of reckoning, just as there was in the days of Noah, and such a day has been set for this age. Paul referred to it in his sermon in Athens when he said, "He [God] has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness" (Acts 17:31).

A second reason for the Tribulation is to bring people to

salvation. Amazingly, even when God pours out His wrath, His fundamental purpose is not to destroy but to save. Isaiah 26:9 explains it this way: "When the earth experiences Your judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness."

The brutal fact is that God often has to hit us over the head with a two-by-four in order to get our attention and motivate us to repentance. The equally brutal fact is that most people respond to such discipline by either cursing God or continuing to ignore Him (Revelation 9:20-21). But some people always respond in humility and are saved. As Billy Graham has put it: "The same sun that melts the butter, hardens the clay."

When God's wrath is poured out during the Tribulation, some hearts will be melted, but most will be hardened, illustrating once again that nothing is as "deceitful" and "desperately sick" as the heart of Man (Jeremiah 17:9).

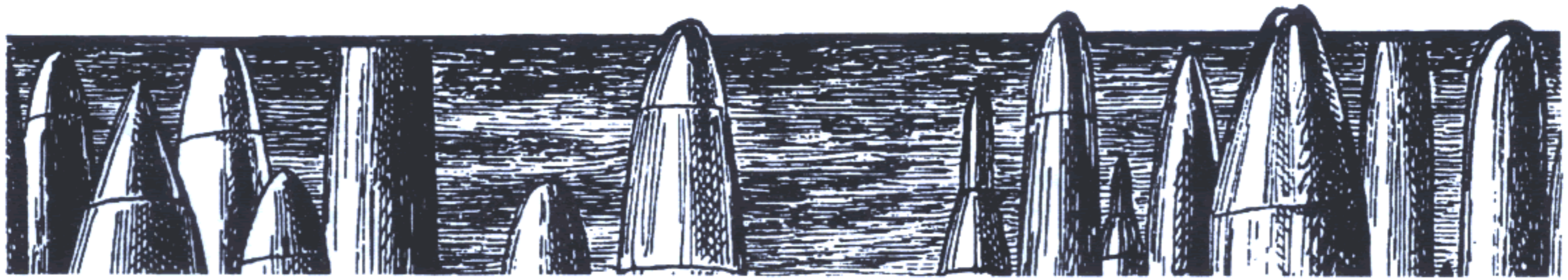
Man is frivolous about sin. God is serious. The Tribulation will be a graphic expression of how serious God is about Mankind's rebellion against Him.

The signs of the times are shouting that we are standing on the threshold of the Tribulation. The message of the Holy Spirit is "Come out of Babylon" (Revelation 18:4). That message means for us to separate ourselves from the love of this world and prepare ourselves for eternity. For believers, it means a commitment to holiness. For unbelievers it means a commitment to Jesus as Lord and Savior before He returns as God's avenger.

The time remaining is short. The time for action is now. ✚

Note: The illustrations on pages 4-7 were taken from Tim LaHaye's book, *Revelation Illustrated and Made Plain* (Zondervan, 1977).





DOES THE BIBLE PREDICT A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST?

Observations by Dennis Pollock

And I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him . . . (Revelation 6:8)

On August 6, 1945, when the Enola Gay's bombardier, Tom Ferebee, sighted Hiroshima's Aioi Bridge, he knew the moment had arrived. Squeezing the trigger on his Norden bombsight, he became the first man in history to drop a nuclear weapon upon a populated city. Tail gunner Bob Caron, after being temporarily blinded, described what he saw on the ground below: "It's like bubbling molasses down there . . . the mushroom is spreading out . . . fires are springing up everywhere . . . it's like a peep into hell."

The people of Hiroshima within half a mile of the explosion were seared to bundles of smoking char in a fraction of a second. Thousands of these small black bundles could be seen stuck to streets, bridges, and sidewalks. Birds ignited in midair, and 70,000 buildings were obliterated. Mankind had entered the atomic age, the end of which was too terrifying to contemplate.

The Specter of Armageddon

Since the beginning of the atomic age, nuclear weapons and the term "Armageddon" have been frequently linked together. Billy Graham rose to prominence in the 1950's proclaiming that the nuclear "sword of Damocles" was hanging over all the nations, and that only Christ was a sure foundation in such perilous days. Hal Lindsey's mega-best-seller, *The Late Great Planet Earth* (1970), made a strong case for a nuclear holocaust scenario in the days of tribulation predicted in the book of Revelation.

Even secular sources took up the theme. The June 12, 1981 *Toronto Globe and Mail* noted that the decision to go ahead with the neutron bomb was the biggest step taken toward Armageddon since 1961.

In San Francisco today you can call a number and get a recorded message by the Doom Society for Secular Armageddonism, which, in melodramatic tones, tells you that we are living in the end times and that the coming end of the world is a *fait accompli*. They are quick to deny that God might have anything to do with this, however, and insist that the coming end of the world will be strictly do-it-yourself, as a result of such things as nuclear proliferation, racism, ultra-nationalism, and (you might have guessed) religious fundamentalism.

The First Atomic Weapons

Many Americans associate nuclear weapons with Armageddon because, of all man's discoveries and inventions, they alone contain the capacity to wipe out all human life on the earth within a few short hours.

Let us consider the awesome power in the first primitive atomic bombs. The bomb dropped on Hiroshima, called "Little Boy," was flown there in a B-29 bomber and aimed with a bombsight. It weighed nearly ten thousand pounds and had the explosive power of 12,500 tons of TNT. At ground zero, the point immediately beneath the weapon, the temperature reached above 3,000 degrees centigrade.

Within seconds, what had been a thriving city became a wasteland. No part of the city was left untouched. Eighty thousand people died instantly, many burning into black bundles while in mid-step. A six hour firestorm began. An eyewitness — a college professor — described it thus:

"Throughout the Scriptures, terrible times are forecast for the end of this present age."

Dennis Pollock



I climbed Hikiyama Hill and looked down. I saw that Hiroshima had disappeared . . . I was shocked by the sight . . . I saw many dreadful scenes after that — but that experience, looking down and finding nothing left of Hiroshima was so shocking that I simply can't express what I felt . . . Hiroshima didn't exist — that was mainly what I saw — Hiroshima just didn't exist.

50 Years Later

After the end of World War II, Robert Oppenheimer, the director of the Los Alamos project which had given birth to this

terrible weapon, was asked whether there were any significant limitations in the future of nuclear weapons. He replied, "If you are asking, 'Can we make them more terrible?' the answer is yes. If you are asking, 'Can we make lots more of them?' the answer is yes. If you are asking, 'Can we make them terribly more terrible?' the answer is, probably." Today, some fifty years later, that probably has turned into a certainty. We have made them terribly more terrible.

Considering the horrific devastation caused by those first bombs dropped upon Japan, it would be reasonable to suggest that if we merely doubled their destructive power we would have created a monster of mind-boggling dimensions. To triple or quadruple such a bomb would be worse still. If one such bomb can create such total destruction to a major city, what could a bomb four times that size do?

But we have not merely created weapons three or four times as deadly. While the original "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" bombs were measured in kilotons, today's bombs are measured in megatons. A one megaton bomb contains the explosive power of eighty Hiroshimas. Bombs have been tested which are 4,000 times as powerful as those dropped upon Japan. The only thing merciful about these bombs is that you wouldn't have to worry so much about horrible injuries to survivors — there wouldn't be any survivors!

Is This What John Saw?

Nearly two thousand years ago, an elderly Christian leader was banished to an island as a punishment for sharing his faith in Christ. There, as he communed with the Lord on the island, he had a series of visions which described things which would take place in the last days. The man's name was John and the visions he saw are now known as the book of Revelation.

Many have tried to defuse the book by turning it into a giant parable in which nothing can be definitely known except that in the end Christ will triumph and all will be well. But such an interpretation makes all the details of its visions meaningless.

Some have dared to suggest that John's visions may have been more literal than most have supposed. This more literalistic interpretation just might make sense if John was seeing the terrible results of a nuclear holocaust just before Christ's return to claim planet earth.

In his book *There's A New World Coming* (1973), Hal Lindsey writes:

Although it is possible for God to supernaturally pull off every miracle in the Book of Revelation and use totally unheard-of means to do it, I personally believe that all the enormous ecological catastrophes described in this chapter (Revelation 8) are the direct result of nuclear weapons. In actuality, man inflicts these judgments on himself. God simply steps back and removes His restraining influence from man, allowing him to do what comes naturally out of his sinful nature. In fact, if the Book of Revelation had never been written, we might well predict these very catastrophes within fifty years or less!

Possessing Inner Shelter



End Time Prophecies

Throughout the Scriptures, terrible times are forecast for the end of this present age. Isaiah describes the earth "empty and wasted" (Isaiah 24:1). In the book of Revelation we read of an "hour of trial" which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 3:10). The Lord Jesus, in the gospel of Matthew, warns us of a "great tribulation" which shall threaten the survival of all life on earth (Matthew 24:21, 22). The apostle Paul speaks of sudden destruction that shall come just when men are saying "peace and safety" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

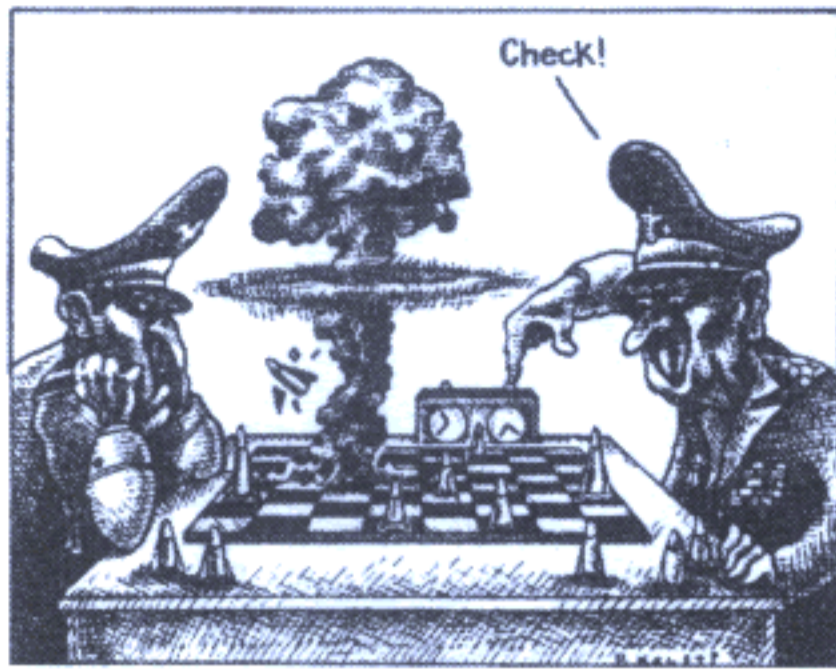
As these verses indicate, the Scriptures (along with current events) make it plain that world conditions will be characterized by chaos, destruction, and death just before our Lord returns to take control of planet earth. In the book of Revelation we read of the poisoning of the oceans, the burning up of the grass and the trees, and the sun scorching people with great heat. The book also tells us that horrible plagues will afflict mankind, that there will be widespread wars and famines, and that the atmosphere will become so polluted as to reduce visibility by one-third. In the midst of all this devastation, the earth's population will flee to the caves, as people cry to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" (Revelation 6:16).

What will bring about such universal carnage on the earth? Is the Bible describing a nuclear holocaust?

Possible Explanations

Actually there are three possible sources of the death and devastation so pointedly predicted by Scripture. First, it could be that the great and terrible destructions predicted will be brought about supernaturally by God Himself without any other possible

explanation. Until the nuclear age this was the primary view, as it was hard to see how such a scenario could be brought about by natural human means. In the Old Testament we find God killing 185,000 of Israel's enemies by one angel, without any natural explanation. If one angel can wipe out that many people, it should not be too much trouble for all the hosts of God's angelic armies to destroy three quarters of the earth's population.



The Dallas Morning News Paul Korda

most certainly be the result. Some, but probably not all, of these judgments could be brought about this way.

The third, and in my mind, the most likely explanation for the terrible judgments which will empty the earth, has to do with nuclear weapons. Since the end of World War II, nuclear weapons have been proliferating all over the globe. At first they were limited to the United States. Then they were produced by the Soviet Union. Today, they are in the hands of all sorts of second and third rate powers, many with despotic and highly unstable leaders.

Our capacity to destroy all life on earth has multiplied many times over. I believe the only reason we have not experienced a nuclear war since 1945 is because of the restraining hand of Almighty God! Surely it is His hand that has prevented us from destroying one another up to this point. How long that hand will continue to restrain us, only God knows.

Quaint Terms for Modern Weapons

It was Hal Lindsey who first popularized the theory that the terrible plagues and judgments seen and described by John in the book of Revelation might be a First Century man's description of a thermonuclear war. In his book *There's A New World Coming* (1973), Lindsey refers to the fractional orbital nuclear bomb and then goes on to cite passages in the book of Revelation that seem to describe the use of such a weapon:

It [the bomb] consists of a dozen or so nuclear-tipped missiles which can be fired simultaneously from an orbiting space platform. Because the missiles come straight down from the sky, they can strike several cities simultaneously and with virtually no warning. When these missiles streak through the air they'll look like meteors showering the atmosphere! (Possibly fulfilling Revelation 6:13: "the stars of heaven fell to the earth.")

The Apostle John's description of the sun becoming black as sackcloth and the moon becoming like blood perfectly describes the phe-

nomena that would result from massive amounts of dust and debris blown into the sky by multiple nuclear bursts.

"And the atmosphere was pushed apart like a scroll when it is rolled together" (Revelation 6:14). Do you know what happens in a nuclear explosion? The atmosphere rolls back on itself! It's this tremendous rush of air back into the vacuum that causes much of the destruction of a nuclear explosion. John's words in this verse are a perfect picture of an all-out nuclear exchange. . . The whole world will be literally shaken apart!

As we read the book of Revelation, we find John did not use terms like "nuclear weapons," "ICBM's," or "fractional orbital bombs." Instead we find him describing things like "hail and fire," "a great mountain burning with fire," and "a great star burning like a torch." This is what we would expect of a First Century man, describing things he had no knowledge of in the only terms he knew to use.

Could it be that what John was really witnessing in the Spirit was a nuclear holocaust? The effects he describes certainly seem to bear this out.



The Nature of the Bomb

Let us consider the nature of a nuclear explosion. Nicholas Wade, in his book *World Beyond Healing* (1987), gives us a graphic picture:

The explosion of a nuclear weapon is an event of immense power . . . Within a fraction of a millionth of a second, the nuclear materials and casing of a one-megaton weapon are transformed into a packet of energy five times hotter than the center of the sun.

Out of this mini-sun bursts a flash of Xrays so intense that the air for several feet around the weapon is heated into an incandescent ball.

This little fireball, only a few millionths of a second old, contains the vaporized contents of the weapon, and a vast flux of energy created by the fission and fusion reactions of the nuclear explosion. So immense an amount of energy packed into a tiny space creates temperatures of 100 million degrees centigrade and pressures of millions of pounds per square inch. A violent expansion begins.

In less than a thousandth of a second, the fireball of a one-megaton weapon has grown to 440 feet across. In ten seconds, the fireball is more than a mile in diameter.

It should be evident that what we are talking about is a weapon unparalleled in human history; a weapon with the ca-



capacity to obliterate huge cities in seconds. This is a scenario that perfectly fits with the kind of swift, mass destruction spoken of in the book of Revelation. Indeed, considering the widespread death predicted by John, it would be hard for us to imagine anything *other* than a nuclear holocaust which could come close to producing such carnage.

The poisoning of the waters (Revelation 8:11), the severe reduction in visibility (Revelation 8:12), the death of much of the earth's vegetation (Revelation 8:7), malignant sores (Revelation 16:2), the end of ocean life (Revelation 16:3), and the inability of the atmosphere to block out harmful ultraviolet rays, resulting in severe burns (Revelation 16:8) are all expected results of nuclear war. The implications of these prophecies is not pretty—this earth has an appointment with a devastation which shall be horrible beyond imagination.

Secular Confirmation

Amazingly, predictions by secular writers parallel the horrific visions of John in nearly every major detail. Contrast the words (in regular print) of secular writer Jonathan Schell author of the book *The Fate of the Earth* (1970), with what the Bible says (in italics) as he describes the consequences of a nuclear war:

Bearing in mind that the possible consequences of the detonations of thousands of megatons of nuclear explosives include . . . the extinction of many ocean species, among them some at the base of the food chain . . . (*And every living creature in the sea died.* — Revelation 16:3)

. . . the pollution of the whole ecosphere with oxides of nitrogen. (*And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.* — Revelation 8:12)

. . . a significant decrease in photosynthesis in plants around the world; the scalding and killing of many crops . . . (*And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.* — Revelation 8:7)

. . . the increase in rates of cancer and mutation around the world . . . (*And a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast.* — Revelation 16:2)

. . . the attendant risk of global epidemics . . . (*And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences.* — Luke 21:11)

. . . the possible poisoning of all vertebrates by sharply increased levels of vitamin D in their skin as a result of increased ultraviolet light. (*The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat.* — Revelation 16:8)

. . . and the outright slaughter on all targeted continents of most human beings and other living things by the initial nuclear radiation, the fireballs, the thermal pulses, the blast waves, the mass fires, and the fallout from the explosions. (*By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed — by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone.* — Revelation 9:18)

Considering that these consequences will all interact with one another in unguessable ways and, furthermore, are in all likelihood an incomplete list . . . one must conclude that a full-scale nuclear holocaust could lead to the extinction of mankind. (*And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.* — Matthew 24:22)

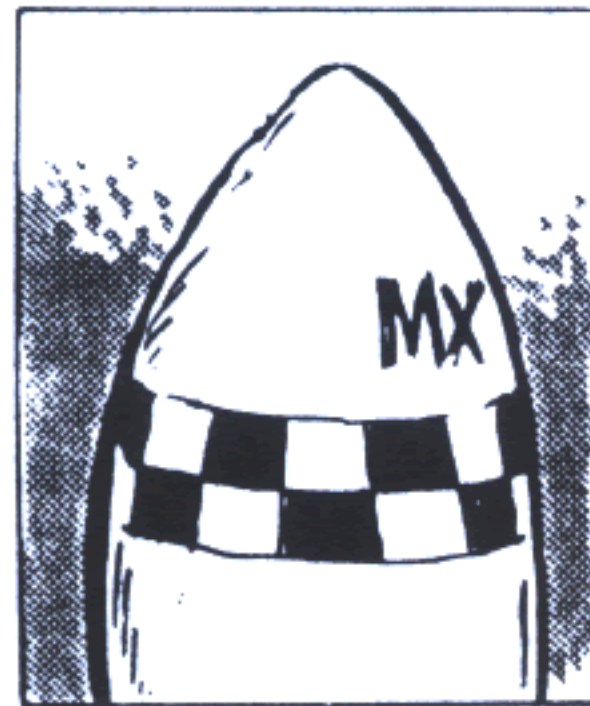
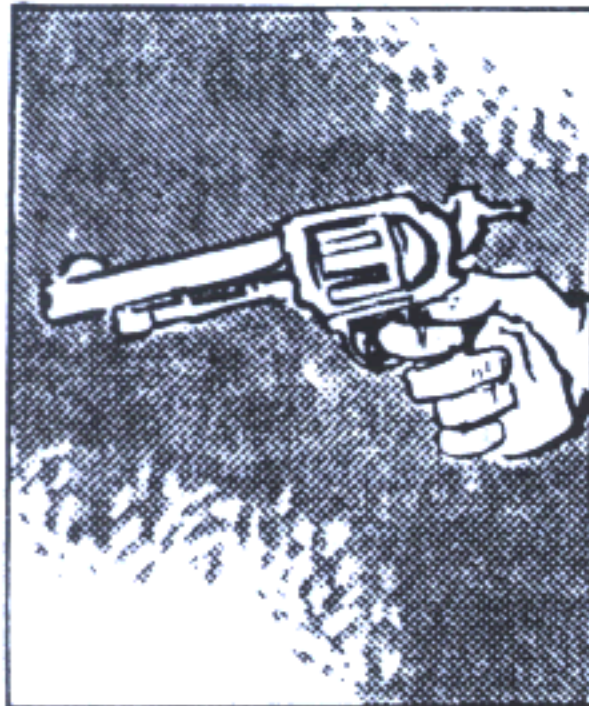
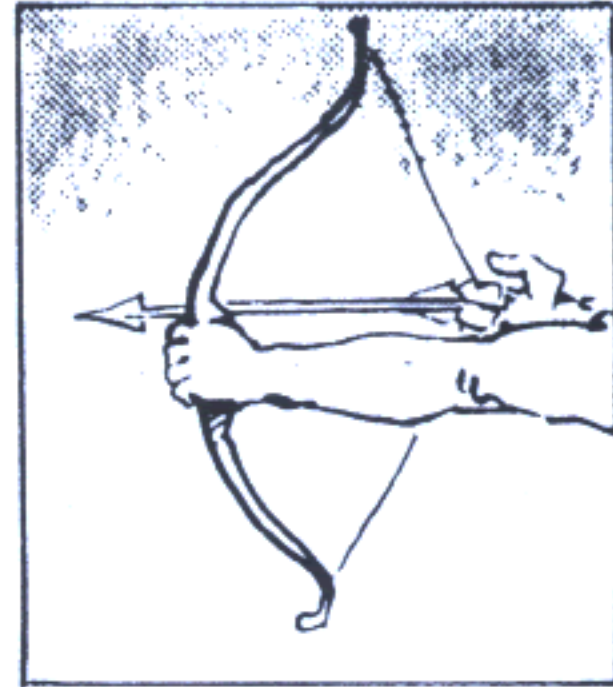
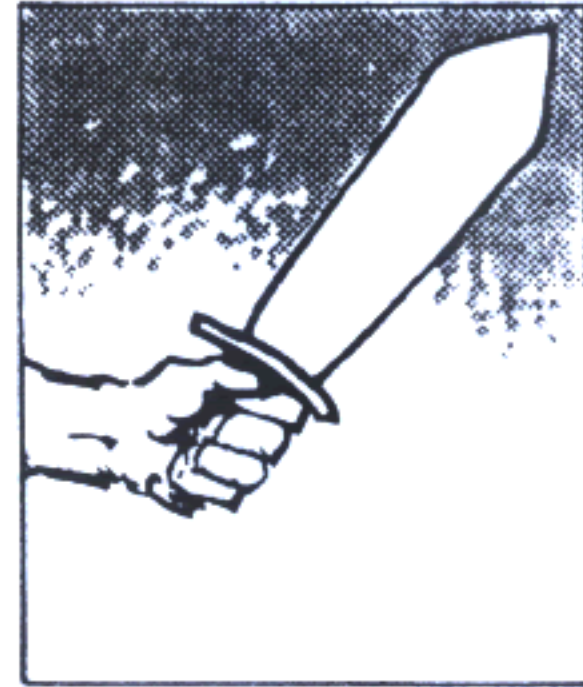
The Nature of God's Wrath

Why would God allow such a terrible devastation upon the earth? Is He not the God of love and compassion? The God of all mercy? Certainly the Bible makes plain that God is all of that. Yet we also learn from the Bible that "Our God is a consuming fire," (Hebrews 12:29) and that He will not leave the guilty unpunished (Exodus 34:7).

It is interesting to note the way God judges sin in individuals and nations. We find that He almost never seems to bring immediate judgment for sin. He allows people to lead cruel and wicked lives for years while enjoying prosperity. This is the great stumbling block that has caused many to question either God's love or His involvement in human affairs. Job cried out, "The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure — *in what God provides by His hand*" (Job 12:6).

We find that sin has an accumulating effect. In the book of Revelation we read about Babylon: "Her sins have reached up unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:5). In Genesis, Abraham was told that his descendants would have to wait 400 years before they could take possession of the promised land, for "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete" (Genesis 15:16). It appears that God lets sin "pile up" for years, or even generations before it provokes Him to act in swift decisive judgment and destruction. In Romans, Paul writes

MEN'S PEACEKEEPERS!



that sinners are "storing up for themselves wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" (Romans 2:5).

If that is true for nations and individuals, could it not also be true for the entire planet? What if God has been restraining His judgment for thousands of years, while men have filled the earth with blood, hatred, war and immorality? Could it be that the terrible plagues and judgments in the book of Revelation are the accumulation of God's wrath over the history of Mankind, stored up for that season of time which would immediately precede the return of the Lord Jesus Christ? This certainly appears to be the thought given in the sixth chapter of Revelation where the world's leaders, along with the rich and the poor of the earth cry out, "The great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:17).

Is There Any Hope?

Up to this point the picture seems grim and hopeless. And in a certain way it is. There is no hope for this present evil age. It is under a death sentence from Almighty God. The flood of hatred, violence, immorality, abortion, homosexuality, and the mockery of all that is good and holy will finally produce a response from heaven. God has decreed that this present evil age shall pass away in a flame of fire, death, and judgment. No amount of peace talks, goodwill conferences, or think tanks will be able to change that.

Likewise, those who refuse to repent and turn to Christ are in a hopeless situation. There is no peace or security for those who determine to live life by their own rules. When God's wrath begins to fall, it will overtake the rich and the poor, the celebrities along with the unknown, the sophisticates with the simpletons. No hiding place on earth, no amount of wealth or prestige, no measure of cleverness or ingenuity will be able to spare

people from the wrath to come.

The good news in all of this is that God has always provided a hiding place whenever He poured out His wrath. In Noah's flood, that safety was found in the ark. In the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot was told to flee to the mountains. Rahab found safety from the destruction of her city by staying in her house with a scarlet cord tied to the window.

In these last days God's hiding place will be found, not in a cave in the mountains, not in a mammoth ark, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was on His Cross that Jesus took the wrath of God upon Himself, in order that those who would put their trust in Him might be spared. The Scriptures tell us, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:9). For those whose godly lives reveal that they have truly placed their faith in Jesus, He will come and take them unto Himself before the Great Tribulation begins. ✚

Dennis Pollock is the Associate Evangelist of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He has been with the ministry for ten years. He co-hosts the ministry's television program, "Christ in Prophecy," and he conducts meetings and conferences at churches all over the United States. He is also the coordinator of the ministry's overseas missions projects. If you would like for him to speak at your church or conduct a prophecy conference for pastors in a foreign country, please contact him by calling 972-736-3567.



False Prophets

JOSEPH SMITH THE EGO-MANIACAL PROPHET

Dr. David R. Reagan

The Mormon Church is the largest Christian cult in the world today, claiming a membership in excess of 10 million. (1)

It is a cult for many reasons, the most important being the fact that it proclaims a false Messiah. The Jesus of the Mormons is the brother of Lucifer, one of thousands of gods created by the super-god, Adam, an exalted man. The Mormon's perverted concept of Jesus is just one of many demonic doctrines which the church inherited from its founder, Joseph Smith. (2)

Smith's Origins

Joseph Smith (1805-1844) was born in Vermont and raised in upstate New York near a town called Palmyra. This was the heart of what came to be called "the burned-over district" because of its frequent and fervent Protestant revivals. (3)

Smith claimed that his first revelation from God came at the age of 14 on the Smith family farm. In subsequent encounters, Smith said that God revealed to him that all Christian groups since the death of the apostles had strayed from the true Church of Christ. He claimed that he was given the responsibility to restore the one and only true church. (4)

In later visions Smith claimed that he was led to tablets of gold stored in a nearby hillside. These tablets supposedly contained a history of the ancient inhabitants of North America. His "translations," written in perfect King James English, were published in 1830 as the Book of Mormon. This book was to become the sacred scripture of Mormonism.

Smith's Church

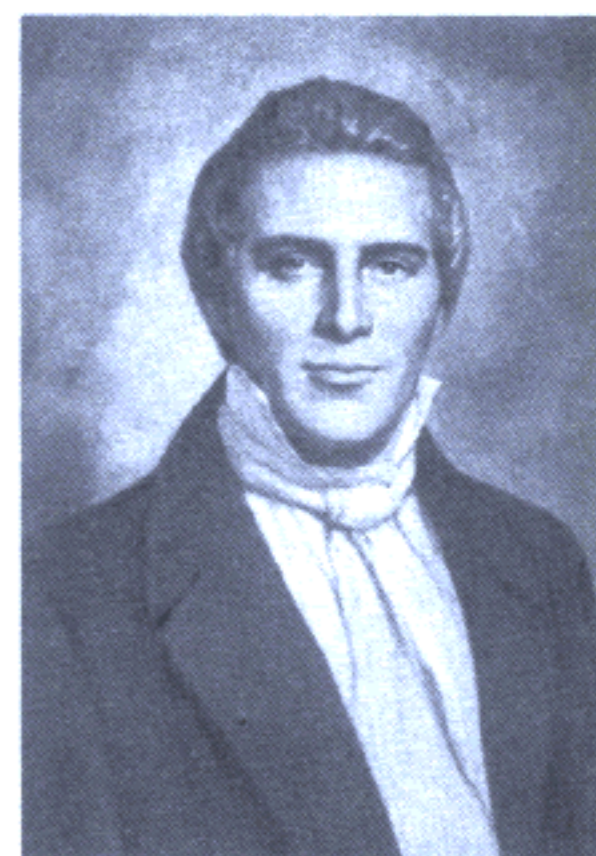
Smith formally founded his church — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — shortly after the publication of his book. His "driving personality and immense personal charisma" resulted in explosive growth for the new church. (5)

Shortly after the establishment of the church, Smith moved to Kirtland Mills, Ohio, where he hoped to establish the kingdom of God on earth. A banking panic in 1837 caused the economic collapse of the Kirtland settlement, and this, together with spreading rumors of polygamy, caused many Mormons to leave the church. Smith headed west to Missouri. Within a year, a civil war broke out between Smith's followers and their neighbors who feared their growing political might. The governor of Missouri ordered the Mormons to leave the state.

This time Smith and his flock headed east to Illinois. In 1839 they founded a new city called Nauvoo on the Mississippi River, near the city of Quincy. Within five years the city grew to nearly 20,000 residents. Once again, the rapid growth stirred suspicion and resentment among their neighbors. Opposition to the Mormons intensified as rumors of polygamy began to spread. (Polygamy was still a confidential tenet of the faith.)

Smith's Martyrdom

In 1844 Smith announced that he was going to run for President of the United States. This announcement fueled a new wave of antagonism toward the Mormons. The climax came shortly thereafter when a newspaper controlled by Mormon dissenters revealed the church's practice of polygamy. Smith was outraged over this revelation, and he ordered the destruction of the newspaper's press. He was arrested for inciting a riot and was imprisoned in Carthage, Illinois. Before he could be tried, a mob broke into the jail and brutally killed both him and his brother.



Joseph Smith

The murder of the founder led to a split in the church. The majority rallied around Brigham Young who, as president of the church's Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, claimed to be Smith's rightful successor. He soon led his followers west to Utah. Those who rejected Young's leadership eventually formed the Reorganized Latter-Day Saints and selected Joseph Smith's son as their leader. They remained in Missouri and claim to this day to be the true church. (6)

Smith's Status as a Prophet



An artist's rendition of the killing of Joseph Smith in Carthage, Illinois.

One of the first and most important principles of the Mormon faith is that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. In fact, many would contend that he was the greatest prophet of all times. In defense of this claim, his followers point to prophecies of his which were fulfilled in history.

The first of these is an oral prophecy he supposedly gave on August 6, 1842 in which he prophesied that the Mormons would continue to suffer affliction until they moved to the Rocky Mountains where they would become "a mighty people." (7) This prophecy is contained in the diary of a man named Anson Call, but the prophecy was not recorded by Mr. Call until 1845 (after Smith's death), and it appears as an interlinear insertion which experts have determined was added after the Mormons actually arrived in Utah.

A second famous prophecy the Mormons point to is one that Smith supposedly made in May of 1843 when he proclaimed that Stephen A. Douglas would aspire to the Presidency and would be defeated if he ever turned against the Mormons. (8) This prophecy was supposed to be in the diary of a man named William Clayton, but it has since been discovered that the manuscript of that diary contains no such prophecy.



Brigham Young

The third prophecy that supposedly validates Smith as a true prophet of God is one given in February of 1844. Smith prophesied that “within five years the Mormons will be out of the power of their enemies.” (9) This prophecy came true. By 1849, the Mormons had set up their theocracy in Utah and were no longer plagued by their enemies.

Perhaps Smith’s most spectacular prophecy is one he supposedly made in 1839. (10) It was not recorded at the time, but it is quoted

in many Mormon historical documents. Smith stated that the wrath of God was hanging over Jackson County, Missouri (because of the way Mormons had been treated there). He warned that if the people of the county did not stop persecuting Mormons, “you will live to see the day when it [the county] will be visited by fire and sword . . . the fields and houses will be destroyed, and only the chimneys will be left to mark the desolation.”

This prophecy was fulfilled in 1863 when Union troops were ordered to burn all houses and crops in the county because of the anti-Union guerrilla warfare being waged by its residents. The resulting action was considered to be one of the worst atrocities of the war.

One other prophecy by Smith that Mormons point to is one he made about his bodyguard, Porter Rockwell. (11) Smith reportedly told Mr. Rockwell that if he never cut his hair, he would die in bed. Rockwell complied, and in spite of living a very violent life, he died peacefully.

Prophetic Failures

But what Mormons conveniently overlook are the myriad of prophecies Smith gave which were never fulfilled — prophecies that clearly mark him as a false prophet.

Richard Packham, a retired attorney and former Mormon, has compiled a list of more than 60 prophecies by Joseph Smith that have never been fulfilled to this day. (12) Among the more significant are the following:

Prophecy #1 — Temple to be built in Independence, Missouri. In September of 1832 Joseph Smith prophesied that the New Jerusalem and a new temple would be built in Zion, Missouri, a site near Independence. (13) He further stated that his generation would not all pass away until these events took place. The temple was never built in Smith’s lifetime or within the generation of his contemporaries. The Mormons were driven out of Missouri in 1839. The site where the temple was to be built is not even owned today by the Mormon Church.

Prophecy #2 — The End of all nations. In December 1832 Smith prophesied that South Carolina would rebel against the federal government, resulting in a war that would spread worldwide and would result in the “full end of all nations.” (14) Nothing needs to be said about the failure of this bizarre prophecy.

Prophecy #3 — The Return of the Lord. In 1835, as the prophecies of William Miller were growing in popularity, Joseph Smith stated that “the return of the Lord is nigh — even fifty-six years should wind up the scene.” (15) The 56 years passed in 1891. In a diary entry dated April 6, 1843, Smith repeated this prophecy, stating the Lord would return when “I am 85 years old, 48 years hence, or about 1890.” (16) Smith was killed when he was 39 years old.

Prophecy #4 — The Liberty jail prophecies. In March of 1839 Smith issued a whole package of prophecies from his jail cell in Liberty, Missouri. (17) Among other things, he predicted that his enemies would be destroyed “by the sword,” that his friends would never charge him with transgressions, and that God was about to change the times and seasons. None of these prophecies came true. The enemies of the Mormons were not destroyed, God did not change the times and seasons, and Smith’s friends did turn on him with serious charges that ultimately led to his arrest and death.

Prophecy #5 — The United States Government to be overthrown. In May of 1843 Smith prophesied that if the United States government did not redress the wrongs suffered by the Mormons in Missouri, the government would be “utterly overthrown and wasted.” (18) The federal government rejected the Mormon petitions and their “wrongs” were not redressed, yet the U.S. government continued to exist.

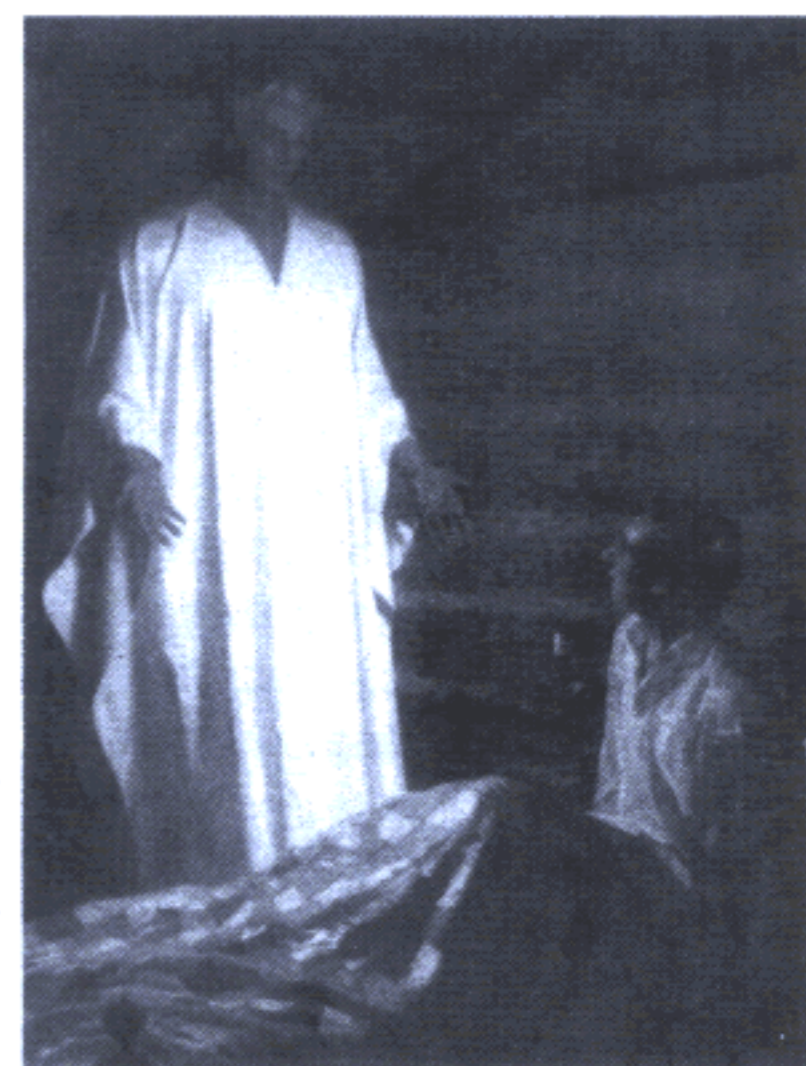
Prophecy #6 — His son to succeed him. In April 1844 Smith prophesied that his son would succeed him and would become “president and king of Israel.” (19) The child was named David. Needless to say, he never became “president and king of Israel.” Nor did he succeed his father. He died in 1904 at the age of 60, after spending the last 27 years of his life in an insane asylum.

Other Failed Prophecies

Many of Smith’s incorrect prophecies, like the one concerning his son, were related to individuals. For example, in 1835 he prophesied that Orson Hyde would go to Jerusalem and prepare the way for the regathering of the Jewish people. (20) Hyde never went to Jerusalem.

In like manner, in 1837 Smith prophesied that the president of the Church’s Council of Twelve Apostles, a man named Thomas Marsh, would go forth “unto the ends of the earth” to preach to both Jews and Gentiles. (21) Less than two years later, Marsh was excommunicated!

In 1841 Smith declared that a fellow named George Miller was a man “without guile” who could be trusted, and that no man should “despise my servant George, for he shall honor me.” (22)



An artist’s rendition of Joseph Smith being visited by the angel Moroni.



The Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Seven years later, George Miller was excommunicated.

When you consider Joseph Smith's sordid record of failed prophecies, can there be any doubt that he was a false prophet who spoke for anyone except the true God of this universe?

A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

In conclusion, let's take a look at one of Smith's most spectacular fulfilled prophecies, one that Mormons never mention. In July of 1828, when he was 23 years old, Smith made the following proclamation: (23)

For although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at naught the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will and carnal desires, he must fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.

On May 26, 1844 (at age 39) Smith made the following statement in a public sermon: (24)

Come on, ye persecutors, ye false swearers! All hell boil over! Ye burning mountains, roll down your lava! For I will come out on the top at last. *I have more to boast of than any man had.* I am the only man that has ever been able to keep a whole church together since the days of Adam. A large majority of the whole have stood by me. Neither Paul, John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. *I boast that no man ever did such a work as I.* The followers of Jesus ran away from Him; but the Latter-Day Saints never ran away from me yet.

These startling words make it clear that in the short span of 16 years, Smith became an ego-maniac. He became the epitome of the arrogant man he warned about in his prophetic statement in 1828. One month after his blasphemous sermon, his 1828 prophecy was fulfilled when he was killed by his enemies. ✚

Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles about false prophets. The November-December issue of the *Lamplighter* featured articles about Nostradamus, Edgar Cayce, and William Miller. You can order copies of that edition for one dollar each (plus the cost of mailing) by calling 1-800-705-8316. Next month's issue will feature an article about The Watchtower, the governing body of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Text Notes:

- 1) Christian Apologetics Research Ministry, "The Mormon Church Statistics," www.carm.org, accessed 11/02/2003.
- 2) Ed Decker and Dave Hunt, *The God Makers*, Harvest House, revised edition, 1977.
- 3) Unsigned article, "Joseph Smith," *Encyclopedia Britannica 2002*, Deluxe Edition on CD.
- 4) Unsigned article, "Joseph Smith," Public Broadcasting System website, www.pbs.org, accessed 9/21/2003.
- 5) Ibid.
- 6) *Encyclopedia Britannica 2002*.
- 7) Jerald and Sandra Tanner, *Major Problems of Mormonism*, Utah Lighthouse Ministry, 1989, pp. 85-86.
- 8) Ibid., pp. 86-88.
- 9) Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1901, seven volumes, vol. 6, p.225.
- 10) Nephi Lowell Morris, *Prophecies of Joseph Smith and Their Fulfillment*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1926, page 180.
- 11) Harold Schindler, *Orin Porter Rockwell*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1966, pages 108-109.
- 12) Richard Packham, "Joseph Smith As A Prophet," www.exmormon.org/prophet.htm, accessed 9/11/2003.
- 13) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, *Doctrine and Covenants*, Salt Lake City, Utah, many editions, section 84:2-5,31. A copy of this publication can be found on the Internet at the following address: www.lds.org.
- 14) Ibid., section 87.
- 15) *History of the Church*, vol. 2, p. 182.
- 16) *Doctrine and Covenants*, section 130:14-17 and *History of the Church*, vol. 5, p. 336.
- 17) *Doctrine and Covenants*, section 121:5-15.
- 18) *History of the Church*, vol. 5, p. 394.
- 19) Michael D. Quinn, *The Mormon Hierarchy*, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1994, p. 644.
- 20) *Prophecies of Joseph Smith and Their Fulfillment*, p. 261.
- 21) *Doctrine and Covenants*, section 112.
- 22) Ibid., section 124:20-21.
- 23) Ibid., section 3:4.
- 24) *History of the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 408-412.

DayStar Television Network Coverage

Broadcast Times

Regular Broadcast:

Wednesday at 6:00pm (Central time), 7:00pm (Eastern), 5:00pm (Mountain), and 4:00pm (Pacific).

Replay: Monday at 12:30am (Central time) and 1:30am (Eastern). Also on Sunday at 10:30pm (Pacific) and 11:30pm (Mountain).

Television Stations

Little Rock	AR	KKAP	36
Phoenix	AZ	KDTP	39
Tucson	AZ	KPCE	29
Modesto	CA	KACA	61
Stockton	CA	K52CK	52
Sacramento	CA	KRJR	47
Denver	CO	KRMT	41
Tampa	FL	WSVT	18
Atlanta	GA	WDTA	53
Gainesville	GA	W28CD	28
Macon	GA	WDMA	32
Honolulu	HI	KWBN	44
Boston	MA	WYDN	48
Las Vegas	NV	KTVY	67
Buffalo	NY	WDTB	39

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Philadelphia
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Memphis
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Dallas
Houston
San Antonio
Seattle
Charleston

NC	WACN	34
NC	WWIW	66
OK	KOCM	46
PA	WELL	8
TN	WDTT	38
TN	WJRJ	59
TN	WIIW	14
TX	KMPX	29
TX	KLTJ	22
TX	KQVE	46
WA	KWDK	56
WV	WTSF	61

Note: Station numbers will be different on cable. So, if you are on cable, consult your TV guide for the proper channel number.

Cable Systems

Kansas City	KS	Time Warner
Shreveport	LA	Time Warner

Satellite Systems

DirecTV	National	Ch. 369
Dish Network	National	Ch. 9408
Sky Angel	National	Ch. 9713
AMC-3	Canada	
Hotbird 6	Europe	Ch. Tr 133
Thaicom-3	World	

Family Vision Network

Our program is also available over the Family Vision Network in Southern Louisiana. It is broadcast on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm and on Monday mornings at 8:30am over three stations:

KAJN-TV (Ch. 40) in Lafayette
KAGN-TV (Ch. 65) in Crowley
KFAM-TV (Ch. 58) in Lake Charles

KAZQ TV 32 in Albuquerque, NM

Tuesdays at 9:30pm
Fridays at 12:30pm

KAZQ is also available on the Dish Network on channel 8817 and on the following cable channels: Comcast Cable (22), Comcast Cablevision (32), Cable One (9), USA Media (22), GST Home (78), and Chamesa Future Vision (22).

Internet

To access the program live over the Internet, go to the DayStar website (www.daystar.com) and click on "Watch LIVE!"



The Impact of our Website

Another means of electronic outreach used by this ministry to proclaim the Gospel is the Internet via our website which is located at www.lamblion.com.

While speaking recently in the Los Angeles area at The Shepherd of the Hills Church, Dr. Reagan met a man named Reynaldo Rios. Mr. Rios shared how the Lamb & Lion website had contributed to the conversion of his family. Dr. Reagan asked him to write up his testimony.

The Rios Family's Testimony

"About a year and a half ago my wife, Mandy, became interested in Bible prophecy through references she picked up on television and radio about 'the end of the world.' We were not saved or involved with any church at the time, nor did we know anything about Bible prophecy.

"Her curiosity led her to start doing research on the Internet about the subjects she was hearing about, particularly the term, 'the last days.' In the process, my wife came across the Lamb & Lion website. She listened to the audio program on the site entitled 'Jesus is Coming Soon!' After hearing the message on this tape, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior and was born again.

"When I came home that night from work, she insisted that I listen to the tape. I did so, and I too was saved that very evening. I immediately referred your website to my cousin Mike and my Aunt Grace. They went to the site, listened to the message, and they also decided to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The four of us are now sharing your website and its message with all our family members.

"My wife took your website advice on how to find a good Spirit-filled church to fellowship with and learn more, and it is a blessing to say that it worked. Since then we have been servants of the most high living God, yearning and not yawning for the return of Jesus. Your website, lamblion.com, was electronically our very first church.

"In behalf of all our family I want to thank you for your faithfulness to your calling. We are eagerly awaiting the return of Christ, our Blessed Hope. As He tarries, if you should someday come back to our city, please let us treat you to some real tasty Mexican food!" ✝



Rey and Mandy Rios

New Year's Greetings from the Lamb & Lion Staff



Shooting video programs in Israel.



Supporting an orphanage in Mexico.



Providing assistance to other ministries.



Conducting crusades in foreign countries like India.



Producing a weekly television program.

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner!

Program Requirements

The financial base of Lamb & Lion Ministries is provided by its Prophecy Partners. These are the people who pledge to provide \$20 a month or more for one year.

We currently have 1,400 Prophecy Partners. We need to increase that number to over 1,500 for 2004 if we are to continue expanding our media outreach with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

We ask our Prophecy Partners to aim at giving \$1 a day for a year — or \$30 per month. Many do this, and some give even more. The minimum contribution is \$20 per month.

Program Benefits

There are many benefits and blessings associated with being a Prophecy Partner. First and foremost is the knowledge that your sacrificial support is going to a ministry whose purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ and to proclaim His soon return.

As a Prophecy Partner you will receive a monthly audio or video tape or special publication, together with a personal report from Dave Reagan highlighting major events and decisions affecting the ministry.

The tape or publication usually covers some special study topic or current events topic related to Bible prophecy. From time to time a special gift, like the ministry's annual calendar, is sent to our Prophecy Partners in recognition of their support.

Program Purposes

Your donations will be used to help pay for our media outreach all across this nation and around the world via television and the Internet. They will also be used to help cover the cost of the many free tapes and publications which we distribute yearly to people who cannot afford to pay for them.

We need your support! Join us for 2004.

Prophecy Partner Commitment

Yes! I want to be a Lamb & Lion Prophecy Partner during 2004.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

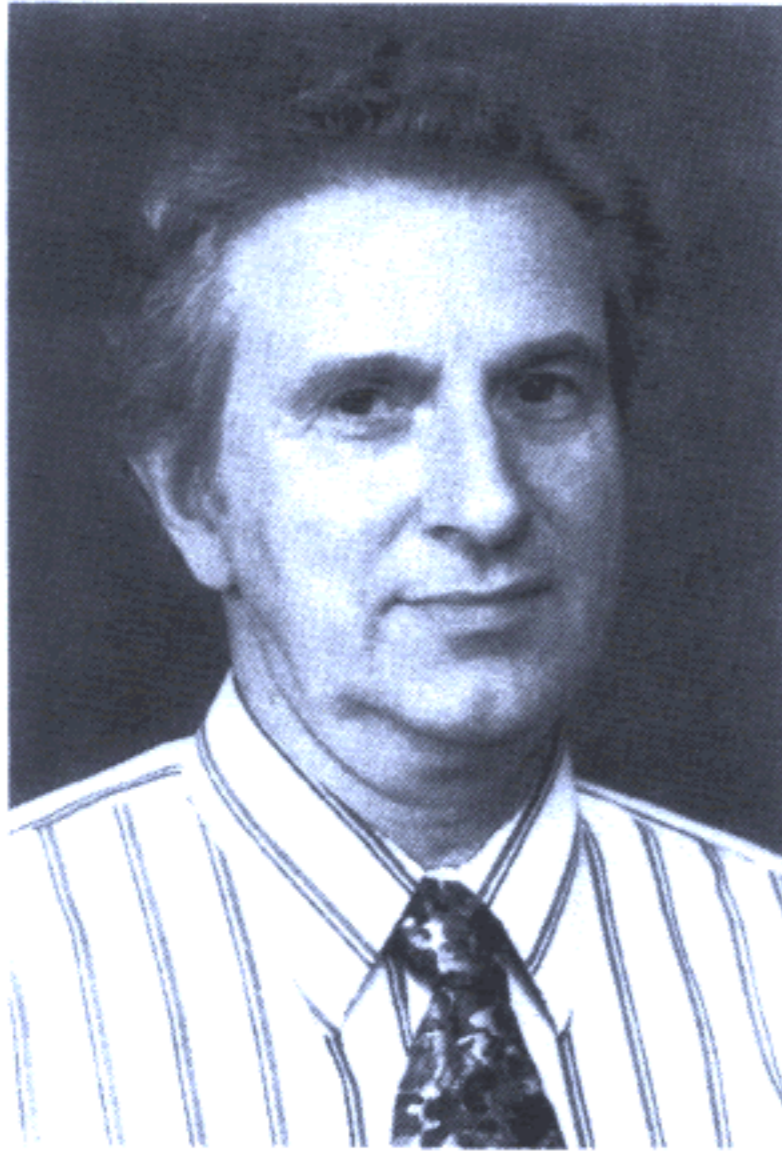
2004 Monthly Commitment \$ _____
(Goal of \$30 per month — minimum of \$20 per month)

or

2004 Yearly Commitment \$ _____
(Goal of \$360 — minimum of \$240)

Mail to Lamb & Lion Ministries P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070.
Or, call in your commitment to 1-800-705-8316

Meet the Lamb & Lion Trustees



Paul Saneman

Birth place and date: Baltimore, Maryland, 1935.

Current residence: Poteau, Oklahoma.

Wife's name and years married: Suzan, 28 years.

Number of children: 7. **Number of grandchildren:** 4.

Education: B.S. from Loyola College and an M.D. from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Occupation: Physician.

Number of years a Christian: 27.

Years of service on the Lamb & Lion Board: 16.

Church membership: First Christian Church in Poteau, OK.

Church activities: Elder, teaching, and missions outreach.

Spiritual gifts: Patience and giving.

Favorite scriptures: Psalm 51:10-11 and Titus 2:11-14.

Favorite Bible character: David.

Favorite Christian book: The Bible (No particular version)..

Favorite Christian hymn: "How Great Thou Art."

Favorite contemporary Christian song: "Rise Again."

Favorite Christian musician: Dallas Holm.

All-time favorite movie: "Sound of Music."

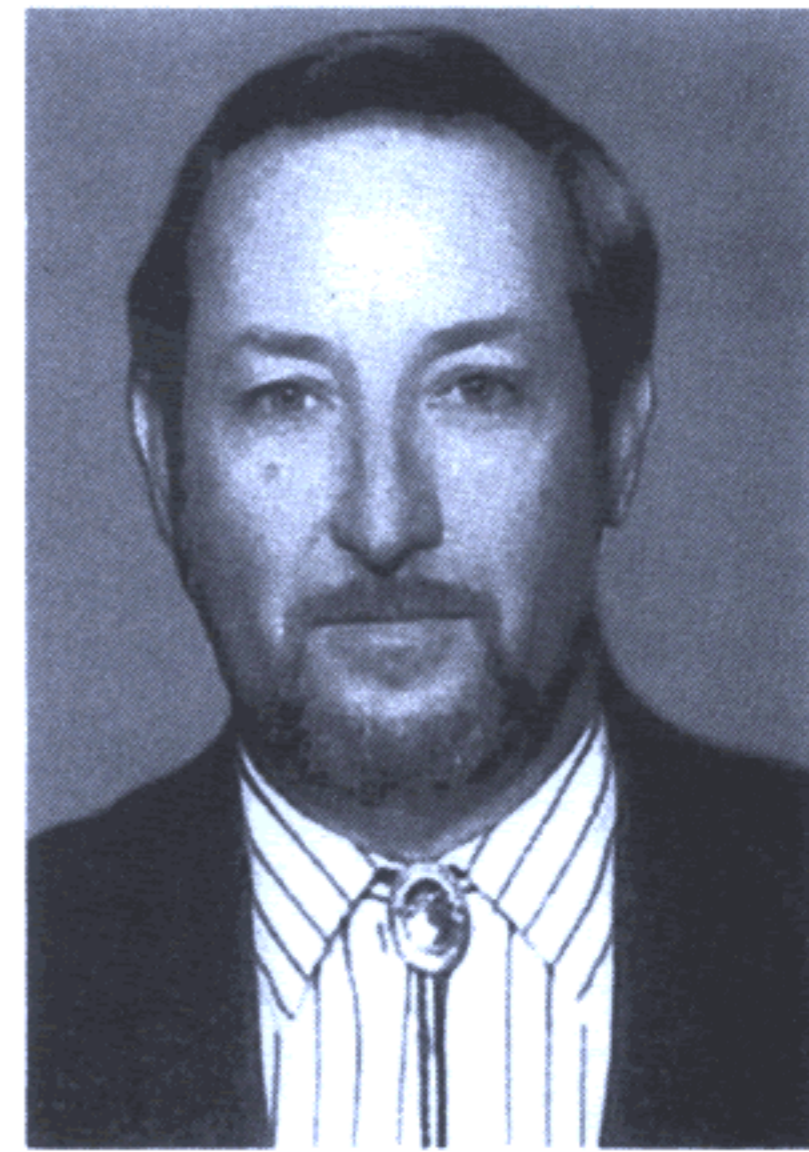
All-time favorite novel: *Chesapeake* by James Michener.

Favorite food: Chinese and Polynesian.

All-time favorite motor vehicle: 1956 T-Bird.

Favorite vacation spot: Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Favorite pastimes: Woodworking and reading.



Mike O'Day

Birth place and date: Oceanside, California, 1950.

Current residence: Arcadia, Texas.

Wife's name and years married: Geraldine, 35 years.

Number of children: 3. **Number of grandchildren:** 3.

Education: One year of college.

Occupation: Control systems consultant and rancher.

Numbers of years a Christian: 45.

Years of service on the Lamb & Lion Board: 17.

Church membership: Santa Fe Christian Church in Arcadia, TX.

Spiritual gifts: Serving, encouraging, and giving.

Favorite scriptures: Psalm 127:1-5 and Romans 8:22-35.

Favorite Bible character: Job.

Favorite hymn: "He Lives!"

Favorite Christian group: The Statler Brothers and the Blackwood Brothers.

Favorite Bible version: New International.

All-time favorite movie: "It's A Wonderful Life."

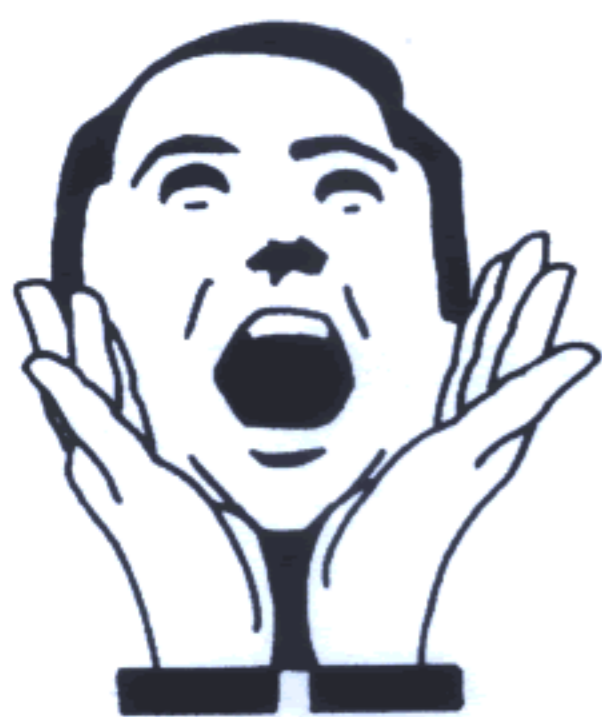
All-time favorite novel: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls.

Favorite food: Cornbread, pinto beans and fried potatoes.

All-time favorite motor vehicle: 1954 Chevy ½ ton truck.

Favorite vacation spot: Pacific islands like Guam, Saipan, Pelelieu, and Hawaii.

Favorite pastimes: Playing with grandchildren, working the ranch, and fishing.



IMPORTANT!!

Each year in April we start receiving phone calls and email messages from people asking why they have not received the latest issue of our magazine. These always turn out to be folks who ignored a label that appeared on the January-February issue of their magazine that read: **"This is your last issue**

unless you call 1-800-705-8316."

When we ask them if they remember seeing the label, they nearly always respond by saying, "Yes, but I didn't think you really meant it!"

Well, folks, we mean it. Look on the back of this issue of your magazine. If the red letter label appears above your name, you need to call us in order to remain on our mailing list.

Let me make it clear that this magazine is free of charge. We send it to anyone who requests it. But if two years pass and we do not hear from you through a donation or a sales request, then we ask that you let us know that you want to continue receiving the magazine.

In short, we want to be good stewards of our resources. It costs us about \$20 per year per address to print, process, and mail this magazine. We want to make certain it is sent only to those who are interested in receiving it.

So, if you have the "Please call!" label on your issue, then please call us right away if you want to keep receiving the magazine. And please consider making a donation of \$20 or more to help us cover our costs. Thank you!

Meetings and Conferences — The schedule of speaking appointments for both Dennis Pollock and Dave Reagan are posted on the ministry's website at www.lamblion.com. You can also get a copy by calling 1-972-736-3567. To schedule either one to come to your church, call the same number. ✚



**"Preaching to a videotaped congregation
is not a television ministry!"**



Messages

Books — "I wanted to write and let you know how much of a blessing your ministry has been in my life. My mom introduced me to your ministry

when I read your book, *Wrath and Glory*. Before that I really had no idea about the Second Coming of Christ. After I finished your book, I began to really read and study the Bible. You have sparked an unquenchable fire in my life to study the Word of God and become closer to Jesus. I have been able to talk to a lot of my college friends about what I have learned, and I have introduced some of them to the Gospel." — Megan Gardiner in Aledo, Texas.

Magazine — "I have really enjoyed reading your magazine, *The Lamplighter*. I am 86 years old. I have been teaching the Bible for many years. I am an old-time Baptist. I believe the Children of Israel are God's chosen nation and that although He has severely punished them for their sins, they are still His people, and the day is coming soon when He will take away their heart of stone and 'all Israel will be saved.'" — R. R. Masegee in Granbury, Texas.

Television — "We love your television program. We tape it and re-watch it together so that we can then discuss it. We also love *The Lamplighter*, and when the issue arrives in the mail, I don't tell my husband until I'm about through with it, so I can read it undisturbed from cover to cover. Your books are also being shared, and your insights touch us at a time when it's far more than merely pertinent. We praise God for you!" — Charles and Carol Zajicek of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Video Programs — "I wanted to write and tell you how much I enjoyed your new video program, 'Revelation Revealed.' I have studied the Bible for twenty years, and I know how hard it is for the average student to put Revelation all together. You have succeeded masterfully in opening the eyes of this student. Thank you again." — Edward DuClos of Gig Harbor, Washington.

Television — "We watched your program on the Via Dolorosa and the Crucifixion of Jesus and found it to be an outstanding piece of filming and editing. The visual editing you did for Sandi Patti's rendition of the song, "The Via Dolorosa," was particularly creative. Her beautiful rendition of that haunting song fit the moment perfectly." — Howard and Dee Rapp of Plano, Texas.

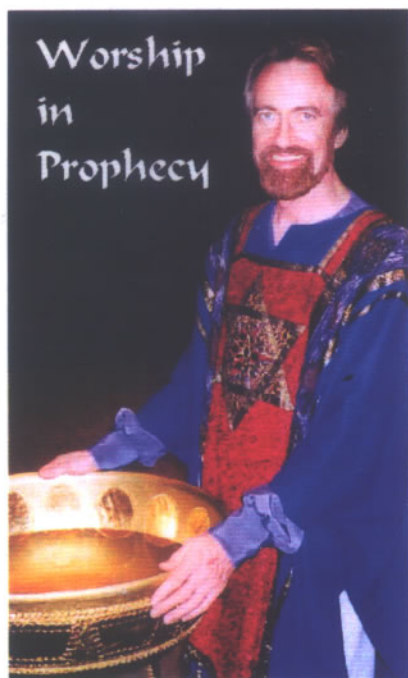
Television — "Dos boys got some brains, yeah!" — A viewer in Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

Magazine — "Thank you so much for sending me *The Lamplighter*. I enjoy it so much, even though I am 91 years old! I am living in a nursing home where I am free to pray for the patients as they are receptive. I use a handy walker with a seat and a basket to carry my Bible which I need every day. I grow in strength as I read the Word." — Mary Campbell in Pensacola, Florida.



Drop us a lion!

Three New Video Resources Concerning Bible Prophecy

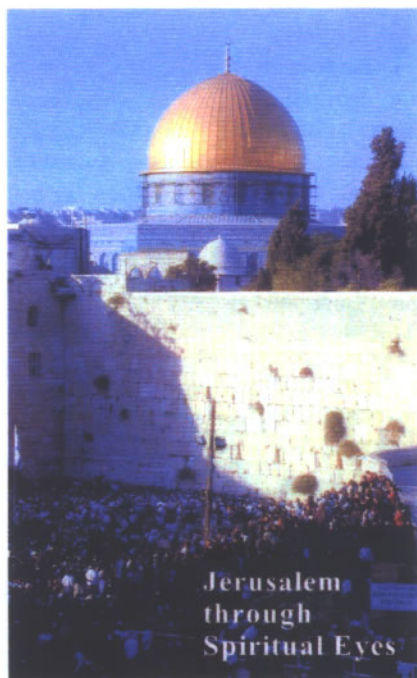


This video program begins with a teaching by Dr. Reagan concerning the revival of the Tabernacle of David in the end times. This teaching was filmed at the Church of the Ark of the Covenant, located near the city of Jerusalem.

After laying the foundation in Scripture for the revival of Davidic praise worship that is going on in the Church today, the program shifts to an in-depth interview with Randall Bane, considered to be the world's foremost teacher and practitioner of Davidic worship.

The program features many colorful examples of Davidic worship.

The running time is 55 minutes.



This fascinating program, written and directed by Dr. Reagan, was filmed in Jerusalem in the summer of 2003.

It focuses on three features of the city of Jerusalem to emphasize three aspects of the life of Jesus: the Via Dolorosa (His Crucifixion); the tombs of the city (His Resurrection); and the gates of the city (His Second Coming).

Appearing in the video, together with Dr. Reagan, is his associate evangelist, Dennis Pollock.

The program is filled with the sights and sounds of the Old City of Jerusalem.

The running time is 75 minutes.



This video presents an overview of the entire book of Revelation, covering the book chapter by chapter. The teaching is presented by Dr. David Reagan, the ministry's senior evangelist.

The video is visually rich with maps, charts, diagrams, still photos, animations, and video footage.

Dr. Reagan emphasizes throughout the video that the book of Revelation is not difficult to understand; rather, it is difficult to believe. He points out that if you will accept its plain sense meaning, you will understand it. And he proceeds to demonstrate that truth.

The running time is 75 minutes.

All three videos are available on VHS and DVD. VHS format is \$15; DVD is \$17. To order, call 1-800-705-8316.



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