



LAMPLIGHTER

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

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No. 1

50 Reasons
Why We Are
Living in the
End Times



Observations by the Editor

Thanks!

On October 23rd of last year I had my right hip replaced, and I want to thank all of you who responded by praying for me and sending me cards, letters, and email messages. My wife, Ann, and I were both greatly blessed by your expressions of concern. I am pleased to report that the Lord heard and answered your prayers by ministering to me a very speedy and complete recovery.



Dr. David R. Reagan

Celebrate!

We invite you to join with us in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the state of Israel. The Israeli Declaration of Independence was declared in Tel Aviv by David Ben Gurion on May 14, 1948.

The Bible prophesies in many places that the Lord God Almighty will regather the Jewish people in unbelief in the end times (Isaiah 11:11-12). The Bible even says that when God's purposes in history are completed, the Jewish people will look back and consider their regathering to be a miracle greater than their deliverance from Egyptian captivity (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

The Bible also prophesies the re-establishment of their state (Isaiah 66:7-8) and their re-occupation of the city of Jerusalem (Zechariah 8:4-8).

We are very blessed to live in a time when we can witness the fulfillment of Bible prophecy with our own eyes.

We are also witnessing the fulfillment of another prophecy — one that should give us all great concern. In Zechariah 12:1-3 we are told that in the end times the whole world will come against Israel over the issue of the control of Jerusalem. As we see this happening, we need to pray that the Israeli leaders will not be deceived — that they will not give in to the pressure to surrender their heartland of Judea and Samaria and half their city of Jerusalem for meaningless promises of "peace."

Because the Israelis use a modified lunar calendar, the dates of their holidays vary from year to year. This year, the date for Independence Day will fall on May 8th. ☆

Whereas I was dreading such events as returning to Israel because of all the pain I was suffering, I am now looking forward with enthusiasm to our upcoming video shoot in Israel and the pilgrimages that we have scheduled later in the year.

One thing I learned is to never allow my youngest daughter, Rachel, near me with a camera! She took the picture below just two days after the operation as I was being helped down the hospital hallway by my physical therapist.



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50 Reasons

Why We Are Living In The End Times

Dr. David R. Reagan

The Bible says we cannot know the time of the Lord's return (Matthew 25:13). But the Scriptures make it equally clear that we can know the season of the Lord's return (1 Thessalonians 5:2-6):

You yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night . . . But you brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night or darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

This passage asserts that Jesus is coming like "a thief in the night." But then it proceeds to make it clear that this will be true only for the pagan world and not for believers. His return should be no surprise to those who know Him and His Word, for they have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to give them understanding of the nature of the times.

Furthermore, the Scriptures give us signs to watch for — signs that will signal that Jesus is ready to return. The writer of the Hebrew letter referred to these signs when he proclaimed that believers should encourage one another when they see the day of judgment drawing near (Hebrews 10:25-27). Jesus also referred to the end time signs in His Olivet Discourse, given during the last week of His life (Matthew 24 and Luke 21). Speaking of a whole series of signs which He had given to His disciples, He said, "When you see all these things, recognize that He [the Son of Man — that is, Jesus] is near, right at the door" (Matthew 24:33).

A Personal Experience

Every time I think of "Signs of the Times," I am reminded of a great man of God named Elbert Peak. I had the privilege of participating with him in a Bible prophecy conference held in Orlando, Florida in the early 1990's. Mr. Peak was about 80 years old at the time.

He had been assigned the topic, "The Signs of the Times." He began his presentation by observing, "Sixty years ago when I first started preaching, you had to scratch around like a chicken to find one sign of the Lord's soon return."

He paused for a moment, and then added, "But today there are so many signs I'm no longer looking for them. Instead, I'm listening for a sound — the sound of a trumpet!"



The First Sign

One hundred years ago in 1907 there was not one single, tangible, measurable sign that indicated we were living in the season of the Lord's return. The first to appear was the Balfour Declaration which was issued by the British government on November 2, 1917.

This Declaration was prompted by the fact that during World War I the Turks sided with the Germans. Thus, when Germany lost the war, so did the Turks, and the victorious Allies decided to divide up both the German and Turkish empires.

The Turkish territories, called the Ottoman Empire, contained the ancient homeland of the Jewish people — an area the Romans had named Palestine after the last Jewish revolt in 132-135 AD.

In 1917 Palestine included all of modern day Israel and Jordan (see the map on page 4). In the scheme the Allies concocted for dividing up the German and Turkish territories, Britain was allotted Palestine, and this is what prompted the Balfour Declaration. In that document, Lord Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, declared that it was the intention of the British government to establish in Palestine "a national home for the Jewish people."

The leading Evangelical in England at the time was F. B. Meyer. He immediately recognized the prophetic significance of the Declaration, for he was well aware that the Scriptures prophesy that the Jewish people will be regathered to their homeland in unbelief right before the return of the Messiah (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Meyer sent out a letter to the Evangelical leaders of England asking them to gather in London in December to discuss the prophetic implications of the Balfour Declaration. In that letter, he stated, "The signs of the times point toward the close of the time of the Gentiles . . . and the return of Jesus can be expected any moment."

Before Meyer's meeting could be convened, another momentous event occurred. On December 11, 1917 General Edmund Allenby liberated the city of Jerusalem from 400 years of Turkish rule.

There is no doubt that these events in 1917 marked the beginning of the end times because they led to the worldwide regathering of the Jewish people to their homeland and the re-establishment of their state.



Palestine in 1917

Since 1917

Since the time of the Balfour Declaration, we have witnessed throughout the 20th Century the appearance of sign after sign pointing to the Lord’s soon return. There are so many of these signs today, in fact, that one would have to be either biblically illiterate or spiritually blind not to realize that we are living on borrowed time.

I have personally been searching the Bible for years in an effort to identify all the signs, and it has not been an easy task to get a hold on them. That’s because there are so many of them, both in the Old and New Testaments.

I have found that the best way to deal with them is to put them in categories, and in doing that, I have come up with six categories of end time signs.

I have found that the best way to deal with them is to put them in categories, and in doing that, I have come up with six categories of end time signs.

1 The Signs of Nature



... and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:11)

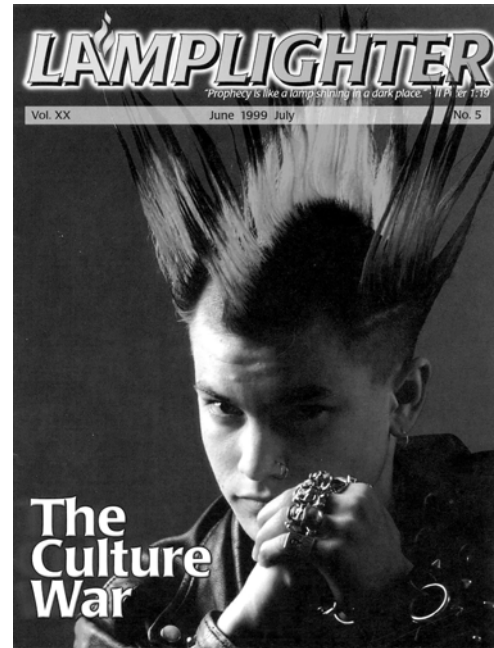
This category of signs has always been the least respected, even among believers. The mere mention of it usually evokes a sneer accompanied by the words, “Come on, what else is new? There have always been earthquakes and tornadoes and hurricanes.” But those who have this attitude forget that Jesus said the signs would be like “birth pangs” (Matthew 24:8). That means they will increase in frequency and intensity the closer we get to the Lord’s return. In other words, there will be more frequent natural disasters and more intense ones.

And that is exactly what has been happening. For example, between October of 1991 and November of 2004 — a period of 13 years — the United States experienced;

- 9 of the 10 largest insurance natural disasters in history.
- 9 of the 10 greatest disasters as ranked by FEMA relief costs.
- 5 of its costliest hurricanes in history.
- 3 of its 4 largest tornado swarms in history.

And keep in mind that these statistics were compiled before the Hurricane Katrina disaster in August of 2005!

2 The Signs of Society



Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God . . . (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

This passage sounds like a typical evening newscast today! Notice the three things it says people will love in the end times: self, money, and pleasure.

The love of self is Humanism — the belief that Man can accomplish anything on his own. The love of money is Materialism. When Humanism is your religion, your god will always be money. The love of pleasure is the third love that is mentioned. This is Hedonism, the lifestyle that is always produced by Humanism and Materialism.

But God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7). He therefore sees to it that when people chose Humanism, Materialism, and Hedonism, the payoff is always Nihilism — which is a fancy philosophical word for despair.

Need I emphasize that our world is wallowing in despair today? We live in a society plagued by abortion, homosexuality, domestic violence, child molestation, blasphemy, pornography, alcoholism, drug abuse and gambling.

Like the days of the Judges in the Old Testament, people are doing what is right in their own eyes, and the result is that people are calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20).

3 The Spiritual Signs



There are more signs in this category than any other. Many are evil in nature, but there are also some very positive ones.

Concerning the negative signs, a typical passage is the following one found in 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

The time will come when they [professing Christians] will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

Some of the negative spiritual signs that are specifically prophesied include the following: false christs, cultic groups, heresies, apostasy, skepticism, deception, occultism, and persecution.

The one that Jesus mentioned most frequently was false christs and their cultic groups (Matthew 24:5, 11, 24). And in fulfillment of these prophecies, we have experienced an explosion of cults since 1850.

But, praise God, we are told that there will be some very positive spiritual signs in the end times. The most important one that is prophesied in many places is a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29).

This outpouring began at the dawn of the 20th Century, and proved to be one of the greatest spiritual surprises — and blessings — of the century. You see, when that century began, the prevailing viewpoint among both Catholics and Protestants regarding the Holy Spirit was Cessationism. This view held that the gifts of the Spirit ceased when the last Apostle died. In effect, it was a belief that the Holy Spirit had retired in the First Century.

The 20th Century had hardly gotten started when a Holy Spirit revival broke out at a small Bible college in Topeka, Kansas in 1901. Three years later, a similar Holy Spirit revival

swept Wales and began to spread worldwide. Then, in 1906, the Spirit fell with great power on a humble Black preacher in Los Angeles named William J. Seymour. The Azusa Street Revival, as it came to be called, continued for four years and gave birth to the Pentecostal Movement.

The Bible prophesies two great outpourings of the Spirit and symbolically pictures them as the “early and latter rains” (Joel 2:23), based on the two rainy seasons of Israel. The early rain occurred at Pentecost in the First Century when the Church was established. The latter rain was prophesied to occur after the Jewish people had been re-established in their homeland (Joel 2:18-26).

The latter rain began with the Pentecostal Movement, just as God began to regather the Jews to their homeland under the visionary leadership of Theodore Herzl. But the rain did not become a downpour until after the re-establishment of the state of Israel in May of 1948, just as prophesied by Joel.

First came the anointing of Billy Graham’s ministry in 1949, followed by the Charismatic Movement of the 1960’s. Today, most of Christianity, whether Pentecostal, Charismatic, or Traditional, fully recognizes that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is alive and well in Spirit-led worship, the continuing validity of spiritual gifts, the reality of spiritual warfare, and the importance of a Spirit-filled life in winning that warfare.

In addition to the rediscovery of the Holy Spirit, there are other positive spiritual prophecies being fulfilled today — like the preaching of the Gospel worldwide (Matthew 24:14), the revival of Davidic praise worship (Amos 9:11) and the emergence of Messianic Judaism (Romans 9:27).

Another remarkable positive sign is the understanding of Bible prophecy. You see, the Hebrew prophets often did not understand the end time prophecies that the Lord gave to them. A good example can be found in Daniel 12:8-9 where the prophet complains to the Lord that he does not understand the prophecies that have been entrusted to him. The Lord’s response was, “Don’t worry about it. Just write the prophecies. They have been sealed up until the end times.”

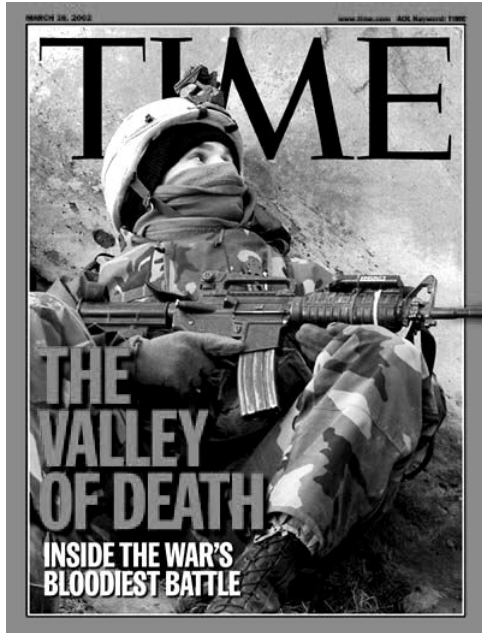
In other words, the Bible teaches that many of the end time prophecies will not be understood until the time comes for them to be fulfilled. And that is exactly what has been happening in the past 100 years. Historical developments and scientific inventions are now making it possible for us to understand end time prophecies that have never been understood before.

Take Israel for example. All of end time prophecy revolves around the nation of Israel. But how could those prophecies be understood as long as Israel did not exist and there was no prospect that the nation would ever exist again?

This is the reason that Hal Lindsey’s book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, became such a phenomenal bestseller in the 1970’s. For the first time it explained the events prophesied in the book of Revelation in natural terms that people could easily understand.



4 The Signs of World Politics



You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars . . . for nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . . (Matthew 24:6-7)

I taught international politics for 20 years before I entered the ministry full time, so this is an area that is particularly fascinating to me.

The Bible prophesies a very specific end time configuration of world politics. Israel is pictured as being re-established (Ezekiel 37:21-22) and surrounded by hostile Arab neighbors intent on its destruction (Ezekiel 35:1 – 36:7). This, of course has been the situation in the Middle East since the Israeli Declaration of Independence in May of 1948.

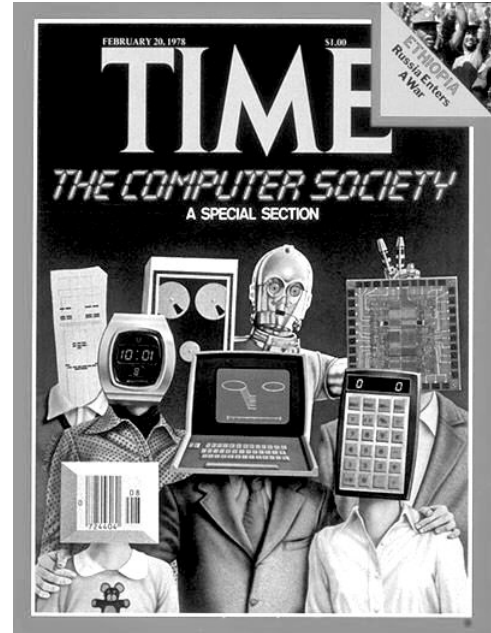
Daniel prophesied that the Roman Empire would be revived (Daniel 2:36-41), something many men — like Charlemagne, Napoleon, and Hitler — tried to do through force. But the prophecy had to await God's timing for its fulfillment, and that came after World War II, with the formation of the European Common Market that has since morphed into the superpower called the European Union.

The Bible pictures a great power located in the land of Magog in the "remote parts of the north." This nation will menace Israel in the end times and will ultimately lead an invasion of Israel together with specified allies, all of which are modern day Muslim states (Ezekiel 38:1 – 39:16). Russia with all its Muslim republics and its Muslim allies fits this description precisely.

All the nations of the world are prophesied to come together against Israel in the end times over the issue of the control of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3) — a prophecy being fulfilled today.

The magnitude of warfare in the 20th Century is another fulfillment of end time prophecy related to world politics. The 20th Century was one of unparalleled war. Like birth pangs, the frequency and intensity of war increased exponentially. It is now estimated that more people died in wars during the 20th Century than in all the previous wars throughout all of recorded human history.

5 The Signs of Technology



Men will faint from fear over the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Luke 21:26)

The development of nuclear weapons seems to be foreshadowed by this prophecy in Luke 21 that speaks of people "fainting from fear" due to the "powers of the heavens being shaken." The incredible carnage of the Seal and Trumpet Judgments portrayed in chapters 6 and 8 in the book of Revelation indicates that the Antichrist will conquer the world through the use of nuclear weapons. We are told that one-third of the earth will be burned and that one-half of humanity will be killed. Further evidence that this is a nuclear holocaust is found in Revelation 16 where we are told that at the end of the Tribulation the survivors will be covered with sores that will not heal (Revelation 16:11).

As I pointed out earlier, there are many end time prophecies that simply cannot be understood apart from modern technological developments. Consider the prophecy in Revelation 11 about the two witnesses who will call the world to repentance during the first half of the Tribulation. When they are killed by the Antichrist, we are told that their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days, and the whole world will look upon them (Revelation 11:9). How could anyone understand such a prophecy before the development of satellite television in the 1960's?

Likewise, how could the Antichrist control all buying and selling worldwide (Revelation 13) without the aid of computer technology? How could the False Prophet create the illusion of giving life to a statue (Revelation 13) without the technology of holograms, virtual reality, and robotics? How could an army of 200 million come out of the Far East (Revelation 9) before the population explosion that was produced by modern medical technology? How could the Gospel be proclaimed to all the world (Matthew 24) before the invention of motion pictures, radio, television, and the Internet? The list goes on and on.

6 The Signs of Israel



And it shall come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. (Zechariah 12:3)

The signs that relate to Israel are the most important of all because the Jews are God’s prophetic time clock. What I mean by this is that the Scriptures will often tie a prophesied future event with something that will happen to the Jews. We are told to watch the Jews, and when the prophesied event concerning them occurs, we can be sure that the other prophesied event will also occur.

An example can be found in Luke 21:24 where Jesus prophesied that the Jews would be dispersed from Jerusalem and be led captive among the nations. But then He added that one day they would return to re-occupy Jerusalem, and when this happens, the end time events will occur that will lead to His return.

There are many prophecies concerning the Jews in the end times, many of which began to be fulfilled in the 20th Century, but there are four key ones. The first is their worldwide regathering in unbelief (Isaiah 11:11-12). In 1900 there were only 40,000 Jews in Palestine. By the end of World War II that number had risen to 800,000. Today, there are more than 5.7 million who have come from all over the world. Very soon there will be as many Jews in Israel as died in the Holocaust. The prophet Jeremiah says twice that when history is completed, the Jewish people will look back and conclude that their worldwide regathering was a greater miracle than their deliverance from Egyptian captivity (Jeremiah 16:14-15 and 23:7-8). We are truly living in momentous times!

The second key prophecy concerning the Jews is a natural consequence of their regathering. It is the re-establishment of their state which occurred on May 14, 1948 (Isaiah 66:7-8).

The third key prophecy is the re-occupation of Jerusalem which occurred on June 7, 1967 during the miraculous Six Day War (Zechariah 8:4-8).

The fourth key prophecy is the one whose fulfillment we are witnessing today — the re-focusing of world politics upon the nation of Israel (Zechariah 12:2-3). All the nations of the world, including the United States, are coming against Israel over the issue of the control of the nation’s capital — the city of Jerusalem. The Vatican wants the city put under its control. The United Nations wants it to be internationalized. The European Union is demanding it be divided between the Arabs and the Jews. The Arabs want all of it.

Summary

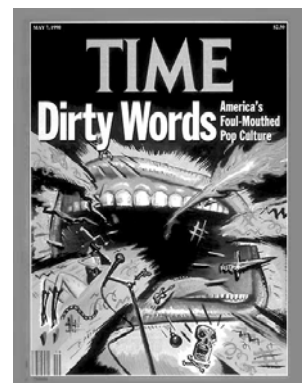
And so you have it — six different categories of signs, each category containing many prophecies concerning the end times, all of which are being fulfilled before our very eyes. Let me conclude by specifically listing 50 of those prophecies.

- 1) Increasing instability of nature. (Matthew 24:7 & Luke 21:11)
- 2) Increasing lawlessness and violence. (Matthew 24:12)
- 3) Increasing immorality. (Matthew 24:37)
- 4) Increasing materialism. (2 Timothy 3:2)



- 5) Increasing Hedonism. (2 Timothy 3:4)
- 6) Increasing influence of Humanism. (2 Timothy 3:2)
- 7) Depraved entertainment. (2 Timothy 3:4)
- 8) Calling evil good and good evil. (2 Timothy 3:3 & Isaiah 5:20)
- 9) Increasing use of drugs. (2 Timothy 3:3)

- 10) Increasing blasphemy. (2 Timothy 3:2)
- 11) Increasing paganism. (2 Timothy 3:1-4)
- 12) Increasing despair. (2 Timothy 3:1)



- 13) Signs in the heavens. (Luke 21:11, 25)
- 14) Increasing knowledge. (Daniel 12:4)
- 15) Increasing travel. (Daniel 12:4)

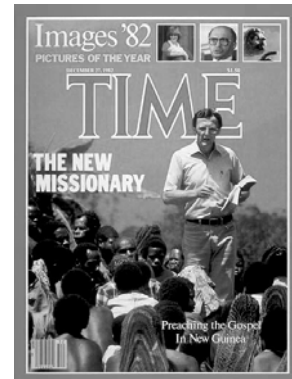
- 16) The explosion of cults. (Matthew 24:11)
- 17) The proliferation of false christs. (Matthew 24:5)
- 18) Increasing apostasy in the Church. (2 Timothy 4:3-5)
- 19) Increasing attacks on Jesus. (Romans 1:18-19)
- 20) Increasing attacks on the Bible. (Romans 1:18-19)



- 40) Re-focusing of world politics on Israel. (Zechariah 12:3)
- 41) Russian threat to Israel. (Ezekiel 38 and 39)
- 42) Arab threat to Israel. (Ezekiel 35 and 36)
- 43) Denial of the Second Coming. (2 Peter 3:3-4)
- 44) Denial of creation by God. (Romans 1:18-22)



- 21) Increasing persecution of Christians. (Matthew 24:9)
- 22) Increasing occultism. (1 Timothy 4:1)
- 23) Wars and rumors of wars. (Matthew 24:6)
- 24) Weapons of mass destruction. (Luke 21:26)
- 25) Increasing famine. (Luke 21:11)



- 45) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (Joel 2:28-29)
- 46) Translation of the Bible into many languages. (Matthew 24:14)
- 47) Preaching of the Gospel world-wide. (Matthew 24:14)
- 48) The revival of Messianic Judaism. (Romans 9:27)
- 49) The revival of Davidic praise worship. (Amos 9:11)

- 26) Increasing pestilence. (Luke 21:11)
- 27) Computer technology. (Revelation 13:7)
- 28) Television. (Revelation 11:8-9)
- 29) Satellite technology. (Revelation 11:8-9)
- 30) Virtual reality. (Revelation 13:14-15)



- 50) The understanding of Bible prophecy. (Daniel 12:8-9)

This list could be greatly expanded, but the 50 examples above should be sufficient to show that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

The Bible clearly teaches that God never pours out His wrath without warning for He is a just and loving God who does not wish that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). That's why He has provided so many signs to alert us to the fact that we are living on the threshold of the Tribulation.

The Message

The bottom line message of the signs is that we are living on borrowed time. And the crucial question for every human being is "Are you ready?" Are you ready for the return of Jesus? Will He come as your Blessed Hope or your Holy Terror?

It will be one or the other, for God is determined to deal with sin, and He does so with either grace or wrath (John 3:36). If you have put your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you are under God's grace. Your sins have been forgiven and forgotten, and you can look forward with confidence to that glorious day when Jesus will appear in the heavens.

But if you have never received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are under the wrath of God, and you have nothing to look forward to except the terror of His wrath.

The choice is yours. I personally cannot understand why anyone would turn their back on God's free gift of grace through faith in His Son. I have placed my faith in Jesus, and I therefore am able to look forward to His soon return with great anticipation and expectation. All that is within me cries out, "Maranatha! Come quickly Lord Jesus" (1 Corinthians 16:22). ✚



- 31) Unification of Europe. (Daniel 2 and 7)
- 32) Far Eastern military powers. (Revelation 9:16 & 16:12)
- 33) Movement toward world government. (Daniel 7:23-26)
- 34) Regathering of the Jews. (Isaiah 11:10-12)
- 35) Re-establishment of Israel. (Isaiah 66:7-8)

- 36) Reclamation of the land of Israel. (Ezekiel 36:34-35)
- 37) Revival of Biblical Hebrew. (Zephaniah 3:6)
- 38) Re-occupation of Jerusalem. (Luke 21:24)
- 39) Resurgence of the Israeli military. (Zechariah 12:6)



Sexual Perversion —

Last September nearly 400,000 people assembled in San Francisco to celebrate the Folsom Street Fair. This is an annual hedonistic orgy to promote “leather pride,” which is a euphemism for sado-masochism, often referred to as “S & M.” This is a type of sexual perversion whose practitioners enjoy bondage, whipping, spanking and torture as forms of sexual expression.

The promotional poster for the event, sponsored by Miller Brewing Co., featured a blasphemous mockery of Da Vinci’s painting of the Last Supper.



As you can see above, Jesus and His disciples were portrayed as half-naked homosexual sado-masochists. The bread and wine representing Jesus’ broken body and life-giving blood were replaced with sado-masochistic sex toys.

The city of San Francisco sanctioned the event and closed down several city blocks to accommodate it. They also provided police security. But the police were under orders to back-off from enforcing any of the city’s decency laws. The participants were therefore allowed to march down the streets scantily clad or fully nude. Many engaged in public sexual acts, including group orgies and masturbation.

Incredibly, no national media covered the event! They obviously felt it would be so repulsive to the general public that it would hurt the efforts to gain acceptance for homosexuals. Even more incredible was the fact that none of California’s political leaders were willing to condemn the activities.

Romans 1:24-27 says that one of the key manifestations of a society crying out for the wrath of God is “degrading passions” which produce a plague of homosexuality.

Dave Daubenmire of Pass the Salt Ministries in Ohio made the following observation in response to the Folsom Street Fair: “I’m not homo-phobic. I’m not homo-hateful. I’m not homo-latent. I’m homo-nauseous” (www.ptsalt.com).

Spiritual Confusion —

Last November, in an interview on an Arab television network, President Bush asserted for the second time that he believes that the god of Islam is the same as the God of Christianity. He had made the same observation before in November of 2003 when he said Muslims and Christians pray to the same God.

TIMES and Seasons

Erasing God —

The federal government’s National Park Service recently decided to censor the word, God, from a key display of America’s Christian heritage in Washington, D.C.

On the metal cap atop the Washington Monument there is an engraving that says, “Laus Deo,” which is Latin for “Praise be to God.” Since the inscription is not viewable atop the 555-foot stone column, the National Park Service long ago created a replica which is on display at the base of the monument.

The plaque next to the replica used to read as follows: “Apex of the Monument: The builders searched for an appropriate metal for the apex that would not tarnish and would act as a lightning rod. They chose one of the rarest metals of the time, aluminum. The casting was inscribed with the phrase, *Laus Deo*, (Praise be to God).”

The new plaque, recently installed, omits the last sentence above. Additionally the replica of the cap has been moved so close to a wall that the wording, “Laus Deo,” cannot be read. Previously it was positioned so that it could be easily seen.

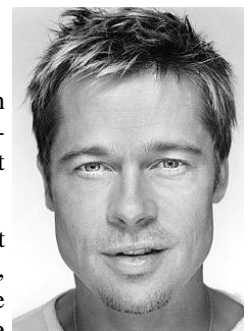
This was the third time in a period of only a few weeks that an agency of the federal government had banned the use of the word, God. First was the Architect of the Capitol building who decided to get rid of references to God in the certificates for flags that have flown over the capitol. That ruling was later rescinded. Next came the Veterans Administration which decided to censor religious references in the script used to describe each fold of the flag at military funerals.

Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God . . . Professing to be wise, they became fools. (Romans 1:21-22)

Hollywood Babel —

Brad Pitt, who was raised a Southern Baptist, says he decided to drop Christianity because “it seemed to be about ego.”

Brad told *Parade* magazine, “I didn’t understand this idea of a God who says, ‘You have to acknowledge me. You have to say that I’m the best, and then I’ll give you eternal happiness. If you won’t, then you don’t get it!’ That seemed to me to be all about ego.” Brad went on to explain that when he dropped Christianity, “it wasn’t a loss of faith for me, it was a discovery of self.”



Brad Pitt

Superbugs —

The 2007 annual report of the World Health Organization reported that infectious diseases are spreading faster than ever before. The report emphasized that with about 2.1 billion airline passengers flying each year, there is a high risk of another major epidemic such as AIDS, SARS, or Ebola fever.

The report asserted that new diseases are emerging at the “historically unprecedented” rate of one per year. Since the 1970’s a total of 39 new diseases have developed, and the last five years alone, the WHO has identified more than 1,100 epidemics, including cholera, polio, and bird flu.



Also, infectious diseases that were once thought to be “conquered” are making a comeback as “superbugs” because they have developed resistance to almost all antibiotics. The latest culprit is called MRSA, a staph bacteria that triggers infection so virulent they can turn deadly within days. It is estimated by some medical experts that deaths caused by these superbugs are now exceeding those caused by AIDS.

... and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines ... (Luke 21:11)

False Christs —



David Shayler

The CIA of Great Britain is called MI5, an abbreviation for Military Intelligence, Section 5. In 2000 an MI5 officer by the name of David Shayler was sent to prison for breaching the Official Secrets Act.

Mr. Shayler recently burst back onto the public scene in Britain by claiming “I am the Messiah, and I hold the secret of eternal life.” He explained that “a psychic channeled the spirit of Mary Magdalene and anointed me the Messiah.” He claims he can affect

the weather, prevent terrorist attacks, and influence the results of soccer games.

Many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ and will mislead many.” (Matthew 24:5)

TIMES and Seasons

Jesus Bashing —

At the Emmy Awards last Fall, a comedienne by the name of Kathy Griffin took advantage of her acceptance speech to lash out against Jesus. Griffin is the star of the Bravo TV program called “My Life on the D-List.” She was honored for

having the most outstanding reality program.

Griffin is a self-described “militant atheist.” When she received her reward, she exclaimed: “I guess hell just froze over. A lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this. He had nothing to do with this . . . Suck it, Jesus! This award is my god now!” Her statement was received by the Hollywood audience with laughter and applause.

What if she had said, “Abraham sucks,” or “Mohammed sucks”? It is clearly open season on Christians in Hollywood.



Kathy Griffin

In the last days difficult times will come. For people will be . . . revilers . . . unholy . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God . . . (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

Apostasy —



Pope Benedict XVI

In August of last year Pope Benedict issued a proclamation in which he affirmed the divine attributes of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Equating her with Jesus, he said, “Mother and Son appear closely bound in the fight against the infernal enemy until they completely defeat him. This victory is expressed in particular in overcoming sin and death. Therefore, just as Christ’s glorious Resurrection was the definitive sign of this victory, so Mary’s glorification in her virginal body is the ultimate confirmation of her total solidarity with the Son, both in the conflict and the victory.”

The Pope then restated the infallible dogma of Pope Pius XII from 1950 in which he referred to Mary as the “Mother of God, from all eternity . . .”

The Pope closed his statement with these words: “Attracted by the heavenly brightness of the Mother of the Redeemer, let us turn with trust to the One who looks upon us and protects us from on high. May the example and prayers of Mary, Queen of Heaven, inspire and sustain us on our pilgrimage of faith . . .”

The spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1)

Picture of the Year for 2007



The picture above shows President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran shaking hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The picture was taken October 16, 2007 in Tehran, Iran.

TIMES and Seasons

This was the first governmental visit to Iran by a Russian head of state in the history of relations between the two countries.

The joint declaration produced by the meeting affirmed the friendship of the two countries and their determination to work together with regard to the development of nuclear power, arms exchanges, and a solution to the problems in Afghanistan and Palestine.

Keep in mind that President Ahmadinejad of Iran has promised to develop a nuclear bomb and to use it to annihilate the state of Israel. Also keep in mind that Ezekiel 38 prophesies that Russia will form an alliance of nations in the end times that will include Persia (Iran), and that alliance will invade Israel.

When you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. (Matthew 24:33)

Hotels Replace Gideon Bibles With “Intimacy Kits”

The latest fad with some hotels is to replace their Bibles with sex kits. For instance, at New York City’s trendy Soho Grand Hotel guests can enjoy a gourmet mini-bar, an iPod, a flat screen TV, an intimacy kit, and even the company of a complimentary pet goldfish. But no Bible.

The parent company, Accor Hotels, decided that providing travelers with sexual paraphernalia is more important than the Bible. The Accor Hotel Company owns several chains including: Motel 6, Sofitel, Pullman, Novotel, Mercure, Suitehotel, Ibis, All Seasons, Etap, and Formule 1. While most of these chains are located mainly in Europe, Accor is expanding into many U. S. markets.

Since 2001 the number of luxury hotels with Bibles in the rooms has dropped by 18 percent.



The logo of the Gideons is a pot with a flaming fire.

The Gideons International has been placing Bibles in hotel rooms since 1908. The idea for the organization was hatched in 1898 by two traveling salesmen who were forced to share a room in a crowded hotel in Boscobel, Wisconsin. They prayed and read the Bible together before settling down for the night. The next morning they talked about starting a Christian traveling men’s association but parted ways without any definite plans. A chance meeting the following May rekindled

the idea, and on July 1, 1899, the two salesmen, joined by a third, founded the Gideons.

The name comes from the Old Testament book of Judges, and refers to a man who was willing to do whatever God asked of him. The logo is based on the story of how Gideon used a

volunteer army to defeat the foes of Israel. He attacked the enemy in the dead of night, catching them off-guard and confusing them with the blowing of trumpets and the breaking of pots filled with flames.

Today, the Boscobel Hotel, where the two founders met, is listed on the National Historical Register, and Room 19, where the idea of the Gideons was conceived, is marked with a special plaque.

The Gideon organization is made up of laymen and consists of more than 250,000 members in 180 countries. According to its website (www.gideons.org), the Gideons distribute more than 63 million Bibles and New Testaments every year. This averages out to be one million copies of the Word of God placed every six days, or 120 per minute!

A 1997 Fodor’s survey of American travelers found that 23 percent of those surveyed said that they had read from a Gideon Bible in their hotel rooms.

Evangelical churches of many denominations financially support the Gideons’ work of distributing Bibles, not only to hotels and motels, but also to hospitals and doctors’ offices, nursing homes, jails and prisons, elementary and high schools, colleges and universities, and military bases.

If you would like to help this organization with its distribution of Bibles, you can donate through their website (www.gideons.org) or you can send a donation to their headquarters at P. O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214-0800. ✚



The Seeker-Sensitive Movement —

Several years ago Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church in Chicago, the flag-ship church of the seeker-sensitive approach, commissioned an in-depth study of the effectiveness of their philosophy of ministry.

The results were published in a book titled, *Reveal: Where Are You?*, co-authored by Cally Parkinson and Greg Hawkins, executive pastor of Willow Creek. Hybels called the findings “earth shaking,” “ground breaking,” and “mind blowing.”

Getting to the heart of the seeker-sensitive philosophy, Hybels said the data revealed that they had wasted millions of dollars on programs that did not help people to grow spiritually.

We made a mistake. What we should have done when people crossed the line of faith and became Christians [is teach them] to take responsibility to become “self feeders.” We should have . . . taught people how to read their Bible between services, how to do the spiritual practices much more aggressively on their own.

U.S. Like the Roman Empire —

The United States Senate Chaplain, Barry Black, recently observed that “the United States, like past great civilizations such as the Roman Empire, could collapse due to a decline in family values, a decline in religion, and a preoccupation with pleasure and overspending on militarism.” He added, “God has to be the foundation for social progress and justice.” (Barry Black is the first chaplain of the U.S. Senate to be an African-American, a Seventh Day Adventist, and a former military chaplain. He retired from the Navy in 2003 as a Rear Admiral and as Chief of Navy Chaplains.)



Chaplain Barry Black

Islam vs Judaism —

In 2007 Islam and Judaism’s holiest holidays overlapped for ten days. During that time:

- Muslims racked up 397 dead bodies in 94 terror attacks in ten countries.
- Jews obtained their 159th Nobel Prize winner.

Pontius’ Puddle



Food for Thought

Quick Quotes —

“No one is useless. They can always serve as a bad example.” — Ruth Graham

“Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not.” — Thomas Jefferson

“Going to church no more makes you a Christian than walking into a garage makes you a car.” — Dr. Ron Carlson

“Appeasers feed the crocodile, hoping he will eat them last.” — Winston Churchill

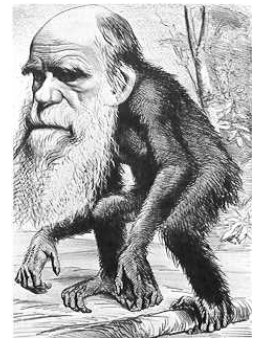
“Help me to learn, Father, that what temptation offers it takes back exponentially.” — Wayne Stiles

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” — Corrie ten Boom

“No society can rise above its religion, and no religion can rise above its concept of God.” — A. W. Tozer

The Logic of Evolution —

“If an infinite number of rednecks riding in an infinite number of pickup trucks fire an infinite number of shotgun rounds at an infinite number of highway signs, they will eventually produce all the world’s great literary works in Braille.” — Author unknown



Most Popular Bible Verses —

At www.TopVerses.com you will find a listing of the most popular Bible verses. The list is based on a survey of 37 million Bible references in articles posted on the Internet. Eighty-seven of the top 100 verses are from the New Testament, making it clear that religious writers simply do not quote the Old Testament very often.



The book of John proved to be the most popular Gospel, but overall it ranked sixth in the number of quotations. Placing first was the book of Ephesians, with James coming in second. The book of Malachi was the most frequently quoted book of the Old Testament, but even so, it came out with an overall ranking of 19th.

The most frequently cited verse, with over twice the number of references as the second place verse, was the best known verse in the Bible, John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

Coming in second was John 1:1 — “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Taking third place was John 14:6 — “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” ✚

The Fatal Flaw of Preterism

Tony Pearce

(Editor's note: *Preterism is the prophetic viewpoint that most, if not all, end time prophecies were fulfilled in the First Century when God poured out His wrath on the Jewish people, resulting in the destruction of their Temple in 70 AD and their dispersion worldwide. The viewpoint is based on a spiritualization of Scripture. It is also based on the assumption that the book of Revelation was written before 70 AD. This latter assumption is a fatal flaw, as Tony Pearce proves in this article.*)

When people write about the dating of the books of the New Testament they often reveal much about their theological position in relation to those books. Liberal theologians and sceptics like to put the date of the authorship of the Gospels long after the event in order to cast doubt on their authenticity.

If we take the testimony of the New Testament writers at their word it is clear that almost all of what we now have as the New Testament had to be written before 70AD, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Central to dating the New Testament is the Book of Acts. It is reasonable to conclude that the events described in the last chapters of Acts must have taken place before 62AD. The view of the Roman Empire given in these chapters fits in well with what we know of the relatively benign rule of Nero in his early years when he was under the influence of the philosopher Seneca (Nero reigned from 54-68AD).

By 59AD Seneca's influence over Nero decreased and in 62AD Seneca retired altogether to devote his time to writing. Nero became increasingly tyrannical as Seneca withdrew from public life. We know from the writings of Josephus that the governor Festus mentioned in Acts 25 succeeded Felix in 59AD and died in 62AD. Acts does not record the death of Paul which, according to tradition, took place between 64-67AD. It would seem highly unlikely that Acts could have been written after the death of Paul, since Luke would almost certainly have recorded that event.

Luke tells us at the beginning of Acts that his Gospel was written before Acts. At the beginning of Luke he tells us that other Gospels were written before his. At least this must include Mark and probably Matthew. Paul's letters, of course, must have been written before he died! So must Peter's (martyred around 64-68AD) and James' (martyred in 62AD). Even if Hebrews was not written by Paul it must have been written before the destruction of the Temple or it would have made no sense. By this process we have covered most of the New Testament apart from John's writings. Since John lived until the end of the First Century, his writings could be later than 70AD . . .

For this reason we should place the dating of the bulk of the New Testament before 70AD, the destruction of the Second Temple. When it comes to the Book of Revelation, however, a late date is much more plausible. The issue of the dating of Revelation has a bearing on one's interpretation of it. For those who take a Premillennial view of Scripture, the prophetic events of Revelation are to happen in the future. Conflicting with this approach is the Preterist view that the events of Revelation and



Tony Pearce worked for a number of years as a school teacher, teaching French and German and English, mainly in schools in the London area. He now runs The Bridge, a Christian fellowship in Golders Green, London and writes and edits a magazine called *Light for the Last Days*. He is also the author of three books about Bible prophecy. His website can be found at www.lightforthe lastdays.co.uk.

of the Olivet Discourse were fulfilled in the destruction of the Temple in 70AD. Obviously if Revelation was written after this event it has no value as a prophecy of it.

The Preterist view is favored by liberal and Catholic theologians who like to view Revelation as a coded message about the struggle of the early Church with the Roman Empire, particularly during the times of the persecutions of Nero. It is claimed that the 666 of Revelation 13 is a reference to Nero. The way of arriving at this conclusion is somewhat complicated. It involves taking a relatively uncommon form of Nero's name, Nero Caesar, and adding an "n," resulting in Neron Caesar. Next the Latin is transliterated into Aramaic, resulting in NRWN QSR which, when using the numeric equivalent of the letters, then adds up to 666 as follows:

Nun	=	50
Resh	=	200
Waw	=	6
Nun	=	50
Qoph	=	100
Samech	=	60
Resh	=	200



Emperor Nero

There is a problem though with the above calculation. According to the rules of Jewish numerology, known as *gematria*, when the letter Nun appears a second time in a word, it is known as a Final, and takes the value of 700.¹ So to be precise, NRWN QSR actually adds up to 1316 and not 666.

Dating Revelation

The evidence points to a late date for Revelation, during the persecutions of the Emperor Domitian around 95-96AD. The text and the testimony of the early Church support this view. We will now examine the evidence for this.



Irenaeus

The early church father Irenaeus (120-202 AD) wrote around 180 AD: “We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision [i.e. the Apostle John]. For that was seen not very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian’s reign.”²

Irenaeus was from Asia Minor (modern Turkey) which is also the region of Ephesus where John ministered at the end of his life. He was taught by Polycarp who was himself taught by John, so he represents a direct line of communication with John. This gives weight to his testimony that Revelation was written during Domitian’s reign.

The great church historian, Eusebius (265-339AD), affirms Irenaeus’ dating of Revelation and also declares that John’s banishment to the Isle of Patmos occurred during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, commenting:

“If Revelation was written even one day after the fall of Jerusalem [in 70 AD], then it ceases to be a prophecy concerning the destruction of Jerusalem.” — Tommy Ice

But after Domitian had reigned fifteen years, and Nerva had succeeded to the empire, the Roman Senate, according to the writers that record the history of those days, voted that Domitian’s honors should be cancelled, and that those who had been unjustly banished should return to their homes and have their property restored to them. It was at this time that the apostle John returned from his banishment in the island and took up his abode at Ephesus, according to an ancient Christian tradition.³

The evidence of Revelation fits perfectly with the persecutions under Domitian, but not at all with the conditions under Nero. Nero’s persecutions occurred between 64AD (the date of the fire of Rome) and his death in 68AD. They were local in character and largely confined to the area around Rome itself. There is no evidence that they spread as far as Asia Minor. Nero slaughtered Christians as a scapegoat for his own crimes not because of any refusal to worship Caesar as Lord which was not an issue in his time.

Domitian’s persecutions were much more widespread and did reach Asia Minor. The issue at the time of Domitian was the oath that Roman citizens were compelled to make declaring Caesar is Lord (Kurios Caesar). Christians could not make this oath as they believed that Jesus is Lord. Domitian favored banishment rather than execution and those who were banished were eventually recalled. If John had suffered under Nero’s persecutions in Rome he would have been killed like Peter and Paul, not banished.

The Letters to the Seven Churches

Another factor pointing to a late date for Revelation is the condition of the seven churches to which Jesus addressed letters in chapters 2 and 3. If Revelation was written before 70AD, its

message to the church at Ephesus would have overlapped Paul’s messages to Ephesus, particularly the letter to Timothy, whom Paul appointed as bishop of the Ephesian church. Paul warned the Ephesians of the dangers of “grievous wolves” coming in to devour the flock (Acts 20:28-30) and appointed Timothy to oversee the Ephesian church (1 Timothy 1:3). In his admonitions to Timothy and in his letter to the Ephesians there is no hint of the problem which is highlighted in the Lord’s letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7 — specifically, the loss of their “first love.”

Paul’s messages warn of deception coming in and the need to stand firm against the wiles of the Devil and to abide in the doctrine delivered by the Apostle. In contrast, Revelation 2:1-7 rebukes the Ephesians for coldness towards the Lord as a result of doctrinal orthodoxy devoid of love. It is hard to believe that the two situations could be contemporary as must be the case if Revelation were written before 70AD. On the other hand, it is very easy to believe this could be the case if Revelation were written a generation later.

According to Polycarp (ca. 69 to 155 AD) the church at Smyrna was not founded until after the death of Paul, so it could not have been born any earlier than around 64-67AD. There is no way that it could have reached the stage of being a representative church for the letters to the seven churches if Revelation were written before

70AD.

History records that Laodicea was devastated by an earthquake in 60AD. It took them 25 years to rebuild. During the period 60-70AD the church in Laodicea could not have been described as rich and in need of nothing (Revelation 3:17). By 96AD, however, it had recovered its trade and wealth which the Lord mentions in his letter to them (Revelation 3:17).

All of this points to a late date for the writing of Revelation and therefore a future fulfilment of its prophecies. The events of 70AD were long past by the time John penned the glorious words of Revelation for our edification, and therefore they have nothing to do with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans. They apply instead to the Great Tribulation that is yet future. ✚

Notes:

- 1) Peter’s Gematria Site, “Hebrew Gematria,” www.masoncode.com/Hebrew%20gematria.htm, accessed November 17, 2007.
- 2) Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, Book V, chapter XXX, section 3, www.columbia.edu/cu/augustine/arch/irenaeus/advhaer5.txt, accessed November 17, 2007.
- 3) Eusebius, *The Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius Pamphilus*, chapter XX, sections 10-11, www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf201.doc, accessed November 17, 2007.

For an excellent article about the dating of Revelation, see *The End Times Controversy* by TimLaHaye and Thomas Ice, editors. Specifically, consult the chapter by Mark Hitchcock entitled “The Stake in the Heart — The AD 95 Date of Revelation” (Harvest House Publishers, 2003), pages 123-150.

Lamb & Lion's Web Ministry: Planning Beyond the Rapture

Nathan E. Jones, Web Minister

In the time it takes to blink, millions of people all at once will disappear. Mothers and fathers and children and uncles and aunts and grandparents and friends — all gone! The remaining people, after a moment's stunned shock, will erupt into mass panic. Like no other time in history, save when everybody asked, "What's up with all the rain?" will people all at once be asking the same question — "Where did all the people go?" And when they ask, scrambling to their computers searching for an answer, Lamb & Lion's website (www.lamblion.com) will have it: the Savior Jesus has called His own to Him in an event called the Rapture.

Did you know that of the 6,631,964,781 people alive in the world today,¹ an estimated 1.46 billion of them use the Internet?² That's 22% of the world population going online since it grew popular a mere 15 years ago. Along with the 2 billion cell phone users worldwide gaining access to the Internet within 5 years, we could see 30% of the world accessing the Internet.³ How large will those numbers continue to grow in another mere 15 years, or even by the time of the Rapture?



At Lamb & Lion we are serious about proclaiming the soon return of Jesus, not just the Rapture of the Church, but also Christ's Second Coming as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is estimated that billions will repent and turn to Jesus in those dark days of the Tribulation, and we must be ready to have the answers they are seeking that will lead them to Christ's salvation. And, since we are commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to "go and make disciples of all nations," we need to go where the people are. Increasingly, they are on the Internet.

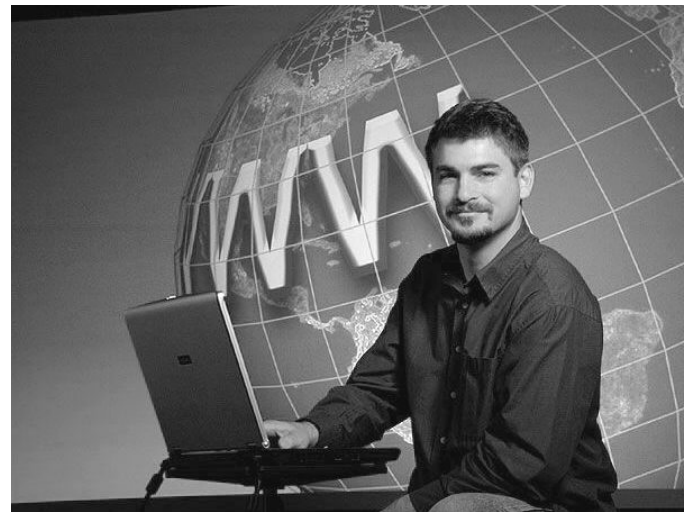
Our Internet Vision

It is our goal to make the proclamation of the soon return of Jesus available to every person using the Internet during the Church Age and the Great Tribulation.

Our methods for achieving the vision will be to 1) develop a website that is an extensive source for prophetic information, 2) grow a social community that is the hub of prophetic communication, 3) re-purpose our prophetic content into secular site venues, and 4) replicate prophetic web ministers who will proliferate the message of Jesus Christ.

The steps involved in realizing our methodology will be to modernize the current website, add dynamic communication pieces, push content into external forums, and equip volunteers.

Over the next year you will be seeing many changes to our website at lamblion.com. We have started by building the technological infrastructure needed to sustain the website long-term. Next, we will streamline the navigation of the site and modernize its design in an attempt to make it easier to find information. Also, we want to provide an environment where visitors can im-



Nathan E. Jones, Web Minister

mediately feel "at home."

We will continue to add to the great non-interactive content such as articles and TV shows. Additionally, community-building content like blogs, message boards, polls, surveys and e-learning will be added to foster interactivity. We also plan to add video and podcasts to supplement various topics.

In order for you to be better equipped, a more user-friendly online store will be established to provide you with a wealth of study and teaching resources.

Finally, we will go beyond the "walls" of the website, sharing content in popular online media venues where the world interacts, reaching out via e-newsletters and forums. We are building our site to be truly interactive so that personalized communication will go forth to people all over the planet as we share with them the message of Jesus Christ.

Our Prophecy Partners in particular can be excited about these changes because they will have a section of the website dedicated to them. Through that portal they will be able to access special content and resource discounts.

Building a Left Behind Legacy

A lot of hard work is ahead of Lamb & Lion in preaching Christ to people in this age and after the Rapture, but creating a legacy for those left behind has far-reaching consequences. One of your loved ones could be one of those desperate people during the Tribulation who find our website and ask, "Where did all the people go?"

If you have ideas for improving the website, please contact me at webminister@lamblion.com. It would be a blessing to hear from you. ✚

Notes:

- 1) U. S. Census Bureau, "World PopClock Projection," www.census.gov/ipc/www/popclockworld.html, accessed on November 18, 2007.
- 2) Computer Industry Almanac, 2007, www.c-i-a.com.
- 3) Morgan Stanley Communications Equipment Research, 2005, www.morganstanley.com.

We Need Your Support As A Prophecy Partner!

God works through our Prophecy Partners to supply the financial foundation of this ministry. These are the people who pledge to provide \$20 a month or more for one year.

We currently have slightly more than 2,000 Prophecy Partners. We need to increase that number to over 2,300 this year 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 program or special publication, together with a personal report from Dave Reagan highlighting major events and decisions affecting the ministry.

The audio or video program usually covers some special study topic or current event topic related to Bible prophecy. From time to time a special gift, like a booklet or bumper sticker or 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 audio and video programs which we distribute free of charge to missions and needy persons in foreign countries.

To become a Prophecy Partner, either send us a letter with your first donation, or call **1-800-705-8316** and make your first donation by credit card. Thanks! ✚



Dr. Reagan is shown above with Chuck & Bridgett Riddle at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. They are Prophecy Partners from Locust, North Carolina.

Israel Pilgrimages Scheduled for 2008

This new year of 2008 is going to be a busy one in Israel for Lamb & Lion Ministries. Dr. Reagan is scheduled to take a video crew to the Holy Land in mid-March to shoot new television programs. In addition to five staff members, the crew will consist of seven volunteers. We would appreciate your prayers for the success of this important video shoot.

In early June Dr. Reagan will be returning to Israel with a pilgrimage group of 50. This group is already full. This is our basic



Video shooting at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem in 2003.

introductory tour to the land.

In early July (5 - 16) one of the Ministry's senior staff members, George Collich, is going to lead a second pilgrimage. George has been to Israel eight times and has been personally trained by Dr. Reagan to be a tour leader. For detailed information about this tour, call our office at 1-800-705-8316.



George Collich with audio equipment at the entrance to the Garden Tomb.

Dr. Reagan is scheduled to return to Israel for a third time in November to lead an advanced tour designed for people who have already taken the basic tour. Dr. Reagan is calling this trip "Focus on Jerusalem," because the group will spend its entire time in Jerusalem and will focus on visiting sites in the Jerusalem area that are not normally visited during a basic introductory tour. In addition to the planned activities the participants will be given two free days to explore Jerusalem on their own. If you are interested in this tour, and have been to Israel before, give us a call, and we will send you detailed information as soon as it is available. ✚

New Challenges

The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that all television broadcasting in the United States be done in widescreen (16 x 9), beginning in February 2009. To prepare for this major change, we desire to purchase all new video equipment as soon as possible so that we can start producing programs in the widescreen format. Traditionally formatted programs (4 x 3) can still be broadcast after February 2009, but they will be aired with black boxes on each side of the picture.

This means we must immediately purchase three new studio cameras and one new field camera, together with new recording equipment. The estimated cost for all this equipment is \$100,000. We have about half of that on hand as we begin the new year.

We also need to completely revamp our television studio. We have been using the same sets for five years. An outstanding set design company has come up with a new concept for us that will provide us with a fresh new look and maximum flexibility. We need to raise \$40,000 for this project.

Our third critical need, and one we need to meet as soon as possible, is \$20,000 for the video shoot in Israel that we have planned for mid-March of this year. We hope to get sufficient footage for at least five to eight new television programs. These are programs that will be aired many times. And several of them will be edited together to provide special video albums.

If you feel led of the Lord to help us meet these needs, please designate your donation for either "Equipment," "Video Set," or "Israel Shoot." Thank you!

Keep in mind that through the four networks we are broadcasting on, we now have access to over 70 million homes in the United States, and through DayStar's satellite system, we have access to every nation in the world. We also post our TV programs on our website (www.lamblion.com) where they can be viewed online by people all over the world.



The SkyAngel Satellite System has been a very special blessing to us. They make our weekly telecast available to their subscribers by airing the programming of the FaithTV Network. Additionally, they broadcast our video programs free of charge on a regular basis. These are aired as network specials.

The Sky Angel television system is a unique direct-to-home television service that can be received virtually anywhere in the continental United States. For a small monthly fee, SkyAngel will deliver to your home over 30 television and radio channels with programs that will edify, entertain and encourage your entire family.

To subscribe to this excellent source of Christian programming, access their website at www.skyangel.com or call 1-800-SKY-ANGEL. And when you contact them, be sure to thank them for airing our television specials. ✚

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

DayStar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369			DISH Channel 263	
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network				
Available on cable networks				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Tues. 5:30pm	Tues. 6:30pm	Tues. 7:30pm	Tues. 8:30pm
	Wed. 8:00am	Wed. 9:00am	Wed. 10:00am	Wed. 11:00am

FaithTV Network				
SkyAngel Channel 9708				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day & Time	Sun. 10:00am	Sun. 11:00am	Sun. 12:00pm	Sun. 1:00pm



"Christ in Prophecy" is also broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network**: Sunday at 6:30pm; Monday at 8:30am; and Wednesday at 7:00pm. FamilyVision TV can be seen on 11 cable systems throughout South Louisiana, reaching approximately 200,000 homes via cable and its three low-power television stations in Lafayette (KAJN Channel 40), Lake Charles (KFAM Channel 58), and Crowley (KAGN Channel 65). See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



Video shooting at the Sea of Galilee in Israel in 2004.

Televangelism and Financial Integrity

Dr. David R. Reagan

Televangelists, of which I am one, have a bad reputation, and justifiably so. They are known for their lavish lifestyles and for haranguing people for money.

But I would like to point out that — as is the case with all professions — the bad rap is due to a handful of very high profiles. Most ministries engaged in media outreach are very responsible.



Senator Chuck Grassley

Senator Chuck Grassley (Republican from Iowa) recently focused the public spotlight on televangelists by sending letters to six of the largest and best-known television ministries requesting copies of their financial records. He said he did so in response to public complaints regarding their mis-management of their financial resources. Grassley is the top-ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee.

I personally do not know if any of the ministries Senator Grassley is probing have done anything wrong. I do know that a number of television ministries operate with little or no financial oversight, and I believe this is a very serious problem.

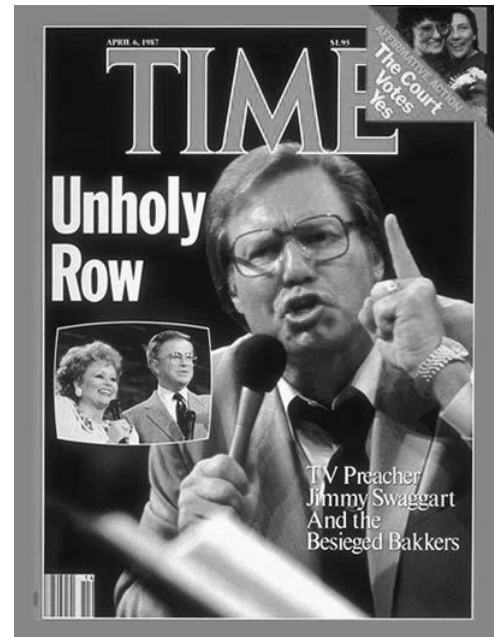
Ministries like Lamb & Lion are required by the Federal Government to submit a detailed yearly report to the IRS regarding their income and expenditures. This report is called a 990 — “Return of an Organization Exempt from Income Tax.” This report is available to the general public.

Churches are not required to submit a 990 report, so some of the largest television ministries get around the reporting requirement by declaring themselves to be churches! Some are a legitimate extension of a church, but others are not.

This exemption leaves the ministries to police themselves. Theoretically this is supposed to be done by their boards of trustees, but the reality is that many of the boards exist in name only and have no control over the ministry they are supposed to be in charge of.

This was, for example, the situation with Jimmy Swaggart’s ministry before his fall in 1988. One year before his ministry fell apart, *Time* magazine interviewed him in detail. During that interview, they asked him if his ministry had a board. He answered yes. He was then asked to identify the members. He said the board consisted of himself, his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law, and his best friend.

This obviously was a board-in-name-only, and the *Time* interviewer recognized it as such. He asked, “Has your board ever refused to approve any of your proposals?” Mr. Swaggart said, “No.” Then, the interviewer asked what he would do if his board ever told him, “No.” Swaggart’s response was, “I would fire them!”



Time magazine, April 6, 1987.

I was shocked by this response, and I wrote to Jimmy Swaggart and told him so. I argued that all of us involved in ministry need to be under authority, and I urged him to create a true board of trustees for his ministry. I never received a response.

Organizations like the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) impose strict financial standards, both for fund-raising and for expenditures. The problem, again, is that many of the high-profile television ministries are not members of either of these accountability organizations.

In addition to financial accountability, the ECFA requires that each of its members have a board of trustees that is actually in control of the ministry. The board is required to meet at least twice annually, and no one on the board can be a blood relative of the Evangelist who heads up the ministry. Member ministries are also required to be open about their finances, willing to share financial statements with anyone who requests a copy. Members are also required to submit their finances to an annual audit.

Lamb & Lion Ministries is a member in good standing with both the ECFA and the NRB. We produce a monthly financial statement that is available on request. We are willing to reveal every financial aspect of the ministry, including our salaries. My conviction is that if we are going to exist on donations, then we should be willing to share all our financial information with our donors.

Irresponsible ministries are kept alive by irresponsible donors. Each of us, when acting as donors, should check out the ministries we are considering helping. Is the ministry a member of a financial accountability organization? If not, is the ministry willing to share its financial statements with potential donors? Another way of checking on a ministry is to consult Charity Navigator, America’s premier independent charity evaluator. You can find this organization on the Internet at www.charitynavigator.org. ❖

Ministry News



Speaking Schedule —

Dr. Reagan's out-of-town speaking schedule for 2008 is full, due to the fact that he is limited to one such engagement per month. However, Dr. Reagan is open to receiving invitations to speak within the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. In **January** Dr. Reagan will be speaking at a prophecy conference at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, California (11-13). In **February** he will be at Second Baptist Church in Griffin, Georgia (10). Dr. Reagan's **March** appointment will begin February 28 and proceed through March 1 as he speaks at the "God's News Behind the News" prophecy conference at Gateway Christian Center in St. Petersburg, Florida. In **April** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak several times at the annual prophecy conference sponsored by Thy Kingdom Come Ministries. This conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma (2-5).

Our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, is available to accept preaching invitations. You can contact him by calling 972-736-3567 or by emailing him at njones@lamblion.com.

Website —

Please check our website on a regular basis (www.lamblion.com). We are in the process of implementing many changes to make it more useful and interactive. (See our Web Minister's article on page 15.)

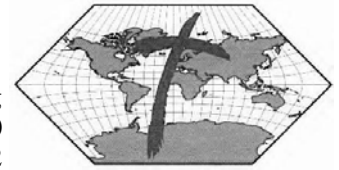
Renewal Notice —

This may be your last issue of this magazine unless we hear from you. Each year we delete from our mailing list all persons we have not heard from in two years. If this applies to you, you will find a red notice printed on the back side of this page, right above your address. To keep receiving the magazine, all you have to do is call us at 972-736-3567. There is no subscription fee. The magazine is free of charge. It costs us about \$25 per year to print and mail the magazine to each person on our mailing list. So, a donation would be appreciated, but it is not required. If you would prefer to receive the magazine electronically via email, go to our website at www.lamblion.com and click on the icon on the home page that says, "E-Newsletter and Magazine."

Pontius' Puddle



Missions



We currently are sending monthly support to a total of 20 ministries — 8 domestic and 12 foreign. They are as follows:

Domestic Missions:

- According to Prophecy in San Diego (Don Perkins)
- Acts 29 Ministries in Florida (Jack & Sally Hollingsworth)
- Crown & Sickle in Amite, Louisiana (Don McGee)
- David's House in Ozona, Florida (Randall Bane)
- Lion of Judah in Franklin, Tennessee (Gary Fisher)
- Maranatha Ministries in Longville, Louisiana (Al Gist)
- Mercy Ships in Lindale, Texas (Becky Bynum)
- Spirit of Grace in McKinney, Texas (Dennis Pollock)

Foreign Missions:

- Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem
- Evangelist Brett Howard in Austria
- Evangelist Edmund Martinez in the Philippines
- Evangelist John Ishmael in India
- Evangelist Kenneth Humphries in Northern Ireland
- Evangelist Paul Liu in Mainland China
- Evangelist Abraham Louw in South Africa
- Pastor Marco Samaniego in Juarez, Mexico
- Pastor Nazir Gill in Pakistan
- Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines
- Rabbi Avi Mizrachi in Tel Aviv, Israel
- Rabbi Kazik Barczuk in Warsaw, Poland

Three of the ministries listed above have special needs.

Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines needs to raise a total of \$40,000 to complete the construction of a new building for his church. The picture below shows a few of the members of his congregation on the day they started the construction of their new facility.



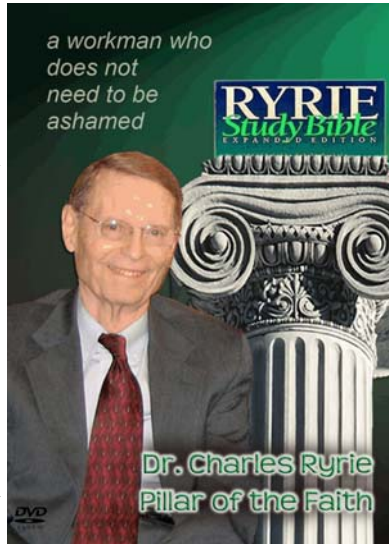
John Ismael in India needs \$25,000 in funding to support his affiliated pastors and to complete a number of publishing projects.

Abraham Louw in South Africa has completed his new church building and is ready for Dennis Pollock to come over and hold a pastor's conference and an evangelistic crusade. We need \$10,000 for this project. ✚

New Video Resources

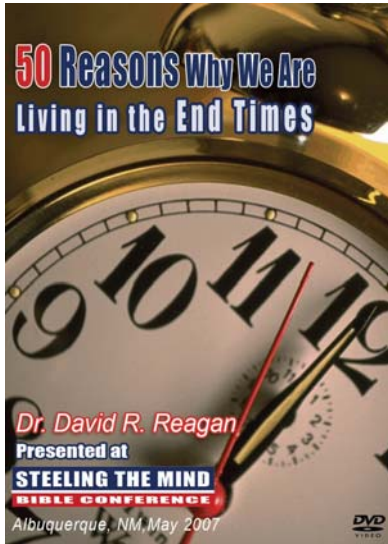
Charles Ryrie: Pillar of the Faith

A 50 minute interview with the renowned author of the Ryrie Study Bible during which he shares marvelous insights concerning biblical interpretation and the meaning of Bible prophecy. A rare opportunity to experience a living legend. \$12.



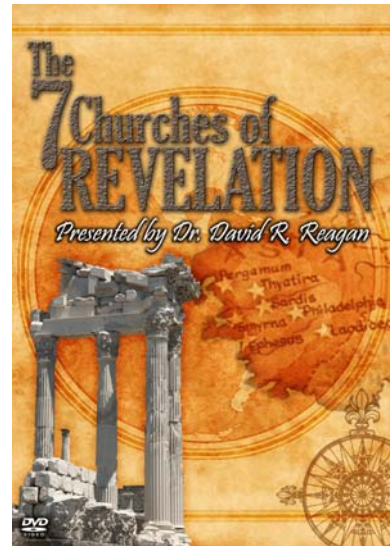
Psalm 2: The King is Coming!

A 60 minute presentation by Dr. Reagan of his most frequently preached sermon. A passionate, verse-by-verse exposition of one of the greatest Bible passages concerning the Second Coming of Jesus. You will be shouting, "Maranatha!" at the end. \$12.



50 Reasons why we are living in the end times

A 50 minute video recording of Dr. Reagan presenting the message that is featured in this issue of the *Lamplighter*. Recorded at a Stealing the Mind Conference held in Vail, Colorado. Profusely illustrated from beginning to end. \$12.



The 7 Churches of Revelation

The album consists of two DVDs which contain a total of 5 video programs, each running 25 minutes in length. Also contains a teachers manual, student study guides, and slide show of photos of the island of Patmos and the seven churches of Revelation. Dr. Reagan is

assisted throughout by fellow prophecy teachers, Don McGee and Dennis Pollock. \$25.

To order any of the video albums featured above, call **1-800-705-8316** between 8am and 5pm (Central time), Monday through Friday. When you call, request a copy of our free catalogue of Bible prophecy resources.



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