

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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"Mystery Babylon"
New York, Rome, or Babylon?



Observations by the Editor

Scripture Sleuthing

I love Bible study, and one of the forms of Bible study I enjoy the most is what I call "Scripture sleuthing."

This is when I search the Scriptures diligently and in-depth to try to locate every verse related to a particular topic or question, usually one that is very controversial, like, "Will people who have heard the Gospel before the Rapture still be able to respond to the Gospel after the Rapture?"

The lead article this month about the identification of the "Mystery Babylon" referred to in Revelation 17:5 is an example of Scripture sleuthing. When you read it, you will see what I mean. You may not agree with my conclusion, but that's okay, as long as your conclusion is also based on the Scriptures.

The fact of the matter is that it is not possible to find definitive answers in the Bible to all the questions we have. And often the verses we may be able to find about a particular topic can be interpreted in different ways.

1 Corinthians 13:12 says, "For now we see in a mirror dimly. But then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully . . ." What is this verse talking about? I think it is referring to when we will be standing face to face with Jesus Christ. But then, others may interpret it differently.

One thing is certain. When I do stand face to face with Jesus, I have a long list of Bible questions already prepared that I hope He will provide answers to. For example, "Who are the mysterious people living in the flesh who are pictured as dwelling on the new earth outside the new Jerusalem in the eternal state?" (Revelation 21:24-27 and 22:2).

I also have a lot of questions for the Apostle Paul. Even the Apostle Peter was mystified by some of Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:16)!

God's plan of salvation — grace through faith in His Son Jesus — is clearly spelled out in the Bible. But for understanding beyond that, there are two essentials. One is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, a gift each person receives at the moment of salvation. The second essen-



Dr. David R. Reagan

tial is what a former colleague of mine, Dennis Pollock, always called "the dirty five-letter word." It is **STUDY**.

I once had a person ask me, "Why didn't God just give us a clear and precise list of all future prophecies in their proper order? And, in like manner, why didn't He provide us with a 1, 2, 3 type list of how a church is to be organized and governed and how we are to conduct a worship service?"

The best answer to this question I have ever run across is one that I pasted in the front of my Bible many years ago. It was penned by Jimmy Swaggart:

Strange as it may seem, I believe the latitude within Scripture is a circumstance deliberately set up by God to allow us more scope with which to work out the precise direction our lives are to take *within* God's plan. Certainly the Father could have, in His perfection, foreseen the controversy arising from the sometimes less than explicit language of the Bible. He *could* have written a cold, lifeless manual precisely spelling out every conceivable theological question, along with specific explanation on any particular subject. But He didn't do this. He left us room to grow, develop, and *learn* through our need to search the Scripture.

In short, as we spend time in God's Word seeking to better understand it, we are drawn into an ever deeper relationship with Him. ✚

The picture on the cover shows the rebuilt Ishtar Gate that once stood inside the ancient city of Babylon. The image was shot by Sheryl Siebrasse © and was provided by GreatBuildings.com.

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“Mystery Babylon”

New York, Rome, or Babylon?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Whenever a war breaks out in the Middle East, prophetic speculation always shifts into high gear, and that is understandable since end time Bible prophecy focuses on the Middle East and mentions several wars that will take place there.

End Time Wars

The first question seems always to be whether or not the war is the War of Armageddon. I guess this question is a natural one because this is the prophetic war that people have heard the most about. But that war is one that will occur at the end of the Tribulation, following a seven year period of unparalleled destruction on the earth.

Actually it is a misnomer to refer to a “War of Armageddon” since it does not involve a clash of armies. Rather, the Antichrist and his forces, who will be gathered in the Valley of Armageddon for battle, will be supernaturally destroyed by Jesus when He returns to the Mount of Olives. He will speak a word, and they will be devoured by a supernatural plague (Zechariah 14:12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8).



The Valley of Armageddon as seen from the top of Mt. Carmel. Mt. Tabor is in the distance, across the valley.

(Source: Todd Bolen at BiblePlaces.com)

Those who are more familiar with Bible prophecy often speculate as to whether any new war in the Middle East might be the War of Gog and Magog. Actually, Bible prophecy talks about two wars of Gog and Magog. One is associated with the Tribulation; the other with the Millennium.

The one affiliated with the Tribulation is the war described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. This war consists of a Russian coalition of Islamic nations that invades Israel and is supernaturally destroyed by God (Ezekiel 38:18-22 and 39:1-6).¹



The ancient city of Babylon as depicted in a painting by S. Bye.

(Source: Flickr.com)

The other War of Gog and Magog occurs at the end of the Millennium when once again the peoples of Russia rally the whole world to attack the throne of Jesus in Jerusalem. The nations that join this revolt are also supernaturally destroyed (Revelation 20:7-10).

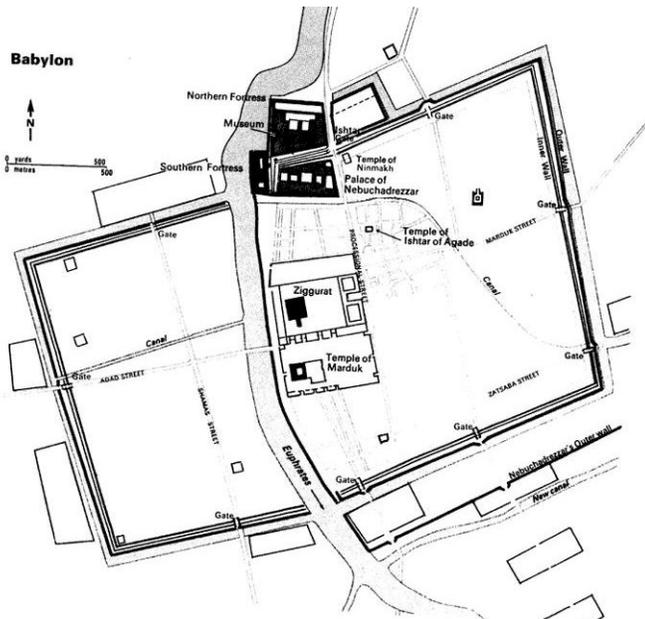
Speculations Prompted by the War in Iraq

Sometimes the speculation about end time wars becomes rather bizarre. For example, I was astonished to hear one of the best known teachers of Bible prophecy propose a new theory when the United States attacked Iraq. He argued that the war was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Jeremiah 50:9-10 which reads as follows:

For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon a horde of great nations from the land of the north, and they will draw up their battle lines against her; from there she will be taken captive. Their arrows will be like an expert warrior . . . and Chaldea will become plunder . . .

The first problem with this interpretation is that it violates the context in which the passage is found. That context is the destruction of the Antichrist’s kingdom that will take place at the end of the Tribulation. The second problem is that the U.S. led coalition was anything but a “horde of great nations.” We had three allies who supplied combat troops: England, Australia, and Poland. And the invasion certainly did not come from the north. It came out of Kuwait, from the southeast.

Incredibly, this prophecy teacher, who was determined to force this passage on the War in Iraq, tried to argue that the invasion really came from the north because, as he put it, “If you will check the latitude line that runs through Baghdad, you will find that it is the same one that runs through Savannah, Georgia, and thus the majority of the United States lies north of Baghdad.” To say the least, I was dumbfounded by this lame attempt to twist the Scriptures to fit this teacher’s preconceived idea.



A drawing of ancient Babylon, divided by the Euphrates River.

The most popular new speculation that I found all over the Internet at the time the Iraqi War began was one that argued the United States is Babylon and would therefore experience an overwhelming defeat in Iraq in accordance with the prophecies contained in Isaiah 13 and 14 and Jeremiah 50 and 51, all of which say Babylon will be destroyed in the end times. The outcome of the war put an end to this speculation.

A more credible speculation that many outstanding Bible prophecy teachers proposed was that the war in Iraq would lead to the destruction of Baghdad and the subsequent rise of Babylon as the new capital of Iraq. They then proposed that this rebuilt Babylon would become the international headquarters of the Antichrist kingdom. This speculation also failed to materialize because of the precision bombing that was aimed almost exclusively at military targets.

Speculation about Babylon

Because of the war in Iraq, there has been much speculation in recent years about the possible rebuilding of ancient Babylon. Actually some of the speculation preceded the war and was based on the fact that Saddam Hussein began rebuilding Nebuchadnezzar's palace in order to stimulate tourism.

Prior to this century, the consensus of opinion among Bible prophecy experts was that the "Mystery Babylon" of Revelation 17 and the "Babylon the Great" of Revelation 18 were both references to Rome. Today, that opinion has radically shifted, and the consensus now is that these terms refer to ancient Babylon. Accordingly, these experts argue that Babylon will soon be rebuilt.

The speculation that the end time "Babylon the Great" of Revelation 18 will be ancient Babylon rebuilt is biblically based. This is the reason that Tim LaHaye, in his "Left Behind" series of books, presents Babylon as the capital city of the Antichrist's world kingdom.

Let's take a look at the biblical basis of this assumption. It begins in the Hebrew Scriptures in Isaiah 13 where the prophet says that Babylon will be destroyed in "the day of the Lord"



Satellite photo of the eastern half of ancient Babylon, showing it still in ruins. The circle at the top left is one of Saddam's palaces.

(Isaiah 13:6, 9). This terminology is a clear reference to the end times and, of course, Babylon can not be destroyed unless it is rebuilt.

Isaiah 14:1-17 says that the king of Babylon at the time of its end time destruction will be an oppressor of unparalleled ruthlessness. This is an image that certainly brings to mind the Antichrist.

The book of Revelation in the New Testament confirms these Old Testament prophecies. Revelation 17 associates the end time apostate world religion with Babylon. And in a similar manner, Revelation 18 associates the political empire of the Antichrist with Babylon.

Consider Revelation 18:1-10. This passage clearly teaches that Babylon will be the capital city of the Antichrist and that at the end of the Tribulation, the city will be destroyed in one hour



Close-up of the northwest corner of the eastern sector of ancient Babylon. Number 1 is one of the many presidential palaces built by Saddam Hussein. Number 2 is the remains of Nebuchadnezzar's palace. Number 3 marks the location of some guest houses.

of one day (Revelation 18:8,10).

Now, in view of these biblical passages from both the Old and New Testaments, you might wonder how anyone who takes Bible prophecy seriously could doubt that Babylon will be rebuilt and serve as the seat of power of the Antichrist. Yet, there are many outstanding Bible prophecy teachers, like Dave Hunt and Ed Hindson, who argue that Babylon will never be rebuilt and that the world headquarters of the Antichrist will be Rome.

The Argument for Rome

Let's take a look at the other side of the argument — that the Babylon of the end times will really be modern day Rome.

There are two reasons that are usually given as to why the end time Babylon may not be the Babylon of Iraq;

- 1) The Bible indicates that after Babylon is conquered by the Medes, it will become a heap of ruins and will never be rebuilt again.
- 2) There is strong evidence that Babylon is used symbolically in the book of Revelation to refer to Rome.

The Conquest by the Medes

With regard to Babylon being destroyed and never being rebuilt again, let's take a look at Isaiah 13:17-20 —

- 17) Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them [the Chaldeans] . . .
- 19) And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldean's pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
- 20) It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation.



An artist's depiction of the hanging gardens of ancient Babylon.

(Source: Flickr.com)

This passage prophesies that Babylon will be overthrown by the Medes and that it will thereafter become a desolation, like the location of Sodom and Gomorrah. A similar passage can be found in Jeremiah 51:11.

Those who argue for the rebuilding of Babylon discount this passage for several reasons. First, they argue it is an end time prophecy referring to the destruction of Babylon at the end of the Tribulation.

But this simply is not true. The context is clearly speaking of the conquest of Babylon by the Medes. There certainly are end time prophecies about Babylon in Isaiah 13, but this is not one of them. End time prophecies are often mixed with contemporary prophecies. For example, in Luke 21 some of the prophecies about the destruction of Jerusalem pertain to 70 AD, whereas others refer to the end times.

Also, in Jeremiah 25:11 there is a prophecy that clearly links the desolation of Babylon to its overthrow by the Medes: “‘Then it will be when seventy years [of Jewish captivity in Babylon] are completed. I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,’ declares the Lord, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.’”

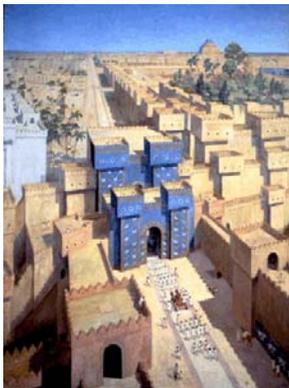
Those who advocate the rebuilding of ancient Babylon usually ignore these passages that link the everlasting desolation of the city to the conquest by the Medes.

The only advocate I have seen deal with the problem did so by asserting that the reference to the Medes is really a reference to modern day Kurds who will join with a multinational force that will destroy Babylon.² But Babylon was conquered by the Medes, just as these prophecies said it would be, and any effort to spiritualize the prophecies to refer to modern day Kurds seems to me to be a violation of the clear meaning of the prophecies.

The Comparison with Sodom and Gomorrah

The second way people try to discount the clear meaning of Isaiah 13:17-20 is to argue that it could not refer to the Medes' conquest of Babylon because that victory was so surprising and swift that it did not result in the destruction of the city. They contend, “The passage says Babylon will be destroyed in the same manner as Sodom and Gomorrah, and that means sudden, total destruction.”

The Ishtar Gate



The Ishtar gate, pictured on the cover and at left, was one of 8 gates to the inner city of Babylon. Only the foundation was found by archeologists. But many of the glazed bricks that were used to construct the gate were found, and they were used to reconstruct the gate at a museum in Berlin, Germany.

The gate on the cover, which stands today in ancient Babylon, is a facsimile of the original. The gate was dedicated by King Nebuchadnezzar to the goddess Ishtar. Reliefs on the gate of dragons and bulls symbolize the gods Marduk and Adad.

The dedicatory inscription found on the gate proclaims Nebuchadnezzar to be “the faithful prince appointed by the will of Marduk, the highest of princely princes . . .” The watercolor painting above was done by W. Anger (source: Flickr.com).

It is true that the Medes conquered the city in a relatively bloodless and non-devastating manner. They did not attack the city or put it under siege. Instead, they dammed up the Euphrates River, which ran through the center of the city. Then, while the Babylonian rulers were in the midst of a drunken feast, the armies of the Medes simply walked down the dried-up riverbed, underneath the walls!

But the passage does not say that Babylon will be overthrown like Sodom and Gomorrah! That claim is based on an interpretation that the text does not justify. Read the passage carefully. It simply says that after the Medes conquer the city, it “will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.”

And that is exactly what happened. The city was conquered by the Medes in 539 BC. Thereafter, it went into a sharp decline. By the time Alexander the Great arrived 200 years later, it was in ruins. He announced his intentions to rebuild it, but he died suddenly before he could do anything. His generals abandoned the city and moved the capital to the Tigris River where they built a new city called Seleucia.

Babylon became like Sodom and Gomorrah — a heap of ruins — and it has been in that condition ever since, just as prophesied in Isaiah 13.

Rebuilding Efforts

But those who believe Babylon will be rebuilt counter by asserting that its rebuilding was begun by Saddam Hussein. It is true that Saddam built one of his many presidential palaces there, on the outskirts of the ancient city. But he did not rebuild the city for habitation.

All Saddam did was restore some of the ruins of Nebuchadnezzar’s palace as a tourist attraction. Modern day satellite photos of the site still show it to be an uninhabited heap of ruins.

There are continuing efforts to rebuild the ruins of Nebuchadnezzar’s palace complex. These are headed up by The World Monuments Fund.³ But, again, these efforts seek only to make the area a tourist attraction. There is no plan to rebuild the city for habitation.

Of course, with modern building techniques, the Antichrist could quickly build an international headquarters on the site, but Isaiah 13:20 says that once it is conquered by the Medes, “it will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation.”

The References in Revelation

So, what about the references in the book of Revelation which clearly indicate that Babylon will be the headquarters of the Antichrist during the Tribulation? The problem is that a qualifying term is used that makes it highly questionable that the meaning is literal Babylon.



St. Peter’s Square in Rome as viewed from the top of St. Peter’s Basilica. (Source: iStockphoto.com)

The passage is Revelation 17:5. In the New American Standard Version, the translation introduces the reader to “a mystery, Babylon the Great.” The King James and New King James Versions both render the meaning as “Mystery Babylon the Great.”

Either way, the use of the qualifying word, *mystery*, seems to indicate that Babylon is to be taken symbolically. This conclusion is reinforced by Revelation 11:8 where Jerusalem is referred to symbolically as the city “which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt.” Notice again the use of

the word mystically as a tip-off that the author is speaking symbolically.

In like manner, Peter uses Babylon as a symbol of Rome in 1 Peter 5:13. He was writing from Rome, and he closes the epistle by sending greetings from “the church which is in Babylon.” This statement makes it clear that among First Century Christians, Babylon was a nick-name for Rome.

Keep in mind that when John wrote Revelation, he was a Roman prisoner. He could not, therefore, make any disparaging references to Rome in his writings, so he used the nick-name of Babylon and even emphasized that it was a code word by referring to it as “Mystery Babylon.”

That John had Rome in mind is indicated later in chapter 17 of Revelation in two places. In verse 9 he refers to it as the city of “seven mountains.” In the First Century context, this could only refer to Rome, which was known as “the city of the seven hills.” In verse 18, John refers to the city as “the great city that reigns over the kings of the earth.” Again, this could only have been Rome in a First Century setting.

What about New York City?

Another understandable speculation that has become very popular in recent years is the identification of end time Babylon as New York City. The reason, of course, is that the description of Babylon in Revelation 18 fits our nation so perfectly. Babylon is described as the world’s dominant economic power (Revelation 18:11-20) and the source of worldwide immorality (Revelation 18:2-9). Her sins have “piled up as high as heaven” (Revelation 18:5), and she has “glorified herself and lived sensuously” (Revelation 18:7).

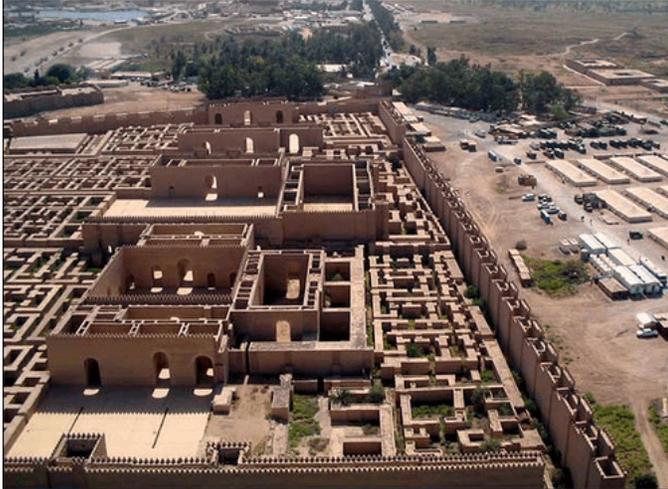


The Empire State Building (Source: NY Tourism Website)

Yes, it sounds like the United States, but it is not. Keep in mind the context of Revelation 18. It is speaking of the Antichrist’s empire

at the end of the Tribulation. We know from the book of Daniel that the Antichrist's worldwide empire will be based in Europe, arising from the revived Roman Empire.

By the end of the Tribulation, the Antichrist's empire will have completely replaced the United States as the world's dominant political and economic power. It will also be the seat of the One World Religion headed up by the Antichrist's False Prophet (Revelation 17).



Reconstructed remains of Nebuchadnezzar's palace.
(Photo in 2005 by Martin Bailey. Source: Flickr.com)

Concluding Thoughts

So, there you have it — a summary of arguments pro and con concerning whether or not the end time capital of the Antichrist will be ancient Babylon rebuilt, modern day Rome, or New York City. I challenge you to be a good Berean (Acts 17:10-11). Dig into the Scriptures, study diligently, and draw your own conclusions.

The important thing to keep in mind is that it doesn't really make any difference whether the Antichrist will reign from Babylon, Rome, New York City, or some other city. Regardless of which city it might prove to be, Almighty God is going to destroy the city, its king, and all its sinful activities in one hour of one day (Revelation 18:8,10).

The point is, that regardless of the true identity of Babylon, Jesus is going to triumph, and we, the Redeemed, are going to win in the end. **Maranatha! ✚**

Notes:

- 1) For an outstanding, in-depth discussion of Ezekiel 38 and 39, see Ron Rhodes' book, *Northern Storm Rising* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2008).
- 2) Charles Dyer, *The Rise of Babylon* (Carol Stream, IL: Tynedale House, 1991).
- 3) Information about The World Monuments Fund can be found on the Internet at www.wmf.org.

A Poem About Human Pride



The fall of Saddam Hussein brought to mind a famous poem by Percy Shelley written in 1817.

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said — “Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings,
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

Ozymandias was another name for Ramesses the Great, Pharaoh of the nineteenth dynasty of ancient Egypt. Ozymandias represents a transliteration into Greek of a part of Ramesses' throne name. Shelley's poem is often said to have been inspired by the arrival in London of a colossal statue of Ramesses II, acquired for the British Museum in 1816. The sonnet paraphrases the inscription on the base of the statue which read: “King of Kings am I, Ozymandias. If anyone would know how great I am and where I lie, let him surpass one of my works.”

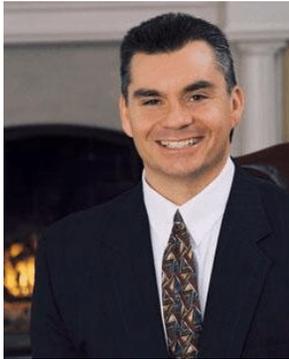


An actual photo of the Ozymandias statue *in situ*.
(Source: <http://personalpedia.wordpress.com>)

Was Jesus A Mythical God?

Robin Schumacher

(Editor's note: As we get closer to the return of Jesus, Satan's attacks on Him are intensifying. Satan does not know the date of the Lord's return, but he knows Bible prophecy, and he can read the signs of the times. He also knows that the Bible teaches the only reason Jesus has not returned is because there are more people God wants to save — 2 Peter 3:9. To prevent those people from being saved, and to delay the Lord's return, Satan is attempting in every way possible to discredit Jesus as the Son of God. Thus the plethora of films and books in recent years attacking the Gospels and Jesus. One of the newest attacks is a two hour film called *Zeitgeist* which can be viewed on the Internet at www.zeitgeist.com. It argues that Jesus was a completely mythical character made up by His disciples who based their image of Him on mythical gods.



Robin Schumacher

This article is an excerpt from a longer piece written by one of Lamb & Lion's Prophecy Partners, Robin Schumacher. He is the director of a large software company and has been a database engineer for over 20 years. He has earned a Master's degree in Christian Apologetics from Southern Evangelical Seminary and is currently a candidate for a doctorate from the Greenwich School of Theology in London. He is a member of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville,

Kentucky. He is a regular contributor of articles to the website called GotQuestions.org. His personal website can be found at www.confidentchristians.org.)

There are a number of voices in the contemporary era that are claiming that the accounts of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament are simply myths, and were the end result of the writers borrowing stories from pagan mythology and creating something that was exaggerated and false. For example, Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy, in their book, *The Jesus Mysteries*, ask the question: "Why should we consider the stories of Osiris, Dionysus, Adonis, Attis, Mithras, and the other pagan mystery saviors as fables, yet come across essentially the same story told in a Jewish context and believe it to be the biography of a carpenter from Bethlehem?"¹ And in his best selling book, *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown puts these words in one of his character's mouths: "Nothing in Christianity is original."²

Is this actually the case? In short, no. Once the facts are examined, these claims evaporate into thin air, which is what happens every time a beautifully false theory meets a brutal gang of facts — the facts win. To discover the truth about these particular claims and others like them, it's important to first unearth the history behind their assertions, examine the actual historical portrayals of the false gods being compared to Christ, expose the logical fallacies that the authors are making, and finally quickly look at the compelling evidence that demonstrates why the New Testament gospels can be trusted in terms of accurately depicting Jesus Christ.

Origin of the Myth Claims

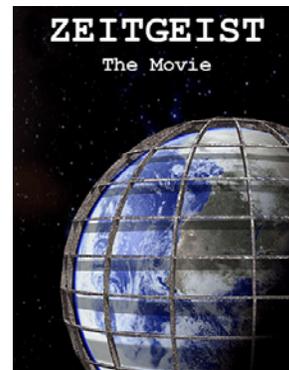
First, where did these claims of Jesus being a myth or an exaggeration originate? Although some may argue for the participation of other, earlier historical figures, most theologians peg the start of these claims with a man named Bruno Bauer (1809–1882). Bauer was a German theologian, philosopher and historian who looked at the sources of the New Testament and controversially concluded that early Christianity owed more to Greek philosophy (Stoicism) than to Judaism.³



Bruno Bauer (1809-1882)

Starting in 1840, he began a series of controversial works arguing that Jesus was a myth, a second century fusion of Jewish, Greek, and Roman theology. His work was picked up by Albert Kalthoff (1850-1906) who followed Bauer's extreme skepticism about the historical Jesus. Kalthoff went so far as to claim that Jesus of Nazareth never existed and was not the founder of Christianity.⁴

After Bauer and Kalthoff came others, with the most notable being James Frazer who wrote a work entitled *The Golden Bough* where he argued the theory of there being widespread worship of dying and rising fertility gods in various places — Tammuz in Mesopotamia, Adonis in Syria, Attis in Asia Minor, and Osiris in Egypt.⁵ Frazer's view has been adopted by many who little realize its fragile foundations, including the producers of the internet movie, *Zeitgeist*.⁶



The thing to remember about all the works mentioned before the late twentieth century (Bauer, et al) is they never advanced in the realm of academia and religious thought because theologians and scholars investigated the assertions and determined them to be completely false. Obviously, if these authors had been credible and correct, the world would have applauded them as it is only too eager to argue against the history and validity of

Christianity, but that didn't happen. It has only been in recent years that they have been resurrected, primarily due to the rise of the Internet and mass distribution of information that has no firm foundation.

An Example of a Bogus Myth

This leads us to the next area of investigation — do the mythological gods of antiquity really mirror the person of Jesus Christ? As an example, the *Zeitgeist* movie makes these claims about the Egyptian god Horus:

- He was born on December 25th of a virgin named Isis Mary.
- A star in the East proclaimed his arrival.
- Three kings came to adore the new-born "savior."
- He became a prodigal teacher at age 12.
- At age 30 he was "baptized" and began a "ministry."
- Horus had twelve "disciples."
- Horus was betrayed.

- He was crucified.
- He was buried for three days.
- He was resurrected after three days.

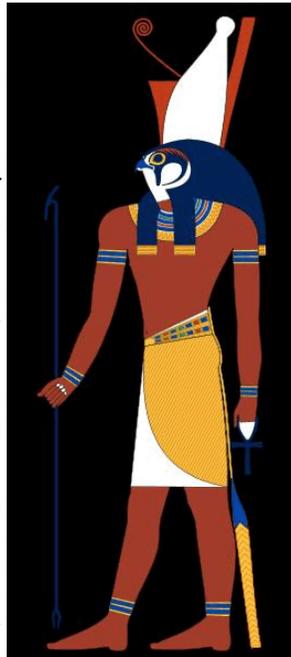
Are these claims true? No, they are not. When historical accounts of Horus are competently examined, this is what rises to the surface:

- Horus was born to Isis, but there is no mention in history of her being called “Mary.”
- Isis was not a virgin. She was the widow of Osiris and conceived Horus with Osiris.
- Horus was born during the month of Khoiak (Oct/Nov), not December 25th. Further, there is no mention in the Bible as to Jesus’ actual birth date. The December 25th celebration of Jesus’ birth did not begin until 4th century and was linked to the Winter Solstice celebration.
- There is no record of three kings visiting Horus at his birth. Furthermore, kings didn’t visit Jesus at His birth — they were magi (wise men). And the Bible never states the actual number of magi that came to see Jesus.
- Horus was not a “savior” in any shape or form — he did not die for anyone.
- There are no accounts of Horus being a child teacher at age 12.
- Horus was not “baptized.” The only account of Horus and a water incident is described in one story where Horus is torn to pieces, with Isis requesting the crocodile god to fish him out of the water where he was thrown.
- Horus did not have a “ministry.”
- Horus did not have 12 disciples. According to the Horus accounts, he had four semi-gods that were followers and some indications of 16 human followers and an unknown number of blacksmiths that went into battle with him.
- There is no account of Horus being betrayed by a friend.
- Horus did not die by crucifixion. The *Zeitgeist* movie pegs the Horus account at 3,000 B.C., long before crucifixion was practiced.
- There is no account of Horus being buried for only three days.
- There is no account of Horus being bodily resurrected. Some accounts have Horus being brought back to life by Isis and going to be the lord of the underworld.

Myth vs Truth

More examples can be given of Mithras, Krishna, Attis, Dionysus and other mythological gods, but the end result is the same. In the end, the historical Jesus as portrayed in the Bible stands unique and far away from the actual description of mythological gods found in the works of antiquity.

Further, while the figures of Horus, Mithras, and some other



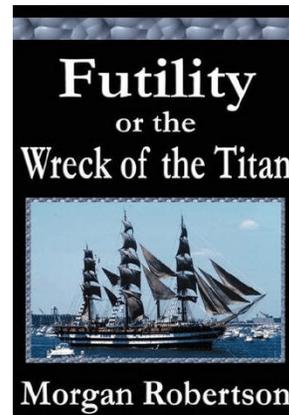
The Egyptian God, Horus.

mythological gods pre-dated Christianity, the only historical writings that bear any resemblance to historical Christianity come *after* the explosion of Christianity had already begun. It must be remembered that the pagan mystery religions of that time were highly syncretistic (as opposed to the strictly separatist/exclusivist stance held by Judaism and Christianity) and were only too happy to incorporate teachings and practices that would help gain more followers that perhaps belonged to a rival faith.

Logical Faults

This leads us to the next area to examine — the logical fallacies committed by those claiming that Christianity borrowed from pagan mystery religions. Two fallacies in particular are committed: the fallacy of the false cause and the terminological fallacy.

What if I told you a story about a British ocean liner that was about 800 feet long, weighed over 60,000 tons, and could carry about 3,000 passengers? The ship had a top cruising speed of 24 knots, had three propellers, and about 20 lifeboats. And what if I told you that this ocean liner hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage in the month of April, tearing an opening in the starboard side forward portion of the ship, and sinking along with about 2,000 passengers? What does that sound like? You’d likely say the Titanic, but you’d be wrong.



It is actually a fictional story described in Morgan Robertson’s book called *Futility, or The Wreck of the Titan*.⁷ This book was written fourteen years *before* the Titanic disaster took place, and several years before the construction was even begun on the Titanic.

The point is this: even if one thing precedes another, it does not mean that the first caused the second — this is the fallacy of the false cause. Even if accounts of mythological gods more closely resembled Jesus (and they don’t), it doesn’t mean that they caused the Gospel writers to invent a false Jesus — claiming such a thing would be like saying the TV series *Star Trek* caused the NASA Space Shuttle program.

Another fallacy committed by the Jesus-is-a-myth proponents is the terminological fallacy. The terminological fallacy occurs when terms are redefined to prove a point, when in fact such terms do not mean the same thing when compared to their source. So for example, the *Zeitgeist* movie quickly asserts that Horus “began his ministry,” but Horus had no actual ministry — nothing like that of Jesus.

As another example, those claiming that Mithras and Jesus are one in the same talk about the “baptism” that initiated prospects into the Mithras cult, but what was it actually? The Mithras priests (using a ritual also performed by followers of Attis) would suspend a bull over a pit, place those wanting to join the cult into the pit, slit the bull’s stomach, which then covered the initiates in blood. Such a thing has no resemblance whatsoever to Christian baptism — a person going under water (symbolizing the death of Jesus) and then coming back out of the water (symbolizing Jesus’ resurrection). But advocates of the



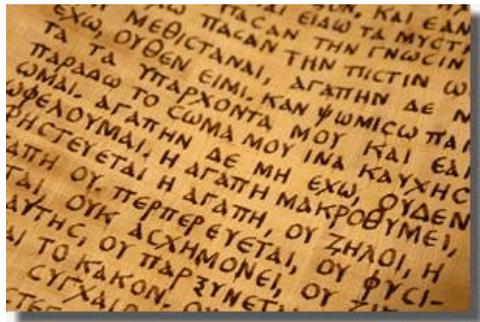
Mithras, the Roman military god.

mythological Jesus position use the same term to describe both in hopes of linking the two together.

The Integrity of the Gospel

The last issue to examine on this subject is the truthfulness of the New Testament itself. While much has been written on this topic, here are just a few things to consider. No work from antiquity has more evidence standing in its corner with respect to historical veracity than the New Testament. With the New Testament, we have more writers (nine), better writers, and earlier writers than any other document from that era.

Further, history testifies to the fact that these writers went to their deaths for the simple claim that Jesus had risen from the dead. While some may die for a lie they think is true, no person dies for a lie they know to be false. Think about it — if someone was about to crucify you upside down as what happened to Peter, and all you had to do to save your life was renounce a lie you'd knowingly been living, what would you do?



Greek Manuscript of 1 Corinthians 13.

In addition, history has shown that it takes at least two generations to pass before myth can enter into a historical account. Why? Because eyewitnesses can refute error put in print.

For example, imagine that 10-20 years after the death of John F. Kennedy an author wrote a book that asserted Kennedy did not die in Dallas, but died instead of old age. Do you think that book would have ever been taken seriously? Of course not, because those living at the time could refute the errors of the author and expose the work as being false. All the Gospels of the New Testament were written during the lifetime of the eyewitnesses, with some of Paul's epistles likely occurring earlier than them. That early dating acts as a key protective mechanism

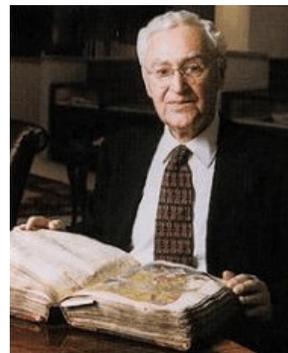
against any falsehoods being accepted and circulated.

A final thing to consider is the New Testament showcases the fact that no one mistook the portrayal of Jesus for any other god. When faced with Paul's teaching, the elite thinkers of Athens — who would be well educated in the various beliefs alive at that time — said this: "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities," — because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean." (Acts 17:18-20).

The point: If dying and rising gods were aplenty in the First Century, why, when the apostle Paul preached Jesus rising from the dead in Acts 17, did the Epicureans and Stoics not remark, "Ah, just like Horus and Mithras . . .?" The same would be true of Paul's discourse in Acts 26. Festus, a Roman (who would have known about the Roman military Mithras cult), said Paul was out of his mind for preaching the resurrection.

Conclusion

So in the end, the fake characteristics of mythological gods were conjured up by authors whose works have been discounted by academia. These gods bear no resemblance to the true Jesus. The writers commit logical fallacies that undermine their veracity, and their works do not hold a candle to the New Testament Gospels which have withstood 2,000 years of intense scrutiny.



Dr. Bruce Metzger (1914 - 2007)

Princeton New Testament scholar Bruce Metzger says, "It goes without saying that alleged parallels which are discovered by pursuing such methodology evaporate when they are confronted with the original texts. In a word, one must beware of what have been called, 'parallels made plausible by selective description.'"⁷

Jesus Christ stands unique in history, with His voice rising above all false gods and continuing to ask the question that ultimately determines a person's eternal destiny: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). ✚

Notes:

- 1) Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy, *The Jesus Myths: Was the Original Jesus a Pagan God?* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2001).
- 2) Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code* (New York: Random House, 2003).
- 3) Wikipedia, *Bruno Bauer*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruno_Bauer.
- 4) Wikipedia, *Albert Kalthoff*, http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Kalthoff.
- 5) James Frazer, *The Golden Bough*, (New York: MacMillan, 1922).
- 6) *Zeitgeist: The Movie*, www.zeitgeistmovie.com.
- 7) Morgan Robertson, *Futility or the Wreck of the Titan*, (Cutchogue, NY: Buccaneer Books, 1898).
- 8) Bruce Metzger, *Historical and Literary Studies: Pagan, Jewish, and Christian* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 1968), page 9.

A Double Minded Leader



Bill Wilson

Bill Wilson

(Editor's note: Bill Wilson is a Christian journalist, professional writer, and commentator on current events relating to the relationship between the United States, Israel and Islam. With nearly 30 years experience, Wilson spent the first part of his career as an award-winning journalist. He then entered the realm of political and media consulting, serving Members of Congress and assisting with Presidential and other political campaigns. Thus, Bill intimately understands current events from a dual perspective — he's been both the one who reports the news and the one who influences what is reported. He has traveled the world, sharing with diverse audiences how current events relate to Biblical prophecy. You can find his blog site, The Daily Jot, at www.dailyjot.com.)

Some of the most double minded sayings of this new century are: "I support the troops, but not the war;" "I am against abortion, but for the woman's right to choose an abortion;" "I believe that Christians, Jews and Muslims all worship the same god;" and "The United States is not at war with Islam. In fact, our partnership with the Muslim world is critical in rolling back a fringe ideology that people of all faiths reject." All of these statements have been uttered by the man who now occupies the Oval Office, and the last one is a direct quote from a speech before the Parliament of Turkey. Facts are: The leaders of Islam have called for the complete destruction of America and Israel; they have declared war on America and Israel.

The man who now occupies the Oval Office went on to say, "We seek broad engagement based upon mutual interests and mutual respect. We will listen carefully, bridge misunderstanding, and seek common ground. We will be respectful, even when we do not agree. And we will convey our deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over so many centuries to shape the world for the better — including my own country. The United States has been enriched by Muslim Americans."

We must ask, can there be mutual interest and common ground with those who seek to destroy you? How can the so-called Islamic faith be appreciated when it foments death wherever it takes root?

But worse, how can an American president ever claim that the so-called Islamic faith shaped the United States for the better? This is sheer disillusionment. Were the founding fathers born from or converted from Islam? Did Islam stop capturing Africans and selling them into slavery? Did Islam advance health and medicine in America? Was Islam the driving spirit behind entrepreneurship and free enterprise? Did Islam suffer the rights of women to vote? Did Islam stand for a free and independent Israel? Did Islam spread in our prisons and contribute to crime against Americans? Did Islam perpetrate terrorist attacks killing innocent Americans? Where did Islam shape America for the

better?

It is one thing to try to improve relations that have been damaged over the years. It is yet another to make statements that not even those who are hearing them believe to be true. But the same concepts with this man hold consistent. This is the man who believes America can spend its way out of debt. He believes that free enterprise can be saved by nationalization of industry. And he believes that Islam — who kills the innocent, enslaves women and children, and sells drugs to fund the spreading of its religion — shaped America for the better. James 1:8 says, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." And Jesus said in Matthew 24:4, "Take heed that no man deceive you." ✚

Don Feder

(Editor's note: Don Feder is a Jewish journalist who formerly wrote for the *Boston Herald*. He is now a political and communications consultant. He maintains his own website at DonFeder.com.)

Obama: "Although . . . we have a very large Christian population, we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation."



Don Feder

Really? But didn't the Mayflower Compact proclaim the Pilgrims were establishing their colony for "the advancement of the Muslim faith"? And what about "In Allah We Trust" on our coinage and currency, not to mention what's been called our second national anthem, "Allah Bless America"?

Seriously, if the "we" who don't consider ourselves a Christian nation refers to the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and States, and the editorial board of *The New York Times*, Obama is on target.

On the other hand, if he means the nation at large, he's had some bad weed.

While insisting that "we" do not consider America a Christian nation, Obama praised the "religion of peace" by saying, "We will convey our deep appreciation for the Islamic faith, which has done so much over so many centuries to shape the world for the better — including my own country."

Besides being loopy, Obama's declaration was conveniently vague.

"Shape the world for the better"? How? By spreading its creed by the sword? By establishing the concept of *dhimmitude* — that unbelievers must either convert to Islam or submit to Islamic rule? By turning women into chattel? By subjugating the Balkans, Greece, most of Spain and parts of Eastern Europe for hundreds of years? By the destruction of Constantinople and Byzantium, the Eastern Roman empire, expunging the glories of a millennium? By fostering the bloody fanaticism of Shiitism and Wahabism, and monopolizing international terrorism since at least the 1970s? . . .

Obama doesn't want us to consider ourselves a Christian nation because the Judeo-Christian ethic conflicts with his worldview . . . ✚

Teach Kids the 24 Most Important Words in the Bible

Steve Young

(Editor's note: Steve Young is the Children's Minister at the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, one of the nation's largest churches. This article appeared in the church's newspaper, *The Southeast Outlook* and is reprinted with permission.)

God's Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. I know that I am to meditate on it day and night. When I hide it in my heart, it helps keep me from sinning against God. It is living and active. It has power that is stronger than any earthly weapon.

Here's the thing though: Last time I checked, my Bible had 1,139 pages plus maps. In those pages are 66 books, containing 1,189 chapters with 31,103 verses, for a total of 774,746 words! And I'm supposed to tackle all of that? Not only does that seem overwhelming, but to truly grasp all of God's Word seems impossible. Where should I start? What should be my focus? What's most important?

These questions are not something I ask for my own benefit. As a leader in our Children's Ministry, I join with parents in asking these questions on our kid's behalf.

Kid's lives are filled with an incredible amount of busy-ness. They spend about 400 hours on math homework every year and about 500 hours playing video games. And then there's soccer practice, time with friends, dance lessons — and the list goes on. Is there a primary biblical message on which we should focus through all of this craziness?

A Basic Biblical Passage

A professor once taught me about the Shema. In the Jewish culture, the Shema was and is a fundamental truth in the Scriptures. From what I understand, the devout Jew recites the Shema every morning and every evening. It is among the first teachings that a Jewish person learns to say, and it comprises the words uttered as they breathe their last breath. When saying the Shema, a person typically covers his or her eyes to shut out any distractions and to enhance focus on the meaning of the words.

In Hebrew, Shema literally means "hear." It's found in Deuteronomy 6:4 — "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one." It goes on to read, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

This has been described as the pivotal, hinge verse in all of the Old Testament. The truth of the one-ness of God was a revolutionary thought for Moses and his people. Thousands of years later, the power of this declaration and command still is remarkable.

Jesus' View of the Shema

So would it be fair to say that this is the most important thing in Scripture? Should we even be asking a question like this?

Let's fast-forward to Mark 12. Jesus was asked almost this very question. Remember when the Pharisees were questioning Him and trying to trap Him? One of the teachers asked Him



Steve Young

which of the commandments is the most important. Jesus could have replied, "All of the Scriptures have equal value," but He didn't. He answered the question quite directly. His response was, "The most important one is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."

And there it is. The Shema. Christ's audience was intimately familiar with it, and Jesus affirmed that it is the most important commandment in Scripture. That's huge!

Applying the Shema

So, what are we to do with this truth? That's the question, isn't it? Most of us spend a lifetime trying to figure this out. What does it mean to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength? It's a drastic call to complete surrender. We are to be entirely consumed with loving the Lord.

My personal goal is to be less concerned with judging myself and others and to be more concerned with loving the Father. My hope and suspicion is that as I do this more purely, the rest will fall

into place. If we're created to have community with God, then getting this right is paramount.

And here comes my favorite part. Immediately following the Shema in Deuteronomy 6, we are told to impress God's commandments on our children (Deuteronomy 6:7). So our job is to pass God's commands, especially the Shema, to our children.

Teaching the Shema to Our Children

I wonder what this new generation will look like if they learn that their chief purpose in life is to wholeheartedly love the Lord . . . before we focus on all the rest of the Bible stories . . . before we get them to memorize the books of the Bible . . . before they learn the fun Sunday School songs. Is there anything better we can lead them toward than loving the Lord?

So my goal is to develop and grow through the study of the entirety of the Bible — all 774,746 words of it. I pray, though, that these 24 can define my life's purpose: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." ✚

Note: *The Southeast Outlook* is an excellent newspaper that can be found on the Internet at www.southeastoutlook.com.

John Lennon's Empty Philosophy

Dr. David R. Reagan

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* magazine voted John Lennon's song, "Imagine," the third greatest song of all times. Former president Jimmy Carter observed that "in many countries around the world . . . you hear John Lennon's song, 'Imagine,' used almost equally with national anthems."

In the book, *Lennon in America*, by Geoffrey Giuliano, Lennon is quoted as saying that the song is "an anti-religious, anti-nationalist, anti-conventional, anti-capitalist song, but because it's sugar-coated, it's accepted." Lennon also described the song as "virtually the Communist Manifesto."

Lennon's characterization of the song is very accurate. It begins with an atheistic rejection of God: "Imagine there's no heaven / It's easy if you try / No hell below us / Above us only sky / Imagine all the people / Living for today."

Having dispensed with God, Lennon then proceeds to wash his hands of religion and nationalism: "Imagine there's no countries / It isn't hard to do / Nothing to kill or die for / And no religion too / Imagine all the people / Living life in peace."

Lennon concludes the song with an attack on capitalism and an affirmation of the socialist-communist ideal: "Imagine no possessions / I wonder if you can / No need for greed or hunger / a brotherhood of man / Imagine all the people / Sharing all the world."

Understandably, the chorus of the song calls for a one world government: "You may say I'm a dreamer / But I'm not the only one / I hope someday you'll join us / And the world will live as one."

Lennon wrote this song in 1971. Two years later, he wrote a remarkable letter to the Christian evangelist, Oral Roberts. The letter was prompted by the fact that Lennon's cousin had asked Roberts to pray for John and Yoko, and he had agreed to do so. Lennon's letter was handwritten and rambling. In it he revealed that the philosophy expressed in his famous song had left him empty, fearful and suicidal:

Rev. Roberts:

This is ex-Beatle, John Lennon. I've been wanting to write you, but I guess I didn't really want to face reality. I never do this, this is why I take drugs. Reality frightens me and paranoias me. True, I have a lot of money . . . but basically, I'm afraid to face the problems of life. Let me begin to say, I regret that I said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. I don't even like myself anymore — guilt.

Lennon proceeded to tell Roberts his life story. He emphasized his unhappy childhood. He told about his mom dying when he was an infant and how his father deserted him at age 3, leaving him to be raised by an aunt. He talked about how he



wanted to kill his father after he became successful and his dad came to him and requested money. He mentioned a song that he and Paul McCartney had written called, "Money Can't Buy Me Love," and he said he had discovered the truth of that statement.

He ended the letter with a cry of despair: "I want happiness. I don't want to keep up with drugs . . . Explain to me what Christianity can do for me. Is it phoney? Can He love me? I want out of Hell." He then added a P.S. that read: "I am, I hate to say, under the influence of pills now. I can't stop. I only wish I could thank you for caring."

Lennon had already expressed his despair publicly in 1968 in his song, "I'm So Tired." It was written at the height of the Beatles' popularity, creativity and wealth. In the song, Lennon expressed the emptiness of his "successful" and wealthy life with these words: "I'd give you everything I've got for a little peace of mind."

A Christian song writer by the name of Jim Giatas has recently written a response to John Lennon's song. Giatas' song is titled, "If You Imagine." You can find it on YouTube. Here are the words:

If you imagine only sky above,
No heaven or hell below,
If you imagine no religion or God,
You couldn't be more wrong.

Creation could not be by chance.
God really does exist.
Because we were made in His image,
Life is sacred, and so, you couldn't be more wrong.

No matter what you might imagine,
Just like Adam and Eve,
You've been deceived.
Love isn't all you need.

If you can imagine the world as one,
As if only then peace would come,
And without countries
Hunger and greed would end,
You couldn't be more wrong.

Man is not the measure of all things.
Marx and Lennon were greatly mistaken.
Without rights like property in our possession,
Your "Brotherhood of Man" is really slavery.

Love isn't all you need.

Giatas' response to Lennon's song is a good one, but the best response to Lennon's despair can be found in Philippians 4:6-7:

- 6) Be anxious about nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ✚

Note: For the complete text of John Lennon's letter to Oral Roberts, see *Oral Roberts: An American Life* by David Edwin Harrell, Jr. (Bloomington, IN: Indiana U. Press, 1985), page 310.

A Book I Recommend

Dr. David R. Reagan

Jim Fletcher is a Bible prophecy expert and trained journalist. He has combined his biblical knowledge with his writing skill to produce an excellent new book with a clever title: *It's the End of the World As We Know It (and I feel fine)*. The sub-title is "How to stop worrying and learn to love these end times."

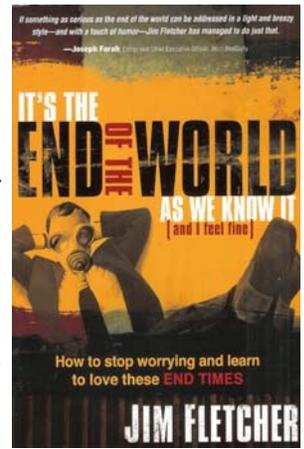
Joseph Farah, the CEO of WorldNetDaily said this about the book: "If something as serious as the end of the world can be addressed in a light and breezy style — and with a touch of humor — Jim Fletcher has managed to do just that."

Using both humor and fascinating anecdotes, Fletcher walks the reader through the opinions of people from the famous to the

obscure and then demonstrates conclusively that the Bible's predictions are true — and there's nothing for believers to be afraid of.

From beginning to end, the book is an affirmation of the truth of God's Word and his trustworthiness based upon the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

You can secure a copy on the Internet from Amazon.com or from your Christian bookstore. You can contact the author through his website at www.prophecymatters.com. ✚



A Ministry I Recommend

Dr. David R. Reagan

In the summer of 2008, God gave birth to a new Bible prophecy ministry in the Central American nation of Nicaragua. To lead this ministry, the Lord put His calling on the life of a young man named Donald Dolmus.

Donald works as a quality control officer at a bank in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. He is married to a beautiful young lady named Linda. They have a 3 year old son who is also named Donald. They attend an evangelical church called *Camino de Santidad* (The Road to Holiness or the Holy Way Church).



Donald Dolmus is shown above (on the right) with his wife, Linda. Standing between them is a Bible prophecy teacher from Nicaragua who now resides in Texas. His name is Antonio Bolainez.

God has given Donald a passion for Bible prophecy and a zeal for the soon return of Jesus. Donald began searching the Internet for good articles about Bible prophecy. When he would find one, he would translate it into Spanish and then share it with his friends. In the summer of 2008 he got the idea of establishing a website where he could post his translated articles. He gave the site the name, "*En Defensa de la Fe*" (In Defense of the Faith).

Donald contacted me in the Fall of 2008 because he had discovered the Lamb & Lion website and had translated several of our articles into Spanish. I checked out his website and was

¿Por qué parece Dios estar tan obsesionado con los judíos?

Por Dr. David Reagan

Esta es una pregunta frecuente durante los foros proféticos. La respuesta es que Él los ama, así como ama a toda Su creación. Pero hay ciertamente un sentido en el que la profecía bíblica parece enfocarse sobre el pueblo judío. Eso es debido a que Dios llamó a los judíos a ser Su "pueblo escogido", a través del cual, Él cumpliría Su plan maestro para la historia (Dt. 7:6). Fue a través del pueblo judío que Dios dio al mundo Su Palabra. Y fue a través de los judíos que Él envió al Mesías.

Las Escrituras Hebreas dicen que los judíos también fueron escogidos para ser testigos de Dios — lo que significa tener una relación con Él (Is. 43:10-12). La historia de Israel atestigua el hecho de que cuando alguien es fiel a Dios, Él bendice; cuando alguien es infiel, Él disciplina; y cuando alguien se arrepiente, Dios perdona y olvida y empieza a bendecir una vez más. Actualmente, los judíos están bajo la disciplina de Dios, pero la profecía bíblica nos dice que se acerca un día cuando un gran remanente de ellos se arrepentirá y recibirá a Jesús como su Mesías (Zac. 12:10). Cuando eso suceda, Dios los hará la nación más exaltada del mundo (Is. 60-61:5). Jesús vivirá entre ellos como Rey de reyes (Ez. 43:7) y todas las bendiciones de Dios para las naciones, fluirán a través de ellos (Zac. 8:22-23).

Los judíos también son el reloj profético de

ira del Anticristo sobre los judíos, trayéndolos al final de sí mismos y motivándolos a volverse a Dios en arrepentimiento (Zac. 12:10, Ro. 9:27; 11:25-26).

¿No ha invalidado la desobediencia de los judíos las promesas de Dios hacia ellos? Absolutamente no. O, para ponerlo en las palabras del apóstol Pablo, "En ninguna manera!" (Ro. 11:1).

Desde el IV siglo, cuando la iglesia adoptó el Amilenialismo, y empezó a divorciarse de su herencia judía, el enfoque cristiano prevaleciente con relación a los judíos ha sido en que "Dios se lavó Sus manos con ellos" en el I siglo cuando derramó Su ira sobre Jerusalén, y permitió que los judíos fueran dispersados mundialmente. Una doctrina acompañante que se ha desarrollado durante los años se llama "teología del reemplazo". Es la idea de que Dios sustituyó a los judíos con la iglesia, que la iglesia ha venido a ser el "nuevo Israel" y que la iglesia

recibirán las bendiciones son un gran remanente que será salvado en los tiempos del fin (Ro. 9:27).

Pablo incluso aborda específicamente la cuestión de si Dios ha rechazado o no al pueblo judío. Él pregunta, "¿Ha desechado Dios a Su pueblo?" (Ro. 11:1). Durante 1,600 años la Iglesia ha respondido a esta pregunta con un incompetente, "¡Sí!" Pero Pablo la responde diciendo, "En ninguna manera! ... Dios no ha desechado a Su pueblo, al cual desde antes conocí" (Ro. 11:1-2).

Pero, ¿qué acerca de su desobediencia? ¿Qué acerca de su rechazo a Dios como Rey de su nación y a Jesús como Rey de sus corazones? ¿No han anulado su desobediencia las promesas de Dios? Otra vez, Pablo trata específicamente con este asunto. Él pregunta, "¿Pues qué, si algunos de ellos han sido incrédulos? ¿Su incredulidad habrá hecho nula la fidelidad de Dios?" (Ro. 3:3). Y otra vez, durante siglos, la Iglesia ha respondido, "¡Sí!". Pero no Pablo. Él responde diciendo, "En ninguna manera! Antes bien sea Dios veraz y todo hombre mentiroso" (Ro. 3:4).

Pablo llega a estar tan abrumado por la gracia de Dios al nunca darse por vencido con los judíos, que finalmente prorrumpe en una exclamación extática: "¡Oh profundidad de las riquezas de la sabiduría y de la ciencia de Dios! ¡Cuán insondables son Sus juicios, e inescrutables Sus caminos!" (Ro. 11:33).

Cuando empecé a predicar acerca del amor de Dios hacia el pueblo judío y de Su determinación absoluta de traer a salvación a un gran



Donald Dolmus recently was successful in getting one of his translations published in a Nicaraguan newspaper called *El Nuevo Diario*. It was a translation of Dr. Reagan's article entitled, "Why Does God Seem to Be Obsessed With the Jews?" A portion of the full page article is reproduced above.

very impressed with the high quality of his work, including his imaginative use of photos, paintings, drawings, charts, and diagrams to illustrate the articles.

Since that time, Donald has translated dozens of our articles and posted them on his website, and today his site is receiving hits from Spanish-speaking people all over the world.

Life in Nicaragua is difficult. The economy is very weak. Jobs pay poorly. We have provided Donald with financial support from time to time to encourage him in the outstanding work he is doing to make Spanish-speaking people aware of the soon return of Jesus.

If you would like to help with Donald's ministry, send a donation to us that is designated for Donald Dolmus. You can find his website at <http://atalayadejesus.blogspot.com>. ✚



THE INSANITY OF IT

(The scene is the City Hall in San Francisco)

“Next.”

“Good morning, we want to apply for a marriage license.”

“Names?”

“Tim and Jim Jones.”

“Jones? Are you related? I see a resemblance.”

“Yes, we’re brothers.”

“Brothers? You can’t get married!”

“Why not? Aren’t you giving marriage licenses to same gender couples?”

“Yes, thousands. But we haven’t had any siblings. That’s incest!”

“Incest? No, we are not gay.”

“Not gay? Then why do you want to get married?”

“For the financial benefits, of course. And we do love each other. Besides, we don’t have any other prospects.”

“But we’re issuing marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples who’ve been denied equal protection under the law. If you are not gay, you can get married to a woman.”

“Wait a minute! A gay man has the same right to marry a woman as I have. But just because I’m straight doesn’t mean I want to marry a woman. I want to marry my brother, Jim.”

“And I want to marry Tim. Are you going to discriminate against us just because we are not gay?”

“All right, all right. I’ll give you your license! Next.”

“Hi, we are here to get married.”

“Names?”

“John Smith, Jane James, Robert Green and June Johnson.”

“Who wants to marry whom?”

“We all want to marry each other.”

“But there are four of you!”

“That’s right. You see, we’re all bisexual. I love Jane and Robert, Jane loves me and June, June loves Robert and Jane, and Robert loves June and me. All of us getting married together is the only way we can express our sexual preferences in a marital relationship.”

“But we’ve only been granting licenses to gay and lesbian couples.”

“So you’re discriminating against bisexuals?”

“No, it’s just that . . . well, the traditional idea of marriage is that it’s just for couples.”

“Since when are you standing on tradition?”

“Well, I mean, you have to draw the line somewhere.”

“Who says? There’s no logical reason to limit marriage to couples. The more the better. Besides, we demand our rights! The mayor says the Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law. I demand that you give us a marriage license!”

“All right, all right. Next.”

“Hello, I’d like a marriage license.”

“In what names?”

“David Deets.”

“And the other person?”

“That’s all. I want to marry myself.”

“Marry yourself? What do you mean?”

“Well, my psychiatrist says I have a dual personality, so I want to marry the two together. Maybe then I can file a joint income tax return.”

“That does it! I quit! You people are making a mockery of marriage! The next thing I know someone will be in here trying to marry his dog!”

(Editor’s note: The author of this insightful article is unknown. Source of the logo: CNYcentral.com.)

THE ABSURDITY OF IT

“To declare that homosexuals can marry is patently absurd. The very definition of marriage is the union of a man and woman, first and foremost, for the procreation of children. To say two men who live together and engage in sex can be married renders the idea and ideal of marriage meaningless. The court may declare it, but it cannot redefine an institution that nature and nature’s God have already defined. As they say in Texas, you can put lipstick and earrings on a pig, and call her Peggy Sue, but it’s still a pig.”



Pat Buchanan

Idolatry —

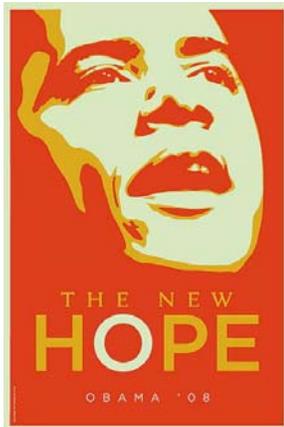
A deeply disturbing phenomenon began to develop during Barack Obama's presidential campaign and has continued to this day. It is his adulation as a "Messiah."

In February of 2008, some eight months before the presidential election, Philip Primeau of the *Berkeley Beacon* wrote: "A spooky side of Obama's charisma has emerged, and it's making some people sparing with their applause. There's a growing sense that "Obama-mania" has gotten out of hand, that it has entered Kool-Aid land. Many Obama supporters are now better categorized as disciples. They exhibit evangelical fervor, apostolic devotion. Despite having no real acquaintance with the senator, they speak of him intimately and use terms of deep personal affection . . . To be honest, there are disturbing elements of Obama's campaign that read like plagiarized Christianity. The campaign's renowned icon — the wide, glowing 'O' — is eerily reminiscent of a halo. But that's the least of it.

"Obama lore constitutes a full-fledged genre. In major venues and minor, you learn of multitudes shrieking his name, of women fainting at rallies, of followers trading "conversion stories," of weeping masses. He is compared to Pope John Paul II, even directly to Jesus Christ. "Transformational," and "transcendent" are the sacred buzzwords of the Obama passion.

"The senator happily embraces the divinity narrative. Backed by choir singers, his orations are delivered as scripture. 'At some point in the evening,' the senator preached in a January address, 'a light is going to shine down and you will have an epiphany and you will say, 'I have to vote for Barack.'

"Frequently, Obama refers to his rapturous supporters as 'believers.' At a church in October [2007] . . . he said 'I am confident that we can create a kingdom right here on earth,' a transparent reference to the Christian idea of Jesus' Second Coming and subsequent worldly reign."



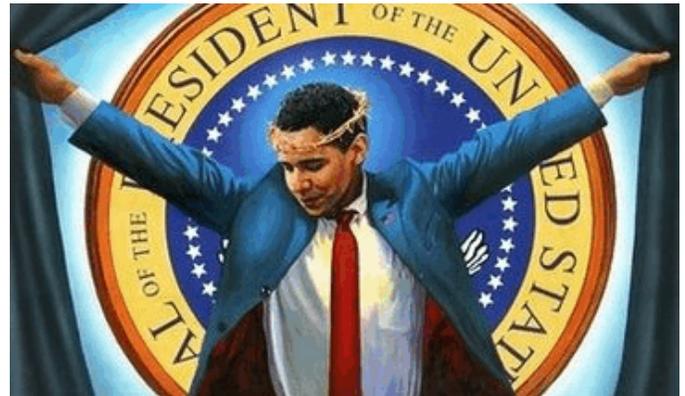
Obama is a Humanist who has attracted the support of Humanists. The fundamental characteristic of Humanism is its belief in Man. Humanists believe that Mankind is basically good and that people are capable of perfection. They accordingly put their faith

TIMES and Seasons

in men rather than God. It is, therefore, only natural that Humanists have a tendency to elevate political leaders to godhood. During the days of Communism we saw this often expressed in what came to be called "the cult of the personality."

We are dangerously on the brink of developing such a cult here in the United States centered around the idolatrous worship of President Obama, and the trend is being accelerated by Obama's self-conscious messianic flair.

The trend recently manifested itself in a blasphemous work of art that was scheduled to be displayed at New York City's Union Square in honor of Barack Obama's first 100 days in office. The item was a painting by Michael D'Antuono that depicted Obama as the Messiah. Fortunately, the public outcry against the painting was so loud that the decision was made not to display it at the Square.



"The Truth," a painting by Michael D'Antuono.

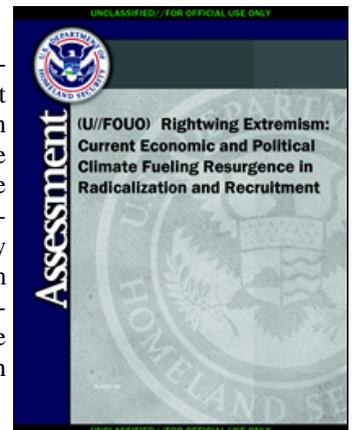
"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." — Psalm 118:8-9

Persecution —

In April the Obama Administration published an assessment of "Rightwing Extremism" in the United States. The 9 page document was produced by the Department of Homeland Security. It stated that the possibility of rightwing acts of terrorism was increasing due to "the economic downturn" and "the election of the first African American president."

The document warned local police departments to monitor those who are "antagonistic toward the new presidential administration," as well as those opposed to immigration and restrictions on firearms. It also warned of those who were opposed to a "New World Order." Incredibly, the report warned that two groups in particular are terrorist threats: returning war veterans and believers in end time Bible prophecy.

"They will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to . . . prisons." — Luke 21:12 ✚



The Nanny State —

“One unremarked and unintended consequence of Barack Obama’s audacious plans for the expansion of government — especially in health care, education, and the environment — is that the nanny state he is seeking to build will likely crowd out religious institutions in America. In other words, if he succeeds in passing his ambitious agenda, the Obama revolution is likely to lead the United States down the secular path already trod by Europe . . . The bottom line: as government grows, people’s reliance on God seems to diminish.” — W. Bradford Wilcox, professor of sociology at the University of Virginia

In his book, *Whose Keeper?*, Boston College political scientist Alan Wolfe asserts that one of the dangers associated with the nanny state is that “when government assumes moral responsibility for others, people are less likely to do so themselves.” Wolfe notes that large increases in welfare spending in Sweden, Denmark and Norway over the last half century have ended up eroding the moral fabric of families and civic institutions. Scandinavians have come to depend not on family, or church, or themselves, but on government for their specific needs. In short, “In God We Trust” has been replaced by “In Government We Trust.”

Culture-Shift —



Albert Mohler, Jr.

“A remarkable culture-shift has taken place around us. The most basic contours of American culture have been radically altered. The so-called Judeo-Christian consensus of the last millennium has given way to a post-modern, post-Christian narrative that is animating large portions of this society.” — Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky

American Government —

“I taught American Government for 20 years, and I always emphasized that our Founding Fathers were unique in that they did not trust anyone, including themselves. That’s because they had a Christian perspective. So, unlike the Humanistic elites in European countries, they refused to establish an oligarchy, consisting of government by the elite. Nor did they establish a democracy because they knew it would ultimately turn into a mobocracy. So, they established a Republic with many checks and balances, including the fact that the only directly elected people in the national government were the members of the House of Representatives. The members of the U.S. Senate were appointed by state legislatures, and the President was chosen by an Electoral College. Their philosophy of government was based on the biblical revelation that all men are inherently evil and cannot be trusted (Jeremiah 17:5-9).” — Dr. David R. Reagan

Food for Thought

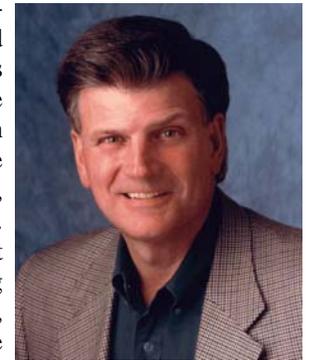


The American Crisis —

“We are in the midst of the most serious crisis our nation has faced in my lifetime, and I believe unless God intervenes, America will never again be the great country that we have known and loved.

“The federal government is on the verge of nationalizing our financial institutions, fundamentally changing the economic engine that has driven our democracy for over 200 years. That would be a giant step toward socialism.

“This isn’t what I fear most, however. What burdens my heart and soul is that I believe America finds itself in this predicament because we are a nation that has forgotten God. We have rejected God. We don’t want Him in the marketplace, our schools, or our government. The moral and spiritual fabric that kept this country strong for so long has almost completely unraveled, and the economic chaos is just one of the disastrous consequences . . .



Franklin Graham

“Our nation is now reaping what we have sown. Our greed, relentless pursuit of pleasure, and abandonment of God’s principles have brought us to this historic turning point . . . We have sinned openly and repeatedly, and we are in grave danger unless we repent and turn back to God.” — Franklin Graham

God’s Faithfulness to the Jews —

The thoughts below were penned by one of our Prophecy Partners, Bruce Lunsford of Greenville, South Carolina. He was called home to the Lord on December 8, 2008. His wife, Heejin, submitted these hand-written thoughts of his.

Have you ever noticed
That every time someone
Tries to destroy the Jewish nation
God gives them another holiday?

Pharaoh tried it,
And now, they celebrate Passover.
Haman tried it,
But instead, they enjoy Purim.
Then Antiochus tried it,
So they have the Festival of Lights.

Poor, sad, Pharaoh, Haman, and
Antiochus.

They just didn’t believe what God says:
“I will bless you and make your name great.
You shall be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you.”

Every time I meet a Jew
I realize the Bible is true,
God exists, and God keeps His promises. ☆



Bruce Lunsford

Ministry Honored by NRB

Our ministry was honored recently when Dr. Reagan was invited to become a member of the President's Council of the National Religious Broadcasters.



The NRB is an international association of Christian communicators with over 1400 member organizations representing millions of viewers, listeners, and readers. The Association exists to represent the right of Christian broadcasters to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

The President's Council is composed of 48 leaders in Christian broadcasting who serve as an advisory board to the association. In addition to providing advice and counsel, the members of the Council attend the NRB Capitol Hill Media Summit that is held each year in Washington, D.C. This year the meeting will be held in mid-September. During this summit the members of the Council will meet directly with key lawmakers who are involved with legislation that affects Christian broadcasting.

The NRB is the most important Christian organization that lobbies constantly to protect freedom of speech on radio and television. The organization also promotes high ethical standards for Christian broadcasters. You can find detailed information about the NRB at its website: www.nrb.org.

Upcoming Programs

In August we will begin broadcasting 4 interviews with Eric Barger, who is one of the premier Christian apologists on the scene today. Incredibly, when Eric was saved, he was a rock and roll musician and drug addict who was deeply involved in the New Age Movement. His amazing transformation into a leading defender of the Christian faith is truly a miracle of God. His great ministry is called "Take a Stand!" His website can be found at www.ericbarger.com.

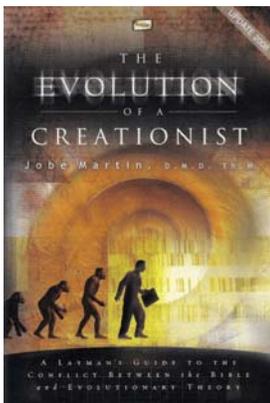


Eric Barger

In late September we will broadcast 4 interviews featuring Jobe Martin, another great defender of the faith. Jobe's ministry, called "Biblical Discipleship Ministries," specializes in teaching about Creation and Evolution. Jobe is a very gifted teacher, and

his programs should prove to be very enlightening. You can find out more about his ministry at www.biblicaldiscipleship.org.

We will be featuring Jobe Martin's outstanding book called *The Evolution of a Creationist*. You can order the book through us by calling 800-705-8316. It sells for \$15 including the cost of mailing. It is easy to read. It is entertaining. And it is very enlightening. ✚



"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

DayStar Network				
DirecTV Channel 369		DISH Channel 263		
On cable networks throughout the nation.				
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				
DirecTV Channel 364		DISH Channel 259		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Fri. 9:00am	Fri. 10:00am	Fri. 11:00am	Fri. Noon

The Church Channel				
DirecTV Channel 371				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network				
DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Regional Networks



"Christ in Prophecy" is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque: KAZQ, Channel 32 and KTVS, Channel 36. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at www.lamblion.com. Go to the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and click on "Current TV Show." You can also watch our TV programs on the Tangle website at www.tangle.com/lambandlion. ✚

Ministry News

Radio Interviews —

Dr. Reagan has been appearing as a regular guest on the Frank Pastore radio show which is broadcast daily during the afternoon drive time in Los Angeles. The host station is KKLA-FM (99.5). Between 1979 and 1986 Frank served as a professional baseball pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds and the Minnesota Twins. After retiring from his baseball career, he earned graduate degrees in both theology and political science. Frank integrates religion and politics with the news of the day in an entertaining and stimulating style while always providing a biblical perspective. His interviews of Dr. Reagan have focused on the relationship of end time Bible prophecy and current events, particularly those related to the nation of Israel.

Christian Tract —

The Gospel Tract Society of Independence, Missouri, recently published one of Dr. Reagan's articles as a tract, and they have since distributed over 100,000 copies. The tract is entitled, "Living for Christ in the End Times." You can order copies of the tract from the society at their website: www.gospeltract.org. They have many other tracts available through their website. You will also find information about a great new comic book they have published for children called, "The Amazing Gospel."



"[My God] will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark" (Psalm 91:4). (Photo from the Internet. Source unknown.)

Schedule —

In **August** Dr. Reagan will be speaking at the Church of God in Catlettsburg, KY (8-9) and at the Maranatha Ministries Prophecy Conference which will be held at the First Baptist Church in Broussard, LA (14-15). Dr. Reagan will begin the month of **September** back in Kentucky at the Nineveh Christian Church in Lawrenceburg (12-13). The next week he will speak at the Stealing the Mind Conference in Denver, CO (19). It will be held at Calvary Chapel South in Littleton. In **October** Dr. Reagan will speak at a prophecy conference in Saskatoon, Canada (16-18). It will be hosted by the Erindale Alliance Church.



Prophecy Partners —

The financial base of our ministry is provided by a group of 2,500 people we call our "Prophecy Partners." These are people who have committed to give \$20 a month or more for one year, or a minimum total of \$240 for the year. Each month, Dr. Reagan writes a letter to our Prophecy Partners in which he reports on our activities, our financial needs, and our prayer requests. With that report we always include a special gift. It is usually a

DVD program on some aspect of Bible prophecy. Sometimes we send a copy of a new publication, like one of the topics in our *Bible Prophecy Insights* series. In November of each year the gift consists of our new Holy Land calendar for the upcoming year.

We would like to invite you to become a Prophecy Partner. All you have to do is give us a call or write us a note and indicate that you want to be a member of the program. Then, just indicate to us how much of a monthly commitment you would like to make. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this request.

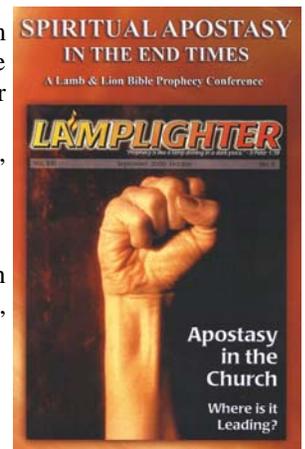


Dr. Reagan and his wife, Ann, are shown above with Sal Miano. Sal has been a Prophecy Partner ever since the program began in 1987. He is a resident of Jerseyville, Illinois.

Conference Album —

We have prepared a DVD album containing videos of all five of the presentations that were made at our recent Bible conference:

- "Are There Many Roads to God?" Ron Carlson
- "The Danger of the Emergent Church Movement" Ron Carlson
- "Spiritual Signs of the End Times" Dave Reagan
- "The Bible Driven Church" Mike Gendron
- "Absolute Truth" Robert Jeffress



The album sells for \$20 plus the cost of shipping. Individual presentations are available for \$5 each plus the cost of shipping. You can order by calling 972-736-3567. Ask for the Prophecy Conference album. ✚

Where is the United States in Bible Prophecy?

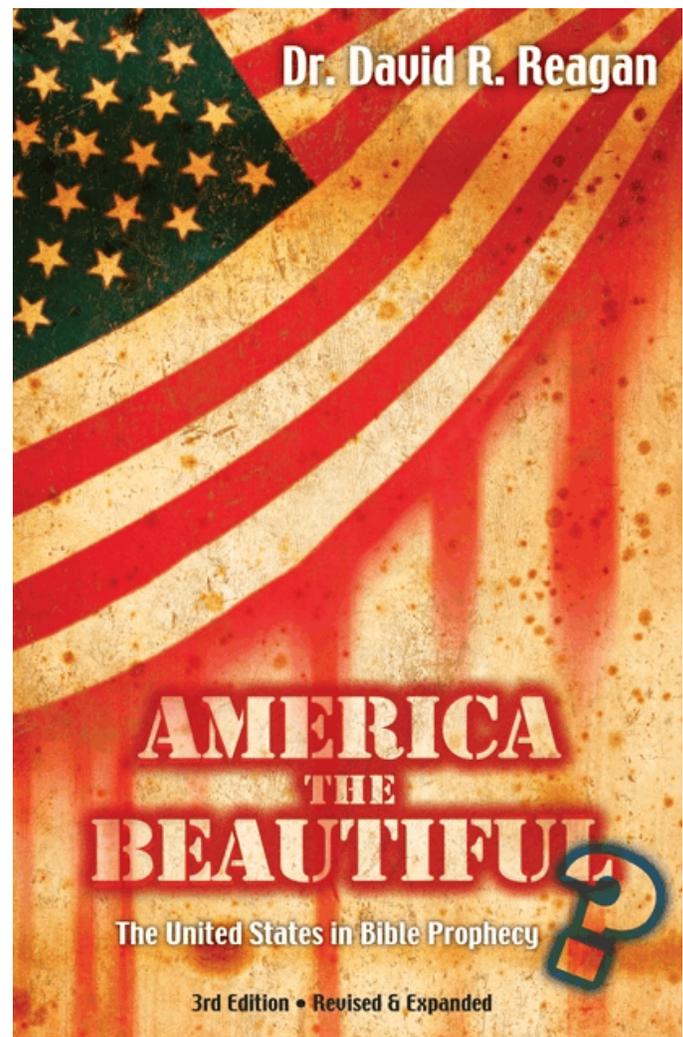
The third edition of Dr. Reagan's popular book, **America the Beautiful?**, has been published. The book has been revised, updated, and expanded to cover developments in the United States and on the international scene. Its length has increased from 150 pages to 215 pages.

In one of the new chapters, Dr. Reagan discusses what he calls "the ominous year of 2008." Pointing to both the economic collapse and the election of America's most liberal president in history, Dr. Reagan asks, "Has God delivered our nation from judgment to destruction?" He characterizes President Obama as the most "pro-abortion, pro-homosexual, anti-Capitalist, anti-Israel president in American history." Even more alarming, he presents evidence that President Obama is a Christian in name only.

In a chapter entitled, "International Stage-Setting," Dr. Reagan reviews developments in Europe, Russia, Turkey, and the Islamic world that set the stage for the fulfilment of end time prophecies concerning world politics. He also explains in detail a grave new threat to American security that has emerged on the world scene in the past few years.

Dr. Reagan concludes the book by discussing what he calls "the only hope for America." He also outlines what Christians must do to be overcomers in dealing with what is certain to be a very difficult future for the United States.

The earlier chapters in the book, which were included in previous editions, reveal the biblical principles that guide how God deals with nations. These chapters also discuss the pattern of international politics that will characterize the end times.



Of course, the book focuses on the mysterious absence of the United States in end time Bible prophecy and provides explanations for it. In the process, Dr. Reagan provides insights into the spiritual meaning of the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

The book sells for \$15 and can be ordered by calling 800-705-8316 Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm Central time. Or, you can order the book through our website at www.lamblion.com. ☩



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