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

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The Millennium in the Old Testament

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Observations by the Editor

Timing

Our last issue focused on the decay of society, and we featured the current epidemic of homosexuality as evidence of the moral collapse of our society. The issue started arriving at homes about three days before President Obama made his infamous endorsement of same-sex marriage. Immediately people started calling and expressing their amazement over the timeliness of our subject matter.

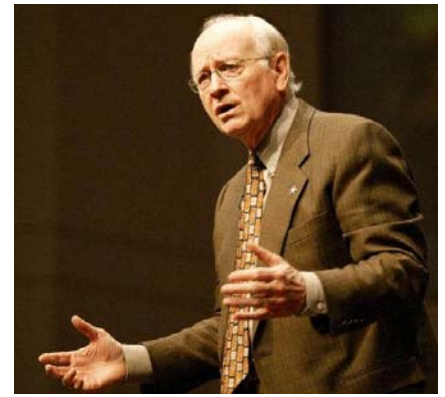
The credit for that should go to God and His leading of us through His Holy Spirit. Because we were obedient to that leading, we were able to supply a lot of valuable biblical information that pastors all across America could use in sermons. We were as astonished by the perfect timing as were those who contacted us!

The focus of our next issue is still up in the air, but it will definitely contain an important article in response to another issue of timing — our presidential election. We have received many inquiries about the dilemma we face in the upcoming election. The article will address that dilemma with a spiritual analysis of both of the main candidates.

Of course, the main issue of timing that we address constantly is the return of Jesus. It is our conviction that we are definitely living in the season of the Lord's return. We do not believe there is a single prophecy that must be fulfilled for the Lord to return.

People sometime point to Matthew 24:14 where Jesus said "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world . . . and then the end will come." There are two things that must be remembered about this prophecy. First, it refers to the Second Coming and not the Rapture. The Rapture (the Lord's appearing for His Church) can occur any moment, whereas there are many prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Lord returns to this earth in what we call "The Second Coming."

Second, Jesus' prophecy will not be fulfilled until the end of the Tribulation when God will send forth an angel who will circumnavigate the globe, proclaiming the gospel to every living person (Revelation 14:6).



Dr. David R. Reagan

As I have said many times before, and as I will continue to say, "We are living on borrowed time!" I know that for certain, not because God has given me any special prophetic revelation, but because the Bible gives us signs to watch for, and those signs are everywhere we look today, crying out from the heavens, "Jesus is returning soon!"

The future has arrived. The ancient end time prophecies are being fulfilled before our eyes. The time is short, and the tragedy is that the Church is asleep, being led by men more interested in church growth than in preparing their people for Jesus to appear in the heavens at any moment. Worst yet are those Church leaders who are openly scoffing at the idea of the Lord's imminent return, arguing instead that the Church must first win the world to Christ and then reign for a thousand years before the Lord can return.

Satan does not want anyone to know that Jesus is standing at the very gates of Heaven waiting for His Father's command to step out on a cloud and return for His Church. And those who are proclaiming that message are under constant attack.

Pray for us to stand firm and to never waver in fulfilling the Lord's call for us to proclaim the soon return of Jesus to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

Maranatha! (1 Corinthians 16:22) ❖

The cover art is by William Hallmark. Prints of his paintings can be purchased at www.bestchristianart.com.

The Millennium in the Old Testament



A depiction of the Millennium by an unknown artist. Jerusalem is shown in the background, lifted up as the highest place on planet earth (Isaiah 2:2 and Zechariah 14:10). The glory of the Lord beams forth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:23), and people come from all over the world to worship the King of kings (Zechariah 14:16-18). Swords are hammered into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4), the wolf dwells peaceably with the lamb (Isaiah 11:6), and children play with cobras (Isaiah 11:8).

Dr. David R. Reagan

The Amillennial viewpoint of end time Bible prophecy is the majority view within the Church today — held by both the Catholic church and most mainline Protestant denominations.

Amillennialists are those who believe that Jesus is currently reigning over all the world from Heaven through the Church. They therefore believe that we are in the Millennium now — that it began at the Cross and will continue until the Second Coming. They do not believe that Jesus will ever return to this earth to reign from Jerusalem.

To sustain their viewpoint, Amillennialists must spiritualize most end time prophecies, arguing that they do not mean what they say. Thus, for example, they dismiss the fact that in Revelation 20 we are told six times that the Millennium will last 1,000 years. Amillennialists reject the thousand years as being “figurative in nature,” meaning only a long period of time.

One interesting thing I have noticed over the years about Amillennialists is that they have little or no knowledge of the end time prophecies contained in the Hebrew Scriptures. Most Amillennialists I have encountered believe that the only place in

the Bible that the Millennium is mentioned is Revelation 20.

A Personal Experience

Let me give you an example of what I am talking about. Several years ago I was invited to make a presentation to a very large Christian convention. Specifically, I was asked to speak on the topic, “Why I Believe Jesus Will Return to Reign on the Earth.”

I was told I would have 30 minutes to make the presentation. When I asked why I was being allotted such a short period of time, I was told, “It’s because there is going to be another speaker who will tell why he does not believe there will be a future reign of Jesus on the earth. Each of you will speak 30 minutes, and then there will be 30 minutes for questions and answers.”

I accepted the invitation. The other speaker turned out to be a distinguished professor of theology from a Bible College.

I knew my audience would be made up of people who believed that a future reign of Jesus on this earth is mentioned only one place in the Bible — in Revelation 20. So, I decided to spend all my time talking about one passage in the Old Testa-

ment — the prophecy contained in Zechariah 14:1-9.

This prophecy states that a day will come when Jerusalem will be surrounded by enemy forces. Half the city will fall, and then the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives. When His feet touch the mountain, it will split in half, and the Jewish remnant will flee from the city and hide in the cleavage of the mountain. The Lord will then speak a supernatural word, and all the enemy forces will be instantly destroyed. And at that point, “. . . the Lord will be king over all the earth” (verse 9).

The other speaker, who followed me, totally ignored my presentation. He read an academic paper based on the opinions of theologians and not the Scriptures.

When the time came for questions, the other speaker was asked, “What is your explanation of Zechariah 14:1-9?” His exact words in response were, “I have no idea what that passage means, but I can assure you that it has been fulfilled somewhere at sometime.”

A Strange Doctrine

I was not surprised by his bizarre response because I had grown up among the churches which were hosting the conference, and I was very familiar with their attitude about Old Testament prophecies.

In their attempt to defend their Amillennial viewpoint, they had developed a doctrine which stated that “all Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled.” To justify that assertion, they always pointed to the words of Jesus recorded in Luke 24:44 —

These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

The problem with using this passage to justify their dismissal of Old Testament prophecy is that it does not say that all Old Testament prophecies **have been** fulfilled. It says they **must be** fulfilled. The First Coming prophecies have been fulfilled. The Second Coming prophecies are yet to be fulfilled, and Zechariah 14:1-9 is one of those prophecies.

Reckless Spiritualization

At least my opponent did not spiritualize the passage, as most Amillennialists do. Take, for example, the 20th Century theologian Lorraine Bettner. In his book, *The Millennium*, he argued that the Mount of Olives is a symbol of the human heart. The enemy forces are a symbol of the evil in the world attacking the heart. When a person receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, He comes into their heart, causing the heart to split in repentance. He then defeats all the enemy forces and begins to reign over that person’s heart.



<http://ubdavid.org>

This, of course, is an utterly ridiculous interpretation of this passage, but it represents the kind of games that Amillennialists have to play with the Scriptures in order to sustain their position.

In summary, Amillennialists either ignore the Old Testament passages about the Second Coming and the Millennium, or they spiritualize them, or they argue they have already been fulfilled.

A Major Spiritual Problem

But the bottom line is that most Amillennialists simply do not know the Old Testament Scriptures, and this is a major problem in the Church today because it affects not

only prophecy but all doctrine.

I grew up in what was called a “New Testament Church.” We focused all our Bible study on the New Testament because we were taught that the Old Testament had been “nailed to the Cross” and was therefore no longer valid. Most of us did not own a complete Bible. When we went to a Bible study, we took our New Testaments.

The idea that the Old Testament had been “nailed to the Cross,” and was no longer relevant was based on a statement in Colossians 2:14 which reads, “. . . having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the Cross.” This verse is speaking of a “certificate of debt,” not the Old Testament. It is talking about the debt we owed God for our sins. By taking our sins upon Himself, Jesus, who was sinless, paid our debt through His crucifixion (1 Peter 2:24).

The Relevance of the Old Testament

This spiritual malady of ignoring the Old Testament is epidemic in the Church today, and it is a serious problem because there is no way to understand the New Testament without knowledge of the Old Testament.

For example, Jesus is referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:20 as the “first fruits” of those to be resurrected. There is no way to understand that expression apart from a knowledge of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

In like manner, Jesus is referred to in the book of Hebrews as the “High Priest of our confession” (Hebrews 3:1) and as “a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 5:10). These terms have no meaning apart from a knowledge of the interaction between Abraham and Melchizedek and the role of the High Priest as revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Another Personal Experience

Let me give you another example of the significance of Old Testament ignorance. When I was growing up in an Amillennial church, one of the statements I heard in sermons over and over again was, “There is not one verse in the Bible that even implies that Jesus will ever put his feet on this earth again.”

You can imagine how surprised I was when, at the age of 12, I accidentally discovered Zechariah 14:1-9 where it states point blank that the Messiah will return to the Mount of Olives and that when His feet touch the ground, the mountain will split in half.

I took this passage to my pastor and asked him what it meant. He studied it in silence for a long time, and then he said, "Son, I don't know what these verses mean, but I can guarantee you that they do not mean what they say!"

Later I discovered that Zechariah 14 is not the only place in the Old Testament where the Scriptures state that Jesus will return to this earth. Consider, for example, Ezekiel 43:7 where Jesus, in a pre-incarnate appearance, takes Ezekiel on a visionary tour of the Millennial Temple, and in the midst of that tour, He says, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever . . ."

I think it is also significant to note that the prophet Ezekiel states that when the Lord returns, the name of the city of Jerusalem will be changed to "Yahweh-Shammah," meaning "The Lord is there."

Understanding Prophecy

A knowledge of Old Testament prophecy is particularly necessary to the understanding of New Testament prophecy. Revelation and Daniel fit together like a hand in a glove. Neither one can be understood apart from the other.

The book of Revelation contains more than 300 quotes or references to Old Testament passages, and not a single one is identified. A person without knowledge of the Old Testament could read the book of Revelation and never realize how interlaced it is with Old Testament prophecy. Consider the theme of the book that is found in Revelation 1:7 —

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.

This statement is made up of two quotes from the Old Testament put end-to-end. The first is found in Daniel 7:13 and the second in Zechariah 12:10.

The Significance of the Old Testament

The Apostle Paul emphasized the importance of the Old Testament when he wrote the following words to Timothy:

. . . from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).

Most Christians read these words and assume that Timothy must have had a New Testament that he studied from. Not so. The New Testament had not yet been written and compiled when Paul addressed these words to Timothy. When Paul referred to



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"the sacred writings," he was talking about what we call today the Old Testament. And the point he was making is that Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about His First Coming was sufficient to produce faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Paul proceeded in that letter to Timothy to state that "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness . . ." (2 Timothy 3:16). The term, "all scripture," means exactly what it says. It refers to both the New Testament and the Old Testament.

Evangelism Based on the Old Testament

The very first Gospel sermon ever preached — Peter's sermon on Pentecost — was based entirely on Old Testament prophecies. All Peter did from the beginning of the sermon to the end was to quote an Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah and then proclaim that Jesus had fulfilled it (Acts 2:14-36).

Phillip the evangelist took the same approach when he was confronted with the Ethiopian eunuch, a devout Jew who had been to Jerusalem to observe the feasts and was returning home to Africa (Acts 8:26-39). He discovered that the man was reading an Old Testament passage from Isaiah about the Messiah coming as a "suffering lamb" (Isaiah 53:1-9).

Phillip explained the passage to the Ethiopian, and the man accepted the fact that Jesus had fulfilled it. In response, he was baptized. He then continued on his way, rejoicing that he had found the Messiah.

Messianic Prophecy

There are over three hundred prophecies in the Old Testament that pertain to the First Coming of the Messiah, but many of these are repetitious. Those that are separate and distinct total 109. There are many more than this that relate to the Second Coming and the Lord's Millennial Reign.

All the First Coming prophecies were literally fulfilled, and there is no reason to assume that the fulfillment of the Second Coming prophecies will be any different. We need, therefore, to take the Old Testament seriously, and we need to study what it has to say prophetically about the end times.

The Second Coming

The Bible teaches that Jesus will establish His personal reign over all the earth at the time of His Second Coming, and the Old Testament contains many prophecies about that event. As we have already seen, Zechariah 14 says the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives from which He ascended into Heaven. In Isaiah's account of the same event, he refers to the Lord returning to Mount Zion, which is an alternative name for Jerusalem: "So will the Lord of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill. Like flying birds, so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem. He will protect and rescue it; He will pass over and rescue it" (Isaiah 31:4b-5)."

Both Isaiah and Jeremiah portray the Lord returning in wrath. Jeremiah says He will “roar” from the heavens (Jeremiah 25:30-31). Isaiah says He will be “filled with indignation” and His tongue will be like “a consuming fire” (Isaiah 30:27-28). Zephaniah says the day of His return will be one of “trouble and distress” and “destruction and desolation” (Zephaniah 1:14-18).

The Millennial Reign

Once the Messiah has poured out the wrath of God on the enemies of God, He will establish His reign over the earth, and He will begin to manifest His glory:

Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders (Isaiah 24:23).

All the various aspects about the Lord’s millennial reign are spelled out in detail in the book of Isaiah. The book of Revelation is about the Tribulation. It is the book of Isaiah that reveals the details of the Millennium.

Political Characteristics — The reign will be world-wide (Isaiah 2:2 and 9:6-7). It will be peaceful in nature (Isaiah 2:4), and the world will be blessed with righteousness (Isaiah 11:4-5) and justice (Isaiah 42:3-4).

The Lord’s throne will be established in Jerusalem, for He will occupy the throne of David (Isaiah 2:3). His government will be a theocratic one in which He will serve as king, legislator and judge (Isaiah 33:17-22). The Redeemed will reign with the Lord as princes (Isaiah 32:1). And because the Lord will be reigning from Jerusalem, the nation of Israel will be the prime nation in the world (Isaiah 2:2-3, 49:22-23, and 60:1-62:7).

Spiritual Characteristics — Isaiah spends a great amount of time outlining the spiritual blessings of the Millennium, the greatest of which is the fact that the glory and holiness of the Lord will be manifested (Isaiah 40:3-5, 52:13-15, 61:3 and 66:18). Holiness will abound (Isaiah 4:2-4) and an attitude of joy and praise will prevail:

And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away (Isaiah 35:10).

A rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem will serve as the worship center of the world (Isaiah 2:2-3, 56:6-8, and 60:7b,13). Incredibly, the Shekinah glory of God will hover over the city of Jerusalem like a canopy (Isaiah 4:5). And “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

The Redemption of Nature — One aspect of the Millennium



“Peace” by William Strutt (1896). Based on Isaiah 11:6-9.

that is heavily emphasized by the Hebrew prophets is the redemption of nature. The land of Israel will no longer be a place of desolation (Isaiah 62:3-5). Instead, “the fruit of the earth” will be the pride of Israel (Isaiah 4:2). “Waters will break forth in the wilderness,” and the deserts will become pools of water (Isaiah 35:6b-7).

In addition to agricultural abundance, the animal kingdom will be restored to its original perfection. Poisonous animals will cease to be poisonous, and meat-eating animals will become herbivorous. All members of the animal kingdom will live together in perfect peace with each other and with Mankind (Isaiah 11:6-9 and 65:25).

The Quality of Life — In a thrilling passage in Isaiah 65, the prophet reveals that lifespans for those in the flesh will be greatly expanded to “the lifetime of a tree” (Isaiah 65:22). Accordingly, anyone who dies at the age of 100 will be considered a youth (Isaiah 65:20).

Every person will have his own home and vineyard. There will be no homeless or hungry people (Isaiah 65:21-22). All labor will be redeemed (Isaiah 65:23) in the sense that it will be productive, and it will not be confiscated by others.

Disease will be curtailed (Isaiah 33:24) and persons born with physical handicaps will be healed:

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout with joy (Isaiah 35: 5-6).

Isaiah’s Climax

Isaiah was given so many glorious visions and words of knowledge concerning the majestic reign of the Lord that he was almost bursting with anticipation by the time he got to the end of his book. This prompted him to suddenly cry out:

Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains [kingdoms] would quake at Your presence — as fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil — to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence! (Isaiah 64:1-2).

Now, keep in mind that I have only shared with you a few passages from the book of Isaiah. There are many other passages regarding the Millennium that are scattered throughout the Old Testament.

Prophecies of the Major Prophets About the Millennium

Jeremiah pictures the Millennium as a time when Israel and Judah will be united in peace, and the city of Jerusalem will be

called “The Throne of the Lord” (Jeremiah 3:17-18). Jesus, “the righteous Branch,” will “reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land” (Jeremiah 23:5). And because of His new role as king, the name of Jesus will be changed to Yahweh-Tsidkenu, meaning, “The Lord is our righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6).

David, in his glorified body, will serve as the king of Israel (Jeremiah 30:9), and all the enemies of Israel will be destroyed (Jeremiah 30:11). The city of Jerusalem and the Temple will be rebuilt (Jeremiah 30:18), and the population will be multiplied (Jeremiah 30:19). The mourning of the Jewish people will be turned into joy (Jeremiah 31:13).

The Jewish people will repent of the rejection of their Messiah and will enter into a new covenant with God that will be written on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34 and 32:37-40). The streets of Jerusalem will be filled with “the voice of joy and the voice of gladness . . .” (Jeremiah 33:11).

Ezekiel confirms that the Jewish people will enter into a new covenant with God that will be written on their hearts (Ezekiel 11:19-20 and 16:60-62). He also confirms that the Lord will guarantee their security and will “execute judgments upon all who scorn them round about them” (Ezekiel 28:26). The land of Egypt will be particularly punished for its treatment of Israel and will remain a desolation during the first 40 years of the Millennium (Ezekiel 29:9-16).

Ezekiel also confirms that David will be made king of Israel (Ezekiel 34:23-24 and 37:24). The Lord will pour out “showers of blessings” on Israel, including agricultural abundance (Ezekiel 34:26-29) and the rebuilding of their Temple (Ezekiel 37:26-27). The result is that the Lord’s glory will be set among the nations (Ezekiel 39:21).

From chapter 40 through chapter 46, Ezekiel focuses on describing the Millennial Temple. It is much larger than any of the previous Jewish temples, and the Holy of Holies in the Temple contains no ark. Jeremiah had already prophesied that the ark would not be rebuilt or remembered (Jeremiah 3:16).

One of Ezekiel’s end time prophecies that has already been fulfilled relates to the Eastern Gate. He says it will be shut up and will not be reopened until the Messiah returns (Ezekiel 44:1-3). The gate was closed in the 1500’s and remains closed to this day.

Ezekiel reveals that part of the redemption of nature will be the conversion of the Dead Sea into a sea of fresh water (Ezekiel 47:8-9). He concludes his book by telling how the redeemed and greatly expanded land of Israel will be divided among the 12 tribes (Ezekiel 48).



A Southwestern artist’s view of the Peaceable Kingdom. The picture is titled “When the Coyote Lies Down with the Lamb.” The painter is Diana Bryer. Her paintings can be viewed at www.dianabryer.com.

Daniel’s end time prophecies focus on the Tribulation and the Antichrist. His first mention of the Millennium occurs in chapter 2 where he interprets the dream of Nebuchadnezzar about the sequence of Gentile empires. He reveals that the last Gentile empire will be destroyed by the return of the Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom “which will never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44-45).

In chapter 7, Daniel emphasizes that the Redeemed will reign with the Messiah: “Then the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to

the people of the saints of the Highest One . . .” (Daniel 7:27). Daniel concludes his book by indicating there will be an interregnum of 75 days between the time of the Lord’s return and the establishment of His worldwide government (Daniel 12:11-12). This is most likely the period of time when the Messiah will judge all those left alive at the end of the Tribulation to determine whether or not they will enter the Millennium in the flesh. This time period will also likely be used to organize the Messiah’s government, part of which will be to make governing assignments to the Redeemed who will be in glorified bodies.

Prophecies of the Minor Prophets About the Millennium

Hosea talks about how God will use the Millennium to fulfill all the promises He has made to the Jewish people (Hosea 1:10-11, 2:14-20, and 14:4-7).

He confirms that God will establish peace in the animal kingdom and peace between the nations (Hosea 2:18). And he makes it clear that God’s blessings will also be poured out on the Gentiles (Hosea 2:23).

Hosea’s most fascinating prophecy has to do with the timing of the Lord’s return. He indicates that it will be “two days” after His ascension into Heaven (Hosea 5:15 - 6:2). The context of the passage indicates that the two days represent 2,000 years. Hosea says that after the two days, the Messiah “will raise us up” (the resurrection) that “we may live before Him” for “the third day” (the 1,000 years of the Millennium).

Joel’s end time prophecies focus mainly on “the day of the Lord” which, in his context, is the day of the Messiah’s Second Coming (Joel 1:15, 2:1,13 and 3:14). But he does give us a glimpse of the Millennium when he states that when the Messiah returns, He will dwell “in Zion, My holy mountain” and that Jerusalem will be characterized by holiness (Joel 3:17,21). He also confirms that the land will be revitalized for great agricultural production: “The mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah will flow with water” (Joel 3:18). He also affirms that Egypt will be a desolation (Joel 3:19).

Amos presents a picture of the Messiah returning as a roaring lion (Amos 1:2). The only thing he has to say about the Millennium is that it will be characterized by agricultural abundance (Amos 9:14) — so much so that “the plowman will overtake the reaper” (Amos 9:13).

Obadiah’s only significant comment about the Millennium is his statement that it will be characterized by holiness (Obadiah 17).

Jonah has nothing to say about the Millennium.

Micah begins his prophecy with a vision of the Second Coming (Micah 1:3-4). Regarding the Millennium, Micah presents a glorious vision of it and does so in words that are almost identical with Isaiah’s (Micah 4:1-7 and Isaiah 2:2-4). He emphasizes the peace and prosperity that will characterize the Millennium (Micah 4:3-4). He also underlines the promise of God that He will make the Jewish people the primary nation of the world during the Millennium (Micah 4:6-7).

Nahum echoes Joel by focusing his prophecies on “the day of the Lord” (Nahum 1:1-8). The only thing he has to say with regard to the Millennium is that the Jewish people will enjoy perfect peace (Nahum 1:15) and the splendor of their nation will be restored (Nahum 2:2).

Habakkuk begins his book by assuring the reader that God will be faithful to send the Messiah back “at the appointed time” (Habakkuk 2:3). He follows that by presenting a very dramatic vision of the Second Coming (Habakkuk 3:3-13). He does not have anything to say about the Millennium.

Zephaniah begins his book by presenting a powerful and frightening vision about the Second Coming (Zephaniah 1:14-18). He concludes his book with a brief prophecy about the Millennium (Zephaniah 3:14-20). He reveals that the Lord will regather all believing Jews back to the land of Israel and that He will live in their midst (Zephaniah 3:17-20). And he promises that God will make the Jewish nation the prime nation of the world (Zephaniah 3:20).

Haggai asserts that at the time of the Second Coming, God will shake the heavens and earth (Haggai 2:6-7), overthrowing all Gentile kingdoms (Haggai 2:22). The wealth of the nations will be transferred to Jerusalem, and the Temple will be rebuilt in glory (Haggai 2:7). And then, using Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, as a prophetic type of the Messiah, Haggai says that God will give him His “signet ring” — meaning that he will become the King of kings and Lord of lords (Haggai 2:23).

Zechariah says that the Lord “will return to Jerusalem” and will rebuild the Temple (Zechariah 1:16). He calls upon the Jewish people to “sing for joy and be glad” because the Lord has told him that “I am coming and I will dwell in your midst” (Zechariah 2:10).

Concerning the nature of the Lord’s reign, Zechariah says He will be “a priest on His throne,” confirming that the government will be a theocracy (Zechariah 6:12-13). The city of Jerusalem will be called “The City of Truth” and “The Holy Mountain” (Zechariah 8:3). Believing Jews will be regathered from all over the world (Zechariah 9:14-17), and the population of Jerusalem will live in peace and prosperity (Zechariah 8:8,12). The Jewish people will be so greatly blessed that when a Jew walks by, ten Gentiles will grab his robe and say, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23).

Zechariah further states that during the Millennium, all the nations of the world will be required to send delegations to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16). Those nations that fail to do so will receive no rain (Zechariah 14:17-18).

Zechariah concludes his book by emphasizing the holiness that will abound during the Millennium. He says that the bells on the horses’ bridles will be engraved with the words, “Holy to the Lord” (Zechariah 14:20-21).

Malachi contains several passages about the Second Coming, but the only thing it says about the Millennium is that the name of the Lord “will be great among the nations” (Malachi 1:11).

Other Old Testament Prophecies

There are scattered references among the history books of the Old Testament concerning both the Second Coming and the Millennium, and the Psalms are full of them, but I do not have the space to list them in detail. You can find such a listing in my book, *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*. Suffice it to say that I believe I have presented more than enough evidence to prove that the Old Testament is full of prophecies about the end times and the Millennium.

Some Final Points

So let me emphasize once again that Revelation 20 is not the only chapter in the Bible where the Millennium is prophesied. It does, however, present us with some new information that is not mentioned elsewhere:

- 1) Satan will be bound during the Millennium.
- 2) The Lord’s reign will last 1,000 years. (This is strongly implied in figurative language in the book of Hosea.)
- 3) The Millennium will end with a great revolt that will be led by Satan and which will be put down by God.

We are told in the book of Acts that after His resurrection Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples “speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). At the end of those 40 days, when He gathered His disciples on the Mount of Olives for His ascension into Heaven, they asked Him, “Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). He did not respond by telling them there would be no kingdom. Rather, He told them that it was not for them to know the time (Acts 1:7).

Jesus left us with many signs to watch for that would mark the season of His return. Those signs are everywhere we look today. Jesus is returning soon. He is going to reign in majesty from Jerusalem, and the Redeemed will share that reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12 and Revelation 2:26-27). We are living on borrowed time. Are you ready? ✚



The Rapture in the Old Testament

Jim Tetlow

(Editor's Note: Jim Tetlow is the producer of several evangelistic video documentaries such as *God of Wonders*, and witnessing booklets like *101 Last Days Prophecies*. His resources can be found listed online at www.eternal-productions.org. Jim also has a two minute daily radio program called "Eternal Perspective," and he is a regular guest on the Bible call-in program called "To Every Man An Answer." Jim lives in upstate New York.)



Perhaps some of the strongest arguments in favor of a Pre-Tribulation or Pre-Seventieth Week of Daniel Rapture are found in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament we see "a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things" (Hebrews 10:1).

Prophetic Types in the Old Testament

The Holy Spirit explains that these Old Testament types are preserved for our learning:

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope (Romans 15:4).

Now all these things happened to them (Old Testament characters) as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Bible students are well aware that there are numerous Old Testament types that foreshadow a New Testament fulfillment. A classic example is when Abraham took his son, his only son Isaac, whom he greatly loved, to the land of Moriah to offer him there as a sacrifice — concluding that God was able to raise him from the dead (Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham is a beautiful type of our heavenly Father, and Isaac, his beloved son, is a striking picture of Jesus, who willingly laid down His life on Mount Moriah 2,000 years later.

Though the Rapture was hidden in part from Old Testament believers, the types found throughout foreshadow a future Rapture when God will remove His people prior to pouring out His wrath on a Christ-rejecting world. Let's now review some of these beautiful types that foreshadow the Rapture.

The Noahic Flood

In Noah's day there were those who passed through the flood (Noah and his family in the ark); there were those who perished in the flood (the unbelieving world); and there was Enoch who was "translated" or "caught up" before the judgment of God was poured out. Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:24)

and pleased Him (Hebrews 11:5), just as Christians who abide in Christ please God (1 John 3:22). Interestingly, from the time God told Noah to enter the ark, until the time when the waters of the flood were on the earth, God granted seven more days for the world to repent (Genesis 7:1-10). Perhaps this is a foreshadow of the final seven-year period culminating in the final judgment (Revelation 19:11-21)?

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

In Lot's day, he and his family were "removed" before God rained down His judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). God did not just "preserve" them through His wrath, He removed them prior to judgment. Jesus said that just before His return it would be like the days of Noah (Luke 17:26) and like the days of Lot (Luke 17:28).

Judgment in Sodom **could not** occur until Lot was removed (Genesis 19:22)! Remarkably, "while [Lot] lingered, the [angels] took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city . . . Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there" (v. 16, 22). In other words, they were forcibly removed prior to judgment and judgment could not commence until they safely arrived in the new city!

The Story of Joseph

Joseph (a type of Christ in many ways) takes a Gentile bride before the 7 year famine begins (Genesis 41:45). Notice in the account of Joseph that after he received his Gentile bride, his brethren (the Israelites) and the entire world suffered a seven year famine (Genesis 41:54-57). During this time of famine many came to Joseph for food. Similarly, after Jesus receives His Bride, his brethren the Jews (and many in the world), will turn to the Lord Jesus for relief (Revelation 7).

How fitting that the Great Tribulation is called "the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:7). It is also referred to as "the time of the Gentiles" (Ezekiel 30:3), and many Gentiles will also be saved out of it (Revelation 7). The famine is a type of the Tribulation (Amos 8:11), and Egypt is a picture of the world. This account strongly suggests that Jesus will receive His bride before the 70th Week of Daniel — before the famine that will come upon the entire world.



Picture from Rob Robinson.

Rahab and the Jewish Spies



In Joshua chapter 2, Rahab trusts the Lord and befriends the Jewish spies. By faith Rahab puts a scarlet thread in her window (a symbol of Christ's blood) and she and her family are "brought out" of Jericho before the city is burned with fire (Joshua 6). Rahab is a prostitute (Hebrews 11:31) and a Gentile woman (Joshua 2), yet she is found in the Messianic line (Matthew 1:5). Rahab is therefore a beautiful picture of the Church as the bride of Christ. Though formerly a prostitute, Rahab, by faith, was made clean and delivered from God's wrath. Amazingly, in this account, we again see seven days of warning preceding judgment (God's gracious delay to encourage repentance). The armies of God marched around the city six days, and on the seventh day they marched around the city seven times, and then the city was finally destroyed (Joshua 6).

Abigail and David

In 1 Samuel 25:39-42 Abigail is informed that King David (foreshadowing King Jesus) wants to take her as his bride. She immediately responds and "rose in haste" with five of her damsels to "depart" and go to David for the marriage. Compare this with Matthew 25:1-13 where five wise virgins who truly had oil went forth to meet the Bridegroom (Jesus) away from their dwelling place (earth). Interestingly, the name Abigail means "the Father's joy."

Solomon's Song

The Song of Solomon is an amazing picture of Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:29-32). In the Song of Solomon 2:8-13, the Bride (the Church) hears the voice of her Beloved (Jesus) coming for her. Then, in verses 10 and 13, the Bridegroom speaks and calls His bride to "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." This is a beautiful foreshadow of our marriage and honeymoon in heaven!

Isaiah's Hint

Isaiah 26:20-21 also gives us a possible picture of the Rapture preceding the Tribulation:

Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

Apparently, believers are tucked away in Heaven before the Tribulation falls on the earth. Could this also apply to the Jews who hide away in Petra during the Tribulation?

The Prophet Daniel

In Daniel chapter 3, King Nebuchadnezzar (a type of the Antichrist, cf. Revelation 13) demands that the entire population bow down to his image. Daniel's three friends (Jews) are preserved through the fiery tribulation, but Daniel is nowhere to be found. Daniel was "ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon" (Daniel 2:48), yet he is missing from the account. Why? Daniel was apparently away. Might he be a type of the Church? Three times Daniel is called "greatly beloved" (Daniel 9:23; 10:11; 10:19).

Zephaniah's Clue

In Zephaniah 2:2-3 we read:

Before the decree is issued, or the day passes like chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you! Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.

According to this passage, believers will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger (cf. Isaiah 26:20-21. See also: Zephaniah 1:7.)



Malachi's Hint

Malachi chapter 3 deals with the Day of the Lord. Interestingly, Malachi 3:18 implies two comings of the Messiah: "Then shall ye (believers) return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." It becomes clear when we read the entire context of Malachi 3 that believers shall return to the earth. In order to return and discern, believers must have first been caught away to Heaven.

Other Examples

Isaac and Rebekah, as well as Ruth and Boaz, also provide beautiful pictures of Christ taking a Gentile bride — one who counts the cost and leaves their own family — but is not required to suffer through great tribulation or famine. Other examples could be expounded on, but these should be sufficient to show that Christians will be removed before God's wrath is poured out and most likely before the 70th Week of Daniel. ✚

Jesus in the Old Testament

Nathan Jones

“Was the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament also Jesus?” — Amelia in Texas

The Angel of the Lord referred to in the Old Testament was indeed Jesus Christ. This was Jesus’ title and form before He came to Earth to be born as a human being. The Angel of the Lord was Jesus’ preincarnate state, meaning who and what He was before manifesting Himself in human form.

Existence Before His Birth

We know according to the Gospels that Jesus existed before He was born of a virgin because the Bible teaches that Jesus is actually God Himself. The following verses bear witness to the fact that Jesus existed before His incarnation as a man.

In John 8:58, Jesus declared that He existed before the Patriarch Abraham was ever alive, and that was almost 1,800 years earlier: “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

John the Baptist’s message included a verification in John 1:15 that Jesus, who was a few months younger than John in birth order, existed before John was even ever conceived: “John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.’”

One of the best verses demonstrating Jesus’ pre-existence can be found in John 17:5 where Jesus declared that He existed even before the creation of the universe: “And now, Father, glorify Me in your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began.”

Again, the Lamb shown in Revelation 13:8, where Lamb is another name given to Jesus, is said to have existed before the Creation: “The book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”

We even know from John 10:30 that Jesus had no beginning for He flat out declared that He was one with the Father and so shared God’s eternal attributes: “I and the Father are one.”

Old Testament Activity

The Bible gives the reader many indicators that the Angel of the Lord wasn’t just an angel, or even a specially designated angel, but God Himself. We know this because when the Angel of the Lord interacted with people in the Old Testament they treated Him with the reverence due only to God.

Notice for instance the switch between “Angel of the Lord” and “LORD” in Judges 6:11-24. In this Old Testament story, the budding judge Gideon is greeted by the Angel of the Lord. Verse 11 tells that in a very human fashion, and indeed probably looking just like a human, the Angel of the Lord sat down under an oak tree and struck up a conversation with Gideon. Gideon then asked why the Lord had not fulfilled the wonders God promised the people of Israel that he was waiting for. The reaction was that “the LORD [Yahweh, the name of God] turned to him” and replied, which identifies the Angel as God Himself. Gideon later that day brought food to the Angel of the Lord



Nathan Jones

whose staff consumed it by fire, followed by a suddenly dramatic disappearance. Gideon’s terrified reply to such a wondrous sight in verse 22 was, “Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face!” Gideon feared dying due to seeing the living God. Absent in form but still clearly present, the Lord in verse 23, with just His disembodied voice, replied back, “Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.” Clearly, this angel was no angel at all, but the Lord God Himself.

There are many other Old Testament visits from the Angel of the Lord in which the recipients of the visit gave the title and honor due only to God. Hagar called the Angel of the Lord “LORD,” “God,” and “One” in Genesis 16:7-13. Jesus appeared to Abraham when the three men visited in Genesis 18, to Jacob whom He wrestled in Genesis 32:22-31, and to Manoah to give the promise of a son named Samson in Judges 13:2-6.

The Angel of the Lord even declared Himself to be God from the burning bush to Moses in Exodus 3:2-6 with the use of the title “I Am.” Jesus later claimed that title for Himself in John 8:58. Jesus by saying He was “I Am” was making the awesome claim that He was the great Yahweh, or as we know Him today, as Jehovah God.

Another Member of the Trinity?

Couldn’t the Angel of the Lord have been Father God or the Holy Spirit instead of Jesus?

Among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who all make up the Trinity, the Father after the Fall wouldn’t be seen without causing the death of the onlooker, such as when God told the Israelites not to approach His mountain or they would surely die (Exodus 19:12). The Father today remains physically separated from sinful mankind until believers are reunited with Him in Heaven and are no longer beholden to our sin nature.

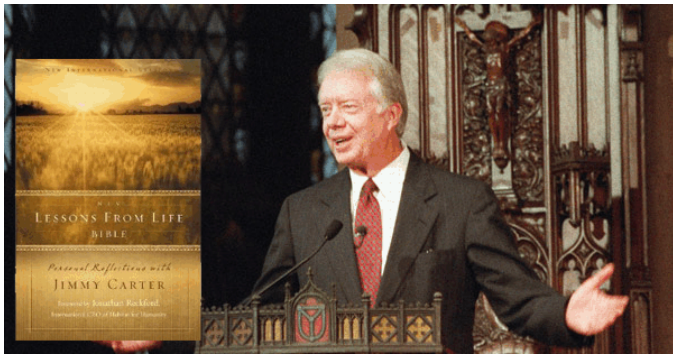
And, when the Holy Spirit interacted in the Old Testament, He was always spiritual in form to empower a chosen individual, like giving super strength to Samson or the gift of prophecy to King Saul.

When human form was needed, the second person of the Trinity — Jesus Christ — in His preincarnate form fulfilled that role as the Angel of the Lord. ♦

Apostasy —

The Zondervan publishing company recently published a new Bible called the *Lessons from Life Bible*. Its subtitle is *Personal Reflections with Jimmy Carter*. Yes, that's right — a study Bible by former President Carter!

It contains his prayers, reflections and commentaries. During a tour to promote the Bible, Carter was asked by a reporter from the *Huffington Post* if he believed God wrote the Bible. He responded, "... the basic principles of the Bible were taught by God, but written down by human beings deprived of modern day knowledge. So there is some fallibility in the writings of the Bible." When asked for an example, Carter pointed to statements in the Bible about stars falling to earth. He then pointed out that the stars are much larger than the earth and would destroy the planet if it collided with one. This, of course, overlooks the fact that the Bible uses the word star to refer to all heavenly bodies, including meteors and comets. Even in English, we call them "falling stars."



Jimmy Carter introducing his new Bible.

Carter proceeded in the interview to defend homosexuality because he argued that Jesus never condemned it! (Neither did Jesus condemn pedophilia or bestiality. And what about the writings of Paul where it is specifically condemned?) Regarding same-sex marriage, Carter observed, "I personally think it is very fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies."

Christian Bashing —



Newsweek magazine continued its relentless attacks on Christianity in its issue of April 9, 2012. The article written by Andrew Sullivan was titled, "Forget the Church — Follow Jesus." (How can one forget the Church which Jesus established? And didn't Jesus Himself say that the "gates of Hades will not prevail against it"?)

Newsweek selected an interesting person to write the diatribe. Andrew Sullivan was born and raised in England. He has lived

in the United States since 1984 and currently resides in Washing-

TIMES and Seasons

ton, D.C. and Provincetown, Massachusetts. He is a homosexual and a Catholic. Sullivan is a former editor of *The New Republic* and the author of five books. He is perhaps best known as the author and editor of his blog, "The Dish," which mainly focuses on political issues.



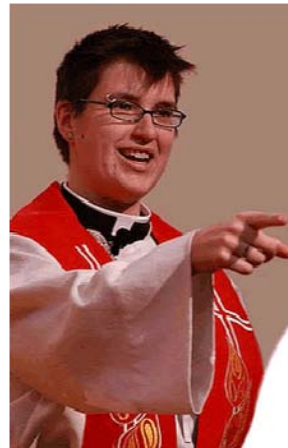
Andrew Sullivan

Incredibly, Sullivan stated that Christians should look to Thomas Jefferson and Saint Francis of Assisi as their role models. He admires Thomas Jefferson because he produced his own version of the New Testament by cutting out all references to the supernatural, including the virgin birth, the miracles of Jesus, and the resurrection.

And he admires Saint Francis because he embraced a Social Gospel of helping the poor.

In short the article contained the same old liberal clap-trap that those who reject the authority of the Scriptures have been spewing forth for years. But 20 years ago it would have been unthinkable for a national news magazine to publish such an article attacking the Church so vehemently.

More Apostasy —



Megan Rohrer

A Lutheran church in California held a "Faith and Feminism Conference" last November that featured "guided meditations" by a self-proclaimed "High Priestess" of the pagan fertility goddess called Isis. One of the organizers of the event was Megan Rohrer, the first openly transgender Lutheran minister ordained in the United States. She said, "I think the world is much more interested in interfaith connection than exclusivity." (No one could argue with that. But God is interested in obedience to His Word.) The host church heavily promotes a female identity for God.

A giant banner hanging on the exterior of the church building declared: "God/dess loves all her children."

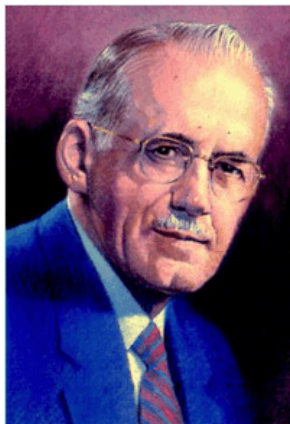
Cults —

The Seventh-Day Adventists have proclaimed 2012 to be a year for celebrating the writings of their founder, Ellen White (1827-1915), whom they consider to have been a prophet of God. They have asked all their members to focus on the study of what they consider to have been her greatest vision from God — a book called *The Great Controversy*. White called the book "the last message of warning to the world." The fourth and last edition of it was published in 1911. White taught many heresies including soul-sleep, annihilation, Sabbath-keeping, and investigative judgment. She taught that anyone who worships on Sunday has taken the mark of the Antichrist. Worst of all, she preached a false gospel of grace plus law. Many SDAs consider her writings to be equivalent to the Scriptures. ✚

Prophetic Mileposts —

“As early as Roman times, stone columns were set by the side of roads to indicate the number of miles from or to a particular destination. Thus, the term milestone was born and is still used today. Called mileposts in America, they occur at regular intervals along the interstate highways system indicating miles traveled from a state line. In 1920, a Zero Milestone was erected just south of the White House in Washington, D.C., from which distances from the nation’s capital were to be measured.

“Just as a highway milestone, or milepost, serves to keep one oriented on a geographical journey, so God



A. W. Tozer

has established prophetic markers for mankind’s journey through time. We could say that the zero prophetic milestone is Genesis 3:15 where the prophetic promise of Satan’s defeat is found. The destination is the Eternal City, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22). In between, prophetic markers are found in Scripture for those with eyes to see — especially related to the past, present, and future of God’s Chosen People, Israel.

“The greater your knowledge of God’s prophetic markers, the greater your security in an insecure world. In God, history and prophecy are one and the same.” — A.W. Tozer (Submitted by George and Laura Kayser in New Mexico.)

Christianity in America —

Jim Garlow is a former Nazarene pastor in Ft. Worth, Texas, who now pastors the Skyline Church in La Mesa, California. He is considered to be an expert on Church history.



Jim Garlow

In a recent presentation to the National Religious Broadcasters, Garlow presented a sweeping overview of the relationship between Bible-believing Christians and American society:

1607 - 1833	— The Establishment	(236 years)
1833 - 1918	— The Predominant Force	(85 years)
1918 - 1968	— The Sub-dominant Force	(50 years)
1968 - 1988	— A Sub-culture	(20 years)
1988 - 1998	— A Counter Culture	(10 years)
1998 - 2008	— An Antithetical Culture	(10 years)
2008 - Present	— A Persecuted Culture	

Food for Thought



The Return of Jesus —

Could This Be The Day?

by Viola Hart

I woke up this morning, with Jesus on my mind
And thought to myself, “Could this be the time
When Jesus splits the Eastern sky,
Comes back to get us
And takes His Church on high?”

I see signs of His coming everywhere,
Just like He said,
Matthew 24 coming real in my head.
Earthquakes and tsunamis, lives lost as never before,
The chaos grows stronger,
The world can’t take much more.

Wars are raging — our soldiers, our loved ones gone.
You told us to be faithful, to hold on and be strong.
I’m trying hard to win souls, and be true for you Lord,
Keep my mind alert and be ready with your Word.

I’m getting anxious, I know it can’t be long.
I see it in my friend’s eyes, he wants to come along.
Glory is waiting, we’ll work down here no more.
“Maranatha!” come quickly Lord,
We’ll be with you on Heaven’s shore.

Viola Hart resides in an assisted living community in Louisville, Kentucky. She writes poems and songs to honor the Lord and she serves as the worship leader at one of the community’s Bible studies. A number of her poems have been published in the community’s newsletter, called *The Chronicle*.



Viola Hart

The Great Sculptor —



Gutzon Borglum

One of the greatest American sculptors was Gutzon Borglum who died in 1941. It was he who engineered the majestic carvings of the heads of presidents on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

At one time he worked for many months on a six-ton block of marble. A woman who cleaned his studio every day wondered what that great block would become. Finally, after much toil and labor, the features began to emerge from the marble. When the cleaning lady saw them she exclaimed, “Mr. Borglum, how did you know that Abraham Lincoln was in that stone?”

Oh, how did the Lord know that Jesus Christ could be seen in you and me, rough blocks that we are? He did! My sincere prayer these days is, “Lord, keep chiseling on me until someone recognizes that Christ Jesus lives in me.”

(Submitted by Ken Humphries of Treasured Truth Ministries in Northern Ireland.) ✚

The Supreme Court —

In recent months the U. S. Supreme Court has given Christians some major victories. In October of 2011 the Court refused to review a decision that had been made by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in which the court upheld the right of a Christian ministry to fire staff members who disagreed with its statement of faith. The ministry was World Vision, the largest Evangelical ministry in the world. The issue was three staff members whom the ministry discovered denied the deity of Jesus. When the staff members were fired, they appealed to the federal courts under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, alleging discrimination. The 9th Circuit Court, which has the reputation of being the most liberal court in the federal system, surprisingly upheld the right of World Vision to enforce its creedal statement upon its employees, and the Supreme Court affirmed that decision.

In another similar case this January, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Lutheran Church had the right to fire a “minister of religion” at a Lutheran school for basically any reason without the firing being subjected to judicial review. The Obama Administration had seized on this case to challenge the limits of religious liberty as established by the First Amendment. Chief Justice Roberts vigorously rejected the government’s argument, telling the government essentially to butt out:

Requiring a church to accept or retain an unwanted minister, or punishing a church for failing to do so, intrudes upon more than a mere employment decision. Such action interferes with the internal governance of the church, depriving the church of control over the selection of those who will personify its beliefs. By imposing an unwanted minister, the state infringes the free exercise clause, which protects a religious group’s right to shape its own faith and mission through its appointments.

Energy for Israel —

In March of this year, Israel’s energy corporation confirmed the discovery of a huge quantity of commercially viable oil just 15 miles off the coast of Tel Aviv. The find is expected to yield 232 million barrels of oil and 1.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Add to that the 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas discovered last year at other Mediterranean sites, and Israel’s energy situation has dramatically improved.

Lesbian Mayor Rebuked —

Steve Riggle, the pastor of a Houston, Texas megachurch called Grace Community Church has publicly rebuked the mayor of Houston, Annise Parker, for her homosexual activism, requesting that she either obey the state’s constitution, or step down from office. Parker has been vigorously campaigning for same-sex marriage, and refers to her lesbian partner as Houston’s “First Lady.” Riggle pointed out to her that the state’s constitution defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and that at her swearing in ceremony, she took an oath to uphold the constitution of Texas. (Incidentally, at that same swearing in ceremony, another Christian pastor, Joel Osteen, led the official prayer, asking the Lord to bless her administration.)



Good News!

First Century Manuscript —

Daniel B. Wallace, a professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary astounded the world of biblical studies in February of this year when he announced that a First Century fragment of the Gospel of Mark had been discovered and verified. He said the discovery and the evidence verifying it would be released to the public in about a year in the form of a book. If confirmed by other scholars, it would be the earliest known fragment of the New Testament, placing it in the very century when the Gospel was written. Currently, the earliest known Gospel fragment contains portions of John 18 and dates to around 125 AD.

Despite the fact that no previous fragments of the New Testament have been found that date from the First Century, the New Testament has the best documentary evidence of any ancient writing. It is easy to appreciate how wealthy the New Testament is in manuscript evidence if we compare the textual material for other ancient historical works. For *Caesar’s Gallic War* (composed between 58 and 50 BC), the oldest extant manuscript is some 900 years later than Caesar’s day. Of the 142 books of the Roman history of Livy (59 BC-AD 17), only 35 survive and these are known to us from fragments that date back to the Fourth Century. Of the fourteen books of the *Histories* by Tacitus (written c. AD 100) only four and a half survive, and of the sixteen books of his *Annals*, ten survive in full and two in part, and the texts of these extant portions of his two great historical works depend entirely on two manuscripts, one of the Ninth Century and one of the Eleventh.

By contrast, there are now more than 5,000 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. In 1864, in reference to the Gospels, David Brown in his book, *The Four Gospels*, wrote: “The manuscripts of the Gospels now known to exist, in whole or in part, amount to nearly a thousand — which can be said of no other ancient work whatever.” How much more can that statement be made today when 4,000 more fragments have since been found.

In addition, there are ample manuscripts of ancient translations of the New Testament from the original Greek, such as the Syriac version in the Eastern Church, and the Latin versions in the Western Church, as well as Egyptian, Gothic and Armenian versions.

Further, there are the writings of the early Church Fathers which contain abundant quotations from The New Testament, so abundant, in fact, that the entire New Testament could be reconstructed from their quotations.

Date-Setting —

Harold Camping, the serial date-setter for the return of Jesus, has finally admitted that his date-setting schemes were wrong and sinful. He set specific dates for the Lord’s return in 1988, 1994 and 2011. In a statement posted on the website of the Family Radio Network, which he owns, he said: “We realize that those people who called our attention to the Bible’s statement that ‘of that day and hour knoweth no man,’ were right in their understanding of those verses and Family Radio was wrong . . . We tremble before God as we humbly ask Him for forgiveness for [date-setting].” ✚

New Faces at Lamb & Lion Ministries



David Routzahn

David is a new member of the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Plano, Texas, where they attend Grace Outreach Center.

David has been a believer for over 50 years and first became interested in Bible prophecy in 1986 when he heard Dr. Reagan speak at a church in Richardson, Texas.

He spent most of his working career in the computer industry designing software and web applications for inventory control-analysis and all phases of the accounting process. He currently serves as Property Manager for the University of Texas at Dallas.

David has a degree from the University of Illinois where he focused on engineering, accounting, and management. He and his wife have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.



Robert Batchelor

Robert is another new member of the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Owasso, Oklahoma. They are members of First Christian Church in Owasso where he has served as an elder.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. After serving a stint in the U.S. Airforce (1962-1967), he became a pilot for TWA and flew for them for 20 years. He currently works as a realtor.

Bob first became acquainted with Dr. Reagan when he heard him speak at his church in the early 1980's. He and his wife became Prophecy Partners as soon as the program was established in 1987.

Bob currently serves as president of the Northeast Oklahoma Evangelistic Association, an organization that is actively involved in church plants.



Jana Olivieri

Jana is the newest member of the Lamb & Lion staff. She and her husband, Danny, live in Lavon, Texas.

Jana is our contact person with the outside world. Her sweet voice is the one you will hear when you call the ministry, and she is also the one who reads, sorts, and distributes our incoming email messages. She is one of our proof readers. She also assists the mail room staff, and she generates computer reports. Her formal title is Ministry Associate.

Jana's husband is an ordained minister who specializes in counseling and prayer. They attend Ridgeview Church in Rockwall, Texas. They have two sons.

Jana loves working with computers and doing graphic designs. She also loves to cook, together with her husband.

Praying for Babies

In the early 1980's, at one of the first meetings that Dr. Reagan held in the Dallas area, he was requested to pray for the barren womb of a woman who had been told by medical doctors that she could never conceive a child. Two months later, Dr. Reagan got a call from the lady's husband announcing that not only was she pregnant, but she was going to have twins!

The Bible speaks of "gifts of healing" (1 Corinthians 12:9). Notice that the word, gifts, is in the plural, meaning that a person might be gifted to pray for one type of healing, but not another. Dr. Reagan was clearly given the gift of praying for barren wombs, and over the years since that first experience, he has prayed for many women who have subsequently conceived.

Dr. Reagan requires three things of those who desire prayer for a barren womb. First, the person with the problem must be the one who makes the request. Dr. Reagan does not take requests from relatives or friends. Second, the person must agree to rely on the Lord and the Lord alone. Dr. Reagan will not pray for those who are involved in medical techniques designed to produce conception. Third, the person must agree to give God,

and God alone all the glory, including making a public witness of the miracle-working power of God.

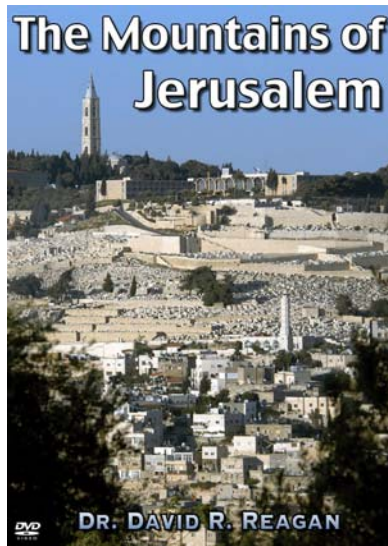
The only other thing Dr. Reagan requests is that the couple send him a photo of the baby when it is born. Over the years, Dr. Reagan has received many such photos, and one of the cutest is the one to the right of Luke Edward Pulice who was born to Joe and Suzi Pulice in December 2010. The Pulice family lives in Irvine, California. ✚



New Album & Programs

Dr. David R. Reagan

We have completed the production of a new video album that contains four of the programs we shot in Israel last summer. The programs focus on four key mountains that surround Jerusalem — the Mount of Olives, the Temple Mount, Mount Zion, and Mount Herzl. I take the viewer on a tour of each of these mountains and tell how they are related to Bible prophecy. Each program runs 25 minutes in length. For a limited time, we are offering a bonus with each order for this album. The bonus is a video entitled “A Walk Through the Old City.” It is a 25 minute program that constitutes a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem, from the Lion’s Gate to the Jaffa Gate and then on to the Western Wall of the Jewish Quarter. The album sells for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567.



Later this year, probably in August and September, we are going to start broadcasting a series of programs we shot at the annual Pre-Trib Conference that was held in the Dallas area last December. The theme of the programs will be “Issues in the Book of Revelation.” In each program we will interview 13 Bible prophecy experts regarding questions people often ask about the book of Revelation, such as, “Does Revelation really teach that Jesus will return to this earth to reign for a thousand years?” The first question each expert will respond to is, “Can the book of Revelation be understood, and if so, what are the keys to understanding it?” ♦



One of the 13 Bible prophecy experts we interviewed was Jack Kinsella from Canada. He produces a newsletter that deals with the relevance of prophecy to current events: www.omegaletter.com.

“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	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm	Sun. 6:00pm

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

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

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. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

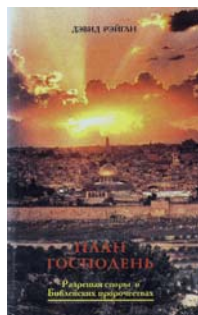
Foreign Publishing

One of our forms of missionary outreach that we seldom mention is the publishing of our materials in foreign languages.

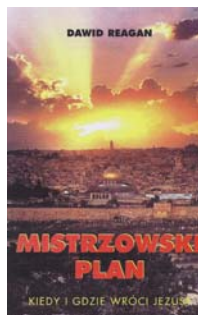
Our first efforts were back in the early 1990's when the Iron Curtain came down, and we received requests for translations of our book, *The Master Plan*, into Russian and Polish. It proved so popular throughout Eastern Europe that it was also published in Hungarian and Czech. These translations were made possible through the donations of our Prophecy Partners.



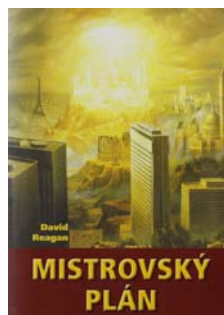
English



Russian



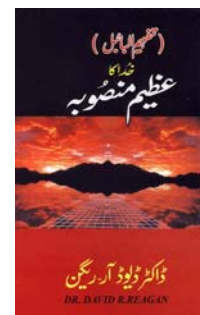
Polish



Czech



Hungarian



Urdu

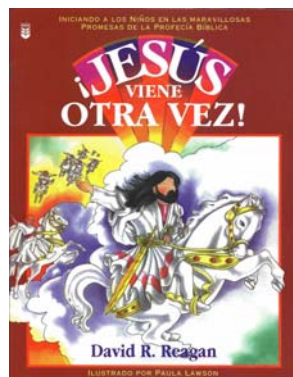
Since the year 2000 most of our translations have been made in the languages of South Asia — Urdu and Telugu. This is because two great men of God who love Bible prophecy have done everything possible to provide our materials in the languages of Pakistan and India. They are Nazir Gil in Pakistan and John Ishmael in India.

Both have published the successor to *The Master Plan* in both Urdu and Telugu. It is our comprehensive survey of Bible prophecy entitled *God's Plan for the Ages*, which was published in 2005.

But the book of ours that seems destined to be published in the most languages is Dr. Reagan's commentary on the book of Revelation which is titled, *Wrath and Glory*. It has thus far been published in Urdu, Telugu, Nepali, and Chinese — and it is currently being translated into Bengali and Spanish.



God's Plan for the Ages in Telugu.



Spanish edition of our Children's book.

Another book that has been popular for translation is Dr. Reagan's book designed for pre-school and elementary children called, *Jesus is Coming Again!* It has been translated into so many languages that we cannot keep up with them, and most of these have been unauthorized editions, which does not bother us. We have it available in an authorized Spanish edition.

One of our Prophecy Partners recently donated \$5,000 to make it possible for us to publish a Spanish edition of *Wrath and Glory*. Other generous donations enabled us to secure the translation services

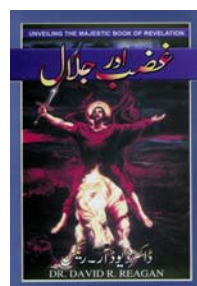
of one of the finest Spanish translators of Christian materials in the world, Dr. Andrés Carrodegua of Hialeah, Florida. He has translated books by the best known Christian authors.

In addition to translating and publishing our books, John Ishmael in India publishes an abbreviated version of our magazine, *The Lamplighter*. He prints it in English because so many Indians in the urban areas speak and read the language. Normally, he will reproduce the lead article and then add to it a short article of his own that relates to the same topic.

As we look to the future, it is our desire to focus on the publication of *God's Plan for the Ages* and *Wrath and Glory* in

many other languages.

Meanwhile, one of our adjunct staff members, Donald Dolmus in Nicaragua, continues to translate our magazine articles into Spanish and post them on his website. His ministry is called En Defensa de la Fe, meaning In Defense of the Faith, and you can find his excellent website at www.endefensadelafe.org. His website is being accessed by Spanish-speaking people all over the world.

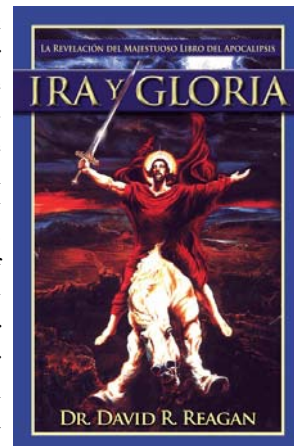


Wrath and Glory in Urdu.

A foreign country where many of our books have been distributed in English is the Philippines. This has been due to the efforts of Pastor Remegio Blanco, who has a real heart for God's Prophetic Word. He has also arranged for Lamb & Lion staff members to come to the Philippines to conduct Bible prophecy conferences for pastors. Although the official language of the Philippines is

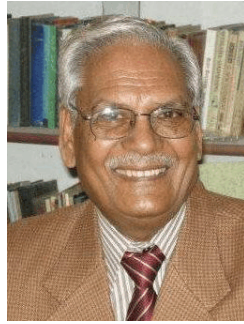
Tagalog, English is spoken and read by most Filipinos.

Our Spanish edition of *Wrath and Glory* should be available for distribution by September. We are providing it free of charge to Spanish-speaking ministries within the United States as long as they will pay the shipping charges. All they have to do is submit a formal request and specify the number of copies they will need. A pdf copy of the book will be available for download free of charge from our website and the website of En Defensa de la Fe. It can be utilized by foreign ministries. ✚



Activities Around the World

Pakistan — Pastor Nazir Gill has recovered from a serious bout with heart trouble and is once again actively proclaiming the Gospel in a very dangerous country where Christians are slaughtered daily. We recently sent him \$3,600 to help with his outreach which also includes disaster relief to Christian families. Meanwhile, he continues to oversee the publication of our books in the Urdu language, and he needs about \$5,000 to publish additional books.



Nazir Gill

India — Evangelist John Ishmael continues to hold Bible prophecy conferences all over the nation while overseeing the publication of our materials in several different languages. He is also publishing an abbreviated version of this magazine.



John Ishmael with his family.

A generous contributor to John's ministry recently enabled him to fly to Dallas to attend our annual Bible conference. John's greatest need is a permanent office facility. He has had to rely on rented spaces, and each time he gets settled in, Hindu leaders come and intimidate the landlord to cancel his lease. Unfortunately, the cost of property in India is so high that John will need \$100,000 to acquire a permanent office facility. John's website can be found at www.rlfministries.com.

China — Paul Liu was born in China but has since become an American citizen. He is fluent in both Chinese and English. He spends most of his time each year in China holding Bible prophecy conferences and teaching at seminaries. Even though the Chinese government will not allow the public preaching of Bible prophecy (since it says that Jesus will return to reign over all the nations of the world, including China), it is legal to teach Bible prophecy in an educational setting. Paul is in need of greater monthly support to help him cover his travel and living expenses inside of China. For more information about his ministry, consult www.arkproject.net.



Paul Liu

Philippines — Pastor and Evangelist Remegio Blanco conducts Bible prophecy conferences and evangelistic crusades. He has been given permission to hold Bible studies for governmental employees. He recently added an orphan's home to his many ministries.



Pastor Blanco's son, Joseph, is shown above with the orphans they are now caring for.

Pastor Blanco is a man of vision with a compassionate heart for the needy and the lost. He also loves Bible prophecy and yearns for the Lord's soon return. His greatest need at the moment is for \$8,000 to purchase a small bus to use in taking people to his crusades and conferences.

Mexico — Marco and Carmen Samaniego head up a remarkable ministry in Juarez, Mexico called Hands of Luke. Dr. Reagan is one of the founders of this ministry. It provides low-cost or free medical care, including surgery. It also operates a large orphan's home and numerous sites throughout Juarez where it feeds breakfast to over 300 children daily. The ministry also operates an accredited seminary where pastors are trained and where they are introduced to the fundamentals of Bible prophecy. Each year this ministry feeds 25,000 people, most of whom live on the garbage dump of Juarez, and at Christmas, they feed 5,000 children and provide them with gifts. And everything the ministry does is done in the name of Jesus.



Dr. Marco Samaniego and his wife, Carmen.

(There are other foreign ministries that Lamb & Lion supports, and they will be featured in future issues of this magazine.) ✦

Ministry News

Schedule — In **September**, Dr. Reagan will hold a Bible prophecy conference at the First Christian Church in Scottsburg, Indiana (8-9). He is also scheduled to be one of the featured speakers at the Steeling the Mind Conference in Denver, Colorado (22). That conference will be held at the Marriott South Denver Hotel. In **October**, Dr. Reagan will be going to Cuba to teach Bible prophecy for a week at the Cuba Bible Institute in Havana (5-12).

Distribution — This magazine is mailed out each month to 4,500 homes in the United States. An electronic version is also distributed free of charge by email to over 21,000 persons. Encourage friends or family members to sign up to receive the magazine. They can do so at lamblion.com. Don't sign up for them without asking their permission.

Israel Pilgrimage — Our next pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for November 3-14. The deadline for registering is



Rachel Houck, our office manager, stands between Pat & Marsa Linkenhoger at the entrance to Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Prophecy Partners — Our Prophecy Partners provide the financial base of our ministry, and they serve as our prayer partners. We would like to invite you to become one by pledging to give \$20 a month or more for one year. You will receive a ministry update letter each month from Dr. Reagan, together with a gift, which is usually a DVD program about Bible prophecy. Partners are eligible for discounts on purchases from the ministry. To sign up as a Prophecy Partner, just call 972-736-3567. Thanks! The Partners pictured above live in Overland Park, Kansas. Carl is an architect and Sheila is an attorney. ❖



Carl & Sheila Yaeger

Letters

Trusting God — “Just wanted you to know that Dr. Reagan’s book, *Trusting God*, was very comforting to me while I was in the hospital recently. I laughed in numerous places as Dave described his experiences while traveling in his ministry. Also, the spiritual insights in his book helped me keep a good perspective while I was recovering from surgery.” — Bonlyn Taylor-Walls in Valencia, California.



“I recently got a copy of Dr. Reagan’s book, *Trusting God*, and I finished reading in one day’s time. Yes, it was that good! His writing and scripture references have renewed my spirit. Praise God!” — Patricia Buday in North East, Pennsylvania.

Teaching — “Dr. Reagan, I would like to thank you for your excellent teachings about the end times. I am also a teacher of Bible prophecy, and your writings have been a great blessing and encouragement to me.” — Wiggo Tangstad in Norway.

Magazine — “Just a note to say how much the *Lamplighter* is appreciated. Reading it is like taking a mini-course in Bible prophecy, and it often whets my appetite to investigate a subject further. Every issue contains pertinent information and educates both mentally and spiritually . . . I cannot over-emphasize the value of the clarity, the easy-to-read and uncomplicated presentation of the material . . . One of my first reactions after reading the *Lamplighter* is, ‘Who can I share this issue with?’” — Marilyn Hallman of Caddo, Oklahoma.

Website — “I just want you to know how much I LOVE your website! My sister and I do a Bible study by phone, and all of our questions have been answered either in your articles or video programs posted on the site. Your ministry is such a blessing to my life. May God continue to richly bless your ministry.” — Carol Fryrear in East Ridge, Tennessee.

Audio Program — “I am studying the book of Revelation, and your 12 CD survey of the book is a most excellent beginning. God has blessed you, and I encourage you to continue. Your books and CDs have been invaluable to me.” — John McManus in Richardson, TX.

Television — “I just watched your interview of my good friend, Gene Getz. I have had the privilege of knowing him for over 30 years . . . His new study Bible is brilliant! I really appreciate your giving him the opportunity to tell how it came to be published. Great interview!” — Pastor John Mills in Queensland, Australia.

Sermon Preparation — “I was scheduled to preach two sermons, and as I was trying to put my messages together, I began to think about prophecy being fulfilled. That’s when I discovered Dr. Reagan’s article about Peter Stoner’s calculations concerning the odds of Jesus fulfilling the First Coming prophecies accidentally. Thanks for your willingness to serve so that others can serve.” — Pastor Mike MacIntosh in San Diego, California. ❖



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New Book

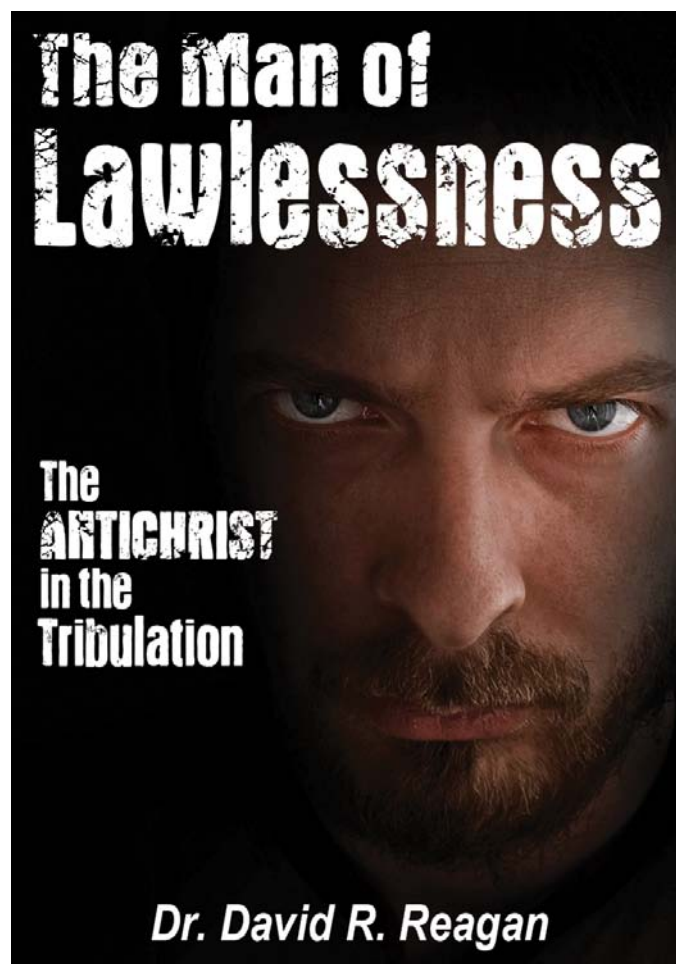
Dr. Reagan's latest book focuses on the Antichrist, surveying his sudden rise to power, his bloodthirsty career, and his ultimate destruction at the return of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Reagan felt compelled to write this book when he began to notice a steady stream of books and articles being published about the Antichrist, most of which were very sensational in nature, and thus serving to divert attention away from Jesus Christ.

This book is an attempt to bring some balance to the subject. The Antichrist is a major topic of end time Bible prophecy, and as such, should not be ignored. But on the other hand, this nefarious character should not be an obsession. We must always keep in mind the words of Revelation 19:10 which say, "... the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

In this book, Dr. Reagan takes a look at a lot of questions that people ask about the end times:

- Why is there going to be a Great Tribulation?
- What are the truths and misconceptions about the Tribulation?
- Where will the Antichrist come from?
- What will the Antichrist be like?
- Will the Antichrist be a Jew?
- Is it possible that the Antichrist could be a Muslim?
- Where will the Antichrist establish his headquarters?
- Will the Jews accept the Antichrist as their Messiah?
- Will the Antichrist be killed and resurrected from the dead?
- What will be the ultimate destiny of the Antichrist?
- Is the Antichrist alive today, and if so, can he be identified?



- Is the Church really promised an escape from the Great Tribulation, and if so, when?

One of the unique aspects of this book is that it contains a whole section where 22 Bible prophecy experts share their opinions about several of these questions. You will find their responses to be fascinating and illuminating.

221 pages. \$15 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 800-705-8316 or order through our website at www.lamblion.com. Calls should be made between 8am and 5pm Central time. ❖

