

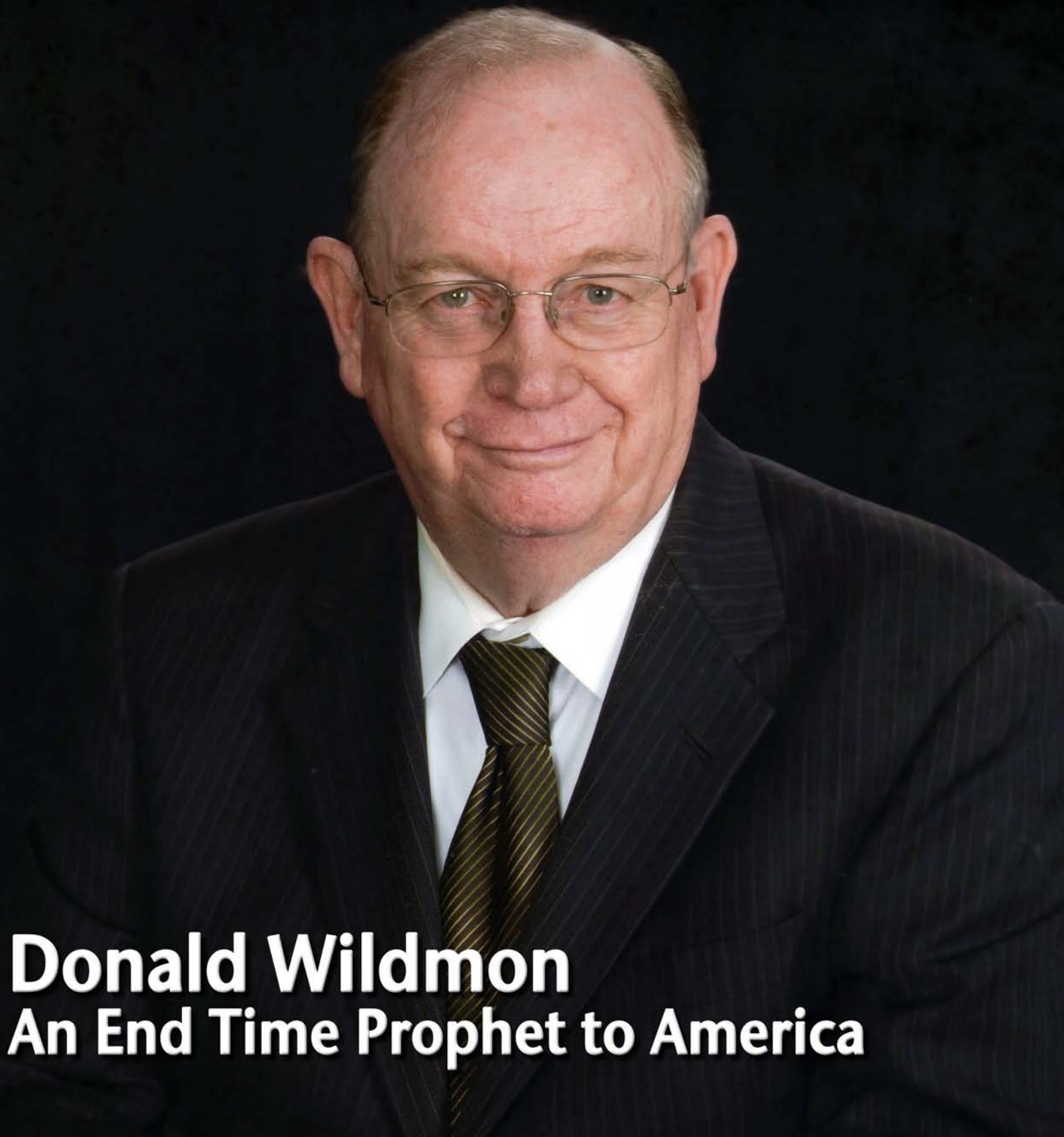
LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Donald Wildmon
An End Time Prophet to America



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Observations by the Editor

Bumps in the Road

I have found that life is full of difficult surprises which come in many forms — like the loss of a job, the onset of a serious illness, an unexpected death in the family or a natural calamity like a tornado, earthquake or hail storm.

We just never know what difficult challenge might be lurking around the corner waiting to pounce on us. Bad things happen to good people because we live in a fallen world.

I was reminded of these truths as I was preparing this issue of our magazine for the printer.

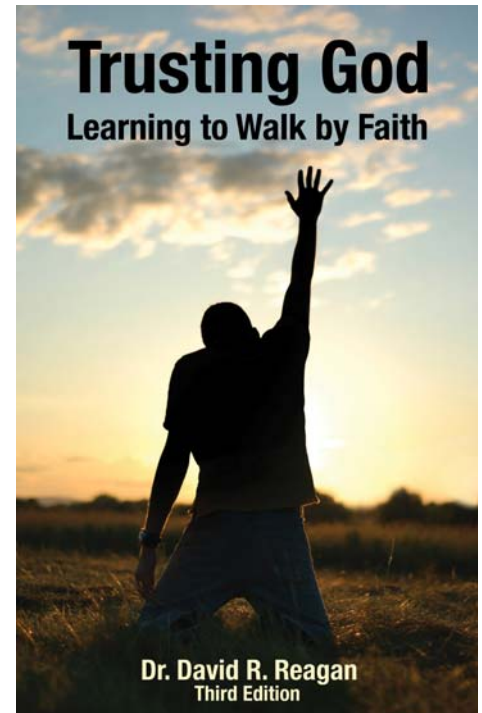
You see, earlier this year we had invited a wonderful man of God to join our staff as an evangelist. His name is August Rosado. He has been teaching and preaching Bible prophecy for 29 years. He has an amazing memory for Scripture, and he preaches with intense passion. In fact, he is what I would call “a preaching machine.”

As I was putting the finishing touches on this magazine, August and his wife, Patty, arrived to spend a week with us, getting acquainted with the staff and looking for a place to live. They currently live in Rhode Island.

They found a great house located very near the ministry, and they were ready to put a down payment on it when they got a call from one of Patty's physicians informing her that some recent tests revealed that she needed heart surgery immediately. She was also told that her recovery from the surgery would take four to six months.

So, everything had to be put on hold while they returned home and Patty undergoes surgery. As to their future with the ministry, we will just have to wait and see what is the will of the Lord.

Why do these things happen? Only the Lord knows. And the difficulty we have in dealing with them is what walking by faith is all about. You can throw up your hands in despair and gnash your teeth, or you can roll with the punches and keep a positive attitude, believing that the Lord will work it all out for the good of everyone concerned.



Please put August and Patty on your prayer list. Pray for her surgery to be successful, and pray for her to have a complete recovery.

Also, consider making a very generous donation to their ministry. You can send it to us and designate it for them, or you can send it directly to them via their website which you can find at www.todayinbibleprophecy.org.

All of this has reminded me of the very first book I wrote back in 1987. It was not about Bible prophecy. Instead, it was concerned with what I had learned about walking by faith during the first seven years of this ministry.

The book is anecdotal in nature, full of stories that will have you laughing one moment and crying the next. Over the years, I have received many letters telling me how the book has helped people cope with some of the darkest periods of their lives.

The book is still going strong. The third edition was published in 2015. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

When the going gets tough, there are certain verses that serve to quiet my spirit and reassure my faith. One of them is Roman 8:1 which says, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”✙

Donald Wildmon

A Voice Crying for Decency

Dr. David R. Reagan

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. — Romans 13:13-14

I first became aware of Donald Wildmon's ministry — the National Federation for Decency — in 1985 when he decided to confront the huge American company called the Southland Corporation. It was the home base of more than 7,500 7-Eleven convenience stores, and Donald Wildmon became incensed when he discovered that it was the nation's largest retailer of pornographic magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*.¹

A Plea for Decency

The official sales slogan of the company at that time was, "O Thank Heaven for 7-Eleven." Wildmon thought it was ludicrous that a company with that slogan would be the number one peddler of porn. So, in 1983 he launched a public relations campaign to put pressure on the company in an effort to get them to stop selling the magazines.

The pressure continued throughout the year, and the Southland Corporation responded with silence, totally ignoring Wildmon's pleas. But a victory did occur in April of 1984 when Jack Eckerd, the founder of Eckerd Drug Stores, announced he was taking the magazines out of his 1,000 outlets.²

Picketing for Decency

Still, there was only silence from the Southland officials. So, in August of 1984, Wildmon called for people to form picket lines in front of 7-Eleven stores, and they did so in 168 cities. (Keep in mind this was long before you could rally people by way of the Internet.) In October, the picketing occurred again, this time at 600 stores across the nation.³

Southland continued to stonewall the movement — despite the fact that by the end of 1984, thousands of stores had ceased to sell the magazines (600 Super X drug stores, 400 Super America gas stations, 450 Albertsons food stores and hundreds of independently owned, franchised 7-Elevens).⁴

A March for Decency

Finally, Wildmon called for a "March Against Pornography" aimed at Southland's corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas. It was scheduled for Labor Day, 1985. Some 13,000 concerned citizens turned out.⁵ This was when I first became aware of Donald Wildmon and his ministry. My staff and I participated in that rally. We were dubbed, "evangelical terrorists" and "literary death squads" by Hugh Hefner, the publisher of *Playboy*.⁶

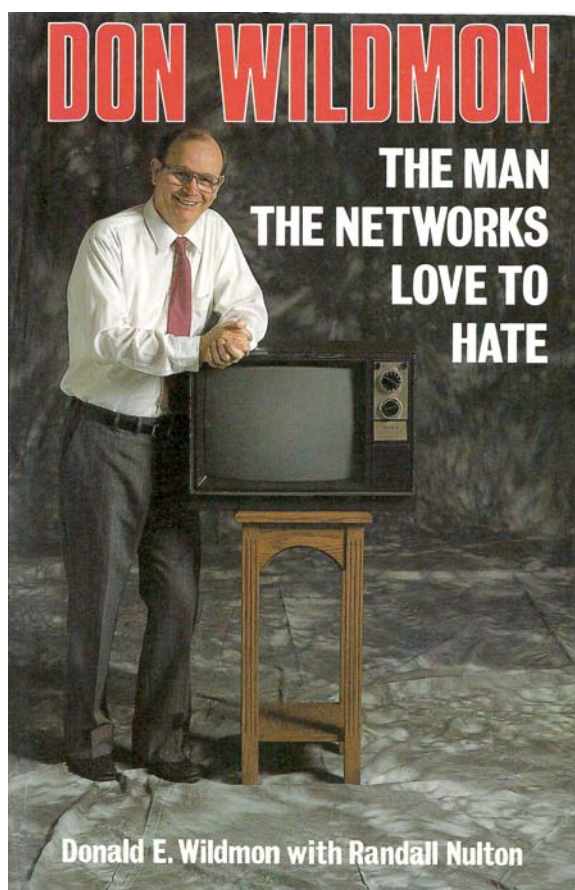
In April of 1986, the Southland Corporation finally capitulated and withdrew the magazines from their 4,500 corporately-owned stores. This produced a chain reaction, as 5,000 more stores pulled the magazines in the following weeks, including 2,000 Revco drug stores and 1,400 Rite Aid "family" drug stores.⁷ During the ensuing months, *Playboy's* circulation dropped over 650,000 copies per month.⁸

The Man Standing for Decency

Who was this powerhouse called Don Wildmon? He had already brought Sears to its knees because his monitoring of television programs had revealed that Sears was one of the leading sponsors of trash TV — programs containing the most sex, violence and profanity. It was against this massive corporation that he launched his very first boycott in 1978. And it had been successful.⁹ He was to become known as "the man the networks love to hate"¹⁰ and "the preacher who causes heartburn in Hollywood."¹¹

It seemed that a man with such enormous influence had to be a megachurch pastor or a well-known television personality. But no, before he established the National Federation for Decency in 1977, he had served for eight years as the pastor of a small United Methodist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. During those years, it had grown from "a handful of people" to only 75 members. As Wildmon later put it, "I didn't exactly set the world on fire in those eight years."¹²

In 1976 Wildmon was moved by his bishop to a church in Southaven, Mississippi, a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee. At that point, he felt burned out. He had been an ordained minister for 20 years. He was "bored and felt constrained." He had "lost the feeling God had something 'special' for me to do." Putting it more graphically, he said he "felt like a monkey in a cage, going round and



round and getting nowhere.”¹³

So Wildmon had no sterling record of accomplishment when God called him. But the Bible makes it clear that when God looks for a servant to anoint, outward appearances are unimportant to Him. His concern is the heart, as explained in 2 Chronicles 16:9 — “For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His . . .”

Don Wildmon was such a person. He was completely sold out to the Lord, and God had a plan for him that was beyond anything he could imagine.

The Challenge of Decency

It all began on a December evening in 1976. His children wanted to watch TV, and when they took a look at what the three main networks had to offer, they could not find anything decent. The first program was sexually inappropriate, the second was full of foul language, and the third featured a man being beaten to death with a hammer!¹⁴

That night, after he went to bed, Don began thinking about how he could get the attention of the networks in order to impress upon them the need for wholesome programming. That’s when he got an idea that would prove to be revolutionary — he would call on Christians to turn off their TV sets for a week. The next day, he drew up a press release and sent it out to all the media in Memphis. To his total shock, the Associated Press picked up his proposal, and before he could grasp what had happened, he started receiving inquiries from all across the nation.

He was 39 years old. He had no money. He had no connections with the powerful. But far more important, he had been anointed by God to take a stand for righteousness.

The “Turn the Television Off Week” was held during the week of July 24-30, 1977.¹⁵ As soon as it was over, Wildmon resigned his pastorate, moved back to Tupelo and established his new ministry which he initially called The National Federation for Decency (the name was changed to the American Family Association in 1988). As he later put it, “I had a vision; God had a plan.”¹⁶

A year later in 1978 his volunteers, who were monitoring television programming on the major networks, made a surprising discovery — that Sears was one of the major advertisers on programs Wildmon considered to be morally unacceptable. This led to a major crusade against Sears, and the corporation responded positively by cutting its sponsorship of the programs.¹⁷

This spectacular success propelled Wildmon into the focus of the secular, hostile media. It also led to many important speaking invitations.

The Crusader Becomes a Prophet

When Wildmon first started his ministry, his only goal was



Dr. Reagan and his wife, Ann, together with two staff members, Gary Byers (on the left) and Mike Witte (on the right) participated in the march against the Southland Corporation in August 1985.

to fight profanity, sex and violence on TV. But as the years passed, he realized that he was in a battle for Western Civilization and that God had called him to speak out in behalf of basic Christian values wherever they might be attacked. His response was to broaden his scope from simply a focus on television to a defense of America’s Judeo-Christian consensus wherever it was assaulted by the aggressive forces of Humanism.

This broadened scope was revealed in a very important speech that he was invited to deliver to the prestigious and influential Los Angeles World Affairs Council in April of 1982. In this speech, Wildmon began speaking as a prophet, pointing to the sins of our nation and warning of their consequences.

Although his audience was a thoroughly secular one, Wildmon began by quoting Scripture:¹⁸

Years ago a simple Jewish tentmaker spoke these words, “Whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap.” That truth is as valid for a nation as it is for an individual. The truth of the words of Paul of Tarsus is evident in our country today. For more than a generation now our society has been sowing seeds which are today bringing forth their fruit. Truth can be rejected, but it cannot be avoided.

He launched into a brief review of the religious heritage of our nation, arguing that “underneath the heart of America there was always abiding a strong belief in the guiding hand of a Divine Being.”¹⁹ He then asserted, “Today, belief appears to be slowly dying, pushed aside by those whose religion is self-interest and self-indulgence.”²⁰

He pointed out that an “anti-religious attitude” had arisen in the nation that “no one would have dared to predict a generation ago.”²¹ He continued:²²

So strong is this anti-religious attitude that in today’s atmosphere it would be impossible for Congress to make Christmas a legal holiday; to place “In God We Trust” on our coins; to include in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag the phrase “One nation under God;” to have a chaplain open the sessions of Congress with a prayer or even to allow our armed forces to have chaplains.

At this point, Wildmon zeroed in on the fundamental problem:²³

Atheism and agnosticism, with their stepchildren of humanism, hedonism, and materialism, may not be the official religions of our country, but they have become the accepted practical religion by many in key positions of influence.

He continued with the observation that “any religion or philosophy which teaches us to use people and love things is a natural enemy of the Christian faith, which teaches us to love people and use things.”²⁴

Wildmon explained that in his opinion, “the greatest threat to the existence of our society” is “mind pollution,” and the greatest instrument of such pollution is television.²⁵

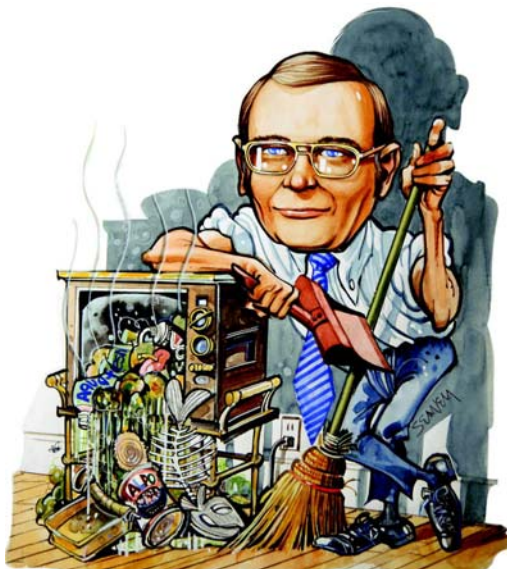
He asserted that his ideas were “dangerous” and have been for two thousand years. He explained that they are the ideas that resulted in Jesus being nailed to a cross and the Roman Empire killing those who held such ideas. He then presented his audience with a list of the “dangerous ideas” he was talking about:²⁶

- Sex is a beautiful gift given by God to be shared between husband and wife.
- Violence is not God’s way of resolving conflict.
- The elderly are an important part of society to be honored and respected for their wisdom and experience.
- Intelligent and thoughtful people can express themselves without resorting to vulgar, crude and filthy language.
- Religion is a vital part of life.

He brought this powerful and insightful presentation to a close by speaking of the inevitable consequences of abandoning our Judeo-Christian heritage:²⁷

What is at stake is whether we will remain a country accepting the Judeo-Christian concept of right and wrong, or turn our back on centuries of progress to embrace practical atheism . . .

We can have a society that recognizes God and His moral standards, or we can have a society that recognizes the “make-it-up-as-you-go moral standards of Hollywood.” We cannot, however, have both as equals.



A caricature of Wildmon.
(Supplied by the American Family Association)

He then concluded as he began, reminding his audience that “a nation which turns its back on God and His moral standards will reap what it sows . . . We are beginning to learn the party is over. It is time to pay the fiddler.”²⁸

The Response

Needless to say, Wildmon’s comments were not well received. But that should be no surprise. Prophets are never well received — not even by believers. People have always desired “pillow prophets” who would deliver soothing words. They have despised true prophets who expose their sins and call them to repentance.

Wildmon has been viciously attacked throughout his career:

- An NBC executive branded his ministry boycotts as “the first step toward a police state.”²⁹
- A CBS vice president called his efforts “the greatest frontal assault on intellectual freedom this country has ever faced.”³⁰
- An executive with Warner Brothers studios called him a “Crypto Snake Handler.”³¹
- *Playboy* magazine dubbed him “A Religious Dingbat.”³²
- The president of CBS called him “The Ayatollah of the Religious Right.”³³
- The chairman of Rite Aid drug stores characterized him as a “Rabble Rouser.”³⁴
- The Southern Poverty Law Center designated his ministry as a “hate group.”³⁵

He has been most commonly written off as a “redneck, country preacher.”³⁶ This characterization was in response to his Southern, small town heritage and accent. But this ignores the fact that he is a man who is well educated, having earned a Bachelor’s degree from Millsaps College and a Master’s degree from Emory University’s Chandler School of Theology.³⁷

A Personal Experience

I have first hand knowledge of how Wildmon has been viewed by his opponents. In 1987 he launched a protest movement against Holiday Inn because they started supplying porno movies to their rooms. I joined the protest by writing to the company to express my dismay with their new policy.

Normally, corporations respond to such messages with a carefully crafted public relations letter that is designed to put the company in the best possible light. But to my surprise, I received a personal letter from one of Holiday Inn’s vice presidents, and he unloaded on me in a very emotional manner.

He said I “obviously” was one of Don Wildmon’s supporters. He wondered how a person like me, “with Dr. in front of his name,” could be a supporter of a “country bumpkin” like Wildmon. He concluded his letter by saying that he and all his colleagues just could not figure out how a “hick-from-the-sticks” like Wildmon could garner so much support.

I wrote back and explained it was all due to a person called the Holy Spirit.

The Worst Critics

Secular critics were not the ones that bothered Wildmon the most. Rather, what really disturbed him were the critical messages he received from pastors. He told me personally about this one time, but he also wrote rather frequently about it in his opinion column that appeared in each issue of the *AFA Journal*.

Wildmon experienced disappointment with pastors from the very beginning. When he first came up with the idea of turning off TV for a week, he thought it would be easy to get thousands involved by appealing to pastors to rally their congregations. But his appeals, even within his own denomination, were met with stony silence. This prompted him to start talking about 300,000 silent pulpits in America:³⁸

Today, 4,000 innocent precious lives of unborn babies were snuffed out . . . And 300,000 pulpits are silent . . . The networks make a mockery of Christians, the Christian faith and Christian values with nearly every show they air. Greed, materialism, violence, sexual immorality are standard fare. Program after program, movie after movie contains anti-Christian episodes and plots. News articles condescendingly refer to the “fundamentalists, right-wing Christians.” Those who speak out for the sacredness of life are branded as extremists. And 300,000 pulpits are silent.

What important matters are being dealt with in our churches? The church bulletin says there will be a meeting to plan the church-wide supper. We are raising money for a new floor cover in the kitchen. (The old one doesn't match the new stove and refrigerator — we must deal with important things first.) The sermon subject last Sunday was “How To Have a Positive Attitude.” And best of all — we are organizing a softball team.

Needless to say, these negative portrayals of apathetic pastors did not endear Wildmon to them. As his exposure level continued to rise in the press, many pastors began to send him critical messages. A typical one would read: “You are just spinning your wheels. Things have gotten much worse since you started speaking out. You are not winning.” Wildmon's response was one that I loved: “God didn't call me to win. He called me to stand. We will not win until Jesus returns.”³⁹

Regarding his secular critics and their characterization of him as a “country bumpkin,” Wildmon has responded by pointing out that the reason that image has been applied to him is “because that's the way we [Christian leaders] are portrayed on television.”⁴⁰ With regard to the condemnations he has received from secular spokesmen, Wildmon has said, “I praise God for it! I consider their condemnations to be a high honor. It means I'm doing my job right.”⁴¹

The Ministry Today

Today, the AFA Ministry operates on a budget of \$20 million per year, with most of the donations averaging \$20 per person. There are 400 local AFA affiliates, and the ministry has

over 200 radio stations scattered throughout the nation.

They publish a monthly journal, they operate a news service, and they have recently started producing motion pictures. Over 180,000 subscribe to their journal, and they have 3.4 million subscribers to their email “Action Alerts.”⁴²

Pretty impressive accomplishments for a “country bumpkin”!

In 2010 Don Wildmon was forced to retire due to illness. He suffers from St. Louis Encephalitis. His son, Tim, took over the helm of the ministry.

Honors

In March of 2017, Wildmon was honored by being inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters' Hall of Fame. It is just one of many accolades he has received over the years.

One of his most significant awards was an honorary Doctor of Laws degree that was conferred on him by Asbury College in 1990. On that occasion, Dr. Dennis Kinlaw, the president of the college, made the following insightful remarks:⁴³

In the course of human history, God has shown His grace to His children in many ways. One of those ways is in His gift of prophets . . .

Today God has looked with favor upon us and has given to our country again a prophet.

This one came . . . from Tupelo, Mississippi . . . [and in him] we have seen again the power of one single voice, evolved by God, to touch the conscience of a nation.

Needless to say, Don Wildmon's outspokenness has not made him popular. His honesty and his convictions have brought him scorn, contumely, and open hostility . . .

The God of Scriptures is the God who does the unlikely. No one expected . . . a prophet of God out of Tupelo, Mississippi. But God has given us one. And today we at Asbury College give thanks.

Every time I think of Don Wildmon and his great ministry, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 1:27:

God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong . . . ✠

The reference notes for this article are posted with the copy of the article that can be found on our website at www.lamblion.com.

Open Doors Slam Shut!

Jan Markell

(Editor's note: Jan Markell is the founder of Olive Tree Ministries in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has a radio program called "Understanding the Times." It is syndicated on the Salem Radio Network and can be heard on more than 300 stations all across America. Her website address is olivetreeviews.org.)



Jan Markell

When I began Olive Tree Ministries in 1982, I ministered in hundreds of churches, home fellowships, women's groups, and even some men's groups. Every week I would pile my small vehicle with a 12-string guitar, sound and audio-visual equipment, books, and a map, and head toward destinations large and small. My audiences were enthusiastic as I shared messages focusing on Bible prophecy, Israel, Israel in prophecy, Christ in the Passover, Jewish evangelism, and current events.

I could not keep up with the demand. I could have ministered 5-6 times a week. This was more than a decade after Hal Lindsey's *The Late Great Planet Earth*. That book opened the eyes of a lot of people and caused them to want more insight. The one-third of the Bible that referenced prophecy was for real and could no longer be ignored. It was for today.

If church pulpits didn't want me to talk about it, then I was invited to classes and retreats sponsored by churches from every denomination.

How Times Have Changed

Today about 90% of these doors have slammed shut. It is not just indifference, it is outright hostility towards topics that a few years ago generated great enthusiasm. Yes, there are small pockets of interest that remain but opportunities continue to shrink.

We are now in the days of 2 Peter 3:3: the mocking and scoffing generation as to end-time events. We are in a time when Israel has been so maligned that even within Evangelicalism, she is seen as an "apartheid occupier" instead of God's Chosen People. Anti-Israel sentiment is global. Anti-Semitism is raging. Entire denominations are engaging in the Boycott, Divest, Sanction Movement that harms Israel economically.

If I were to still make my living by visiting churches across America tapping into these very same topics, I would be out of business.

How Did This Happen?

Pastor Tom Hughes, who pastors Calvary Chapel 412 Church in San Jacinto, California, has written an excellent article about the Church's indifference to eschatology. Tom writes that

many pastors refuse to touch the topics of Bible prophecy and Israel because: (1) They don't understand the subjects; (2) They fear offending members; (3) They are concerned about scaring people; (4) They fear losing the tithes if they talk about end-time events; and (5) They are afraid of being identified with the "loony fringe" such as Harold Camping.

Consequently, 90% of our church pulpits today are totally silent on the good news that the King is coming.

The Cry of the Young: Social Justice!!

As a young person, I loved these topics. Bible prophecy ignited my spiritual life which was slipping into complacency. My trip to Israel at age 30, plus my Jewish heritage, allowed me to have an all-new worldview that was actually Israel-centric because the Bible is Israel-centric!

The Pre-Trib Research Center has an excellent article written by Dr. James Showers on the eroding Evangelical support for Israel. He addresses one major area that is problematic: young people are more troubled by injustice than they are inspired by Bible prophecy. Thus, they have fallen victim to the myth that the Israelis have "occupied" Palestinian territories. Likewise, they have bought into the propaganda that Israel is an abuser of the Palestinians. I will list the Pied Pipers who have taught them this in a moment.

Showers suggests that the old adage that we support Israel "because the Bible tells me so" is over. As a result, there is a trend among younger people to leave the Evangelical nest that previous young adults occupied in order to fit into their new postmodern worldview. Postmodern/Emergent leaders only reinforce this decision since they are across-the-board anti-Israel, and pro-Palestinian and pro-Islam.

Evangelicals Who Influence



We expect the postmoderns and the religious left to distort truth, but in the last 20 years, Evangelicals have been in the forefront of discouraging believers on these topics. I will now name some names. I am not attacking these individuals. I am just reporting on what they say.

Popular blogger **Tim Challies** wrote back on January 31 that there are seven "false teachers" in the church today. One category of false teacher he labels as "the Speculator." He says, "Today, as in every age, the 'Speculator' obsesses about end-times and somehow his failed predictions dissuade neither himself nor his followers."

Dr. John Piper wrote in 2002 and again in 2014, "Israel has no warrant to a present experience of divine privilege when she is not keeping the covenant with God. Israel has no divine right to be in the land of promise when she is breaking the covenant of promise. For now, the people are at enmity with God in rejecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, their Messiah."

Lynne Hybels, wife of Willow Creek's Bill Hybels, has been an outspoken proponent of Palestinian issues and a promi-

nent critic of Israel's wall of partition. This was built some years ago to stop the slaughter of innocent Israelis by the Palestinians. She states, "I believe that the ongoing military occupation of the West Bank and the continuing blockade of Gaza is a violation of human rights; as such, it deeply harms the security, freedom, and dignity of both peoples."

Pastor **Brian Brodersen**, son-in-law of Calvary Chapel's founder Chuck Smith, recently told Calvary Chapel pastors to avoid the "gloom and doom" of eschatology. Calvary Chapel may be the last denomination in the world that has maintained an eternal perspective with an emphasis on end time issues. Now they are encouraged to dump the topic in order to cater to younger people. They seem to have forgotten that Chuck Smith built the Calvary Chapel Movement with sermons about end time prophecy.

Pastor **Rick Warren** writes in his *Purpose Driven Life* book, "When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus switched the conversation to evangelism. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. Jesus said in essence, 'The details of my return are none of your business. What is your business is the mission I have given you. Focus on that.' If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy." (See pages 285-286)

I have previously written that the "Bible Answer Man," **Hank Hanegraaff**, states often on his call-in radio program that God's Chosen People are only Christians. He says God is not a land-broker and suggests Israel does not belong to the Jews. Hank says the Rapture is "nonsense" and is forced into the biblical text. His listeners have had a nearly 30-year diatribe of error in these areas. Many have been turned off on these issues for life.

Space does not permit me to quote many other leading Evangelicals and Evangelical organizations who take negative positions on these topics. **World Vision** is just one organization that has been anti-Israel for decades. They were recently caught funneling their humanitarian funds to Hamas though they denied it.

Postmoderns and the Religious Left



Jim Fletcher, an Evangelical expert on the Middle East, has written about leftists like **Shane Claiborne**: "Typically pro-Palestinian activists like Shane Claiborne portray Israelis as Nazi-like oppressors of the downtrodden Palestinians. It's all a toxic stew of political and religious claptrap designed to turn postmodern Millennials against the Jewish state."

Every other year the patriarchs of the religious left such as **Jim Wallis** and **Tony Campolo**, as well as ardent anti-Israel speakers and writers such as Wheaton College's **Gary Burge**



and the Church of England's **Stephen Sizer**, gather at the Christ at the Checkpoint Conference in Bethlehem for a solemn assembly of Israel-bashing. **Lynne Hybels** is also a frequent speaker at this pretty shameful event.

Emergent Church leaders are far more interested in yoking with Rome than considering the things to come or looking at Israel-related issues. This is preparing them to receive a counterfeit Christ.

Dispensationalism Declines

Eschatology and pro-Israel sentiment have always found a home within Dispensationalism. Twentieth Century teachers like John Walvoord, Dwight Pentecost, Tim LaHaye, Hal Lindsey, Chuck Missler, Mark Hitchcock, Ron Rhodes, Dave Reagan, Thomas Ice, Ed Hindson, and many more, have educated millions.

The rise of Amillennialism, Preterism, Dominion/Kingdom Now Theologies — and what often comes with them, Replacement Theology — are crowding out Dispensationalism. Dr. Jim Showers says, "Dispensationalism has become a dirty word in many corners of Christian higher education."

Showers continues, "The next generation of ministry leaders, at best, sees no value in studying future prophecy and, at worst, views it with disfavor or as something to be avoided entirely." He suggests even those who hold to Dispensationalism and a Christian Zionist view of Israel, born out of a literal interpretation of the Bible, are distancing themselves from these topics.

At a time in history when headlines are at best maddening and bleak, the very theologies that make sense of them are declining in favor of theologies that fill pews and offering plates.

This ministry encourages you to tell the inconvenient truth as it concerns our times no matter how unpopular it makes you. God will honor you some day.

But the conclusion here is that the days are gone when to be an Evangelical Christian was nearly synonymous with being pro-Israel and pro-prophecy. It's a new day and not a happy one. Yes, the Bible states that Israel will be on her own someday (Zechariah 12:3), but watching the process unfold remains heartbreaking.

In spite of this, the King is still coming, stage-setting signs are escalating, a trumpet is about to sound, the Church will vanish, and the hoofbeats of the Four Horsemen will be heard in the distance.

Let your voice be heard! ✚

The Mysterious Prophecy of the Trees

Michael Hile



Michael Hile

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God's time cycles in the Bible and contemporary history. Mike and his wife, Joyce, have four grown children and twelve grandchildren. They live in Cabot, Arkansas, where Mike currently teaches a senior adult Sunday school class.)

During the last week of His life, Jesus delivered a detailed prophecy to His disciples about the end times. It has come to be known as "The Olivet Discourse" since it was delivered on the Mount of Olives while Jesus and His disciples were looking across the Kidron Valley at the Temple Mount. This discourse can be found in three of the Gospels: Matthew 24:1-35, Mark 13:1-32 and Luke 21:5-33.

Jesus ended this comprehensive speech about end time signs with a parable that prophetically indicated the timing of His Second Coming (Matthew 24:32-34):

32) Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

33) so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.

34) Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

A Frequent Symbol

This was not the first time Jesus had used the symbolism of a fig tree to make a point. Earlier that year while teaching in the Perea province on the eastern side of the Jordan River, Jesus had given His disciples another parable about a fig tree (Luke 13: 6-9):

6) And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any.



7) "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?'"

8) "And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer;

9) and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"

This parable was a warning that if the Jewish people did not accept Jesus as Messiah, the wrath of God would be poured out on them, and their state would cease to exist.

Again, just the day before His Olivet Discourse, Jesus had given His disciples another fig tree parable. This happened as they were walking from Bethany to Jerusalem by way of the Mount of Olives. They encountered a barren fig tree (Mark 11: 12-14, 19-22):

12) On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry.

13) Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

14) He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening . . .

19) When evening came, they would go out of the city.

20) As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up.

21) Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered."

22) And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God."

This was a classic symbolic prophecy. Like the fig tree, Israel had no fruit because the Jewish people had rejected Jesus as their Messiah. The curse Jesus placed on the tree was symbolic of the fact that the Jewish nation would experience the wrath of God and be set aside.

The next morning, as they returned to the Temple Mount,

they saw that the tree had withered. Later that same day, after visiting the Temple, Jesus delivered His Olivet Discourse, and He reminded them of the fig tree. That's when He told them to watch it, because one day it would come alive again, and when that happened, the generation that witnessed it would also witness His return to earth. This is why He had told them that morning to "have faith in God." Their state would be destroyed due to their rejection of their Messiah, but one day it would be re-established again.

Luke's Version

Luke's version of the Olivet fig tree parable provides us with additional insight as to the timing of the Lord's return (Luke 21:29-32):

29) Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees;

30) as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31) "So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

32) "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place."

As you can see, Luke adds something that does not appear in Matthew or Mark's accounts. Luke says that in addition to watching for the fig tree to come alive, we are to watch for "all the trees." This is evidently a prophecy about the birth of many Gentile nations in the end times, at the same time that Israel is reborn as a sovereign state.

The Fig Tree



So, what about it? Has the fig tree come back to life?

The Jewish people, displaced from their homeland for centuries, began showing signs of life during the second half of the 19th century (1850-1900) when waves of Jews (aliyah) started coming back to the land of Israel. Theodor Herzl (1860-1904), the "Father of Zionism," was the visionary behind the modern return of the Jewish people and reestablishment of a Jewish homeland.¹

Herzl organized the first world congress of Zionism that met in Basel, Switzerland, in August 1897 and became the first president of the World Zionist Organization.² The goals of the organization were set forth in the Basel Program: "Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, secured under public law."³

The Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917 paved the way for the United Nations partition resolution for Palestine on November 29, 1947 and the subsequent formation of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. The fig tree (Israel) came back to life during the first half of the 20th century (1900-1950), and Israel is now producing young figs (potential Jewish believers) that will be harvested at the end of the age.

For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its roots grow old in the earth, and its stump dies in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant. — Job 14:7-9

In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit. — Isaiah 27:6

And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. — 2 Samuel 7:10

The Other Trees

Trees are symbolic of nations, kingdoms and empires in several places in the Bible (Daniel 4:10-26; Ezekiel 17:22-24, 31:3-18; and Judges 9:7-21). In Luke's version of the fig tree parable, many trees are pictured as coming to life around the same time as the fig tree (Luke 21:29-32). Jesus said to "watch the fig tree and all the trees." When they begin to show signs of life, by producing leaves, you are to "know" that the generation that sees this take place will also be the generation that sees the kingdom of God established on earth.

The parable of the fig tree does not say that "we might know," or "we should know," that "the kingdom of God is near." Christ proclaimed in all three gospels — Matthew, Mark and Luke — that when "the fig tree" puts forth leaves, we were to definitely and emphatically "know" and "recognize" that "the kingdom of God is near."

So, you too, when you see these things, happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Matthew 24:33 NASB

So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that He is near, at the very gates. Mark 13:29 ESV

So also, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Luke 21:31 NKJV

The generation that witnesses "the fig tree (Israel) and all the trees (Gentile nations)" come to life was specifically chosen by Jesus to be the one to "know" and "recognize" that His coming is "near, at the very gates."

The Proliferation of Nations

Since the formation, expansion, division, dissolving and reorganizing of nations is subject to wars, internal conflicts and changes in leadership and governing bodies, the number of independent, sovereign states in the world has been subject to constant change. Factors for determining statehood have included

independence dates, dates of constitutions, symbolic foundation dates and, more recently, international recognition from the League of Nations and its successor, the United Nations. Dates of national formation vary slightly among varied sources, however the total number of independent, sovereign nations in the world today is considered to be 195-197 by several sources.⁴

Before the 20th century, there were 44 countries that had achieved statehood. The 20th century saw 147 new sovereign states added, with many splitting off from the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Portugal and the Soviet Union. The first half of the 20th century (1900-1950) saw 38 new states created while the second half (1950-2000) experienced an unprecedented addition of 109 new, sovereign states. Only 5 nations have been recognized as sovereign states in the 21st century (2000 to date).⁵

The number of new states in the world multiplied quickly after World War II (1945) and continued at a rapid pace for the next 50 years. This proliferation of new states during the second half of the 20th century (1950-2000) abruptly ended on October 1, 1994 after Palau was granted recognition as a state. Only five nations have become sovereign states since 1994, with the last, South Sudan, receiving statehood on July 9, 2011.

Growth in Membership of the United Nations



Only independent, sovereign states can become members of the United Nations. There are currently 193 member states in the UN, with the last member, South Sudan, joining on July 14, 2011.⁶

There are 54 countries and territories not currently in the United Nations.⁷ On November 29, 2012, Palestine was granted the status of “Non-member observer state” but hasn’t yet been admitted to the UN as a full member.⁸ As of 2015, there are two permanent non-member observer states at the United Nations: the Holy See (Vatican) and Palestine.⁹

The Overlooked Sign

Watching “all the trees,” as we now know, meant watching all the nations as they come alive in conjunction with Israel before the end of the age. The proliferation of new nations during the 20th century gave new meaning to “watch . . . all the trees.”

“The fig tree” (Israel) officially came back to life in 1948, and “all the trees” (Gentile Nations) have come alive, some before and more after Israel became a nation in 1948. There were 75 states present in the world when Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948. After Israel’s rebirth as a nation, 120 nations have been recognized as independent, sovereign states.¹⁰

Jesus told His apostles before His ascension that it was not for them “to know the times or the seasons” when the kingdom of God would be established on earth (Acts 1:6-7). Rather, He reserved the understanding of this mystery about “the times and seasons” of His return for the generation that would see “the fig tree and all the trees” come to life (Luke 21:29-32, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11).

The Pharisees and Sadducees were spiritually blind to the signs of Christ’s First Coming (Matthew 16:1-3). When they asked Him for a sign, Jesus acknowledged their ability to interpret the weather, based upon the appearance of the sky, but they failed to grasp “the signs of the times” present everywhere. How much more are many of the religious leaders of this generation blind to the “signs of the times” that are heralding Jesus’ Second Coming!

After observing the coming to life of “the fig tree and all the trees” after World War II and during the second half of the 20th century (1950-2000), we can be assured, beyond reasonable doubt, that the events that take place just before Jesus’ return are nearing fulfillment. This means His coming is “near, right at the door.”

According to Jesus’ words, when “the fig tree and all the trees” put forth leaves (come alive), we are to absolutely and confidently “know” the Kingdom of God is near, and the generation that is living at that time “will not pass away until all is fulfilled.” The preponderance of scriptural and global evidence is overwhelming that we are the generation Jesus was talking about.

Hallelujah and Maranatha! ❖

Resources:

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- 2) David Ben-Gurion, “Theodor Herzl: Austrian Zionist Leader,” www.britannica.com/biography/Theodor-Herzl.
- 3) Jewish Virtual Library, “Zionism: World Zionist Organization (WZO),” www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/world-zionist-organization-wzo.
- 4) Central Intelligence Agency, “The World Factbook,” www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2088.html.
- 5) Wikipedia, “List of Sovereign States by Date of Formation,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sovereign_states_by_date_of_formation#Sortable_list.
- 6) United Nations, “Main Organs,” www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/main-organs/index.html.
- 7) Barry Cotton, “United Nations: What countries are not part of the UN?” www.quora.com/United-Nations-What-countries-are-not-part-of-the-UN.
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- 10) Wikipedia, “List of Sovereign States by Date of Formation.”

Departing from the Faith

Mike Gendron

Hank Hanegraaff, known as the “Bible Answer Man,” was chrismated into the Orthodox Church in April. According to Orthodox teachings, Chrismation is the mystery by which a person is granted the gift of the Holy Spirit through the anointing of Holy Chrism.

How could a man who spent so many years helping Christians identify various counterfeits now make the most foolish decision to join a counterfeit form of Christianity? Like its former protagonist, the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox also teach a false and fatal gospel of salvation by sacraments and works. They are both to be accursed for teaching a gospel contrary to the Gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9).

How could the Bible Answer Man disregard the Bible when making a decision that has eternal consequences? Hanegraaff said, “I’ve been impacted by Eastern Orthodox people who have a very keen sense of Church history and have absolute fidelity to the essentials of the historic Christian faith.” It is hard to believe that someone who claims to know the Bible so well can say the Orthodox religion has “absolute fidelity to the essentials of the historic Christian faith.” Does Hanegraaff not know that the primary essential of the Christian faith is the non-negotiable Gospel of Christ? (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The Orthodox people do not believe or proclaim the one-time, all-sufficient, unrepeatable sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for the finished work of redemption. Instead, their priests continue to offer what they believe is the physical body and blood of Jesus Christ everyday on an altar. This Eucharistic sin-offering not only blasphemes Christ, but also rejects His victory cry, “It is finished” (John 19:30). By continuing their sacerdotal priesthood, the Orthodox also reject Jesus as the one mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). In the Orthodox Church, forgiveness of sin and salvation can only come through its priests and its sacraments.

One of the immediate consequences for Hanegraaff’s conversion to the Orthodox Church was having his radio program booted from the Bott Radio Network. We applaud the network’s decision to discontinue the Bible Answer Man program after carrying it since the 1980s.

Hanegraaff’s perplexing decision to join an apostate church that long ago departed from the faith of the apostles, may have eternal consequences also. The Orthodox religion holds its people captive through an utter de-



Hanegraaff’s chrismation ceremony.



Hank Hanegraaff

pendence on a superfluous priesthood for salvation, along with the idolatrous worship of icons, necromantic prayers and worship for the dead. Unlike Paul who did not yield in submission to the Judaizers so that the truth of the Gospel might be preserved, Hanegraaff has submitted to a much more corrupt religion (Galatians 2:5).

Throughout the New Testament, we are warned that there will be false converts, false teachers, and apostates in the church. We cannot judge anyone’s heart, but we must be fruit inspectors (Matthew 7:15-20). Only God knows if Hanegraaff is a true or a false convert. However, it is inconceivable that a true Christian would exchange a relationship with the One Mediator for a religion that offers ungodly mediators.

Hanegraaff’s departure is not unprecedented. “They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us” (1 John 2:19).

We need to remember that the last days will be marked by widespread deception and growing apostasy. “The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Paul exhorts the Church to be on the alert. He wrote: “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-30). Only time will tell how many undiscerning people will follow Hanegraaff on the wide road to destruction.

We are living in a Church Age where many people are choosing to follow persuasive personalities rather than the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. These undiscerning people need to be warned that there are eternal consequences for those who follow the teachings of men without testing them with the supreme authority of God’s Word. The only way false teachers can succeed is when professing Christians put up with them (2 Corinthians 11:4). May God give us the courage and boldness to contend earnestly for the faith that was signed, sealed, and delivered 2000 years ago (Jude 3). ✚

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The Yom Kippur War

God's Miraculous Delivery from Near Disaster

Tim Moore

He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations, the covenant which He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac. Then He confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion of your inheritance." — Psalm 105:8-11

The triumphant conclusion of the Six Day War fifty years ago ushered in a golden age of Israeli national pride. Humiliating the collective Arab armies arrayed against it, for a brief season Israel was able to enjoy the relative security of defensible borders. But, the Six Day War did not subdue Arab hatred. Only 7 years later, another nearly calamitous war erupted. In many ways, the Yom Kippur War of 1973 established the historical context that continues to resonate today.

Vastly outnumbered by a Goliath of Arab armies in 1967, victorious Israel proved itself to be a modern-day David. Even Arab nations began to wonder what miraculous power enabled the Jews to prevail time and again. Sadly, secular Israelis credited their own military prowess and tenacity instead of any power beyond themselves. That led to a degree of overconfidence that actually weakened Israel's defenses in the early 1970s. Further undermining Israeli defense options, Western nations placated the ever-aggrieved Arabs by signaling to Israel that it should not again defend itself with a pre-emptive strike, as had been the case in the Six Day War.

In the Arab nations, other dangerous forces were being unleashed. The Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other terrorist factions grew in potency and influence. These groups shamelessly targeted Israeli civilians. They also lived up to the prophecy regarding Ishmael and his descendants ("your hand will be against everyone" — Genesis 16:12) by fomenting unrest in the very Arab states that hosted them. Adding to the dangerous mix, the Soviet Union poured weapons into hostile Arab states.

In the midst of this restless period, Israel sought to consolidate its territorial gains from 1967 and expand its economy. It even offered land in exchange for peace with its Arab neighbors, but only Jordan would negotiate. The other nations surrounding Israel clung to the resolution they collectively adopted at Khartoum in September of 1967: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no deal with Israel.

Egypt's new leader, Anwar Sadat, pledged to rewrite the outcome of the Six Day War. Learning from Gamal Nasser's mistakes in 1967, Sadat massively expanded his arsenal with Soviet weapons and painstakingly improved the training and professionalism of the Egyptian army and air force. He also focused on military maneuvers and preparation for war.

By 1973, Sadat was ready to strike. Unlike his bellicose predecessor, Sadat did not engage in the constant verbal hyper-



The Lion of Judah watches over Israeli soldiers as they rest around their tanks. "He who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121:4).

(www.pinterest.com/pin/33565959702820708)

bole. But he was clear about his intentions. Sadat plainly stated to *Newsweek* magazine in March that "everything in this country is now being mobilized in earnest for the resumption of battle, which is now inevitable." In spite of that clear and present danger, Israeli intelligence downplayed the threat of war as "very low."

The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) finally recognized, only hours before Egypt launched its attack, that war was certain. That realization came so late that Israel did not have time to mobilize its military reserves. It also found itself critically short of ammunition and supplies to conduct all-out war. Even so, Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir rejected the kind of bold preemptive strike that had proven so effective in 1967. She perceived that the United States — the sole ally likely to come to Israel's aid — would not tolerate a second preemptive attack. (United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger later confirmed Meir's calculation when he stated that had Israel attacked first, it would not have been given "so much as a nail.")

Jewish tradition teaches that a person's fate is sealed on Yom Kippur — the annual Jewish "Day of Atonement." On the afternoon of Yom Kippur (October 6th), 1973, the Egyptian air force and army attacked — hoping to seal Israel's fate. Because the entire nation of Israel was shut down for that holiest of Jewish days, its initial response was slow and uncoordinated. The Egyptian army quickly crossed the Suez Canal, reoccupied strategic locations throughout the Sinai, and threatened the southern heart of Israel. Syria simultaneously attacked through the Golan Heights, threatening the northern interior. Thankfully, although Jordan sent a token force to keep up appearances for its Arab neighbors, King Hussein actually conferred with Israel and was careful not to escalate hostilities on Israel's eastern flank.

As the Egyptians and Syrians pressed the battle, it appeared that Israel's invincibility would be catastrophically disproved. With massive tank battles raging on both fronts, Israel found itself on the defensive. Meir appealed to the United States, and with President Richard Nixon's blessing the United States rushed military aid to Israel. The airlift effort was dubbed Operation Nickel Grass. In an ironic historical footnote, owing to Nixon's embroilment in Watergate, Henry Kissinger — himself a Jew and dual-hatted as National Security Advisor and Secretary of State — was given primary responsibility to contain the Middle East mess.

Called "the airlift that saved Israel," Operation Nickel Grass certainly helped turn the tide of the war. Active fighter aircraft were pulled from American bases and flown to Israel. Tanks, armored personnel carriers, and ammunition were rushed to Lod and other Israeli airfields. Equipment was quickly rechristened with a Star of David, fueled, armed, and sent into battle. After a harrowing two days, Israel rallied as its vaunted reserves joined the fight in the south and the north. In the north, following intense fighting, Israel pushed Syria back out of the Golan Heights and eventually pressed toward Damascus. In the south, Israel engaged the Egyptian forces in the Sinai in the greatest tank battle in the history of warfare. Under the inspired leadership of General Ariel Sharon, Israel proved victorious and proceeded to cross the Suez Canal where they cut off the entire Egyptian Third Army and then started marching toward Cairo. With Israel poised to gain even more territory, the United Nations intervened and imposed a ceasefire on October 26.

Although Israel emerged victorious once again, the Yom Kippur War left an indelible mark on the Middle East. America's willingness to stand alone with Israel sparked great resentment among the Arab nations. Israelis were grateful for American assistance, but outraged that Western pressure almost resulted in national disaster. Western Europe, fearful of antagonizing the Arab nations and disrupting its precious oil supply, became increasingly hostile toward Israel. After contributing mightily to the Arab military build-up and aspirations prior to 1973, the Soviet Union (and later Russia) continued to foment unrest throughout the region.

In the Middle East itself, Anwar Sadat shifted Egypt toward the west and regained the Sinai through a peace accord with Israel. (His assassination in 1981 by elements of the Muslim Brotherhood demonstrated that the "Arab street" would not tolerate peace negotiations with the Jews.) Unable to defeat Israel militarily, the Arab states manifested their antagonism toward Israel primarily by providing support to the Palestinians. They also sowed the wind with home-grown terrorist proxies, unleashing a whirlwind of destruction upon themselves and the world.

So much of the dynamic in the Middle East today can only be understood through the prism of the wars and hostilities that



Ariel Sharon (with bandage on his head) stands next to Moshe Dayan (with patch on his eye).
(www.israelshamir.net/English/Suez.htm)

have raged for the past 69 years. And, those can only be understood through Bible prophecy. Scripture says that in the end times the state of Israel will be re-established and will be surrounded by hostile nations. It is also prophesied that all the nations of the world will be focused on Israel and on Jerusalem (Ezekiel 37:21-22; Luke 21: 20; Zechariah 12:1-3). As we witness the growing hostility of nations around the world toward Israel, those prophecies are clearly being fulfilled.

Israel's national motto following the horrors of the Holocaust was "never again." The same motto echoes throughout Israel following the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War. Never again will the Jews be cast out of Jerusalem and away from the Western Wall. Never again will Israel consider itself solely reliant on an ally for its defense and potential survival. And finally, never again will Israel remain passive when faced with a threat of national annihilation.

While official United States policy seems to have recently taken a turn for the better regarding Israel, the ambivalence of the previous administration demonstrates the fickle nature of even Israel's greatest ally. Israelis have come to realize that Evangelical Christians are their most stalwart supporters. Our own Lamb & Lion pilgrimages bear testimony to our love for Israel and the Jewish people and manifestly demonstrate our determination to stand with Israel. As I personally related to the Israeli Ambassador earlier this year, our love for Israel and the Jewish people is absolute. Because we love Jesus — the Consolation of Israel — we love His Chosen People.

But, soon and very soon, God the Father will send Jesus to collect His Bride — the Church (2 Corinthians 11:2 and Revelation 19:7). Following the global chaos that will ensue, a charismatic leader will emerge, offering to calm the worldwide economic storm and guaranteeing peace to the Jews of Israel. After 3½ years he will violate that peace treaty and turn on the Jewish people with a Satanic vengeance (Daniel 9:27). Then, as the remnant of surviving Jews marvel at their miraculous deliverance once again, their unbelief will turn to saving faith when they look upon Him whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10-13:1).

God still has a plan for Israel. Its eternal fate was sealed long before the wars of the past 70 years — by One whose word is eternal. His ancient promises are as valid today as they were when He declared them to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 17:7).

He also has a plan for you and for me. His will for each of us is to be invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Until He calls us home, Lamb & Lion Ministries will evangelize the lost, pour out love on the chosen nation of Israel, and call believers to look for the soon arrival of Jesus — our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13). *Maranatha!* ✠

When God Seems So Distant

Nathan E. Jones

Have you ever attended a White Elephant Party? No, I'm not talking about some pale pachyderm popping out of a pastry. Rather, these are parties where attendee gifts are more likely to be of the flea market persuasion, and the more creatively weird the better. It's all a lot of fun, that is, as long as the receiver of these kinds of gifts isn't a birthday boy or your wife. If they are, and they're receiving Great Aunt Betty's pig-shaped soup bowl, then well, you'll likely end up visiting the dog house. For these important people in our lives, especially on their special day, only the best gifts will do.

Once there was a people who believed they only needed to give God white elephant gifts. It's a fantastic little story found in the last Old Testament book of Malachi. The Minor Prophet uncovered poignant insights into the heart of a Heavenly Father who had been receiving second, and even third best.

Facing the Menagerie

One day the Prophet Malachi had been standing outside of the Temple, mouth agape, watching with incredulity as the priests readily accepted one sorry excuse of a sacrifice to God after another. Mosaic Law required the best of the flock, the unblemished and the healthy. Instead, the people reluctantly dragged in shabby goats with broken horns, sickly lambs with eye infections, and bulls so old they might just die before reaching the butcher block. Burdened to the point of exasperation, God's prophet readied himself to set the stingy bunch of worshippers straight about what loving God truly meant.

Malachi shouted out so that the unruly crowd of half-hearted devotees could not miss him, "The Lord says, 'I have loved you!' Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?'" Thus Malachi had begun a series of seven literary disputations, where God pronounced a statement and the people responded by brazenly questioning the truth of God's claims (1:1-5). In each case, the people threw God's statements back at Him like moody teenagers questioning their parents. And these people were at the Temple to worship!

In His first statement, God reminded the people just how special Israel had been to Him over the centuries, giving historical examples of His great love. But, the people, they just wanted to know what God had done for them lately.

Malachi presented God's second statement, this time against His own corrupt priests (1:6-2:9). "If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence?" The priests questioned, "In what way have we despised Your name? In what way have we defiled You?" God responded by pointing out the obvious — the sacrificial animals were appalling! Blind, lame, sick, and even stolen, the guardians of God's grace that covered the people's sins were shaming Yahweh's name.

Aghast at the obvious, Malachi spit forth God's third statement (2:10-16). "Judah has profaned the Lord's holy institution which He loves." The people scoffed with, "For what reason?" The holy covenant of marriage was being treated with casual contempt as divorce rates skyrocketed, demonstrating the treacherous people were unfaithful. Therefore, God rejected their

offerings. Even if they were to weep and wail, which they wouldn't, God would ignore their faithless sacrifices.

God sighed deeply in utter weariness at His people's hard hearts and constant questioning (2:17-3:6). The prophet in this fourth statement revealed, "You have wearied the Lord with your words." Demonstrating no sympathy, the congregants squealed, "In what way have we wearied Him?" And with a snap remark they added, "Where is the God of justice?" Ouch!

The insolent people just accused the God of the Universe of delighting in evil. Patiently, God promised true justice when the ultimate Judge — the Messiah — arrived.

Malachi presented God's fifth statement, this time a magnanimous plea (3:7). "Return to Me, and I will return to you." Like an angry toddler who doesn't get the toy he wants, the stubborn people spit, "In what way shall we return?"

In His sixth statement, God leveled an accusation, "You have robbed Me!" (3:8-12). The guilty people merely hid their pathetic animals behind their backs, batted their eyes, and replied innocently, "In what way have we robbed You?" God challenged them that if they sacrificed with generous hearts, He would bless them beyond measure. Sadly, the people's hearts were stingy, for they didn't trust God to follow through.

In the seventh and final statement, God lamented, "Your words have been harsh against Me" (3:13-15). In an embarrassing display of ignorance, the people scoffed, "What have we spoken against You?" And then they immediately spoke against Him: "It is useless to serve God."

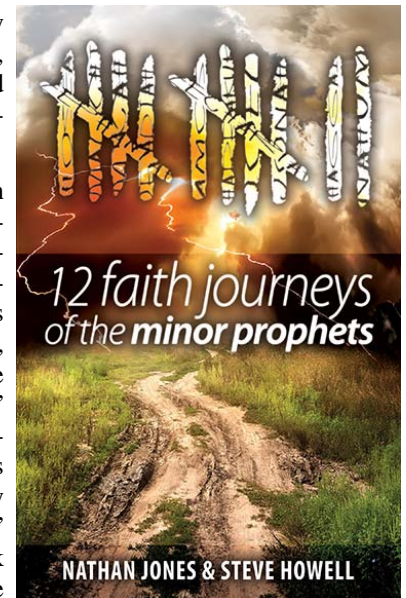
Defining the Distance

God had enough of these faithless people and their casual indifference to His Law. They had spurned God's love, so God would shut His mouth . . . for 400 years!

While a majority will always reject God, just emotionlessly going through the motions of worship, a believing remnant always exists that responds positively in repentance to God's Word. Malachi ended with a promise to the faithful few who feared the Lord: "They shall be Mine" (3:16 - 4:6). When the Day of the Lord's judgment finally arrives, God's "jewels" shall be spared.

God will always seem distant to those who, in truth, want Him to be distant. But, for those faithful who love the Lord and give Him their best, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). ✚

Note: Nathan Jones' book about the Minor Prophets is available for \$20, including the cost of shipping.



VP Pence Honors Israel

(Editor's note: Israel declared its independence as a state on May 14, 1948, which on the Hebrew calendar was the 5th day of Iyar. This year, that date fell on May 2, according to the Gregorian calendar which we use in the Western world. On that day, Vice President Mike Pence, gave a speech to honor Israel. It was delivered to members of Congress and special guests in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. Below are excerpts.)

You're all here, all of you, regardless of your home, your creed, because on this day, the fifth day in the month of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar in 1948, nothing short of a miracle occurred. On that day, in the ancient and eternal homeland of the Jewish people, the state of Israel was reborn.

On that day, the Jewish people's 2000-year exile, the longest exile of any people anywhere, ended. And on that day, a prophecy literally came to pass. And I believe in my heart that God Himself fulfilled His promise to His people. The Lord God tells us in the Old Book, "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you and ye shall live" (Ezekiel 37:5 KJV). And Israel lives today.

Today and every day, the state of Israel and her people bear witness to God's faithfulness . . . How unlikely was Israel's birth? How much more unlikely has been her survival? And how confounding against all odds, both past and present, has been her thriving. Since the moment of their independence, the Israeli people have awed the world with their strength of will, and their strength of character. They've turned the desert into a garden, scarcity into plenty. And the people of Israel have turned hope into a future of security and prosperity.

And at all times, in war and in peace, the people of Israel have held their heads high. Every day, Israel takes the curses and slanders of too much of the world and turns them into blessings . . . And under President Donald Trump, let me assure you of this — if the world knows nothing else, the world will know this: America stands with Israel. President Trump stands with Israel for the same reason that every freedom-loving American stands with Israel — because her cause is our cause. Her values are our values. And her fight is our fight.

For my part, my Christian faith compels me to cherish Israel as well as our deep alliance and historical ties. The songs of the land of the people of Israel were the anthems of my youth when I was growing up. You know, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting Israel in 2004 and 2008, and we fulfilled a lifelong dream to bring all of our children to the Holy Land in December of 2014. It was a joy— inexpressible.

So let me say with confidence to all who are gathered here: President Trump stands without apology for Israel, and he

always will. Just look at the actions our President has taken since he took office. The President named David Friedman to represent the United States of America in Israel. The President named Governor Nikki Haley to be America's Ambassador to the United Nations. And the President of the United States, as we speak, is giving serious consideration into moving the American embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem . . .

Since the moment of their nation's birth, there's hardly been a day when the people of Israel have not lived without war or the fear of war, or the grim reality of terror. Know today that our prayers for the safety of the people of Israel, each and every day, go from the hearts of the American people to heaven. And know that Israel does not stand alone.

Today, under President Donald Trump, America's support for Israel's security is at record levels. And in President Trump, America has a leader who will call our enemies by their name.



Vice President Mike Pence
(www.nationalreview.com)

And under President Trump, America will stand strong in the face of the leading state sponsor of terrorism. This administration has put Iran on notice. America will no longer tolerate Iran's efforts to destabilize the region and jeopardize Israel's security. Under President Trump, the United States of America will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. This is our solemn promise to you, to Israel, and to the world . . .

It was faith that led the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland. It was hope that spurred them to strive with all their strength for a brighter future. And it was love for each other, and a love for freedom, that has inspired the Jewish people to greatness at the hour of Israel's birth and every hour since.

And so today we celebrate and we marvel at all that Israel and her people have accomplished. We praise their vigilance and resolve in the face of crisis and condemnation, and for their enduring courage in this time of widening challenges and unknowable threats. And today we remember the sacrifice of those who gave so much for Israel's existence . . .

Israel is an eternal testament to the undying fortitude of the Jewish people, to the unfathomable power of human freedom, and to the unending faithfulness of God. Indeed, though Israel was built by human hands, it's impossible not to sense that just beneath their history lies the hand of heaven. For as God tells us in His Word, speaking to His people so long ago, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

I believe these words are as true today as they were in millennia past. And so I say with confidence, with your help, with God's help, through the strength and courage of the people of Israel and all who cherish her, and with President Donald Trump in the White House, the best days for Israel and America are yet to come.

Thank you very much. May God continue to bless and protect Israel and the people, and may God bless America. ✚

Declining Christianity —

The latest Gallup Poll (May 2017) revealed that only one-fourth (24%) of Americans believe that the Bible is to be taken literally, word-for word. It is the lowest percentage in 40 years and is the first time that a greater percentage of respondents (26%) characterized the Bible as “a book of fables and legends” recorded by man.

The latest LifeWay Research survey showed that church attendance and impressions of the church are the lowest in recent history, and is the most drastic among Millennials (22 to 35 year olds). Among the Millennials, only two out of ten believe attending church is important or worthwhile. Almost 60% of those raised in church have dropped out. Thirty-five percent have an anti-church stance, believing the church does more harm than good. Among Americans as a whole, Millennials are the least likely age group to attend church.

A recent survey by the Barna Research Group revealed five dominant faith groups in America. The first is **Evangelicals**. These are true Bible-believing Christians. Their numbers are down from 9% to 6%! These are people who claim to have been born again and who believe salvation is by grace through faith. They also believe the Bible is accurate in all that it teaches, that Satan is a real person, that Jesus never sinned, that God created the universe, and that they have a responsibility to share their faith with others.



The second group is what Barna calls “**Non-Evangelical, born again Christians**.” They constitute 23% of the adult population. Members of this group claim to be born again and believe in salvation by grace through faith, but they waver on the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. For example, only 55% believe the Bible is accurate in all it teaches,

only 35% believe Satan is a real person, and 46% believe that Jesus sinned!

The largest percentage of Christians in America consists of those whom Barna characterizes as “**Notional Christians**.” They are often referred to as “Cultural Christians.” They constitute 42% of adult Americans, equating to about six out of every ten Americans who claim to be Christian. Barna defines these people as those “who have not made a commitment to Christ that they believe will guarantee their eternal salvation.” Although these people claim to be Christians, only 24% believe the Bible is accurate, only 14% believe Satan is a person, and 68% believe Jesus sinned! Also, only 22% believe they have a responsibility to share their faith with others.

Barna’s fourth category is “**Adherents of Non-Christian Faiths**.” This includes Jews, Buddhists, Mormons and Muslims. They represent 6% of America’s adult population.

The fifth category is “**Religious Skeptics**.” They make up nearly a quarter of the population (23%). These are people who identify themselves as agnostics, atheists, or non-faith-related. This is the fastest growing segment of the adult population.

TIMES and Seasons

Judicial Supremacy —

In a recent very thought-provoking article, Brian Fischer, a regular guest columnist for the American Family Association, declared boldly that “we’re down to one branch of government.” He defined what he meant by

asking two questions:

How did we reach the place where nobody knows what the “law of the land” is until the Supreme Court rules?

How did the Supreme Court acquire so much blatantly unconstitutional and immoral power?

His answer: “They stole it.”

Fischer points out that the very first words of the Constitution, after the Preamble, are these: “All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.” Fischer correctly observes that this clause was intended to make the legislative branch of the government the supreme branch, since it alone was given the authority to make laws.

He proceeds to explain that the job of the executive branch is to implement the laws, not to make them. And the responsibility of the judicial branch was to apply the laws to the solution of disputes. Thus, say, Fischer, “It is impossible, if we are governed by the Founders’ Constitution, for the Supreme Court ever to create ‘the law of the land’ about anything whatsoever.”

The Supreme Court’s authority to determine the constitutionality of laws dates back to 1803 when Chief Justice John Marshall invented the concept of “judicial review.” Fischer says he did so “magically out of the ether.” And he is correct. There is no place in the Constitution where the Supreme Court is given the authority to decide what laws are constitutional and which ones are not.



Brian Fischer

Today, this authority which the judicial branch simply assumed for itself is now being grossly abused by justices who think they are smarter than our legislators and our president. Fischer refers to these judges as “arrogant and out-of-control oligarchs in black robes.” He suggests that Congress and the President should simply start ignoring tyrannical judges when they rule about the constitutionality of a law. As he puts it, “That’s not civil disobedience, it’s constitutional obedience.”

Marriage Depravity —

When the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage, it opened a Pandora’s Box. It is only a matter of time before it will have to also legalize polygamy. And what about trios that want to marry? Or persons who want to marry their pets? And if you think this could never be, then consider the latest marriage fad — people marrying themselves! It is called sologamy. There is even a website called ImarriedMe.com where you can purchase a sologamy ceremony kit. In accordance with Romans 1:28, God has delivered this nation over to “a depraved mind.” ❖

Good News Regarding Israel —

There is a military analytics website called Global Firepower (www.globalfirepower.com) that ranks the military power of the world's nations based on 50 criteria. In their latest report, they listed Israel as the 15th strongest military power among 106 nations that were evaluated. The United States ranked first, followed by Russia and China. Iran ranked 20th. Israel has always been in the top 20, and many military experts have ranked the nation in the top five with regard to the effective use of their military power. This is, of course, a miracle of God when you consider that Israel is one of the world's smallest nations, being only about 75 miles wide by 300 miles long. It is a fulfillment of a prophecy in the Old Testament book of Zechariah which says that in the end times Israel's military power will be like David against Goliath and that it will consume all its surrounding enemies (Zechariah 12:6 & 8).

The Israel Ministry of Tourism has announced that in April of this year the nation experienced the highest number of tourists in one month in the nation's history — a total of 349,000. That was an increase for that month of 40% over last year. Since January of this year, tourism has injected a record \$1.7 billion into the Israeli economy. Praise the Lord!

More Good News —



Tim Moore speaking at a Legislative prayer caucus.

Although Kentucky has historically been a strong Democratic state, the first sign of an impending political revolution occurred when the Republican candidate for Governor, Matt Bevin, was elected in 2015. The actual revolution took place a year later when the state went for Trump and the people also elected Republican majorities in both houses of the state legislature — for the first time in almost 100 years. The Republicans hit the ground running. They passed right to work legislation, abortion regulations and freedom of religion laws. One of

the abortion regulations simply requires abortuaries to obtain ambulance and hospital admittance privileges from a local hospital. The result is that Kentucky is about to become the only state in the nation with no abortion clinics. Only one is left, and it is unable to comply with the specified safety standards. We at Lamb & Lion Ministries are proud of the fact that one of the conservative leaders in the House of Representatives is Tim Moore who serves as a part-time Assistant Evangelist for our ministry.

ChristianHeadlines.com announced in May that there are now a total of eight states that have only one abortion clinic remaining. In addition to Kentucky, they are West Virginia, Wyoming, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Arkansas. Most of the shut-downs have resulted from legislation imposing rules to make the clinics medically safer.



Food for Thought

Angry Atheists —

Dinesh D'Souza is an American political commentator, author and filmmaker who was born in Bombay, India. He is a fierce defender of the faith, and as such, he spends a lot of his time debating atheists.

In an article published by TownHall.com, titled, "Why Atheists Are so Angry," he had the following to say:

"Why are so many atheists so angry? One reason I think is that they are God-haters. Atheists often like to portray themselves as 'unbelievers,' but this is not strictly accurate. If they were mere unbelievers they would simply live their lives as if God did not exist. I don't believe in unicorns, but then I haven't written any books called 'The End of Unicorns,' 'Unicorns are Not Great,' or 'The Unicorn Delusion.' Clearly the atheists go

beyond disbelief; they are on the warpath against God. And you can hear their bitterness not only in their book titles but also in their mean-spirited invective."

Twisting the Gospel —

An article by Chelsen Vicari titled, "Here's How the New Christian Left is Twisting the Gospel," contains some sobering insights regarding the way in which some Evangelical leaders are compromising the Word of God in their efforts to reach Millennials. The article was published in *Charisma* magazine. Chelsen is the Evangelical Program Director for the Institute on Religion and Democracy.



Chelsen Vicari

"Popular liberal evangelical writers and preachers tell young evangelicals that if they accept abortion and same-sex marriage, then the media, academia and Hollywood will finally accept Christians. Out of fear of being falsely dubbed 'intolerant' or 'uncompassionate,' many young Christians are buying into theological falsehoods. Instead of standing up as a voice for the innocent unborn or marriage as God intended, millennials are forgoing the authority of Scripture and embracing a couch potato, cafeteria-style Christianity, all in the name of tolerance.

"This contemporary mindset is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian whose Christian convictions put him at odds with the Nazis and cost him his life, called 'cheap grace.' In his book *The Cost of Discipleship* Bonhoeffer wrote: 'Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.'

"Right now, cheap grace theology is proliferating around evangelical Bible colleges, seminaries and Christian ministries." ❖

Adding Outlets!

We continue to add new television outlets. Five new outlets which we have added since our last report are listed below. Since January of this year we have added a total of nine new networks, for which we praise the Lord and thank you for your support.

Recent TV shoots have included Bible prophecy expert, Dr. Gary Frazier; Israeli TV hosts, Dan and Devorah Calic; and creation teacher, Mike Riddle. We have also taped two programs with radio personality, Jan Markell, and we invited Pastor Billy Crone of Las Vegas back by popular demand.



The bookends above are Nathan Jones on the left and Dave Reagan on the right. In the middle are Mike Riddle and his wife, Lesley.

We have a lot of exciting new programs planned for the summer and fall, including a number of teaching programs by Dr. Reagan. We will also be preparing edited versions of the presentations that will be given at our annual Bible conference in mid-July.

Keep in mind that you can go to our website any time and watch our TV programs on demand. The same is true at the other Internet sites that are listed below.

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks:

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, AT&T U-verse, cable, broadcast stations, satellites and web streaming (daystar.com).

Word — Sun. 5:30am CT, DirecTV 373, Cable, AT&T U-verse, cable, satellites and web streaming (thewordnetwork.org).

Angel One — Mon. 8:00am CT, DISH 262 (www.angelone.tv). **New!**

CTN — Wed. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 376, Dish 267 and web streaming (ctnonline.com). **New!**

CTVN — Sun. 8pm CT. The network has 44 full-power stations and 57 low-power affiliate stations. Glorystar satellite service and web streaming (www.ctvn.org).

GEB — Sat. 5:00pm, DirecTV 363 and web streaming (geb.america.com). **New!**

GodTV — Thurs. 8:30am CT, DirecTV 365 and web streaming (www.god.tv). **New!**

NRB — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 and web streaming (http://nrbnetwork.tv).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, and web streaming (tct.tv).

Upliftv — Mon. & Fri. 9:30am CT, DirecTV 379 (upliftv.com).

Walk TV — Sun. 7:30am CT, 265 affiliate stations nationwide. To find a station in your area, go to <https://thewalktv.wordpress.com> and click on the “Affiliates” tab.

WHT — Sat. 7:00pm CT, DirecTV 367 and web streaming (lesea.com/wht). **New!**

Regional Networks:

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas. Tues. at 10:30am CT, Sat. at 2:00pm, and Sun. at 9:00pm (vntv.com).

Family Vision Network — Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, Three broadcast stations and cable throughout southern Louisiana (familyvisiontv.com).

KSCE — Sun. 10:30am MT, broadcast station in El Paso, TX. DirecTV & DISH Local 38, AT&T U-verse 38, cable and web streaming (ksce.tv.com).

Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

HisChannel — hischannel.com

LightSource — lightsource.com

YouTube — youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

Vimeo — vimeo.com

DailyMotion — dailymotion.com/us

Lamb & Lion — lamblion.com

We Need YOU As A Prophecy Partner!



Our Prophecy Partners serve as the financial foundation of this ministry. They are also our prayer warriors. Their faithful and generous donations and their fervent prayers are what make it possible for us to proclaim the soon return of Jesus worldwide.

We would like to invite you to become one of our Partners. All you have to do is make a commitment to pray for us regularly and provide us with a donation of \$25 or more per month.

In return, Dr. Reagan will send you a letter each month about the ministry's activities, together with a gift such as a video program or a publication related to Bible prophecy. You will also receive a free subscription to this magazine. ✚

Final Call for Two Ministry Events

Annual Bible Conference



This year's conference is scheduled for mid-July, beginning on Friday evening, July 14, and continuing all day Saturday, July 15.

The Friday evening session will consist of a banquet featuring a concert by a Gospel group called Brian Free and Assurance and a keynote address by Dr. Ed Hindson of Liberty University. There is a charge of \$50 per person for this banquet.

On Saturday, there will be five sessions, and all will be free of charge. The speakers that day will include:

Tommy Ice, the Director of the Pre-Trib Study Center. His topic will be "The Promise of the Rapture."

Glenn Meredith, Pastor of the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas, speaking on "The Promise of Rewards."

Don Perkins, Director of According to Prophecy Ministries in San Diego, California. He will speak on "The Promises of the Millennium."

Andy Woods, Pastor and Seminary President from Houston, Texas. He will make a presentation titled, "The Promises of the Eternal State."

Dave Reagan, Founder and Senior Evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries, who will speak on "Living with Hope in a Pagan Society."

Registration is required. To register, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday, or register at our website: www.lamblion.com. For those desiring to attend the Friday evening banquet, concert and keynote address, there is a charge of \$50 per person that must be paid at the time of registration for the conference. Again, the Saturday sessions are free of charge, but registration is required.

In addition to the speakers and musicians, there will be times of fellowship, and there will be many ministries with display booths. Numerous hotels and restaurants are located in the area where the conference will be held. For more detailed information, visit our website at www.lamblion.com. ❖

Holy Land Pilgrimage



Our next pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for September 2-13. It will include two nights in Tel Aviv on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea, two nights in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and six nights in Jerusalem.

The pilgrimage will be hosted by Tim Moore. Additionally, Glenn Meredith, the pastor of The Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas will be one of the group members and will be assisting Tim with devotional services along the way.



Tim Moore



Glenn Meredith

The point is that this is much more than simply a tour of Israel. At every stop, in addition to learning about the site historically and geographically from the Israeli guide, there will also be a devotional service that will focus on the significance of the site in the life of Jesus, in the history of the Church and in end time prophecy.

The guide we have arranged is one of the finest available. His name is Erez Bar David. He is a Messianic Jew who not only knows the land but also knows the Scriptures. He is always a great blessing to our groups.

Call 972-736-3567 for a detailed brochure. ❖



Christ in Prophecy



Internet



Israel Pilgrimages

Outreach



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...

Matthew 28:19



Missions



Bible Conferences



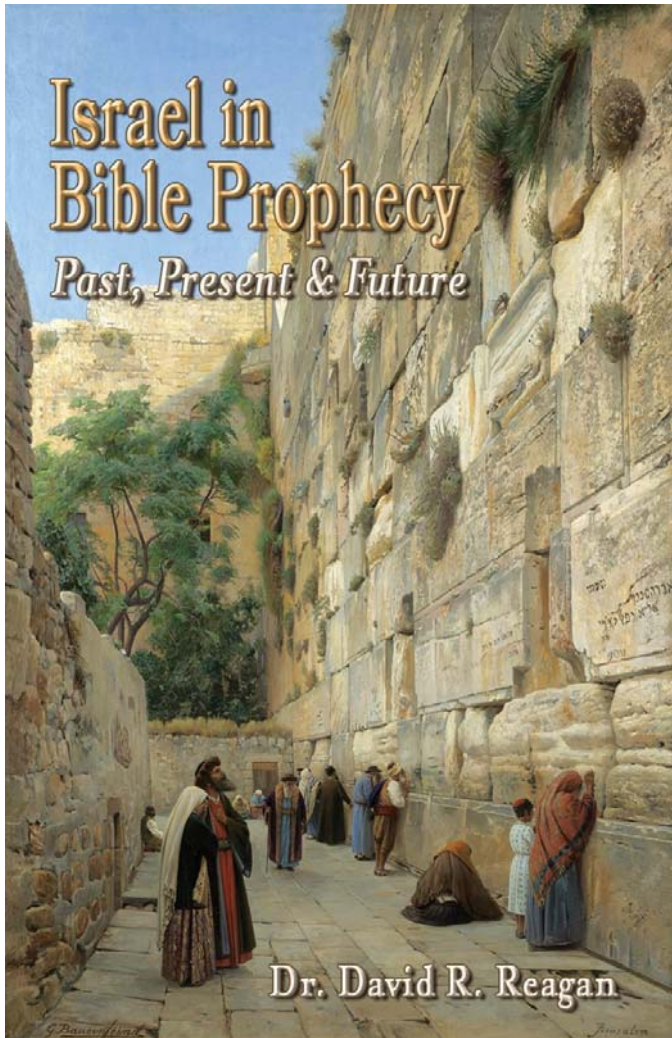
Evangelism



Lamb & Lion Ministries

Our outreach is worldwide. We invite you to become a partner with us. You can do this by becoming one of our Prophecy Partners. For detailed information about our Prophecy Partner Program, check our website at www.lamblion.com.

Dr. Reagan's Newest Book!



The incredible story of Israel in Bible prophecy is proof positive of the existence of God and that the Bible is His inerrant Word. It further demonstrates beyond a doubt that God is on His throne and that He has the wisdom and power to see to it that His will in history is accomplished.

The book is divided into three parts as follows:

Part 1: The Past

- Chapter 1 — The Worldwide Dispersion of the Jews
- Chapter 2 — The Relentless Persecution of the Jews
- Chapter 3 — The Miraculous Preservation of the Jews
- Chapter 4 — The Desolation of the Land of Israel

Part 2: The Present

- Chapter 5 — The Regathering of the Jewish People
- Chapter 6 — The Re-establishment of the State of Israel
- Chapter 7 — The Revival of the Hebrew Language
- Chapter 8 — The Reclamation of the Land of Israel

- Chapter 9 — The Resurgence of the Israeli Military
- Chapter 10 — The Re-occupation of the City of Jerusalem
- Chapter 11 — The Re-focusing of World Politics on the Nation of Israel

Part 3: The Future

- Chapter 12 — The Redemption of Israel
- Epilogue — The Relevance to Believers Today

In each chapter, Dr. Reagan presents the specific, relevant prophecies and then shows how those in Part 1 were fulfilled before the beginning of the 20th Century and how those in Part 2 were fulfilled in whole or in part during the 20th Century.

In the Epilogue, Dr. Reagan presents the relevance of all the fulfilled prophecies among the Jewish people to Christians today. He emphasizes that because God has fulfilled in detail all these prophetic promises He has made to the Jewish people, we can be confident that He will fulfill all His promises to the Church, including the promise of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Further, Dr. Reagan points out that what God is doing among the Jewish people today is conclusive evidence that we are living in the season of the Messiah's return.

The book runs 256 pages in length and sells for \$20 including the cost of shipping.

You can order it via our website at www.lamblion.com. Or, you can call us at 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central Time. ✚

A Fascinating Video

One of our newest video albums is titled "The End Times Focus on Israel." It contains a one hour presentation by Dr. Reagan that was videotaped before a live audience.

In this presentation he presents a sweeping overview of what the Bible has to say about the nation of Israel in end time prophecy. Dr. Reagan addresses many questions people are asking today about Israel and the Middle East:

Can Israel continue to exist in the midst of a sea of hostile Arab nations?

Is there any hope for peace in the Middle East?

How does ISIS fit into the picture of end time prophecy?

This album is available for \$20, including the cost of shipping. To order a copy, either call our office or place your order through our website. ✚



Ministry News

Schedule of Activities —

July:

- Nathan Jones does Radio Interviews with Vic Batista in Miami, FL [Jones] (5,12,19,26).
- Dave Reagan at the MJAA National Conference in Grantham, PA (4).
- Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference at the Marriott Conference Center in Allen, TX (14-15).
- Tim Moore at the Pine Haven Camp Meeting in Park Rapids, MN (21-23).
- Dave Reagan at the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX (30 – evening only).

August:

- Nathan Jones does Radio Interviews with Vic Batista in Miami, FL [Jones] (2,9,16,23,30).
- Dave Reagan at the David Hocking Prophecy Conference at Chino Hills Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA (3-5).
- Board of Trustees Meeting in Allen, TX (12).
- Tim Moore at the Aliceston Camp Meeting in Gravel Switch, Kentucky (23-24).
- Dave Reagan at the Steeling the Mind Noah's Ark Conference, Cincinnati Airport Marriott Hotel, (25-26). Other speakers include Ken Ham and Russ Miller.

September:

- Annual Holy Land Pilgrimage led by Tim Moore with the assistance of Glenn Meredith (2-13).
- Radio Interviews with Vic Batista in Miami, FL [Jones] (6,13,20,27).
- Maranatha Ministry's Louisiana Bible Prophecy Conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles, LA [Reagan, & Hutchinson] (9).
- First Baptist Church, Forney, TX, Believers Class [Reagan] (24).

Regional Conference —

We are pleased to announce that we are planning to conduct our very first regional prophecy conference in Frankfort, Kentucky. It will be held at the First Assembly of God during the weekend of October 13-15. It will begin on Friday evening with a concert by a great Gospel group called The Kramers.

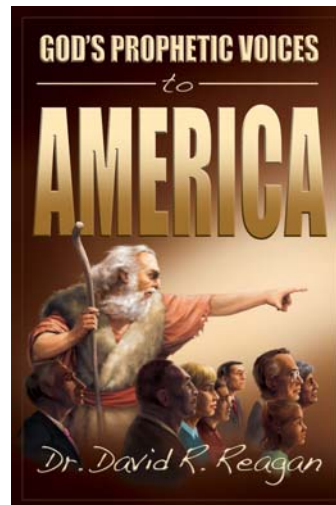


The Kramers' concert will be followed by the keynote address to be delivered by a special guest speaker. The conference will continue on Saturday with presentations by Tim Moore, Nathan Jones, Dave Reagan and another speaker yet to be selected. The conference is free of charge, but registration is required. Registration will open on August 1st, and you can register through our website. The theme of the conference will be "What on Earth is God Doing?"

Celebration —

Throughout this year, the Protestant world of Christianity is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. At the time, he had no idea that his action would lead to a confrontation with the Catholic Church that would literally "change everything" — both in religion and society. Because of the importance of this event to all of Western civilization, we are planning to produce a special edition of this magazine in October that will feature articles about the Reformation. Meanwhile, Dr. Reagan recommends that you take the time to familiarize yourself with both the Reformation and the need for a continuing reformation by reading an outstanding new book by Erwin Lutzer that is titled *Rescuing the Gospel: The Story and Significance of the Reformation* (Baker Books, 2016).

New Book —



Dr. Reagan has been working furiously to complete a second new book this year. His first one about the Jewish people in prophecy is featured on page 22. The second, to be titled *God's Prophetic Voices to America*, is in its final stages, and Dr. Reagan hopes to have it ready to distribute to the general public by the time of our annual Bible conference in mid-July. It will feature 13 prophetic voices, past and present, through whom God has spoken to our nation, calling us to repentance and warning us

of judgment and destruction. You can call our office at 972-736-3567 to check on its availability. It will run approximately 280 pages and will sell for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

Thoughts about Islam —

"If Islam is so wonderful, then why is every land ruled by Muslims a hellish nightmare from which their citizens are trying to escape?" — Unknown author.

"Imagine the outcry if Christians beheaded 21 Muslims." — Franklin Graham.

"Islam has been the Ebola virus of culture since Satan's revelation to Muhammad in the cave." — Bryan Fischer

"Islam is Islam, there are no modifiers. Democracy is the train we ride to our ultimate objective." — Recep Erdogan, the Muslim Prime Minister of Turkey.



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New Revelation Video

In the late 1970s, the piano player for Johnny Cash, a man named Larry McCoy, felt the call of the Lord for him to put the entire book of Revelation to music. He was overwhelmed by the thought of such a task, but he stepped out in faith and began to work on the project.

The Lord gave Larry a special anointing, and he was able to complete the project a year later. He played it first for Johnny Cash, and Johnny was so spiritually moved by the music and the message that he volunteered to pay for the cost of producing the audio album.

Dr. Reagan ran across the album in the early 1980s while preaching at a church in Gallatin, Tennessee. He later met Larry personally, and they developed a close friendship. Dr. Reagan featured excerpts from the album on his radio program, together with teachings from the book of Revelation. Larry proceeded to perform the songs all across America and around the world.



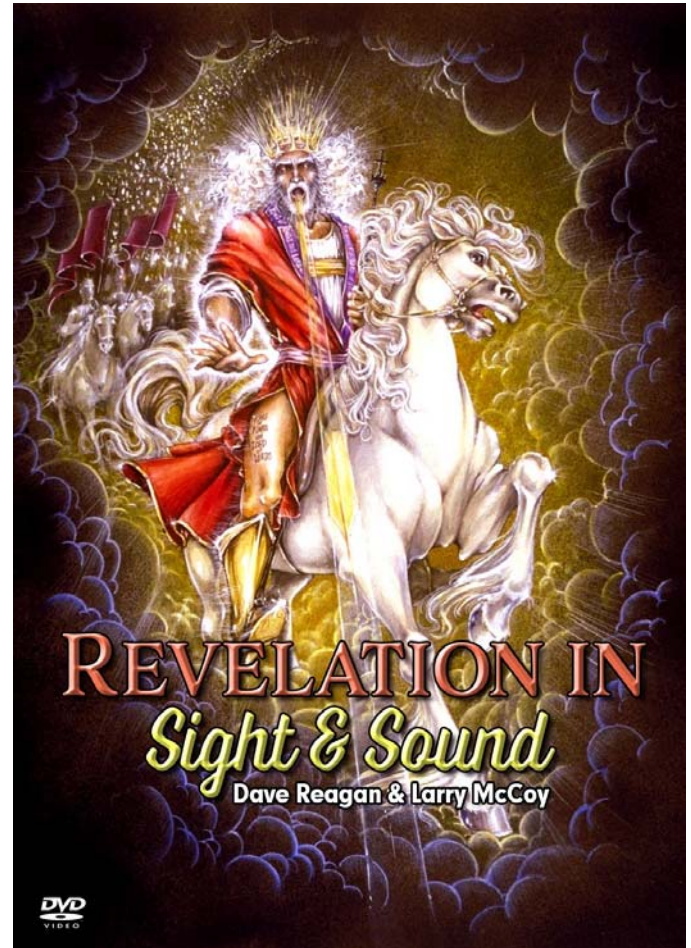
Larry McCoy

Years later, Larry and Dr. Reagan developed an abbreviated presentation of the songs that focused on chapters 1-5 and 19-22, and they presented this version to a number of churches.

This new album contains both a DVD and a CD. The DVD runs a total of 90 minutes and contains two parts. The first part is a 50 minute interview of Larry McCoy during which he tells the story of how he got the idea of the album and how he proceeded to write the songs. He also sings several of the songs. The second part is a 40 minute animated presentation of chapters 1-5 and 19-22.

The 90 minute CD contains the entire audio rendition of Larry and his group of musicians singing the book of Revelation, chapter by chapter.

The album sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to



5pm Central time, or place your order through our website at lamblion.com.



The ministry has also produced a 75 minute video titled "Revelation Revealed." In this video, Dr. Reagan takes you through the book of Revelation chapter by chapter. His teaching is illustrated with maps, diagrams, charts, still photos, animations and video footage. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. ❖