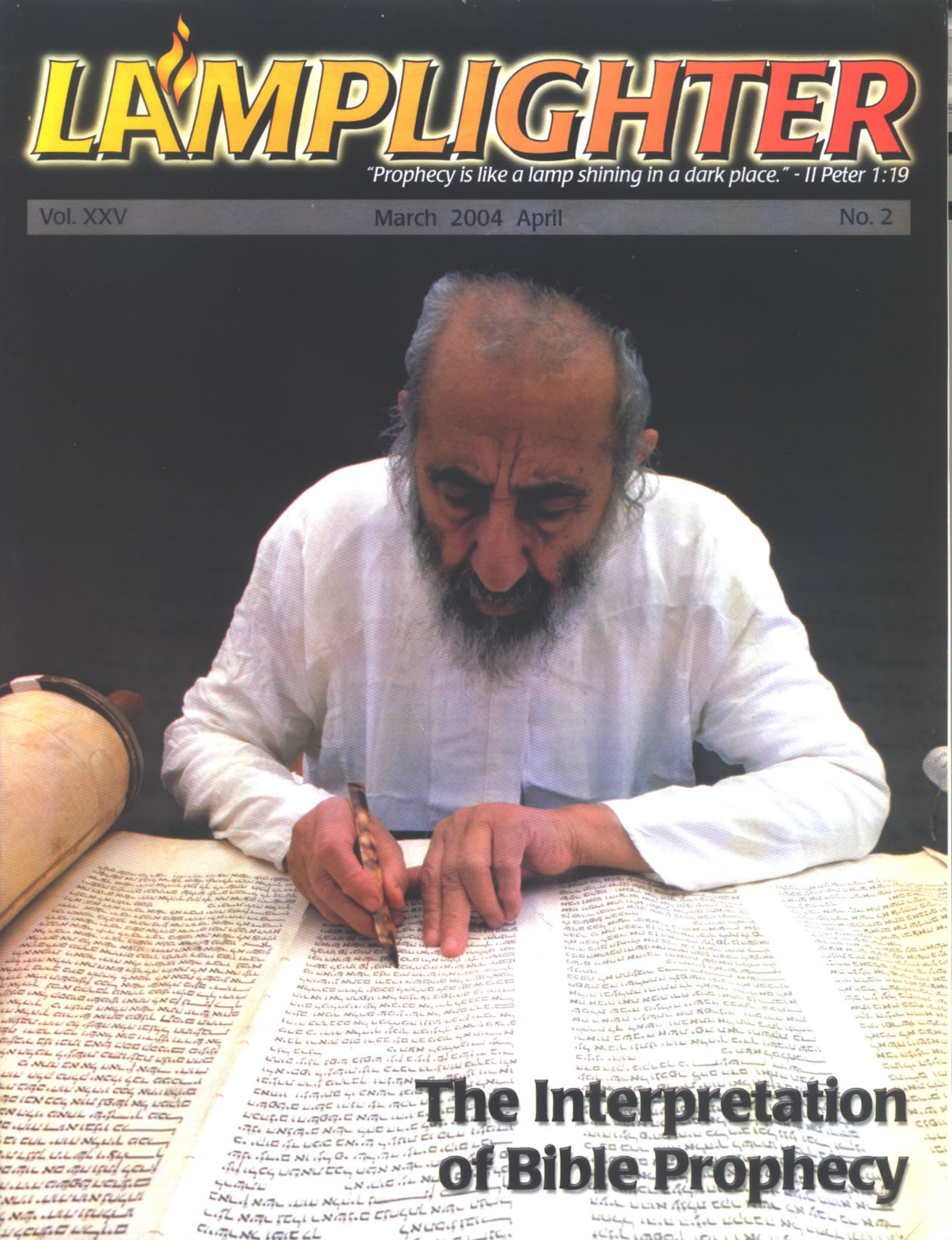
LAMPLIGHTER

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

Vol. XXV March 2004 April No. 2



The Interpretation of Bible Prophecy

LAMB & LION MINISTRIES

The Lamplighter
is published bi-monthly
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 919
McKinney, TX 75070

Telephone: 972/736-3567

Fax: 972/734-1054

Sales: 1-800/705-8316

Email: lamblion@lamblion.com

Website: www.lamblion.com

✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡ ✡

Chairman of the Board:
Ed Bennett

Founder & Senior Evangelist:
David R. Reagan

Associate Evangelist:
Dennis Pollock

Administrative Minister:
Gary Byers

Administrative Minister:
George Collich, Jr.

Executive Secretary:
Kay Bien

Media Minister:
Don Gordoni

Media Associate:
Larry Watts

Director of Operations:
Leo E. Houck

Mail Room Supervisor:
Cathie Grubb

Mail Clerk:
Rachel Houck

The Lamplighter is free of charge to anyone requesting it. Lamb & Lion Ministries is a non-denominational ministry whose purpose is to proclaim to as many people as possible as quickly as possible that Jesus is returning soon.

Observations by the Editor

Thanks!

Dr. David Reagan

Each year when we mail out the first issue of this magazine, we mark several thousand copies with a sticker that contains the following message in bright red letters: "This will be your last issue unless you call 1-800-705-8316."

This message is addressed to those on our mailing list who we have not heard from in two years through either a donation or a purchase. The magazine is free of charge, but we don't want to waste our precious resources by sending it to people who have lost interest in the subject of Bible prophecy or this ministry.

Many people ignore the warning, thinking we really do not mean it. They usually start calling us in April wanting to know why they have not received a recent issue of the magazine.

But we are always flooded with immediate callers who want to assure us that they desire to continue receiving the magazine. Most of these make a donation to the ministry when they call, even though that is not required. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

This year, more than ever before, our callers took the time to tell us how much they enjoy the magazine. Those words of encouragement were a real blessing to all of us involved in producing the magazine.

In addition to the writing which Dennis Pollock and I do, there is a lot of very tedious work done behind the scenes in putting out this magazine.

Kay Bien and Gary Byers do the proof reading. George Collich checks every Scripture reference for accuracy. Cathie Grubb, Rachel Houck, and Ann Reagan put the labels on the magazines. Leo Houck does all the pre-sorting by zip codes that the Post Office requires.

In addition to writing and editing, I spend a lot of time searching for just the right image for the cover of each issue. Once I find it, I turn it over to our graphic artist, Keith Fink, who works for The Master's Press in Dallas. Keith often has to alter the image in various ways before he applies the masthead and the theme title. For example, the picture on the cover of this month's issue did not extend beyond the top of the scribe's head. So, in order to accommodate the masthead, Keith had to extend the black area above the scribe's head.

Sometimes people want to know why we did not include an article about some current news item. The reason is simple. The production lead-time is several months. For example, I am writing this column in late December 2003, and this issue will be sent to our printer in mid-January 2004.

And that brings me to the final behind-the-scenes people involved with each issue of our magazine. They are the wonderful staff members at PDQ Printers in Richardson, Texas, a company founded 20 years ago by Del Kline. We were one of their first customers, and we congratulate them on 20 years of excellence in printing. It has been a joy and a blessing to work with them for so many years.

One final thing: If there are topics you would like to see covered in this magazine, let us hear from you. ✣

ECFA MEMBER

The Interpretation of Bible Prophecy

An Exercise in Imagination or the Application of Plain Sense?

Dr. David R. Reagan

When I was about 12 years old, I stumbled across Zechariah 14. It was an amazing discovery. You see, I grew up in a church where we were told over and over that "there is not one verse in the Bible that even implies that Jesus will ever set His feet on this earth again."

Simple Language

Well, Zechariah 14 not only implies that the Lord is coming back to this earth again, it says so point-blank! It says that the Lord will return to this earth at a time when the Jews are back in the land of Israel and their capital city, Jerusalem, is under siege. Just as the city is about to fall, the Lord will return to the Mount of Olives.

When His feet touch the ground, the mount will split in half. The remnant of Jews left in the city will take refuge in the cleavage of the mountain. The Lord will then speak a supernatural word, and the armies surrounding Jerusalem will be destroyed in an instant. Verse 9 then declares that on that day "the Lord will be king over all the earth."

Muddled Interpretations

When I first discovered this passage, I took it to my minister and asked him what it meant. I will never forget his response. He thought for a moment, and then He said, "Son I don't know what it means, but I'll guarantee you one thing: it doesn't mean what it says!"

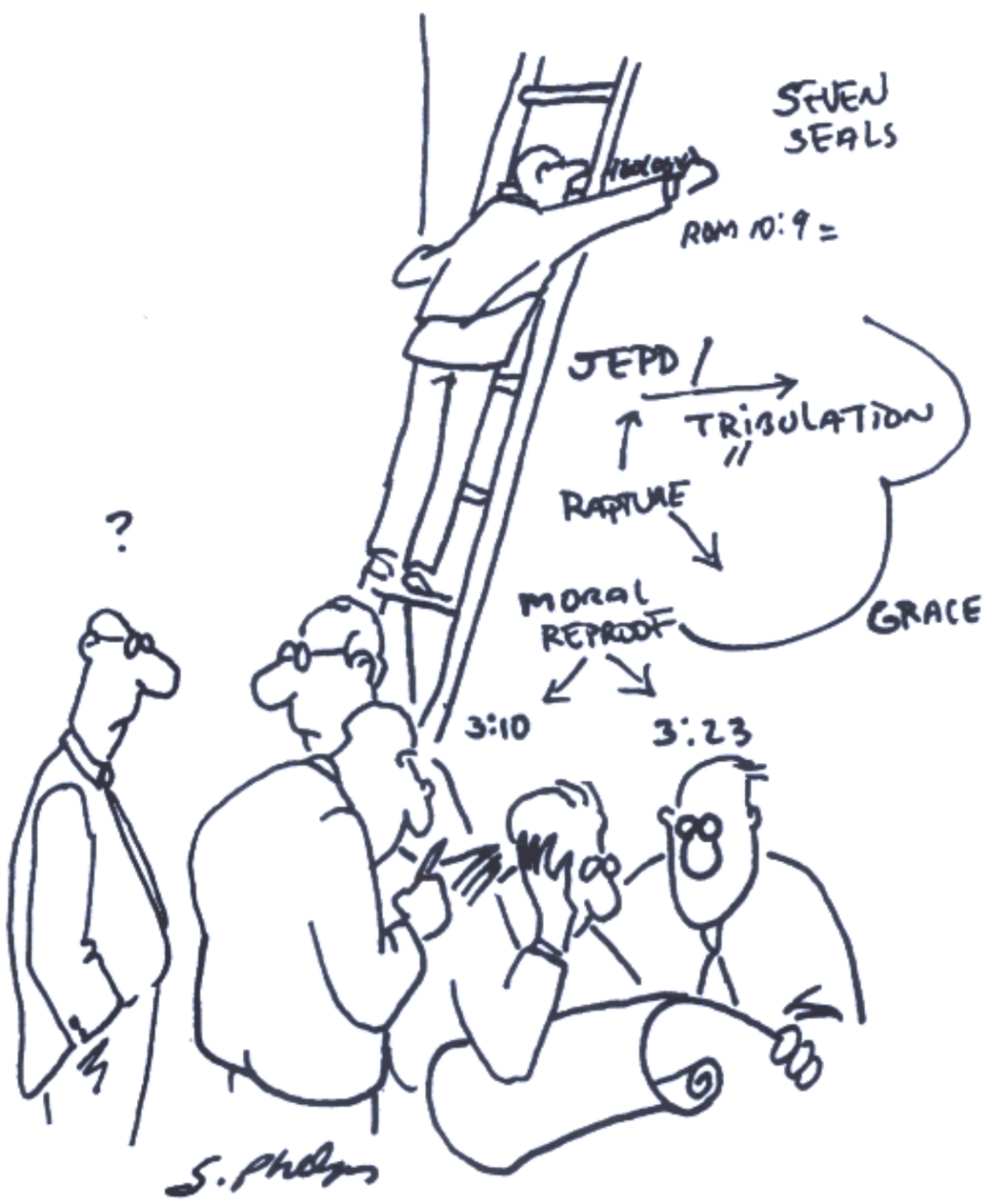
For years after that, I would show Zechariah 14 to every visiting evangelist who came preaching that Jesus would never return to this earth. I always received the same response: "It doesn't mean what it says." I couldn't buy that answer.

Finally, I ran across a minister who was a seminary graduate, and he gave me the answer I could live with. "Nothing in Zechariah means what it says," he explained, "because the whole book is apocalyptic."

Now, I didn't have the slightest idea what "apocalyptic" meant. I didn't know if it was a disease or a philosophy. But it sounded sophisticated, and, after all, the fellow was a seminary graduate, so he should know.

A Discovery Experience

When I began to preach, I parroted what I had heard from the pulpit all my life. When I spoke on prophecy, I would always make the point that Jesus will never return to this earth. Occasionally, people would come up after the sermon and ask, "What about Zechariah 14?" I would snap back at them with one word: **"APOCALYPTIC!"** They would usually run for the door in fright. They didn't know what I was talking about (and neither did I).



The elders try to make sense of Pastor Steve's third point.

Then one day I sat down and read the whole book of Zechariah. And guess what? My entire argument went down the drain!

I discovered that the book contains many prophecies about the First Coming of Jesus, and I discovered that all those prophecies meant what they said. It suddenly occurred to me that if Zechariah's First Coming prophecies meant what they said, then why shouldn't his Second Coming promises mean what they say?

The Plain Sense Rule

That was the day that I stopped playing games with God's Prophetic Word. I started accepting it for its plain sense meaning. I decided that ***if the plain sense makes sense, I would look for no other sense, lest I end up with nonsense.***

A good example of the nonsense approach is one I found several years ago in a book on the Millennium. The author spiritualized all of Zechariah 14. He argued that the Mount of Olives is symbolic of the human heart surrounded by evil. When a person accepts Jesus as Savior, Jesus comes into the person's life and stands on his "Mount of Olives" (his heart). The person's heart breaks in contrition (the cleaving of the mountain), and Jesus then defeats the enemy forces in the person's life.

Hard to believe, isn't it? When people insist on spiritualizing

the Scriptures like this, the Scriptures end up meaning whatever they want them to mean.

Keys to Understanding

I believe God knows how to communicate. I believe He says what He means and means what He says. I don't believe you have to have a doctorate in hermeneutics to understand the Bible. The essentials, instead, are an honest heart and the filling of God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).

"If the plain sense makes sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense."

— The Golden Rule of biblical interpretation.

One crucial key is to approach the Scriptures with childlike faith. Dr. Henry Morris addresses this issue in his great commentary on Revelation, called ***The Revelation Record***. He says, "Revelation is not difficult to understand. It is difficult to believe. If you will believe it, you will understand it."

For example, in Revelation 7 it says that at the start of the Tribulation, God is going to seal a great host of Jews to serve as His special "bond-servants." The text specifies that the number will be 144,000, and that 12,000 will be selected from each of 12 specified tribes.

Now, I ask you: What would God have to do to convince us that He intends to set aside 144,000 Jews for special service during the Tribulation? The text is crystal clear. Yet, hundreds of commentators have denied the clear meaning and have spiritualized the passage to make it refer to the Church! This is reckless handling of God's Word, and it produces nothing but confusion.

The Meaning of Symbols

"But what about symbols?" some ask. Another crucial key is to keep in mind that a symbol stands for something, otherwise it would not be a symbol. There is always a literal reality or plain sense meaning behind every symbol.

Jesus is called "the rose of Sharon." He is not referred to as "the tumbleweed of Texas." The image that a rose conjures up is something beautiful; a tumbleweed is ugly.

The Bible is its own best interpreter as to the meaning of the symbols which it uses. Sometimes the symbols are clearly explained, as when God reveals to Ezekiel the meaning of the symbols in his vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:11-14). In like manner, the apostle John was told the meaning of certain symbols which he saw in his Patmos vision of the glorified Lord (Revelation 1:20).

At other times, a simple search of the Scriptures will reveal the meaning of a symbol. Consider the statement in Revelation 12:14 where it says that the Jewish remnant will escape from the Antichrist into the wilderness "on the two wings of the great eagle."

Is this a literal eagle? Is it an air lift provided by the United States, whose national symbol is an eagle?

A concordance search will show that the same symbolism is used in Exodus 19:4 to describe the flight of the children of Israel as they escaped from Egypt. The symbol, as Exodus 19 makes clear, is a poetic reference to the loving care of God.

The Importance of Context

Another key to understanding prophecy is one that applies to the interpretation of all Scripture. It is the principle that the meaning of words is determined by their context.

I ran across a good example of this problem recently in a book in which the author was trying to prove that Jesus is never coming back to reign upon this earth. Such a position, of course, required him to spiritualize Revelation chapter 20 where it says six times that there will be a reign of the Lord that will last one thousand years.

In this author's desperate attempt to explain away the thousand years, he referred to Psalm 50:10 where it says that God owns "the cattle on a thousand hills." He then asked, "Are there only one thousand hills in the world?" He answered his question, "Of course not!" He then proceeded to explain that the term is used figuratively. But then he made a quantum leap in logic by proclaiming, "therefore, the term, 'one thousand,' is always used symbolically."

Not so. It depends on the context. In Psalm 50 the term is clearly symbolic. But in Revelation 20, it is not so. Again, the thousand years is mentioned six times. What would the Lord have to do to convince us that He means a thousand years? Put it in the sky in neon lights? Pay attention to context!

Reconciling Passages

An additional key to understanding prophecy is one that applies to all Scripture. It is the principle of searching out everything that the Bible has to say on a particular point.

Avoid hanging a doctrine on one isolated verse. All verses on a particular topic must be searched out, compared, and then reconciled.

Let me give you a prophetic example. Second Peter 3:10 says that when the Lord returns, "the heavens will pass away with a roar . . . and the earth and its works will be burned up." Now, if this were the only verse in the Bible about the Second Coming, we could confidently conclude that the heavens and earth will be burned up on the day that Jesus returns.

But, there are many other verses in both the Old and New Testaments, which make it abundantly clear that the Lord will reign over all the earth before it is consumed with fire. Those verses must be considered together with the passage in 2 Peter 3 in order to get the correct overall view.

Special Problems

There are some special problems related to prophetic interpretation. One is that prophecy is often prefilled in symbolic type before it is completely fulfilled.

In this regard, I feel certain that the Jewish people must have felt that Antiochus Epiphanes fulfilled Daniel's prophecies about a tyrannical leader who would severely persecute the Jews. But 200 years after Antiochus, Jesus took those prophecies of Daniel and told His disciples they were yet to be fulfilled.

Another example is the sign which Isaiah gave to King Ahaz to assure him that the city of Jerusalem would not fall to the Syrians who had it under siege. The sign was that a young woman would give birth to a son whose name would be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:1-19). The passage certainly implies that such a boy was born at that time.

But hundreds of years later, Matthew, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, reached back to Isaiah's prophecy and proclaimed that its ultimate fulfillment was to be found in the virgin birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:22-23).

Compressed Time

Another peculiar feature of prophetic literature is called "telescoping." This occurs when a prophet compresses the time interval between two prophetic events. This phenomenon is very common.

The reason for it has to do with the perspective of the prophet. As he looks into the future and sees a series of prophetic events, they appear to him as if they are in immediate sequence.

It is like looking down a mountain range and viewing three peaks, one behind the other, each sequentially higher than the one in front of it. The peaks look like they are right up against each other because the person viewing them cannot see the valleys that separate them.

In Zechariah 9:9-10 there is a passage with three prophecies which are compressed into two verses but are widely separated in time. Verse 9 says the Messiah will come humbly on a donkey. The first part of verse 10 says the Jewish people will be set aside. The second part of verse 10 says the Messiah will reign over all the nations.

These three events — the First Coming, the setting aside of Israel, and the reign of Christ — appear to occur in quick succession, but in reality, there were 40 years between the first two events, and there have been over 1,900 years thus far between the second and third events.

Another way of viewing the phenomenon of telescoping is to focus on what are called "prophetic gaps." These are the time periods between the mountain peak prophetic events.

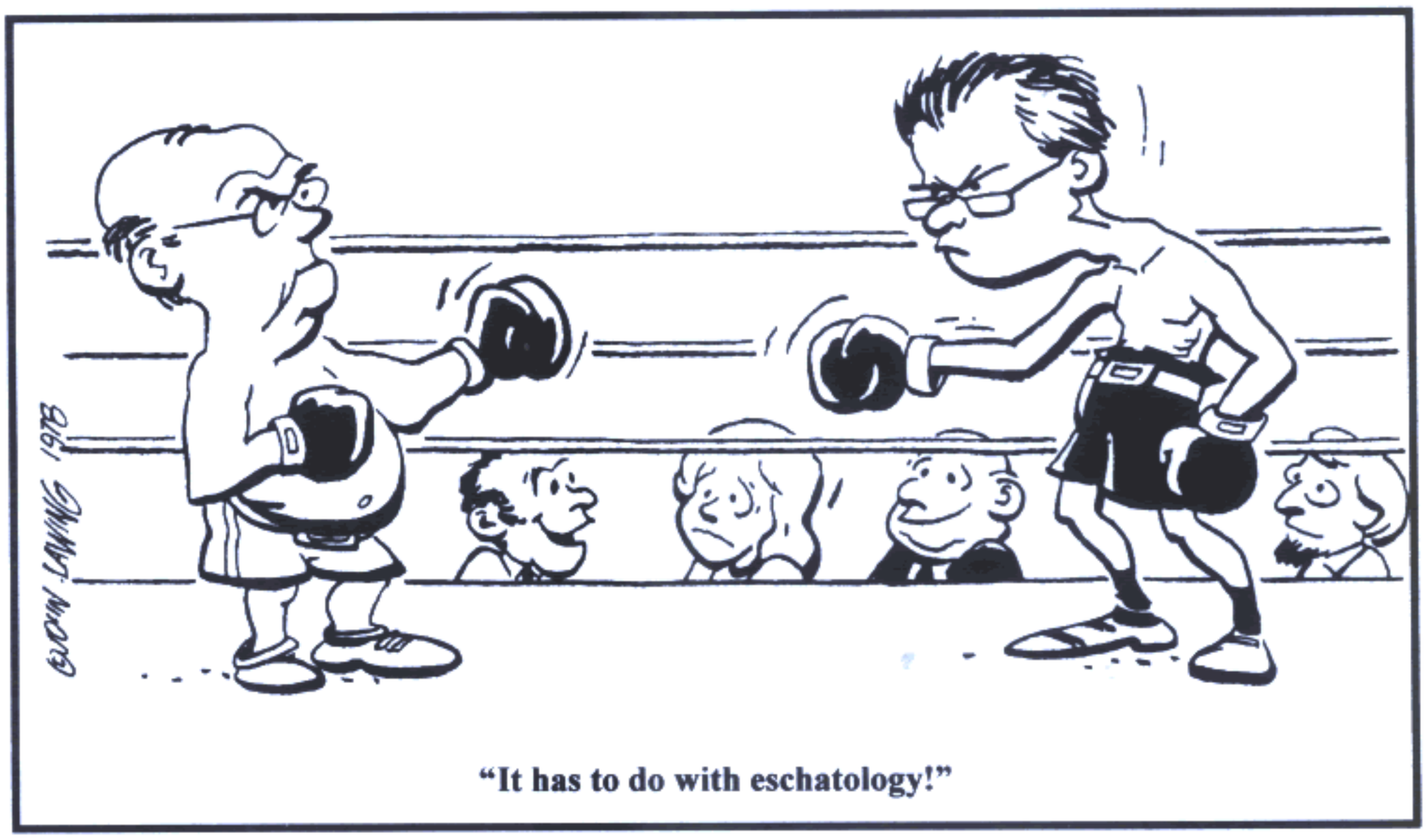
Because the Old Testament rabbis could not see the gap between the first and second comings of the Messiah, some theorized that there would be two Messiahs — a "Messiah ben Joseph" who would suffer and a "Messiah ben David" who would conquer. From our New Testament perspective we can see that the Old Testament prophets were speaking of one Messiah who would come twice. We can see the gap between the two comings.

A Challenge

I ask you: How do you treat Zechariah 14 — as fact or fiction? Are you guilty of playing games with God's Word in order to justify sacred traditions and doctrines of men?

I challenge you to interpret God's Word — all of it — for its plain sense meaning. As you do so, you are very likely to find yourself challenged to discard old doctrines and to adopt new ones. This will be a painful process, but it will be a fruitful one, for you will be blessed with the truth of God's Word.

> If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. — John 8:31-32 ✤



"It has to do with eschatology!"

Types of Prophecy and Prophecy in Type

The marvelous variety of Bible prophecy.

Dr. David R. Reagan

Hebrews 1:1 says that God spoke through the prophets "in many portions and in many ways." Have you ever stopped to think about the variety of people and ways which God used?

Writing Prophets

Of course, the method that immediately comes to mind is the written form. The prophets who wrote their messages are the ones we know best — people like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the so-called "Minor Prophets" like Habakkuk and Zephaniah. In the New Testament the writing prophets include Peter, Paul, and John.

But to lump all these writing prophets together into one broad category is misleading, for there is a great variety of people and styles among them.

As to people, the variety is astounding. The prophets range from uneducated farmers like Amos to sophisticated poets like Isaiah, from cowards like Jonah to men of great courage like Daniel, from the little known like Joel to the famous like King David.

There is an equal variety in the styles of writing. Some, like Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, and the New Testament prophets, primarily used a prose style. Others, like David, Isaiah, Joel, and Micah, expressed their ideas in poetic form. And then there are the preachers whose books are mainly collections of sermons — prophets like Jeremiah, Amos, and Zechariah.

Most were given direct revelations — "Thus says the Lord." Others received their insight through dreams and visions. Some, like Hosea and Jonah, mainly recorded their experiences.

Speaking Prophets

Some of the most important prophets wrote nothing at all, at least nothing that has been preserved. We know about them because others wrote about their revelations, pronouncements, and exploits. Elijah and his successor, Elisha, fall into this category, as does Samuel.

So does the greatest prophet who ever lived — the Prophet foretold by Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). I'm speaking, of course, of Jesus Christ (Matthew 21:11). The only writings of Jesus that we have are His seven letters to the seven churches of Asia, recorded by John in Revelation 2 & 3. The bulk of Jesus' prophecies, like His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21), were written by His disciples. Jesus was an oral prophet.

Most of the oral prophets are not well known. Only a few are mentioned in the New Testament — like the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9) and Agabus, the prophet who counseled Paul (Acts 21:10).

But the Old Testament is full of oral prophets. There is Nathan, who confronted David (2 Samuel 12); Micaiah, who saw the Lord sitting on His throne (1 Kings 22); Ahijah, who condemned Jeroboam (1 Kings 14); Hananiah, the false prophet who spoke against Jeremiah (Jeremiah 28); and there are many nameless prophets like the "man of God from Judah" who prophesied the birth of Josiah (1 Kings 13).

Acting Prophets

My favorites are the prophets who were called upon by God to act out prophecies. Some were writing prophets; some were oral. The point is that God would tell them from time to time to stop writing or speaking and start acting.

God often used drama to get people's attention. For example, He told Isaiah to go barefoot and naked for three years (Isaiah 20:2). Yes, Isaiah was the original streaker! He used an unconventional method to get people's attention. The message was graphic and clear: repent or be stripped naked like Isaiah.

Jeremiah was told to wear a yoke on his neck to emphasize God's message that King Zedekiah should submit to Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 27).

Ezekiel was called on to act many times. On one occasion the Lord told him to pack all his bags and carry them around

Jerusalem in the sight of the people as a sign that if they did not repent, God would send them into exile (Ezekiel 12).

Another time God told Ezekiel to lie down on the ground on his left side for 390 days, one day for each year of the iniquity of Israel. When he finished that ordeal, God told him to turn over and lie on his right side for 40 days, for the 40 years of Judah's iniquity (Ezekiel 4:4-8).

The Lord even ordered Ezekiel to play in a sand pile! God told him to label a brick, "Jerusalem," and to build dirt ramps around the brick to illustrate the coming siege of the city, if the people did not repent (Ezekiel 4:1-3).

Ezekiel's hardest acting assignment came when the Lord revealed that his wife would soon die. The Lord ordered him not to mourn or weep for her. He was to continue with his activities as if nothing had happened. When the people came to him and asked why he was not mourning, the Lord told him to say that if they did not repent, they would be overcome by a conqueror so rapidly that they would not have time to mourn or weep (Ezekiel 24:15-24).

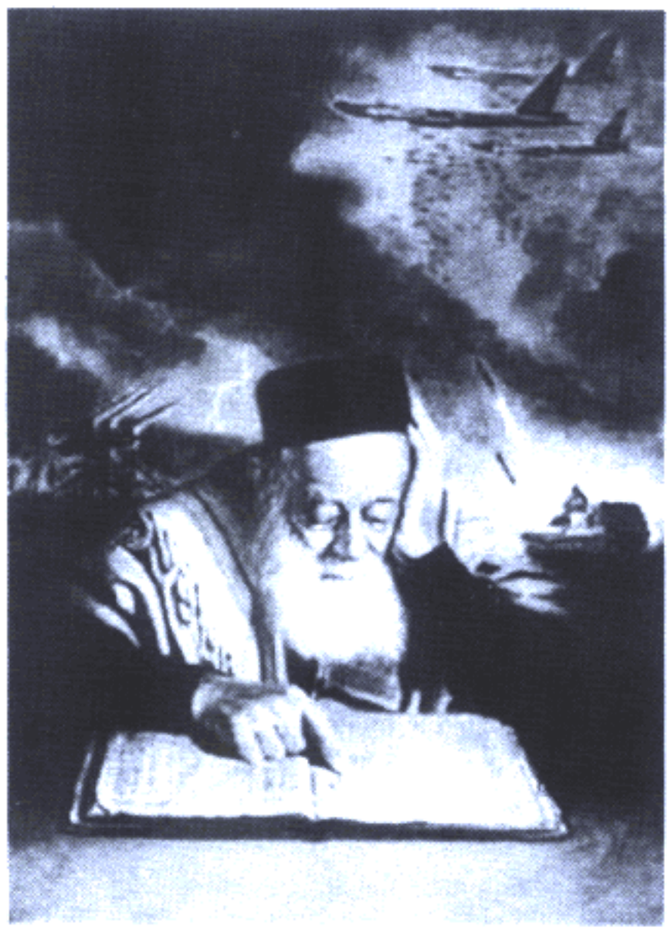
The Prophetic Oscar

The greatest actor of all, the one who will undoubtedly win the prophetic Oscar for best performance, was the prophet Hosea.

God told him to find a prostitute and marry her. It must have been one of the hardest things God ever asked a righteous man to do. Hosea obeyed, and God told him to preach the message of his action.

The message was that Israel was like that prostitute when God selected them as His Chosen People. They were not selected for their beauty or wisdom or righteousness. They had no merit. They were selected by grace.

This was an insulting message for the Jews. They did not understand what being "chosen" meant. They thought they were better than other people, and in their spiritual arrogance, they refused to listen to God's prophets who were calling for repentance.



When Hosea returned home from his preaching tour, he discovered that his wife had succumbed to her old passions. She had left the dignity and honor of his home and had returned to the streets, selling herself to the highest bidder. Hosea's heart was broken. God told him to preach the message of her action. The message was, that like Hosea's wife, Israel had been unfaithful to God, chasing after foreign

"'Metaphorical'? I'll show you metaphorical!"

gods. And like Hosea, God's heart was broken.

When Hosea returned home, God spoke to him again and asked him to do something incredible. God told him to swallow all his pride and go to the city square and bid for his wife when she offered herself for sale. He was instructed to pay all he had, if necessary, to redeem her from harlotry.

She didn't deserve it. She had not repented. But Hosea obeyed. He paid the price, and she was redeemed.

Thus, God used an acting prophet to act out the story of what He would do for us at the Cross when He paid the price of His Son to redeem us from our unfaithfulness.

Symbolic Prophecy

A fourth type of prophecy is symbolic prophecy, or what is often referred to as "prophecy in type."

An understanding of prophetic types is essential to an understanding of the Old Testament. Jesus can be found on almost every page of the Old Testament, if you know how to look for Him. He is there symbolically in types.

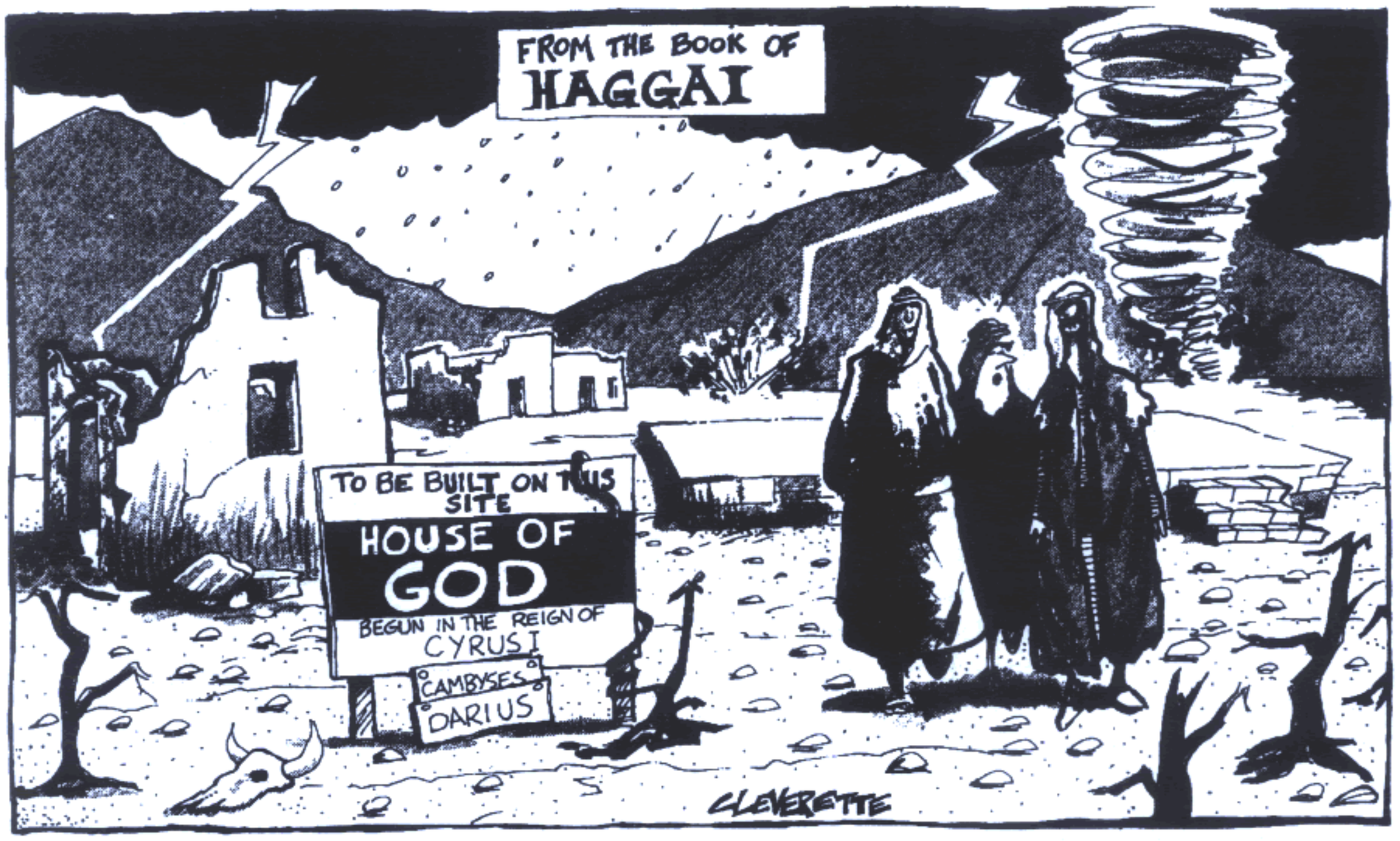
Looking for Jesus and finding Him in these types causes the Old Testament to come alive. I'm convinced that this is the kind of special teaching that Jesus gave His disciples during the 40 days between His resurrection and His ascension (Luke 24:45).

There are three kinds of prophetic types: 1) Individual lives; 2) Historical events; and 3) Inanimate objects.

Persons

Almost every major person in the Old Testament is a type of Christ in the sense that some events in their lives were prophetic of things that would happen to Jesus.

Take Joseph for example. He was rejected by his brethren. He was left for dead but was "resurrected" from the pit into which he had been cast. He took a Gentile bride and then redeemed his brethren from their famine.



"The way I see it, if God were angry with us, He'd let us know — that is, if He were *really, really* angry."

Likewise, Jesus was rejected by his brethren (the Jews), experienced death and resurrection, is now taking a Gentile Bride (the Church), and will soon return to save a remnant of His brethren from their spiritual famine.

Events

Prophecies about Jesus are also symbolized in major historical events.

Take the seven feasts of Israel for an example. Jesus was crucified on the feast of Passover. He became our "unleavened bread" as His body rested in the ground on that feast day. He arose from the dead on the feast of First Fruits. And the Church was established on the feast of Pentecost.

The three unfulfilled feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles) must, in like manner, point to events that are yet to occur — most likely, the Rapture, the Second Coming, and the Millennial Reign of Jesus.

The history of the Jewish nation is the story of Jesus in prophetic type. The Children of Israel were born in Canaan, descended into Egypt, came through the Red Sea (the Baptism of Moses), endured testing in the wilderness, and then entered the Promised Land.

Likewise, Jesus was born in Canaan, descended into Egypt, emerged publicly at His baptism, endured the wilderness temptations, and led the way to Heaven.

Things

Even inanimate objects like the Tabernacle and the robe of the High Priest are prophetic types pointing to Jesus.

Consider the Ark of the Covenant. Everything about it was symbolic of the Messiah. It was made of wood, indicating the Messiah would be human. It was overlaid with gold, signifying the Messiah would be divine. It contained three objects — the tablets of stone, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded. The tablets signified that the Messiah would have the law of God in His heart. The manna meant the Messiah would be the Bread of Life. The rod with blooms was a prophecy that the Messiah would arise from the dead.

The lid of the Ark was called the Mercy Seat. It had a golden angel at each end. The angels faced each other, and their wings hovered over the lid. Once a year the High Priest sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat and communed with the Shekinah glory of God which hovered above the angels.

The Mercy Seat pointed to the fact that through the work of the Messiah the mercy of God would cover the Law. The blood foreshadowed the fact that the Messiah would have to shed His own blood to atone for our sins.

Jesus fulfilled every prophetic type of the Ark. He was God in the flesh (John 10:30). He had the Law in His heart (Matthew 5:17). He declared Himself to be the "Bread of Life" (John 6). He shed His blood on the Cross and was resurrected in power, atoning for our sins and covering the Law with Grace (Romans 3:21-26).

Mary saw the fulfillment of the Ark when she went to the tomb and discovered the body of Jesus missing. In John 20:11-12 its says she looked into the tomb and "beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying." Do you understand what she saw? She saw the "mercy seat" where the blood had been spilled, with an angel at each end — exactly like the Mercy Seat that covered the Ark!

As you can see, prophetic types bring the Old Testament alive and give us deep insights into New Testament events. ✤

Interpreting Prophecy

What is Preterism?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Preterism is a system for the interpretation of the book of Revelation. Its strange name comes from a Latin word meaning past tense. The word is appropriate because this view holds that either all or most of the book of Revelation was fulfilled in the First Century!

The Origin of the Viewpoint

The view was developed in the 17th Century by a Jesuit priest named Luis de Alcazar (1554-1613). His purpose was to defend the Catholic Church against the attacks of the Reformers. He denied the Reformers' charge that the book of Revelation was a prophecy about the apostasy of the Roman Church. Instead, he argued that the book was a prophecy about the Church's struggles during its early years. Chapters 4 through 11 were interpreted as depicting the Church's fight against Judaism, culminating in the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Chapters 12 through 19 were viewed as the Church's struggle against paganism, ending with the fall of Rome in 476. Chapters 20 through 22 were interpreted to be a symbolic description of the glories of papal Rome. Using this clever approach, Alcazar was able to limit the range of Revelation's prophecies to the first 500 years of the Christian Era.

Alcazar was a mild Preterist. A more radical form of Preterism gained popularity in the latter part of the 20th Century and is today the most widely held version of this interpretive approach. It sees nearly all the prophecies of Revelation as fulfilled in the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem, except for the resurrection of believers and the Second Coming of Jesus. It assigns the Tribulation to the fall of Israel, the great apostasy to the First Century Church, and the last days to the period between Jesus' ascension and the destruction of Jerusalem. The beast is viewed as a symbol of Nero in particular and the Roman Empire in general. The False Prophet is equated with the leadership of apostate Israel. Needless to say, many of the spokesmen for this viewpoint are anti-Semitic.

There is a more extreme form of Preterism whose advocates consider themselves to be "consistent Preterists." They take the position that all so-called "end time prophecy" was fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. — including the Second Coming and the resurrection of believers! They do not look forward to any future resurrection or any end of history. They believe we are currently living in the eternal state.

The Cornerstone of the Viewpoint

The cornerstone of the Preterist position is a belief that the book of Revelation was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This belief flies in the face of strong evidence to the contrary.

The internal evidence of the book regarding the Roman Empire and the external testimony of the Church Fathers both point to a date of authorship around 95 A.D., 25 years after the

Adapted from the *New Yorker Magazine*, November 11, 1996.

destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

The type of widespread Roman persecution of the Church that is pictured in Revelation did not occur until the reign of Domitian (81 - 96 A.D.). The persecutions of Nero were limited to the area of Rome. One of the Church Fathers, Irenaeus (c. 130 - c. 202), wrote that the book of Revelation was authored by the apostle John "toward the end of Domitian's reign." Irenaeus was discipled by Polycarp (c.70 - c.155 A.D.) who, in turn, had been discipled directly by John himself.

References to the Temple

One of the arguments for an earlier date is based on a reference to the Temple in Revelation 11:1-2. John is told to measure the Temple, which in this case seems to be a command to assess the Temple's spiritual condition. This reference to the Temple, it is argued, must mean that the book was written before the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

But this argument ignores the fact that the Scriptures teach there are going to be two future Temples, one during the Tribulation which the Antichrist will desecrate (Daniel 9:27 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4), and another during the Millennium which Jesus Christ will consecrate (Ezekiel 40-46).

The Temple mentioned in Revelation 11 must be the Tribulation Temple since the passage says it will be trampled down by the Gentiles for 42 months (the last half of the Tribulation). It also says this will be immediately preceded by the testimony of the two witnesses for 1,260 days (the first half of the Tribulation).

Unfulfilled Prophecies

The basic problem with the Preterist viewpoint is that it requires a spiritualization of prophecy. This is necessitated by the fact that the prophecies contained in the book of Revelation were not fulfilled in any literal sense in the First Century.

"You bet it's a gift, and wait till you see what he can do with the book of Lamentations."

Think about it for a moment. There is no historical record of the two witnesses of Revelation 11 appearing in Jerusalem and preaching for three and one-half years. There was no worldwide time of tribulation. Nero did not rule the world, as Revelation 13:8 says the Antichrist will. Nor was Nero served by any individual equivalent to the false prophet described in Revelation 13:11-15. There is also no record of any implementation of the "mark of the beast" to control buying and selling (Revelation 13:16-18). And the headquarters of the Antichrist (which in the Preterist view would be Rome) was not destroyed in one hour of one day as prophesied in Revelation 18:8-10.

When the radical Preterists argue that even the Second Coming occurred in the First Century, they deny the promise that was made to the apostles at the time of Jesus' ascension. They were told by supernatural agents of God that Jesus would one day return in just the same manner as He had ascended — that is, bodily and visibly (Acts 1:10-11).

An Eclectic Observation

I can agree with the Preterists when they insist that the book of Revelation contained a message of encouragement to First Century Christians, assuring them that the Church would ultimately triumph over the Roman Empire. I can also relate to the Reformation Historicists when they argue that the prophecies of Revelation relate to the corruption of the Roman Church and its persecution of true believers.

In other words, I believe the book of Revelation has always had a continuing relevance as a source of encouragement to suffering Christians throughout the history of the Church. It has always served as a reminder that the Church will ultimately triumph over all its oppressors.

That's why I can even agree with the liberal, Idealist viewpoint when it argues that the ultimate message of the book is that good will triumph over evil. How can anyone argue with that conclusion when the book clearly teaches that Satan will be crushed and Jesus will emerge totally triumphant?

But I also believe in the Futurist view that most of the book of Revelation is yet to be fulfilled and is to be fulfilled in its plain sense meaning. In other words, I believe there's going to be a real Antichrist and not just a symbolic Antichrist. Yes, there have been symbolic antichrists in the past, but there is going to be a fulfillment in a literal Antichrist in the future. I also believe the Tribulation, Millennium and Eternal State are all yet future.

Relating the Views to Each Other

As I look at these four systems of interpretation (Historicist, Preterist, Idealist, and Futurist) and consider their relationship to each other, I am reminded of how an overhead projector works. You can put a transparency on the projector that shows the land of Israel in the time of Joshua. Then you can lay on top of that transparency another one that shows the boundaries of the land at the time of Jesus. Another overlay could show the land's boundaries during the time of the Crusaders. A final overlay could outline the boundaries as they exist today. Each transparency contains an element of truth about the land. The light shines through all the transparencies to give you the full picture, showing you how the boundaries have changed over the years.

I think that's the way these schools of interpretation relate to each other. Each one of the four contains an element of truth. The problem comes when you accept only one and reject all the others. We must never forget that the book of Revelation contained a very relevant message to First Century Christians. It assured them of their ultimate victory over the Roman Empire. We must also remember that the book has been given relevant application to the struggles of the Church throughout history.

Looking to the Future

But we must also keep in mind that the Futurist view is correct when it says that the ultimate fulfillment of the book's prophecies is yet future.

There really is going to be a seven year period of Tribulation. A Jewish temple is going to be rebuilt in Jerusalem. A real person empowered by Satan will march into that temple, blaspheme God, and declare himself to be a god. This Antichrist will become the scourge of the earth. He will attempt to exterminate the Jewish people. Just as he appears to be on the verge of victory in accomplishing this satanic goal, the Lord Jesus will break from the heavens with all His holy ones, returning to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem from which He ascended into Heaven. The Lord will crush the Antichrist and inaugurate the greatest kingdom the world has ever known. And the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness and justice — as the waters cover the sea. ✤

Recommended Books on Bible Prophecy

Dr. David R. Reagan

One of the best overall books on Bible prophecy that has ever been published is ***Things to Come*** by Dwight Pentecost (Zondervan, 1964). It is scholarly and comprehensive, written for serious, college level students.

Surveys

My book, ***The Master Plan*** (Harvest House, 1993), contains a comprehensive survey of all aspects of Bible prophecy. It was written for the layman and is easy to read and understand. A similar comprehensive study that is more scholarly in its approach is a book by Paul N. Benware entitled ***Understanding End Time Prophecy*** (Moody Press, 1995).

With regard to end time prophecies only, one of the best surveys for the more general reader is Leon Woods' book, ***The Bible and Future Events*** (Zondervan, 1973). Other very readable surveys are ***The Final Chapter*** by S. Maxwell Coder (Tyndale House, 1984) and ***A Survey of Bible Prophecy*** by R. Ludwigson (Zondervan, 1973). ***The King is Coming*** by H. L. Willmington (Tyndale House, 1973) presents an overview of end time events in a very unique and easy to follow outline form.

A spiral bound study guide which I wrote, called ***The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*** (Lamb & Lion Ministries, 1987; 2nd edition, 2001), presents an analytical survey of all Messianic prophecies contained in both the Old and New Testaments. Another indispensable reference volume that presents an exhaustive survey is ***All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible*** by Herbert Lockyer (Zondervan, 1979).

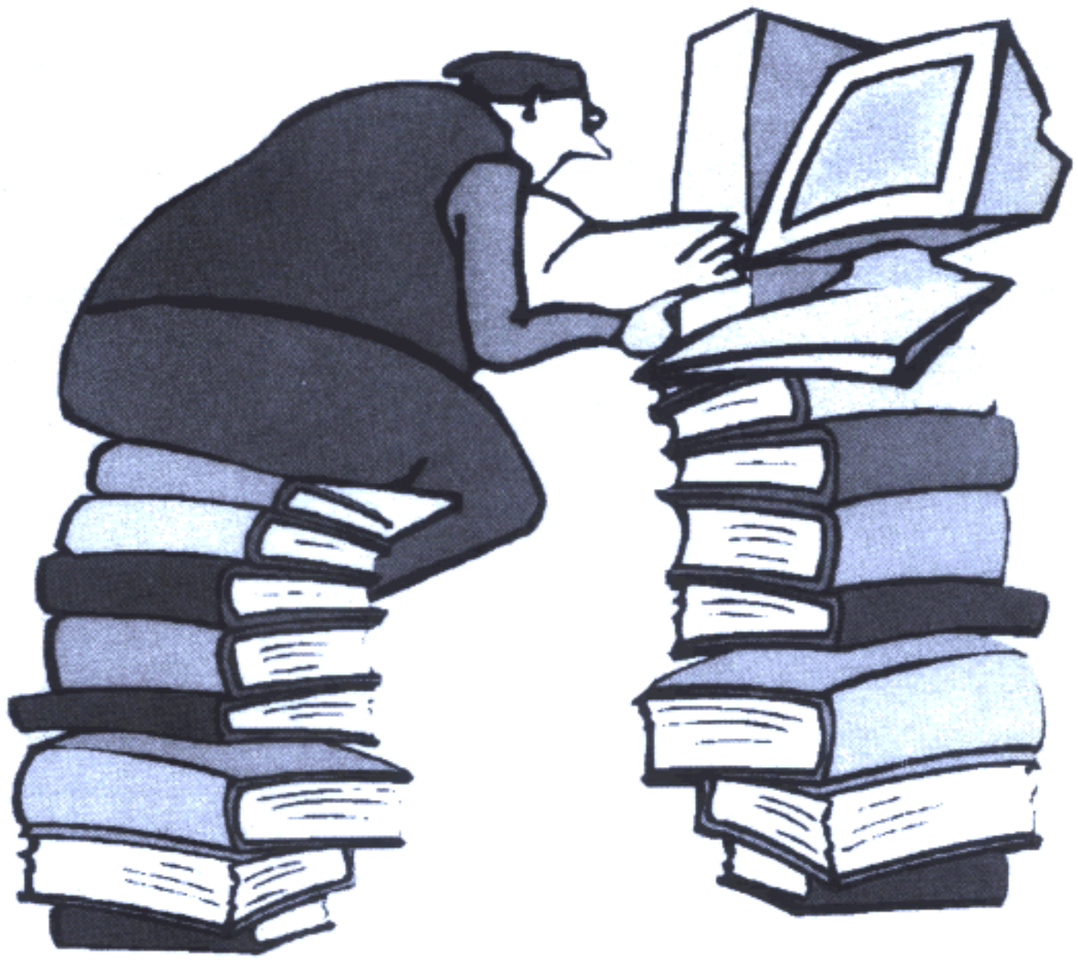
A survey book intended for the serious student is Arnold Fruchtenbaum's encyclopedic study of Tribulation events which bears the strange title, ***The Footsteps of the Messiah*** (Ariel Press, 1982; 2nd edition, 2003). It focuses on showing the sequence of end time events and their relationship to each other.

A brief and fascinating survey book full of penetrating insights is one titled ***What on Earth is God Doing?*** (Loizeaux Brothers, 1973). It was written by Renald Showers, a gifted teacher and writer who serves the Friends of Israel Ministry. The book presents a capsule overview of God's purposes in history from start to finish.

Interpretation

Nothing is more important to the understanding of Bible prophecy than the principles of interpretation that are applied to it. An excellent introductory book for the general reader is ***How to Study Bible Prophecy for Yourself*** by Tim LaHaye (Harvest House, 1990).

The most profound book ever written on the topic is ***The Interpretation of Prophecy*** by Paul Lee Tan (Assurance Publishers, 1974). This book is an essential tool for any serious student of prophecy.



The history of prophetic interpretation is presented in great detail in the amazing, four volume, encyclopedic study called ***The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers***, edited by LeRoy Edwin Froom (Review and Herald Press). Volume 1 (1950) covers the Early Church. Volume 2 (1948) surveys the Pre-Reformation and Reformation periods. Volume 3 (1946) looks at the Colonial American and European Awakening. Volume 4 (1946) provides a look at the 19th Century. This great work of scholarship took years to complete. The first two volumes are based upon original research conducted throughout Europe in the 1920's and 1930's, utilizing ancient documents, many of which were destroyed in World War II.

Symbolic

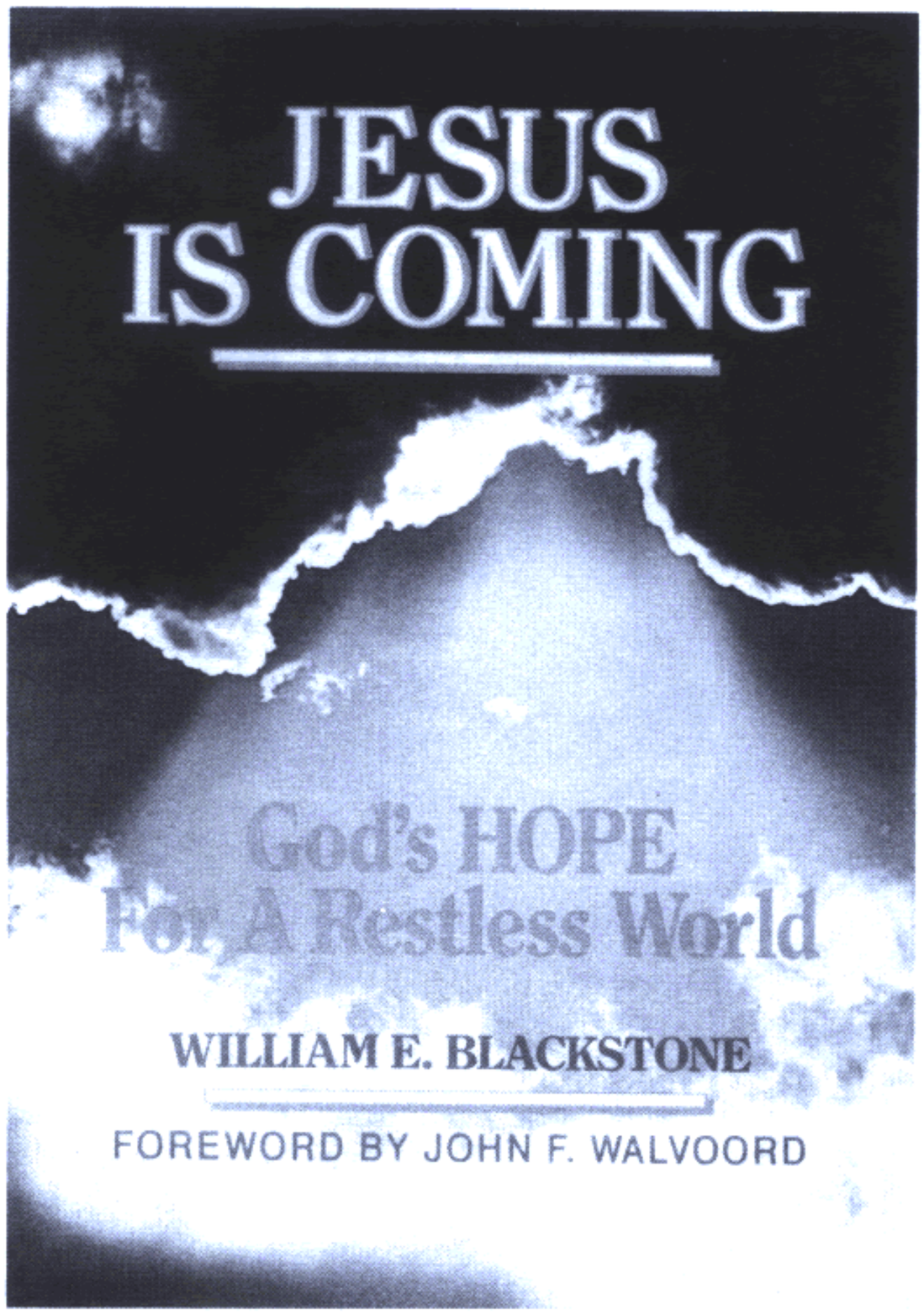
Perhaps the least understood area of prophecy is symbolic prophecy, sometimes called prophecy in type. About half of Herbert Lockyer's book, ***All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible***, is dedicated to this important topic (Zondervan, 1979).

Two books concerning symbolic prophecy that are easy to read and are full of useful insights are ***Christ in the Tabernacle*** by Louis Talbot (Moody Press, 1978) and ***Jesus in the Feasts of Israel*** by Richard Booker (Bridge Publishing, 1987).

Old Testament Prophets

A magnificent introduction to all the Old Testament prophets is provided by Leon Wood in his exceptional book, ***The Prophets of Israel*** (Regular Baptist Press, 1979).

One of the finest commentators on the Old Testament prophets is Charles Feinberg, a Messianic Jew. His works include ***God Remembers: A Study of Zechariah*** (Multnomah Press, 1965); ***Jeremiah: A Commentary*** (Zondervan, 1982); and ***The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord*** (Moody Press, 1969). A good introduction to Isaiah can be found in the book by



This book, originally published in 1878, was the best seller of the 19th Century. It is one of the great classics of prophetic literature.

Herbert Wolf entitled ***Interpreting Isaiah: The Suffering and Glory of the Messiah*** (Zondervan, 1985).

An outstanding series of scholarly commentaries on Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel can be found in volume 6 of ***The Expositor's Bible Commentary*** edited by Frank E. Gaebelein (Zondervan, 1986). The commentary on Isaiah is by G. W. Grogan; Jeremiah is by Charles L. Feinberg; and Ezekiel is by Ralph H. Alexander.

There are a number of good books about the Minor Prophets. Two that are designed for the general reader are ***Major Truths from the Minor Prophets*** by John Hunter (Zondervan, 1977) and ***Will We Ever Catch Up with the Bible?*** by David Hubbard (Regal Books, 1977).

The best scholarly resource on the Minor Prophets is to be found in volume 7 of ***The Expositor's Bible Commentary*** edited by Frank E. Gaebelein (Zondervan, 1985). The authors of the commentaries on the specific books read like a who's who of Evangelical scholars. A fine single volume scholarly study is the one by Charles Feinberg entitled ***The Minor Prophets*** (Moody Press, 1976).

Israel

The best panoramic survey of Israel in prophecy is contained in Walter K. Price's intriguing book, ***Next Year in Jerusalem*** (Moody Press, 1975). Another very good overview is Richard Booker's outstanding study, ***Blow the Trumpet in Zion*** (Victory House, 1985).

An excellent book that relates prophecy to the history of Israel, particularly modern history, is called ***It is No Dream*** (The Spearhead Press, 1978). It was written by Elwood McQuaid, the former director of the Friends of Israel Ministry. Charles Feinberg has also produced an excellent volume that mixes prophecy with history. It is titled ***Israel: At the Center of History and Revelation*** (Multnomah Press, 1980).

Daniel

An outstanding verse by verse commentary on Daniel is the one by Leon Woods that is simply entitled, ***A Commentary on Daniel*** (Zondervan, 1973). The best one for the general reader is by Renald Showers. It is titled ***The Most High God*** (The Friends of Israel, 1982). A lighter book that is both fun to read and inspirational in character is ***Daniel: God's Man in a Secular Society*** by Donald Campbell (Discovery House, 1988). It is designed to serve as a study guide for Bible study groups.

No book of the Bible has been attacked as viciously by theological liberals as the book of Daniel. A tremendous defense of the book's integrity can be found in a volume called ***Daniel in the Critic's Den*** by Josh McDowell (Campus Crusade for Christ, 1979).

Revelation

Many excellent studies have been published about the book of Revelation. For the general reader, two of the best are ***Revelation Illustrated and Made Plain*** by Tim LaHaye (Zondervan, 1973), and ***There's a New World Coming*** by Hal Lindsey (Vision House, 1973). Lindsey's book is the best one he has ever written.

I have also authored a book about Revelation for the general reader. It is entitled ***Wrath and Glory*** (New Leaf Press, 2001). One of the most popular features of this book is a chapter that addresses the most commonly asked questions about Revelation.

For those who desire to dig deeper, ***The Revelation Record*** (Tyndale House, 1983) by Henry Morris presents a detailed verse by verse analysis. Dr. Morris is the distinguished founder of the Institute for Creation Research.

A very unique study of Revelation is the one produced by Salem Kirban, a born again Arab. The book utilizes hundreds of photos, charts and drawings to visually present the message of Revelation. It is titled, ***Revelation Visualized*** (Salem Kirban, Inc., 1978). What makes it even more unusual is that it is co-authored by Gary Cohen, a born again Jew!

An outstanding introduction to Revelation and the various methods of interpreting it is supplied by Merrill Tenney in his remarkably balanced volume, ***Interpreting Revelation*** (Eerdmans, 1957).

Millennial Viewpoints

The best introduction to the various and often confusing viewpoints of end time prophecy is a book by Robert Lightner called ***The Last Days Handbook*** (Thomas Nelson, 1990).

A very thought provoking book on the topic is one edited by Robert G. Clouse entitled ***The Meaning of the Millennium***

(Inter-Varsity Press, 1977). It contains four viewpoints presented by advocates of those viewpoints. A similar but more detailed presentation of the four viewpoints can be found in the parallel commentary by Steve Gregg called ***Revelation: Four Views*** (Thomas Nelson, 1997). A scholarly presentation and analysis of the various views is contained in John Walvoord's book, ***The Millennial Kingdom*** (Zondervan, 1959).

For a classic presentation of the fundamentals of premillennial theology, the book to read is ***The Basis of the Premillennial Faith*** by Charles Ryrie (Loizeaux Brothers, 1953). It is brief and incisive, and it is written with an irenic spirit.

The Antichrist

One of the most detailed studies of the Antichrist ever written is the book by Arthur W. Pink entitled, ***The Antichrist***. It is thoroughly biblical and very thought provoking. It was originally published in 1923 but has been recently republished (Kregel, 1988). The best current day study is the book by Ed Hindson entitled, ***Is the Antichrist Alive and Well?: Ten Keys to His Identity*** (Harvest House, 1998).

The Rapture

The important controversy over the timing of the Rapture has been best addressed by John Walvoord in two of his books: ***The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation*** (Zondervan, 1976) and ***The Rapture Question*** (Zondervan, 1979). Walvoord is the former President of Dallas Theological Seminary. Another fine book on the topic is ***The Rapture*** by Hal Lindsey (Bantam Books, 1983).

Tim LaHaye has written a very powerful and exhaustive defense of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture entitled ***No Fear of the Storm: Why Christians Will Escape All the Tribulation*** (Multnomah, 1992, later re-published as ***Rapture Under Attack***, 1998).

Signs of the Times

This is a field that attracts many sensationalist writers. There is an abundance of books, but few good ones. One of the most fascinating is ***World War III: Signs of the Impending Battle of Armageddon*** by John Wesley White (Zondervan, 1977).

A volume that is comprehensive in scope but exceptionally brief is ***Signs of the Second Coming*** by Robert G. Witty (Broadman Press, 1969). A more recent study, and an excellent one, is by Henry Morris. It is titled ***Creation and the Second Coming*** (Master Books, 1991).

One of the best prophetic writers to emerge in recent years is Ed Hindson of Liberty University. His books are solidly biblical, down-to-earth, and readable by the average Christian. He has written two outstanding studies of the signs of the times: ***Final Signs*** (Harvest House, 1996) and ***Earth's Final Hour: Are We Really Running Out of Time?*** (Harvest House, 1999). Another excellent writer in the field of Bible prophecy is Dave Hunt of Berean Ministries. He has produced a very insightful study of the end time signs in his book, ***How Close Are We?*** (Harvest House, 1993).

Heaven

The Eternal State has been the most ignored area of Bible

This book proved to be the number one best selling prophecy book of the 20th Century.

prophecy, probably because the Bible says so little about it. The best book on the topic — one that covers death, resurrection and eternity — is ***The Future Life*** by the Frenchman, René Pache, translated into English by Helen Needham (Moody Press, 1962). A very worthwhile, exhaustive study of the Eternal State can be found in Bob Chambers' book, ***Heaven*** (College Press, 1991). This is an unusual book because Chambers is an Amillennialist who spiritualizes the prophecies about the Millennium while interpreting the prophecies about Heaven literally!

Children

Only one book has ever been written for pre-school and elementary children concerning end time prophetic events. It is the one I wrote entitled, ***Jesus is Coming Again!*** (Harvest House, 1992). The book emphasizes the positive promises of God regarding the Millennium and the Eternal State.

Media

Chuck Missler and I have both produced cassette tape albums that contain verse-by-verse commentaries on the book of Revelation. My study, ***An Overview of Revelation*** (Lamb & Lion Ministries, 1987), contains 12 tapes. Missler's ***Revelation Commentary*** (Koinonia Ministries) consists of three albums with eight tapes each.

Jack Van Impe has produced an excellent series of video commentaries on Revelation called ***Revelation Revealed*** (Jack

This illustration of the woman riding a beast, an image taken from Revelation 17, is an example of the outstanding images available from Pat Marvenko Smith at RevelationIllustrated.com.

Van Impe Ministries). I have videotaped a 75 minute overview that covers the book chapter by chapter. It is also entitled ***Revelation Revealed*** (Lamb & Lion Ministries, 2003).

Ray Stedman's outstanding commentary on Revelation can be found posted on the Internet in 23 messages at www.pbc.org/stedman (Peninsula Bible Church).

The best illustrations of Revelation have been produced by Pat Marvenko Smith. She has illustrated every main scene of the book and has made the pictures available in a variety of forms — slides, posters, overhead transparencies, video, and PowerPoint. You can find all her resources on the Internet at RevelationIllustrated.com.

Fiction

The "Left Behind" series of books by Tim LaHaye and Larry B. Jenkins present a fictionalized story about the Rapture and the Tribulation that is based upon biblical prophecies. This series is published by Tyndale House and has broken all sales records for prophetic books. The series of novels has become a best seller even when compared to secular books. The books have been made available on audio tape, and special edited versions have been published for teens. The first of the volumes, entitled ***Left Behind***, was published in 1995.

Bibles

The very first study Bible ever published came out in 1909. It is still one of the best selling study Bibles in the world. It was produced by a Dallas pastor named C. I. Scofield and is called ***The Scofield Study Bible*** (Oxford University Press, 1998). It has been revised and updated regularly over the years by an editorial committee representing a premillennial, pre-tribulational viewpoint.

A newer study Bible that presents the same view of the passages related to end time prophecy is ***The Ryrie Study Bible*** (Moody Press, 1976). Both the Scofield and Ryrie commentaries are available in a variety of translations. The latest and most up to date study Bible that focuses on the interpretation of prophecy is ***The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible*** (AMG Publishers, 2000).

The Living Bible Paraphrased (Tyndale House, 1971), though not a typical study Bible, is nonetheless an interpretive Bible that reflects a premillennial interpretation of all key prophetic passages.

Classics

The greatest and most enduring classic on the return of Jesus is William E. Blackstone's book, ***Jesus is Coming***. It was written in 1878. The third revised edition of 1908 has been recently re-published with an introduction by John Walvoord (Kregel, 1989).

A foreign book that has come to be considered one the great classics of end time prophecy is ***The Return of Jesus Christ*** by René Pache, translated into English by William S. LaSor (Moody Press, 1955). It is must reading for any Bible prophecy enthusiast.

The 20th Century American classic is, of course, Hal Lindsey's book, ***The Late Great Planet Earth*** (Zondervan, 1970). The New York Times has certified that it was the number one best selling book in the world (with the exception of the Bible) for ten years, between 1970 and 1980!

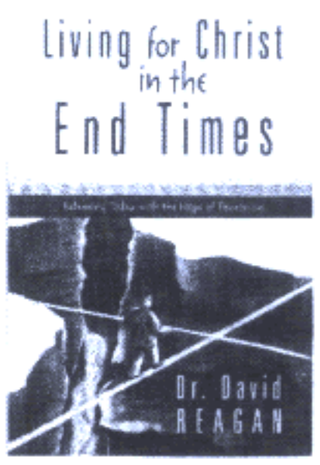
Perhaps the most unusual book ever published on Bible prophecy is ***Dispensational Truth*** by Clarence Larkin (Reverend Clarence Larkin Estate, 1920). Larkin was a draftsman who devoted his talents to illustrating prophetic concepts with fascinating charts and diagrams. This is a classic that will keep you up all night! ✤

Note: Many of the books mentioned in this article are now out of print, but copies can usually be found on the Internet at a very reasonable price at www.abebooks.com.

Bible Prophecy Study Resources

Books

Wrath and Glory. Dr. Reagan's explanation of the book of Revelation. Written in a down-to-earth and easy-to-understand manner. It provides guidelines for interpretation, and responds to the most frequently asked questions about Revelation. It also explains how the book relates to Christian living.
240 pages. $10.



Living for Christ in the End Times. A hard-hitting commentary on how Christians are to respond to the decay of society and the increasing apostasy within the Church. The book is full of practical guidelines for overcoming paganism and living a triumphant daily life in the power of the Holy Spirit.
263 pages. $10.

The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide. Lists in chronological order all the prophecies in the Bible concerning both the First and Second Advents of the Messiah. Represents seven years of research. Printed in a large format (8½ by 11") and spiral bound. Provides both topical and scripture indexes.
150 pages. $15.

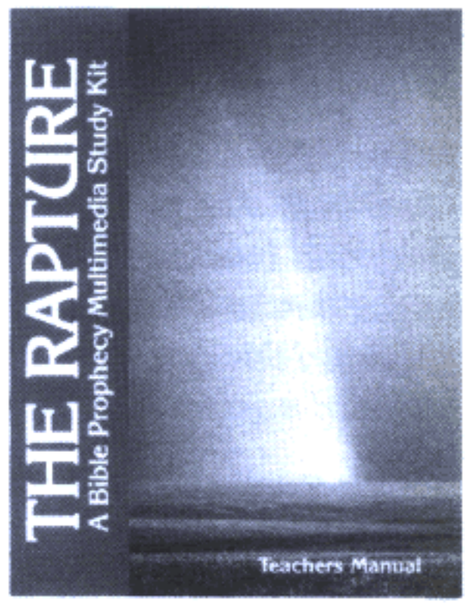
Jesus is Coming Again!
Dr. Reagan's book for children (pre-school and elementary). This is the only book ever published for children about end time prophecy. Beautifully illustrated in full color. Large format (8½ x 11"). Durable cover. Contains teaching tips for parents, together with a list of Scripture references.
28 pages. $7.

Audio Tapes

An Overview of Revelation. Dr. Reagan presents an in-depth survey of the book of Revelation, covering it verse by verse. Twelve tapes in an album. $30 (normally $35). A study guide is available to accompany the album. The cost of the guide is $5. Our most popular study resource.

Multimedia Kits

The Rapture Kit. This kit contains seven lessons on all aspects of the Rapture, utilizing both cassette and video tapes. It includes a teacher's manual and study guide for students. The lessons are contained on a total of four video programs (running 25 minutes each) and six cassette tape segments (running 15 to 20 minutes each). $35.

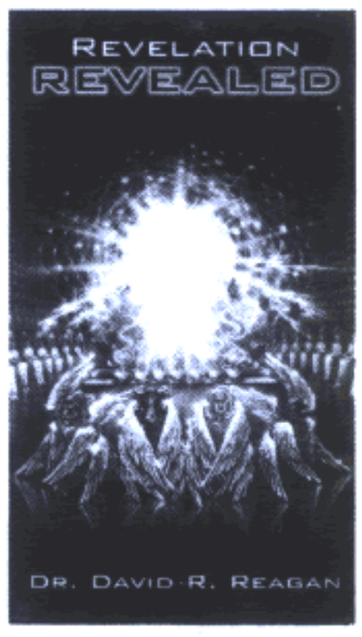


The Signs of the Times Kit. This kit provides four video programs and three audio segments which can be combined to produce seven in-depth lessons on the signs of the times. A teacher's manual is provided to illustrate how the materials can be used effectively. The manual contains lesson outlines and study guides that can be reproduced and distributed to students. $35.

Video Programs

Israel in Bible Prophecy. An exciting survey of seven prophecies that are being fulfilled in Israel today, all of which point to the soon return of Jesus. The video was shot on location at various sites in Israel. Appropriate for both individual and group study. Shows how the Jews are the key to understanding end time prophecy. Contains significant historical footage. 65 minutes in length. VHS, $15; DVD, $17.

Revelation Revealed. Dr. Reagan presents a 75 minute overview of the entire book of Revelation, covering the book chapter by chapter. The video is rich with maps, charts, diagrams, still photos, animations, and video footage. Dr. Reagan clearly demonstrates that the book of Revelation can be understood and is relevant to Christian living here and now. Appropriate for individual or group study. VHS, $15; DVD, $17.



All resource items listed on this page can be ordered by calling **1-800-705-8316.** Please call between 8am and 5pm, Central time, Monday through Friday.

Personal Testimony

A Dog Story

Leo Houck

Editor's Note: *Leo Houck is the Ministry's Director of Operations. In that capacity he oversees the maintenance of our property and buildings, and he manages our mail room. He also serves on the TV production crew as our video switcher. Leo presented this story as a devotional at the annual retreat of our board of trustees last December.*

I want to tell you a dog story. This particular dog lived near the end of our gravel road at an unkempt little peach-colored house. He was a smallish dog with a white body and brown face.

Every time my family and I would pass by that house, my wife would comment on the cuteness of that dog. She called him "Brown Face."

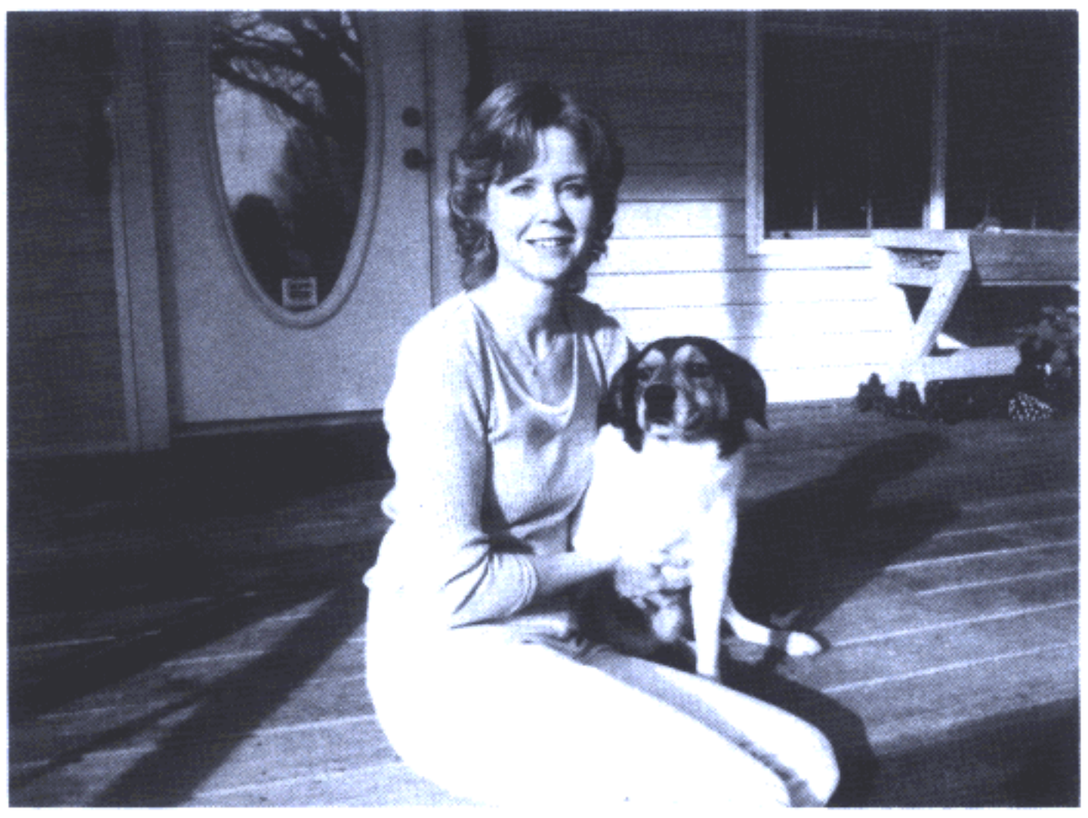
Well, one day Brown Face's family moved, and Brown Face was left behind. No one moved into the house, and Brown Face became an orphan. Every time we would drive by, we would see him sitting in the hot gravel driveway waiting for his family to return.

For the first few days we thought that surely his family would come back for him. However, it soon became apparent that they would not.

It was mid-summer, and the weedy lawn, which had long been neglected, quickly grew up around the little house and gravel driveway. Every day we would see Brown Face lying on the hot gravel waiting for a family that would never return.

My wife, Rachel, has always had a heart of compassion for animals. This one in particular seemed to touch her heart. He was cute and homeless. He was also handicapped because he had only three good legs. He had evidently been hit by a car at some time in the past, and he had to hobble around on only three legs.

One day my wife decided to rescue Brown Face. But as we pulled into the driveway, the dog ran into the tall weeds and hid. My wife tried to coax him out, but to no avail. We had some left-



Leo's wife, Rachel, with Brown Face

over fast food and a couple of paper cups of water with us, so I got out and waded through the weeds to the house. I found some old dishes in a pile of trash on the porch, and I put the food and water in them. In the process, I discovered that the weeds were infested with fleas!

Leo Houck

When we pulled out of the driveway, Brown Face ran out of the weeds and began wolfing down the food and water while keeping one eye on us as we drove slowly away.

This went on for about a month. Brown Face was receiving food and water daily, but due to his fear of us, he was missing out on the greater blessings my wife had planned for him.

Brown Face just could not understand that my wife wanted to take him from the hot gravel and flea infested weeds to a nice home where the grime and parasites would be cleansed from his fur and where he would receive shots and medication against diseases that might ravage his body. Most of all, he did not understand that we just wanted to love him.

Day after day we continued to put out food and water. Day after day Brown Face hid in the weeds. This routine continued until one day when Brown Face's need for something more than food and water overcame his fear of being harmed.

When we pulled into the driveway that day, Brown Face sat up but he didn't run away. My wife opened the car door and stepped out, and still he did not run for the weeds. As she approached him, speaking softly, he lay down and rolled over onto his back as if to say, "Here I am. I don't care what you do to me. Just don't leave me in the state that I'm in."

Needless to say, Brown Face now lives with us and is loved and cared for every day.

Now some might say, "That's a nice story, but what does it have to do with anything?"

I think that too often Christians live in a state of spiritual deprivation. I know this was true in my life. For years I received the temporal blessing of life but ran from the Blesser for fear that He would require more of me than I was capable of giving. All the while I was missing out on the great and wonderful blessings God had planned for me.

That continued until one day when my needs overcame my fears, and my spirit cried out to the living God: "Here I am! Do with me what you will. Just don't leave me in the state that I'm in."

That's when God took me and cleansed me and healed me and began to do with me things I never dreamed possible. ✤

Introduction

Meet Our New Staff Member

Larry Watts is a modern day Renaissance man. He earned a degree in architecture from Clemson, University and then went to Talbot Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. But his passion has always been teaching biblical truth with audio/visual media.

Our ministry was blessed to have Larry as a part-time staff member during 2003. On January 1st of this year, he became a full-time staff member. He works under the direction of our Media Minister, Don Gordoni. He assists Don with all aspects of video and television production. He is a particularly gifted video editor who loves to put together video montages.

Larry grew up in rural New Jersey on a 60 acre horse ranch. After receiving his degree in architecture from Clemson, he took a job with an architectural firm in Dallas. During that time he developed what he calls "a spiritual thirst." He had been raised going to church, but during his teens his church hired a liberal minister, and Larry lost interest.

To satisfy his spiritual dryness, Larry started reading the Bible. He studied the Bible intensely for three months and then gave his life to Jesus. When he received the Holy Spirit he was overwhelmed with an even greater appetite for the Word of God. For the next six months he read the Bible for five hours every evening.

His next spiritual milestone occurred while working for a firm in Asheville, North Carolina. He clearly recalls a time when the Lord spoke to his heart while he was mowing his lawn. The Lord told him, "Go to seminary." Larry says he didn't even know what a seminary was at the time! But he had heard the Lord, and he was determined to be obedient.

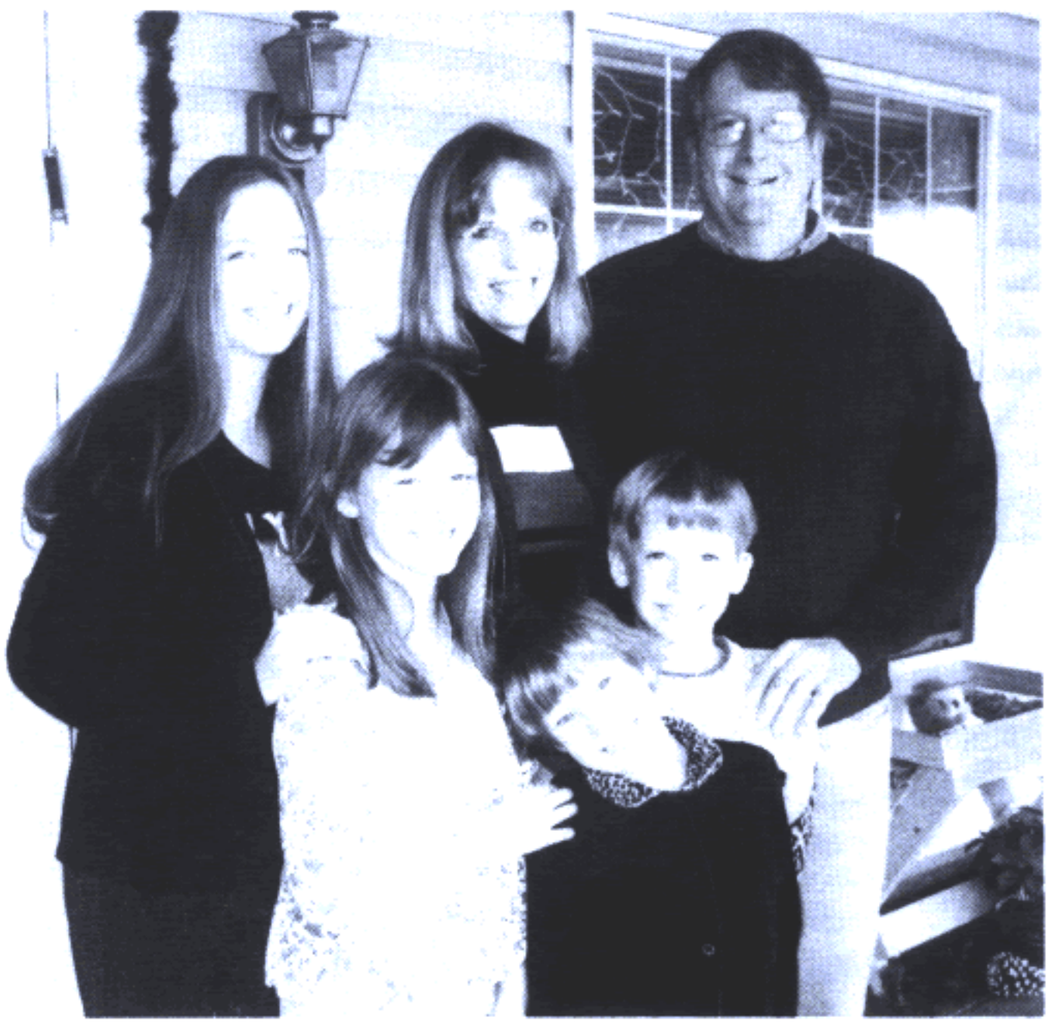
Larry had been listening regularly to J. Vernon McGee on the radio and had grown to respect him as a Bible teacher. So, he wrote Mr. McGee and asked him to recommend a seminary. Mr. McGee responded by suggesting that he attend Dallas, Talbot, or Grace. Larry says he ruled out Dallas because he did not like the hot Texas summers. He felt led to go to Talbot, so in 1976 he headed to California where he remained the next three years while earning his seminary degree.

It was while he was at Talbot that Larry saw his first multi-projector, computer-controlled slide show. It really impressed him. He had always been a photographer, and as an architect, he had a great appreciation for things visual. But there was more than just appreciation involved — he felt called to proclaim the Gospel through the utilization of media.

But in those days most churches had not yet realized the potential of media to present their message, so media positions were rare. Larry was invited to work with a media-minded church in the Seattle area with hopes for an eventual full time staff position. He decided to adopt a "tent-making" approach to ministry by working part-time in architecture. He also taught a variety of classes in his home church.

Before long Larry was asked to produce an audio-visual program to communicate the plight of the unborn as a ministry tool for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. This program proved to be so popular that it lead to invitations to produce media programs for other Christian organizations. It also led to his involvement in two major pro-life campaigns for Washington state, producing TV and radio spots along with print ads.

It was during this time that Larry met his wife, Cheri, at a Bible study. They were married in 1984 and now have four children ranging in age from 6 to 16. In 1992 Larry and Cheri moved across Washington state to Spokane and bought a five acre "mini-farm" where they could raise their family in a more rural setting. Larry continued "tent-making" as a video producer for a local corporation while teaching in his home church and producing videos for Christian organizations.



Larry is shown above with his wife, Cheri, and their children.

In 1999, after a special season of prayer, Larry felt led of the Lord to return to Dallas. He didn't like the idea because of the area's hot weather which he detested. Once again, he took a job with an architectural firm. In doing so, he felt a great sense of frustration because his greatest hope was to become a full-time media minister. He feared the death of his vision. He just couldn't understand why God was leading him back to Dallas.

Larry came to Dallas alone in May of 2000 to interview for the architectural job. As he was walking across a Kroger's parking lot, he felt the Lord nudge him and tell him that he was to meet a man he saw sitting in a van. Feeling like a fool, he walked up to the van and introduced himself to the driver. That driver was Don Gordoni!

Talk about two people with a lot in common. Both were seminary graduates and both had a passion for media ministry. Both also had good-sized families. Don had five children at the time (he now has seven), and Larry had four.

The rest is history. Larry and his family moved to Dallas in October of 2000. Larry worked for the architectural firm for about two years before joining our staff on a part-time basis at the beginning of last year.

We praise God for the divine appointment He arranged for Don and Larry on the Kroger parking lot. And we pray that the Lord will enable Larry to adjust to the Texas heat! ✤

Television Update

The Ministry's television program, "Christ in Prophecy," continues to be well received by viewers all across the nation.

We ended last year with three Christmas programs, one of which was a new one entitled, "The Forgotten Promises of Christmas." It featured an outstanding video montage created by Larry Watts to illustrate Sandi Patty's great song, "Bethlehem Morning."

We began the new year with two new programs called "Looking for Jesus" and "Looking Forward with Hope."

The new Christmas program and the two New Year's programs featured guest appearances by Don Perkins and Don McGee. Don Perkins is the founder and director of According to Prophecy Ministries in San Diego. Don McGee heads up Crown and Sickle Ministries in Amite, Louisiana.

All these programs are available on video tape for $10 each.

Fund Raising Goal

The Ministry needs to raise $200,000 above its regular operating budget to cover the cost of television production and broadcast during 2004.

Some of these funds will also be used to purchase much needed video equipment.

Don McGee, Dennis Pollock, Dave Reagan, and Don Perkins pose for the camera before recording three television programs last November.

Due to the great generosity of our Prophecy Partners, we have already raised over $50,000 of the $200,000 goal. We would appreciate your prayerful consideration of a special donation designated for "TV Outreach."

Send your donation to the Ministry at P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070 or call 1-800-705-8316. ✤

DayStar Television Network Coverage

Broadcast Times

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

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

Television Stations

Little Rock	AR	KKAP	36
Phoenix	AZ	KDTP	39
Tucson	AZ	KPCE	29
Modesto	CA	KACA	61
Stockton	CA	K52CK	52
Sacramento	CA	KRJR	47
Denver	CO	KRMT	41
Tampa	FL	WSVT	18
Atlanta	GA	WDTA	53
Gainesville	GA	W28CD	28
Macon	GA	WDMA	32
Honolulu	HI	KWBN	44
Boston	MA	WYDN	48
Las Vegas	NV	KTVY	67
Buffalo	NY	WDTB	39
Apex	NC	WACN	34
Raleigh	NC	WWIW	66
Oklahoma City	OK	KOCM	46
Philadelphia	PA	WELL	8
Knoxville	TN	WDTT	38
Memphis	TN	WJRJ	59
Nashville	TN	WIIW	14
Dallas	TX	KMPX	29
Houston	TX	KLTJ	22
San Antonio	TX	KQVE	46
Seattle	WA	KWDK	56
Charleston	WV	WTSF	61

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

Cable Systems

Kansas City	KS	Time Warner
Shreveport	LA	Time Warner

Satellite Systems

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

Family Vision Network

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

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

KAZQ TV 32 in Albuquerque, NM

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

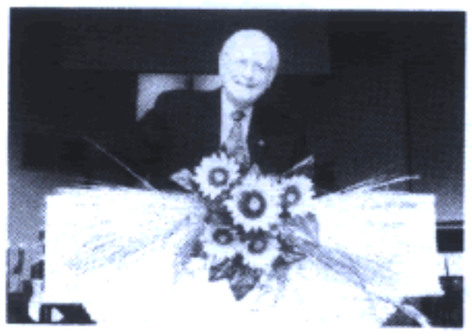
KAZQ is also available on the Dish Network on channel 8817 and on the following cable channels: Comcast Cable (22), Comcast Cablevision (32), Cable One (9), USA Media (22), GST Home (78), and Chamesa Future Vision (22).

Internet

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

Ministry News

Holy Land Pilgrimage — The Ministry's next tour to Israel is set for June 5-16. Dr. Reagan will lead the group. If you are interested in joining the group, call 1-800-705-8316 and ask for a summary of the tour to be mailed to you.

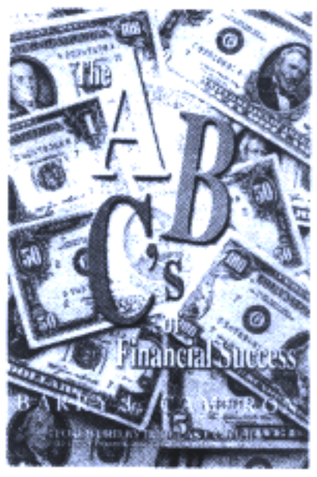


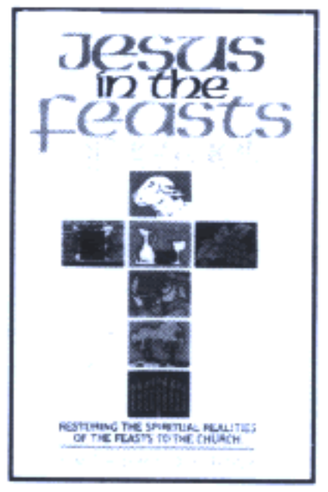
Meetings and Conferences — In **March** Dave will be speaking at Branch Baptist Church in the Dallas area (5-7), at Poplar Ridge Christian Church in Piney Flats, Tennessee (13-14), and at Northside Christian Church in Clovis, California (27-28). Dennis is scheduled in March to speak at Temple Baptist Church in Winnsboro, Louisiana (19-20) and at Beauregard Memorial Baptist Church, located near DeRidder, Louisiana (21-24). Dave will begin the month of **April** as one of the speakers at the annual Thy Kingdom Come Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma (March 31 - April 3). Later in the month he will speak at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Lafayette, Louisiana (18). Dennis will be at Beautiful Gate Church in Antioch, Tennessee (1-4) and at First Christian Church in Marysville, California (16-18). Dave will begin the month of **May** speaking at Oak Hill Baptist Church in Griffin, Georgia (16).

Television — The Ministry needs to raise $200,000 above its operating budget to pay for television production, broadcast, and equipment. Our weekly broadcast of "Christ in Prophecy" is aired nationally by the DayStar Network. It is also available internationally via three satellites and the Internet. Please consider a special donation to help us reach our goal. Be sure to designate your gift for "TV Outreach." Thanks!

India Outreach — We have a 30 minute video program available on VHS or DVD concerning Dennis' outreach to India this past year. It is a thrilling report that we would like to provide you free of charge, except for the mailing cost. To order a copy, call 1-800-705-8316. Dennis has been invited to return to India this year to hold a pastor's conference, to conduct an outdoor crusade, and to spend a week teaching at the largest Bible college in Asia. This important outreach will cost us a minimum of $10,000. If you would like to help, please designate your donation for "Missions Outreach." And if you would be interested in accompanying Dennis on one of his foreign mission trips this year, please call and talk to him at 972-736-3567.

Clearance Sale





We are having a clearance sale on three books in our inventory. ***The ABC's of Financial Success*** by Pastor Barry Cameron is a practical down-to-earth book that tells how any Christian can get totally out of debt (150 pages). ***Jesus in the Feasts of Israel*** by Richard Booker is the best book in print about the Jewish feasts and their spiritual symbolism (120 pages). ***There's a New World Coming*** by Hal Lindsey is his chapter by chapter commentary on the book of Revelation. It is the best book Lindsey has ever written (288 pages). All three books normally sell for $10 each. We are making them available for $5 each plus the cost of mailing. Our supply of each is very limited, so if you want to order one or more, please call 1-800-705-8316 immediately.

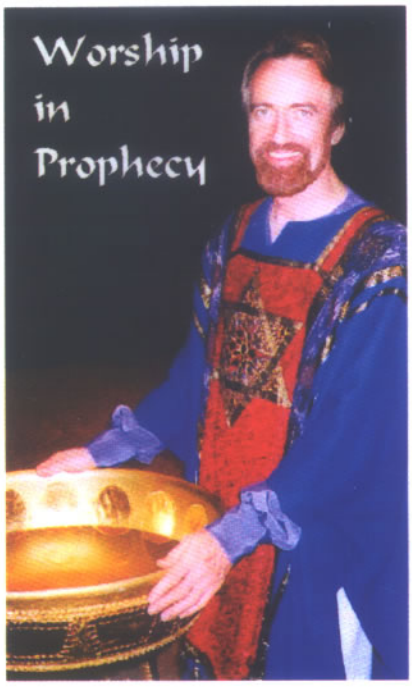
Prophecy Partner Program — We want to invite you to join hands with us as a Prophecy Partner of this Ministry. To do so, all you have to do is notify us that you are willing to make a commitment of $20 per month for one year. We ask people to shoot for a goal of one dollar a day for a year, or $30 per month, and many do this and more, but the minimum pledge is $20 per month. When you become a Prophecy Partner, you will start receiving a monthly letter from Dr. Reagan concerning every aspect of the Ministry. Additionally, you will receive a monthly gift like an audio tape, a booklet, a DVD video program, or our annual calendar. To become a Partner, write us at P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070, or call us at 1-800-705-8316.

Magazine — Do you enjoy reading this magazine? If so, would you consider providing a donation to help us cover the cost of printing it and mailing it to you? We figure it costs us about $20 a year to print and mail the magazine to each address on our mailing list. A donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Also, we would appreciate receiving suggestions for articles. Is there a special topic you would like to see us cover? If so, just suggest it to us, and we will see what we can do.

Visit our website at www.lamblion.com. And drop us an email message at lamblion@lamblion.com.

Thanks!

Three New Video Resources Concerning Bible Prophecy

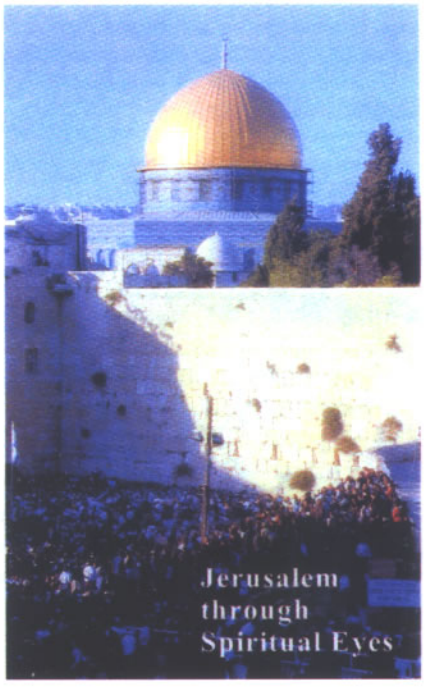


This video program begins with a teaching by Dr. Reagan concerning the revival of the Tabernacle of David in the end times. This teaching was filmed at the Church of the Ark of the Covenant, located near the city of Jerusalem.

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

The program features many colorful examples of Davidic worship.

The running time is 55 minutes.



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

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

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

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

The running time is 75 minutes.

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

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

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

The running time is 75 minutes.

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

LAMB & LION MINISTRIES

P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
McKinney, TX 75070
Permit No. 11