

# LAMPLIGHTER

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

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## The Ark of the Covenant



**Its origin, purpose and destiny**



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# Observations by the Editor

## Blessings

As you will see on page 19, this past year proved to be the best financial year in the history of this ministry, despite the national financial crisis. God greatly blessed our cost-cutting decisions, and He motivated our supporters to respond generously to our needs.

We plan to use the surplus the Lord provided in two major ways: first, by providing funds to other ministries; and second, by financing the translation of our materials into other languages, particularly Spanish. We will also be looking for opportunities to expand our television outreach.

One of our greatest blessings over the years has been to serve as a channel of financial support to other ministries. We have helped to establish four other Bible prophecy ministries, and, as you will see on page 16, we provide monthly support to many other ministries, both domestic and foreign.

Another source of blessings to us are the letters and email messages that people send us in which they tell about the impact of the ministry on their lives. Here are some samples:

### From Lisa Wisley in Dallas, Texas:

Our whole family wants to thank you for your ministry! We purchased your children's book *Jesus is Coming Again* at a conference in 2008. We debated whether or not to buy the book, but it has been one of our best investments! Our just-turned 6 year old daughter says it is her favorite book. In fact, she chose to have the book read at her birthday celebration at school last week. When friends come by to play, she follows them around the house reading your book to them!

We also enjoy your television program, and my husband watches each episode with me (as does his mother). My husband's family has known Dr. Jobe Martin and his family for several years, and it was a wonderful surprise to see him on your show, as we highly respect his work and ministry.



**Dr. David R. Reagan**

### From Austin Lowry in Homestead, Florida:

Hi! My name is Austin Lowry. I am 11 years old. My mom tivo's your TV show, and we watch it together. Last year, I got into a debate about creation with a kid in my class. He thought that we evolved from monkeys. I kept telling him that God created us and everything around us, and that the "big bang" had nothing to do with it. We love your show, and I am so excited to learn more so I can share the truth with others.

### From Janice Davis in Central Texas:

I recently came across your website while looking for a place to enjoy jazz music. I have now been on the site for HOURS! I feel like I have just opened a treasure chest of truth that resounds in my spirit as never before in my journey as a Christian. Thank you! I can't wait to tell others what I have discovered!

### From Cathy Arnwine in Knoxville, Tennessee:

I simply cannot get enough of your television program and your teaching ministry. I never miss any programs, and I access your website regularly to print out commentaries on various topics. May God bless you and your teaching. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.✝

Our cover photo this month was supplied by iStockphoto.com. The cover design was done by Keith Fink of The Master's Press in Dallas, Texas.



# The Ark of the Covenant

What was it?

What happened to it?

Will it ever be found?

And does it really matter?

## Dr. David R. Reagan

It was in the mid-1980's, and I was hosting a pilgrimage group on a tour of the Holy Land. We had made the long drive from the Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem and had arrived in "the city of the Great King" exhausted.

It seemed like I had hardly gone to sleep when I was jolted awake by the telephone. Assuming it was my wake up call, I lifted the receiver and mumbled, "Thank you."

I was surprised to hear a familiar voice on the other end. "Hello, David, I'm calling from Texas!"

"From Texas!" I replied. "All the way from Texas?"

"Yep," answered my friend, "and guess what? They've found the ark!"

"The what?"

"The ark!"

"Noah's?"

"No, dummy, the Ark of the Covenant."

Needless to say, that statement really woke me up.

### A Startling Discovery

My friend proceeded to explain that he had just read in the *Dallas Morning News* about the discovery of the lost Ark of the Covenant. It had supposedly been found on Mount Pisgah (Mt. Nebo) in Jordan by a religious group from Kansas.

It all sounded a little far out to me. I suspected that someone had lost touch with reality after having seen the currently popular movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Nonetheless, I rushed down to the hotel lobby to get the latest copy of *The Jerusalem Post*. Sure enough, there on the first page



(Illustration used with permission of Cactus Game Design, Inc.)

was the story. The writer evidently shared my skepticism because the headline read: "Thar's an Ark in Them Thar Hills!"

### A Suspect Discovery

The story was right out of Alice in Wonderland. Some end-time sect from Winfield, Kansas, calling itself the Institute for Restoring Ancient History International, had issued a statement claiming to have discovered the Ark in a sealed passageway inside Mt. Pisgah.

They offered no evidence, even though they claimed to have taken photographs. They also refused to reveal the exact location of their find.

The leader of the group, who had a reputation for being anti-Semitic, said he was going to prove his good will toward the Jews by turning all his evidence over to David Rothschild.

When asked why he had selected Rothschild, he replied that he considered Rothschild to be the leader of the Jews (an old anti-Semitic attitude!). He also explained that he felt Rothschild had the power to help his group in dealing with the Jordanian government and the Vatican.

### A Provocative Discovery

The headlines have since subsided. The Kansas group has returned to its anonymity in the wheat fields. And the movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, has become an adventure classic.

But the incident and movie motivated a lot of questions, some of which relate to end time events. What was the Ark of the Covenant? Why was it so important to the Jews? What happened to it? Will it be found again? Is it essential for the rebuilding of the Jewish temple?

## The Bible and the Ark

The origin of the Ark is to be found in Exodus 25:10-22. God ordered Moses to build the Ark to house the tablets of stone on which He had written the Ten Commandments. The Ark was a box approximately 4 feet long, 2½ feet wide, and 2½ feet high. It was made of acacia wood and was overlaid with gold inside and out.

The lid that covered the box was called the “mercy seat.” It was made of pure gold. Two gold cherubim were mounted on the lid, one on each end. The cherubim faced each other, and their wings were spread out toward each other, overshadowing the mercy seat.



According to Hebrews 9:4, two other items were later added to the contents of the Ark. One of these was a pot of manna, the miraculous food that God supplied the children of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 16). The other item was Aaron’s rod that budded (Numbers 17). And according to Deuteronomy 31:24-26, the Ark also contained the Pentateuch of Moses (the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures.)

Later, these additional items must have been removed from the Ark, because when the Temple of Solomon was dedicated, the Ark contained only the tablets of stone with the ten commandments engraved upon them (2 Chronicles 5:7-10).

The Ark was housed in the Holy of Holies, the innermost chamber of the Temple. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered that Holy of Holies and sprinkled blood on the mercy seat to atone for his sins and the sins of the nation of Israel (Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 9). Because God had promised Moses that He would commune with Israel “from above the mercy seat” (Exodus 25:22), the concept developed that the Lord of Hosts was enthroned on the cherubim of the Ark (see 1 Samuel 4:4 and Isaiah 37:16).

## The Symbolism of the Ark

Much has been made of the symbolism of the Ark, and rightfully so. Suffice it to say that every aspect of the Ark pointed to Jesus.

The acacia wood symbolized our Lord’s humanity. The gold overlay denoted His deity. The Ten Commandments and the Pentateuch inside the Ark pictured Jesus with the Law of God in His heart, living in perfect obedience to it. The pot of manna spoke of Jesus as the Bread of Life or our life sustainer. Aaron’s rod that budded obviously prophesied the resurrection.

The mercy seat was also a symbol that pointed to the Messiah. It was representative of the fact that the work of Jesus on the Cross would cover the Law of God with His mercy, making it possible for those who put their faith in Jesus to be reconciled to God. It is an illustration of how the divine throne was transformed from a throne of judgment into a throne of grace by the atoning blood that was sprinkled on it.

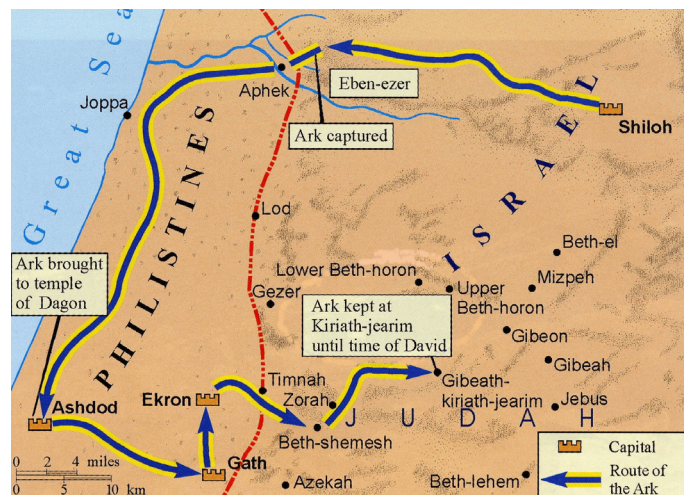
## The Ark’s Pilgrimage

As the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, the Ark was carried before them on golden poles by the priests, following “the cloud of the Lord” in order “to seek out a resting place for them” (Numbers 10:33). The Ark was carried into Canaan when the Israelites crossed the Jordan, and it was instrumental in their victory over Jericho (Joshua 6). During the 400 year period of the Judges, the Ark was housed in the Holy of Holies at the Tabernacle that was erected at the religious center of Shiloh (Judges 18:31 & 1 Samuel 1:3).

During the latter part of the period of the Judges, when apostasy was rampant in Israel, the decision was made to carry the Ark into a battle against the Philistines as a good luck charm (1 Samuel 4:1-4). This desecration of the sacred Ark enraged the Lord, and He allowed the Philistines to win the battle and capture the Ark (1 Samuel 4:5-11).

The Philistines took the Ark to Ashdod where they placed it in the Temple of Dagon. But the Ark proved to be a hot box for the Philistines. When all sorts of calamities began to afflict them, they decided to return the Ark (1 Samuel 5 & 6).

It was first taken to Gath, but when the men of the city were afflicted with tumors, it was sent to Ekron where similar afflictions broke out. At that point it was loaded onto a cart pulled by two cows and pointed in the direction of Israel. The cows wandered about until they arrived at the village called Beth-shemesh. When the people of that town ventured out of curiosity



to look inside the Ark, a great number were struck dead (1 Samuel 6:19-21). They quickly decided to allow the Ark to continue its journey. It ended up at the village of Kiriath-jearim, located just a few miles northwest of Jerusalem (1 Samuel 7:1-2). It remained there for almost 70 years in the house of Abinadab. (The 70 years were the last 20 years of Samuel’s judgeship, the 40 years of Saul’s kingship, and the first seven years of David’s reign in Hebron, before he moved to Jerusalem).



When David arrived in Jerusalem, the first priority of his administration was to provide the Ark a proper resting place because He was anxious to bring the symbol of the presence of God back into the life of the nation (Psalm 132: 1-5). The Ark's return was an occasion for great rejoicing (1 Chronicles 15:25-29). David placed it in a tent on Mount Moriah (today's Temple Mount) where it remained until his son Solomon built the Temple. The Holy of Holies in that Temple became the final resting place of the Ark (1 Kings 8 and 2 Chronicles 5).

### **The Lost Ark**

No one knows for sure what happened to the Ark. The last time it is mentioned in Scripture is in 2 Chronicles 35:3. That passage makes it clear that the Ark was still in existence at the time of the spiritual revival led by the boy king, Josiah. Within 22 years after Josiah died, Judah fell to the Babylonians (586 B.C.), and the Ark disappeared.

The majority of scholars believe it was simply destroyed when the Temple was burned. Others believe it was captured as a prize of war, taken to Babylon, and probably melted down for its gold. But many believe it survived and is hidden somewhere today.

### **The Destruction Theory**

Those who believe the Ark was lost when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple point to 2 Kings 24:13 and the parallel passage in 2 Chronicles 36:18. Both assert that "all the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord" were taken to Babylon. But the Jewish sages have always argued that King Solomon anticipated attacks on Jerusalem and the Temple and that he therefore constructed a vault for the Ark that was located deep within the temple Mount and protected by mazes and false passageways.<sup>1</sup> Further, they point out that when the Jews were released from Babylonian captivity by Cyrus, the Ark is not mentioned in the list of Temple treasures that were given to those who were returning to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:5-11).

The idea of a secret vault beneath the Temple Mount is certainly plausible. Furthermore, the existence of such a hiding place is implied in 2 Chronicles 35 where we are told that King Josiah ordered the Levitical priests to restore the Ark to the Temple. It had evidently been removed during the reign of the evil King Manasseh who desecrated the Temple with altars devoted to foreign gods (2 Chronicles 33:1-5).

Further evidence that the Ark may have been destroyed by the Babylonians is the fact that the Ark was never restored to the Holy of Holies when the Second Temple was built after the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity. Each year at Yom Kippur when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, he would sprinkle the blood on a portion of bedrock that protruded from the floor — supposedly the rock on which the Ark had



(Internet illustration. Artist unknown.)

traditionally rested. This rock was called "the foundation stone."<sup>2</sup> The fact that the Holy of Holies remained barren of the Ark is attested to by the Roman historian, Tacitus. He states that when the Roman general, Pompey, conquered Judah in 63 BC, he entered the Holy of Holies and found it completely empty.<sup>3</sup>

The Jewish sages counter-argue that the reason the Ark was never restored to the Holy of Holies in the Second Temple is because the Jews were never independent after they returned to their land. First they were under Persian control, and then they were conquered by the Romans. They maintain that because of this foreign domination, the Ark was left in its hiding place during the Second Temple period (516 BC to 70 AD).

### **The Jewish Tradition**

As indicated above, the Jewish tradition is that the Ark was placed in an underground vault at the time of the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem, and it remains there to this day. This tradition

is affirmed by several passages in the Talmud. The Jewish sages also believe that entombed with the Ark are other Temple treasures such as the Tabernacle of Moses (the tent temple used during the wilderness wanderings and the period of the Judges), the incense altar, Aaron's rod, the pot of manna, and the tablets of Moses.<sup>4</sup>

In 1967 during the Six Day War the Jews regained control of the Old City of Jerusalem for the first time in modern history. Hopes soared among many of the Orthodox Jews that this momentous event would give them the opportunity to explore underneath the Temple Mount to find the vault containing the Ark. However, General Moshe Dayan, acting on his own authority, decided almost immediately to surrender control of the Mount back to the Muslim authorities. He did this to prevent any attempt to destroy the Dome of the Rock. He also felt that such a gesture would indicate to the Arabs that the Israelis wanted to live in peace with them. Dayan was a secular Jew, and the Temple Mount meant little to him.

Ever since that time, Israel has had sovereignty over the Temple Mount, but has relinquished control of it to Muslim authorities. This has made it impossible for the Jews to conduct any archeological excavations on or under the Temple Mount.

In 1981 some Jewish rabbis started clearing debris from an area next to the Wailing Wall area in order to set up a synagogue. In the process they discovered what is called Warren's Gate. It was a gate that had been discovered a century earlier by the British explorer Charles Warren during an underground probe, but had never been fully excavated. This was believed to be the gate that led to the area closest to the Holy of Holies. The gate was sealed, but the rabbis broke it open and started tunneling under the Temple Mount toward the area that would be beneath the Holy of Holies. But before they could get very far, they were discovered by the Muslim authorities and were forced to stop.

The current Jewish Rabbinate takes the position that the Ark is definitely located in a vault under the Temple Mount but they have ruled that no Jew can enter the vault until the Messiah appears and reveals the exact location of the Holy of Holies.<sup>6</sup>

One of Christendom's foremost authorities on the Ark is Randall Price, a Bible prophecy expert and a professor of Judaic Studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He has concluded that the Ark is still in existence and is located under the Temple Mount.<sup>7</sup>

### The Jeremiah Tradition

One of the oldest and strongest traditions regarding the fate of the Ark is one that is found in the apocryphal book of 2 Maccabees which was written during the inter-Testamental period. It contends that Jeremiah fled Jerusalem with the Ark and buried it in a cave in Mount Nebo which is located in the modern day nation of Jordan.

The narrative in that book says:

... the prophet, warned by an oracle, gave orders for the tabernacle and the ark to go with him when he set out for the mountain which Moses had climbed to survey God's heritage. On his arrival, Jeremiah found a cave-dwelling, into which he brought the tabernacle, the ark, and the altar of incense, afterwards blocking up the entrance" (2 Maccabees 2:4-5).

The two books of Maccabees are not part of the accepted biblical cannon and are therefore not considered to be inspired of God. The story about Jeremiah could be true, or it could simply be a legend.



A section of a frieze from the Arch of Titus in Rome showing Jewish captives marching into the city carrying artifacts from Jerusalem, including a huge menorah. (Internet picture. Photographer unknown.)

### The Vatican Tradition

There are some people who believe the Ark of the Covenant is in the Vatican. They base this belief on the fact that the arch that was built in Rome to honor Titus's victory over the Jews contains a frieze that shows Jewish captives carrying a large menorah, which is a seven-branched candelabrum.

Many assume the menorah is the one from the Temple, but that is unlikely for several reasons. First, its base is octagonal in shape with graven images. The Temple menorah is always described in Jewish literature as having a three-legged or triangular base. And no item in the Temple would have had any graven images on it. That would have been considered gross idolatry. Also, the Temple menorah was made of solid gold and would



The Church of the Ark of the Covenant in modern day Abu Gosh, the biblical town of Kiriath-jearim. The church marks the site where the Ark rested in a farm house for nearly 70 years during a time of great apostasy in Israel — the last 20 years of Samuel, the 40 years of Saul's reign, and the first 7 years of David's kingship. (Photo by the author.)

thus have been too heavy for one or two persons to carry it on their shoulders, as the frieze depicts.

The theory is that the Temple treasures, including the Ark, were brought back to Rome and ultimately ended up in the vaults of the Vatican after the collapse of the Roman Empire. Over the years, the Vatican has staunchly denied that it has possession of any of the Temple treasures.

### The Ethiopian Tradition

There has been a rumor for many years that the Ark of the Covenant is in the Saint Mary of Zion Church in Axum, Ethiopia. In recent years this idea has been popularized in the writings of Grant Jeffrey, a Canadian Bible prophecy writer.

This rumor is based on a bizarre story that the Ark was smuggled out of Jerusalem by Menelik I, the supposed son of a union between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Supposedly, a replica of the Ark was left in the Holy of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem. The motivation for moving the Ark was to protect it from King Manasseh, one of the most ungodly kings in the history of Judah.<sup>7</sup>



Saint Mary of Zion Church located in Azum, Ethiopia.



There are all kinds of problems with this legend. For one thing, it is doubtful that the Queen of Sheba ruled over Ethiopia. It is more likely that her realm was modern day Yemen.

Regarding Menelik I, he ruled over Ethiopia around 950 BC, according to tradition. Manasseh did not become king of Judah until 253 years later. Therefore, Menelik's supposed removal of the Ark from Jerusalem could not have had anything to do with trying to protect it from King Manasseh.

Harry Atkins, an Ethiopian historian, contends that there is no record of this legend in Ethiopian history until the end of the 13th Century. At that time there was a dispute over who should be king, and one of the contenders claimed to be a descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Atkins says it was at that point that the legend of the Ark entered into Ethiopian history.<sup>8</sup>

### The Heavenly Theory

Another theory regarding the fate of the Ark is that it was translated or raptured, being taken up to Heaven to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Babylonians. This theory is based upon a reference to the Ark in Revelation 11:19. This passage is a flash-forward to the end of the Tribulation when Heaven opens and Jesus returns in wrath. The writer states that when Heaven opened "the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple."

Those who reject this theory argue that the Ark seen in Heaven in this passage is the heavenly reality of which the Ark of the Covenant was only an earthly shadow or copy (Hebrews 8:5).



An artist's depiction of the Heavenly Tabernacle being revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai. Moses was instructed to pattern the earthly tabernacle after it, including the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:8-9). (Artist unknown.)

### The Forgotten Ark

Regardless of what happened to the Ark, the Scriptures suggest that it will never be found again. This comes as quite a shock to some Christians who have assumed that the Ark must be found before the Tribulation Temple can be built and animal sacrifice re-instituted. Others have simply assumed that the Ark

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**“Jerusalem is the center of the world. The Temple Mount is in the center of Jerusalem. The Temple is in the center of the Temple Mount. The Holy of Holies is in the center of the Temple. And the Ark is in the center of the Holy of Holies.”**  
— *Midrash Tanhuma*, Kedoshim 10

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would be replaced in the Holy of Holies when the Lord's Millennial Temple is built.

But Jeremiah says point blank that "the ark of the covenant of the Lord . . . shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again" (Jeremiah 3:16). The context of this passage is the Millennial reign of Jesus, so it does not rule out the possibility of a discovery prior to that time. Conceivably, the Ark could be discovered, and Satan could use its discovery to

incite the rebuilding of a Temple where an apostate sacrificial system would be re-instituted. We know that such a Temple will be built, but I doubt if its construction will be motivated by the discovery of the Ark.



The Dome of the Spirit on top of the Temple Mount is the place some archeologists believe was the actual site of the Holy of Holies, for three reasons: (1) it is in perfect alignment with the ancient Eastern Gate; (2) it is the only place on the Temple Mount where solid bedrock is exposed; and (3) the dome stands 330 feet north of the Dome of the Rock, allowing enough room to rebuild the Jewish temple on this site if one would "leave out the court which is outside the temple" as God instructed John in Revelation 11:2. (Photo by Don McGee of Crown & Sickle Ministries.)

### The Non-Essential Ark

The important point to keep in mind here is that the rediscovery of the Ark is not essential to the rebuilding of the Temple. After all, the Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel following the Babylonian captivity, and the Ark had already been lost by that time. There was no Ark in the Holy of Holies during the time when Jesus worshiped in the Temple.

Nor is the Ark needed for the Millennial Temple. Ezekiel describes the Temple in great detail (chapters 40-42), and he never mentions the Ark. There is a Holy of Holies (Ezekiel 41:4), but it is empty, and it is not separated from the Holy Place by a veil.

Jesus has already entered the heavenly Holy of Holies in our behalf (Hebrews 4:14-16, 8:1-6). He has torn away the veil that separated us from God, and He serves as our High Priest, having

offered His own blood as the perfect sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:11-16). He serves as our Mediator before the Father's throne (Hebrews 9:24-28).

Thus, during the Millennium, there will be no need for a human high priest or an Ark with a mercy seat. Jesus will serve as both king and high priest, and in that capacity, He will continue to serve as humanity's mercy seat. (Zechariah 6:12-13).

### The True Ark

With regard to this concept of Christ as our mercy seat, let me add a penetrating insight which I picked up from John MacArthur, one of this country's greatest preachers. He pointed to a simple historical verse that contains a profound truth about Jesus being our mercy seat.

The verse is John 20:12. Speaking of Mary looking into the empty tomb of Jesus, the verse says, "she beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying." What Mary saw, MacArthur observed, was the new mercy seat, the perfect mercy seat.

Consider again what Mary saw. She witnessed two angels, one sitting at each end of the slab which had held the broken body of our Lord. That scene points us back to the Ark of the Covenant where two cherubim hovered over its blood splattered mercy seat!

There is no more need for the Ark. Jesus has fulfilled all that the Ark stood for. He was deity who took on flesh. He rendered complete obedience to the Law, being made perfect and becoming the source of our salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). His blood was shed for our sins, and His victory is attested by the fact and the power of His resurrection.

Just as the Ark was designed to be a symbol of the presence of God in the midst of His people, Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love and care and presence. He is our Ark. He is our Law. He is our Manna. He is our Budded Rod. And, thank God, He is our Mercy Seat. ✚

#### Notes:

- 1) Randall Price, *Searching for the Ark of the Covenant: Latest Discoveries and Research* (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2005), p. 142.
- 2) Price, pp. 144-145.
- 3) Tacitus, *Historiae*, 5.9.1.
- 4) *Babylonian Talmud*, Yomah 52b and *The Tosefta*, Sotah 13:2)
- 5) Price, p. 150.
- 6) *Ibid.*, p. 147.
- 7) "Menelik I," *Wikipedia*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menelik\\_I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menelik_I).
- 8) Harry R. Atkins, "Ark of the Covenant: Not in Ethiopia," *Queries & Comments, Biblical Archaeology Review* (November-December, 1993), p. 78.

# The Blasphemous Ark

## The Ark of The New Age Covenant

**Ben Rast of Contender Ministries**

(<http://contenderministries.org>)



Thousands of years ago, the Ark of the Covenant was built to house the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God. Standing in stark and sacrilegious contrast is the Ark of Hope — a modern day vessel designed to carry the Earth Charter. The Ark of Hope has been seen throughout the Northeastern U.S. as its Vermont designers and a crew of "ark walkers" escort the ark from town to town, raising support for their cause. From the outward appearance of the Ark itself, to its New Age and occult contents, this demonic vessel should give every Christian pause.

In many ways, the Ark of Hope was designed as a Satanic, half-price knock-off of the Ark of the Covenant. It is a wooden chest constructed from a single plank of sycamore, and is 49"x32"x32" in dimensions. The four sides have various artwork and represent the four directions (north, east, south, and west), and also four elements (earth, water, fire, and air). The top of the ark also features artwork, and represents the fifth element: spirit. Around the edges of the top are a variety of religious and cultic symbols, including the occult pentagram! The ark has four rings through which two carrying poles are inserted. The poles are designed to represent "unicorn horns which render evil ineffective." The Ark was designed and painted by Sally Linder of Vermont.

The attempt to blaspheme the Ark of the Covenant is no chance occurrence. Former Soviet Premier and President of the Green Cross International, Mikhail Gorbachev, who also co-chairs the Earth Charter Commission, is quoted as saying, "Do not do unto the environment of others what you do not want done to your own environment . . . My hope is that this charter will be a kind of Ten Commandments, a 'Sermon on the Mount', that provides a guide for human behavior toward the environment in the next century."<sup>1</sup> Maurice Strong, a founding co-chairman of the Earth Charter Commission concurred, "The real goal of the Earth Charter is that it will in fact become like the Ten Commandments." Lest anyone doubt the religious sincerity of Mr. Gorbachev, he has made it clear, "Cosmos is my God. Nature is my God."<sup>2</sup>



The contents of the Ark are as dark as its design, and include the Earth Charter written on papyrus, “Temenos Earth Masks,” and over 300 “Temenos Books” designed by artists and school children from Vermont.

Temenos is a concept developed by psychiatrist Carl Jung to denote a magic circle, a sacred space where special rules and energies apply. Some of the Temenos Books were created within this magic circle by children, who filled them with visual affirmations for “Mother Earth. Fashioned with the “earth elements,” the Temenos Earth Masks were also worn and created by children. The Ark of Hope official website states, “Teachers involved in the [Temenos] project engaged their students in discussion of the Earth Charter principles, generating the kind of internal reflection that can lead to a change in attitudes, values, and behavior.”<sup>3</sup>

The Earth Charter itself is a relatively short document that sets forth the means for establishing a global government based on communist ideology and New Age beliefs. It also possesses the means to curtail Christian evangelism and to promote and even mandate abortion . . .

The Earth Charter Initiative was launched in 1994 by Maurice Strong, his newly formed Earth Council, and Mikhail Gorbachev, acting in his capacity as president of Green Cross International. In 1997, the Earth Council and Green Cross International formed an Earth Charter Commission to give oversight to the process. The Earth Charter Commission issued a final version of the Earth Charter in March 2000.

The Earth Charter is unabashedly New Age and Humanist in its ideology. The preamble of the charter affirms belief in evolution: “Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe . . . Earth has provided the conditions essential to life’s evolution.”<sup>4</sup> The first of the sixteen principles of the charter states that nations must “Affirm faith in the . . . spiritual potential of humanity.” This spiritual potential is one based on New Age beliefs in the potential for spiritual evolution and “Christ consciousness” inherent in each person.

The charter’s preamble lays the groundwork for a one-world government, “We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society . . . We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community.” To facilitate this goal, nations must “avoid military activities damaging to the environment” (6th Principle), and “demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration” (16th Principle). Obviously, any bomb dropped and any bullet fired can result in damage to the environment. In line with United Nations’ objectives, these principles will effectively eliminate the military powers of nation-states, and excesses will be redistributed to underdeveloped nations.

In the interest of fostering “sustainable economic development,” the United Nations and associated organizations have

been strong proponents of population control measures like China’s one-child policy. In the Earth Charter, this is echoed in the seventh principle: “[Nations must] ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.” This is a euphemistic way of endorsing population control, and consequently abortion as part of family planning.

Under the auspices of the Earth Charter, Christians could find themselves committing a violation of law by evangelizing to non-Christians. The charter states that nations must “eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin.” While the wording sounds noble, this clause could be interpreted to mean that evangelism is a form of discrimination based on religion. What of our religious freedoms? The authors of the Earth Charter recognized that many will be reluctant to give in to all these new demands, but “. . . we must

find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good.” In other words, if the United Nations deems that your freedoms are contrary to the common good, your freedoms will be sacrificed. I’d be willing to bet Mr. Gorbachev had his hand in writing that portion of the charter.

The Ark of Hope is a blatant and blasphemous affront to Jews and Christians alike. It places a sacred status on the Earth Charter, and attempts to replace the divine law of Yahweh with man-made rules that will pave the way for the Antichrist.

These worshipers of “Mother Earth” would do well to open a Bible and read Romans 1:22-25:

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, **and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator** — who is forever praised. Amen. (Emphasis added) ✚



**The Ark of Hope being unloaded from a ship in New York harbor.**

(Photo from the Ark of Hope website: [www.arkofhope.org](http://www.arkofhope.org).)

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#### Notes:

- 1) Mikhail Gorbachev, *The Los Angeles Times*, May 8, 1997.
- 2) Mikhail Gorbachev, on the PBS “Charlie Rose Show,” October 23, 1996.
- 3) <http://www.arkofhope.org>.
- 4) This and all remaining quotes taken from the Earth Charter, <http://www.earthcharter.org>.

## Peter Marshall Interviews

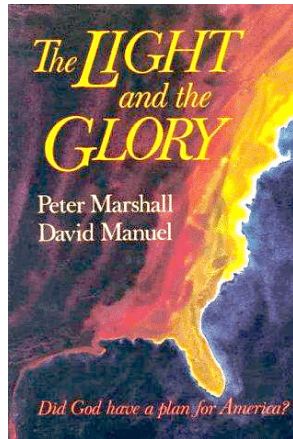
In mid-January we had the privilege of hosting Reverend Peter John Marshall for a weekend. He is the son of two very famous parents, Dr. Peter Marshall and Catherine Marshall. His father was one of the best-known and respected preachers of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. His mother became a highly acclaimed author after her husband's death in 1949 when she wrote an autobiography of him entitled, *A Man Called Peter*.

In 1977 our speaker stepped out of the shadows of his two famous parents when he published his seminal study of the Christian heritage of our nation. It was titled, *The Light and the Glory*. He has since become recognized as one of Christendom's greatest authorities on the religious heritage of our nation.

He has written many subsequent books for both adults and children. He has produced many video programs. And he has assembled a remarkable collection of audio recordings of his father's sermons.

Most important, God has anointed Peter to be a prophetic voice to remind this nation of its Judeo-Christian roots and to call it back to those roots in repentance. His essays on his website provide insightful and challenging analyses of current American moral issues.

We conducted three television interviews with Peter and then sponsored a conference featuring him speaking on America's Christian heritage. The programs will be broadcast in July during the celebration of this nation's independence.



**Dave Reagan and Peter Marshall**

You can find a complete listing of the books and videos of Peter Marshall on his website: <http://petermarshallministries.com>. You can also contact him through that site to arrange speaking engagements. We encourage you to pray for his ministry and to consider providing him with financial support. ✚

## “Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

### National Networks

<b>Daystar Network</b> <b>DirecTV Channel 369</b> <b>DISH Channel 263</b> On cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

<b>Inspiration Network</b> Available on cable networks <b>DirecTV Channel 364</b> <b>DISH Channel 259</b>				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Fri. 9:00am	Fri. 10:00am	Fri. 11:00am	Fri. Noon

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

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

### Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: [www.kajn.com/familyvision](http://www.kajn.com/familyvision).



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

### The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com). Go to the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and click on “Current TV Show.” You can also watch our TV programs on the Tangle website at [www.tangle.com/lamblion](http://www.tangle.com/lamblion). ✚





## The Uniqueness of the American Experiment in Self-Government

Reverend Peter Marshall

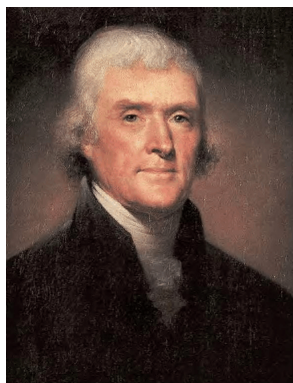
[Editor's Note: This is the text of Peter Marshall's presentation to the Texas State Board of Education Meeting in Austin, Texas, on September 17, 2009. He was invited to speak to them as an expert witness on what should be included in American history textbooks.]

"... Why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" — Luke 12:56

In 1776, the Founding Fathers of the United States made an extraordinary announcement to the rest of the world. In the most famous written paragraph in American history, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, wrote:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Why do I call this "an extraordinary announcement"? Because *this was the only time in human history that a nation's government was founded on a creed, a statement of faith, a profession of belief.*



Thomas Jefferson

The Declaration of Independence is the statement of America's founding ideals, a vision statement, if you will, that is utterly unique in world history. Further, this uniquely American contribution to the history of humanity — the belief that all men are created equal — is the bedrock of our civilization. Any progress we Americans have made through the centuries in creating a society of liberty and justice for all has come by the application of this self-evident truth to the way we Americans live with each other.

At the time of every great social crisis in our history this question has been at the heart of the conflict: Do we truly believe that all men are created equal, or are these just empty words and political window-dressing? This issue was the pivotal issue of the American Revolution, the struggle against slavery, the women's movement, the Civil Rights movement, and is now at the center of the pro-life movement.

This is why I believe that the Declaration needs to have a pre-eminent place in the teaching of history to our children — because this idea of human equality has literally created American history. Down through the centuries the American people have always believed that any public policy that robs some people of their basic equality with other people is fundamentally wrong.

Notice that Thomas Jefferson said that these announced truths were "self-evident." What he meant was that it was not just the Founding Fathers themselves that believed all men are created equal — it was pervasive throughout the American colonies. That means that this was an "uh-huh" statement — everybody knew this. Jefferson said that he was not trying "to say things which had not been said before, but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject."

How could the Founding Fathers say these truths were self-evident? What shaped their thinking?

**James Otis**, the orator of the American Revolution, wrote that government

... has an ever-lasting foundation in the unchangeable will of God, the author of nature, whose laws never vary ... There can be no prescription old enough to supersede the law of nature, and the grant of God Almighty, who has given all men a natural right to be free.<sup>1</sup>

**Alexander Hamilton:**

The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among parchments and musty records. They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole

volume of human nature, by the hand of the Divinity itself, and can never be erased or obscured by mortal power.<sup>2</sup>

#### Samuel Adams:

The right of freedom being the gift of God Almighty, it is not in the power of man to alienate this gift.<sup>3</sup>

**Thomas Jefferson** asserted that the only basis for American freedoms was the conviction among the people that “these liberties are the gift of God.”<sup>4</sup>

There are so many other similar quotes from the Founding Fathers that it is obvious beyond contradiction that they structured American government on the basis of the natural rights of mankind, which they firmly believed are the gift of God. Equally obvious is the fact that these beliefs were not exclusive to them — they were shared by the vast majority of Colonial Americans.

Some historians like to lump together the American and French Revolutions, since they both were based on the natural rights of mankind. But, the uniqueness of the Declaration of Independence as the basis of American government is seen in the fact that at no point in either of the French declarations of “the rights of man” is there any statement that these rights derive from God.

Perry Miller, the late dean of Puritan history at Harvard, was fond of decrying what he termed the “obtuse secularism”<sup>5</sup> of those who, in LSU Professor Ellis Sandoz’s words:

approach the founding as a merely rationalistic enterprise of men preoccupied with the European Enlightenment’s progressive notions and contemptuous of traditional religion.”<sup>6</sup>

Miller insisted that Protestant Christianity was at the heart of the American Revolution. In his famous essay, “From the Covenant to the Revival,” Professor Miller wrote:

The basic fact is that the Revolution had been preached to the masses as a religious revival, and had the astonishing fortune to succeed.<sup>7</sup>

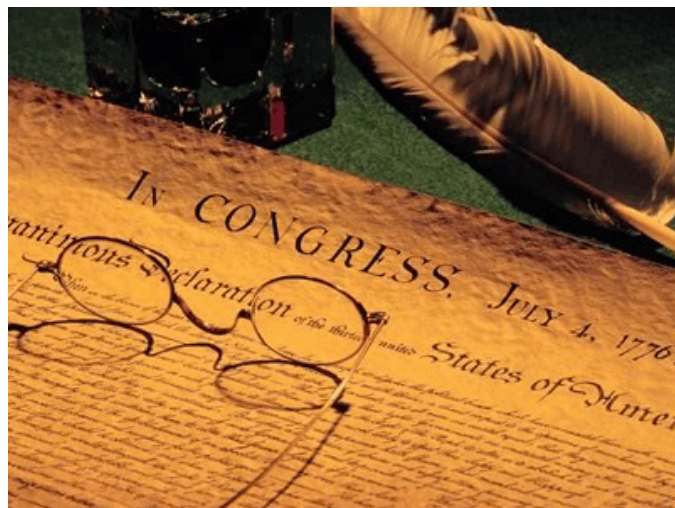
Most historians agree that one simply cannot properly teach



George Whitefield

the history of America’s founding period unless the impact of the First Great Awakening is taken into account. Why? Because this explosive revival, which began in the 1720’s in New Jersey, and carried the colonies through the Revolution and the establishment of our new government, was characterized by preaching that stressed the equality of mankind, thereby strongly promoting American democratic beliefs.

For instance, the preaching of George Whitefield, the best-known evangelist of the age, who gave



(Internet photo. Source unknown)

over 18,000 sermons from Maine to Georgia, and, according to Ben Franklin, drew 10,000 people to Market Square in Philadelphia, emphasized that God is no respecter of persons, meaning that He pays no attention to people’s social status, and that all alike must surrender to Christ and receive salvation from Him.

This democratic and leveling impact of the evangelical pulpit that helped the American people revolt against the social and political tyr-

anny being waged by a corrupt British aristocracy cannot be overestimated.

The message was unmistakably clear: the only legitimate government in both Church and State, in the sight of Him who made all men equal, is that which governs by the consent of the governed. The contrast between an American people that deeply believed that all men are created equal and the aristocratic and tyrannous attitudes of an elitist British government could not possibly have been more stark.

The Founding Fathers’ belief in human equality came from the teachings of Reformer John Calvin on civil government, the teachings of English Puritans on civil government, and Scottish Presbyterian Samuel Rutherford’s important 1744 work *Lex, Rex*, (the law is king) — thoroughly familiar to the Founding Fathers — in which he wrote that “all are born alike and equal.”<sup>8</sup>

The importance of religion to the Founding Fathers in the Continental Congress is further seen in the fact that the Congress called for 16 separate days of prayer and fasting, or thanksgiving and prayer, depending on the progress of the war, during the five years of its duration. For example, on December 11, 1776, the colonists were:

... to reverence the Providence of God ... and beg the countenance of his Providence in the prosecution of the present just and necessary war.<sup>9</sup>

Their language here was not just some kind of religious boilerplate. So concerned were they about the moral and spiritual lives of the soldiers that on June 30, 1775, the Continental Congress decreed:



It is earnestly recommended to all officers and soldiers diligently to attend Divine service; and all officers and soldiers who shall behave indecently or irreverently at any place of Divine worship, shall . . . be brought before a court martial.<sup>10</sup>

It is not possible to accurately teach American history without taking into account the religious motivations and worldview of those who discovered this continent, settled the original colonies, fought for our independence from Britain, and established our government.

The sharing of that Bible-based worldview on the part of both the people and their political leadership during the founding period meant that there was fundamental agreement on the self-evident truths that motivated the struggle for independence and the founding of our government.

Americans still believe that all men are equal before God and before the law; we still believe that these human beings who are created equal are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; we still believe that governments exist primarily to secure these rights; we still believe that the authority of government rests only on the consent of the governed, and that if the government loses that consent, the people have the right to alter or abolish it.

These self-evident truths of the Declaration of Independence that are the basis for American government are still unique among the nations to this very hour. Let us teach our children the uniqueness of America — ***that this is a godly experiment in self-government that has no equal in all of human history.***

Let us pass on to them a love of this great nation; and let us lay on their hearts a sense of duty and responsibility to ensure that this experiment succeeds, that what Lincoln called “the last, best hope of earth” does not fail, and that Lady Liberty’s torch in New York Harbor is never allowed to go dark. ✚

#### Notes:

- 1) M. Stanton Evans, *The Theme is Freedom*, (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 1966) p. 238.
- 2) Ibid, p. 239.
- 3) Ibid, p. 238.
- 4) Ibid, p. 240.
- 5) Ellis Sandoz, *A Government of Laws*, (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2001) p. 156.
- 6) Ibid, p. 134.
- 7) John M. Mulder and John F. Wilson, eds., *Religion in American History: Interpretive Essays* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1978).
- 8) Samuel Rutherford, *Lex, Rex: The Law and the Prince*, Google Books (Online version), p. 25.
- 9) Worthington C. Ford, et al. (eds.), *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, (Washington, D.C., 1904-37), Vol. IX, pp. 854-55.
- 10) Avalon Project, Yale University (Online), *Journals of the Continental Congress*, “Articles of War, June 30, 1775,” Article II.

## The Plunge into Paganism

The shift of America from a society based on Judeo-Christian principles to one based on secular, pagan ideas has been breathtaking in its speed.

As an example, consider the following remarks made to *Time* magazine in February 1954 by Earl Warren shortly after he was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by President Eisenhower:



“I believe no one can read the history of our country without realizing that the Good Book and the spirit of the Savior have from the beginning been our guiding geniuses . . . Whether we look to the first charter of Virginia . . . or the Charter of New England . . . or the Charter of Massachusetts Bay . . . or the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut . . . the same objective is present . . . a Christian land governed by Christian principles.

“I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it: freedom of belief, of expression, of assembly, of petition, the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the home, equal justice under law, and the reservation of powers to the people.

“I like to believe we are living today in the spirit of the Christian religion. I like also to believe that as long as we do so, no great harm can come to our country.”

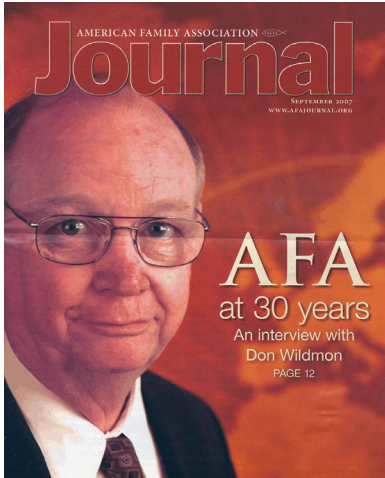
If the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court were to make such a statement today, there would undoubtedly be an immediate effort on the part of Congress to impeach him on the grounds that he had violated “the separation of church and state.”

We have jettisoned our Christian heritage. We have plunged into paganism, and we are reaping the consequences as we witness the moral collapse of our society. As Erwin Lutzer, pastor of Moody Bible Church in Chicago has put it: “When God is separated from government, judgment follows.” ✚

# The Truth Hurts

**Don Wildmon**

[Editor's note: Don Wildmon is the founder and chairman of the American Family Association. This article first appeared in the *AFA Journal* in February 2004. It was recently reprinted in the journal in January 2010. You can find the journal online at [www.afajournal.org](http://www.afajournal.org).]



A friend of mine went to see the doctor some years back. He didn't want to hear what the doctor told him. And I doubt very seriously that the doctor looked forward to telling my friend the bad news. But he did tell him and my friend did listen. He was told he had cancer.

None of us want to hear bad news. None of us want to believe it. But truth is true and we best listen to it and act on it.

Unfortunately, like Armenian King Tigranes the Great, if we don't like the message, we are often inclined to kill the messenger.

As we move toward the 27th anniversary of AFA, I guess it is time to reiterate something that I have said for the last 20 years. There is the possibility that I may make some, perhaps many, angry.

For me, the easy thing to do would be to ignore what I'm going to say. Just forget it. Why bother when I know that it will bring a negative reaction?

I do not consider myself a prophet. I do not consider myself to be wiser than others. I guess the only thing that sets me apart is that I have more than a quarter of a century of experience in dealing with the problem.

## The Bad News We Must Face

And just what is the problem, the bad news? Basically this: our country is on a downward spiral of immorality like none we have ever seen before. Special rights for homosexuals have become the latest project for Hollywood and the liberal elite. Pornography fills our Internet, our TVs, our movies. Killing of the unborn continues unabated.

Drugs ravage our society. Promiscuous sexual activity is a game. Public education, to a large degree, is deteriorating in a continual exercise of political correctness. Violence is a means of resolving an argument or just an activity for sheer enjoyment. The institution of marriage is under severe attack. Religious freedom is in danger.

## Fixing the Blame

And who is to blame for this downward spiral? It isn't the pornographers. It isn't Hollywood or the liberal elite. It isn't Planned Parenthood. It isn't the people who make the guns. It

isn't the people who run our schools. It isn't the drug dealers. They're only doing what is expected of them. Unfortunately, we Christians are not.

As the comic character Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Am I saying that we as individuals have caused all this moral decay? No. Absolutely not! But what I am saying is that we collective Christians — members of the Church — have retreated into our houses of worship and turned them into houses of comfort. Those of us who stand in the pulpit and sit in the pew have withdrawn from the public square so much and so often that we are no longer allowed in the public square.

Am I painting with a broad brush? Sure I am. Am I indicting everyone who calls himself a Christian? Of course not. But I am saying, taken as a whole, we have abandoned our responsibility to society.

## Entertaining Rather Than Challenging

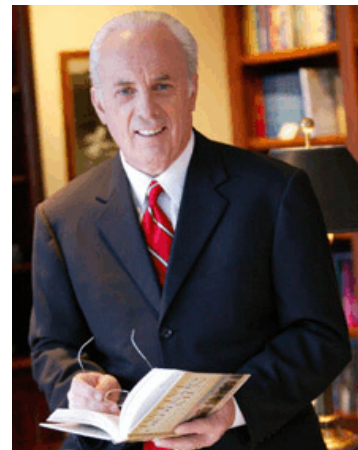
Our efforts have basically been designed to make Christianity popular and comfortable. And in the process we are no longer salt and light. We have built our buildings, hosted our activities, boasted of our numbers and sought endless ways to entice people to join our church. We have, to a very large degree, turned our efforts to getting people into church instead of getting the church into people.

Is there still time to turn this ship around? Maybe. Maybe not. But one thing is certain. The church can't do it by following the path we have been on for the past half-century.

If you are one who stands behind the pulpit or sits in the pew, take a long look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself the question: "Is he talking about me?"

Am I writing this to make someone angry? No. Am I writing it with the hope that it will make someone take inventory and get involved? Yes.

Let me close by speaking to myself. You can personalize what I have to say if you desire. Individually I can't do everything. But I can do something. And by the grace of God I will do what I can. And I will start today. ✚



**Dr. John MacArthur**

"There comes a point in God's dealing with men and nations, groups of people, when He abandons them . . . Sin is so rampant in our country, it is so widespread, it is so tolerated by people in leadership and even people in the church, it is so widely tolerated it is pandemic; it is endemic; that is, it is in the very fabric of our life that I believe God has just taken away the restraining grace that might preserve our nation, and has let our nation run to its own doom."



## Others May, You Cannot!

G. D. Watson

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to measure yourself by other Christians; and in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will never let you do.

Other Christians and ministers who seem very religious and useful, can push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their Christian goals, but these things you simply cannot do. Others may boast of their work or their writings or their success, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you ever try it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, but most likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him and the joy of seeing Him supply your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and keep you hidden and unappreciated because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work on and on without knowing how much you are doing; and then, to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will rebuke you for little words or deeds or even feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem to be concerned about, but you must make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign and He has a right to do whatever He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in the way He deals with you, but if you will just submit yourself to Him in all things, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are very near to His heart.

Settle it, then that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that your secret heart becomes pleased and delighted with this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, then you will have entered the very vestibule of heaven itself. ✚

*G. D. Watson (1845-1924) was a Wesleyan Methodist minister and evangelist who was born in Virginia. After pastoring several churches, he settled in California and started holding evangelistic campaigns in foreign countries, including England, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Korea. He authored several hymns and books.*



## Food For Thought

## The Church —

“If Christianity is to receive a rejuvenation, it must be by other means than any now being used. If the church in the second half of this century (the 20<sup>th</sup>) is to recover from the injuries she suffered in the first half, there must appear a new type of preacher.

“The proper, ruler-of-the-synagogue type will never do. Neither will the priestly type of man who carries out his duties, takes his pay and asks no questions, nor the smooth-talking pastoral type who knows how to make the Christian religion acceptable to everyone. All these have been tried and found wanting.

“Another kind of religious leader must arise among us. He must be of the old prophet type, a man who has seen a vision of God and has heard His voice from the Throne. When he comes (and I pray God there will not be one but many) he will stand in flat contradiction to everything our smirking, smooth civilization holds dear. He will contradict, denounce and protest in the name of God and will earn the hatred and opposition of a large segment of Christendom.” ✚



A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)



John MacArthur

“Evangelicals these days care less about theology than they do about methodology . . .

“What’s the heart of the problem? It boils down to this: Much of the Evangelical Movement has forgotten who is Lord over the Church. They have abandoned or downright rejected their true Head and given His rightful place to evangelical pollsters and church-growth gurus.” ✚

**Bill Leslie**, former pastor of the LaSalle Street Church in Chicago: “As churches grow, wealthier and more successful, they’re less likely to sing ‘This world is not my home, I’m just a passin’ through’ and more likely to intone, ‘This is my Father’s world.’”

**Mike Gendron**, founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries: “In the Middle Ages the focus of Christianity was on the Church. During the Reformation, the focus shifted to the Scriptures. Today, the focus is on the opinions of Men and feelings.”

**William Booth**, founder of the Salvation Army, writing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, stated that by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century he expected that the Church would be preaching “Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, and Heaven without Hell.” ✚

# Supporting Missions

We are heavily involved in the support of missions, both within the United States and abroad. Last year we provided more than \$245,000 in cash donations and services to missions.

This year we will be providing regular support to 7 domestic ministries and 12 foreign ones. A summary of our involvement is presented below. All the ministries listed are ones that we send money to monthly.

## Domestic

Lion of Judah Ministries (Gary Fisher) in Franklin, Tennessee  
According to Prophecy Ministries (Don Perkins) in San Diego, California

Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries (Al Gist) in DeRidder, Louisiana

Crown & Sickie Ministries (Don McGee) in Amite, Louisiana  
Mercy Ships (Becky Bynum) in Lindale, Texas

Acts 29 Ministries (Jack & Sally Hollingsworth) in Panama City Beach, Florida

Spirit of Grace (Dennis Pollock) in McKinney, Texas

## Foreign

Hands of Luke Ministries (Marco Samaniego) in Juarez, Mexico

Treasured Truth Ministries (Ken Humphries) in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dugit Ministries (Avi Mizrahi) in Tel Aviv, Israel

Christian Life Ministries (Nazir Gill) in Faisalabad, Pakistan

Christian Friends of Israel (Ray & Sharon Sanders) in Jerusalem

Revival Literature Fellowship (John Ishmael) in Bangalore, India

Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines

Evangelist Edmund Martinez in the Philippines

Pastor Abraham Louw in Kimberley, South Africa

Pastor Kazik Barchuck in Poland

Evangelist Paul Liu in Mainland China

Evangelist Donald Dolmus in Nicaragua

Also, from time to time, we take on a special missions fund-raising project, like constructing a church building or purchasing a vehicle or sound equipment. We also respond to emergency needs. Accordingly, in January we provided a total of \$2,000 to two ministries operating in Haiti.

You can designate gifts for any of the ministries listed above. All the funds provided will be forwarded to the designated ministry. We do not take out any handling fees. If you desire to make a gift to missions for us to use as we see fit, you can designate your gift for "Missions Outreach."

In addition to the activities specified above, we occasionally send free materials to pastors all over the world who request them. However, because this has become so costly, we usually direct the ones making these requests to our website where we have a host of materials that can be downloaded or printed free of charge. We also finance the publication of our study materials in many different languages.

We praise God for enabling us to become a channel of blessings to so many other ministries. ✚



(Internet photo. Photographer unknown.)

## Missions Snapshots

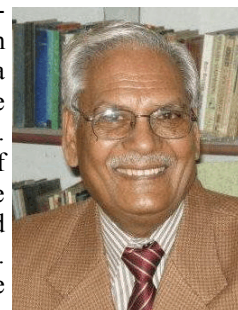


Gary & daughter, Lindsey

**Gary Fisher** surrendered a career with the Tandy Corporation (Radio Shack) to establish Lion of Judah Ministries in 1994 in Franklin, Tennessee. His wife, Pam, and his daughter, Lindsey, are both active workers in the ministry. Gary is a popular conference speaker and an outstanding Bible teacher. He publishes a bi-monthly

update on the Signs of the Times. You can find his website at [www.lionofjudahministry.org](http://www.lionofjudahministry.org).

**Nazir Gill** is a Pakistani pastor and evangelist who risks his life daily to proclaim the Gospel in a Muslim nation. He has a great zeal for Bible prophecy and the proclamation of the soon return of Jesus. He has translated and published many of our materials into Pakistani languages. He is also actively involved in providing aid to those being persecuted for their faith. The name of his ministry is Christian Life Ministries. It is located in Faisalabad. His email address is [nazirjohn@yahoo.com](mailto:nazirjohn@yahoo.com).



Nazir Gill



Ken Humphries

**Kenneth Humphries** is a native of Northern Ireland. Many years ago he gave up a bakery business to become a Baptist pastor. Then, in 2004 he made another major career change when he decided to become a full time evangelist focusing on the teaching of Bible prophecy and the proclamation of the Lord's soon return. His ministry is called Treasured Truth Today. The website is [www.treasuredtruthtoday.org](http://www.treasuredtruthtoday.org). In addition to preaching and teaching throughout Britain, he and his wife, Isa, conduct a lot of missions work in Rumania.



### 1) Television and Video

Broadcast 52 weeks of *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs over four national networks and three regional networks with access to over 80 million homes.

Produced 26 new *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs and revised 4 others.

Produced and edited two new songs for use on television programs.

Broadcast our 381st television program in December.

Produced eight new video albums.

Produced a video movie aimed at sharing the Gospel with those left behind after the Rapture.

Reproduced and distributed nearly 25,000 DVD video programs.

### 2) Internet and Website

Sent out 57 e-newsletters to 13,000 subscribers, sharing biblical messages and the electronic *Lamplighter* magazine.

Experienced 100,000 to 150,000 unique visitors to our website each month.

Launched "The Christ in Prophecy" Facebook group to foster Bible prophecy related discussion.

Posted 343 Bible prophecy related articles on "The Christ in Prophecy Journal" blog.

Streamed over 100 "Christ in Prophecy" TV shows.

Answered hundreds of spiritual questions submitted by email and discussion forums.

### 3) Preaching and Teaching

Completed a total of 21 speaking engagements:

11 weekend conferences at churches.

8 Bible prophecy conferences.

2 Bible study groups.

Participated in 10 radio interviews.

### 4) Publications

Produced 6 issues of the Ministry's magazine, *The Lamplighter*.

Helped finance the publication of the ministry's materials in several foreign languages.

Published two new issues of "Bible Prophecy Insights."

Published the third edition of *America the Beautiful?*

Published a Holy Land calendar for 2010.



Dave Reagan (on the left) and Nathan Jones (on the right)  
with prophecy writer Mark Hitchcock.

### 5) Missions

Shipped Bible study materials and Bibles to individuals and missions in many different foreign countries.

Provided regular monthly financial support to 19 missions — 7 domestic and 12 foreign.

Donated a total of more than \$245,000 in cash and services to missions.

### 6) Israel

Conducted one Holy Land pilgrimage with 71 pilgrims.

Provided financial assistance to several ministries in Israel.

### 7) Conferences

Conducted our annual Bible Conference with 650 attendees.

Put together a Bible Prophecy Conference for a church in Texas.

Participated in 6 Bible prophecy conferences sponsored by other ministries.

### 8) Finances

Received 20,323 gifts from 4,520 donors.

Received a \$120,000 foundation grant for television broadcasting.

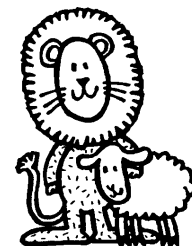
Experienced growth in Prophecy Partners to a total of 2,345.

Received re-certification as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability following an extensive audit.

Received a four star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)).

Ended the calendar year with all bills paid in full for the 30th year in a row.

We are praising God for a very blessed year! Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and financial support.



# The Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference

Friday Evening and All Day Saturday, June 25 & 26

## *“Defending the Faith”*



Ed Hindson



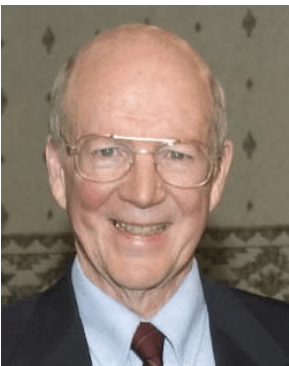
Convention site: The Marriott Courtyard Hotel  
in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.



Brannon Howse



Mike Gendron



Jobe Martin



Larry McCoy

### Music

Jack Hollingsworth, the featured singer on the Lamb & Lion TV show, “Christ in Prophecy,” will present Gospel music throughout the conference.

Larry McCoy, a gifted Christian musician from Gallatin, Tennessee, will begin the conference on Friday evening with a special concert that will feature songs from his incredible Revelation album in which he has put the entire book of Revelation to music.



Ron Rhodes

### Speaker’s Topics

**Brannon Howse:** *“The Truth of the Christian Worldview”*

**Mike Gendron:** *“The Truth of the Bible”*

**Jobe Martin:** *“The Truth of Creation”*

**Dave Reagan:** *“The Truth of the Virgin Birth”*

**Eric Barger:** *“The Truth of Jesus’ Divinity”*

**Ron Rhodes:** *“The Truth of the Resurrection”*



Eric Barger

### Banquet

On Saturday evening, following the conclusion of the conference, there will be a banquet at the hotel to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lamb & Lion Ministries. Ed Hindson, one of Christendom’s most anointed Bible prophecy teachers, will be the featured speaker.

***The conference is free of charge. The banquet will cost \$35 per person. Registration for the conference is required due to limited seating. To register, call 972-736-3567 or register at the Lamb & Lion website: [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com).***



Jack Hollingsworth



# Ministry News

## Tyler, Texas Conference —

In **March**, Lamb & Lion Ministries will sponsor a Bible Prophecy Conference in Tyler, Texas that will be hosted by the Rose Heights Church. It will begin Saturday morning the 13<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Sunday morning the 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference is free of charge, but registration is required. To register, call the Rose Heights Church at 903-566-2080, or register at their website located at [www.roseheights.org](http://www.roseheights.org). Featured speakers, in addition to Dr. Reagan, will be Nathan Jones (Lamb & Lion's Web Minister) and Don McGee (Crown & Sickie Ministries). Jack and Sally Hollingsworth will provide special music for the conference.

## Speaking Schedule —

In **March** Dr. Reagan will speak Saturday night and Sunday morning at the River of Life Community Church in Springfield, Kentucky (20-21). In **April** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak at the Worldview Conference in Branson, Missouri (23-25). In **May** Dr. Reagan will speak at a conference in Winchester, Kentucky that is being sponsored by three churches (1-2). Also in May Dr. Reagan will speak at the Mid-America Bible Prophecy Conference sponsored by Prophecy Watch Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma (7-8). In mid-May Dr. Reagan will speak at three Code Blue Rallies in Harrisburg, Allentown, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (14-16). Dr. Reagan will conclude the month of May by speaking at the Sunday morning and evening services of his home church, Faith Fellowship in Lucas, Texas (23).

## Prophecy Partners —



Prophecy Partners Tom & Clara Bronico from Hollywood, FL.

We need your support as Prophecy Partners! We have approximately 2,500 Prophecy Partners scattered all across our nation. Each one has made a commitment to pray for us daily, to tell others about the ministry and its message, and to provide a minimum of \$20 a month in financial support. Each month they receive a letter from Dr. Reagan and a special gift, usually a DVD containing one of the ministry's television programs. Please pray about becoming one of our Prophecy Partners. To sign up for the program, or to ask questions about it, call 972-736-3567.



## Finances for 2009 —

We are a member of the ECFA, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. To be a member, an organization must abide by the highest principles of fund raising and expense accountability. We strongly believe that any Christian organization that depends on donations for its existence should be fully open about all financial matters. Accordingly, we have posted our 2009 audit and our Form 990 report to the IRS on our website at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com). Below is a short summary of our 2009 finances, presented on a cash basis.

### Revenue:

Sales:	300,192	13.4%
Undesignated Gifts:	1,780,021	79.6%
Designated Gifts:	120,179	5.4%
Other Income:	<u>35,078</u>	1.6%
Total Income:	2,235,470	
Carry-over from 2008:	<u>+ 134,651</u>	
Total Funds Available:	2,370,121	

### Expenses:

Administration:	254,174	13.4%
Fund Raising:	46,682	2.5%
Missions:	246,381	13.0%
Outreach:	<u>1,350,775</u>	71.1%
Total Expenditures:	1,897,927	

2009 Cash Carry-over: 472,194

For five years in a row we have received the highest possible rating (4 stars) from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)).

## Next Israel Pilgrimage —

Our next general tour of Israel is tentatively scheduled for November. Hopefully, we will have the exact dates soon. If you are interested in participating in this tour, call our office at 972-736-3567 and we will put your name on a notification list.

## Board of Trustees —



This picture of the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees was taken at their annual retreat that is held each year in December at Lake Texoma near Denison, Texas.



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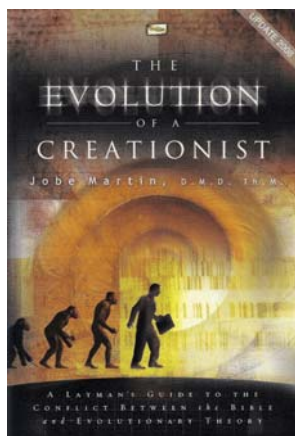
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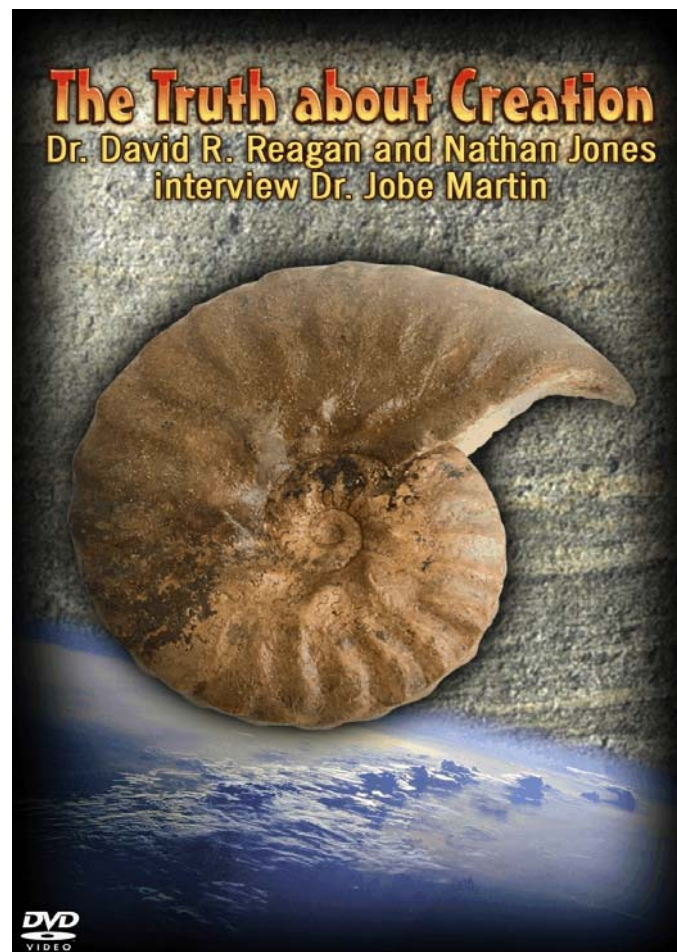
## Insights about Creation

We have just produced a new video album concerning the Creation vs Evolution debate. The album features four interviews with Dr. Jobe Martin, the founder and director of Biblical Discipleship Ministries, located in Rockwall, Texas.



Dr. Martin was a professor of Dentistry at the Baylor School of Dentistry when his evolutionary views were challenged by a couple of his students. Their questions prompted him to engage in serious research and Bible study regarding the question of origins. The result was a spiritual pilgrimage that led him to a Creationist viewpoint. He chronicles that story in his book, *The Evolution of a Creationist*. We are offering that book for a cost of \$15.

The two parts of God's Word that have been the most abused by spiritualizers are the beginning and the end — the creation story in Genesis and the end



time prophecies of the book of Revelation. Dr. Martin presents some powerful arguments for accepting the Genesis story for its plain sense meaning. He also presents some convincing arguments against the unbiblical theory of Evolution. And he strongly affirms the literal meaning of end time prophecies.

The video runs 95 minutes in length and costs \$12. To order either the book or the video, please call 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. We can provide both to you at a cost of \$25. ✚



Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones with Dr. & Mrs. Jobe Martin.