The Greatest Mystery of Bible Prophecy
Observations by the Editor

Off To A Bad Start

I was glad that Donald Trump was elected President in comparison with the terrible alternative who would have continued and accelerated the abominable, ungodly policies of the Obama Administration.

But I was terribly disappointed with Trump’s inaugural address. I thought it was the worst one I have heard in my lifetime, and I am 78 years old.

An inaugural address is a time for putting politics aside in order to speak of vision and hope. President Trump did not take this high road. Instead, he delivered a mean-spirited, petty political stump speech. It was not visionary or inspirational. And it certainly was not designed to unify our nation.

Someone on his staff who read the speech in advance needed to emphasize to him that the election was over, that he won it, and that now it was time to put the partisan, divisive language aside and speak only about his vision for America.

In like manner, someone on his staff needs to have a heart-to-heart, down-to-earth talk with him about how to handle criticism. Thus far he has responded to his critics as a thin-skinned, hot-headed, nasty person.

The first thing that needs to be emphasized to him is that he should stop trying to respond personally to every critic. When he does so, he simply gives them additional attention and encourages them to attack him with greater fury. He needs to pay attention to the wisdom contained in Proverbs 15:1, which says, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Second, President Trump needs to stop attacking people personally. This is gutter politics, beneath the dignity of the Presidency. In a tweet response to criticism by Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer, the President called him “the head Clown” of the Democrats. And in response to Meryl Streep’s criticism of his politics at the Golden Globe Awards — during which she never mentioned his name — Trump attacked her personally by calling her the most “overrated actress in Hollywood.” Really? What nonsense!

President Trump has an admirable political agenda:

- Enforcing our immigration laws
- Reducing our taxes
- Cutting government spending
- Eliminating overbearing government regulations
- Stopping the flow of industry out of our country
- Creating new jobs
- Protecting Christian freedoms
- Identifying our enemy, Islam, by name and dealing with it decisively
- Cutting the red tape of bureaucracy
- Providing strong support for Israel
- Backing our police forces
- Overhauling the Veteran’s Administration
- Avoiding the nonsense of political correctness
- Appointing true Conservatives to the Supreme Court

I could go on and on with this list. The point is that the President does not need to spend his time barking like an attack dog. He needs to focus on his positive vision of America and get to work implementing it.
Dr. David R. Reagan

There are many mysteries in Bible prophecy. For example, when Revelation 17:5 mentions “Mystery Babylon” as the end times headquarters of the Antichrist, is it referring to the site of ancient Babylon or to modern day Rome? And what about 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12? Does this passage mean that those who hear the Gospel and reject it before the Rapture will continue to do so throughout the Tribulation?

These are difficult and hotly debated questions. Even those who believe in the interpretation of prophecy for its plain sense meaning disagree on the answers. And the reason is simple: prophecy is not always precisely clear. And that, in turn, provides room for honest disagreement as to its meaning.

I have studied Bible prophecy intensely for 40 years. Most of it I think I understand. But there are definitely areas where it’s like looking into a dim mirror (1 Corinthians 13:12). And so, I have compiled a list of questions for the Lord, for we are promised that when He returns He will make all things clear to us (1 Corinthians 13:9-12).

The great Bible teacher, Vance Havner (1901-1986), put the problem this way:

There are a lot of questions the Bible doesn’t answer about the Hereafter. But I think one reason is illustrated by the story of a boy sitting down to a bowl of spinach when there’s a chocolate cake at the end of the table. He’s going to have a rough time eating that spinach when his eyes are on the cake. And if the Lord had explained everything to us about what’s ours to come, I think we’d have a rough time with our spinach down here.

With regard to prophecy, the Bible contains a lot of detailed prophecies about Israel in the end times and about end time events like the Rapture, the Tribulation and the Millennium. But it has very little to say about the Eternal State.

We are told that the Redeemed will live in New Bodies in a New Jerusalem which will be located on a New Earth (Revelation 21:1-8).

Beyond that, all we are told is that God will descend to the New Earth to live in the New Jerusalem with us and that we will see His face and serve Him forever (Revelation 22:3-4).

These verses pose some intriguing questions:

Chapters 4-18 — The Tribulation
Chapter 19 — The Second Coming
Chapter 20 — The Millennium
Chapters 21-22 — The Eternal State

Near the end of chapter 21, as John is describing in detail the various aspects of the New Jerusalem where the Redeemed will reside forever, he suddenly interjects what is to many a jolting statement about nations that will be on the New Earth outside the New Jerusalem:

24) The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
25) In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed;
26) and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;
27) and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Nor is that all that is said about these nations. In the next chapter, John tells about seeing a River of Life flowing from God’s throne with the Tree of Life on each side of the river bearing twelve kinds of fruit every month (Revelation 22:1-2). And then comes the next mysterious statement: “. . . and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2).

For me, the greatest mystery of Bible prophecy relates to something that is said about the Eternal State.

But first, for those of you who may not be so familiar with the book of Revelation, let me lay it out for you in chronological order. In chapters 1 through 3, Jesus appears to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos 65 years after His death, burial and resurrection. Through John, Jesus assures His churches that He is with them in the midst of their persecution by the Roman Empire. At that point, John is raptured to Heaven (Revelation 4:1) where he experiences the incredible throne room of God and the glorious worship that fills it constantly (chapters 4 and 5).

The Lord then begins to give John a prophetic panorama of end time events:

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The Greatest Mystery

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These verses pose some intriguing questions:
Who are the nations on the New Earth outside the New Jerusalem?

Why do these nations need healing?

**Proposed Solutions to the Identity of the Nations**

Most commentaries just ignore these verses and the questions raised by them. For example, you will not find any commentary in books about Revelation written by such notables as Charles Swindoll, W. A. Criswell, Donald Grey Barnhouse, William Hendriksen, H. A. Ironside, Herbert Lockyer, and Ray Stedman.

Even the best and most detailed book ever written about the Eternal State — *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn — fails to develop these enigmatic verses in any depth.

**Applied to the Millennium**

Many commentators over the years who have paid attention to the mystery of the nations on the New Earth have tried to solve it by arguing that the verses are a flash-back to the Millennium when we know for certain that people in natural, sinful bodies will be living on the earth — these being the believing survivors of the Tribulation and the children born to them during the Millennium.

A good example of this view can be found in the commentary by G. R. Beasley-Murray (1916-2000): “The symbolism is more suitable to the order of life in the kingdom of Christ than in the new creation.”

But there is simply no textual basis for assigning these verses to the Millennium. They are located in the midst of the description of the New Earth and the New Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the New Jerusalem does not descend to earth until after the Millennium when the present earth has been consumed by fire and remolded into the New Earth.

**Saved Nations of Glorified Saints**

A second solution for the mystery is based upon faulty manuscripts of Revelation 21:24. This is the easy way out of the mystery for most of the authors who even bother to pay attention to it.

The King James Version reads, “. . . and the nations of them which are saved . . .” Based on this reading, many commentators simply conclude the Redeemed will be able to live either inside the New Jerusalem or on the New Earth outside the city or both. Some of the authors who take this position include Adam Clarke, Albert Barnes, Daymond Duck, John Walvoord, Salem Kirban, Tim LaHaye, Herschel Hobbs, and Mark Hitchcock.

The problem is that the phrase, “of them which are saved,” is not found in any of the oldest manuscripts. It was apparently added by some scribe along the way who was attempting to solve the mystery. This phrase has been deleted from nearly all modern versions (NIV, NASB, RSV, and ESV). The New King James Version keeps the phrase but provides a footnote that explains it is not found in the oldest manuscripts.

So, based on this manuscript error, one cannot conclude decisively that the nations referred to as being outside the New Jerusalem on the New Earth are made up of glorified saints. And this “solution” does not solve the second problem as to why the nations need healing.

**Other Redeemed People**

A third solution to the mystery is the idea that those saved during the Tribulation who entered the Millennium in the flesh, and those born of these people during the Millennium who accept Jesus, will be transferred to the New Earth in their natural bodies and will live outside the New Jerusalem and repopulate the New Earth.

Take, for example, the famous illustrator of the Bible, Clarence Larkin (1850-1924). He argues that before the earth is consumed in fire, God will “take off the righteous representatives of the Millennial nations that He proposes to save, and when the earth is again fit to be the abode of men, place them back on the New Earth, that they may increase and multiply and replenish, as Adam and Noah were told to multiply and replenish the current earth” (Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 9:1). He further states that when the ever-increasing population of the earth becomes too large, the excess will be used to populate other planets.

Larkin concludes with this observation:

God will not permit Satan to block His plans for peopling this earth with a Sinless Human Race. The death of Christ was not merely to redeem a few millions of the human race, but to redeem the Earth and the Race Itself from the curse of sin, and the dominion of Satan.

Likewise, Henry Morris (1918-2006), the renowned creation scientist, speculates that the nations on the New Earth could very well be those saved during the Tribulation and Millennium who will be transferred to the New Earth in natural bodies. He admits that this interpretation is “fraught with difficulties,” but he points out that it solves several problems. After all, the Scriptures refer many times to “perpetual generations” (Genesis 9:12) and to “everlasting covenants” (Genesis 9:12-16). Also, we are told in
Morris admits that his proposal is “highly speculative, but does appear somewhat reasonable.” He then states that perhaps “the more likely alternative exposition” is that these are “nations of the saved” who are residents of the New Jerusalem, “but have also been given national boundaries on the new earth.”

David Hocking agrees with Morris’ speculative proposal. He writes: “Probably those who come out of the Tribulation period, those described as ‘sheep’ in Matthew 25:31-46, and those born during the Millennium who do not rebel against the Messiah, are all a part of the ‘nations’ on earth in the eternal state.”

John MacArthur agrees: “Another possible interpretation is that this phrase [nations on the New Earth] refers to the believers living at the end of the Millennium. According to that view, the statement . . . refers to the translation of those believers before the uncreation of the present planet.”

Others agreeing with this idea include E. W. Bullinger, J. A. Seiss and Keith Krell. It is also the position of Hal Lindsey.

J. A. Seiss (1823-1904) wrote: “I . . . hold it to be a necessary and integral part of the Scriptural doctrine of redemption, that our race, as a self-multiplying order of beings, will never cease either to exist or to possess the earth . . . Ransomed nations in the flesh are therefore among the occupants of the new earth, and the blessed and happy dwellers in it, as Adam and Eve dwelt in Paradise.”

Keith Krell, pastor of Fourth Memorial Church in Spokane, Washington and associate professor of biblical exposition at Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, explains his position in the following way:

It is clear from the context that John is talking about a group of people who have access to the New Jerusalem but who don’t live there.

There is only one group of people left on earth to go into eternity in their physical bodies — believers that served Christ during His millennium kingdom. They go into eternity in their physical, glorified bodies, not spiritual glorified bodies like we [Church Age saints] will have because they did not experience death and resurrection. These people will go into eternity with bodies like Adam and Eve had at their creation before they were flawed by sin.

This explanation raises another mystery: What is a “physical glorified body”? This is something never mentioned in the Scriptures.

Unusual Explanations

Two very renowned biblical expositors present highly imaginative and challenging explanations of the nations on the

... the “nations” are composed of saved people who survive the millennial kingdom without dying and without joining Satan’s rebellion and who undergo some sort of transformation that suits them for life in the Eternal State. They will be like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden prior to the Fall. They will be...
unresurrected human beings who will inhabit the new earth . . . These will be the ones over whom God’s resurrected saints will reign. Nations, peoples and men on earth must continue in the flesh as Adam and Eve did before the Fall.

This explanation leaves me wanting more information. For example, what is meant by “some sort of transformation that suits them for life in the eternal state”? And why must “nations, peoples and men on earth” have to continue in the flesh?

There are two very detailed articles about perpetual generations that can be found on the Internet:

- Darrel Mitchell: “God’s Plan: Eternal Inhabitants.”
- F. M. Riley: “A Thousand Generations”

Both of these authors agree that there will be nations of people on the New Earth who will exist in natural bodies. They also agree that these people will be composed of unresurrected saints who come from two groups:

- Those saved during the Tribulation who live to the end of the Tribulation and are allowed to enter the Millennium in the flesh.
- Those born during the Millennium who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

The Scriptures indicate that both of these groups will have their life spans extended to the “lifetime of a tree” (Isaiah 65:20-22), meaning they will live to the end of the Millennium, at which time these writers assume they will be transferred to the New Earth in their natural bodies.

Both of these writers affirm that “the earth was created to be inhabited by ‘natural’ beings that were promised the earth as an ‘eternal inheritance’” (Exodus 32:13; Psalm 37:29; and Matthew 5:5). They also make the point that God originally created Man to live forever in his natural body, and that those existing on the New Earth in such bodies will fulfill God’s original purpose of replenishing the earth with natural people (Genesis 1:27-31 and Genesis 9:7). Both authors also agree that the sin nature will be removed from these inhabitants of the New Earth, restoring them to “the state of purity and innocence that Adam and Eve were in when God created them.”

Both writers recognize that an objection to their concept is the Apostle Paul’s statement: “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the imperishable inherit the imperishable” (1 Corinthians 15:50). Their counter argument is that these nations on the New Earth are subjects of the Lord’s kingdom and not inheritors. Only resurrected saints in glorified bodies are co-heirs with Christ in His eternal kingdom (Romans 8:17).

Proposed Solutions to the “Healing of the Leaves”

Just like the references to nations on the New Earth, the comment in Revelation 22:2 about the nations being healed by the leaves of the Tree of Life is usually overlooked in commentaries or else spiritualized into meaninglessness.

As an example of spiritualization, consider this explanation by Robert Hawker (1753-1827):

Look at Jesus as the Tree of Life . . . He bears twelve manner of fruits, that is, all variety: He hath pardon, mercy, peace, grace, love, strength, comfort, deliverance in temptations, recoveries in back-slidings, helps in times of need, preparation for ordinances, and blessings in the use of them.

Mercifully, most commentators are more down to earth. The vast majority take the position that the word, “healing,” should be translated as “health” or “service.” They point out that Revelation 21:4 proclaims that when the Eternal State begins, death will be abolished and there will no longer be any mourning, crying or pain. Therefore, the “healing” provided by the
leaves of the Tree of Life must refer to the maintenance of perfect health and not the healing of sickness.

Here are some representative samples of this explanation:

- Clarence Larkin: “The leaves of the trees are for the Healing of the Nations that shall occupy the New Earth. Not that there will be any sickness, but to preserve them in health, as Adam would have been preserved in health if he had eaten of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.”

- David Hocking: “It means that the Tree of Life is the key to the perpetual health of all peoples who find themselves in the Eternal State. It is hard to conceive of the need for healing in the Eternal State when all pain and death has been removed forever.”

- John MacArthur: “Perhaps a better way to translate it would be ‘life-giving’ or ‘health-giving’ since the Greek word for ‘healing’ can also mean ‘therapeutic.’ The leaves of the Tree of Life can be likened to supernatural vitamins, since vitamins are taken not to treat illness, but to promote general health.”

Conclusions

So where are we? What can we conclude with certainty? Not much. We mainly have to speculate and refrain from dogmatism.

The only thing I feel like I can personally say with certainty is that in the Eternal State there will be nations living on the New Earth outside the New Jerusalem.

The identity of the nations can only be guessed at. My best guess is that they will be the believing survivors of the Tribulation who will enter the Millennium in the flesh, as well as their descendants born during the Millennium who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. All of these people will live to the end of the Millennium in natural bodies. We are never told that these people will receive glorified bodies like the ones that resurrected believers will receive.

Regardless of their identity, I believe the nations on the New Earth will be in bodies that are capable of reproduction because the Bible says that there will never be any end to the growth and expansion of Jesus’ eternal kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

We are also told that those of us who receive glorified bodies and whose residence will be the New Jerusalem will reign as priests and kings with Jesus forever (Revelation 5:9-10). To do so requires a population for us to minister to and to reign over.

The major problem I am left with is whether or not the nations on the New Earth will be capable of sinning. Most commentators believe they will not, and they have good reasons for believing this. Again, the Bible says the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), and the Scriptures also tell us that in the Eternal State death will be abolished (1 Corinthians 15:25-26 and Revelation 21:4).

But the prohibition against sinners entering the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27) seems to indicate that the people who compose the nations will be capable of committing sins. And if they are not, why would they need priests and kings? This is a mystery to me for which I have no answer.

Consider also that God has never created robots. Even the angels are capable of sinning, and many did so when they joined Satan’s rebellion. All of God’s created beings have free will. Is this to be removed from those in natural bodies who will inhabit the New Earth?

I wish I could give you the answers to these questions, but I cannot. To me, the answers are a mystery.

But what is not a mystery is that God has promised that in the Eternal State the Redeemed are going to be blessed beyond anything imaginable: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Because of promises like this, I yearn with all my heart for that day when Jesus will appear in the heavens and call us home to Him.

Maranatha!

Note: The reference notes for this article can be found attached to the copy of the article that is posted on our website at www.lambion.com.

A Great Book
About Prophetic Interpretation

Dr. Paul Lee Tan’s book about how to interpret Bible prophecy is the best that has ever been published on the subject. It is a classic. Several years ago it was selected by Christianity Today magazine to receive its “Book of the Year” award in the field of Bible prophecy. The book runs 438 pages in length and sells for $20, including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm Central time. Or, place your order thru our website at lambion.com.
The Mysteries of God

Tim Moore

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Many avid readers and movie-goers enjoy a good mystery — a “who-dun-it” where clues accumulate and suspense builds. In the end, mystery books and movies always let the audience in on whatever secret they’ve been harboring.

Scripture tells us that our faith involves a number of mysteries — truths that we accept but cannot yet fully understand. Paul says that even the relationship between a husband and wife is a mystery because it models Christ’s unity with the Church (Ephesians 5:32). Other mysteries hover at the edge of our spiritual consciousness, which is why we walk by faith instead of sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Limits to Understanding

As recorded above in Deuteronomy, Moses clearly acknowledges the limits of our understanding. He says that some realities are beyond our comprehension — belonging only to God. Similarly, the Son of God said the exact timing of His return for the Church is a mystery known only to the Father in heaven (Mark 13:27-32). The mysteries Moses and Jesus spoke of should not discourage us, but should spark excited anticipation for what God will reveal in the fullness of time.

God in His providence has already revealed many otherwise unfathomable truths to us. He has revealed Himself in the person of Jesus Christ. When Peter first confessed Jesus as “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17). And, His Holy Spirit guides believers into all truth — including what is to come (John 16:13 and 1 Corinthians 2:7-10).

God’s gracious willingness to reveal mysteries is age-old. Amos observed, “Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Daniel also realized that the Great Revealer of Truth was no respecter of persons or discriminator among nations. Accordingly, he said, “...there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28). Scripture shows a clear pattern to God’s revelation of mysteries: the revealing always either edifies the recipient or his readers or points them toward the Lord.

Still, there are limits to what the Lord reveals even to His chosen prophets — and the clarity of understanding He allows them. The prophet Daniel recorded many tremendous visions, but even he could not comprehend some of the very events he foresaw. Puzzled, he said, “My Lord, what will be the outcome of these events?” God rebuffed him, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.” God assured Daniel that after a great falling away and rise in wickedness, “those who have insight will understand” (Daniel 12:8-10). In other words, in the end times, some of the great mysteries Daniel recorded will be understood by the faithful even beyond what the prophet himself was allowed.

Confidence in What is Revealed

Here at Lamb & Lion, our ministry focuses on the glorious truth that Jesus Christ is coming again soon. All the Biblical signs of His return are multiplying around us — clearly heralding the season of His return. We take great comfort in Paul’s revelation of the mystery surrounding the Rapture: “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). We believe that we can and do “see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:25; see also 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

Yet, some details regarding the end times remain cloaked in mystery. Avid students of Bible prophecy can passionately pursue discernment while respecting the God-given limits of understanding at the same time. We can have great confidence in God’s revealed prophetic promises and still recognize that we see through a glass dimly. That truth tempers our knowledge with humility and respects the fact that God has preserved some secret things for His own counsel alone. In the end, we can echo the words of Daniel Whittle, author of the hymn, I Know Whom I Have Believed. He confesses the limits of understanding then confidently declares,

But I know Whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I’ve committed, unto Him against that day.

Scripture offers truth to those with eyes to see and ears to hear. Those things revealed do belong to us and our sons forever. Pushing the envelope of prophetic understanding requires diligent, humble study — and a respect for the limitations of mortal comprehension in our quest to know the mind of God.

For now, “we know in part and we prophesy in part,” but in due time we will see the Lord face-to-face and know Him fully as He reveals Himself to us forevermore (1 Corinthians 13:9-12). That gives us yet another reason to shout, “Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

Editor’s note: Tim Moore is an Assistant Evangelist of Lamb & Lion Ministries and is available to speak at weekend church services and conferences. He also serves as the host of all our pilgrimages to Israel. You can contact him at tmoore@lamblion.com.
The Mysterious Role of Islam in the End Times

Nathan E. Jones

A juggernaut marches across the planet. Fueled by the rage of its fanatical death-cult religious leaders, this seemingly unstoppable force tramples over all that stands before its missile-wielding might. The nations’ defenses crumble as cringing UN leaders shakily bear the ineffectual white-flagged weapons of appeasement. This steamroller force, first forged in the blood of a massacre in the far-off Arabian town of Mecca some 1,400 years ago, has since grown exponentially to become the source of terror for billions of people today. This juggernaut’s ominous name is Islam.

Islam, for all intents and purposes, appears poised to conquer the world. Islam’s growth rate has risen 500% over the last 50 years as their birth rate dwarfs the birth rates of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, and Jews. Today’s 1.5 billion Muslims make up 22% of the world’s population and control 65 nations. Between the twin strategies of holy war (jihad) and immigration, Muslims are expected to exceed 50% of the world’s population and surpass Christianity as the largest religion by the end of the 21st Century.

The looming threat of Islamic world dominancy has left many students of Bible prophecy to wonder how Islam’s role will play out in the end times. Islam’s role is a mystery, though, for it was founded over 500 years after the Bible was completed, leaving this force unnamed specifically in the prophetic writings. Quite a number of theories have been advanced anyway, from an Islamic Antichrist to the Mystery Babylon one-world religion, but these can only be mere conjecture. Islam then has become one of the great end time mysteries.

Significance to Prophecies Related to the Jews

While Islam might not be named in Bible prophecy, its role can be gauged by its actions which help lead to the fulfillment of well-defined Bible prophecies. Take, for example, the prolific prophecy concerning God’s promise that the Jews will be gathered back into the land of Israel (Isaiah 11:12; Micah 2:12). This upheaval of cheaply scattered Jews into their homeland is a well-defined Bible prophecy. After the Jews have been gathered back, Islam will come and kill them (Hadith, Sahih of al-Bukhari: Book 041, Number 6985).

As the nations of the world become more Islamic, Muslim persecution of the Jews increases at a rapid pace. The growing wave of anti-Semitism has forced the Jewish people in increasing numbers to emigrate from their countries of residence to Israel in fulfillment of what God foretold.

Significance to Prophecies Related to the Tribulation

Jesus warned that a time will come when “there shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). He was referring to an event called the Tribulation, a seven-year time period referred to by the Hebrew prophets as “the great and terrible day of the LORD” and “the time of Jacob’s distress” (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Joel 2:11,31). It will be “the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth,” as God’s wrath is poured out on the nations for their exceeding wickedness (Revelation 3:10).

Of the eight prophetic end times wars related to the Tribulation, the first two, if not three, deal directly with lands currently controlled by Islam. Therefore, Islam must play a key role in these end time wars.

The Bible prophesies that God will draw the nations encompassing Israel to their destruction. He will focus His wrath on these nations in a series of battles from the Psalm 83 War, to the Gog-Magog War of Ezekiel 38-39, to the setting up of the Antichrist’s kingdom which shockingly destroys one-fourth of the world’s population (Revelation 6). The aftermath of these three wars can only result in the Islamic world having been annihilated at the onset of the Tribulation. God’s wrath upon the Islamic world for their hatred of Israel — the “apple of His eye” — will be fulfilled (Zechariah 2:8).

Significance to Prophecies Related to the Antichrist

The power vacuum left due to the fall of Islam early in the Tribulation could only contribute to the rise of the Antichrist. Islam would then have one final role to play. Monotheism, which Islam had clung so tightly to, would likely be remembered as a danger to world peace. To rid the world of such fundamentalism, the Antichrist will persecute all religions that hold absolute views. Christian and Jewish monotheism would then be perceived as a direct threat to world peace and the False Prophet’s new one-world religion. Other religions would more easily integrate quickly into that ecumenical faith. Those who don’t surrender to the new world order will be heavily persecuted. Revelation vividly depicts this scenario as Tribulation believers bear first-hand the persecution for their absolute faith in Jesus Christ (Revelation 6:11; 7:9-15).

So, Islam may not have a named role in end time Bible prophecy, but other prophecies peel back the mysterious shroud that is Islam in the end times.
One of our supporters recently sent me a copy of Jonathan Cahn’s newest book, *The Book of Mysteries*. I noticed that it is designed to be a daily devotional book, with one page for each day of the year.

I put the book aside for a few days, and then, on the last day of 2016, after completing the devotional book I had been using for that year, I remembered Cahn’s book. I thought I would read the first devotional in it to see if it was something I wanted to devote a year of my devotional time to. Thirty minutes later I was forced to put the book down and race to my car to get to work on time! The next morning I got up early so I could spend an hour reading the book. I was able to finish it in one month’s time because I found it so fascinating.

I can say without hesitation that it is the most spiritually enriching book I have read in years. In fact, I can’t think of a book that has so greatly impacted me spiritually since I started reading the writings of C. S. Lewis many decades ago.

I cannot recommend this book to you too highly. It is simply something you must read, even if you decide to pace it out over a year’s time, as it was designed to be read.

Let me assure you that it is not some off-the-wall sensational book as the title might imply. It contains down-to-earth, deeply insightful commentaries on passages of scripture and on scriptural concepts.

The format revolves around a disciple of the Lord who decides to spend a year in the desert at a spiritual retreat center where he is mentored daily by a person who is identified only as “the teacher.” Each day the teacher provides a new insight into the scriptures and then explains how it relates to living the Christian life today.

Many of the insights are based on the meaning of Hebrew words. Others are related to the Jewish culture and customs of biblical times. Governor Mike Huckabee said of the book, “I was absolutely stunned.” And that is exactly the way I often felt when I would finish reading a page.

Take, for example, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. His name in Hebrew was *Zicharyah* which means “God has remembered.” His wife’s name was Elizabeth, which in Hebrew is *Elishevah*, which means “the oath of God.” So, together, their names mean “God has remembered the oath of God.” Their son was named John, which in Hebrew is *Yochanan*, which means “the grace of God.” Thus, their names are a prophecy: “God’s remembrance of His oath causes to be born the grace of God.”

We are offering this remarkable book for $20, including the cost of shipping. It is hard bound and runs 365 pages in length, plus a prologue and an epilogue. It retails for $21.99. To secure a copy call our office at 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. Or, place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com.
Is Imminency a Biblical Concept?

Todd Strandberg

Prophecy Interpretation

In doing some research on the doctrine of imminency, I noticed few people take the time to actually define what prophetic imminency means. First, let us look at the general definition of the key word, imminent: “The quality or condition of being about to occur.”

Imminency, as it relates to Bible prophecy, simply means that the return of Jesus Christ for the Church can happen at any moment. No warning signs will indicate a short-term countdown. We as Christians are to remain on alert 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If a wife knows her husband normally gets home from work shortly after 4:00 PM, she knows that beginning at 4:00 PM, his arrival is imminent. If the woman knows her husband has to work overtime, the imminency of his 4:00 PM return is then in doubt.

The only way for the Rapture to be truly imminent is to have it transpire before the Tribulation. If the Church were required to wait until after the manifestation of certain events, then there would be no doctrine of imminency.

The Granddaddy of Proofs

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture is the only view that allows for the Rapture to be imminent in its timing. All the other views require a number of prophetic occurrences to take place before the Rapture can be declared imminent. To be looking for the imminent return of Christ, you have to believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture.

Jesus repeatedly said that His return for the Church would be a surprise. The Lord even went beyond that by saying He would return “as a thief” when believers generally won’t be expecting Him to come for them. Consider the following words of Jesus:

Matthew 24:36,42-44 (NASB)

36) But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone ... 42) Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43) But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44) For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

Matthew 25:13

Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Acts 1:7

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

The Impact of Jesus’ Warnings

This type of “any-moment” language doesn’t fit a Post-Trib Rapture. If Jesus were prevented from coming until after the battle of Magog, the rise of the Antichrist, and the Mark of the Beast, we would have no need to watch for Him before the Tribulation.

If the Church were required to go through the seven-year Tribulation, you would expect the New Testament writers to have warned us to be prepared for trying times. On the contrary, the New Testament writers repeatedly tell the Church to be comforted by the coming of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:18). The word “comfort” alone strongly implies the Rapture will take place before the Tribulation.

Some anti-imminency folks try to solve the problem they have with the Rapture’s any-moment occurrence by redefining imminency to simply mean Christ will return soon. But if an event is required to take place before the Lord can return, then the Lord’s return is not imminent and there is no need to remain watchful . . .

Maranatha!

One of the strongest cases one can make for the early Church expecting an imminent return of Christ is to note their use of the word, maranatha, which was used as a greeting in those days. When believers gathered or parted, they didn’t say “hello” or “goodbye;” they would say “Maranatha!”

I’ve encountered some writings that say maranatha is Hebrew and Greek, but it is actually an Aramaic expression. In fact, it is made up of three Aramaic words: Mar, which means “Lord”; ana, which means “our”; and tha, which means “come.”

So when you put it together, maranatha means “Our Lord, come.” It perfectly conveys the concept that the Lord could come at any moment. Maranatha is used once in the Bible by Paul as part of a curse. In 1 Corinthians 16:22, Paul said, “If anyone does
not love the Lord, let him be anathema. Maranatha.” The word “anathema” means “banned,” so Paul was saying, “Let the one who does not love the Lord be banned from our Lord’s coming.”

The interesting thing about maranatha is that it comes in the form of a petition. When a Christian in the early Church would make this statement, he was actually petitioning the Lord to come. This obviously implies the belief that it was possible for Jesus to answer the appeal.

If members of the First-Century Church believed that certain events needed to take place before the Savior could return, they would have been silly to greet each other with “Maranatha!” They lived nearly 2,000 years ago, and yet they seem to have had a deeper awareness of imminency than many of today’s Christians.

The Historical Record

Many of the contemporary writers who attack imminency try to promote the idea that this doctrine was recently dreamed up by men who were ignorant of the true meaning of Scripture.

One detractor states, “This frenzy [imminency] continues to survive today because of modern misconceptions about the purpose of these prophetic events and the time frame for their occurrence.”

Post-Trib believers are the most vocal in their claim that the concepts of imminency and the Pre-Trib Rapture only date back to the early 1800s. For several years, their charges went unanswered, but recently a number of men have dusted off old manuscripts and found several early Church fathers who were clearly looking for an imminent return of the Lord Jesus.

In a 7th Century Syrian tract written by “Pseudo-Ephraem,” the following statement concerning imminency can be found: “All the saints and elect of God are gathered together before the Tribulation, which is to come, and are taken to the Lord, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins.”

A similar sense of imminency can be found in The First Epistle of Clement, (written around 96 A.D. by Clement, a prominent leader of the church at Rome who knew some of the Apostles personally and probably is the Clement referred to in Philippians 4:3): “Of a truth, soon and suddenly shall His will be accomplished, as the Scripture also bears witness, saying, ‘speedily will He come, and will not tarry.’”

As early as 70 - 180 AD, The Didache (containing the teachings of the Apostles), says in chapter 16, section 1: “Be vigilant over your life; let your lamps not be extinguished, or your loins ungirded, but be prepared, for you know not the hour in which our Lord will come.”

One of the earliest Church Fathers, (Tertullian 155 - 245 AD) wrote: “But what a spectacle is that fast-approaching advent of our Lord, now owned by all, now highly exalted, now a triumphant One!”

John Calvin, the reformer at Geneva during the 1500s and founder of the Presbyterian Church, made the following statements in some of his commentaries on books of the Bible:

Be prepared to expect Him every day, or rather every moment.

As He has promised that He will return to us, we ought to hold ourselves prepared, at every moment to receive Him.

Today we must be alert to grasp the imminent return of Christ.

And commenting on 1 Thessalonians 4, the “Rapture passage,” Calvin said that Paul “means by this to arouse the Thessalonians to wait for it, nay more, to hold all believers in sus-
pense, that they may not promise themselves some particular 
time . . . that believers might be prepared at all times.”

The Westminster Confession, written by the Puritans of 
England during the 1600s, declared that men should “shake off 
all carnal security and be always watchful, because they know 
not at what hour the Lord will come.”

I’m not much of a fan of relying on what scholarly men 
write about the Bible. I agree with the quotes I just cited, but I 
don’t really need a bunch of dead guys to tell me what is truth. 
I have over a dozen copies of the Good Book lying around the 
house, and I have the ability to read and understand each of them 
for myself.

History has proven that mankind is a dreadful biblical guide. 
The apostasy that swept over the Church caused a lack of 
prophecy commentary from about 450 AD until the 1600s. 
People stopped thinking for themselves. Their interpretation of 
the Bible became what the institutional church spoon-fed them.

Premillennialism largely disappeared after it was condemned 
as heretical by the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. It wasn’t until 
the Reformation Movement of the 16th Century that we see a 
rebound in the number of statements that reflect the Pre-
Tribulational view.

Scripture Galore

A host of Scriptures indicate the Church should expect an 
imminent return of their Lord. The opponents of imminency 
constantly try to pick apart each individual reference, but they 
should look at the big picture. An overwhelming number of 
verses in the Bible support imminency.

I’ve been able to easily locate 22 passages that imply that 
the coming of Christ remains an imminent event. All you really 
need is one verse to prove a point, but the weight of evidence 
should cause even the most hard-core imminency foes to rethink 
their stance.

I seriously doubt any scholar or layman could find 22 
passages of Scripture that clearly indicate the Tribulation or the 
rule of the Antichrist is the next imminent event facing the 
Church. I have already quoted some of those passages. Below are 
a few more representative verses from those 22 passages:

Matthew 25:1-6,13 (NASB)
1) Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to 
ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet 
the bridegroom.
2) Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.
3) For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no 
oil with them,
4) but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their 
lamps.
5) Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got 
drowsy and began to sleep.
6) But at midnight there was a shout, “Behold, the 
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.”
13) Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day 
or the hour.

Mark 13:33-37
33) Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know 
when the appointed time will come.
34) It is like a man away on a journey, who upon 
leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, 
assigning to each one his task, also commanded the 
doorkeeper to stay on the alert.
35) Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know 
when the master of the house is coming, whether in the 
evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in 
the morning,
36) in case he should come suddenly and find you 
asleep.
37) What I say to you I say to all, “Be on the alert!”

Romans 13:11-12
11) Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour 
for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is 
nearer to us than when we believed.
12) The night is almost gone, and the day is near. 
Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put 
on the armor of light.

Philippians 4:5
Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is 
near.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2,6
1) Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you 
have no need of anything to be written to you.
2) For you yourselves know full well that the day of the 
Lord will come just like a thief in the night . . . 
6) so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be 
alert and sober.

Titus 2:11-13
11) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salva-
tion to all men,
12) instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly 
desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in 
the present age,
13) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of 
the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.

James 5:7-9
7) Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of 
the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of 
the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and 
late rains.
8) You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the 
coming of the Lord is near.
9) Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so 
that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the 
Judge is standing right at the door.
The Marriage Feast of the Lamb
In Heaven or on Earth?

Dr. David R. Reagan

I have been surprised in recent years to discover that several well known Bible prophecy experts whom I highly respect have started teaching that the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, which is recorded in Revelation 19:7-9, will be held on earth after the return of Jesus — despite the fact that this event is clearly pictured as being held in Heaven before the Second Coming.

Relevant Scriptures

Their argument seems to be based primarily on a statement in Luke 22:28-30 where Jesus promises believers that they will “eat and drink at My table in My kingdom . . .” This statement certainly leaves the impression that the feast will be held after the Lord returns and establishes His kingdom here on this earth.

Additionally, some point to Luke 13:28-30 where Jesus says that the saved will one day “come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.”

They conclude their argument by pointing to Isaiah 25:6, which is a Millennial setting and which refers to a “lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain” — referring to Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:23).

One or Two Feasts?

As you can see, the argument in behalf of the Marriage Feast being held here on earth is certainly grounded in the Scriptures, but I believe the conclusion is unwarranted. That’s because I believe the Bible is prophesying two great feasts in the end time.

The first will be the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in Heaven when Jesus will celebrate His union with His Bride, the Church.

The second banquet, which I call The Zion Feast, will take place here on earth in Jerusalem after the return of Jesus. It will include Old Testament Saints and Tribulation Martyrs as well as Church Age Saints. Its purpose will be to celebrate the Lord’s return and the inauguration of His Millennial Kingdom.

A Third Feast

There is a third end time feast that is prophesied in the Scriptures. It is mentioned in Revelation 19:17-18.

This feast is one that no one should hope to be a part of. It will occur at the Second Coming of Jesus, when He returns to this earth to pour out the wrath of God on those who have rejected His grace, love and mercy. The passage says that an angel will cry out in a loud voice for all the birds to “eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” This feast is referred to as “the Supper of God.”

In other words, those who participate in this feast will be the meal themselves! Such will be the terrible fate of unbelievers when Jesus returns.

Which feast will you be invited to attend? The Marriage Feast of the Lamb where you will be the honored guest of the Bridegroom, Jesus, or the Supper of God where you will be the meal?

Personally, I have an invitation to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb because I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. My prayer is that every person who reads this article will also put their faith in Jesus so that they can join with me in the greatest feast and celebration the cosmos will ever witness. ✝
Editorial Comment

Obama’s Shame
The insanity of his last days in office

Dr. David R. Reagan

In his last days in office, President Obama decided to do whatever necessary to accomplish some of his goals, regardless of Congressional or Constitutional limits or the dictates of common sense — and regardless of the financial cost to the taxpayer.

1 Guantanamo Bay — The President had pledged from the beginning of his Administration to close the base by moving the prisoners to prisons located inside our nation’s boundaries, but the Congress, through bi-partisan votes, would never allow him to do it. So, he responded throughout his eight years in office by releasing as many prisoners as he could find countries willing to take them. The fact that most would end up back on the battlefield fighting us did not seem to bother him.

On January 5, he sent four prisoners from Yemen to Saudi Arabia for participation in a “rehabilitation program.” On January 19, the day before Trump’s inauguration, Obama petitioned the Congress one last time to close the facility. He argued that “Guantanamo is contrary to our values and undermines our standing in the world . . .” (It undermines our values to punish terrorists?) During his tenure in office, Obama released 201 detainees. There were 242 when he took office. A total of 41 were left when Trump took control. Why the obsession with turning loose ruthless terrorists?

2 Clemency — In like manner, President Obama seemed obsessed with emptying our federal prisons of drug dealers. Believing their sentences were “too harsh,” during his last days in office, the president granted 1,176 commutations (sentence reductions) and 148 pardons (full forgiveness of the crime and restoration of civil rights). He, in fact, set a record on his last day in office by granting 330 commutations in one day’s time.

Obama issued 1,715 commutations during his eight years, more than the past 13 presidents combined, and 504 of these were life sentences! In short, he tossed out the window thousands of sentences that had been carefully determined by judges and juries. What arrogance!

The worst of his last minute commutations resulted in the release of Bradley Manning, better known as Chelsea Manning — a transgender man. (I refuse to call transgenders by their assumed names.) This man was an intelligence officer in the United States Army who released 700,000 documents, videos, diplomatic cables and battlefield accounts to WikiLeaks. The bottom line is that he was a traitor who should have been shot. Instead, he was given 35 years in prison. President Obama released him after serving only seven years — again, making a mockery of our judicial system.

3 The Palestinians — On the last morning of his presidency, Obama released $221 million in funding to the Palestinian Authority — money that had been held up by Congress because of evidence that such funds are used for terrorist attacks against Israel. Fortunately, the Trump Administration was able to move quickly to freeze the funds before they could be transferred.

4 Environmentalism — Three days before the end of his term, Obama decided to send $500 million to a UN agency called The Green Climate Fund. He had previously pledged $3 billion and had already given $500 million, but he decided to squeeze in another half a billion before he left office.

The State Department used funds designated for programs meant to fight infectious diseases, like the Zika virus. Climate change is another of Obama’s pet obsessions, so in a last gasp effort, he decided to throw half a billion dollars of your money and mine at what has to be one of the phonestiest issues of modern times.

5 The United Nations — President Obama also unleashed a money shower on the United Nations during 2016. The UN has two budgets — its regular one and its peace-keeping budget. The regular budget for 2016 was $2.7 billion. We were required to pay 22 percent of that, totaling $594 million. The peace-keeping budget for 2016 was $8.3 billion. We were assessed 28 percent of that, or $2.3 billion. So, our total requirement for 2016 was about $2.9 billion.
On February 3 the State Department announced that Obama gave the United Nations a total of $9.2 billion during 2016, or $6.3 billion more than we were assessed, and many experts are saying it was more than that because the State Department’s figures did not include all the donations the President made to special UN funds like The Green Climate Fund.

All this money given to an organization that spends most of its time denouncing the United States and Israel? And an organization that is known for its inept bureaucracy and reckless spending?

Incidentally, the United Nations has 193 members. The US is assessed 22 percent of the budget. Japan is second with 9.6 percent, followed by China (7.9%), Germany (6.3%), France (4.8%) and the United Kingdom (4.4%). Brazil is 6th at 3.8%, and Russia comes in at only 3.0%. Doesn’t it appear that there is something screwy about these percentages? When is someone going to stand up and say, “Enough is enough!”?

Israel — This brings us to President Obama’s most shameful act of his presidency — namely, his decision to lift our veto in the Security Council in order to allow the Council to pass a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria (the so-called “West Bank”) and declaring East Jerusalem (including the Temple Mount) to be Palestinian territory.

Further, on January 16 — 4 days before he was to leave office — the President helped sponsor an international conference in France whose purpose was to apply pressure on Israel to surrender its heartland and half the city of Jerusalem. Seventy nations attended and passed a meaningless resolution endorsing the “two-state solution.” The whole circus amounted to “the mouse that roared.” But our encouragement of it, together with the lifting of our veto in the United Nations, amounted to the greatest betrayal of Israel in our nation’s history.

Further Thoughts About Israel

President Obama’s decision to lift the US veto in the Security Council was shameful, reckless, spiteful and dangerous.

- It was shameful because it represented a betrayal of our nation’s best friend and ally.
- It was reckless because it served to encourage Palestinian intransigence and terrorism.
- It was spiteful because it treated the only democracy in the Middle East as if it were a third rate banana republic.
- It was exceedingly dangerous for our own nation because Israel is “the apple of God’s eye” (Zechariah 2:8), and we have poked our finger in that eye.

Further, the Word of God specifically warns that those who try to divide the land of Israel in the end times will be subjected to God’s wrath (Joel 3:2). Accordingly, we should expect to experience either a major terrorist attack or a serious natural calamity, or both.

Possible Counteractions

Let us pray that President Trump will decide to take immediate action to counter this insane action on the part of Obama. There are a number of things he could do in addition to denouncing the decision, which he has already done. For example, he could:

- Move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Invite Netanyahu to the White House immediately and confirm our commitment to Israel.
- Cut off all funding to the Palestinians.
- Defund the United Nations in whole or in part.
- Sponsor a bipartisan Congressional resolution stating that the UN resolution is not United States policy.

We can rejoice that President Trump has already appointed a new ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, who is an Orthodox Jew and a strong supporter of the biblical and legal right of the Jews to the land.

The Lunacy of the International Community

The United Nations has gone mad. In the midst of overwhelming problems like the Syrian civil war, the belligerency of Iran, the insanity of North Korea, the increasing aggressiveness of Russia, and the rampage of ISIS, the member nations of the UN are focused on condemning Israel for building houses and apartment buildings in territory given to the Jewish people eternally by God. It is an example of anti-Semitism gone to seed.

Further, as Prime Minister Netanyahu has pointed out, it is an exercise in ethnic-cleansing. There are 1.7 million Arabs living within Israel, but this resolution says no Jew has the right to live in “Palestinian territory.” This is hypocrisy gone to seed.

But there is a positive spiritual significance to the President’s decision in that it is a significant step toward the fulfillment of the last end time, pre-Tribulation prophecy concerning Israel — namely, that all the nations of the world will come together against Israel over the issue of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:2-3). And thus, this UN decision and the subsequent international conference in France are strong indicators of how close we are to the consummation of the age.

We are literally on the threshold of the Tribulation. And that, in turn, means the Rapture is going to occur any moment.

Maranatha! ⚡

For an in-depth analysis of the world’s irrational focus on Israel in these end times, order a copy of Dr. Reagan’s one hour video presentation, “The End Times Focus on Israel.” It sells for $20, including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time, or place your order through our website at www.lambion.com. ⚡
The Obama Legacy —

On January 10, 2017, President Obama delivered his farewell address to the American people. In it he declared, “The American people are much better off today than before I took office eight years ago.” With regard to unemployment, he was correct. With regard to everything else, he was dead wrong. When he took office in 2009, the national debt was $10.6 trillion. Obama doubled it. The debt per U.S. citizen was $31,000. Today it is $61,340. The number of people on food stamps rose from 32 million to 43.6 million. Persons living in poverty increased from 38 million to 45 million. And under his laughable “Affordable Care Act,” the average health insurance rate per family plan skyrocketed from $12,680 to $18,142. Even the better unemployment rate is highly misleading because it does not account for the millions of people who have given up looking for work and millions of others who have had to settle for jobs way below their education and earning capacity. And, of course, these financial statistics are nothing compared to the wreck he made of the moral values of our nation. The only way in which we are better off today is that he and his legacy were voted out of office.

Quick Thoughts —

“Fidel Castro created hell on earth for the Cuban people. He will now become intimately familiar with what he wrought.” — US Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas (R).

“The Scriptures are ‘light and salt,’ and the Church today is trying to convert them into shadow and sugar.” — Larry McCoy of Gallatin, TN, composer, musician and singer.

“What is being presented as the Gospel in many churches today sounds more like a university humanities class.” — Don McGee, founder of Crown & Sickle Ministries in Amite, LA.

“When we believe He will take us up, it will clean us up and cheer us up.” — Jerry Vines of Canton, GA, pastor, evangelist and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

“In the Bible, you have to be educated out of interpreting Israel to mean Israel.” — Dr. Tommy Ice, director of the Pre-Trib Research Center. [Note: Many claim Israel means the Church.]

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold of me.” — Martin Luther (1483-1546), German Reformation leader.

“The West has lost Christ, and that is why it is dying; that is the only reason.” — Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881), Russian novelist, journalist and philosopher.

“When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily; but with honest, sensible leaders, there is stability.” — Proverbs 28:2 (LBP).

“People are always saying, ‘The Bible is full of stories of great people doing great things for God.’ The truth is that the Bible is full of stories of a great God doing great things through weak and unworthy people.” — Glenn Meredith, pastor of Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX.

A Fascinating Insight —

One of the many spiritually enriching insights contained in Jonathan Cahn’s new book, The Book of Mysteries (see page 10), is the following one about the day the Jewish people re-occupied the city of Jerusalem for the first time in almost 2,000 years — June 7, 1967.

He begins by explaining that the Jubilee Year, which was celebrated every 50 years when the Jews were living in their land, is a year of restoration, when land is restored to its original owners.

He then observes that 1917 could well be considered a Jubilee Year because it was the year in which the British issued the Balfour Declaration, promising to restore the land of Palestine to the Jewish people. Fifty years later in 1967, at the time for a second Jubilee Year, the Holy City of Jerusalem was restored to the Jews, its original owners.

It’s at this point that the story gets really interesting. Cahn points out that the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem was a threshing floor at the time King David purchased it to be used as the site of the Temple that his son, Solomon, would build. Now, the word for a threshing floor in Hebrew is goren. And on the day the Jews conquered the city and rushed to the Wailing Wall to pray, the Chief Rabbi of the Israeli Army was with them. When they reached the Wall, the Rabbi blew a shofar and proclaimed the beginning of the Messianic Age. The Rabbi’s name was Shlomo Goren. Further, he was born in 1917, the year of the first Jubilee.

Food for Thought

Cahn concludes with this observation: “He who sounded the shofar of Israel’s Jubilee, the fiftieth year, was, himself fifty years old, the living sign of the Jubilee.” And he was a Goren sounding the trumpet on the site of David’s goren.
Annual Bible Conference

Registration opened on January 1st for our annual Bible conference. We want to encourage you to register as soon as possible since seating is limited.

The conference is scheduled to begin Friday evening, July 14, with a banquet and concert by the Gospel music group called Brian Free and Assurance. They will be followed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Ed Hindson, who is the Dean of Liberty University’s School of Religion. He is also the host of The King is Coming television program. Dr. Reagan considers Dr. Hindson to be the most effective Bible prophecy speaker in America today. The banquet is $50 per person and must be paid at the time of registration.

The conference will continue all day, Saturday, July 15, with five additional speakers. All the Saturday sessions are free of charge. In addition to the speakers, those attending will have opportunities to view all the display tables of many ministries and enjoy Christian fellowship with each other.

Also, we are happy to announce that we have arranged for a wonderful couple from Lafayette, Louisiana to be with us to sing before each speaker makes his presentation. They are Robert and Selina Wilson. They will be with us all day Saturday, and you will be blessed by their anointed singing.

We have a blockbuster lineup of speakers for Saturday. Dr. Tommy Ice, Director of the Pre-Trib Research Center will speak on “The Promise of the Rapture.” He will be followed by a phenomenal preacher, Glenn Meredith, pastor of Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas. Pastor Meredith will speak on “The Promise of Rewards.” Don Perkins, the only full time Black evangelist in America who focuses exclusively on Bible prophecy, will speak on “The Promise of the Millennium.” Dr. Andy Woods, pastor of the Sugar Land Bible Church in the Houston area, will speak on “The Promises of the Eternal State.” And Dr. Reagan will complete the day by speaking on “Living with Hope in a Pagan Society.”

The conference is going to be held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel Conference Center in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. To register, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, from 8am to 5pm, Central time. Or, register at our website at www.lamblion.com.
JOIN US SEPTEMBER 2-13 FOR A HOLY LAND TOUR

We are excited to announce that dates have been confirmed for our next Israel Pilgrimage, hosted by our Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore. A colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Tim is also a commercial pilot and an elected member of the Kentucky State Legislature. He is an expert in Bible prophecy and an experienced host of Israel pilgrimages.

The group will fly to Tel Aviv via Lufthansa Airlines. They will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two nights in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee and five nights in Jerusalem.

Every aspect of the pilgrimage has been meticulously planned by Dr. Reagan to ensure the greatest possible spiritual impact. The sites visited will relate to the life of Jesus or to end time Bible prophecy. It is an experience that will bring the Bible alive to you and deepen your faith.

The cost of this 12-day tour to the Holy Land is $4,200 per person. This price includes airfare, bus transportation within Israel, hotels, all entrance fees and three meals each day. The only extra cost is a fee for tips. Tim will be assisted by a wonderful Jewish guide, Erez Bar-David.

Highlights of the pilgrimage will include a visit to Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, a cruise across the Sea of Galilee to the headquarters of Jesus' ministry at Capernaum, baptism in the Jordan River (for those interested), a walk through the Old City of Jerusalem, a tour of the Dead Sea area and a worship service at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

One of our pilgrims once commented, “This pilgrimage has converted my Bible from black and white to technicolor!” You will definitely come back home with a greater understanding of the Bible and the life of Jesus.

Hope you can join us for this great spiritual experience! ☪
Summary of Outreach Activities
During the Year 2016

1) Television and Video
Broadcast 52 weeks of Christ in Prophecy TV programs over five national networks with access to over 110 million homes inside the United States. Also provided access to our programs on demand on seven Internet websites.
Broadcast via Daystar and TBN satellites to almost every nation in the world.
Produced 29 new Christ in Prophecy TV programs and revised 17 others.
Broadcast our 746th television program at the end of December.
Produced 3 new video albums, and reproduced and distributed thousands of DVD video programs.

2) Internet and Website
Sent out 28 e-newsletters to 43,000+ subscribers, sharing biblical messages and the electronic Lamplighter magazine.
Experienced an average of 75,000 unique visitors monthly downloading 550,000 pages per month.
Launched a new mobile-friendly blog at christinprophecyblog.org and posted 144 new articles.
Exceeded 4500 downloads of the Lamb & Lion App and launched on AppleTV.
Created “The Inbox” short video teaching series and released 7 videos.
Live-streamed our annual Bible conference to nearly 10,000 viewers.
Streamed over 300 different Christ in Prophecy TV shows.
Ministered to 17,000+ Facebook group members and fans.
Added Pinterest and Instagram to our social media outreach.
Answered thousands of Bible prophecy email questions.

3) Preaching and Teaching
Completed a total of 34 speaking engagements:
   24 Weekend conferences at churches.
   10 Bible prophecy conferences.
Participated in 57 media interviews.

4) Publications
Published a Holy Land calendar for 2017.
Continued publishing our books as e-books.
Continued publishing many of our materials in Spanish.
Continued publishing a version of our magazine in India.
Reprinted a second edition of Wrath & Glory.
Published 12 Faith Journeys of the Minor Prophets.
Published Are You Ready for the Lord’s Return?
Published two of our books in Pakistan in the Urdu language.
Produced 6 issues of the Ministry’s magazine, The Lamplighter.

5) Missions
Supplied $55,500 for relief aid to Nigerian Christian refugees who were fleeing from Muslim terrorists.
Supplied a $5,500 vehicle to the leader of the Nigerian Christian refugee camp.
Provided regular monthly financial support to 21 missions — 8 domestic and 13 foreign.
Donated a total of more than $306,000 in cash and services to missions.

6) Israel
Conducted one Holy Land pilgrimage.
Provided financial assistance to several ministries in Israel.
Invited to become a member of FIRM (Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries).

7) Conferences
Conducted our annual Bible conference with 800 attendees.
Participated in 9 Bible prophecy conferences sponsored by other ministries.

8) Finances
Received 23,808 gifts from 4,983 donors.
Ended the year with 2,577 Prophecy Partners.
Received re-certification as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.
Received a four star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for the 11th year in a row.
Ended the calendar year with all bills paid in full for the 36th year in a row.
Interesting Guests

We have been very busy in January and February shooting new TV programs for broadcast this year. One of our guests was the very popular Internet teacher, Billy Crone, who serves as the pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. We recorded two programs with him — one on the Rapture and the other about the spiritual condition of our nation.

Mark Hitchcock, one of the most prolific Bible prophecy authors, was interviewed by Nathan Jones regarding his excellent book, The Amazing Claims of Bible Prophecy. This is an outstanding paperback book that we are making available through our ministry for $20, including the cost of shipping. Like all of Mark’s books, it is written for the general public in down-to-earth, easy-to-understand language. The book is 240 pages in length.

In March, we will be shooting two programs with Messianic Rabbi, Jonathan Cahn, one of which will be about his remarkable book, The Book of Mysteries, that is featured on page 10 of this magazine. We are also scheduled to videotape two programs with Bill Koenig, who is a member of the White House press corps. We also have shoots lined up with two of our favorite Bible prophecy experts — Ron Rhodes and Gary Frazier.

Meanwhile, Dr. Reagan has been recording a series of teaching programs. One focuses on one of the greatest miracles of history — namely, the preservation of the Jewish people. Another goes into detail about the remarkable mathematical computations of Peter Stoner which confirm Jesus as God in the flesh.

Dr. Reagan has also made a television program out of his very popular presentation called “50 Reasons Why We Are Living In The End Times.”

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks:

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, Cable, AT&T U-verse 563, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming (daystar.com).

TBN (The Trinity Broadcasting Network) — Tue. 3:30 CT, DirecTV 372, Dish 260, Cable, AT&T U-verse 560, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites & Web Streaming (www.tbn.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, & Web Streaming (tct.tv).

NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 & Web Streaming (http://nrbnetwork.tv).

Upliftv — Mon. & Fri. 9:30am CT, DirecTV 379 (www.uplifttv.com). The Dish

Regional Networks:

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

Family Vision Network — Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, Three Broadcast Stations and Cable throughout Southern Louisiana (familyvisiontv.com).

KSCE — Sun. 10:30am MT, Broadcast Station in El Paso, TX. DirecTV & DISH Local 38, Cable, AT&T U-verse 38, & Web Streaming (kscevtv.com).

CFNT — Broadcast station in Wichita Falls, TX. Fri. 3:00pm CT (cfnt.org).

Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

HisChannel — HisChannel.com
LightSource — LightSource.com
YouTube — YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy
Vimeo — Vimeo.com
GodTube — GodTube.com via LightSource.com
DailyMotion — (European equivalent of YouTube.) DailyMotion.com/us
Lamb & Lion Ministries — LambLion.com
Christian Biker Network — BikerTV.org

We Need YOU As A Prophecy Partner!

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

We would like to invite you to become one of our Partners. All you have to do is make a commitment to pray for us regularly and provide us with a donation of $25 or more per month. In return, Dr. Reagan will send you a letter each month about the ministry’s activities, together with a gift such as a video program or a publication related to Bible prophecy. You will also receive a free subscription to this magazine.
Fantastic New Christian Audio Album

Dr. David R. Reagan

For the past two years I have been speaking about Bible prophecy each fifth Sunday evening at my home church — The Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas. Each evening a remarkable musical group called, “SpokenFor,” has prepared the way for my presentation with 30 minutes of superb Gospel singing.

After our session on October 30 of last year, a member of the group, Dawn Wills, handed me a CD and said, “This is our latest album. We don’t even have the slip cover for it yet. But I want you to listen to it and tell me what you think.”

That night I put it in my CD player in my car, and it is still there because I have been listening to it ever since. It is the most Spirit anointed audio album I have heard since “Revival in Belfast” back in the year 2000.

I was blessed so much by it that I purchased 40 copies to give to staff members and trustees as Christmas presents. It contains a total of 10 songs, including classics like “Wayfaring Stranger” and “Stand Still.” This is a professional studio recording with a number of backup artists on a variety of instruments. Randy Wills, the leader of the group, is the president of the Texas Music Hall of Fame and Museum and has a long career as a producer, arranger, writer, studio musician and performer.

We are offering the CD through our ministry for $20, including the cost of shipping. Just give us a call at 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, Central time — or place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com.

The album is titled, “On Joyful Wing.” I guarantee you that the songs on this album will bless your soul.

Clearance Sale!

All prices include the cost of shipping. Order by calling 972-736-3567, Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm, Central time. Orders can be placed only by phone and not thru our website. Normally, each item listed below would sell for $20, including shipping. We are offering each one for $10, including shipping, and any four for $30, including shipping. Supplies are limited!

Outrageous Truth — A hard-hitting, thought-provoking book about how Christians today have been intimidated by political correctness to remain silent about biblical truths that our society needs to hear. The author is the outspoken pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. This book will help any Christian to be a better defender of the faith. 238 pages.

Out of India — Chronicles the spiritual journey of Caryl Matrisciana, born of British parents in India and raised there. In her teens she moved to England and got caught up in the New Age Movement. After migrating to the United States, she was invited to a Bible study where she met the Lord Jesus Christ, and her life was transformed. In addition to her personal story, she discusses the impact of Eastern religions on Western culture and Christianity. 248 pages.

The Light That Was Dark — An absolutely fascinating story about how a passionate member and teacher in the New Age Movement found Jesus and came to the realization that the “light” he thought he had found was in reality a dangerous spiritual darkness. The author, Warren Smith, is today one of Christendom’s foremost defenders of the faith. This book will help you understand the New Age Movement. 167 pages.

Blow the Trumpet in Zion by Richard Booker — A comprehensive survey of the Jews in prophecy. The book is well organized and clearly written. It surveys all the prophecies in the Bible regarding the nation of Israel — past, present and future. A thorough understanding of what the Bible says about the Jews in prophecy is one of the keys to the understanding of Bible prophecy in general. 201 pages.

Islam and Terrorism — Dr. Mark Gabriel’s best selling book about the true nature of Islam. Before his conversion to Christianity, Dr. Gabriel was a professor of Islamic history at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. He was also a Muslim imam. No other book contains such valuable information about the nature of Islam and its fundamental differences with Christianity. 217 pages.
Ministry News

Schedule of Activities —

March:
Nathan Jones does radio interviews with Pastor Vic Batista in Miami, FL (1,8,15,22,29).
Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees Meeting in Allen, TX (4).
Dave Reagan at Faith Community Baptist Church in Mabank, TX (19).

April:
Nathan Jones does radio interviews with Pastor Vic Batista in Miami, FL (5,12,19,26).
Nathan Jones at The Believer’s Class at First Baptist Church in Forney, TX (9).
Nathan Jones at the Mid-America Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, OK (20-22).
Dave Reagan at the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX (30 - evening only, with SpokenFor).

May:
Nathan Jones does radio interviews with Pastor Vic Batista in Miami, FL (3,10,17,24,31).
Dave Reagan at a Prophecy Conference hosted by The Praise Tabernacle Church in Cole Bay, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles (21-23).

Death of a Warrior —
A great defender of the faith, Caryl Matrisciana, was called home to the Lord on December 2 last year. She was 69 years old and had been battling cancer for over a year. Caryl was a well-known authority on ancient and modern world religions, contemporary cults, paganism and the occult. She was a best-selling author, journalist, researcher and commercial artist. She was born in India of British parents and was raised by a Hindu nanny. She wrote extensively about the penetration of Western culture by Eastern thought, and its impact on Christianity. She was co-founder and co-producer of Jeremiah Films for 23 years, during which time she contributed to the production of more than 60 video documentaries. She was twice a guest on Christ in Prophecy. You can find her books and videos at caryl.tv. You can also find her fascinating autobiography listed for sale at the bottom of page 22.

Prophecy Partners —
Our ministry’s greatest need is for more Prophecy Partners. It is only through the growth of our Prophecy Partner program that we will be able to extend our television outreach and the distribution of our publications worldwide in many different languages. Some of the details of the program are spelled out at the bottom of page 21. For greater detail, either check our website or give us a call at 972-736-3567. We need your prayers and financial support!

Creation Seminar —

Become a qualified creation and apologetics teacher in your church and community. Learn how to refute compromise.

Learn the 7 steps to become an effective speaker/teacher on biblical creation.
1. Creation knowledge
2. Origin science knowledge
3. Apologetics knowledge
4. Communications skills
5. Organization skills
6. Answering questions
7. Critical thinking skills

When: August 14-17, 2017
Where: Glorieta Conference Center,
Glorieta, NM (near Santa Fe)

Who Should Attend: Christians 18 and over (pastors, youth pastors, scientists, school teachers and parents…)

For more information
info@CreationTraining.org
CreationTraining.org

Dr. Reagan has personally attended this Creation seminar two times, and he highly recommends it. The program is very unique in that it is designed to develop teachers of Creationism. The head of the ministry, Mike Riddle is a master teacher who was on the staff of Answers in Genesis before he founded this special ministry to train Creation speakers and teachers.

Coming to the Dallas Area? —
The next time you are in the Dallas area, make it a point to come to our ministry for a visit. We are located about 30 miles north of downtown Dallas. We would be happy to show you around our headquarters, including our television studio. Also, we normally shoot our TV programs on Thursday mornings, and you are invited to come and watch. Just give us a call ahead of time to make sure we will be videotaping on the Thursday you want to visit.

Missions —
Nazir Gill in Pakistan reports that he has a new website which can be found at www.clmpk.org. The name of his great ministry is Christian Life Ministries. It is a remarkable ministry that is worthy of your support.
New Video Program!

Nathan Jones decided several years ago that we needed to produce some highly creative, brief videos designed to teach the fundamentals of both the Christian faith and Bible prophecy.

He began this process with the production of six one-minute videos called, “Bible Prophecy Insights.” They were produced with the assistance of a highly skilled former Disney animator. When that man became involved in producing a full length movie and had no more time to work with our ministry, Nathan decided to shift gears and start producing in-house a new series of short videos (5 to 8 minutes in length).

He called the new series, “The Inbox.” He gave it that name because each video is in response to a question submitted to his email inbox. Most of the videos concern questions about the fundamentals of Bible prophecy, like, “Will Jesus really rule over the earth for a thousand years?” Others deal with the fundamentals of the Christian faith, like, “Can we trust the Bible?” and “Is there proof that God exists?”

Nathan has been assisted in the production of the Inbox videos by Steven Stufflebean, who did the videotaping and editing. Each video is highly creative, captivating and informative.

These videos can be used for individual or group study. They can also be used to accent teaching and preaching. The album contains 6 of the one minute animated programs and 10 of the longer Inbox programs. The running time of all the videos is 67 minutes. The cost is $20, including the cost of shipping.

To order, call 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, between 8am and 5pm Central time. Or, place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com.