

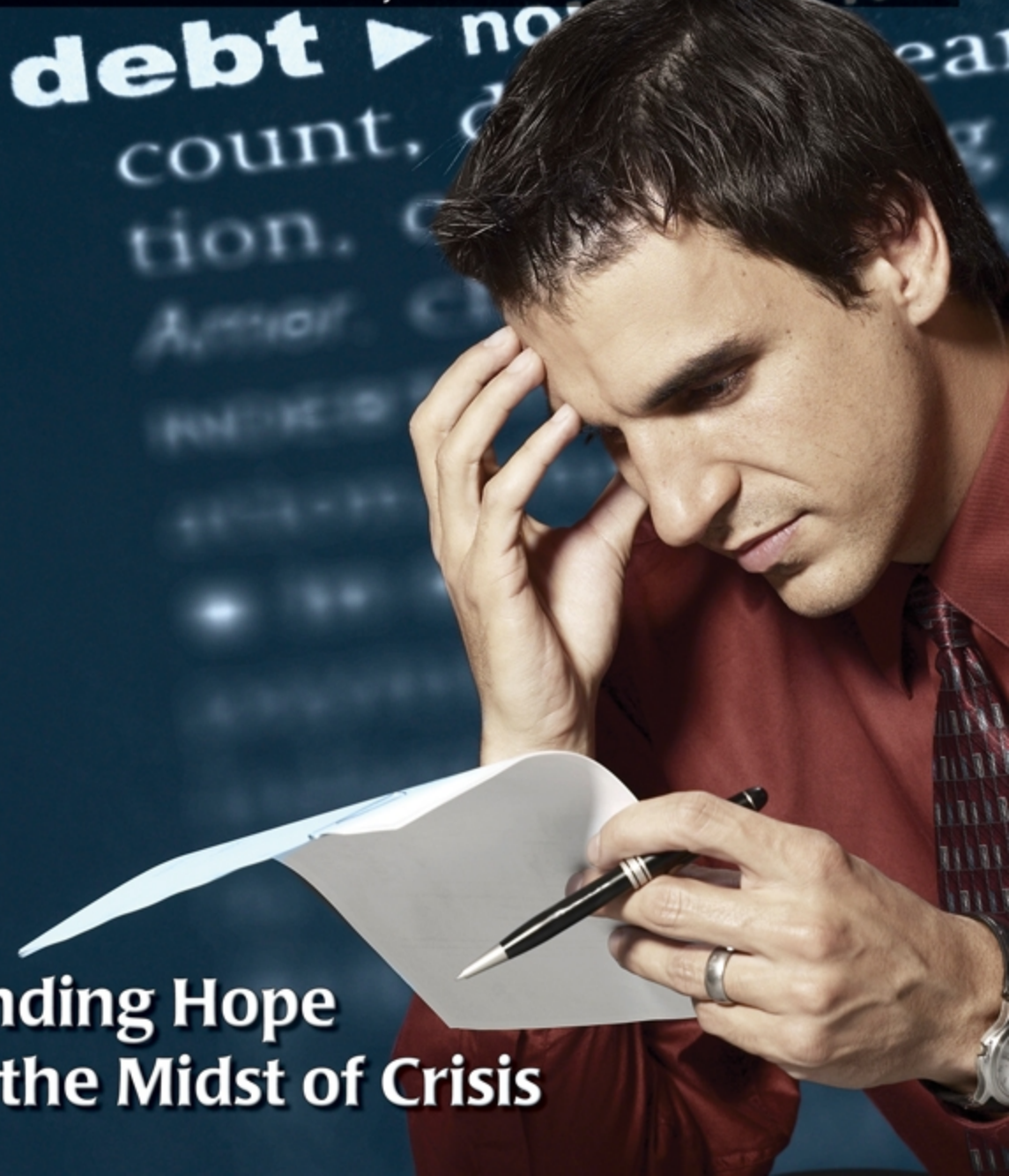
LAMPLIGHTER

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

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**Finding Hope
in the Midst of Crisis**



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Observations by the Editor

Tough Times

Bad news seems to be the theme of our times. Each evening the television news is full of stories of violence, corruption, greed, immorality, financial crisis, and the loss of freedom. Our society seems to be disintegrating before our very eyes, and it is, all in fulfillment of end time Bible prophecy.

In February, the Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, California, hosted its annual Bible Prophecy Conference. The pastor, Jack Hibbs, expected the attendance would be off due to the financial crisis. But exactly the opposite happened. The church experienced a record turn out of over 4,000 people, 1,000 of whom had to be put in an overflow hall!

The Desperate Need for Hope

Pastor Hibbs concluded that the theme he had selected for the conference was the reason for the incredible number of people who showed up. The theme was "Finding Hope in the Global Crisis." The interesting thing about this theme is that it was selected many months before the collapse of the stock market in September of last year.

The relevance of the theme was impressed on Pastor Hibbs a couple of weeks before the conference when two families came forward for prayer at two different services on Sunday morning. The first was a lady and her small children who were grieving over the loss of their husband and father who had hanged himself because they were about to lose their home to foreclosure. The second was a woman and her children who were also grieving over the suicide of the head of the family. He had shot himself over the loss of his job.

These tragic situations impressed upon the pastor how much people were hurting and how desperately they needed to sense some hope.

I had been asked to speak on "What Happens When You Die?" But after hearing these stories, I decided to focus on the hope we have in overcoming death and living eternally in a perfect new world, free of pain and suffering.

I experienced one of the most enthusiastic responses to my presentation that



Dr. David R. Reagan

I have ever received. It obviously spoke to the congregation's need for hope.

Normally at such conferences, invitations are never offered, but because I was the last speaker on Saturday afternoon, before the break for dinner, I decided to offer an invitation for people to come forward for prayer. The response was absolutely overwhelming. The church's prayer team joined with me in praying for people for the next one and a half hours.

When I returned from this incredible experience, I decided to postpone the topic I had planned to feature in this issue of our magazine. Instead, I decided to share the message of hope I delivered in California. I have added to it three other messages of hope — one from my book, *Trusting God*, one from Dave Wilkerson, and one by our Web Minister, Nathan Jones. I hope these messages will be a blessing to you.

New Book

On the back cover of this magazine you will find an advertisement for my new book about the United States in Bible prophecy. The book reveals that I believe we have reached the biblical trigger point where God decides to deliver a rebellious nation from judgment to destruction.

That's the bad news. The good news is that I point out that the things that are happening to our nation are a clear sign that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. ✚

Cover: Our cover photo this month is from Photos.com. The cover design is by Keith Fink of The Masters Press in Dallas, Texas.

Finding Hope in the Midst of Crisis

Dr. David R. Reagan

Hope is essential to life. Without it, people descend into deep depression or commit suicide or simply lie down and die.

During the Holocaust, Viktor Frankl, who later became a world renowned psychiatrist, was a prisoner in one of the Nazi death camps. He observed that every year as Christmas approached, hope would sweep the camp that the prisoners would be released on Christmas day. It was an irrational hope, but it was hope. Then, when Christmas would come and go without a release, hundreds of prisoners would just lie down and die. Without hope, they could not live.¹ Frankl concluded, "It is a peculiarity of man that he can only live by looking to the future."²

A Desperate Need

The world desperately needs hope in these end times. We live in a world of increasing fears — fear of nuclear holocaust, fear of economic collapse, fear of plagues like AIDS, fear of terrorism, fear of war, and — of course — fear of life and of death.

Our nation needs hope. Our economy has collapsed. People are losing their jobs. Houses are being foreclosed. Corporations that have been American icons for over a hundred years are declaring bankruptcy. Retirement funds have been wiped out. Many people are feeling a sense of desperation for the first time in their lives.

Everywhere people are looking for hope, and that includes Christians. Some might respond by saying, "Christians are the only ones who have any hope!" That is true, but the problem is that most professing Christians cannot articulate their hope beyond a vague statement like, "My hope is heaven."

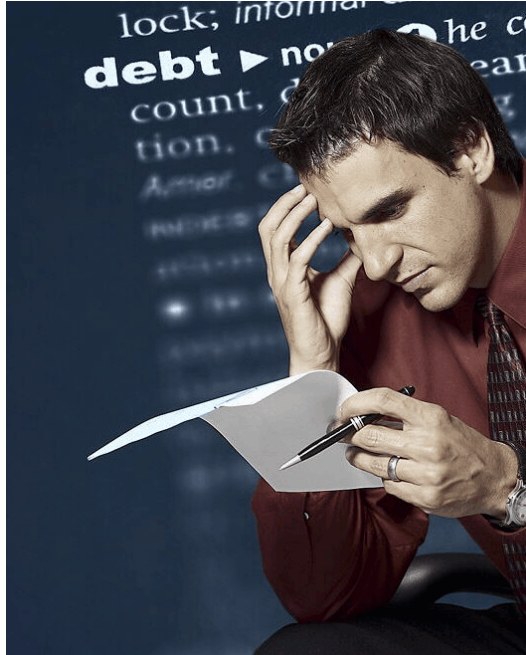
An Ignored Virtue

I came to this realization one day when I was reading Paul's great love poem in 1 Corinthians 13. It ends with the famous phrase: "There are three things that remain [or abide] — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

As I thought about those words, it suddenly occurred to me that I had heard hundreds of sermons on faith and hundreds on love, but I could not think of a single one about hope.

At that moment the Lord impressed upon my heart that hope is the most ignored of the Christian virtues. I knew instantly why that is true. It's because hope is directly related to one's knowledge of Bible prophecy, and there is no topic in the modern Church that is more ignored than prophecy.

Stop and think about it for a moment. What is your hope? How would you explain it to an unbeliever? Could you get beyond the words, "My hope is heaven"?



My Heritage

During the first 30 years of my life I received almost no teaching about Bible prophecy, and I lived with little hope. If you would have asked me to define my hope, I would have given you a pathetic answer, based more on Greek philosophy than Hebrew theology.

I was taught that if I died before the Lord returned, I would experience "soul sleep." In other words, I would lapse into total unconsciousness and lie in my tomb until the Lord returned. At His return, I was taught that a "big bang" would occur that would vaporize the universe. My soul would be resurrected, and I would go off to an ethereal world called Heaven where I would float around on a cloud and play a harp eternally.

For me, it was a grim picture. I didn't like the idea of lying comatose in a grave for eons of time. The "big bang" scared me to death. I was repulsed by the idea of becoming some sort of disembodied spirit without any individuality or personality. I certainly could not get excited about playing a harp forever. In fact, I found that idea downright hilarious.

You see, I grew up in a church that believed it is a terrible sin to play a musical instrument in a worship service. Yet, we were going to play harps in Heaven eternally! It made no sense to me, so I wrote it off as a bunch of silly nonsense.

I had no one to blame but myself because I did not study God's Word as I should have. When I finally started doing that, and the Holy Spirit began to lead me into a study of Bible prophecy, I started making discoveries about the future that ministered great hope to my spirit. In fact, I got so excited about my discoveries that I started jumping the pews and hanging from the chandeliers, shouting "Hallelujah!" and "Praise the Lord!" People thought I had gone Pentecostal overnight! No, I had just discovered God's marvelous promises for the future that are designed to give us hope in the present.

The Fallacy of Soul Sleep

The first discovery I made concerned "soul sleep." I found out it is an unbiblical concept. It is true that when we die, our bodies "sleep" metaphorically, but the spirits of the dead never lose their consciousness.

Jesus clearly taught this in His story about the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). When they died, their spirits went to Hades. The rich man's spirit went to a compartment in Hades called "Tortures." The spirit of Lazarus went to a compartment named "Abraham's bosom." On the Cross, Jesus referred to Abraham's bosom as "Paradise" (Luke 23:43). The two compartments were separated by a "great chasm" which could not be crossed.

In Jesus' story both men are pictured as fully conscious. They even carry on a conversation with each other. Their souls are not asleep.

Further evidence of consciousness after death can be found in Revelation 7. John has been taken up to Heaven and is being given a tour of the throne room of God. He sees "a great multitude . . . from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues," standing before the throne of God "clothed in white robes" and waving palm branches in worship (Revelation 7:9). They are fully conscious as they sing, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb" (Revelation 7:10).

John wants to know the identity of these people. He is told that they are martyrs for Christ coming out of the "great tribulation" (Revelation 7:14).

Here are two scenes in Scripture of people after death who are fully conscious.

Paul's Affirmations

The Apostle Paul affirmed consciousness after death. In 2 Corinthians 5:8 he wrote that he would prefer to be "absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." He repeated this sentiment in his Philippian letter where he wrote, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). He elaborated on the meaning of this statement by adding that his desire was "to depart and be with Christ" (Philippians 1:23). Paul had no concept of lying comatose in a grave for eons of time. Upon death, he expected to be with the Lord immediately.

The Intermediate State

My second discovery was that we are not destined to an ethereal existence as disembodied spirits. Immediately after death both the saved and the lost receive a body that I am going to call an "intermediate spirit body." I have given it that name because it is a body that is intermediate between our current fleshly body and the ultimate, glorified body that saints will receive at the time of their resurrection.

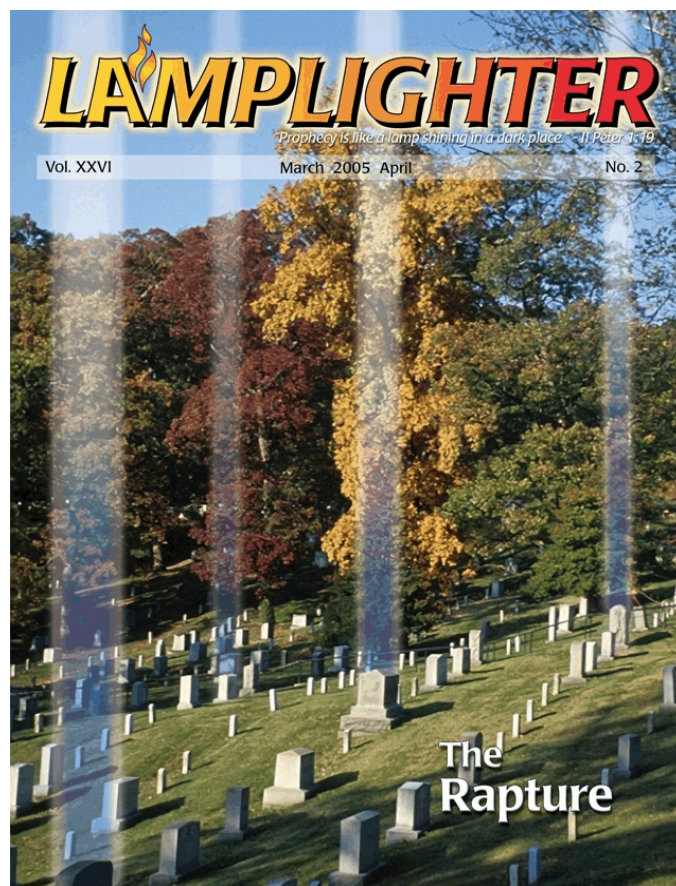
The Bible does not tell us much about this body except that it is tangible and recognizable. An example of it is found in 1 Samuel 28 where we are told that King Saul, in his rebellion against God, sought the counsel of a witch. She, in turn, attempted to call up her familiar demon spirit. Instead, the Lord sent Samuel who had died some time before. The moment Samuel appeared, both the witch and Saul recognized him.

Another example of the intermediate spirit body can be found in Matthew 17 where the story is told of the Transfiguration of Jesus. This was when His disciples were given a glimpse of His coming glory. As they witnessed this marvelous event, suddenly two people appeared and began talking with them. The two were Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-5).

Additional examples of intermediate spirit bodies can be found in the two biblical scenes I have already mentioned: The Rich Man and Lazarus in Hades (Luke 16) and the Tribulation Martyrs in Heaven (Revelation 7).

Glorification

When Jesus returns, the Bible says He will bring with Him the spirits of the saved (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14). He will resurrect their bodies in a great miracle of re-creation (whether



their bodies are preserved, rotted, cremated, or dissolved in the ocean). In the twinkling of an eye, He will reunite their spirits with their resurrected bodies and will then glorify their bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:15-16). Then, those saints who are alive will be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the sky, and they will be transformed on the way up (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

All my life I have heard people say, "There are two things in life that no one can avoid: death and taxes." That statement is wrong. The only thing we cannot avoid is taxes and more taxes. A whole generation of believers will avoid death — the generation living when the Lord returns for His Church. It's no wonder that Paul concluded this great passage in 1 Thessalonians by saying, "Therefore, comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18).

What is a glorified body? Paul wrote a whole chapter about the topic in 1 Corinthians 15. He said our glorified bodies will be imperishable, gloriously pure, powerful, and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). Paul further states that the glorified body will be immortal, and as such will no longer be subject to death (1 Corinthians 15:53-55).

The Nature of the Glorified Body

Paul made a statement in his letter to the Philippians that I think provides us with a framework for understanding what our glorified bodies will be like. He wrote that when Jesus returns, He "will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself" (Phil. 3:20-21). In other words, our glorified bodies are going to be like Jesus' resurrected body.

Now, think about that for a moment. After His resurrection, Jesus had a tangible body that could be touched and recognized (Luke 24: 41- 43 and John 20:27-28). People had difficulty recognizing Him at first, but that is understandable. If you buried your best friend one day, and he knocked on your door the next, would you recognize him? Wouldn't you assume he was someone who looked like your friend? Once the disciples realized that Jesus had truly been resurrected, they had no more difficulty recognizing Him, even at a distance (John 21:1-7).



Thomas examines a wound in Jesus' body as Jesus proves to His disciples that He truly has a resurrected body.

So, Jesus had a body similar to the ones we have now. It was tangible and recognizable. It was also a body that ate food. Jesus is pictured eating with His disciples several times, including a meal of fish on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (Luke 24:30-31, 41-42, and John 21:10-13). I must admit that I get excited when I read these accounts of Jesus eating, and also when I read about our eating with Him in Heaven at the "marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9). I have this fantasy that we will be able to eat all we want in our glorified bodies and not have to worry about gaining weight! (That should be sufficient to prompt many of you to shout, "Maranatha!")

A Different Dimension

The resurrected body of Jesus was similar to ours in many respects, but there were also some differences. Jesus' body seemed to have a different dimension to it, for He could pass through a wall into a locked room (John 20:26), and He could move from one place to another almost instantly (Luke 24:30-36). One moment He was on the road to Emmaus, the next He was in Jerusalem, and then He would appear in the Galilee area.

His disciples were so startled and frightened by His ability to vanish and reappear suddenly at another place that they thought they were seeing a spirit. But Jesus countered that idea immediately by telling them, "Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). When the Word says that our glorified bodies will be "spiritual" in nature (1 Corinthians 15:44), it does not mean we will be ethereal spirits. It says our natural body will be raised a spiritual body, not a spirit. We will still have a body, but it will no longer be controlled by the old sin nature, the flesh. Rather, it will be a body yielded completely to the control of the Holy Spirit.

There is one other thing the Bible reveals about the glorified body that should be a source of great comfort. The glorified body will be a perfected body. That means the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk, and the mute will speak. Those who are mentally impaired will have their minds healed (Isaiah 29:18-19, 32:3-4, and 35:5-6). There will no longer be any pain or death (Revelation 21:4). God will "wipe away every tear," and "there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain" (Revelation 21:4).

Meaningful Activities

My first discovery was that there is no such thing as "soul sleep." We remain conscious after death. My second discovery was that we are not destined to be disembodied spirits. We continue to have a body — first, an intermediate spirit body, and then a glorified body. My third discovery was that we are not going to be bored stiff playing harps for eternity. We are going to be engaged in some meaningful activities.

If you are a believer and you die before the Lord returns, you will go to Heaven where you will be involved in worship (Revelation

7:9-14) and service (Revelation 7:15). Admittedly, the Bible does not get specific about our worship and service, but we can be assured that we will find both to be fulfilling and edifying. It could also be that this will be a time of rest, preparing us for the time of vigorous service that will follow, when the Lord returns to earth.

Judgment and Rewards

At the time of the Rapture (most likely before the Tribulation), both the living and dead in Christ will receive their glorified bodies. We will be in Heaven with the Lord during the Tribulation. This will be the time of our judgment, not to determine our eternal destiny, but to determine our degrees of reward. Each of us will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus and be judged as to how we used our spiritual gifts to advance His kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:10). Our works will be judged as to quantity, quality, and motive (1 Corinthians 3:13-15 and 4:5). Some will experience embarrassment as all their works are burned up as worthless (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). Others will receive great rewards.

Some of the rewards will relate to the degree of ruling authority we will be granted during the Lord's millennial reign (Luke 19:11-27). Others will consist of crowns and special robes. There will be a "crown of righteousness" for those who lived yearning for the return of Jesus (2 Timothy 4:7-8). A "crown of life" will be given to those who persevere under trial (Revelation 2:10 and James 1:12). Faithful elders and pastors will receive a "crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:4). Soul winners will be given a "crown of rejoicing" (Philippians 4:1 and 1 Thessalonians 2:19). An "imperishable wreath" will be given to those who exercise self-control (1 Corinthians 9:25). Even the clothing we receive will indicate our degrees of reward. It will in some way reflect "the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:8).

At the end of this time of judgment, we, the Bride of Christ, will sit down at a banquet table in Heaven to celebrate our union with our Bridegroom, Jesus. The Bible calls it the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9). It will be a time of unparalleled celebration. The heavens will ring with "Hallelujahs!" (Revelation 19:1-6).

Witnesses of Glory

When the meal is completed, we will return to earth with Jesus (Revelation 19:11-14). We will be there in our glorified bodies when His foot touches the Mount of Olives and that mountain is split in half (Zechariah 14:1-9). We will be there to shout “Hosanna to the Son of David! Hosanna to the King of kings!” as He rides down the Kidron Valley on His white horse and approaches the Eastern Gate. We will be there to witness the supernatural opening of that gate as it welcomes Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem (Psalm 24:7-8):

Lift up your heads, O gates,
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in!

Who is the King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.

We will be there to shout, “Hallelujah!” when Jesus is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords and begins His glorious millennial reign.

The Millennial Reign

During the Lord’s reign, the Redeemed are going to be doing anything but floating around on clouds playing harps. We are going to reign with Jesus over those who are allowed to enter the Millennium in the flesh (which will be those believers who are alive at the end of the Tribulation). Jesus will reign over all the earth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1-4) as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16). David, in his glorified body, will reign as king of Israel (Ezekiel 37:24). Those of us who will be glorified saints will be scattered all over the earth to assist with Jesus’ reign (2 Timothy 2:12).

Think of it — every person on earth who is in a position of governing authority will be a glorified saint. Some of us will be in administrative positions, sharing in Jesus’ reign as presidents, governors, or mayors (Luke 19:11-27). Others will serve as judges (1 Corinthians 6:3). Most of us will serve as “shepherds,” or teachers, trying to bring those who are born during the Millennium to faith in Jesus (Isaiah 66:18-21 and Jeremiah 3:15).

None of us will serve as legislators because the law will be given by Jesus Himself, and it will be perfect (Isaiah 2:1-4). There will be no abomination known as the Texas Legislature or the United States Congress. Nor will there be any lobbyists or political parties.

The Lord will rule with “a rod of iron” (Psalm 2:9 and Revelation 2:27). The government of the world will be a theocracy, with Jesus serving as both the spiritual and political leader. “He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices” (Zechariah 6:13).

We will be given the blessing of seeing this old sin-sick world flooded with peace, righteousness and justice, “as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). There will be no homeless people or hungry people (Isaiah 65:21-22 and Micah 4:4). Peace will envelope the earth (Isaiah 2:4). The Lord’s reign will be



Painting by Phelan Douglas Hicks

characterized by righteousness, fairness, and faithfulness (Isaiah 11:4-5). “The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to Him. People from every nation will bow down before Him” (Psalm 22:27).

The Eternal State

When the Millennium ends and we move into the Eternal State, the Bible does not go into detail as to what our activities will be. It tells us only three things: we will see the face of God (Revelation 22:4); we will serve the Lord (Revelation 22:3); and we will reign with Him forever (Revelation 22:5).

Seeing the face of God is an exciting prospect, for the Bible says that no one has ever seen His face (Exodus 33:20 and 1 Timothy 6:16). I believe the promise of seeing God’s face means we are going to enjoy intimacy with Him forever. Much of that, undoubtedly will be in the form of worship. I think it also means we will grow in our knowledge of the Lord forever. He is infinite, and no matter how much we come to

know Him, there will be just that much more for us to experience. I feel certain that one aspect of this will be the eternal study of His Word. I get excited over all this as I think of singing the Psalms with David and studying the book of Romans with Paul.

As for service, I would imagine, for one thing, our gifts and talents will be magnified and that we will use them to glorify the Lord. Thus, a singer will be able to sing with a perfection and range never before achieved, and a painter will be able to paint with a glory never imagined.

Reigning with the Lord forever implies that we will be reigning over someone. Who that will be, I do not know. Perhaps it will be the mysterious “nations” referred to in Revelation that seem to inhabit the new earth (Revelation 21:24-27 and 22:2).

Our Eternal Home

This brings me to the fourth and final discovery I made when the Holy Spirit led me into an in-depth study of Bible prophecy. I discovered that the Redeemed are not going to live eternally in an ethereal world called Heaven. I learned, instead, that our eternal home is going to be on a new earth. Most Christians are amazed by this truth, which shows how little Bible prophecy is taught in the Church today.

Since the Bible teaches that the current earth is eternal (Psalm 78:69 and Psalm 148:6), I have concluded that the “new earth” will be the current earth renovated by fire. It is true that Peter said that the current earth will be “destroyed” by fire (2 Peter 3:10,12), but in the context, it is clear that he is referring to a radical transformation of the current earth. Earlier in the same passage he referred to the original earth as having been “destroyed” by water, speaking of the Noahic flood. The earth of Noah’s day did not cease to exist, but the flood “destroyed” it in the sense that it radically changed the nature of the earth — tilting it on its axis, splitting the continents apart, laying down the fossil record, depositing the marine organisms that would become petroleum deposits, and creating the ocean depths and

the mountain heights.

At the end of the Millennium, fire will be used by God to burn away the pollution of Satan's last revolt (2 Peter 3:12). In the midst of that fiery inferno, God will reshape the earth like a hot ball of wax. He will refresh it and restore it to its original perfection (Acts 3:21). He will then lower the new Jerusalem down to the new earth, with the redeemed inside (Revelation 21:1-2). Then, He Himself will come to earth to live in our presence eternally! "The tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them" (Revelation 21:3).

Heaven is where God resides. When the new earth is supplied, Heaven will descend to earth as God takes up residence on this new earth. So, it is true that the redeemed will live eternally in Heaven, but Heaven will be on earth.

The Redemption of All Creation

God loves His creation, and He intends to redeem it — all of it — and not destroy it with some mystical "big bang." Jesus died on the Cross not only to redeem Mankind but also to redeem the Creation. That's the reason the High Priest in Old Testament times sprinkled the blood not only on the mercy seat of the Ark, but also on the ground in front of the Ark (Leviticus 16:15).

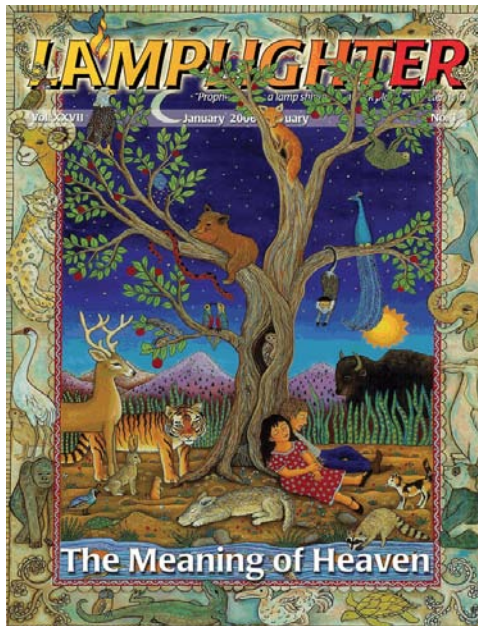
The blood on the mercy seat of the Ark was a symbolic prophecy pointing to the fact that the blood of the Messiah would cover the law of God (the tablets inside the Ark) with the mercy and grace of God. The blood on the ground was a reminder that the sacrifice of the Messiah would make it possible for the curse to be lifted and for the animal and plant kingdoms to be returned to their original perfection (Isaiah 11:6-9 and Romans 8:18-23).

An Unjustified Fear

Many people are afraid of Bible prophecy. They say it is full of "doom and gloom." That is true for those who have rejected the Lord. But for those who know Him and love Him, there is only good news.

The Old Testament ends with an example of what I'm talking about. It says, "For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze" (Malachi 4:1). That is bad news. But the very next verse contains incredibly good news for believers: "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves released from the stall" (Malachi 4:2).

Bible prophecy is full of glorious promises that are designed to give God's people a strong sense of hope as they live as strangers and pilgrims in the midst of an increasingly evil, God-rejecting world. When you read these wonderful promises, you can understand why Paul wrote these words in 1 Corinthians 2:9: "No eye has seen, no ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him."



A God of Hope

As this verse indicates, we cannot even begin to imagine the marvelous blessings God has in store for the redeemed. But the very next verse says that the Holy Spirit has revealed those blessings to us in God's Word (1 Corinthians 2:10). The sad thing is that most Christians are ignorant of those promises and therefore have no idea what Paul meant when he wrote: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18).

In Romans 15:13 Paul wrote: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Our God is a God of Hope who desires to fill us with hope. If you know Jesus as your Savior, you are an heir to some incredible promises,

and if you know those promises and believe in them, you can live in this evil world with hope, joy, and great expectations.

As the world we have built on the dollar collapses around us, let us keep an eternal perspective with our hope fixed firmly on the soon return of Jesus. Maranatha! ✚

Note: This article is an edited excerpt from Dr. Reagan's book, *Living for Christ in the End Times*.

Notes:

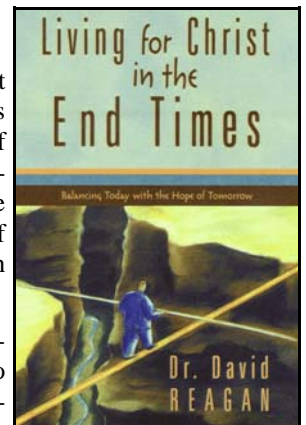
- 1) Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (New York, NY: Washington Square Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, 1963, revised and updated edition in 1998).
- 2) Ibid., page 115.

Dr. Reagan's Book About End Time Living

This is one of Dr. Reagan's most thought provoking books. It begins with a hard-hitting presentation of the special challenges that Christians face at the beginning of the 21st Century due to the decay of society and increasing apostasy in the church.

The book then presents ten principles that Christians can follow to overcome paganism and live victorious lives.

The final two chapters present prophetic material from the Bible which shows that we will ultimately triumph over paganism when Jesus returns in glory and power. 264 pages. \$15.



Finding Hope by Trusting God

Dr. David R. Reagan

When I was 20 years old the Lord clearly called me into the ministry, but unlike Isaiah, I said, “Here am I Lord, send someone else!” (Isaiah 6:8).

For the next 20 years I ran from the Lord’s calling on my life, and no matter what I accomplished, I was miserable because peace cannot be found outside of God’s will. Finally, in the mid-1970s I decided to meet God half way by giving up my academic career and establishing a church-related business. I was soon to learn that God is not interested in anyone meeting Him halfway. He wants total surrender.

I operated the business for a year and a half and then ran out of funding. At that point I owed the bank \$100,000. As I faced the chilling reality of a failed business and a \$100,000 debt, I had no inner spiritual power to help me cope with the crisis.

Let me take that back. I did have the power, for I had received Jesus as my Savior many years before, and on that day I had received the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. But I didn’t know that. I had never received any teaching about the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, so I had never released the power of the Spirit in my life. Instead, I had stifled and quenched the Spirit. The result was I had no power to cope with a business failure and a \$100,000 debt.



Wallowing in Self-Pity

So I did the only thing I knew how to do — I threw a pity party. I wallowed in self-pity. And as I did so, I sank deeper into the pit of depression.

I finally became so despondent that I decided to kill myself. I felt like I just couldn’t face the disgrace and pain of such a failure. Also, I was mad at God. How could He let me down so miserably when I had, at long last, deigned to meet Him half way? In my emotionally perverted reasoning, I decided that by taking my life I would teach God a lesson! I know that sounds weird, but when you are deeply depressed, you don’t think too clearly.

For several days I plotted my demise. Just as I had everything carefully planned, I suddenly got a strange thought: “Why not try God?” That was a strange thought for me because I didn’t believe in either a personal or a powerful God. Looking back on it today I can only conclude that the thought must have come from the stirring of the Spirit within me. I had quenched the



Spirit, but the Spirit was still there, and He was trying to minister to me in my time of need.

I tried to suppress the thought, but it would not go away. Over and over it came to me: “Why not try God?”

Calling for Help

I finally decided to follow the prompting. I got on the phone and called several friends. I asked them to come to my house. When they arrived, I explained my predicament and asked them to pray for me. One by one they prayed. Their prayers were lifeless and unbelieving. They no more believed in a personal and powerful God than I did.

As the prayers droned on, I became agitated. “This won’t do,” I interrupted. “None of you are praying with any meaning. You don’t understand, I need a miracle! Let’s try again and this time, pray with some faith!” I could hardly believe those words came out of my mouth. But they did. My friends started praying again, this time with some fervor.

God performed the miracle the very next morning, and it transformed my life. You could start guessing right now and guess till the Lord returns, and you would never guess how God answered our prayers.

Being Shaped by God

You see, when God responds to a cry for help, He does so in a manner that is always designed to minister first to the inner man, to the spiritual nature. It’s not that He’s unconcerned about the physical man and the physical and emotional pain; it’s just that His priorities are different from ours. We want to be ministered to from the outside in. He ministers from the inside out, because that is the only kind of ministry that has lasting effects.

If you were to guess how the Lord answered our prayers, you would most likely assume that some man walked in my store the next morning and offered to buy the business for \$100,000. That would have been truly remarkable, but it would not have had a transforming effect on me. I would probably have written it off to “coincidence” rather than recognizing it as an answer to prayer. Most likely, I would have sighed with relief and gone on my way continuing to try to meet God halfway.

God answered my prayer miraculously, but He did it in a way designed to get my attention, to convince me that He truly is a personal and powerful God who is on the throne, hears prayers and still performs miracles. He also used a method that was designed to transform me more into the image of His Son.

A Transforming Miracle

Here's what happened. The next morning I went to the store and started calling around trying to find a buyer for my fixtures. I was standing at the front counter talking on the phone when I heard a knock at the front door. I turned and looked at the plate glass door and saw an Oriental man and woman standing there. The man was grinning from ear to ear. I pointed to the sign hanging on the door and turned my back on the couple. The sign said, "Closed: Going Out of Business."

The man resumed his knocking. I got mad. Couldn't this fellow read? Why did he have that big grin on his face? The last thing I wanted to see was someone happy. Misery really does love company.

I put the phone down, went to the door, opened it about an inch and shouted, "Can't you read? We're closed!"

"Oh yes sir," he replied, "I know you are closed. I'm interested in buying your fixtures."

"Oh!" I replied. "Come in. Come in."

I locked the door and went back to the phone while the Oriental man and lady looked around the store. When I finished talking, the man came up to me, still grinning, and said, "Thank you, dear sir, for letting me see your store." He was almost nauseating in his politeness. He continued to grin and started bowing in the Oriental style. Then he started apologizing! "I'm very sorry, dear sir, but you do not have any fixtures I'm interested in. I'm opening up a different type of store."

A Probing Question

I escorted him and the lady to the door. The lady walked out, but as the man got halfway through the door, he suddenly stopped, turned to me and said, "I discern that you are troubled in the spirit. Do you want to talk about it?"

Talk about getting angry. I was livid. Who did this guy think he was? I replied in my best "Christian" manner, "What's it to you?"

"Well," he replied, "I assume from the nature of this store that you must be a Christian. I am too. And I discern that you need ministry. Would you mind if I shared with you what Jesus Christ has done for me in my life?"

I didn't want to hear his story. I wanted him to leave. But what was I to say? It was like when someone asks if they can pray for you. You may not want them to, but you hate to say no.

"I'm awfully busy," I said, as I glanced at my watch in irritation.



This is the Christian merchandise store in Dallas, Texas that Dr. Reagan established and operated during the mid-1970s.

"It won't take but a moment," he replied. He grinned again.

"Okay, okay," I said, "but make it quick."

He turned and said something to the lady in a foreign language, and she left. I locked the door again, and we went to my office. When we sat down on the couch, he put his arm around me and began to pat my shoulder sympathetically.

Again, I was outraged. Who does this guy think he is? He hardly knows me, and he has his arm around me!

But I soon forgot my anger as he began to tell his story.

A Fascinating Story

"When I was a small boy, my father came home one day with terror in his eyes. 'The Communists are coming,' he said, 'and they are going to kill us because we are devout Catholics.'

"He told each of us to get two pillow slips and to go to the living room. He started running all over the house gathering up items which he piled in the middle of the floor. 'Put these in the pillow slips,' he said, 'and tie the tops.'

"We were a very wealthy family, but all we took with us that day was what we could stuff into those pillow slips. We fled into the jungle, and we threw ourselves upon the Lord because we didn't know how to survive in the jungle. There were 12 of us in all. We wandered about aimlessly crying out to God to save us.

"Finally, after three weeks, we made it from Hanoi to Saigon, and we rejoiced over the Lord's deliverance.

A Repeat Performance

"We began our life anew. Many years later I came home one day to my family and my aged parents with that same look of terror in my eyes. 'Get the pillow slips,' I yelled. 'The Communists are coming again.'

"You see, I was a translator at the American Embassy. I had been informed that the Embassy could not arrange for all my family to be flown out. I would not leave without them. So, once again, we had to flee. I knew if we stayed we would be executed because I had worked for the Americans.

"We fled into the Mekong Delta and, again, we began to cry out to God for deliverance. After wandering for several days, we made it to the South China Sea where we discovered a boat full of refugees about to depart. God had saved us a second time!

"But when the boat got out to sea, it started sinking. There were just too many people on it. Some people panicked and began to push others overboard. We got on our knees and started calling out to God. Soon, a merchant ship appeared and took the



survivors on board. God had saved us a third time!

“We were taken to the Philippines where we were put with thousands of other refugees in a concentration type camp. We began praying that God would give us a new home. A year later the news came that we were being adopted by a Bible Church in Dallas, Texas. God saved us a fourth time.

“So, here we are in a new land starting our lives over. God is so good. He loves us, and He answers our prayers. Lean on Him. He will deliver you.”

A Changed Attitude

I looked at the man with tears in my eyes. Before I knew it, I had my arms around him, hugging him in thankfulness for insisting on sharing a story I had not wanted to hear.

When he left, everything had changed. Yet, nothing visible had changed. I still had a failed business. I still owed a bank \$100,000. What had changed was me. I no longer felt depressed. I was no longer wallowing in despair and self-pity. ***I had hope.*** I knew in my soul that God had heard my prayer and that He had sent that man to assure me that if I would trust in the Lord, everything would turn out all right. God had used an Oriental man from halfway around the world to get my eyes off myself and onto His Son.

I had no problems compared to the problems that man had faced. If God could solve his problems, He surely could handle mine.

Tasting the Lord's Discipline

After I sold off all the assets of my business, I still owed the bank \$60,000. I negotiated a deal to pay off that debt by agreeing to pay the bank a minimum of \$1,000 a month. That obligation meant that my family and I were going to have to learn to live on a greatly reduced income. Our whole lifestyle was transformed almost overnight.

Prior to the business failure, my income had been increasing rapidly almost every year. But like most Americans captivated by materialism, no matter how much I made, it was not enough. I always needed a bigger house or a larger car. Suddenly, we had to learn how to live a frugal lifestyle. Most of what I earned each month went to pay off the debt. So we mainly lived on my wife's income as a first-grade teacher.

It was the discipline of the Lord. It wasn't easy, but it was another spiritually transforming experience. We were delivered from materialism. We learned how to live simply, how to count our blessings, how to be satisfied with what we had. We began to learn about how to trust in the Lord to provide our basic needs.

Playing at Christianity

But we were still pretty much what I would call “cultural Christians.” By that I mean that my wife and I had been born into Christian families, raised in the Church, and considered Christian values to be an integral part of our lives. We attended church regularly and made sure that our children were involved in all the church's activities. In short, we were a typical American church going family.

The problem with that is that we were not committed disciples of the Lord. Like most Christians, we had accepted Jesus as Savior but not as Lord. We had received His Spirit into our lives, but we had never released the power of the Spirit. For me the Spirit was a resident but not president. He resided but He did not preside. My ego was on the throne of my life.

Undergoing a Family Crisis

I tasted the discipline of the Lord again in a traumatic event involving our younger daughter. She became involved with drugs. Her whole personality changed. She became moody and tempestuous. Her school work declined. Family arguments grew more frequent.

All the signs of drug involvement were there, but we didn't recognize them. We could not begin to conceive that a child of ours could be having a drug problem. That was the kind of nightmare that afflicted other families, not ours.

But it did afflict us. One day it culminated with our daughter running away from home. She was only 16. She vanished completely. For three months we did not know if she was dead or alive.

During those awful days of waiting and wondering — days of weeping and searching — Satan attacked us with everything he could use. We were overwhelmed by self-condemnation. We felt judged and censured by some of our friends. Every news report seemed to contain a horror story about the mutilation death of a runaway. A special television documentary on runaways indicated that most girls ended up as prostitutes.

We felt totally helpless. In our helplessness, we turned to God as never before. My wife and I joined hands and got on our knees and cried out to God for mercy. We admitted our inability to cope with the situation and, like little children, we cried out to our Father for help.

A Spiritual Transformation

As we emptied ourselves and humbled ourselves before the Lord, we experienced the filling of His Spirit. We received a peace that was beyond human understanding. We felt assured that our daughter was in His hands and that everything would turn out okay if we would only lean on the power of His Spirit and trust in His mercy.

My wife and I were drawn closer to each other. Long lingering resentments evaporated. Pettiness dissipated. Love was renewed. God was working mightily through a tragedy to heal our marriage and to renew and deepen our relationship with Him.

Our daughter was found alive and well, living and working in a small town in Indiana. We had walked through the valley of the shadow of death and found that the Lord walks with you every step of the way if you will only let Him.

Seeing God in a New Way

As a result of these crisis experiences, I began to discover some important things about God. First and foremost was the revelation that He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8).



A key to living with hope: Keep your eyes on God and off yourself.

What a discovery that was for me! God had not retired! He is alive and well. He is still the same God as the one revealed in the Bible — a God who is sovereign, personal, loving, caring, powerful and who still intervenes in history in response to the faith of those who seek Him. I could hardly contain my joy.

I began to believe the promises of God's Word and act upon them. One that became the cornerstone of my new relationship was 1 Peter 5:6-7. It reads:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

"He cares for you!" What a comforting thought. The Creator of this universe is a personal God who is concerned about every one of His creatures.



The Unique God of Christianity

Christianity is the only religion with a personal God. The Allah of Islam is aloof and impersonal and arbitrary. He is never referred to in the Quran as a god of love. The god of modern day Judaism is one who relates to the nation, but not to individuals. The chief god of Hinduism, Brahman, is indistinct from the creation. He is totally impersonal.

But the Bible reveals the true God of this universe as a Father who is concerned about every one of His creatures, both Man and animal. In Matthew 6:25-34 believers are told not to worry about things like food and clothing because God will supply our needs, just as he supplies food for the birds. This promise echos a statement of King David in Psalm 37:25: "I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread."

In Philippians 4:6-7, the Apostle Paul, writing from prison, said, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We are never promised that we will not suffer in this life. But we are promised that if we lean on the Lord in faith, He will walk through the suffering with us and supply all our needs. Here's how the prophet Isaiah expressed it (Isaiah 43:2-3):

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
And through the rivers,
They will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire,
You will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.
For I am the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior . . .

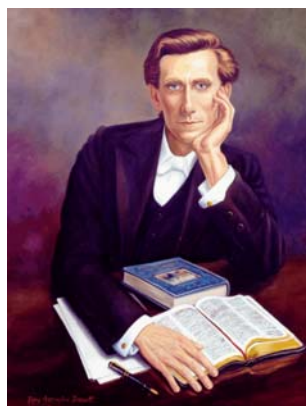
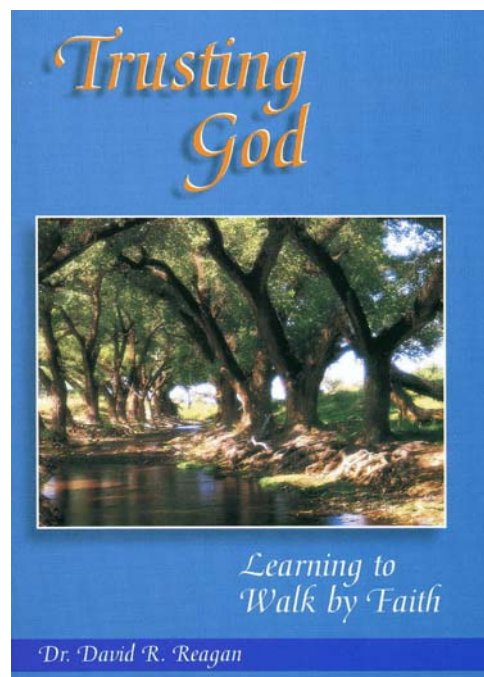
Our God is a "God of hope" (Romans 15:13). Put your hope and trust in Him, and He will sustain you through any crisis that may come your way:

The steadfast of mind
You will keep in perfect peace,
Because he trusts in You
Trust in the Lord forever,
For in God the Lord,
We have an everlasting Rock.
Isaiah 26:3-4 ✚

Note: This article was adapted from Dr. Reagan's book, *Trusting God: Learning to Walk by Faith*.

Using a light-hearted, anecdotal approach, Dr. Reagan takes a look at the basic issues of everyday Christian living and identifies the key principles for walking by faith.

It is a moving book that will have you laughing one moment and crying the next. 264 pages. \$10 plus the cost of mailing. To order, call 1-800-705-8316 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. Or, you can order the book through the ministry's website at www.lamblion.com.



Oswald Chambers by Patsy Arrington Dorsett.

Wisdom from Oswald Chambers

"It is not our trust that keeps us, but the God in whom we trust who keeps us."

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."

"When a man is at his wits' end it is not a cowardly thing to pray, it is the only way he can get in touch with Reality."

God's People Will Not Be Ashamed In The time of Calamity

David Wilkerson

(Editor's Note: David Wilkerson is the pastor of Times Square Church in New York City. I consider him to be God's Jeremiah to America. The following article is an excerpt from a sermon preached in December 2008.)

When I began working on this message, the *Wall Street Journal* was reporting that the entire world had come under a great cloud of fear and that people in all nations are now paralyzed by world events.

Immediately, my thoughts turned to . . . Psalm 37, written by David: "The Lord knoweth the days of the upright; and their inheritance will be forever. *They will not be ashamed in the evil [calamitous] time*; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied" (Psalm 37:18-19, my italics).

Here is an amazing prophecy for God's people, and it is being fulfilled before our eyes. In short, Psalm 37 tells us the Lord rises up to action against societies whose sins have outraged heaven. David prophesies, "The arms [power] of the wicked shall be broken" (Psalm 37:17). Yet this same Psalm is also one of great hope. It contains an incredible promise to those who put their trust fully in the Lord.



First, there comes a time when God can no longer endure the greed, covetousness and wicked fraud that evil men perpetrate on the poor and needy. David's prophecy speaks of a sudden loss of financial power: "The wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume;

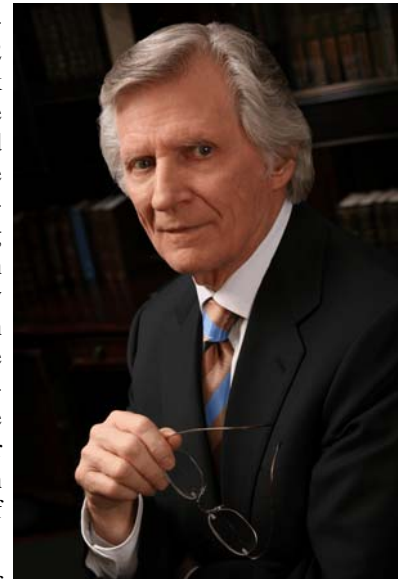
into smoke shall they consume away" (Psalm 37:20). The inference here is that fire will suddenly consume the wealth of the powerful. Riches will quickly spatter into smoke like fat in flames.

Talk about a picture of what has happened to America's economy. In two weeks' time [from September 29 to October 13, 2008] more than \$4 trillion of American wealth vanished. Now we are being told trillions more will go up in smoke. Stock markets all over the world have gone into shock over the news, with brokers weeping and wailing . . .

What we see happening to our economy is not only God's vengeance. It has to do with the very honor and glory of Almighty God. He will not stand by as His ways are maligned by the wicked (Ezekiel 7:12-14). In the midst of wickedness, God has sounded the trumpet of alarm, but the warning has been ignored.

Paul also describes our time when he writes, "In the last days perilous times shall come . . . Evil men and seducers shall wax

worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:1 & 13). Think of the huge mortgage companies that seduced and deceived the poor, the unlearned and the unemployed. These unwitting people were lured to sign up for mortgages they could never pay, and when payday came, they were left without homes. Reputable banks failed because of the deception, but their executives bailed out with "golden parachutes" of multiple millions . . .



David Wilkerson

Here is the theme of my message: "The Lord upholdeth the righteous . . . *They shall not be ashamed in the evil time [of calamity]*" (Psalm 37:17 & 19). You may ask, "What does this mean exactly?" It means simply this: God is faithful not just in His recompense of woes, but also in His promises. David is saying, in effect, "Look around you and see how God keeps His Word. His warnings are now being manifested in your headlines, His actions all over your media. I ask you, will not God also keep His Word to preserve His chosen ones?"

Think of it: No matter what happens in the world — no matter how fearful the news becomes, how severely the world shakes, how economies may teeter toward collapse — God's people will not be left ashamed. Indeed, the Lord will act on our faith to fulfill His Word to us. We may suffer, but He will come through for all who fully trust in Him. The world will never be able to say, "Your God didn't keep His Word."

Make no mistake, we are going to face impossibilities in the days ahead. But our Lord says He is God of the impossible, providing miracles when there is no human answer. In fact, He willingly puts His reputation in the hands of His people, calling us to commit Him to His Word. You may think, "But God can defend His own name. He doesn't need me." Not so! God has chosen His people to be His testimony to a numb, unmoved world. And He is calling us to openly commit Him to do what He promises . . .

Dear saint, are you facing a situation you have not yet committed to God? Are you being called to put your faith out on a limb in the distant unknown? Have you resolved, "Only a miracle from the Lord can deliver me?" We may not figure out how God will work His deliverance; no one in the Bible did. But we do know this: just one of His angels can destroy an army of 185,000 men (2 Kings 19:35) . . .

God will never put His trusting people to shame. He will keep His Word to you because His own honor is at stake. ✚

Coping With Bad News

Nathan Jones

(Editor's Note: Nathan Jones is Lamb & Lion's Web Minister.)

As a Christian watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus to fulfill His promise of returning to Earth to set up His kingdom of peace, love and righteousness, I keep an eye on world events to discern the biblical signs that foretell of that blessed Second Coming. And so, day after day after day I peruse an endless list of news stories in search of those signs. They are very easy to find, but in the search I also discover that the world is filled with horror. That horror can easily stamp out any glimmer of hope.

Getting the Blues from the News

Like standing stalwart against the crashing surf, all these constant updates on how bad the world is can eventually erode a person down. Each morning's wake-up has become tinged with a subtle dread of knowing that I'll have to hear about some injustice, atrocity or murder.

My corporate prayer times are filled with reports of moral collapse and further acts that persecute believers in Christ and take the life of the innocent. My personal prayer times seem to more and more address the consequences of man's inhumanity to man. And worse, I gaze at my children and feel a deep sadness that they will not experience the earthly opportunities and freedoms that the American dream had once provided.

The Bad News of Bible Prophecy

On top of all the terrible news of today, as a student of Bible prophecy I'm also laden with the knowledge of the future horrors of tomorrow. The human institutions of justice created to uphold moral law that so many have shed blood to establish have been corrupted and will disintegrate into a totalitarian regime ruled by a megalomaniac world leader.

Within a few short years, three quarters of the world's population is going to be annihilated by nuclear war, raging famine, deadly pestilence and mass death. Freedom of religion will be stamped out. Those who call Christ "Savior" will be hunted like deer and exterminated. The world will visibly be in the grip of the cruel and merciless Prince of this Age — Satan.

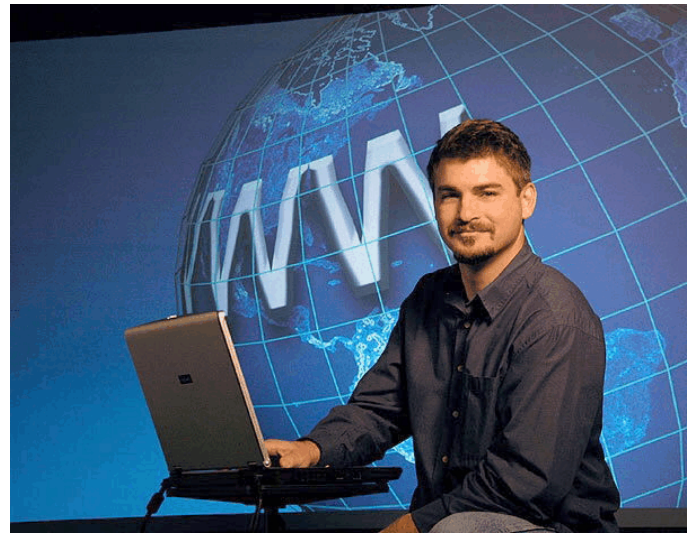
In the midst of it all, I want to cry out, "When, O Lord, are you going to put an end to it?"

Superficial Coping

Recent polls reveal that many people are trying to cope with the stress through the usual diversions like drugs, alcohol, and promiscuous sex.

How have I been coping with all this badness in the world and my biblical knowledge of what is to come? I have been trying to avoid the news in my spare time. Thus, my lunch breaks have shifted from the television news to a staff member's video recordings of American Idol, and my usual late night surfing of the news sites has been replaced with Netflix movies. The wars I can control are played out in video games.

But, these escapisms are only fleeting respites.



Nathan Jones

Effective Coping

Honest coping — coping that heals the soul — finally arrives when one truly understands why Jesus is waiting to return, allowing the evil in the world to rage on in the meantime. The key to that understanding lies in 2 Peter 3:9 which reads, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

This verse teaches that Jesus waits because not everyone who will accept Him as Savior during the present Church Age has yet done so.

Resting in God's Mercy

I could get mad, and probably in moments of weakness have, because I'm saved and I'm all set to go. My attitude about the Lord's return is "Bring it on!"

But, what if Jesus had come back the day before I had accepted Him as Savior? What if Jesus were to return before your spouse, your child, your parents or best friend have accepted Him, leaving them to experience the wrath He has promised to let loose in judgment upon the whole world? Those questions put my anxiousness for His return into true perspective.

That Jesus hasn't returned yet is amazingly a mercy. The world is in a sorry state of affairs because mankind's free will and Satan's moment of ruling have made it so. But, to have the opportunity to be rescued from our sin and be granted eternal life by the true King of the Universe, the King who one day WILL fulfill His promises of destroying all evil and establishing His perfect kingdom . . . well, that life-saving chance is far too important when compared to our present limited time of suffering.

Jesus loves us, and I love Him for being so merciful. He is patient in returning because He wants everyone to have the opportunity to come to repentance and choose Him as Savior. Fortified with that knowledge, I think my day just got a whole lot brighter! ✚

U.S. Secularism —

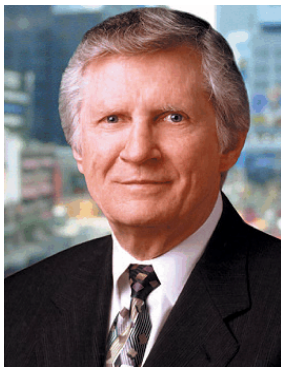
The latest American Religious Identification Survey of more than 54,000 people revealed that Americans have grown significantly less religious in the last two decades. Between 1990 and 2008, there was a ten per cent drop in the number of people identifying themselves as Christians, from 86% to 76%. The group that researchers call the “Nones” — which includes atheists, agnostics and other secularists — almost doubled during the same time period, from 8.2% to 15%. In a further indication of growing secularism, more than one quarter of Americans — 27% — said they do not expect to have a religious funeral when they die.

The most secular part of the United States turned out to be New England with the Pacific Northwest not far behind. Only 42% of the people in Vermont said religion is important in their lives, and 34% identified themselves as having no religion. The sharp increase in secularism in the New England area was attributed to the decline of Catholicism.

Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, said the findings are “further evidence that American Christians live in the midst of a vast mission field, and this should be a wake-up call . . . to the magnitude of our task in sharing the Gospel in modern America.”

“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” — Luke 18:8

God’s Wrath on the U.S. Predicted Soon —



Dave Wilkerson

Dave Wilkerson, pastor of Times Square Church in New York City issued a warning on March 7th that “an earth-shattering calamity is about to happen.” He commented further that “It is going to be so frightening, we are all going to tremble — even the godliest among us.” He predicted that major cities all across the United States will experience blazing fires and rioting in the streets. “God is going to judge the raging sins of America,” he observed. “God is going to destroy the secular founda-

tions.” He recommended that people lay in store a 30 day supply of food and water and other essentials. Spiritually, he suggested that people prepare by fixing their eyes on the Lord. “There is no need to run and hide. This is God’s righteous work . . . We must trust that He will deliver His people . . .”

Dr. Reagan has long said that Dave Wilkerson is God’s Jeremiah to the United States. Ever since 1974 Wilkerson has been saying that God is calling America to repentance, and that if we do not repent, He will destroy the nation. He has also been reporting throughout that time that God has given him recurring visions of American cities burning.

*The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
The Lord is slow to anger and great in power,
And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.*
Nahum 1:2-3

TIMES and Seasons

Adultery Service —

The Ashley Madison Agency of Toronto, Canada has launched a dating service designed to help married people commit adultery! The motto on their website proclaims: “Life is short. Have an affair!” they claim to

have more than 3.5 million subscribers, including over 200,000 in Texas. They are advertising their “Infidelity Service” through television and magazine ads and through their website. One of their commercials was rejected by NBC for national broadcast during the Super Bowl, but it was aired by some local stations during the game. One of their ads shows a stone tablet that looks like the Ten Commandments. The commandment that is highlighted reads: “Thou shall make money from adultery.”



This is one of the billboards the company is featuring.

“In the last days . . . men will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God . . .” — 2 Timothy 3:4

Obama and the Muslims —

The February 4th edition of the *Federal Register* announced that on January 27th President Obama signed an executive order supplying \$20 million in aid to enable Palestinian refugees from Gaza to migrate to the United States. All of these would be supporters of the terrorist organization called Hamas!

There appears to be a definite pattern developing in Obama’s early decisions regarding the Muslim world:



President Obama

- His first call to any head of state was to Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.
- His first one-on-one interview with any news organization was with Al Arabia television.
- He ordered Guantanamo Bay closed and all military trials of the terrorist detainees halted.
- He ordered all overseas CIA terrorist interrogation centers closed.
- He withdrew all charges against the masterminds behind the USS Cole and 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- He announced that he is ready to negotiate with Iran and the Taliban.
- He announced that Israel must accept the creation of a Palestinian state within its heartland. ✚

America's Demise —

"America is the greatest nation in the history of the world — the richest, most powerful, most envied, most consequential. And yet America is the same nation that leads the industrialized world in rates of murder, violent crime, imprisonment, divorce, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, single-parent households, teen suicide, cocaine consumption, and pornography production and consumption.



William Bennett

"Despite our wonders and greatness, we are a nation that has experienced so much social regression, so much decadence, in so short a period of time, that we have become the kind of place to which civilized countries used to send missionaries." — William J. Bennett, former Secretary of Education under President Reagan.

Challenge to Atheism —



Ray Comfort

Evangelist Ray Comfort has published a hard-hitting new book in which he takes on the increasingly militant atheist community. It has a very clever title: *You Can Lead An Atheist To Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think*.

Comfort contends that atheists hate God because they know He exists! As he puts it, "Atheists don't hate fairies, leprechauns, or unicorns because they don't exist. It is impossible to hate something that doesn't exist. . . We don't have to prove that God exists to the professing atheist. This is because he intuitively knows that He exists. Every person has a God-given conscience . . . Just as every sane human being knows that it's wrong to lie, steal, kill, and commit adultery, he knows that God should be first in his life." Comfort adds that it is not just the testimony of conscience at work in all people, but also the testimony of creation, which declares the glory of God, "and the person who denies the voice of conscience and the voice of creation is without excuse."

Taking a Stand —

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"There are four boxes used in defense of liberty: soap, ballot, jury, and ammo. Please use in that order." — Ed Howdershelt

Food For Thought Global Warming —



"There's no way to argue with global warming advocates. If it is too cold, it is due to global warming. If it's too hot, it is due to global warming. If it's too wet, it is due to global warming. If it's too dry, it is due to global warming. If we have a season of killer hurricanes, it's due to global warming. If we have a season with no hurricanes, it's due to global warming. The bottom line is that the issue is not a scientific one; rather, it is ideological in nature, just like the argument about evolution vs creation." — Dr. David Reagan

"Today's global warming activists are the direct descendants of the old Marxists who trampled on individual freedoms and undermined free markets in pursuit of a greater good . . . Global warming is a religion conceived to suppress human freedom because it is used to justify an enormous scope for government intervention vis-a-vis the markets and personal freedom." — Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic.



Vaclav Klaus

Socialism —

"The problem with Socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." — Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of England.

"The American people will never knowingly adopt Socialism. But, under the name of 'liberalism,' they will adopt every fragment of the Socialist program, until one day America will be a Socialist nation, without knowing how it happened." — From a speech in 1944 by Norman Thomas, the Socialist Party candidate for President.

"The inherent vice of Capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." — Winston Churchill

"Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it." — Thomas Sowell, syndicated columnist.

"Socialism is the religion people get when they lose their religion." — Richard John Neuhaus, pastor and theologian.

"Socialism values equality more than liberty." — Dennis Prager, syndicated columnist and talk show host.

"All socialism involves slavery." — Herbert Spencer, British social philosopher.

"A government policy to rob Peter to pay Paul can be assured of the support of Paul." — George Bernard Shaw

"You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money." — P. J. O'Rourke, political satirist, journalist, and writer.

"The function of socialism is to raise suffering to a higher level." — Norman Mailer, American writer. ✚

We Are Back on INSP!

Thanks to a major grant from a foundation in Houston, Texas, we have been enabled to start broadcasting again on the Inspiration Network. Our broadcast began on Friday, March 20th, at 11:00am Central time. The Inspiration Network is carried nation-wide on cable and also broadcasts its programs on both DirecTV and DISH. We praise God for this great blessing!



In late April and early May we broadcast three programs which we videotaped late last year with Dr. Ron Rhodes, founder and director of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries, located in Frisco, Texas. The theme of the programs was "Tough Questions about the Bible." Dr. Rhodes did a masterful job of responding to tough Bible questions that were posed by Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones. The ministry is currently editing the three programs together for release as a video album. It will sell for \$12. To order a copy, call 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm, Central time, Monday through Friday.



Dr. Reagan is shown above with Dr. Ron Rhodes.

Throughout the rest of May and June, we will be broadcasting a series of seven programs that we shot last December at the Pre-Trib Prophecy Conference that is held annually in Dallas.



Dr. Reagan with Ed Hindson.

One of the programs will feature an interview with Bill Salus, author of *Israelestine*. Another program will focus on the United States in Bible prophecy and will feature author Terry James. The rest of the five programs will concern controversial issues about the Antichrist and will show Dr. Reagan interviewing a total of 11 Bible prophecy experts, including Dr. Ed Hindson of Liberty University who serves as the host of the "The King is Coming" television program. ✚

"Christ in Prophecy" Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

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

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

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

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

Regional Networks



"Christ in Prophecy" is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque: KAZQ, Channel 32 and KTQS, 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. 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. ✚

Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Prophecy Conference

Friday evening and all day Saturday, June 26 & 27



Ron Carlson



Mike Gendron



Robert Jeffress



David Reagan



Jack Hollingsworth

Friday Evening, June 26th

Doors open at 6:00pm.

- 6:45 to 7:00 — Welcome and announcements
- 7:00 to 8:00 — Concert by Marty Goetz
- 8:00 to 8:30 — Break
- 8:30 to 9:30 — Dr. Ron Carlson: "Are There Many Roads to God?"

Saturday, June 27th

Doors open at 8:30am.

- 9:00 to 10:00 — Dr. David Reagan: "Spiritual Signs of the End Times"
- 10:00 to 10:30 — Break
- 10:30 to 11:30 — Pastor Robert Jeffress: "Absolute Truth"
- 11:30 to 1:30 — Break for Lunch
- 1:30 to 2:15 — Concert by Jack Hollingsworth
- 2:15 to 2:30 — Break
- 2:30 to 3:30 — Evangelist Mike Gendron: "The Bible Driven Church"
- 3:30 to 4:00 — Break
- 4:00 to 5:00 — Dr. Ron Carlson: "The Danger of the Emergent Church Movement"



Marty Goetz

Conference Details

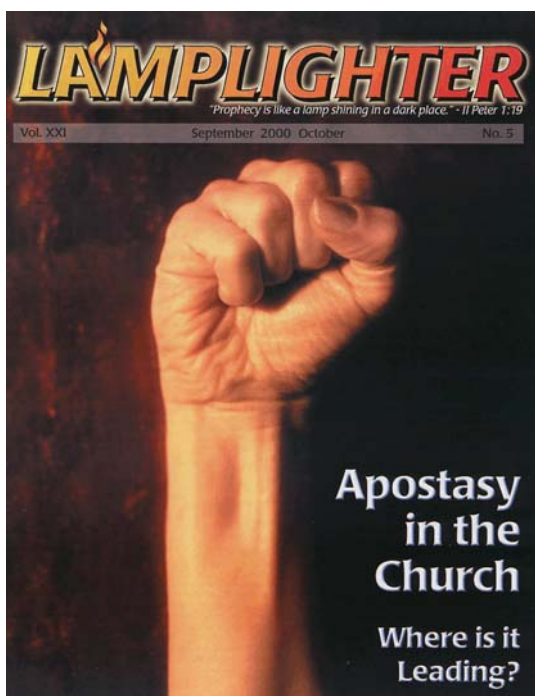
The theme of the conference is "Spiritual Apostasy in the End Times."

The site of the conference will be Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lucas, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas.

The conference is free of charge. Two offerings will be taken. Seating is limited to 600. Registration is required. To register, either call 972-736-3567 or register via the Internet at the Lamb & Lion website: www.lamblion.com. Registrants will be supplied a listing of area motels and restaurants. All presentations at the conference will be made available on DVD for purchase either individually or in an album.



Cornerstone Baptist Church



Announcing a New Type of Publication

In January of this year we started producing a new type of publication which we will be sending out to our Prophecy Partners approximately every other month. The format is similar to our magazine, the *Lamplighter*, but it runs only 12 pages in length whereas our magazine is composed of 20 pages.

The publication is called *Bible Prophecy Insights*. Each issue is devoted entirely to a single topic. The first focused on the theme, "What Happens When You Die?" The second contained a verse by verse exposition of Psalm 2, one of the greatest passages in the Bible about the Lord's Second Coming. Future issues will feature some of the most popular articles we have published in our magazine, together with one or two additional articles related to the same subject.

These publications are posted on our website at www.lambion.com. Go to the home page, click on Publications, and then click on Magazines. Like the hard copies of our magazine, you can purchase hard copies of the *Insights* publication for one dollar each, plus the cost of mailing.

Our Prophecy Partner Program

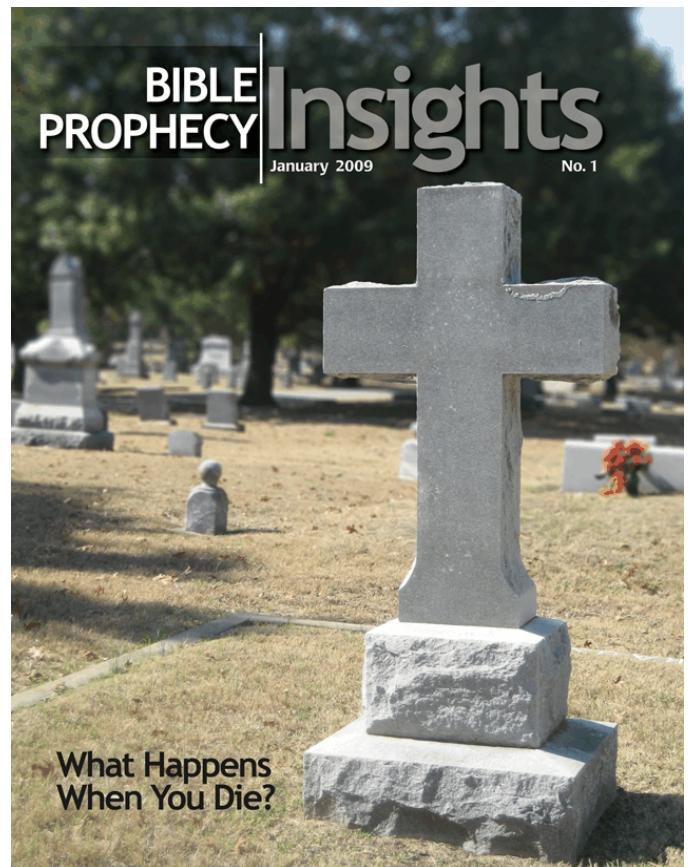
Providing this special publication free of charge to our Prophecy Partners is just one of many special perks that we provide them. Each month they receive a special gift from us like a DVD of one of our television programs, a copy of *Insights*, copies of other special publications, and our yearly calendar. They also receive a letter each month from Dr. Reagan in which he discusses the ministry's achievements and challenges and provides a list of prayer requests. Our Prophecy Partners are also supplied a discount on the purchase of all materials we produce.

To become a Prophecy Partner, all you have to do is let us know that you are willing to make a commitment to pray for the ministry on a regular basis and provide the ministry with a minimum donation of \$20 per month.

God works through our Prophecy Partners to supply the financial foundation of our ministry. Our Partners come from all walks of life and reside throughout the United States. A good example is the Rooker family pictured below.



Jim and Debbie Rooker with their children, Mark and Marcie.



The Rookers are members of the First Nazarene Church in Amarillo, Texas. Jim works in the safeguards department at a local plant. Debbie is a stay at home wife and mother. Their son, Mark turned 6 in March and attends a local Christian school called Heritage Classical Academy. Their daughter, Marcie, had her 3rd birthday in April. She has not started to school yet. Both children specialize in memorizing Scripture.

We began our Prophecy Partner Program in 1987. Today it has over 2,300 participants, and we praise God for each one. ✚

Keeping up with Dave

In **June** Dr. Reagan will lead the annual Lamb & Lion pilgrimage to the Holy Land (6-17). When he returns, he will join the entire Lamb & Lion staff in hosting the ministry's annual Bible conference during the last weekend in June (26-27).

In **July** Dr. Reagan will hold a weekend conference at Spencer Christian Church in Fisherville, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville (25-26). In **August** Dr. Reagan will return to Kentucky to speak at the Catlettsburg Church of God (8-9). Catlettsburg is located on I-64 about 115 miles east of Lexington. And in **September** Dr. Reagan will return again to the great state of Kentucky to preach at Nineveh Christian Church in Lawrenceburg (12-13). The next weekend, Dr. Reagan will be one of the speakers at a Steeling the Mind Conference to be held in Denver, Colorado (19). The conference will be held at Calvary Chapel South in Littleton, a suburb of Denver.

In **October** Dr. Reagan will be one of several speakers at a prophecy conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. This conference is sponsored by Berean Watchman Ministries. ✚

Ministry Finances

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 2008 audit and our Form 990 report to the IRS on our website at www.lamblion.com. Below is a short summary of our 2008 finances, presented on a cash basis.

Revenue:

Sales:	212,083	9.7%
Undesignated Gifts:	1,583,710	72.3%
Designated Gifts:	366,898	16.8%
Other Income:	<u>25,706</u>	1.2%
Total Income:	2,188,397	
Carry-over from 2007:	<u>+ 203,126</u>	
Total Funds Available:	2,391,523	

Expenses:

Administration:	224,174	10.9%
Fund Raising:	48,450	2.4%
Missions:	317,543	15.5%
Outreach:	<u>1,464,743</u>	71.2%
Total Expenditures:	2,054,910	
Excess Funds:	336,613	
*Capital Expenditures:	- <u>201,962</u>	
2009 Cash Carry-over:	134,651	

*Capital expenditures included \$75,000 for a new caretaker's home and \$126,962 for television equipment.



Please note that these figures are strictly a cash report and do not include such items as depreciation. Therefore, the figures contained in our audit and our Form 990 report to the government will differ slightly.

We consider these figures to be a miracle of God, and we praise Him for the incredible way He has sustained our effort to proclaim to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, the fact that Jesus is returning soon.

We particularly rejoice over the way the Lord has used us as a vehicle of blessings to other ministries. In addition to special donations we make to other ministries from time to time, we support the following ministries on a regular monthly basis:

Domestic

Lion of Judah Ministries (Gary Fisher)
According to Prophecy Ministries (Don Perkins)
Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries (Al Gist)
Crown & Sickle Ministries (Don McGee)
Mercy Ships (Becky Bynum)
Acts 29 Ministries (Jack & Sally Hollingsworth)
Spirit of Grace Ministries (Dennis Pollock)

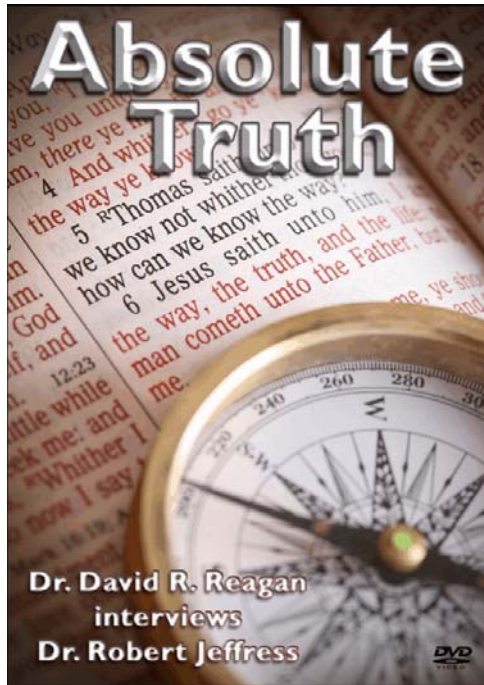
Foreign

Hands of Luke Ministries in Juarez, Mexico
Treasured Truth Ministries in Belfast, Northern Ireland
Dugit Ministries in Tel Aviv, Israel
Christian Life Ministries in Faisalabad, Pakistan
Christian Friends of Israel in Jerusalem, Israel
Revival Literature Fellowship in Bangalore, India
Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines
Pastor Edmund Martinez in the Philippines
Pastor Abraham Louw in Kimberley, South Africa
Pastor Kazik Barchuck in Poland
Evangelist Paul Liu in Mainland China
Evangelist Bret Howard in Vienna, Austria



In February Dr. Reagan participated in the Southern California Bible Prophecy Conference that is sponsored annually by Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, a suburb of Los Angeles. This year there were over 4,000 people present. Some of the speakers are pictured above. From left to right, they are former Ohio Congressman Bob McEwen, Mark Hitchcock, Dave Reagan, Tim LaHaye, Pastor Jack Hibbs, Paul McGuire, and David Hocking. Other speakers who are not pictured included Ed Hindson and Britt Merrick. DVD albums of the conference presentations can be purchased at the church's website: www.calvarycch.org.

New Video Program

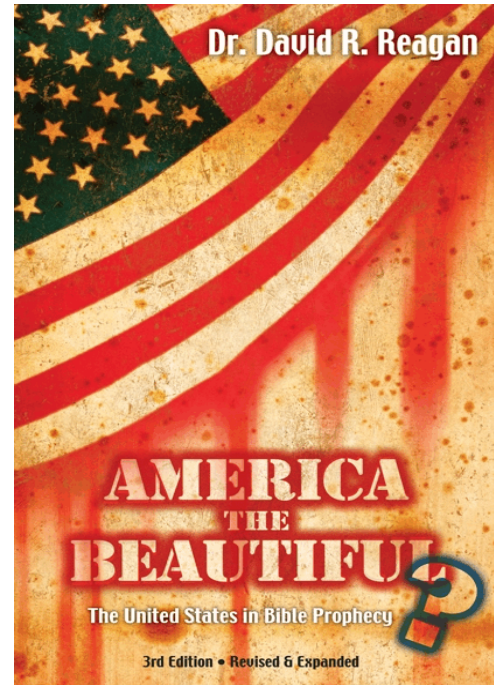


This album contains two interviews with Dr. Robert Jeffress, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. Dr. Reagan considers them to be the best interviews he has ever conducted.

In no uncertain terms, Dr. Jeffress forcefully denounces the impact of political correctness on the Church and presents a convincing argument that the time has come for Christians to be intolerant by speaking out in behalf of biblical truths that are absolute in nature.

This is an outstanding resource for Bible study groups and Sunday School classes, as well as an aid for individual study. 50 minutes. DVD format. \$12.

New Book



This is the third edition of Dr. Reagan's very popular book about the United States in Bible prophecy. It has been completely revised and expanded, bringing it right up to date with the election of Barack Obama and the collapse of the American economy.

Discover the biblical principles that guide how God deals with nations. Find out where the United States appears in Bible prophecy. Learn what the Bible says about the pattern of international politics that will characterize the end times, and see where we are on that time line. Gain insight as to what you can do to prepare for perilous times.

216 pages. \$15

To order either or both of these study resources, please call 1-800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Or, go to our website at www.lamblion.com and order through our on-line store.



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