

LAMPLIGHTER

A man with dark hair and a blue shirt is looking upwards with a concerned expression. He has a spirit level balanced on his head. The background is a stone wall with Roman numerals (IX, XIII, VII) and a dark, starry sky.

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

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Are you
sweating
the end times?



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

Observations by the Editor

Reaching Out

The goal of this ministry from the beginning has been to reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

Initially, our outreach consisted of holding meetings and conferences at churches all across America. But in April of 1980, just three months after the ministry began, a farmer from the panhandle of Texas called and urged us to get our message on the radio. I told him we could not afford to do so.

"How much does it cost?" he asked. I replied that I had no idea, but I explained that the ministry was only three months old and that we did not have any financial resources. He told me to find out the cost of broadcasting a radio program and call him back.

The next day I called back and told him that it cost \$50 a day to air a 15 minute radio program in Dallas. "That's peanuts!" he exclaimed. The next thing I knew I had received a check from him for \$4,000 designated for radio outreach.

So, in June of 1980 we started broadcasting "Christ in Prophecy." It ultimately grew to a network of 80 stations.

Early in the 1990's I met a businessman from Gravel Switch, Kentucky, and a Polish evangelist from Toronto, Canada. Both strongly encouraged me to get involved in foreign missions. In response, we started conducting at least one missions outreach per year, holding Bible prophecy conferences for pastors in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Mexico.

In the mid-1990's one of our trustees began to urge us to set up a website on the Internet. I thought he was speaking in tongues! I had never heard of the Internet, and I thought a website was something spun by a spider! One of my staff members and I finally attended a one day seminar about the Internet, and I came away amazed at the possibilities for international outreach.

We proceeded to set up a website immediately, and it has now become one of our most effective methods of out-



Dave and Ann Reagan

reach. We get hits on the site from all over the world (www.lamblion.com).

In the late 1990's many of my staff members and trustees began to urge that we launch a television program. I was reluctant because of the enormous costs and the nature of the medium. I did not like the way television de-emphasizes the message by focusing on the messenger.

But it soon became clear that it was the Lord's will for us to convert our radio program into a television program. The new TV outreach was launched in September of 2002, and we recently aired our 100th program (see page 16).

Another form of our outreach is, of course, this magazine. It began as a simple two page newsletter in 1980 (one page printed front and back). We converted it into a 20 page magazine with a full color cover in May of 1998.

Other forms of outreach include audio tapes, video programs, and books. A lot of these materials have been translated into foreign languages and have been distributed worldwide.

Please join with us in praying for the effectiveness of all these various forms of outreach. Pray in particular that we will soon be able to expand our TV program to additional networks. ✝



Are you **SWEATING** the end times?

The Message of Psalm 2

Dr. David R. Reagan

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations . . . men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. — Luke 21:25-26

We live in a world gripped by fear. Among all segments of society and all nations of the world, there is a foreboding sense that we are marching toward some cataclysmic consummation of history.

The news is filled with reports of increasing violence — muggings, kidnappings, child abuse, terrorism, wars, and rumors of wars. We seem to be bombarded by an endless stream of natural calamities such as earthquakes, famines, hurricanes, floods, and fires. And the increasing immorality continues to spawn new diseases that threaten Man's very existence.

Significant too is the fact that all these frightful trends are taking place within the context of a world armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons. And to make things worse, these weapons of mass destruction are now spreading to irresponsible outlaw nations like Iran and North Korea. We have giant weapons in the hands of moral pygmies.

All the while, the nations of the world continue on their spending binge, piling debt on debt, preparing the way for a colossal worldwide economic collapse.

The Reality of Fear

In the midst of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt tried to rally a despondent nation by declaring, "There is nothing to fear but fear itself." Those words ring hollow today as we face a multiplicity of very real and unprecedented fears.

It is no wonder that people are scared. They are afraid of losing their jobs, their homes, and their life savings. They fear for their personal well-being, the safety of their children, and the security of their nation. They are frightened by the prospect of menacing plagues and the potential for devastating civil disorder. And lurking in the background is always the possibility of nuclear holocaust.

People are desperately searching for security. They are buying guns and securing their houses with electronic devices. They are altering their lifestyles to protect themselves against the violence of muggers and diseases like AIDS. They are turning to Eastern religions and pop psychology to find solace for their souls.

Increasing Questions

As the world disintegrates before our eyes, even Christians are beginning to question the trends. Increasingly, Christians are asking: "Is God in control? Is evil going to triumph? Is there really any hope?"

The good news is that God in His grace and mercy gave the answers to these questions almost three thousand years ago when



He spoke to the heart of a shepherd boy by the name of David ben Jesse. He gave the boy a poem that was short, sweet, powerful, and full of hope. It contains a message that a fearful world desperately needs to hear today.

The poem is found in the Hebrew Bible. It is called Psalm 2. Let's take a look at it.

Rulers Scoff

Unlike most of the psalms, Psalm 2 does not have a superscription that identifies its author. But we know it was written by David ben Jesse because Luke, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, identified David as the author in Acts 4:25.

The psalm begins with the author lamenting the world's condition:

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar,
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His Anointed:
- 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart,

And cast away their cords from us!”

— Psalm 2:1-3

The language of these verses is rather stilted in the English translation, so let me try to put the words into modern English for you.

The psalmist is asking: “Lord, why is it that everywhere I look in the world the nations are in turmoil? Why are they always devising some vain thing to the glory of Man — things like the tower of Babel, the roman Empire, the League of Nations, and the United Nations? Why is it, Lord, that the presidents, and prime ministers, and kings of the earth are always conspiring against You and Your Anointed One, Jesus? Why is it that the world’s political leaders are always saying, ‘Let’s put aside the limitations of God’s Word and cast away His laws and do what we please!’”

As you can see, nothing has changed in three thousand years. As in the time of David, the nations of the world today are still in full revolt against the Lord. And so it is that Psalm 2 is just as relevant as if it were written yesterday.

Probing Questions

One thing you must understand about Psalm 2 is that the questions which David poses at the beginning were not asked for the purpose of eliciting answers from God. David already knew the answers.

These are rhetorical questions, asked for the purpose of provoking thought. They are designed to motivate the reader to think about the nature of the world in which he lives, and to do so in response to what God’s Word reveals about that world.

I say David knew the answers to the questions because the answers are provided in the book of Genesis, and David must have been familiar with that book as well as all the Torah — the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures — if only by oral tradition.

A Phenomenal Gift

If you will think back for a moment to the opening pages of Genesis, you will remember that God presented an incredible gift to Adam and Eve shortly after their creation.

God gave them something on a silver platter that Hitler lusted for. He gave them something that Stalin dreamed of, that the Romans yearned for, and that Alexander the Great almost achieved. God gave them dominion over all the earth (Genesis 1:27-28).

But almost as soon as Adam and Eve had been given this gift, they lost it. When they rebelled against God, Satan stepped forward and stole the dominion that was intended for Man.

Satan became the prince of this earth. That is the reason Jesus referred to him as “the ruler of this world” (John 12:31). That is the reason that Satan could tempt Jesus by offering Him “all the kingdoms of the world” if Jesus would only worship him (Matthew 4:8-10). That would not have been a legitimate temptation if the kingdoms were not Satan’s to give.

Even after the Cross, the apostle John stated that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). The Cross sealed the ultimate fate of Satan, but that fate will not be experienced until Jesus returns and Satan is crushed beneath the feet of the Lord’s people (Romans 16:20).

God’s Sovereignty

The fact that Satan rules as the prince of this earth does not mean that God has lost control. Satan is not omnipotent. He has always operated within limits prescribed by God.

The oldest book in the Bible, the book of Job, begins by picturing Satan before the throne of God asking permission to afflict Job (Job 1:6-11). God gives him permission to touch all that Job has but denies him permission to take Job’s life (Job 1:12).

Satan was further limited by the Cross, for since that time believers have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and “He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

The book of Daniel makes it clear that God is the one who raises up nations and puts them down. As Daniel put it, “He [God] removes kings and establishes kings” (Daniel 2:21). Paul affirms this in the New Testament when he speaks of “governing authorities” and states that “there is no authority except from God” (Romans 13:1).

But the other side of the coin is the fact that the moment God puts someone in a position of governing authority, Satan comes against that person and attempts in every way possible to corrupt and compromise the person so that he ends up serving Satan’s purposes.

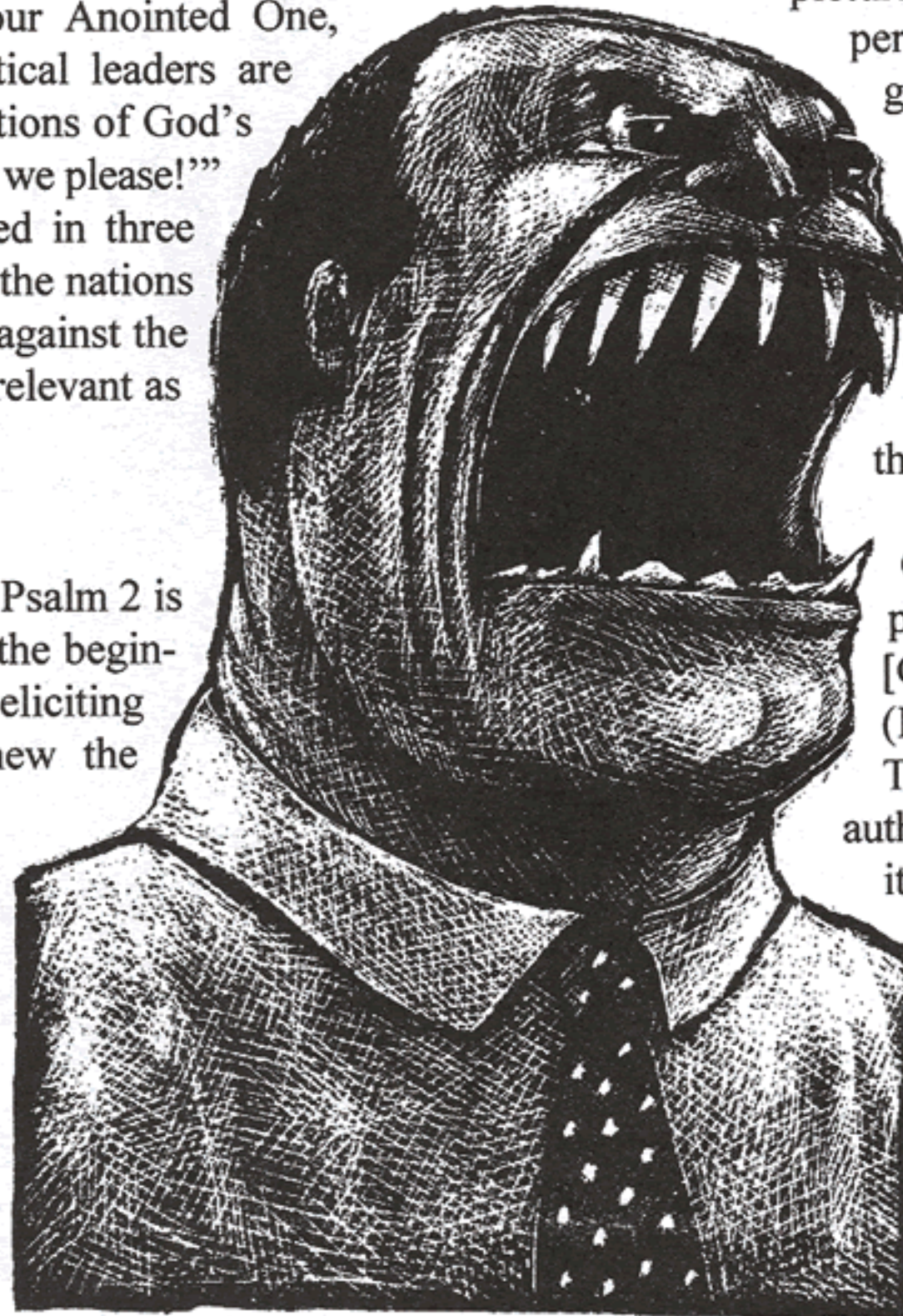
It doesn’t matter whether the person is a school board member, the governor of a province, or the president of a nation, Satan attempts to control all governing authorities. That is why we are so strongly urged to pray “for kings and all who are in authority” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Satan’s Havoc

The Bible attests to this never-ending cycle of God appointing and Satan attacking. I think, for example, of the tragic story of Saul, the first king of Israel. He began with such promise, having received a special anointing of God’s Spirit that even enabled him to prophesy with the prophets (1 Samuel 10:1,6,9-11).

But Satan immediately encouraged Saul’s pride and attacked him with a spirit of melancholy that drove him into fits of depression. Out of pride Saul began to “act foolishly,” assuming for himself the duties of the priests (1 Samuel 13:8-13). In depression, he turned to mediums and witches for advice rather than relying on the prophets of God. The tragic result was that the Spirit of God departed from him (1 Samuel 16:14), and Saul committed suicide on the battlefield (1 Samuel 31:4).

In like manner, Solomon began his reign on his knees before



CHRIS VAN ES
Fear and despair are being expressed increasingly in fits of rage. (Drawing from the *Dallas Morning News*.)

the Lord, receiving a special anointing of wisdom and knowledge (2 Chronicles 1:7-12). His future looked so bright.

But Satan came against him, tempting him with worldly riches. Solomon's turning point came in the year when he received 666 talents of gold (I Kings 10:14). From that point on, he became obsessed with three things: riches, women, and military power (I Kings 11:1-8). He ended up doing "what was evil in the sight of the Lord" (I Kings 11:6).

The empire divided following Solomon's death, and during the 209 year history of the northern kingdom of Israel, there was not one king who was considered good in God's sight. The southern kingdom of Judah lasted a hundred years longer, but during its three hundred years, only 8 of its 20 kings were considered righteous by the Lord.

The Continuing Struggle

When the New Testament opens, we find the tug of war between God and Satan continuing. Satan inspires King Herod to slaughter all the babies of Bethlehem in an attempt to cut off the Messiah at His birth.

Later, Satan orchestrates a conspiracy between governing authorities who hated each other. He brings together the Roman governor and the Jewish Sanhedrin, and through their joint efforts he accomplishes the murder of the Messiah.

Satan's triumph was, of course, short lived, for it was overcome by the victory of the Messiah's resurrection. But Satan was not to be deterred for long. He renewed his relentless attacks on God's sovereignty by launching an all out persecution of the Messiah's followers.

When Satan realized that this persecution of the church was only spreading it and increasing its strength, he shifted to a new strategy — the wedding of the church and the state so that the church could be compromised. This occurred around 331 A.D., and it marked the beginning of the dark ages when the church became subservient to the state. The church quickly became penetrated by the world, and its testimony for Christ became secondary to the pursuit of politics.

But, thank God, Jesus had made an important promise concerning His church. He had promised that "the gates of Hades shall not overpower it" (Matthew 16:18). So, even during the darkest years of the Middle Ages, there was always a faithful remnant preserved by the Spirit of God.

Finally, the day came when Martin Luther nailed his theses to the door and called for a return to God's Word. Satan was put on the defensive once again as the church experienced reformation and began to send out missionaries all over the world.

The Conflict in Our Time

As the 20th Century dawned, Satan went back on the offensive. He orchestrated one of his greatest victories with the

birth of Communism in Russia in 1917. Satanism became incarnate in the atheistic ideology of the Communists as they attempted to exterminate both the church and God's Word.

Simultaneously, Satan launched an internal attack on the Western democracies by energizing the philosophy of Secular Humanism. The Judaic-Christian foundation of Western Civilization came under direct attack from within while the Communists hammered at it from without.

The Communist threat has collapsed from the weight of its own internal inconsistencies. But Satan has provided no breathing space. He continues to promote the advance of Secular Humanism, and he has brought about a resurgence of Islam.

The Focus of the Conflict

Perhaps the clearest example of Satan's determination to exert his dominion in defiance of God's will is to be found in his opposition to the re-establishment of the nation of Israel.

Throughout the Old Testament God promises repeatedly that in the end times He will regather the Jewish people from the four corners of the earth to the land of Israel (see Isaiah 11:10-12 and Ezekiel 36:22-37:12). God reveals that His purpose is to do a mighty work in the hearts of the Jews that will result in a remnant accepting His Son as their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10, 13:1 and Romans 9:27, 11:1-6, 25-32).

Satan hates this purpose of God because he hates the Jewish people with a passion. His hatred is fueled by the fact that God has used the Jewish people as a vehicle to bless all the nations of the world. Through the Jews, God gave the world the Scriptures. Through the Jews, God gave the Messiah.

Satan is determined to destroy the Jewish people so that God cannot keep His promise to bring a remnant to salvation. This is the reason that Satan is orchestrating all the nations of the earth against Israel today. God has raised up a nation that Satan, as the prince of this world, is determined to destroy.

Rage vs. Laughter

I am personally outraged by Satan's many attempts to frustrate and defeat the will of God in Israel and throughout the earth today. I often feel so frustrated that I want to shout, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging" by sending your Son back to reign in glory and majesty and righteousness and justice? (Revelation 6:10)

The only way I am able to restrain my anger is to remind myself of what God is doing in Heaven while I fume over Satan's plots on this earth. Do you know what the Scriptures say God is doing?

He is laughing! Yes, God is sitting on His throne laughing — not because He doesn't care, but because He has the world's events under control. This may be hard to believe, but I can prove it to you. Let's return to Psalm 2.



The spread of terrorism has intensified our fears.

God Laughs

- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury:
- 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”

— Psalm 2:4-6

God laughs at Satan and all the politicians in league with him as they attempt to thwart God’s purposes in history. He laughs for three reasons.

First, the passage says, “The Lord scoffs at them.” The Hebrew here means literally that “the Lord has them in derision.”

In short, this means that no matter what Satan does, God sees to it that it backfires in his face to the glory of Jesus. Psalm 76:10 says that even “the wrath of Man” shall go to the praise of God.

Satan’s Frustration

In this regard, Satan has got to be the most frustrated personality on planet earth. All his schemes ultimately fail. All his plots sooner or later unravel.

The Cross is the classic example. Satan thought he had gained his greatest victory. Instead, it proved to be a defeat. God took history’s most dastardly event and converted it into something majestic through the power of the resurrection.

In World War I Satan managed to put together a conflict of unparalleled carnage, but God worked through the evil of that war to accomplish a spiritual purpose. He liberated the land called Palestine from the Turks and delivered it into the hands of the British who immediately proclaimed it to be a homeland for the Jews.

Likewise, during World War II, God worked through the incredible evil of Satan’s Holocaust to prepare the Jewish people for their homeland. They came out of the Holocaust saying, “Never again! Never again! We are going to have our own land, our own nation, our own state.” Accordingly, they began to return to Israel by the hundreds of thousands.

God used World War I to prepare the land for the people. He worked through World War II to prepare the people for the land.

God sits in the heavens and laughs while Satan writhes in frustration.

A Day of Wrath

The second reason God is laughing is because “He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury” (Psalm 2:5). This statement refers to the fact that God has appointed a day when He will deal with all the kingdoms of the earth and their political leaders by pouring out His wrath through the return of His Son, Jesus the Messiah.

Paul spoke of this momentous day during his sermon on Mar’s Hill in Athens: “God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising

Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

This day is often mentioned by the Old Testament prophets. They called it “the day of the Lord” (Joel 2:1). The prophet Zephaniah described it as “a day of wrath, trouble, distress, destruction, desolation, darkness and gloom” (Zephaniah 1:15). He said that the Lord will bring such distress upon people that they will reel about, walking like blind men (Zephaniah 1:17).

Satan’s False God

This day of wrath that God has reserved for the rebellious nations of the world and their leaders is one of the best kept secrets in the universe. Satan doesn’t want anyone to know about it. In his attempt to cover it up, he has created a false image of God that has been bought by both Christians and unbelievers.

The false god Satan wants us to believe in is a push-over that could be characterized as “the cosmic teddy bear.” He is big and warm and soft and cuddly. And when we stand before him to be judged, he will put his arm around us, snuggle us up to him, and say, “I know you never accepted My Son as your Lord and Savior, but that’s okay, because you were a lot better person than the reprobate who lived down the street from you. So you just come on into My kingdom and enjoy eternal life with Me.”

No such namby-pamby god exists. He is a cruel hoax created by Satan. All of us stand condemned before the true God, for “all of us like sheep have gone astray” (Isaiah 53:6). Our only

hope is through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-24). God does not grade on the curve nor is He some patsy who can be easily hoodwinked. God cannot be deceived or mocked (Galatians 6:7).

Yes, God is full of grace and mercy (Psalm 86:15), and He does not desire that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9), but He is also a God of perfect righteousness, holiness, and justice — and as such, He cannot countenance sin.

God must deal with sin, and He does so with either grace or wrath. That is why John the Baptist declared that every person on earth is under either the grace of God or His wrath (John 3:36).

A Coming Reign

The passage in Psalm 2 indicates a third reason that God is laughing. God explains it by saying, “As for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion My holy mountain” (Psalm 2:6).

The wording here is very interesting. God speaks of a future event — the Millennial reign of Jesus — as if it were an accomplished historical fact. This strange manner of speaking of the future as if it were past is a very common feature of Bible prophecy — so common, in fact, that theologians have coined a word for it. They call it “proleptic” speech.

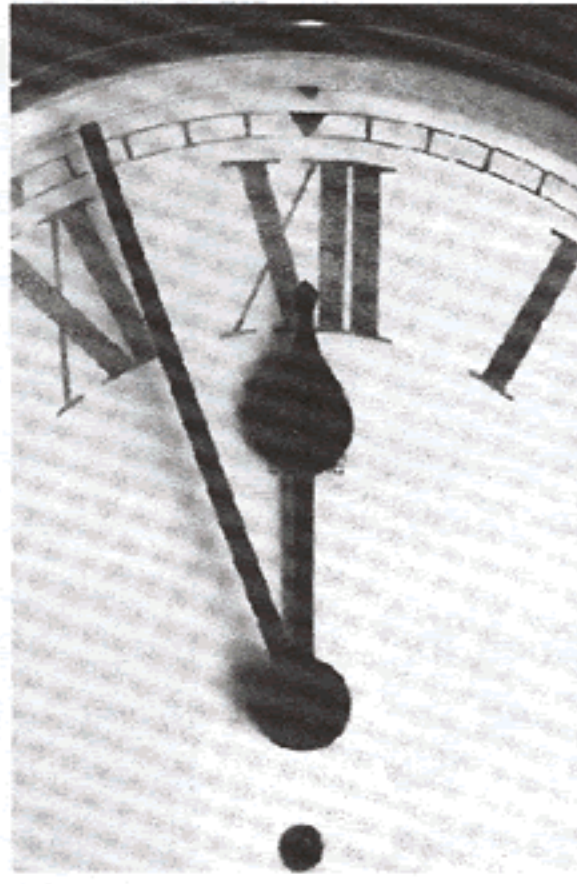
Such speech is particularly characteristic of God in the Scriptures. The reason is that God is not in time as we are. We are on a time line. We have a past, a present, and a future. God is outside of time. If He wills something, it is accomplished, whether or not it has yet happened in history as we know it.

Take for example the crucifixion of Jesus. We think of it as happening 2,000 years ago on the outskirts of Jerusalem — and it did, as we perceive time. But when did the crucifixion take place as God sees time? The Bible says that Jesus was slain

“from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8) because that is when God willed it.

The proleptic principle is best expressed by God Himself in 2 Kings 19:25 — “Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; from ancient times I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass.”

But let’s get back to our point. The point is that God sits in the heavens and laughs at the rebellious kingdoms of the earth because He has ordained that one day soon His Son will return as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16) to reign over all the earth and bring it into submission to God’s perfect will (Isaiah 9:6-7).



An Unfulfilled Promise

How do we know this is a proleptic statement — that although it is stated in the past tense, it is a promise yet to be fulfilled? The answer is obvious — namely, there is no fulfillment in history. Does Jesus reign today as King of kings from Mount Zion in Jerusalem? Has He ever?

There are those who argue that He is spiritually reigning over the nations of the earth. If so, then He is doing a very poor job, for the earth is dominated by evil rebellion against God.

When you consider what the Bible says will be the characteristics of the Lord’s reign over the earth, it is easy to see that the reign is yet future. Isaiah 11 says the reign will be characterized by righteousness, fairness, and faithfulness. Are these the characteristics of national governments today? In that same chapter Isaiah says “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). How could anyone argue that such a prophecy has been fulfilled?

The promise of God in Psalm 2 that His Son will one day rule over all the earth is yet future. The King is coming! The kings of the earth are living on borrowed time. They plot and connive, but their fate is sealed. So, God sits in the heavens and laughs.

Jesus Proclaims

The next spokesman in Psalm 2 is Jesus Himself. He makes a glorious proclamation about the future in which He confirms His Father’s intention to establish Him as the King of kings:

- 7 I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord:
He said to Me, “You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.
- 8 Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as
Your inheritance,
And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron,
You shall shatter them like earthenware.”

— Psalm 2:7-9

The Begotten One

Jesus begins His proclamation by repeating the Father’s promise to Him that He will one day rule from Mount Zion over “the very ends of the earth.” It is a promise that undoubtedly

dates back to the foundation of the world itself. I say that because the Bible tells us that Jesus was fore-known as the Savior who would shed His blood “from before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:19-20, Revelation 13:8, and Ephesians 1:4).

Because Jesus is the Worthy Lamb who was slain for the sins of Man (Revelation 5:9), He is the only one eligible to assert dominion over God’s creation. In that sense, He is the “only begotten” (John 1:14,18) — the only Anointed One of God who is authorized to act in the Father’s behalf as the Regent of planet earth.

This sense of meaning is reflected in the Living Bible’s paraphrase of Jesus’ proclamation:

I will reveal the everlasting purposes of God, for the Lord has said to me, “You are my Son. This is your Coronation Day. Today I am giving you your glory. Only ask, and I will give you all the nations of the world.” — Psalm 2:7-8

Note that the statement, “Today I have begotten You,” is paraphrased to present the real meaning: “This is your Coronation Day.” That is why Jesus could address Himself to the church at Philadelphia as the one “who has the key of David” (Revelation 3:7). He is the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant and its promise (Psalm 89:3-4):

I have made a covenant with My chosen;
I have sworn to David My servant,
I will establish your seed forever,
And build up your throne to all generations.

Once again, keep in mind that the Father’s promise to Jesus is yet to be fulfilled. Remember, Jesus was “slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8) because that is when the Father willed it to happen. But the Father’s will did not become an historical reality until thousands of years later. In like manner, Jesus was crowned from the foundation of the world — also because the Father willed it then — but it is an event that is yet to take place in history.

The Roles of Jesus

The first time Jesus came, He came as our Suffering Savior (Isaiah 53). After His resurrection, He became our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). He continues in that capacity today, ministering as the mediator of our prayers before the throne of God (Hebrews 8:1-2). But one day very soon He will return, and when He does so, He will return as our Glorious King to reign over all the nations of the world (Revelation 19:16).

Jesus is not serving as a king now. He is never pictured as currently being the king of this world or the king of the church. His relationship to the church is portrayed as being like the head to the body (Ephesians 5:23) or a bridegroom to a bride (Revelation 19:6-9).

Jesus is a king-in-waiting. The situation is like that which prevailed in the life of David for many years. David was anointed the King of Israel by Samuel. But David had to wait many years before he was coronated. Likewise, Jesus has been anointed King of kings and Lord of lords, but He will not be crowned as such in history until He returns to earth.

An Incredible Inheritance

When Jesus does return, the promises of Psalm 2 will be fulfilled to Him. The first of those promises is that He will inherit the earth — “the very ends of the earth” will become His possession (Psalm 2:8).

There is a popular myth that when Jesus returns the earth will burn up and cease to exist. That can't be true because the Bible affirms that the earth is “eternal” (Psalm 148:6, Psalm 78:69, and Ecclesiastes 1:4).

It is true that the earth will be radically changed when the Lord returns. The change agents will be earthquakes and supernatural phenomena in the heavens (Revelation 6:12-13). We are told that every island will be moved and that every mountain will be lowered and every valley raised (Revelation 6:14 and Isaiah 40:4). The image that is portrayed is one of the earth's surface being smoothed out, with Jerusalem being lifted up to become the highest point on the face of the planet (Micah 4:1).

The earth will also be refreshed. The deserts will bloom (Isaiah 35:1,6-7). The hills will “drip with sweet wine” and “flow with milk” (Joel 3:18). The abundance of agriculture will be so great that “the plowman will overtake the reaper” in the sense that a new crop will be planted as fast as the old crop can be harvested (Amos 9:13). Even the Dead Sea will come alive and teem with fish (Ezekiel 47:8-9).

The animal kingdom will also be restored. We are told that the carnivorous animals will become herbivorous. Thus, “the lion will eat straw like the ox” (Isaiah 11:7). This change will enable the animals to live together in peace with each other and with Man. “The wolf will dwell with the lamb” (Isaiah 11:6), and a “nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra” because the cobra will no longer be poisonous (Isaiah 11:8).

The Eternal Earth

Even when the Millennium ends, the earth will not cease to exist. Instead, its fundamental nature will be changed once again. This time the change agent will be fire.

God will take the redeemed off this planet and put us in the New Jerusalem. From that vantage point we will watch as the Lord superheats the earth and burns away the pollution of Satan's last revolt.

Then, working with the earth like a hot ball of wax, the Lord will reshape it, and out of that flaming inferno will come a new earth, a perfected earth, an earth which will serve as our home eternally (Revelation 21:1).

Joint Heirs

God has promised to give that redeemed planet to His Son and to His joint heirs — namely, those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In Psalm 2, He promises the earth to His Son. In Psalm 37:11, He extends that promise to the redeemed: “The humble will inherit the earth.” That promise is repeated in verses 22, 29, and 34.

These promises are the ones that Jesus referred to in His Sermon on the Mount when He said: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). Paul recognized that the same promise was inferred in the Abrahamic Covenant when he wrote that God's promise to Abraham and his descendants (by faith) is that they would “inherit the world” (Romans 4:13).

A Worldwide Reign

The second promise that the Father makes to His Son in Psalm 2 is a natural corollary of the first. Not only will Jesus inherit the earth, but He will also reign over it: “I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance . . . You shall break them with a rod of iron” (Psalm 2:8-9).

Jesus is coming to reign. That is one of the most persistent themes of the Scriptures from beginning to end. And again, the redeemed will be joint heirs of this promise. We will reign with Jesus.

These truths were graphically portrayed to Daniel in a series of night visions. In one he saw the “Son of Man” appear before the “Ancient of Days” and receive dominion and a kingdom that included “all the peoples, nations, and men of every language” (Daniel 7:13-14). Then Daniel was told that “the saints of the Highest One” would receive the kingdom and would exercise “the sovereignty, the dominion, and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven” (Daniel 7:18,27).

In the book of Revelation Jesus promises that He will give overcomers “authority over the nations” and they will rule over the nations “with a rod of iron” (Revelation 2:26,27).

In Revelation 4, when John is raptured to Heaven and finds himself in the throne room of God, he hears the heavenly host singing a song of praise to Jesus. In the song the statement is made that those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb have been made a kingdom, and “they will reign upon the earth” (Revelation 5:9-10).

The Glory of the Lord

And what will be the purpose of all this? There are many reasons for the Millennial reign of Jesus. God is going to use



that period of time to fulfill promises He has made to the nations, to nature, to a remnant of the Jews, and to the Saints. But the fundamental purpose is to fulfill His promise to His Son that He will one day be glorified in history, just as He was humiliated in history.

This promise is a persistent theme of the Scriptures. It is the essence of the Father's promise in Psalm 2, and it is echoed throughout the Bible, in both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament.

The prophet Isaiah says that when the Lord returns in "terror" and in the "splendor of His majesty," all proud men will be humbled, and "the Lord alone will be exalted in that day" (Isaiah 2:10-11). The Lord's name will be honored, and He will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). He will return to manifest His glory before His Saints (Isaiah 24:23) and before the nations of the world (Isaiah 66:18).

Paul affirms this purpose of the Lord's return in 2 Thessalonians 1:10 where he states that Jesus is returning "to be glorified in His saints" and "to be marveled at among all who have believed."

The Spirit Warns

Psalm 2 begins with David speaking as a prophet, lamenting over the way the world's rulers scoff at the Lord. It proceeds with the Lord laughing over the feeble attempts of men to frustrate His will. It is then punctuated by a proclamation of Jesus in which He announces His Father's promise that He, the Son, will one day triumph over all the kingdoms of the world.

The psalm concludes with a warning given by the Holy Spirit:

- 10 Now, therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the Lord with reverence,
And rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry,
and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.

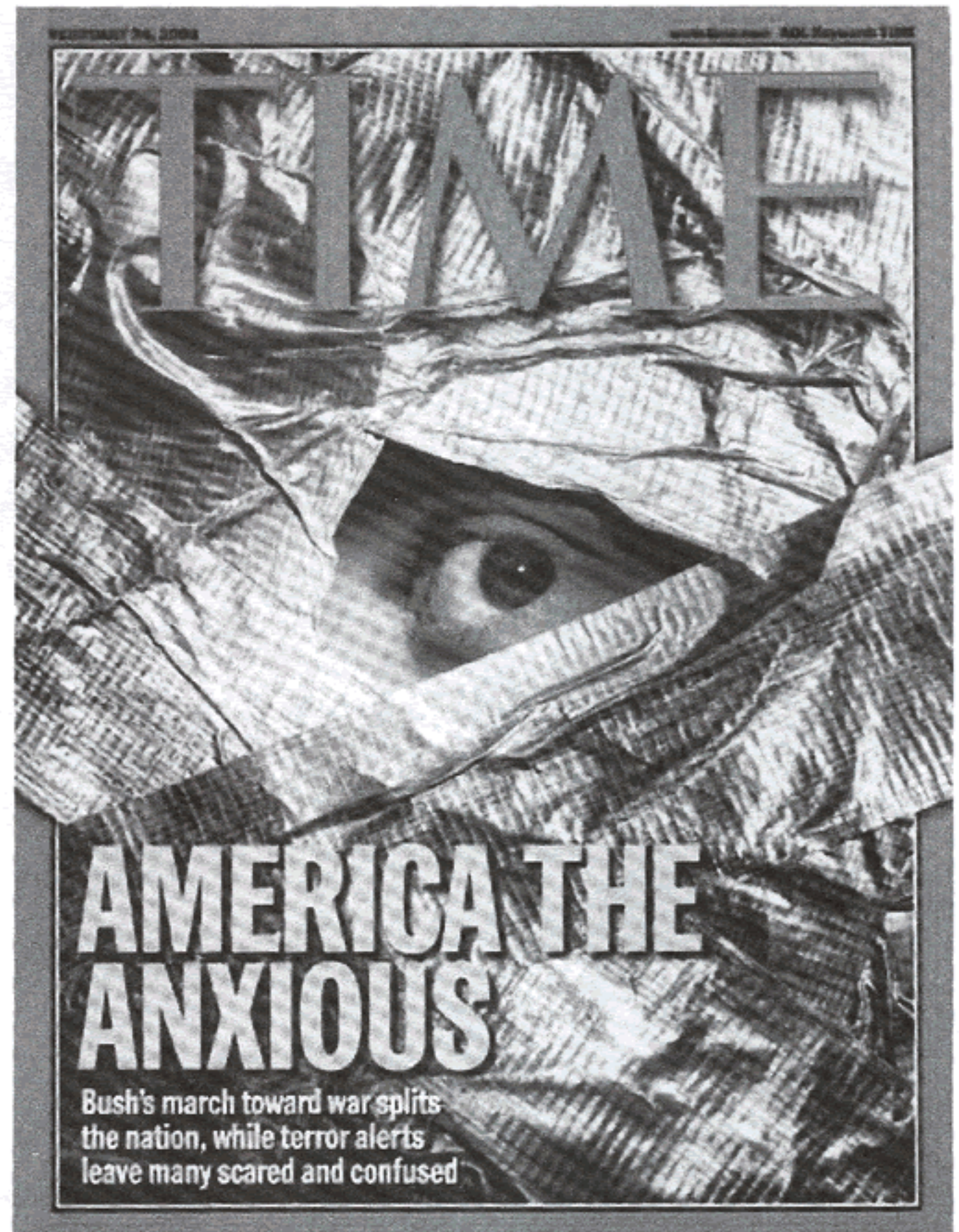
— Psalm 2:10-12a

The Audience

The Spirit's warning is addressed to the kings and judges of the earth. It is a solemn call for the political leaders of the world to clean up their acts and submit themselves and their nations to the Lord's will before He bursts from the heavens in wrath.

Unfortunately, this stern warning seems forever to fall on deaf ears and hardened hearts. The warning was spoken 3,000 years ago, and power grubbing and political corruption continue unabated to this day. The world's political leaders continue to thumb their noses at God and mock His Anointed One.

But a "day of reckoning" (Isaiah 2:12) is fast approaching, and what a day it will be! The book of Revelation says that on that day "the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong . . ." will hide themselves in caves and will cry out to the rocks of the mountains: "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Revelation 6:15-16).



The Lord has delayed the outpouring of His wrath because He does not desire that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). But there is a limit to the Lord's patience, and while He waits, "He reserves wrath for His enemies" (Nahum 1:2). The Lord may be slow to anger, but "He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished" (Nahum 1:3).

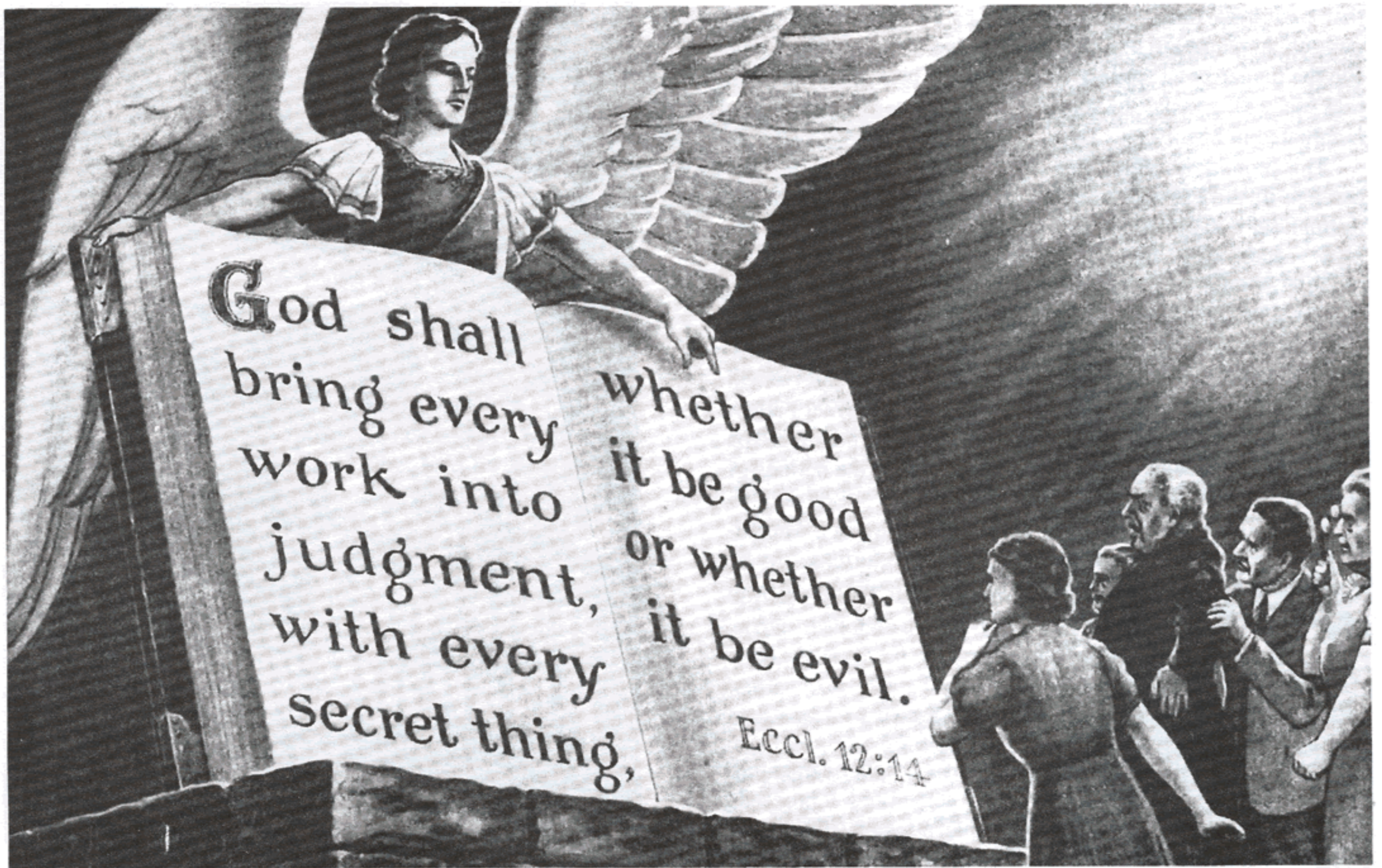
But the political leaders of the world are not the only audience for the Spirit's warning. The warning is also aimed at the redeemed, for — as I have already pointed out — we will one day serve as the kings and judges of this world. So, let the redeemed take notice of what we are called to do as we await the Lord's return.

A Call to Worship

First, we are called to "worship the Lord with reverence" (Psalm 2:11). The actual Hebrew word here is "serve" rather than "worship." But I like the use of the term, worship, because it emphasizes that our ultimate worship of the Lord is expressed in how we serve Him.

We so often think of worship only in terms of what we do when we come together corporately as a congregation of believers. Don't get me wrong — corporate worship is extremely important. We were created to worship God (Deuteronomy 6:13), and God actively seeks people who are worshiping Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23).

But the ultimate worship is expressed in what we do when we leave the congregation and return to the world. Do those who come in contact with us recognize that we have been in the presence of the Lord? Do we return from worship "to bless our household," as was the case in King David's life? (2 Samuel 6:20)



Do you have a passion to worship God? Do you desire to celebrate Him for who He is and what He has done? And do you desire to express that worship not only with the praise of your lips but with the labor of your body and the money you have earned?

One other thing — Do you understand that one day soon You will stand before the Lord and be judged of your works?

A Call to an Unusual Form of Rejoicing

The future judgment which we face for our works is the reason that the Spirit expresses His next command in such an unusual way. He calls us to “rejoice with trembling” (Psalm 2:11).

Have you ever thought about what a strange command this is? A person normally rejoices with laughter, dancing, singing, or hand-clapping. How does one rejoice with trembling?

I think the command relates to the tension that exists in the Scriptures between grace and works. We are saved by grace, and we should rejoice over that and over the completion of our salvation (the glorification of our bodies) that we will enjoy when the Lord returns. But at the same time we should tremble over the prospect of standing before Jesus to have our works judged.

There is both good news and bad news about the Lord’s forthcoming judgment of the redeemed. The good news is so good that many Christians find it hard to believe, but it is true nonetheless. The incredible good news is that the redeemed will not be judged of their sins to determine whether they will spend eternity in heaven or hell.

The reason, of course, is that we have already been judged of our sins. That judgment took place at the Cross when all our sins — past, present, and future — were placed on Jesus, and He received the wrath which we deserve.

That’s why the Bible teaches that if you are covered by the blood of Jesus, your sins have been forgiven and forgotten (Isaiah 43:25 and Hebrews 8:12). They have been removed from the presence of the Lord “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12-13). As Corrie ten Boom used to say, “The Lord has placed our sins in the deepest part of the ocean, and He has put up a sign that says, ‘No Fishing!’” (See Micah 7:19.)

What does it mean for the Lord to “forget” our sins? It means they will never be held against the redeemed again with regard to the determination of their eternal destiny. That’s why the writer of Hebrews could confidently assert that when Jesus appears a second time, He will come “for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Hebrews 9:28).

So, if our sins have been forgotten, what will be the nature of our judgment when we, the redeemed, stand before the Lord? This brings us to the bad news that should cause us to tremble. We are going to be judged of our works, not to determine our eternal destiny, but to determine our degrees of reward. And in regard to our works, our shortcomings and failures will be remembered.

This news comes as a great shock to most Christians for most seem unaware that their works have any significance, and others do not realize that there will be degrees of reward.

Degrees of Reward

The concept of degrees of reward is clearly spelled out in the Scriptures. In 1 Corinthians 3:8 Paul says "each will receive his own reward according to his labor." He then says that our works will be tested by the Lord to determine their quality (1 Corinthians 3:13). He indicates that some will, in effect, be saved with their tail feathers smoking! This is because their works will not stand the test of the Lord's "fire" (His judgment). He thus concludes, "If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:15).

Some of the last words Jesus spoke on this earth had to do with degrees of reward. Those words are recorded in Revelation 22:12 — "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

The Judgment of Works

How will the Lord judge our works? What criteria will He use?

I believe the starting point will be the gifts of the Spirit which we received when we were born again. The Word teaches that at the moment of salvation every redeemed person receives at least one gift of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7 and 1 Peter 4:10). Some receive more than one gift, and some may receive additional gifts as they develop in the Lord, particularly if they are good stewards of their initial gifts (Matthew 25:14-30).

I believe the Lord will ask each one of us how we used the gifts He gave us for the advancement of His kingdom. And then I believe He will test our works in terms of quantity, quality, and motive.

What about you? Do you know what gifts you have been given by the Spirit? Are you using them to advance the kingdom? And are your motives pure? Are you serving the Lord in the power of His Spirit for the purpose of His glory?

A Call to Commitment

As we await the Lord's return, we are to "worship the Lord with reverence" and we are to "rejoice with trembling." The third thing the Spirit calls us to do is to "do homage to the Son" (Psalm 2:12).

What the Hebrew actually says here is very clear but is seldom literally translated because it sounds so strange. Literally, the Hebrew words say "Kiss the Son."

For years I wondered what those words meant. I consulted commentaries and found a lot of conjecture, but none of the answers seemed to click in my spirit. So, I continued to pray that the Lord would show me the true meaning of the words.



One day, as I was reading the book of Hosea, the Spirit suddenly impressed a verse upon my heart that gave me the answer I had been seeking. The verse is found in chapter 13.

As this chapter begins,

Hosea has just completed his preaching tour of Israel in which he calls the people to repent of their idolatry. To his horror, when he arrives back home, he finds a neighbor bowing down before a silver calf, and he cries out, "Men kiss calves!" (Hosea 13:2)

When I read those words, the Spirit witnessed to my spirit. I immediately thought of the words of the psalmist: "Kiss the Son!" Suddenly, this strange statement made complete sense to me.

You see, if Hosea were alive today and could preach to us about America, I think he would say, "I have traveled all over your land to seek its spiritual temperament, and I say to you, everywhere I go I find men kissing calves!"

Except, I suspect he would put it in modern English: "Everywhere I go in this land I find men kissing CD's in the bank, chrome plated automobiles, and audacious houses. I see men in love with money, power, and fame. I say to you, take all that the world has to offer, set it aside in a junk pile, and put God first in your lives. Fall in love with Jesus!"

That's what it means to "Kiss the Son!" It is a call to commit your life to Jesus by falling in love with Him and putting Him first in your life — above career and family. It's a call to make Him the Lord of everything in your life — your family and job, your hopes and dreams, your thoughts and words, your music, reading material, food, drink, recreation — *everything!*

By making Him your refuge, you will be delivered from the wrath that is to come (Romans 5:9 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9), and you will come to know the full meaning of the last line of Psalm 2: *How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*

The Message

God is on His throne. He is in control. Three thousand years ago He promised Mankind that His Son will triumph in history. He is currently working out that purpose in history.

God has the wisdom and the power to orchestrate all the evil of Man to the victory of Jesus. The world may appear to be out of control, but what we are experiencing are the death throes of a worn out world and the birth pangs of a new one.

End time events may be fearful in nature. But believers can find peace and comfort in the assurance of Psalm 2 that Satan will be defeated and Jesus will triumph as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The signs of the times tell us that Jesus is at the very gates of Heaven, ready to return any moment to take His church out of this world. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Live with an eternal perspective. Rest in the confidence that while evil men scheme and Satan plots, God sits on His throne in Heaven and laughs. ✚



Celebrating Abortion

Planned Parenthood has come up with a bizarre new way to celebrate abortion. The organization states on its website that it is "proud" to offer a t-shirt that proclaims, "I had an abortion." The advertisement asserts that the shirts present "a powerful message in support of women's rights."



When nationally syndicated columnist Mike Adams heard about the shirts, he suggested that a similar type shirt should be printed for those in Congress who voted against the ban on partial birth abortion. It would say, "I have the blood of innocent children on my hands."

By the time you read this article, our nation will have aborted 45 million babies since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. It's not a statistic to be proud of.

New Bible Translation Promotes Fornication

A new translation of the Bible flatly contradicts what the true biblical text teaches regarding sex and morality. This disgraceful "translation," titled "Good as New," was produced by a former Baptist minister in England named John Henson. It was published by the "One" organization to produce what the group calls "a new, fresh, and adventurous" translation of the Christian scriptures.

Incredibly, the Bible has been endorsed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, leader of the Church of England. He wrote the preface to the Bible, calling it a work of "extraordinary power."



"Instead of condemning fornicators and adulterers," says Ruth Gledhill, the *London Times* religion editor, "the new version of his first letter to Corinth has St. Paul advising Christians not to go without sex for too long in case they get 'frustrated.'"

The version deletes Paul's condemnations of homosexual conduct. And it perverts 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 to say: "Some of you think the best way to cope with sex is for men and women to keep right away from each other. That is more likely to lead to sexual offences. My advice is for everyone to have a regular partner." Verses 8 and 9 of the same chapter are twisted to say: "If you know you have strong needs, get yourself a partner. Better than being frustrated."

Henson's translation omits seven books in the New Testament, including Revelation. He adds the heretical book, the Gospel of Thomas.

Isaiah warned a time would come when people would "call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

TIMES and Seasons

God Goes Missing

God was recently "lost in space" when NASA published a special poster commemorating the flight of Apollo 8.

Apollo 8 was the first manned mission to the moon. It entered lunar orbit on Christmas eve, December 24, 1968. That evening, the astronauts — Commander Frank Borman, Command Module Pilot Jim Lovell, and Lunar Module Pilot William Anders — did a live television broadcast from lunar orbit in which they showed pictures of the earth and moon as seen from Apollo 8. Lovell said, "The vast loneliness is awe-inspiring, and it makes you realize just what you have back there on earth." They ended the broadcast with each crew member taking turns reading from the first ten verses of the book of Genesis.

In May of 1969, the U.S. Post Office issued a commemorative stamp to honor the Apollo 8 mission. It featured a picture of the earth taken from lunar orbit, and across the middle of the stamp were the first words of the Bible: "In the beginning, God . . ."

Twenty-five years later NASA produced a commemorative poster to honor the Apollo 8 flight. It was exactly like the postage stamp except that the word, God, was left out.



Sadly to say, NASA is not the only place where God has gone missing recently. On June 18th of this year the leaders of the European Union agreed on the first constitution for the unified continent. Despite much last-minute lobbying by the Vatican, no reference was included in the constitution to either God or Europe's Christian heritage. Spain and Poland favored a reference to God, but the French government strongly objected, saying that it would violate the principle of the separation of church and state.

Throttling Freedom of Speech

This past July, Mr. Ake Green, pastor of a Swedish Pentecostal church in Kalmar, Sweden, was sentenced to one month in prison for "inciting hatred against homosexuals." His specific crime was to preach a sermon in which he pointed out that the Bible condemns homosexuality as a sinful lifestyle. He quoted all the biblical injunctions against homosexuality and then characterized it as an "abnormal." He concluded by observing that it is "a horrible cancerous tumor in the body of society."

The Swedish law under which the pastor was prosecuted is similar to the one passed by Canada last year (Bill C-250). The Canadian law makes criticism of homosexuality a "hate crime." One Canadian Senator, Anne Cools, called the bill "pernicious and unprecedented . . . a cruel proposition intended to criminalize the verbal and written expression of moral opinion on human sexuality and on human sexual practices."

Israel Haters

Palestinian Authority Chairman, Yasser Arafat told dozens of his Fatah activists on July 29th that the land of Israel “belongs to the Palestinian people.” He added that the Palestinians would bow to no one’s will except that of Allah.

Arafat also declared that the Palestinians would continue their struggle until Jerusalem is liberated and “our children raise the Palestinian flag on the walls, the minarets and churches of Jerusalem.”

While Arafat was spewing his hatred of the Jews, a spokesman for the Iranian Revolutionary Guards proclaimed that Tehran will launch a “devastating attack” against Israel if the country’s nuclear facilities are attacked by anyone. “We will wipe Israel off the face of the earth if it or the United States attacks our nuclear facilities,” a senior Iranian official warned.

TIMES and Seasons



exists and that such truth is defined by the Bible. Further, a biblical worldview was defined as consisting of belief in six specific doctrines:

- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life.
- God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He still rules it today.
- Salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned.
- Satan is real.
- Christians have a responsibility to share their faith with other people.
- The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings.

Only 7 percent of Protestants interviewed reflected a biblical worldview. Among Catholics, less than one-half of one percent held a biblical worldview. The denominations that produced the highest proportions of adults with a biblical worldview were non-denominational Protestant churches (13%), Pentecostal churches (10%), and Baptist churches (8%).

“The time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

Islamic Conversions

According to a report compiled and published by the London *Sunday Times*, 4,000 members of England’s “elite” have recently converted to Islam, with more on the way.

The report claims to be the “first authoritative study of the phenomenon,” noting that “some of Britain’s top land-owners, celebrities, and the offspring of senior establishment figures” have converted to Islam in recent years.

The *Times* study was done by Yahya (formerly Jonathan) Birt, himself a Muslim convert, who is the son of Lord Birt, the former director-general of the BBC. He used a breakdown of the latest census figures to conclude that there is a major migration from Christianity to Islam taking place in England, with over 14,000 converts to date.

Emma Clark, the great-granddaughter of British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, has converted to Islam. Commenting on her conversion, she said, “We’re all the rage. I just hope it’s not a passing fashion.”



“The Bible is a manual for rape, genocide, and the destruction of families . . . Religion has given us stonings, witch burnings, crusades, inquisitions . . . and mothers who drown their children in the river.” — Steven Pinker, Harvard professor of psychology.

Degrading Music



Currently sitting at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 list is a rap song called “Confessions, Part II” by rap star Usher. Mixed into the recording are lyrics by another rapper, Joe Budden, in which he talks about his frustration with his girlfriends’s refusal to abort his baby.

Here are his words of wisdom: “Pray that she abort that/ If she’s talkin’ ’bout keeping it/ One hit to the stomach/ She’s leakin’ it.” In other words, if she won’t listen to reason about getting an abortion, then just punch her in the stomach and force a miscarriage.

Pro-life organizations have protested this sickening and depraved message, but the company that produced the record has refused to comment. Joe Budden’s only comment was, “If you don’t like it, turn it off!”

The nationally syndicated columnist, Star Parker, commented on the song by observing, “How can we call Joe Budden anti-social in a society that no longer has any social standards?”

Odious **CRACKS** in *The Da Vinci Code*

Observations by Dr. Edward Hindson

The best-selling book, *The Da Vinci Code*, has captured the minds of millions of readers, provoked an ABC News primetime special, and is destined to be released as a major Hollywood movie in 2005. The book grabs the reader with an exciting story of adventure and intrigue, following its characters on a mad dash across Europe as they look for clues to the real identity of Jesus Christ.



Dr. Ed Hindson

The problem is that the book takes on a completely non-biblical look at Jesus — one that is offensive and appalling to His believers. Like so many other attacks on the integrity of Jesus Christ, *The Da Vinci Code* asserts that Jesus actually existed but that He was merely human and not divine. In fact, characters in the book outrageously claim that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and left a line of human descendants, some of whom are alive today.



Leonardo da Vinci

A Surreal Plot

The distorted plot revolves around a series of clues hidden in the artworks of Leonardo da Vinci, who painted the “Mona Lisa” and “The Last Supper.” The novel represents da Vinci as a member of a secret society called the Priory of Sion, founded in 1099. The book also ties such notables as Sir Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo, and Claude Debussy to the conspiracy theory that the Priory has deliberately hidden the “truth” about Jesus and Mary Magdalene from the rest of

the world for centuries.

The novel involves the story of a Harvard symbologist named Robert Langdon and a French cryptologist by the name of Sophie Neveua (French for “new wisdom”). Together, they find a series of encrypted clues that reveal the “secrets” of Christianity — namely, that God is a woman, Jesus had a family, and that Mary Magdalene is divine. The book claims that these truths have been concealed in a secret set of documents called the “Sangreal Papers.”

The author, Dan Brown, weaves a highly entertaining but blasphemously dangerous tale in *The Da Vinci Code*. He asserts that Mary Magdalene is figuratively the Holy Grail (the cup of Christ), that she and Jesus are the progenitors of the Merovingian line of European rulers, and



Dan Brown

that she is buried under the inverted glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris, where emanations of her divine spirit may still be felt today.

Deliberate Deception

The novel represents Christianity as a grand conspiracy based upon a big lie (the deity of Christ). Brown’s characters suggest that the early apostles and church fathers were nothing more than patriarchal oppressors who suppressed the worship of the “divine feminine.” In fact, the book represents the New Testament Gospels as the human products of anti-feminist male chauvinists who attempted to reinvent Christianity to oppress women and repress goddess worship.

The feminist agenda is flamboyant throughout the novel, which claims the early male-dominated church, led by Peter, turned against Mary Magdalene after the death of Jesus and caused her to flee to France (ancient Gaul). Then Emperor Constantine conveniently deified Jesus in order to consolidate his control over the world. The book implies that the Council of Nicea voted on the deity of Christ which narrowly passed. In reality the vote was 300 to 2. Hardly a close vote! But historical accuracy is hardly the novel’s strong point.

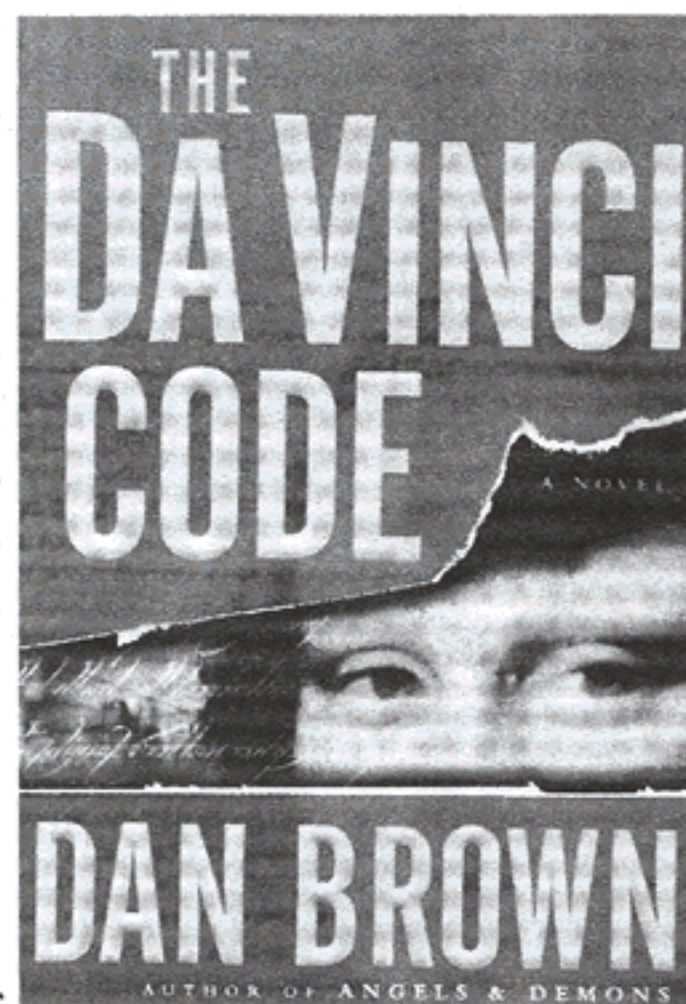
This is just one of many deliberate distortions within the book. Another involves presenting the heretical Gnostic gospels written in the late 2nd Century as the “real” gospels. Found at Nag Hammadi in Egypt in 1946, these Gnostic myths were never recognized by the early church as legitimate scripture . . .

It is true that the medieval church did distort the basic truths of the simple Gospel message. But it was several centuries after the time of Christ and the apostles that they added such ideas as salvation by works, the veneration of saints, and the importance of sacred relics such as the so-called “Holy Grail” — the cup of Christ. In *The Da Vinci Code* the “cup” is Mary Magdalene, who is both mythologized and sexualized as though she were the mistress or wife of Jesus.

Diabolical Distortion

The Da Vinci Code makes the movie, “The Last Temptation of Christ” seem tame by contrast. Brown’s novel accuses Christianity of blaming the whole fall of the human race on a woman. He seems to forget the story of Adam and Eve is Jewish and predates the New Testament by many centuries. In reality, the plot of *The Da Vinci Code* is a combination of blatant secularism and antagonistic feminism.

The assertion is made that da Vinci himself, a brilliant scientist and Renaissance painter, was aware of the truth about



Mary Magdalene and depicted her as John, seated next to Jesus, in his painting, "The Last Supper." The book leaves the impression that Mary is pictured in da Vinci's painting as the wife of Christ. It also asserts that Peter is making a threatening gesture toward Mary as though he is trying to push the feminine influence out of the Church.



"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci

In reality, Mary Magdalene is not in the picture at all! Brown's characters "read" into the painting what they want to see — the feminization of Christianity.

There is nothing in the biblical account of the Last Supper to indicate the presence of women at the meal. Nor is there any indication in the biblical Gospels that the disciples kept the cup of Christ, pieces of the cross, or any other religious relics. It is not the cup from which Jesus drank that saves us, nor the cross on which He died. It is the blood that He shed on the cross . . .

The Bible says: "Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood" (Romans 3:25); "In whom we have redemption through His blood" (Ephesians 1:7); "having made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20); "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Decisive Challenge

I have no idea what Dan Brown's religious convictions may be, but I can tell you with certainty they are not based upon orthodox Christian beliefs. His novel is fascinating and highly entertaining, but that is exactly the problem. Young pastors tell me they are being bombarded by skeptical questions from new converts who are genuinely disturbed by this book because it sounds so convincing.

Christianity has stood the test of such critiques before and it will again. The true story of the Gospel is still the greatest story ever told! The teachings of Jesus Christ have always been and always will be superior to anything the world could ever offer. At the same time, we cannot stick our heads in the "ecclesiastical sand" and simply wish this sort of thing away.

There are real answers to the issues raised by *The Da Vinci Code*. Such challenges to the faith should stimulate us to tackle these issues and answer the questions they raise to the satisfaction of honest and inquiring minds. What concerns me is the general mindset of the post-modern generation. **Perhaps the real issue is not what the book implies but the fact that a biblically illiterate public would even give it serious consideration.**

In some ways, *The Da Vinci Code* is more of an indictment of our generation than it is of the author of the book. When I was growing up as a teenager in the 1960's, I was continually shocked by the naivety of my parents who believed everything they read in the newspaper just because it was in the newspaper. It never

occurred to them that news stories and editorials were written by people with personal and political agendas. They had grown up in an era that believed what they read, no matter who wrote it.

The same is true, and even more so, of television and the movies. Just as I often explained this reality to my parent's generation, so I would caution today's younger generation

— don't believe everything you read in a novel or see in a movie!

The Bible warns: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby we know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that does not confess . . . is not of God. This is the spirit of antichrist which you have heard that it will come and even now it is already in the world" (1 John 4:1-3). ✚

Dr. Ed Hindson is Assistant to the Chancellor of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He is also the featured teacher on the television program, *The King is Coming*. He is one of the most outstanding teachers of Bible prophecy in America today.

Editor's Notes

The Oscar-winning duo of Ron Howard and Brian Grazer ("A Beautiful Mind") recently announced plans to produce a movie version of *The Da Vinci Code*. It should be released in 2005.

Several good critiques of *The Da Vinci Code* have been written by Christian authors:

Darrell Bock, *Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everyone's Asking* (Nelson Books, 2004). Dr. Bock is a professor of New Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Richard Abanes, *The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code: A Challenging Response to the Best-Selling Novel* (Harvest House, 2004). Mr. Abanes is a journalist who is a recognized authority on the cults.

James Garlow and Peter Jones, *Cracking Da Vinci's Code: You've Read the Fiction, Now Read the Facts* (Cook Communications, 2004). James Garlow is pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego.

Hank Hanegraaff and Paul Maier, *The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction?* (Tyndale House, 2004). Mr. Hanegraaff is the director of the Christian Research Institute in California.

Carl E. Olson and Sandra Miesel, *The Da Vinci Hoax: Exposing the Errors in the Da Vinci Code* (Ignatius, 2004). A Catholic perspective on the debate.

DayStar Television Network Coverage

Broadcast Times

Regular Broadcast:

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

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

Television Stations

Birmingham	AL	WBUN	27
Little Rock	AR	KKAP	36
Phoenix	AZ	KDTP	39
Tucson	AZ	KPCE	29
Modesto	CA	KACA	61
Sacramento	CA	KRJR	47
San Francisco*	CA	KDTS	22
Stockton	CA	KDTS	52
Denver	CO	KRMT	41
Tampa	FL	WSVT	18
Atlanta	GA	WDTA	53
Gainesville	GA	W28CD	28
Macon	GA	WDMA	31
Honolulu	HI	KWBN	44
Maui*	HI	KAUI	51
Indianapolis	IN	WDSI	69
Boston	MA	WYDN	48
Portland	ME	WLLB	15
Minneapolis	MN	WDMI	62
St. Louis	MO	KDTL	64
Kansas City	MO	KCDN	35
Jackson*	MS	WJKO	43
Las Vegas	NV	KLVD	67
Buffalo	NY	WDTB	39

Apex	NC	WACN	34
Charlotte	NC	WDYC	25
Raleigh	NC	WWIW	66
Cleveland	OH	WCDN	53
Oklahoma City	OK	KOCM	46
Philadelphia	PA	WELL	8
Knoxville	TN	WDTT	38
Memphis	TN	WJRJ	59
Nashville	TN	WIIW	14
Dallas	TX	KDTN	2
Houston	TX	KLTJ	22
San Antonio	TX	KQVE	46
Richmond	VA	WRID	48
Seattle	WA	KWDK	56
Charleston	WV	WTSF	61

Note: Station numbers will be different on cable. So, if you are on cable, consult your TV guide for the proper channel number. Stations marked with an asterisk (*) are not yet broadcasting.

Cable Systems

Northern Georgia	GA	Alltel
Kansas City	KS	Time Warner
Wichita	KS	Cox
Shreveport	LA	Time Warner
Northeast Ohio	OH	Time Warner

Satellite Systems

DirecTV	National	Ch. 369
Dish Network	National	Ch. 9408
Sky Angel	National	Ch. 9713
World TV	National	
Hotbird 6	Europe	
Thaicom-3	World	
NSS806	South America/Europe	
Vivid	South Africa	
Optus B3	Australia/New Zealand	

Family Vision Network

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

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

KAZQ TV 32 in Albuquerque, NM

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

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

Internet

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



Ministry Celebrates Its 100th Television Program

On August 11th the ministry aired its 100th television program since it started broadcasting "Christ in Prophecy" in September of 2002.

At a meeting of the ministry's board of trustees in mid-August, Dr. Reagan was honored for this milestone by being presented with a large cake celebrating the "100th Show."

DVD copies of the 100th program are available free of charge for a mailing fee of \$2. To order, call 1-800-705-8316.

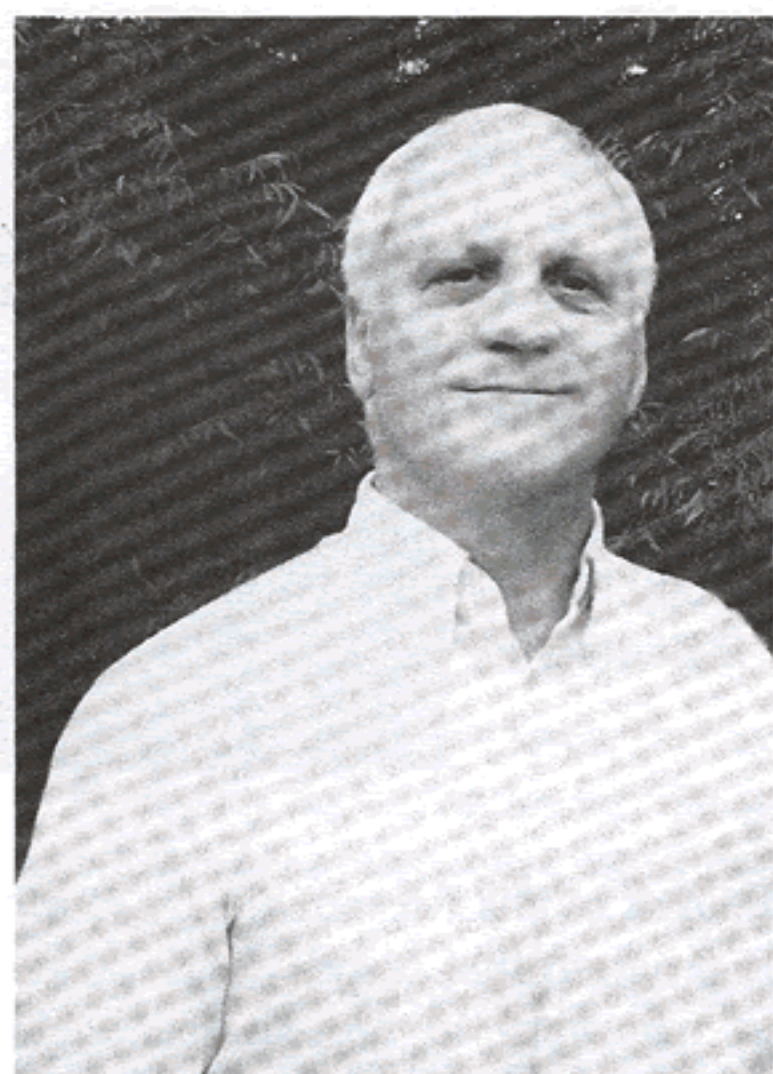
In late October, Dr. Reagan took a video

crew to Israel to videotape television programs in the Galilee for ten days. The programs will focus on the life, the ministry, and the miracles of Jesus in the Galilee. The programs will be aired in 2005. Some of them will be edited together to produce a new video program to be titled, "The Galilee of Jesus." A full report on the video shoot will be included in our next issue.

All the ministry's programs are now being telecast with closed captions. This is a very costly procedure that is required by federal law. ✚



Meet Our New Trustees



Jack Smith

Jack Smith and his wife, Cathy, have been Lamb & Lion Prophecy Partners for many years. They have a beautiful farm located near Farmersville, Texas — only a stone's throw from the Lamb & Lion headquarters. It is their dream and hope that they will someday be able to develop some of their land into a Christian camp and retreat center.

Jack was born in Austin, Texas and lived there until 1982 when he moved to the Dallas area to work for Texas Instruments as a mechanical designer. In the early 90's he decided to go to medical school where he was trained as a medical assistant. He currently works as a cardiovascular technician in the anesthesia department at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

In his spare time, Jack teaches karate and works the family farm where he says, "It is me against the cows." He refuses to say who wins that battle.

Jack and Cathy love to travel. They have covered all the United States and have also visited France, Switzerland, and Italy. They hope to accompany Dr. Reagan soon on a pilgrimage to Israel.

Cathy is a gifted artist who serves as a professor of art at a community college in the Dallas area.

Jack and Cathy have three sons. The family attends the Caddo Valley Church of Christ.



Jerry Lauer

Jerry Lauer was married 45 years to his wife, Mary Ann, before she died suddenly last year from complications following surgery.

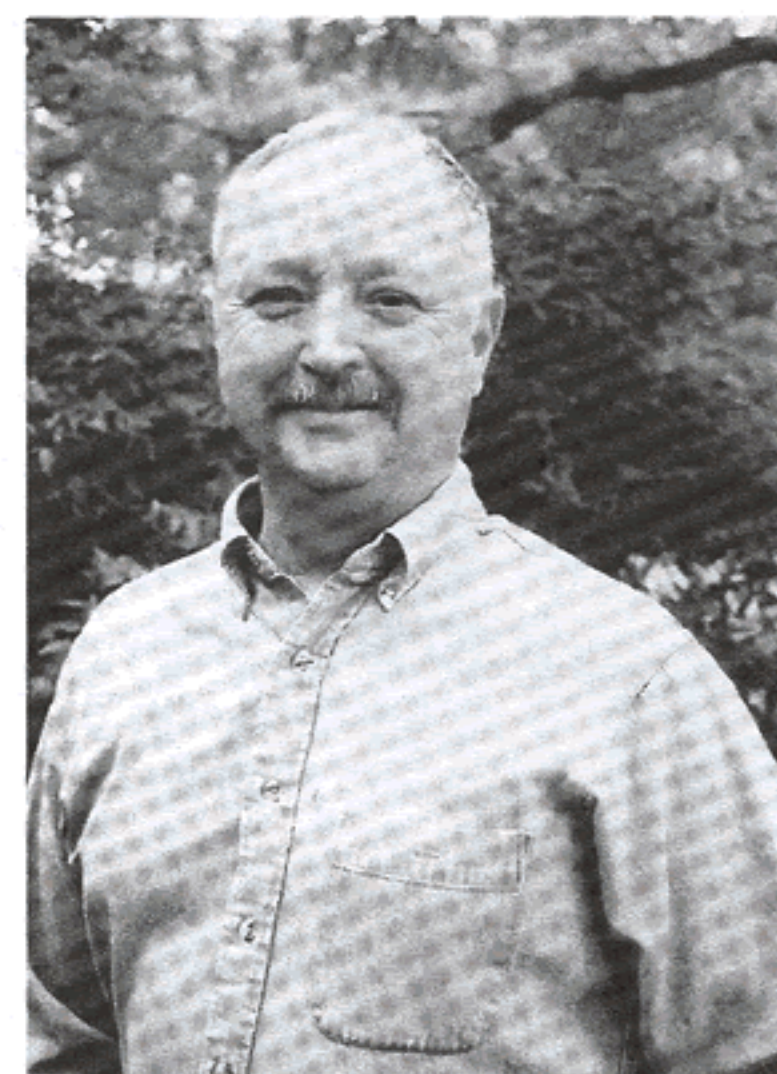
Jerry is a member of Eastside Christian Church in Fullerton, California where he has served as a high school teacher, an adult teacher, director of adult education, an elder, chairman of the finance committee, member of the mission council, and chairman of the board. He currently serves on the boards of The Christian Missionary Fellowship and The Southern California Evangelistic Association.

Jerry graduated from Stanford University with a BS degree in Industrial Engineering. After serving three different corporations as director of data processing, he became vice president of information services for the Certified Grocers of California. Since retiring in 1996 he has served as a consultant for the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Jerry and Mary Ann have been long time supporters of Lamb & Lion Ministries. In March of 1999 they went with Dr. Reagan on a pilgrimage to Israel.

One of their children, Derek, serves as pastor of First Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jerry lives in Anaheim Hills, California and still attends the Eastside Church in Fullerton.



Sam McCullough

Sam McCullough and his wife, Denise, live in Owasso, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. They attend First Christian Church in Owasso where Sam serves as a Sunday School teacher, specializing in the teaching of Bible prophecy.

Sam serves as a police officer for the city of Tulsa. Denise is a nurse in the new born nursery at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa.

This past January Sam and Denise were members of the Lamb & Lion pilgrimage group that toured the Holy Land. Sam volunteered to return to Israel in October to serve on the ministry's video crew.

Sam has three BA degrees in Police Science, Criminal Justice, and Sociology. He has taught various aspects of Police Science at Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Sam and Denise have three grown children, two daughters and a son. One of their daughters and her husband serve as missionaries in Canada, in a town near Toronto. They also have four grandchildren, with an additional one on the way.

Sam has a servant's heart and a great zeal for the Lord's soon return.



Video Suggestions for Christmas Presents



The Darlene Cates Story — The amazing story of how a 500 pound woman from a small town in central Texas was transformed from a recluse into a movie star through the power of God.

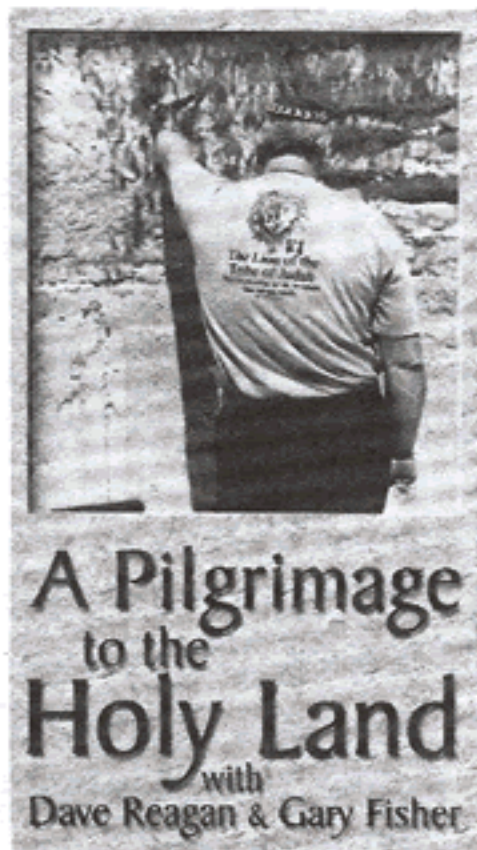
In moving words, Darlene describes how God gave her a sense of self-worth by enabling her to touch the lives of millions of people through television and film.

The video runs 45 minutes in length and sells for \$15, including the cost of shipping. VHS only.

Israel in Bible Prophecy — An exciting survey of seven prophecies that are being fulfilled in Israel today, all of which point to the soon return of Jesus.

The video was shot on location at various sites in Israel. It is appropriate for both individual and group study. It shows how the Jews are the key to understanding end time prophecy. In addition to many scenes in Israel, it contains significant historical footage.

The running time is 65 minutes. VHS or DVD, \$15 — including the cost of shipping.



A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land — A 75 minute video program featuring Dr. David Reagan and Gary Fisher as they lead a pilgrimage group on a nine day journey through Israel. Walk where Jesus walked, and see all the major sites related to His First and Second Advents.

Starting in Tel Aviv at Independence Hall, the group goes up the coast of Israel to the Sea of Galilee and then down the Jordan Valley to Jerusalem.

VHS or DVD, \$15 — including the cost of shipping.

To order, call 1-800-705-8316

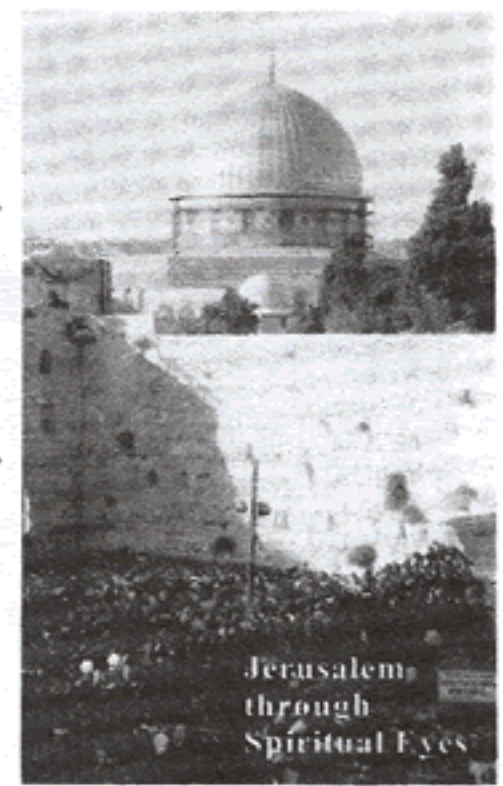
Revelation Revealed — A dramatic, visually packed 75 minute presentation that takes the viewer through the book of Revelation chapter by chapter. Appropriate for both individual and group study. Full of maps, diagrams, charts, still photos, animations, and video footage. The theme from beginning to end is that the book of Revelation can be understood and that it has a message that is relevant to Christian living today.

VHS or DVD, \$15 — including the cost of shipping.



Jerusalem through Spiritual Eyes — Using the ancient city of Jerusalem as its setting, this 65 minute video focuses on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and His promise to return. You will walk around the city, examining each one of its gates. You will walk through the city, following the course of the Via Dolorosa. And you will examine the fascinating tombs of the city.

VHS or DVD, \$15 — including the cost of shipping.



The Ark of His Presence — A 75 minute program that blends music, dance, and pageantry to present the ageless story of God's presence among His people. Videotaped before a live audience. The congregation is involved from beginning to end as they celebrate God's presence in the Tabernacles of Moses and David and His indwelling presence in believers today. The program features Randall Bane, who is considered to be the world's foremost teacher and practitioner of Davidic praise worship.

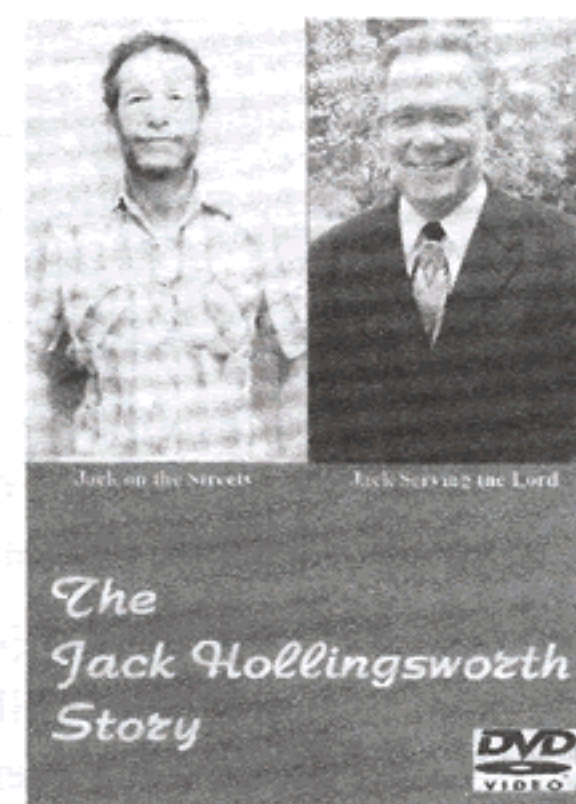
VHS or DVD, \$15 — including the cost of shipping.

Preaching Prophecy — An album of four sermons on two VHS tapes or two DVD disks.

- The Importance of Bible Prophecy
- The Signs of the Lord's Soon Return
- The Most Important Prophetic Development of the 20th Century
- The Spiritual Signs of the Times

VHS or DVD, \$25 — including the cost of shipping.

To order, call 1-800-705-8316



The Jack Hollingsworth Story — The incredible story of how God rescued a homeless alcoholic from the streets and transformed him into a dynamic evangelist and singer. A 30 minute interview followed by a 30 minute concert before a live audience. You will be laughing one moment and weeping the next. An inspirational video about the miracle working power of God.

DVD only \$15 — including the cost of shipping.

Hands of Luke Ministries — It's that time of year again when we try to raise funds for the great ministry in Juarez, Mexico that ministers to widows, orphans, prisoners, homeless, and the poor.



Dr. Marco Samaniego is shown above with some of the orphans who are taken care of by his ministry.

Each year at Thanksgiving the ministry feeds over 10,000 people who live in the poorest sections of Juarez. Many are families who live on the Juarez garbage dump. At Christmas, the ministry feeds over 5,000 children and provides each with a gift.

If you would like to assist with the outreach of this great ministry, designate your gift for "Hands of Luke." Make your check payable to Lamb & Lion Ministries, and mail it to P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070. Or, make your donation by credit card by calling 1-800-705-8316. Thank you!

We Need More Prophecy Partners! — The financial base of this ministry is supplied by over 1,300 people whom we refer to as our Prophecy Partners. These are people who commit to provide us with \$20 a month or more for one year. We urge our Prophecy Partners to aim at giving one dollar a day for a year, or a total of \$365. The minimum commitment is \$240 (\$20 a month). Many give much more than that.

Our Prophecy Partners receive a letter each month from Dr. Reagan in which he shares the hopes, prayers and needs of the ministry. They also receive a gift each month with the letter. The gift is usually a DVD containing a video program about some aspect of Bible prophecy.

To become a Prophecy Partner, all you need to do is write us or call us and tell us that you want to become a partner. Please give this appeal your prayerful consideration. Thank you!

Website — Have you checked out the Lamb & Lion website? It contains a wealth of information about Bible prophecy. There are more than 100 articles posted on the site concerning every aspect of Bible prophecy. The site also contains sample television programs that you can watch online. The website address is www.lamblion.com. Check it out!



Foreign Mission Outreaches — When Dennis Pollock returned from his mission trip to India in September of 2003, he told Dr. Reagan that the Lord had spoken to his heart about expanding the ministry's missions outreach. He recommended that the ministry step out in faith and schedule three outreaches for 2004. Dr. Reagan agreed.

In May Dennis and one of the ministry's media assistants, Trey Collich, traveled to Kenya in East Africa where they held two pastor's conferences and conducted outdoor evangelistic crusades.

In September Dennis returned to India with one of the ministry's Prophecy Partners from California, Mike Vansickel. Dennis conducted a pastor's conference in Bombay and then taught for a week at the largest Bible college in Asia, located in the area of New Delhi.

In November Dennis is scheduled to go to Nigeria to hold another pastor's conference and do some preaching. He will be accompanied by Bob Bethke, pastor of Lucas Christian Church, located in the Dallas area. Bob is one of Lamb & Lion's former trustees.



Dennis with pastors in Kenya.

Each of these outreaches cost the ministry about \$10,000. Half of that is for the expense of sending two people (transportation, lodging, and food). The other half covers the cost of the conference (meeting place, advertising, interpreters, meals for pastors, and study materials).

In 2005 we are once again planning three mission outreaches. The first will be in January to Tanzania, located on the East African coast, just below Kenya. The second will be in the late spring in Kimberley, South Africa. The third will take place in the fall at a destination yet to be determined.

Dennis will be assisted in Tanzania by Don Perkins, the evangelist for According to Prophecy Ministries. Dr. Reagan plans to accompany Dennis to South Africa.

In every area of the world where we have taken our conferences we have discovered that the pastors know little or nothing about Bible prophecy. These outreaches are filling a very serious need. To assist us with the costs, designate any donation with the words, "Missions Outreach." Thanks! ✚

New Video

A new video program featuring a sermon by Dr. Reagan is available for distribution. It presents one of his most intriguing sermons concerning the signs of the times that point to the soon return of Jesus.

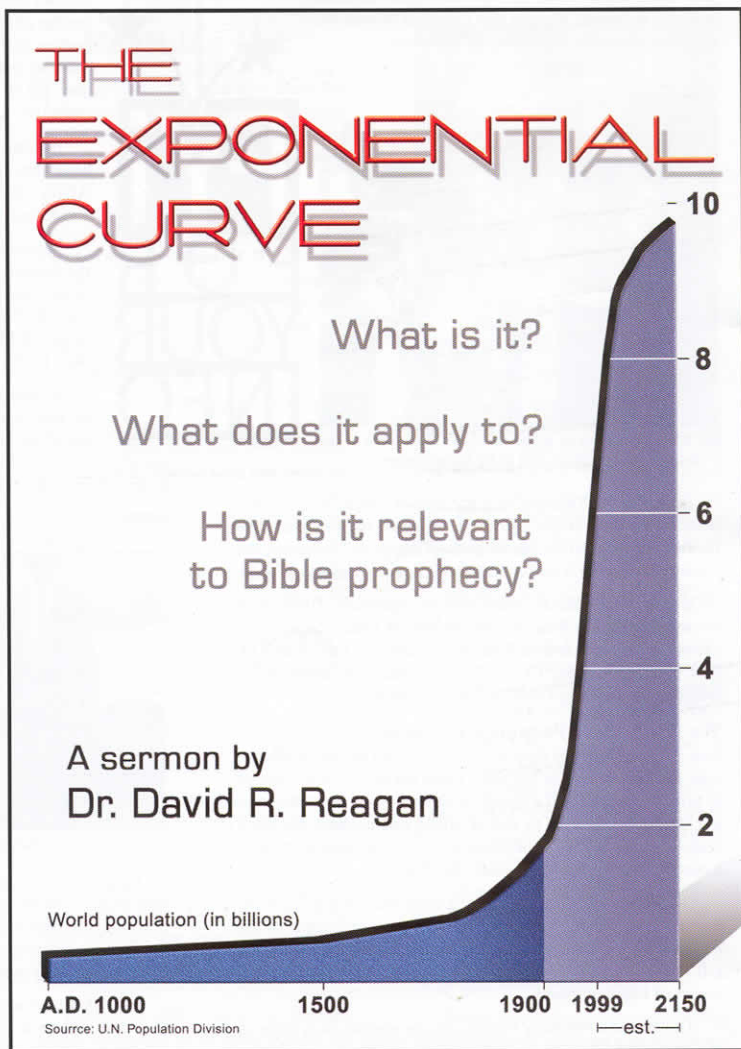
The presentation is entitled "The Exponential Curve." Dr. Reagan shows that both Daniel and Jesus prophesied that all aspects of life in the ends times would be magnified exponentially. He then proceeds to present fascinating evidence of the fulfillment of these prophecies in the 20th Century.

He presents a detailed survey of transportation, communication, information, and military power, showing how all of these began to increase exponentially during the 20th Century. He also shows how the exponential curve applies to the disintegration of society and the proclamation of the Gospel.

All of his points are lavishly illustrated with pictures, charts, and video footage. This is a presentation that will keep your attention riveted from start to finish.

Available in DVD only. The price is \$12, including the cost of shipping. 50 minutes in length.

To order, call 1-800-705-8316 or send a check to the ministry at P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070.



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