



LAMPLIGHTER

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

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**The End Time
Prophecies of Daniel**



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Observations by the Editor

Fighting for Freedom

The National Religious Broadcasters is a Christian organization on the front lines of the battle to preserve freedom of religious speech in this nation.

The NRB was founded 65 years ago at a meeting held at Moody Bible Church in Chicago. Its formation was motivated by the fact that evangelical denominations were unable to obtain radio time because what little time was available for religious purposes was controlled by the mainline Protestant denominations through the Federal Council of Churches.



Today, the NRB is focusing its efforts on protecting churches in general and religious broadcasters in particular from government encroachment on their freedoms under the Constitution. Specifically, the NRB is trying to prevent hate crime legislation from curtailing the right of preachers to speak out against sins like homosexuality. The organization is also battling to prevent the pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act from requiring churches and ministries to hire homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons.

The major battle the NRB is fighting relates to the "Fairness Doctrine." The Fairness Doctrine was a government regulation, created in 1949, which required all broadcast media to give equal air time to opposing points of view whenever controversial issues were presented. For the 38 years that this regulation governed America's airwaves, it had — by its very nature — a chilling effect on the freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion.

In 1987, the FCC, at the request of President Ronald Reagan, eliminated the intrusive and ill-conceived Fairness Doctrine. But there is a new effort to re-institute the doctrine in order to limit con-



Dr. David R. Reagan

servative talk radio and religious broadcasting. The NRB is fighting this effort and is supporting alternative legislation called The Broadcaster Freedom Act.

Finally, the NRB is the organization that is constantly calling on the FCC to enforce broadcast decency standards.

We are a proud member of the NRB, and I serve on the President's Council. You can find their website at <http://nrb.org>. Put the NRB on your prayer list and pray for the success of its efforts to preserve freedom of religious speech in this nation. ✚

Subscriptions

If you are a subscriber to the printed copy of this magazine that is delivered by mail, then you will need to renew your subscription soon. Your current subscription will entitle you to receive the January-February 2010 issue, but none after that. So, if you want to continue receiving the printed copy of the magazine throughout all of next year, you need to send a check for \$25 designated for "magazine subscription" or you need to call our office at 800-705-8316 and pay for the subscription by credit card. (Note: Prophecy Partners receive the magazine free of charge.) ✚

The Cover: This month's cover art is entitled "Daniel Delivered from Lions." The artist is Darrel Tank, and the art is copyrighted by him. The image was supplied by GoodSalt whose website can be found at <http://beta.goodsalt.com/static/home.php>.

The End Time Prophecies of Daniel

Dr. David R. Reagan

When I think of the book of Daniel, I am always reminded of a remarkable experience I had in 1983, during the third year of Lamb & Lion Ministries.

It started with a telephone call from a person in the mid-cities area between Ft. Worth and Dallas. He said he was a regular listener to the radio program I had at the time. He wanted to know if I would come to his church on a Sunday evening and speak on Bible prophecy. I told him I would be happy to do so if his pastor would invite me.

"That's the problem," he responded. "You see, my pastor doesn't like Bible studies, and He prefers entertainment on Sunday evenings — like pop singers and dancers. It's not going to be easy to talk him into inviting you, so please give me a jazzy title."

A "jazzy title" instantly popped into my mind. "Let's call it 'The Future of the Late Great Planet Earth.'"

"Hey! That's really jazzy," he replied. "Please pray I will be successful in persuading him."

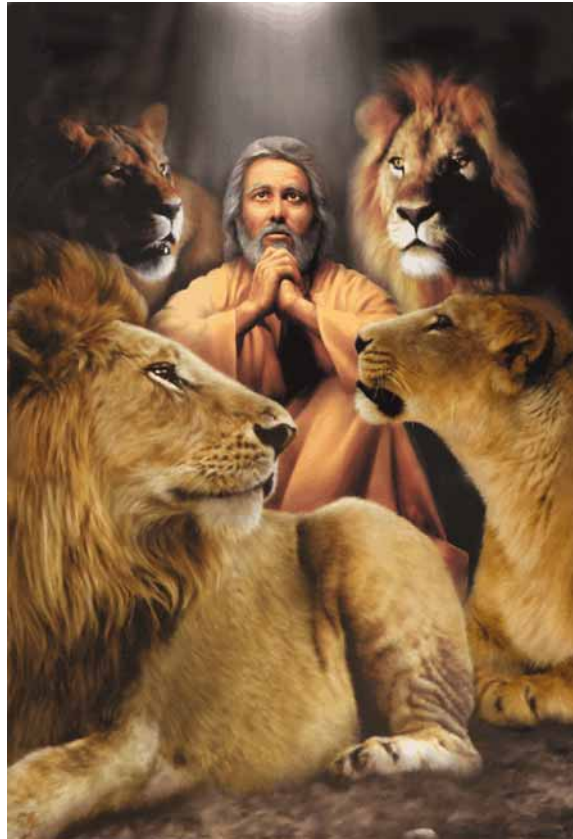
The next afternoon the man called me back, and he was so excited you could have heard him without a phone. "Praise the Lord!" he shouted. "My pastor agreed to invite you without us even having to argue about it. All I did was tell him your topic, and he said, 'Invite him!'"

What the man did not know, and what both of us were to discover later, after my appearance, is that when the request was made, the pastor was sitting at his desk reading a book entitled, "The Future of the Late Great Planet Earth." It was a vehement attack on Hal Lindsey, and it was a denial of Bible prophecy. The pastor thought that because I had selected the book's title as the title of my presentation, I was going to agree with the viewpoint of the book's author! (God has a great sense of humor!)

When the time came for me to speak, it didn't take long for me to discover that I was in trouble. The pastor introduced me as "an expert on Bible prophecy who will explain to you that there is no such thing as prophecy in the Bible and will illustrate to you why Hal Lindsey is a fool." Needless to say, I was stunned by the introduction.

I stepped up to the podium, tapped the pastor on the shoulder, and whispered, "I'm afraid there has been a terrible mistake. You see, I believe in Bible prophecy, and I believe Hal Lindsey is right on target. Should I forget about speaking and go home?"

The pastor thought a moment and then said, "No, you go



ahead and speak, but keep it short."

With sweaty palms and a dry mouth, I stepped up to the microphone and said, "Please open your Bibles and turn to Acts chapter 2." I wanted to show them how the first Gospel sermon ever preached — the sermon by the Apostle Peter on Pentecost — was a survey of Bible prophecy from start to finish, showing how Jesus had fulfilled a variety of Messianic prophecies.

Before I started reading Acts 2, I looked out at the audience and noticed that no one had a Bible! I asked them to open the pew Bibles. A person blurted out, "We don't have pew Bibles in this church." I then requested some men to go through the education wing of the building and collect Bibles from the classrooms. I led three songs while we waited for them to gather the Bibles. When they returned, one of them reported, "We can't find any Bibles in this church!"

At that point the pastor announced that he would get some Bibles out of his office. He came back with about six, and he distributed them among the 200 people who were present.

Once again, I asked them to turn to Acts 2. The pages started rustling — and they continued to do so, because no one could find the book of Acts! So, I took the opportunity to introduce them to the Bible. I explained the division between the Old and New Testaments. I pointed out the types of books in both testaments, and then I led them to the discovery of the book of Acts.

After I made my point with Peter's sermon in Acts 2, I asked them to turn to the book of Daniel in the Old Testament. Suddenly, the pastor stood up and said, "I'm sorry, but I do not allow the book of Daniel to be read in this church."

When I asked why, he responded, "You obviously are not a seminary graduate, because if you were, you would be aware of the fact that Daniel is a fraudulent book. It was written like prophecy, but in fact it was written long after the events it claims to prophesy."

I was stunned. And I decided I was not going to allow the rebuke to pass without a response. I began to present one argument after another in behalf of the validity of Daniel, and each time the pastor just scoffed at me in disdain. Finally, I asked, "Do you want me to go home?"

"No," he replied, "just don't quote the book of Daniel."

I stood there for a moment, still in a state of shock. Then, I resumed by asking the congregation to turn to Genesis 3:15. "I want to show you the very first Messianic prophecy in the Bible." But before I could read it, the pastor interrupted me

again.

He jumped to his feet and said, "I'm sorry, but I can't allow you to read that verse because I know you are going to claim that it is a prophecy about the virgin birth, and we don't believe in the virgin birth at this church!"

All this happened at a mainline Protestant denomination.

A Hated Book

The pastor's attitude I experienced that evening is commonplace in Christendom today. Daniel is the most controversial book in the Bible. Liberals hate it because they do not believe in the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, and Daniel's book is a great testimony to divine inspiration. That's because it contains some of the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible, prophecies that are detailed in content and broad in scope, stretching from Daniel's time to the day of the Messiah's Second Coming. As one person has put it, "Daniel wrote history more accurately before it happened than anyone has ever done after it happened."

To discredit the book, liberals have tried to argue that it was written long after the time of Daniel by someone who assumed his identity. They usually place the time of its authorship around 100 years before Christ. They are determined to date it after the time of the Greek tyrant, Antiochus Epiphanes, who reigned from 175 to 164 BC. The reason they are so determined to do this is because the book of Daniel prophesies the reign of Antiochus in detail, including the atrocities that he would commit against the Jews.

But the efforts of the liberals to trash the book have all been in vain. One of the strongest rebuttals is the fact that Daniel was included in the Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. This is the translation of what we call the Old Testament from Hebrew into Greek. It was done by a group of 70 Hebrew scholars in Alexandria, Egypt, in about 280 BC — long before the time of Antiochus Epiphanes.

Also, Josephus, the First Century Jewish historian, reports that when Alexander the Great came to Jerusalem in 333 BC, the High Priest showed him where he and his empire were prophesied in the book of Daniel, and he was so impressed that he spared the city from destruction (*Jewish Antiquities*, vol. 11, p. 311).

But the most important evidence of the book's authenticity is to be found in the New Testament in Matthew 24:15 where Jesus Himself quoted the prophecies of Daniel and thus personally attested to the validity of the book.

The Remarkable Prophet

Let's briefly consider who this man Daniel was. In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, conquered the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the nation of Judah. He removed the Judean king, Jehoiakim, and replaced him with his 18 year old son, Jehoichin.

Eight years later, when Jehoichin also rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah again, conquered Jerusalem a second time, and replaced Jehoichin with his uncle, Zedekiah. Ten years later when Zedekiah revived the rebellion, Nebuchadnezzar invaded a third time and decided he was fed up with Jewish rebellion.

"The most important evidence of the book's authenticity is to be found in the New Testament in Matthew 24:15 where Jesus Himself quoted the prophecies of Daniel and thus personally attested to the validity of the book."

And so, in 587 BC the Babylonians totally destroyed the city of Jerusalem, including Solomon's Temple, and ended the Davidic line of kings.

Each of the three times Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and conquered Jerusalem, he took captives back to Babylon. After the first invasion in 605 BC he took only a

handful of Jewish captives. These consisted of the sons of the elite Jewish ruling class, and one of these was Daniel (Daniel 1:3-4, 6-7).

Daniel was only about 15 years old at this time, but he distinguished himself immediately as a person of spiritual maturity by refusing to pollute himself with the non-kosher food supplied to him by the king. In similar manner, many years later at age 82, Daniel imperiled his life by refusing to obey an order of King Darius of the Medo-Persian Empire that no one could pray for 30 days to any god except to the king himself. Daniel's refusal to abide by this command prompted the king to throw him into a lion's den, but his life was spared by a miracle of God.



Daniel rejects the King's food.

Daniel, throughout his life, was a man of faith and prayer and impeccable virtue. He is referred to by one of his contemporaries, the prophet Ezekiel, as one of the three most righteous men who ever lived, together with Job and Noah (Ezekiel 14:14). In a visitation made to him by the Angel Gabriel, recorded in Daniel 9:23, he was told, "You are highly esteemed" by God.

We are dealing here with one of the most remarkable men revealed in Scripture.

Now that we have looked at the historical setting and we have considered the man through whom God spoke, let's take a look at the prophecies God gave him about the end times. I'm going to divide them into four categories:

- 1) The Times of the Gentiles
- 2) The Terror of the Antichrist
- 3) The Triumph of Jesus Christ
- 4) The Timing of the Lord's Return

I. The Times of the Gentiles

Two years after Daniel's arrival in Babylon, when he was about 17 years old, God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream that greatly disturbed him. The king demanded that his wise men tell him two things — first, what he had dreamed and second, the meaning of the dream. Needless to say, the wise men were confounded.

When Daniel heard of the king's unusual request, he turned to God in prayer seeking a revelation of both the king's dream and its meaning. God responded by revealing these mysteries to

Daniel. And Daniel, in turn, responded to the Lord with a psalm of praise (Daniel 2:20-23a):

Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.
And it is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men,
And knowledge to men of understanding.
It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things . . .

This psalm is very important for it summarizes the theme of the whole book of Daniel — namely, that God is sovereign, that He has a purpose in history, and that He has the wisdom and the power to orchestrate the affairs of men and nations to the triumph of His divine will.

Later in the book, Nebuchadnezzar makes a similar proclamation about the sovereignty of God after he has experienced the chastisement of God's discipline (Daniel 4:34b-35):

[God's] dominion is an everlasting dominion,
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.
And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth . . .

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



In chapter 2, beginning with verse 31, Daniel begins to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar both his dream and its meaning. He tells the king that in his dream he saw a magnificent and awesome statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, thighs of bronze, and legs of iron. The feet of the statue were made of a mixture of iron and clay. He reminded the king that as he was admiring the statue, a large stone suddenly appeared — a stone that had not been cut by human hands.

This supernatural stone suddenly struck the feet of the statue and the entire statue was destroyed. The stone then quickly grew into a great mountain that “filled the whole earth.”

In verse 36 Daniel begins to explain the meaning of this mysterious dream, and what ensues is a breathtaking overview of Gentile empires from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to what we now call the Second Coming of the Messiah. Daniel reveals that the parts of the statue represent a succession of empires:

- 1) **Head of Gold** — Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian Empire.
- 2) **Chest of Silver** — The kingdom that will supplant Babylon, which Daniel later identifies in chapter 8 as the Medo-Persian Empire.
- 3) **Thighs of Bronze** — The next kingdom in the series which, again, Daniel identifies in chapter 8 as Greece.

- 4) **Legs of Iron** — The fourth kingdom in the series which we know from history was the Roman Empire which ultimately split into two parts.
- 5) **Feet of Clay and Iron** — The last Gentile empire of history. The unstable combination of clay with iron suggests a loose confederation of nations that will exist in the area of the old Roman Empire.
- 6) **The Supernatural Stone** — Symbolic of the return of the Messiah who will destroy the last Gentile kingdom and will put an end to Gentile rule by establishing the kingdom of God on earth.

The Age of Gentile Rule

As you can see, this prophecy is amazing in its scope, stretching thousands of years from the time of the Babylonian Empire to the establishment of the Millennial reign of Jesus upon this earth.

It is a period of time that the Bible refers to as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24). It begins with the fall of the last king of Judah, Zedekiah (586 BC), and will continue until Jesus returns and re-establishes the throne of David in Jerusalem.

I think it is very interesting to note that this period of Gentile domination of the world is emphasized in the very language of the book of Daniel. In chapter 2, verse 4, the language shifts from Hebrew to Aramaic, the language of the Gentile nations at that time. And the text continues in Aramaic until the end of chapter 7. It switches back to Hebrew at chapter 8 because the focus shifts at that point from the times of the Gentiles to the ultimate fate of the Jews.

A Time Gap

Another interesting thing to note is that from our historical perspective, we can clearly see that the prophecy has a major time gap in it, something that is often characteristic of Bible prophecy. The gap comes between the fourth and fifth empires — between the legs of iron and the feet of clay mixed with iron.

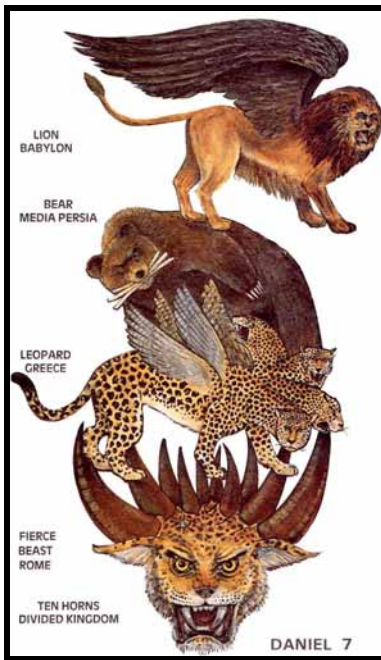
The gap is obvious because there is no Gentile empire in history that corresponds to the empire of iron and clay, which Daniel tells us in chapter 7 will be a confederation of ten nations that will come together as a revived Roman Empire.

The Roman Empire ceased to exist in 476 AD. The eastern branch of it continued as the Byzantine Empire until 1453. Over the centuries there have been many attempts to restore the Roman Empire, the two most notable efforts being those of Napoleon and Hitler. But all efforts failed until the aftermath of World War II when it became obvious to European leaders that their only hope for rebuilding Europe was to reach across national boundaries and begin cooperating to build a European superpower.

That effort has produced the European Union, a revival of the old Roman Empire currently consisting of 27 member states which I believe will ultimately be divided into ten administrative regions.

Daniels' Dream

This prophecy about the succession of world empires was reconfirmed to Daniel 48 years later when the Lord gave him a dream. It is recorded in chapter 7.



Daniel saw a series of terrifying beasts that arose out of the sea, the sea being a prophetic symbol for the Gentile nations.

The first was a lion that had the wings of an eagle. The second was a bear that was raised up on one side and had three bones in its mouth. The third was a leopard with four heads and four wings. The fourth was a beast which Daniel described as “dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong.” It had large iron teeth and ten horns.

What Daniel is seeing in this dream is the same succession of world em-

pires that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream. The difference is that Nebuchadnezzar saw them from Man’s viewpoint, as something magnificent and glorious. God reveals them to Daniel as He sees them — a series of ravenous beasts.

As Daniel stares in horror at the last beast, he suddenly notices that another horn — “a little horn” — rises up among the ten horns and pulls three of them out by their roots. This little horn has the eyes of a man and a mouth that is uttering “great boasts.” In verse 24 of chapter 7, Daniel is told that the ten horns represent ten kings and that the little horn will subdue three of them and will then begin to speak blasphemies against the Most High God. This is the first appearance in the book of Daniel of the Antichrist who will head up the last Gentile Empire that will encompass the whole world. The fact that the last empire of 10 horns grows out of the head of the fourth beast is a clear indication that the final Gentile empire will begin as a revival of the old Roman Empire.



II. The Terror of the Antichrist

These verses bring us to the second major theme in the end time prophecies of Daniel — the Antichrist and his demonic rule. Daniel could be called the prophet of the Antichrist because he supplies us with more information about this tyrant than any other prophet, including John in the book of Revelation.

Take Daniel 7, verses 8, 25 and 26 for example. The prophet describes the Antichrist as a prideful man full of boasting, as a blasphemer, as a persecutor of the Jews, and as one who will change the law and the times. (He will, of course, change Western law because it is based upon the Bible, and he will change the calendar because it is related to the birth of Jesus.)

We are further told that he will persecute the Jews for three and a half years, and then, suddenly, he and his empire will be destroyed.

Symbolic Types of the Antichrist

Further insights into the Antichrist’s character and methods can be found in chapter 8 where Daniel begins to focus on him by presenting a series of symbolic types of the Antichrist.

These symbols were presented to Daniel in a vision that was given to him three years after his dream of the series of beasts, recorded in chapter 7. Once again Daniel saw a succession of animals.

The first was a ram with two horns, one longer than the other (verses 3-4). The angel Gabriel reveals to Daniel that this ram represents the Medo-Persian Empire (verse 20). The “longer horn” would thus represent the man who came to dominate this kingdom — namely, Darius the Great. The two qualities that Daniel emphasizes about this man are his strong will and his ego, as manifested in his doing as he pleases and magnifying himself in the process (verse 4).



Daniel next sees a male goat with “a conspicuous horn” between its eyes. This goat moves quickly and attacks the ram, destroying him immediately (verses 5-7). Again, Gabriel explains to Daniel that the male goat represents the Greek Empire which will overthrow the Medo-Persian Empire (verse 21). The “conspicuous horn” was, of course, symbolic of Alexander the Great.

Daniel’s description of the Greek Empire puts the emphasis on the power of its army and the swiftness of its victories. This corresponds to the fact that we are told in Revelation that the Antichrist will conquer the whole world in three and a half years. Another thing emphasized by Daniel is the ego of the conspicuous horn. We are told that he “magnifies himself exceedingly” (verse 8).

Daniel wraps up his description of the male goat by telling us that his conspicuous horn will be broken and replaced by four other horns (verse 8). This prophecy was fulfilled in history when Alexander the Great died suddenly at the age of 33 and his Empire was divided into four kingdoms headed up by four of his generals.

Verse 9 of chapter 8 brings us to the third of the symbolic types of the Antichrist. Reverting to the terminology of chapter 7, Daniel calls this individual “the little horn.” He says he will rise out of one of the four divisions of Alexander’s kingdom and that he will move toward “the Beautiful Land,” which is Israel.

This person proved to be a Greek tyrant who arose to dominate the Seleucid area of Alexander’s empire, an area that included Syria and Israel. His name was Antiochus. He was a mad man who considered himself to be divine. He gave himself the title, “Antiochus Epiphanes,” which meant “Antiochus the Manifested God.” The Jews nick-named him “Antiochus Epimanes,” meaning “Antiochus the Madman”! It was a title he well deserved.

The Quintessential Type of the Antichrist



Antiochus Epiphanes

Let's look first at the prophecy and then the historical record. In Daniel 8:9-12 we are told that the "little horn" will trample down the Jews, blaspheme God, violate the Jewish Temple, and stop the sacrifices. Daniel even tells us how long the desecration of the Temple will last: "For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored" (verse 14). This most likely meant that the sacrificial system would be suspended for a total of 1,150 days since there were two sacrifices per day, one in the morning and the other in the evening (Exodus 29:38-43).

The Jewish historian, Josephus, has provided us with a detailed historical record of the fulfillment of these prophecies in the brutal reign of Antiochus. The details can also be found in the non-canonical books of 1 & 2 Maccabees.

According to these sources, while Antiochus was involved in leading an invasion of Egypt, a rumor swept Jerusalem that he had been killed. This news prompted a former high priest named Jason to revolt. Jason had been deposed by Antiochus, and he now saw an opportunity to get his position back. So, he attacked Jerusalem with an army of 1,000 men. The quick and brutal response of Antiochus is recorded in 2 Maccabees:11-16:

When [Antiochus] came to hear of what had happened, he concluded that Judea was in revolt. He therefore marched from Egypt, raging like a wild beast, and began by storming the city. He then ordered his soldiers to cut down without mercy everyone they encountered, and to butcher all who took refuge in their houses. It was a massacre of young and old, a slaughter of women and children, a butchery of virgins and infants. There were eighty thousand victims in the course of those three days, forty thousand dying by violence and as many again being sold into slavery. Not satisfied with this, he had the audacity to enter the holiest Temple in the entire world . . . With his unclean hands he seized the sacred vessels; and his impious hands swept away what other kings had presented for the advancement, the glory and the honor of the place.

The atrocities of this mad man are spelled out in even greater detail in 1 Maccabees 1:23-67. There we are told that he stripped the Temple of everything — all its silver, gold and precious vessels — "leaving the place a shambles."

Two years later he attacked Jerusalem again. He pillaged the city, set it on fire, tore down its houses, and took the women and children captive. He then issued a proclamation ordering the cessation of all Jewish customs. He banned sacrifices and feasts and observance of the Sabbath. He ordered that all new-born sons were to be left uncircumcised. And he made it a capital offense to own a copy of the Torah.

He then once again proceeded to defile the Temple. He "erected the abomination of desolation" above the altar. This was a statue of the Greek god, Zeus.

The passage in 1 Maccabees gives the exact date when Antiochus desecrated the Temple by erecting the statue of Zeus: "On the fifteenth day of Chislev in the year one hundred and forty five." This converts to December 8, 168 BC. We are told later in Maccabees that the Temple was cleansed and the altar restored by Judas Maccabees on Chislev 25 in 165 BC, representing a period of 1,150 days, exactly as prophesied in Daniel 8:14 (1 Maccabees 4:52)

Daniel Seeks Understanding

At this point in chapter 8 Daniel has been given a vision of three kings — Darius, Alexander the Great, and Antiochus Epiphanes. All of these are symbolic types of the Antichrist, but Daniel does not understand this.



Alexander the Great

So, Daniel asks the Lord for an explanation of the vision (verse 15). In response, the Lord sends the angel Gabriel who tells him that the vision "pertains to the time of the end" (verse 17).

He emphasizes this again in verse 19 where he tells Daniel that the vision relates to "the final period of the indignation" (the Great Tribulation) and that it "pertains to the appointed time of the end."

These words of explanation make it clear that Antiochus and the other kings were only symbolic types of the Antichrist. The true Antichrist would not come until the end times.

The True Antichrist

This brings us to Daniel's revelation of the real Antichrist who will combine the features of Darius, Alexander, and Antiochus. A frightening description of him is presented in Daniel 8: 23-26, so frightening, in fact, that Daniel was "astounded" and "exhausted" and fell ill for several days (verse 27). He is described as being:

- 1) Insolent (verse 23)
- 2) Skillful in intrigue (verse 23)
- 3) Supernatural in power (verse 24)
- 4) Destructive (verse 24)
- 5) Willful (verse 24)
- 6) Shrewd (verse 25)
- 7) Deceitful (verse 25)
- 8) Egotistical (verse 25)
- 9) Blasphemous (verse 25)



The only good news in this passage is the assurance that is given to Daniel that the Antichrist will ultimately be destroyed supernaturally by God (verse 25).

Further Information About the Antichrist

The next reference to the Antichrist is found in chapter 9 in Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks of years (9:24-27). Daniel is told that a decree will be issued to rebuild Jerusalem and that 69 weeks of years later (483 years) the Messiah will be "cut off" and Jerusalem will be destroyed again.

In verse 26 we are given a clue as to the identity of the Antichrist. We are told that the Antichrist will come from the people

who will destroy the Temple following the death of the Messiah. Those people were, of course, the Romans. So, the Antichrist will be of Roman descent.

Then, in verse 27, it is revealed to Daniel that the last week of years for the Jews — the 7 years of the Tribulation — will begin with the signing of a covenant between the Jews and the Antichrist, most likely a covenant guaranteeing the peace of Israel and allowing them to rebuild their Temple.

But it is also revealed that 3½ years into that last 7 year period of time, the Antichrist will double-cross the Jews. Like Antiochus, the Antichrist will desecrate the Temple, stop the sacrifices and desolate the city.

However, once more we are assured that the Antichrist himself will be destroyed in the process. Daniel is told that destruction will be “poured out on the one who makes desolate” (verse 27).

The Fate of the Antichrist



The ultimate destruction of the Antichrist is affirmed once again in Daniel’s final passage about him. It is found in Daniel 11. Once again Daniel presents a series of ruthless kings that are symbolic types of the Antichrist. Interestingly, the three most important all have names that begin with the letter A:

- 1) The fourth king of Persia after Darius: Ahasuerus (verse 2)
- 2) Alexander the Great (verse 3)
- 3) Antiochus III, the Great (verse 11)
- 4) Antiochus Epiphanes (verse 21)

Once more, Antiochus Epiphanes is presented as the classic type of the Antichrist (verses 21-35). He is characterized as despicable, deceptive, a man of intrigue, and a person whose heart is set against God. He is also presented as a warrior who will conquer and plunder and who will ultimately desecrate the Jewish Temple by stopping the sacrifices and erecting an “abomination of desolation.”

At verse 36 a sudden transition occurs as Antiochus Epiphanes morphs into the end time Antichrist:

Then [in the “end time” (verse 35)] the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation [the Tribulation] is finished . . .

In addition to being a willful egotist and blasphemer, as this

passage states, the verses that follow indicate he will also be a militarist and a person obsessed with money.

Beginning in verse 40 we are given an overview of the end time military campaign of the Antichrist that will take place in the Middle East, possibly in response to a rebellion by the nations in that area (verses 40-45).

We are told that the Antichrist will invade the “Beautiful Land” (Israel) and that he will be attacked by the “king of the South” and the “king of the North” (most likely Egypt and Syria). He will conquer all the nations of the Middle East except Jordan, which he will be prevented from entering (most likely because the Jewish remnant will be hiding there).

He will proceed to Egypt in order to plunder its riches. But “rumors from the East and from the North” will disturb him (possibly armies from Russia and the Far East that are revolting against him). He will retreat to the area “between the seas” (the Valley of Armageddon) to await the arrival of these armies. It is in this valley that he will “come to his end” (Daniel 11:45, Joel 3:9-17, and Revelation 19:14-21).

This whole section of Scripture could be called the “Campaign of Armageddon” because it leads the Antichrist to that valley where he and his armies will suffer total defeat in an instant when Messiah Jesus returns and speaks a supernatural word of destruction (Zechariah 14:12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8).

III. The Triumph of Jesus Christ

This brings us to the third end time theme of the book of Daniel. It is the absolute triumph in history that God will give to His Son. Jesus was vilified and crucified at His First Coming, but when He returns, He will be vindicated and glorified.



The first glimpse of this triumph is given to us in chapter 2. Remember Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the giant and beautiful statue of a man? The last Gentile kingdom, the one represented by the feet and toes made of clay and iron is supernaturally destroyed (Daniel 2:34-35).

Do you remember how it was destroyed? “By a stone cut out without hands” (verse 34). It struck the feet and crushed them, bringing down the entire statue, and then “the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth” (verse 35).

Daniel explains that the stone represents the kingdom of God coming to earth, destroying the kingdom of the Antichrist and putting an end to all Gentile kingdoms (verses 44-45). Zechariah and Revelation reveal this will take place at the Second Coming of Jesus.

The next vision of the Lord’s triumph is presented in Daniel chapter 7. We are told in verses 13 and 14 that Daniel experienced a night vision in which he saw the “Son of Man” (Jesus) presented to the “Ancient of Days” (God the Father). Jesus was given “dominion, glory, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him” (verse 14). In verses 18 and 27 we are further told that the “saints of the

Highest One” (the Redeemed) will reign with Jesus over all the world.

This vision of the future reign of Jesus with His saints is a persistent theme of Bible prophecy, found in both the Old and New Testaments. (See: Isaiah 2:2-4, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:4-9, Zechariah 14:1-9, 2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 2:26-27, Revelation 3:21, Revelation 5:9-10, and Revelation 20:4.)

IV. The Timing of the Lord's Return

The fourth and final end time theme of the book of Daniel relates to the timing of the Lord's return. Daniel provides us with several clues. The first is found in Daniel 9:24-27 in the prophecy of the 70 Weeks of Years.

In this famous prophecy, Daniel tells us that all the prophecies concerning the Jewish people will be fulfilled at the end of a period of 490 years. His prophecy then makes it clear that there will be a gap between the first 483 years and the final 7 years.

We know from the book of Revelation that the final 7 years of this prophecy will constitute the Great Tribulation when God will pour out His wrath upon the rebellious nations of the world and in the process will bring the Jewish people to the end of themselves, resulting in the salvation of a great remnant.

So, the first clue as to the timing of the Lord's return is that it will take place at the end of the Tribulation. This timing is confirmed in the New Testament book of Revelation (19:1-16).

Daniel establishes this timing again in chapter 12. There he refers to the Great Tribulation as “a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time” (Daniel 12:1). He says that some of the Jewish people will be “rescued” at the end of this terrible period at the time when the rest of the Jewish righteous will be resurrected. Again, this is at the end of the Tribulation and will occur when the Messiah returns. (This “rescue” is described in Zechariah 12:10.)

Chapter 12 of Daniel provides us with two more clues as to when the Messiah will return. These clues are what we call “signs of the times.” The first is found in verse 4 where Daniel is told that the fulfillment of all the prophecies he has been given (including, of course, the return of the Messiah) will occur at “the end of time” when travel and knowledge will be greatly increased. That explosion occurred during the 20th Century and continues to accelerate to this very day.

Then, in verses 8 and 9 Daniel is told that his prophecies will not be understood until “the end time.” We must be in that time today for we are now understanding end time prophecies that no one has ever understood before due to historical developments and technological inventions.

For example, most end time prophecies revolve around a re-

established nation of Israel. How could those prophecies be understood before the re-establishment of Israel in 1948, an event that most people denied could ever happen right up to the very day that it occurred?

And then there are many prophecies that could never be understood apart from modern technological inventions. How could the whole world look upon two bodies lying in the streets of Jerusalem (Revelation 11:9)? Satellite television has made that possible. How could one-third of the earth be burned up in warfare (Revelation 8:7)? The advent of nuclear weapons has made this possible. The list goes on and on.

Conclusion

Daniel's incredible prophecies make it clear that both wrath and glory lie before us. We are on the threshold of terrible days of Tribulation, but they will be followed by a glorious age when all the saints of God, both Old and New Testament, will reign with Jesus in their glorified bodies over all the nations of the earth.

Daniel's prophecies also make it clear that God is in control. He is on the throne, He is directing the course of human events, and He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Satan and Man to the triumph of His Son.

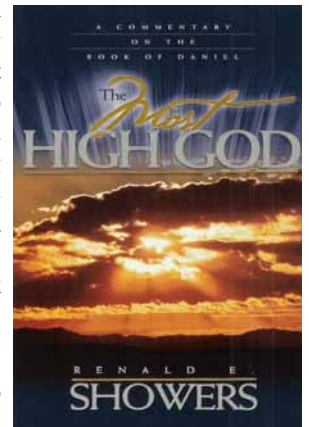
The overriding theme of Daniel is the absolute sovereignty of God. As we try to cope with the increasingly pagan and evil world we live in, let us be reminded of the words of Daniel recorded in chapter 2, verses 20-23a:

Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.
And it is He who changes the times and the epochs;
He removes kings and establishes kings;
He gives wisdom to wise men,
And knowledge to men of understanding.
It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells in Him.
To Thee, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise . . . ✚

An Outstanding Resource on the Book of Daniel

The Most High God by Renald Showers — The best commentary in print on the book of Daniel. It presents a down-to-earth, easy to read, verse by verse commentary on the entire book of Daniel, showing how Daniel fits together with the book of Revelation like a hand in a glove. He clearly shows that it is not possible to understand the book of Revelation without first comprehending Daniel.

The author is a gifted writer who knows how to express complex ideas in the simplest of terms. He currently serves as a researcher, writer and teacher for a Messianic ministry called The Friends of Israel. 218 pages. \$15.



The Future Has Arrived!

Dr. David R. Reagan

I am constantly running across articles by Dispensationalists in which the argument is presented that in order to be a “consistent futurist,” you cannot contend that prophecies are being fulfilled today. Instead, it is argued that all end time prophecy relates to Israel in the Tribulation and Millennium. Therefore, all we are seeing today is “stage setting,” but not the fulfillment of prophecy.¹

I strongly disagree with this viewpoint. First of all, there are four end time prophecies concerning Israel that were fulfilled even before the 20th Century began. They are:

- 1) The dispersion of the Jews worldwide — Deuteronomy 28:64.
- 2) The worldwide persecution of the Jews — Deuteronomy 28:65-67.
- 3) The desolation of the Jewish homeland — Deuteronomy 29:22-28.
- 4) The preservation of the Jewish people — Jeremiah 30:7 and Jeremiah 31:36-37.

Some might respond by saying these are not end time prophecies, but they are. The end times or the “last days” began at the Cross. The writer of the Hebrew letter referred to his day and time (the First Century) as the “last days.” The Apostle Peter also called the time in which he was living the “last times” (1 Peter 1:5 & 20). And in the same letter he stated that “the end of all things is at hand” (1 Peter 4:7). The “end times” began 2,000 years ago. We are currently in the end of the end times, and we know this because God’s Word gives us signs to watch for that will mark the end of the age.

The fulfillment of the prophecies listed above makes it clear that all future prophecies in the Scriptures regarding Israel do not relate to just the Tribulation and the Millennium. Additionally, there are other futuristic prophecies in the Scriptures regarding Israel that were either fulfilled in part or in whole during the 20th Century, and they are prophecies that point to the soon return of Jesus.

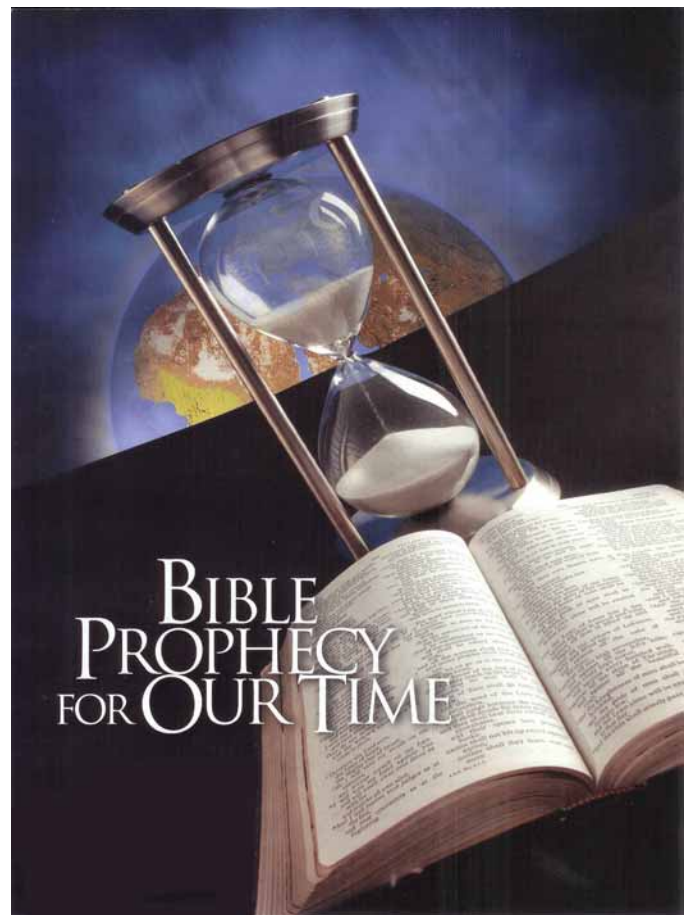
Current Fulfillment of Prophecies Related to Israel



Consider, to begin with, the most prolific futuristic prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures — namely, that in the end times the Jewish people will be regathered in unbelief from the four corners of the earth.

This regathering began in the late 19th Century when Theodore Herzl wrote his book, *The Jewish State*, in which he advocated that the time had come for the Jews to return to their homeland. In 1900

there were only 40,000 Jews in Israel. By the end of World War II this number had risen to 800,000. Today, it stands at nearly 6 million. The Jews continue to come, but there is no doubt this is a prophecy that is being fulfilled before our very eyes.



Or, consider the re-establishment of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. This was a clear and definite fulfillment of Bible prophecy. It is an accomplished fact, and it is a miracle of God. It is not mere “stage-setting,” it is a play that has already been performed in full.

Another accomplished fact is the revival of the Hebrew language from the dead. When the Jews were scattered from their homeland in the First and Second Centuries, they stopped speaking Hebrew. The Jews in Europe mixed Hebrew with German and created a new language called Yiddish. The Jews in the Mediterranean Basin mixed Hebrew with Spanish and created a language called Ladino. But the Bible prophesied that the Hebrew language would be revived in the end times (Zephaniah 3:9), and that is exactly what happened in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries through the efforts of one man — Eliezar Ben Yehuda. Today, the people of Israel speak biblical Hebrew.

Equally certifiable is the reclamation of the Jewish homeland. As pointed out earlier, the Bible prophesied that it would become a desolation after the Jewish people were expelled from it. But the Bible also prophesied that when the Jews returned to the land, it would once again become a land of milk and honey:

The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passed by. And they will say, “This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate, and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.” (Ezekiel 36:34-35)

When the Jews started returning to their homeland in the late 19th Century, it was a total wasteland. Nearly all the trees had

been cut down and the soil was badly eroded. The land resembled a desert. Most of the valleys had become malaria-infested swamp lands. The Jewish pioneers began planting trees, reclaiming the soil, and draining the swamps. Today, Israel is the bread basket of the Middle East.

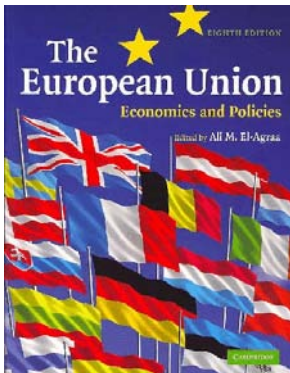


Another prophecy that has definitely been fulfilled in our times is the resurgence of the Israeli military. Zechariah 12:6 says that in the end times, God “will make the clans of Judah like a firepot among pieces of wood and a flaming torch among sheaves, so they will consume on the right hand and on the left all the surrounding peoples . . .”

The fulfillment of this prophecy can be seen today in the incredible military power of Israel. It is one of the world’s smallest nations, yet it is ranked by all experts as one of the four top military powers in the world.

Finally, with regard to Israel before the Tribulation begins, the Bible prophesies that Jerusalem will be re-occupied by the Jews (Zechariah 12:2-3 & 6) and that it will become the focal point of world politics (Zechariah 12:3). The Jews returned to the city when it was captured in the Six Day War in 1967, and today, all the nations of the world are coming against Israel over the issue of who will control Jerusalem in the future.

Current Fulfillment of Non-Jewish Prophecies



But end time prophecies regarding Israel are not the only ones we see being fulfilled in whole or in part before our very eyes. Daniel prophesied that in the end times the old Roman Empire would be revived (Daniel 2:31-45), and we can see that being accomplished today in the creation and expansion of the European Union.

The Bible prophesies repeatedly that in the end times there will be a great apostasy in the Church (1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:1 & 5, 2 Timothy 4:3-4). We are up to our ears in that apostasy today as major Christian denominations ordain homosexuals, approve same-sex marriage, deny the deity of Jesus, and mock the inerrancy of the Scriptures.

In like manner, the Bible prophesies that “in the last days” society will disintegrate into a cesspool of immorality and violence (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Can there be any doubt that those days have arrived?

Daniel was told that the end time prophecies would not be completely understood until the end time — that is, until the time comes for their fulfillment (Daniel 12:8-9). That time must be upon us for we are living in the time when ancient prophecies are being understood for the first time ever, due to historical developments and technological advances.

Taking the Signs of the Times Seriously

I could go on and on, but I think I have made my point. **The future has arrived!** End time prophecies are being fulfilled today. What we are witnessing is much more than “stage-setting.” God is clearly fulfilling promises He made thousands of years ago to the Jewish people. And God is orchestrating the fulfillment of end time prophecies that are not related to the Jewish people.



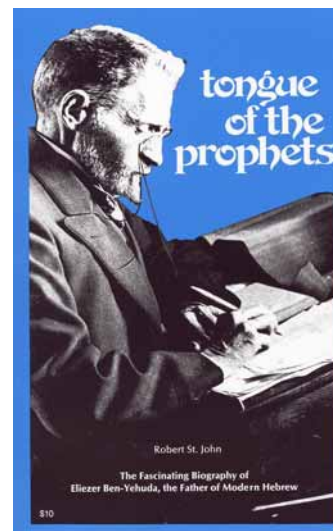
It is exciting to see these prophecies fulfilled, and I am tired of seeing people attempt to depreciate their importance by flipping them off in a cavalier way as nothing more than mere “stage-setting.”

Jesus is coming soon. The signs of the times attest to that fact. God expects us to take those signs seriously because He is about to pour out His wrath upon this world in the Great Tribulation, and He does not desire that any should perish. The fulfillment of prophecy all around us today is God’s way of waking us up to the fact that we are living on borrowed time, and we need to use the remaining time to commit ourselves to holiness and evangelism. ✚

Notes:

- 1) A good example of the Dispensational viewpoint on this issue is an article by Ron J. Bigalke, Jr entitled, “Prophetic Fulfillment,” (<http://bible-prophecy-today.blogspot.com/2009/08/prophetic-fulfillment.html>).

A Fascinating Book About the Fulfillment of Prophecy in Israel Today



Tongue of the Prophets by Robert St. John — The fascinating biography of Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the man who revived the Hebrew language from the dead.

It is the story of the fulfillment of the prophecy contained in Zephaniah 3:9 which states that God will restore a “pure speech” to the Jews in the end times. The book also chronicles the history of the Zionist Movement leading up to the re-establishment of the modern state of Israel.

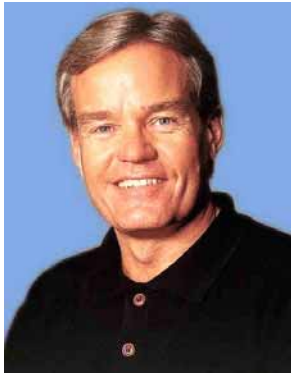
Ben Yehuda’s life will enthrall you and inspire you. It is an incredible story of prophecy in the making. 377 pages. \$20. To order, call 800-705-8316.

When Evangelicals Dine With The Wicked

Jan Markell

(Editor's note: Jan Markell is a Christian Jew who entered full time ministry in 1975 in the service of Jews for Jesus. In 1982 she founded Olive Tree Ministries in Maple Grove, Minnesota. She is the host of a nationally broadcast radio talk show called "Understanding the Times." She has authored eight books and written over 300 articles for publication that have appeared in many periodicals around the world. Her ministry's website is www.olivetreeviews.org.)

Few would disagree that Willow Creek Community Church in the Chicago area has been one of the most influential churches in America over the last thirty years. The church and pastor have impacted every evangelical church in the country.



Pastor Bill Hybels

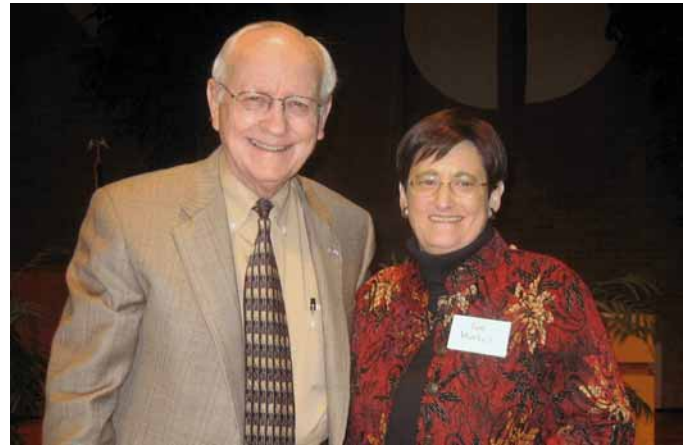
A year ago, Willow Creek's pastor, Bill Hybels, admitted that the "seeker-sensitive" approach he had helped spread across the country had not been very effective at Willow Creek . . . Well, that was an admission many of us were pleased about. The obvious question was, what would the new approach be? One thing has become obvious: His annual leadership summits have not changed one whit.

I have carefully followed his leadership conferences. Guest speakers have always been problematic — such as Jimmy Carter — and this year is no exception. Would not a "leadership conference" be training people how to be Christian leaders in the ways of faith? Or to equip attendees to help other believers grow in their faith as a result of the information presented at this event? Apparently not.

As this is written, the 2009 conference is assembling to hear from Tony Blair. What's wrong with this picture? Blair is one of the chief players on the globalistic, one-world religion agenda. The Tony Blair Faith Foundation screams "unity" with every sentence, and not biblical unity. Blair states, "God's Spirit moves through us and the world at a pace that can never be constricted by any one religious paradigm. Be very wary of people who think theirs is the only way."

Members of his board include a Zen Buddhist, a Hindu from Minnesota, an Anglican, Rick Warren, a Rabbi, and others. A goal is to "heal the divisiveness in the world." This feeds into the end-time ecumenical effort predicted in the Bible.

Just as troubling is the appearance of rock star Bono. His U2 band has been blatantly Satanic. Thanks to Good Fight Ministries, you can go to their website (www.goodfight.org) and type in the word Bono or U2. Bono is shown on a video holding an upside down cross and singing praises to Charles Manson with the song Helter Skelter. Did Bono have a conversion experience?



Dr. Reagan with Jan Markell

If he did, he has not changed the name of his music affiliation, which remains U2 from the days of blatant Satanism.

Bono's efforts are directed at social change and he, too, is trying to build a bridge to all faiths. Bono says, "Look, on the God thing, I have to be really careful because I'm not a very good advertisement. I don't want you to sit there and say I'm a man of faith. I just read in one of St. Paul's letters, where it describes all the fruits of the spirit, I realized I had none of them."

He also states, "I stopped going to churches and got into a different religion. That's what being a rock-and-roll band is: showbiz, shamanism, and music is worship."

U2's 2005 Vertigo Tour promoted Bono's New Age, all-faith agenda. The word 'COEXIST' appeared on a giant screen — the 'C' represented by the Islamic crescent, the 'X' by the Star of David, and the 'T' by the Christian cross. Then the big screen displayed the favorite mantra/lie of the Emergent/New Age Church, "Everything you know is wrong." Bono led the audience in a chant, "Jesus, Jew, Mohammed — all true!"

How will attendees grow spiritually or grow in leadership skills from Bono?

Some other speakers at this supposed Evangelical leadership conference include three high-powered business women: a gal who was the number one business thinker in 2008 according to the *Wall Street Journal*; *Fortune* magazine's "most powerful woman in business;" and a businesswoman who is a regular guest on the Oprah Winfrey program.

How does this further the Kingdom of God today? If this were being put on by the National Council of Churches, I would get it! But Hybels is an Evangelical icon even if it is the "Evangelical Left." And it would be proper to ask, why does Evangelicalism even have a Left? It did not until 20 years ago. Will these speakers spur the attendees on to share their faith with greater zeal? And why is Hybels subjecting his people to some potential sheep-stealing from some of these characters? Probably because the ecumenical effort is big on his agenda as well. Yet tens of thousands of churches are connected to his network.

Pastor Bill Hybels should know better. Other Evangelical leaders need to speak up and stop the potential slaughter of some sheep. The hour is too late to spend several days each summer listening to fools. ✚

Has The Church Become Irrelevant?

Chuck Baldwin

(Editor's note: Chuck Baldwin is the founder and pastor of Crossroad Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. He hosts a daily radio talk show which addresses current event topics from a conservative Christian point of view. His church's website is www.crossroadbaptist.net.)



Pastor Chuck Baldwin

America's Christian heritage is both rich and deep. What most historians and educators refuse to acknowledge, our forebears understood clearly: it was mostly Christians and churches that formed and shaped the new land that became known as the United States of America.

For example, when discussing the brave exploits of the passengers on board the Mayflower, people seem to have forgotten that the voyage was mostly the endeavor of a single church congregation. And don't forget that it was Pastor Jonas Clark's male congregants who withstood British troops at Lexington and fired the very first of the shots heard "round the world." The famous French historian, Alexis De Tocqueville, credited the pulpits and churches of Colonial America with inspiring America's successful War for Independence and subsequent prosperity much more than its institutions of learning, halls of Congress, or industries of invention. From the very beginning, America's Christians and pastors were intricately involved in the establishment and building of this republic.

It is no hyperbole to say that without the influence, sacrifice, dedication, blood, sweat, and tears of America's early Christians, this country would not exist.

But what do we see today? We see pastors and church congregations who are, for the most part, totally ignorant of their own heritage and history. They have little or no understanding of the principles of Natural Law — something America's founders knew almost by second nature (no pun intended). They seem to know next to nothing of the biblical principles of liberty and government. All they seem to be able to do is regurgitate some mindless interpretation of Romans 13 — an interpretation that could have been written by King George III or even Adolf Hitler.¹

Ignoring the great examples and exhortations of both Testaments, today's Christians seem to have lazily latched onto a modern-day "divine right of kings" philosophy, through which they have become the pathetic slaves of arrogant and pompous political wolves dressed (barely) in the sheepskins of legitimacy.

Where are America's watchmen on the wall? . . . How is it that today's Christians know more about sports celebrities than they do about America's founders? How is it that these lying,

conniving, con artists called politicians can sucker church members as easily as they do the un-churched? How is it that Christians do not seem to recognize the devilish doctrines of socialism, fascism, elitism, or globalism for what they are? How can they be so easily manipulated? How is it that these corrupt politicians — who vote to kill unborn babies, merge America into internationalist and global entities, strip Americans of their God-given natural right of self defense, promote homosexual marriage, or allow America to lose its identity, culture, and heritage through unbridled illegal immigration — remain in "good standing" with any number of supposed "Christian" churches?

Even though there are more churches in America than anywhere else in the world, the pastors and Christians of this country have, for the most part, become completely irrelevant to preserving "the blessings of liberty" — or even fundamental biblical principles, for that matter.

Churches used to be respected as lighthouses in communities: places free from the jaundiced juxtaposition of political correctness and avarice. Today's churches are filled with both. Where once churches stood as guardians of truth, they have now become progenitors of error. Where once preachers stood in the similitude of Elijah and John the Baptist, they now grovel in the image of Joel Osteen and Rick Warren. Sunday Schools were once bastions of Bible teaching; today they are glorified coffee shops and playgrounds. The modern Christian home cannot even disciple its own children: how can it then be expected to "make disciples of all nations"?

I repeat: the modern American church has, for the most part, become irrelevant.

It is little wonder that more and more people are losing interest in the organized church . . . Instead of hearing a prophet of God declare the Word of God, they hear a milquetoast minister meekly musing the latest self-help book.

The complete irrelevance of today's organized church in America to the preservation of Christian liberty and constitutional government is especially disconcerting to those of us who still have freedom's fire burning in our souls. Where do we go for respite and instruction?

I tell you the truth: there are hundreds of thousands of patriotic, freedom-minded Christians all over America who have had it "up to here" with these spineless social clubs called churches! . . . These people are not looking to be entertained or pampered. They do not care about social standing or making "business contacts." They don't care which church has the "most exciting" youth program, or how many softball teams it has. They want a church where the pastor isn't afraid to speak truth to power and take a stand for liberty. And, unfortunately, such churches are getting harder and harder to find.

In fact, I submit that the true church is not "emerging;" it is "submerging." ✚

Notes:

- 1) For an outstanding analysis of Romans 13 as it applies to governmental submission, see Mr. Baldwin's essay, "Romans 13 Revisited" at http://www.chuckbaldwinlive.com/c2009/cbarchive_20090715.html.

Error Correction!

Dr. David R. Reagan

Recently I started getting a flurry of calls and emails asking me why I had decided to endorse the Gap Theory of Creation. These messages caught me by surprise because I have never believed in that theory. In fact, almost every time I have ever spoken or written about Creation, I have made it a point to denounce that theory.

It didn't take me long to trace down the origin of the rumor. I discovered that the well known Bible Prophecy teacher, Jack Van Impe — a man I have always respected — recently released a video entitled "The Startling Truth About Angels and Demons." In that video he states that I am a person who has endorsed the Gap Theory.

I contacted Mr. Van Impe immediately by email and informed him that his information was incorrect. He responded through one of his assistants and apologized for the error, asking my forgiveness for the misinformation. He certainly has my forgiveness. But the problem is that the information is now out there on a video that will be distributed worldwide.

Because I consider this issue to be so important, I want to emphasize once again in writing that I am a person who believes the Bible literally, and therefore I believe that the earth and all the universe was created 6,000 years ago in six literal days, just as the account in the book of Genesis says.

Some of you reading this may not even be aware of what the Gap Theory is all about. Although there were forms of the Gap Theory before the 19th Century, it was during the latter half of that century that the theory became popular as a way of accommodating the story of creation to the Darwinian assumptions of modern science, particularly the idea that the earth must be billions of years old.



(ChristianAnswers.net)

The theory postulates that there is a gap of billions of years between the first two verses of Genesis. The first verse supposedly describes the creation of the original earth. It is then argued that the original earth became "formless and void" through the rebellion of Satan and his angels. During the gap, animals supposedly lived and died, and some even argue that a soulless race of people lived and died during this time. Sometime during this gap there was a worldwide flood that is

referred to as "Lucifer's Flood." It was this flood, not the Noahic Flood, that supposedly laid down the fossil record. After billions of years God reconstructed the earth in six literal days. That reconstruction supposedly begins with verse three of Genesis where God is portrayed as creating light. This is why the Gap Theory is often called "The Ruin-Reconstruction Theory."

The Gap Theory is certainly an improvement over the Day-Age Theory that some Christians subscribe to. This is the theory that the days of creation were really periods of millions or billions of years rather than 24 hour days. This interpretation flies



(Picture from ChristianAnswers.net)

in the face of the clear meaning of Scripture that the days of creation were literal 24 hour days. In the Genesis account each day is described as a day with a morning and an evening. Furthermore, a passage in Exodus 20, verses 8-11 makes it crystal clear that the days of creation were literal 24 hour days.

The Gap Theory has been endorsed by a number of outstanding Evangelical spokesmen — men like Harry Rimmer, George DeHoff, C.I. Scofield, Clarence Larkin, Arthur Pink, Donald Grey Barnhouse, and Jack Van Impe, among others.

But I cannot endorse it for a number of reasons. Let me just mention a few. First, I think it reads into the text something that just isn't there. I believe a natural reading of the first five verses of Genesis is that on the first day of creation, God created the heavens and the earth and then began the process of fine-tuning His creation by creating light. When verse two refers to the earth as "formless and void," all it is saying is that after its creation on the first day, the earth was like a pile of clay waiting to be shaped.

Another problem with the Gap Theory is that it introduces death into the world before the fall of Adam and Eve. The Bible teaches there was no death before Adam and Eve sinned.

A third point I would make is that I don't believe it is necessary to use something like the Gap Theory or the Day-Age Theory to explain what appears to be the ancient age of the earth. That's because *special creation always carries with it the appearance of age*. If, for example, I were to create a full grown man and then introduced him to you and claimed that I created him 15 minutes ago, you would say, "Oh no! He's at least 30 years old." The same would be true of the instant creation of an animal or a plant. This point was illustrated in the very first miracle Jesus performed at the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee when He turned the water into wine. The creation of wine takes an aging process. But Jesus created it instantly, and it carried with it the appearance of age.

We need to stop playing games with the Creation story. If it is not reliable, then what part of the Bible can we believe? The Day-Age folks spiritualize it. But if it is to be spiritualized, then where do we stop spiritualizing? The Gap Theory folks try to prop-up the story by inventing a gap that doesn't exist. I think the best approach is to accept by faith the plain sense meaning. The reason the issue is so important is because the integrity of God's Word is at stake. ✚

TIMES and Seasons

Food for Thought



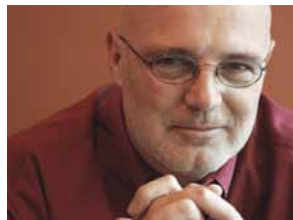
Paganism — The American Humanist Association continues its attacks on God. They recently erected a series of billboards that declared, “Millions are good without God,” “Want a Better World? Prayer Not Required,” and “Don’t Believe in God? You Are Not Alone.” Psalm 53:1 says, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ Such people are corrupt . . . for there is no one who does good.” A recently featured church sign on the Internet read: “God does not believe in Atheists, therefore Atheists do not exist!”



Apostasy — In August the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted to allow gays and lesbians in “committed” relationships to be ordained as clergy. Many of the delegates to the convention expressed dismay over the decision. One was Richard Mahan, pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, WV. He said, “Nowhere in Scripture does it say

homosexuality and same-sex marriage are acceptable to God. Instead, it says that both are immoral and perverted.” Many congregations are expected to withdraw their membership from the denomination.

And More Apostasy — Brian McLaren, the leader of the apostate Emergent Church Movement that is infecting Evangelical congregations in all denominations, recently declared on his blog that he was going to observe the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and he called on other Christians to do the same. He wrote, “We, as Christians, humbly seek to join Muslims in this observance of Ramadan as a God-Honoring expression of peace, fellowship and neighborliness.” Ramadan celebrates the month during which Muslims believe Mohammed received the Qu’ran through divine revelation. Wonder what the prophet Elijah would think of such a call to honor a pagan religion?



Brian McLaren

Blasphemy — A blasphemous movement that began in Britain has now spread to the United States. It is a movement to “de-baptize” Christians. A robed priest uses a hair dryer labeled “Reason” to blow away the waters of baptism from the head of the person wishing to renounce the Christian faith. The person is then given a “de-sacrament” consisting of crackers with peanut butter. The ceremony concludes with the de-Christianized person receiving a certificate.



World Government — In 1999 Walter Cronkite appeared at the United Nations to accept the Norman Cousins Global Governance Award from the World Federalist Association. In a remarkable speech that can be viewed on the Internet, he argued vehemently in behalf of a world government that would require the surrender of American sovereignty. He then declared: “Pat Robertson has written in a book a few years ago that we should have a world government, but only when the Messiah arrives. He wrote, literally, that ‘any attempt to achieve world order before that time must be the work of the devil.’ Well, join me. *I’m glad to sit here at the right hand of Satan.*” (Walter Cronkite was the host of CBS News from 1962 to 1981.)

Political Affiliations — “I’m not a Democrat or a Republican. I am a Monarchist. I serve the coming King of kings and Lord of lords.” (Statement by Chuck Missler who is a Bible prophecy teacher and is the founder and director of Koinonia House Ministries.)

Religion in the Schools —

“When the public school system threw out prayer, Bible readings, creation and the Ten Commandments — they didn’t throw out religion. They replaced the Christian worldview with an atheistic one. The public schools, by and large, now teach that everything a student learns about science, history, etc., has nothing to do with God — it can all be explained without any supernatural reference. This is a religious view — an anti-Christian view with which students are being indoctrinated.” (Statement by Ken Ham who is the president of Answers in Genesis Ministries.)



Ken Ham

President Obama — “I sincerely hope when President Obama goes in for his annual check-up, the doctors at Bethesda will do a brain scan. Surely something must be terribly wrong with a man who seems to be far more concerned with a Jew building a house in Israel than with Muslims building a nuclear bomb in Iran.” (Observation by Burt Prelutsky, a syndicated columnist.)



Helmut Richard Niebuhr

A Perverted Gospel — Describing the biblically distorted message of Protestant Liberalism, Dr. Helmut Richard Niebuhr summed it up as follows: “A God without wrath brought men without sin into a world without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.” (Dr. Niebuhr was a professor at Yale Divinity School. He lived from 1894 to 1962.)

A Proclamation Calling for National Repentance and Spiritual Renewal

The news media too often highlight political leaders who do not represent the values of people of faith; consequently, many God-fearing citizens incorrectly believe that few elected officials share our moral and religious convictions. But such a conclusion is wrong. There are literally hundreds of elected officials at the state level (and even many at the federal level) who believe in the Judeo-Christian values that made this country great and who are willing to speak out in behalf of them.



Sally Kern

website at <http://repsallykern.com>.)

Sally Kern was first elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives in 2004. She and her husband, Dr. Stephen D. Kern, a Southern Baptist minister, were married in 1970 and have two grown sons. Sally is a member of Olivet Baptist Church in Oklahoma City where her husband is the pastor.

Prior to her election, Sally was very active in her church as a Bible teacher and member of the choir, and continues to serve there. She was teaching high school government in Oklahoma City when elected, as well as coaching girl's golf and volleyball. Sally has taught school for 20 years.

The Proclamation

We the People of Oklahoma, invoking the guidance of Almighty God, in order to secure and perpetuate the blessing of liberty; to secure just and rightful Government; to promote our mutual welfare and happiness, do establish this proclamation and call upon the people of the great State of Oklahoma, and our fellow patriots in these United States of America who look to the Lord for guidance, to acknowledge the need for a national awakening of righteousness in our land.

WHEREAS,
"It is religion and morality alone, which can establish the principles upon which Freedom can securely stand" (John Adams); and

WHEREAS,
"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbri- dled by religion and morality" (John Adams); and



John Adams

One such official is Representative Sally Kern of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Representative Kern recently introduced a Proclamation on Morality that was signed at the State Capitol by numerous elected officials and religious leaders. We thought you might enjoy reading her proclamation, filled with powerful quotes made by America's Founding Fathers. (If you are encouraged by her boldness, you might send her a message of encouragement and thanks. You can do that through her



James Madison

Commandments of God" (James Madison); and

WHEREAS,
"Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men, but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God" (Benjamin Franklin); and

WHEREAS,
"God who gave us life gave us liberty, and can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis — a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God?" (Thomas Jefferson); and

WHEREAS,
"Whether any free government can be permanent, where the public worship of God, and the support of religion, constitute no part of the policy or duty of the state" (Joseph Story); and

WHEREAS,
"We hold sacred the rights of conscience, and promise to the people . . . the free and undisturbed exercise of their religion" (Roger Sherman); and



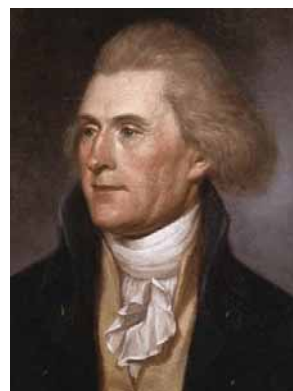
Patrick Henry

WHEREAS,
"This great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians" (Patrick Henry); and

WHEREAS,
"When you . . . exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed upon your mind that God commands you to choose just men who will rule in the fear of God" (Noah Webster); and

WHEREAS,
"The principles of genuine liberty and of wise laws and administrations are to be drawn from the Bible" (Noah Webster); and

WHEREAS,
the people of Oklahoma have a strong tradition of reliance upon the Creator of the Universe; and



Thomas Jefferson



Oklahoma celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007. The state can be justifiably proud of legislators like Sally Kern.

WHEREAS,
we believe our economic woes are consequences of our greater national moral crisis; and

WHEREAS,
this nation has become a world leader in promoting abortion, pornography, same sex marriage, sex trafficking, divorce, illegitimate births, child abuse, and many other forms of debauchery; and

WHEREAS,
alarmed that the Government of the United States of America is forsaking the rich Christian heritage upon which this nation was built; and

WHEREAS,
grieved that the office of the President of these United States has refused to uphold the long held tradition of past presidents in giving recognition to our National Day of Prayer; and

WHEREAS,
deeply disturbed that the office of the President of these United States disregards the biblical admonitions to live clean and pure lives by proclaiming an entire month to an immoral behavior [i.e., the White House issued a national proclamation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Month];

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned elected officials of the people of Oklahoma, religious leaders and citizens of the State of Oklahoma, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world, solemnly declare that the hope of the great State of Oklahoma and of these United States, rests upon the principles of religion and morality as put forth in the Holy Bible; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned, believers in the One True God and His only Son, call upon all to join with us in recognizing that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," and humbly implore all who love truth and virtue to live above reproach in the sight of God and man with a firm reliance on the leadership and protection of Almighty God; and

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned, humbly call upon our Holy God — our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer — to have mercy on this nation, to stay His hand of judgment, and grant a national awakening of righteousness and Christian renewal as we repent of our great sin. ✚



The Lamb & Lion 2010 Holy Land Calendar

Our Holy Land calendar for 2010 contains 13 spectacular photographs of churches in Israel. All the photos were taken by Todd Bolen who is Christendom's foremost photographer of the Holy Land. The cover photograph, shown above, is of the Russian Orthodox Church of Mary Magdalene in Jerusalem.



Todd standing in the mountains of Eilat in the far south tip of Israel, on the Red Sea.

Todd is an associate professor of biblical studies at The Master's College in Santa Clara, California. He teaches at their Israel campus which is located on the outskirts of Jerusalem. His wonderful photographs are featured on his website at www.BiblePlaces.com. His photos can be purchased on CDs that are organized according to geographical locations in Israel. We feel very blessed to be able to feature Todd's beautiful photographs in our calendar.

Next year's calendar will contain notations of all the major American holidays and all the Jewish feast days and special memorial days like Independence Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. The calendar is printed on heavy gloss paper in full color and sells for \$10, including the cost of mailing. To order a copy, call 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. If you would like to purchase copies for Christmas presents, you can purchase ten, and we will supply you with two extra copies, free of charge. ✚



The Greek Orthodox Church at Capernaum next to the Sea of Galilee.

Special New Programs

The Church Channel, one of the four national networks that broadcast our TV program, requires a special Thanksgiving program each year. In the past we have always prepared special programs for Easter and Christmas, but never for Thanksgiving. To meet The Church Channel requirement, we produced two Thanksgiving programs in September that will be broadcast in November, the first during the week of Thanksgiving, and the second during the following week.

The new Thanksgiving programs focus on two spiritual blessings, one past and one future. The past blessing is the salvation Jesus earned for us on the Cross. The future blessing is the promise of the Rapture.

Dr. Reagan feels that the first Thanksgiving program is one of the best that we have ever produced. It will be sent out in November to our Prophecy Partners as their monthly gift. If you are not a Prophecy Partner and would like to have a copy of the program, you can order it on a DVD for \$5 plus the cost of mailing. Just call 800-705-8316.

New Video Movie

Our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, recently wrote and produced a video movie about the Rapture that is designed for viewing by those who are left behind after the Rapture occurs. It is also a great witnessing tool to unbelievers before the Rapture. You can view a copy of it on our website at www.lamblion.com. On the home page, look for the banner that says, "Did many people disappear?" Click on it and the 14 minute movie will appear.

Revelation Illustrated

We recently taped a TV program with Christendom's foremost illustrator of the book of Revelation — Pat Marvenko Smith. Pat is a professional artist who started illustrating the book in 1980 when she was asked to teach a class of teenagers at her church, and they expressed an interest in studying the book of Revelation. Since that time she has produced 41 illustrations that are used today by churches and ministries all over the world. The program we shot with her will be aired in January of 2010. Her website is RevelationIllustrated.com.



Dr. Reagan with Pat Marvenko Smith, standing in front of the flag of Jerusalem.

"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.kajm.com/familyvision.



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

Israel Pilgrimages —

Our next pilgrimage to Israel will be a special "Focus on Jerusalem" trip that will spend six days in Jerusalem seeing sites that are not seen on a normal tour of Israel. For that reason, the trip is designed for people who have made a general pilgrimage to Israel before. As an added feature, we will spend one day in Frankfurt en route to Israel and will tour that city. Also, on the return home, we will spend the night in Frankfurt. For detailed information, call 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Our next general tour of Israel will probably be in November of next year. The dates for that trip have not yet been definitely determined.

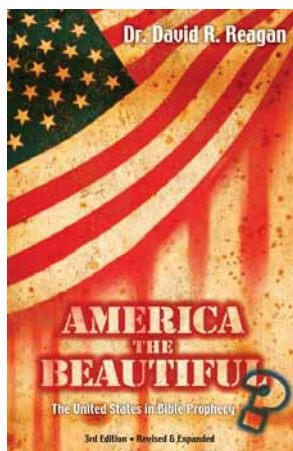
Prophecy Partners —

We need your support as a Prophecy Partner! Our Prophecy Partners serve as the financial foundation of our ministry. They also serve as our prayer warriors. For information about how to become a Prophecy Partner, see the back page of this magazine.



Mel McCutchen of Spencer, Indiana is one of our Prophecy Partners. He is 91 years old and has been a Christian since he was 15. He began his career as a licensed watchmaker. Later, he became a civil servant working in quality control at various aircraft companies. He is an enthusiastic student of Bible prophecy and is very interested in Messianic Judaism.

New Book —



Dr. Reagan's newest book is the third edition of his study of the United States in Bible Prophecy, called **America the Beautiful?** It brings the message right up to date with a consideration of the ramifications of the election of President Obama. He discusses "the ominous year of 2008," pointing out that it could well have been the year when God decided to deliver our nation from judgment to destruction. 215 pages. \$15. To order call 800-705-8316. Buy one for your pastor and send copies to your Congressmen.

Ministry News



Speaking Schedule —

In **November** the ministry will host a Bible prophecy conference to be held at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas (a suburb of Dallas). Featured speakers, in addition to Dr. Reagan, will be Dennis Pollock, Don McGee, Al Gist, and Nathan Jones. Jack and Sally Hollingsworth will supply the music. The conference will start Friday evening, the 6th, and run all day Saturday, the 7th. In the middle of the month (14th) Dr. Reagan will conduct a one day prophecy conference at Crossroads Christian Church in Evansville, Indiana. Dr. Reagan will conclude the month by speaking at three Code Blue Rallies in Rockford Moline, and Peoria, Illinois (20-22). In **December** the Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees will hold its annual retreat at Camp Prothro on Lake Texhoma (4-6). Following that meeting, Dr. Reagan will speak at the Pre-Trib Prophecy Conference in Dallas (7-9). In **January** Dr. Reagan will attend the board meeting of Acts 29 Ministries in Panama City, Florida (8-9). Later in the month he will hold a weekend conference at North Hialeah Baptist Church in Hialeah, Florida (23-24). In **February** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak at Community Christian Church in Apache Junction, Arizona (6-7).

Going Strong —

Sherry Johnson of Lexington, Kentucky recently wrote to us about her friend, Utha Sally Deen, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on July 12th. Sally reported that Mrs. Deen taught Sunday School for more than 50 years and often used materials produced by this ministry. "She still studies her Bible every day, and her favorite topic is Bible prophecy. She says that she is 'ready to go' when the Lord calls her."



Utha Sally Deen

In Memory —



Tom Reich

One of the members of our Board of Trustees, Tom Reich, was called home recently to be with the Lord. Tom was the immediate past president of our board. He was a great friend and supporter of Dr. Reagan. Tom served for many years with the Environmental Protection Agency. After retirement, he became a real estate appraiser. He was a man who always had a smile on his face and a word of encouragement in his heart. One of his friends wrote these words about him: "Tom was one of the most joy-filled, Lord loving, Christ sharing, prophecy passionate Christians that I have ever known. His laugh was contagious and his zeal infectious." Tom is survived by his wife, Fran, two children, and several grandchildren.



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Staff of Lamb & Lion Ministries



The Lamb & Lion Staff — Front row (left to right): Heather Jones, Kay Bien, Rachel Houck, and Cathie Grubb, Second row (left to right): Nathan Jones, Trey Collich, George Collich, Dave Reagan, Leo Houck, Larry Watts, Jack Smith, and Gary Byers. (Photo by Ernest Love.)

We want to thank you for your prayers and financial support throughout this past year. We are especially grateful to our Prophecy Partners who have joined hands with us to proclaim the message of the Lord's soon return.

If you are not a Prophecy Partner, we would like to invite you to become one. All you have to do is give us a call at **1-800-705-8316** and make a com-

mitment to give \$20 a month or more for one year. We ask you to aim at \$30 a month, representing a dollar a day for one year, but the minimum requirement is \$20 per month.

In return, you will receive a letter from Dr. Reagan each month in which he will outline our financial and prayer needs. You will also receive a gift, usually a DVD of one of our TV programs. ✚