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

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The Truth of the Virgin Birth



The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem



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Observations by the Editor

Our Cover

The Church of the Nativity marks the traditional site of the birth of Jesus in the town of Bethlehem. It is built over a cave where it is believed the birth took place.

The antiquity of this tradition is attested to by the Christian apologist, Justin Martyr (c.100-c.165), who referred to it in his *Dialogue with Trypho*. He stated that Mary and Joseph had taken refuge in a cave outside of town where the Christ child was born (chapter LXVIII). Another of the early Church Fathers, Origen of Alexandria (c.185-254), also affirmed in his writings that the Bethlehem cave was the site of Jesus' birth (*Contra Celsum*, book 1, chapter LI).

The first church on the site was built on the orders of Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine I. It was started in 327 and was completed in 333. It was destroyed by fire in 529.

The current church was rebuilt in its present form in 565 by Emperor Justinian I. When the Persians invaded in 614, the church was spared from destruction because it contained a mural of the magi who visited Jesus, all of whom were depicted as wearing Persian clothes.

The Crusaders made repairs to the church and expanded it. The first King of Jerusalem, Baldwin of Boulogne, was crowned in the church on December 25, 1100.

During Crusader times (1095-1291) the entrance to the church was greatly reduced in size to prevent soldiers from riding their horses into the church. The door is so low that it can be entered only by bowing. It thus became known as "The Door of Humility."



Entrance to the Church of the Nativity.



Dr. David R. Reagan

The interior of the church is dark and dreary, both literally and spiritually. It is jointly administered by priests of three churches — Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian.

The altar of the church is situated directly over a cave called "the Grotto of the Nativity." This is the site where it is believed that Jesus was born. The exact spot is marked by a 14-pointed silver star. It is not at all unusual to find pilgrims on their knees, kissing the star.



The 14-pointed silver star in the Grotto of the Nativity.

In a nearby cave, also located beneath the church, Saint Jerome (347-420) lived for 36 years while he translated the Bible into Latin, producing the Latin Vulgate translation that was used in the Western world for over a thousand years. ✦

The cover photo was made by Dr. Reagan. It was enhanced by Jack Smith. The cover design was executed by Keith Fink of The Master's Press in Dallas, Texas.

The Truth of the Virgin Birth

Dr. David R. Reagan

I'd like to begin by asserting my thesis right up front: **Belief in the virgin birth of Jesus is absolutely essential to the Christian faith.** To deny the virgin birth is to deny the deity of Jesus, and if Jesus was not God in the flesh, then you and I have no hope whatsoever.

A Doctrine Under Attack

And yet, despite the centrality and essentiality of the doctrine of the virgin birth, there is no doctrine in all of Christendom that has been more reviled and ridiculed.

Consider Thomas Jefferson. He was a Deist who rejected the supernatural. He produced his own version of the New Testament. It was a cut and paste job that deleted the virgin birth, all the miracles of Jesus, and, of course, His resurrection. Concerning the virgin birth, Jefferson wrote:

The day will come when the mystical generation [conception] of Jesus by the Supreme Being as his father, in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter.¹



Harry Emerson Fosdick

In the early 20th Century, when the German School of Higher Criticism invaded this country, the leading popular spokesman of that liberal viewpoint was Harry Emerson Fosdick, the pastor of Riverside Church in New York City. Here is his condescending observation concerning the virgin birth: "Of course I do not believe in the virgin birth . . . I do not know any intelligent minister who does."²

In his book, *In Quest of Jesus*, published in 1983, W. Barnes Tatum, a professor at Greensboro College in North Carolina, called the virgin birth "theological fiction."³

Hans Kung, the renowned Catholic theologian who has been censured by his church for his heretical ideas, had this to say about the virgin birth: "Although the virgin birth cannot be understood as a historical-biological event, it can be regarded as a meaningful symbol, at least for that time."⁴

Theologian Robert Funk, the founder and leader of the notorious Jesus Seminar, wrote these words about the virgin birth:

The virgin birth of Jesus is an insult to modern intelligence and should be abandoned. In addition, it is a pernicious doctrine that denigrates women.⁵

And then, of course, there is John Shelby Spong, the former Episcopal Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, who is renowned for his apostate views. Here's what he had to say about the virgin birth:



"The Annunciation" (the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary) painted in 1644 by Philippe de Champaigne (1602–1674), a French painter.

In time, the virgin birth account will join Adam and Eve . . . as clearly recognized mythological elements in our faith tradition whose purpose was not to describe a literal event but to capture the transcendent dimensions of God in the earthbound words and concepts of first-century human beings.⁶

In other words, the virgin birth, like the story of Adam and Eve, is just a myth dreamed up by primitive and ignorant people.

The Significance of These Attacks

Now, the amazing thing about all these examples is the fact that every one of the persons I have quoted was a professing Christian! So, I'm not talking about attacks by atheists or agnostics. Their attacks are expected. I am talking about attacks by professing Christians.

And lest you think this kind of unbelief is characteristic only of the most liberal Christians, let's take a look at Rob Bell. He is the pastor of a megachurch called Mars Hill Church that is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. And he is one of the leaders of what is called The Emergent Church Movement, a movement that claims to be Evangelical, but in reality, is apostate.

In his best-selling book, *Velvet Elvis*, subtitled *Repainting the Christian Faith*, Rob wrote these words about the virgin birth:

If you found out Jesus had an earthly father named Larry, they find Larry's tomb, do DNA samples and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the virgin birth was really just a bit of mythologizing . . . Could you still be a Christian?⁷

Notice how subtle he is with this statement. Without denying

the virgin birth, he just proceeds to cast all sorts of doubt about it, and in the process he makes it clear that if it is a myth, it would not jeopardize his faith because he obviously does not consider it to be essential to Christianity.

Amazing Births

So, what about it? Is the virgin birth just a bit of mythology? Does it really make any difference to the Christian faith?

The Bible tells us about many remarkable births. For example, there is the birth of Isaac to parents nearly 100 years old. And then there are the births of Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist — all of whom were born to women with barren wombs.



The McCaughey Septuplets

In like manner, there have been some remarkable births since Bible times — like the Dionne Quintuplets in Canada in 1934, the first such birth in which all five survived to infancy. In 1974 in South Africa, the Rosenkowitz family gave birth to sextuplets, again the first such birth in which all six survived. And then there were the McCaughey Septuplets born in Iowa in 1997. Only to be outdone by the Suleman Octuplets born in California in 2009.

But none of these births, as spectacular as they may have been — none of them is the most spectacular birth of modern times. The most amazing birth since biblical times would have to be that of Louise Brown in Lancashire, England on July 25, 1978. She was the first baby conceived outside the human body — the first “test tube baby.”



The world's first test tube baby, Louise Brown, turned 30 years old in 2008.

History attests to barren wombs made fertile. History attests to amazing multiple births. History attests to conception outside the womb.

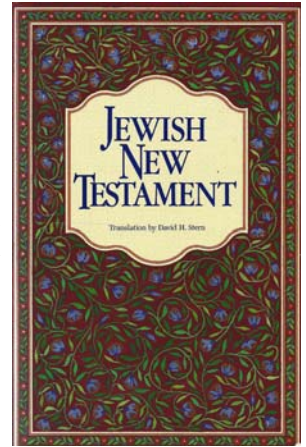
But none of these births is as amazing, as miraculous, as stupendous as the birth of Jesus of Nazareth — the birth proclaimed to the shepherds of Bethlehem by the angels of God. The birth of Jesus of Nazareth is the most unique birth in all recorded history, for the Bible tells us that He was born of a virgin.

And that's where I would like for us to go right now — to the Bible. Let's begin our study of the virgin birth of Jesus by examining the Scriptures.

The Virgin Birth of Jesus

To set the stage for our study, let's consider a passage from Matthew 1, verses 18-21.

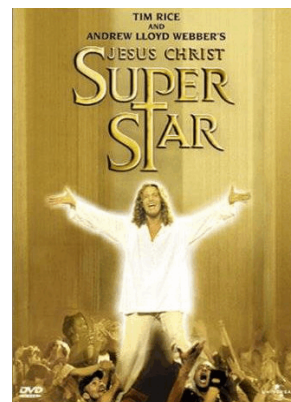
I am going to present these verses from a version of the Bible you may not be familiar with. It is called the Jewish New Testament. It is a translation by David Stern, a Messianic Jew who lives in Jerusalem.⁸



The purpose of this translation is to show that the New Testament is a book that was written by Jews and is steeped in Jewish culture. He does this by restoring the Jewish names of people and places that have been anglicized in our English translations. Consider carefully this very familiar passage:

- 18 Here is how the birth of Yeshua the Messiah took place. When His mother Miryam was engaged to Yosef, before they were married, she was found to be pregnant from the Ruach HaKodesh [the Holy Spirit].
- 19 Her husband-to-be, Yosef, was a man who did what was right; so he made plans to break the engagement quietly, rather than put her to public shame.
- 20 But while he was thinking about this, an angel of Adonai appeared to him in a dream and said, “Yosef, son of David, do not be afraid to take Miryam home with you as your wife; for what has been conceived in her is from the Ruach HaKodesh.
- 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Yeshua [which means, ‘Adonai saves,’] because He will save His people from their sins.”
- 22 All this happened in order to fulfill what Adonai had said through the prophet,
- 23 “The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call Him Immanuel.” [meaning, “God is with us.”]

The Satanic Attack



As you can see, the Bible clearly states that Jesus was born of a virgin. And I don't think it would be an overstatement to say that Satan hates the fact of the virgin birth. He hates it because it attests to the divinity of Jesus, and Satan is determined to do everything possible to convince the world that Jesus was just a man.

As an example, consider one of the featured songs contained in the popular Broadway musical and

movie called, “Jesus Christ, Superstar.” In one of the key scenes in the production, Mary Magdalene sings a song about Jesus while he is sleeping. The words go like this (emphasis added):⁹

I don’t know how to love him.
What to do, how to move him.
I’ve been changed, yes really changed.
In these past few days, when I’ve seen myself,
I seem like someone else.

I don’t know how to take this.
I don’t see why he moves me.

He’s a man. He’s just a man.
And I’ve had so many men before,
In very many ways,
He’s just one more.

Notice the words, “He’s a man, he’s just a man.” Satan has orchestrated attacks like this on the fact of the virgin birth ever since it was proclaimed to the shepherds in Bethlehem.

Philosophers and scientists scoff at it as nothing but a “childish myth.” Jewish leaders, from the earliest of times, have written it off as “a cruel hoax.” Saddest of all, many modern day Christian theologians contend that it is “a non-essential legend.”

Satan’s attacks have been very successful.

Today, the virgin birth is flagrantly denied by professors at many Christian seminaries. In fact, I would venture to say that it is the most ridiculed doctrine in the Christian faith. It is usually dismissed as nothing but a “johnny-come-lately myth” conjured up by a bunch of ignorant shepherds in the First Century.

This observation is supported by polls. In 1998 the Harris group took a poll of over 7,000 clergy in the U.S. and found the following percentages of clergymen denying the virgin birth:¹⁰

19% of American Lutheran clergy
34% of American Baptist pastors
44% of Episcopalian priests
49% of Presbyterian ministers
60% of Methodist clergy
79% of Congregational pastors

This unbelief among clergy is taking its toll on the American general public. In 1998, the year the clergy poll was taken, 83% of Americans believed in the virgin birth. Ten years later, that percentage had dropped over 20 points to 61%.¹¹

Still, these polls show that among the general public there is much more faith in God’s Word than among the clergy!

Ambivalence in Jesus’ Time

The interesting thing is that this ambivalence about the origin of Jesus is nothing new. Even in the time of Jesus, His origin was a matter of ambivalence and constant speculation.

In John 6 we are told that the Jewish leaders scoffed at His claim that He had come from Heaven. They said, “How can you claim that you came from Heaven when we know your mother and father?”

In John 7 we are told that some of the residents of Jerusalem rejected Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah because they said, “We know where you came from, but whenever the Messiah comes, no one will know where he came from.”

And in John 8 we are told that some of the people accused Jesus of being born of fornication while others claimed he was a half-breed Samaritan.

Another interesting thing is that Jesus Himself revealed the reason for all this ambivalence about His origin. Here’s what He had to say about it in Matthew 16:13-17 —

- 13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”
- 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”
- 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
- 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- 17 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

Note carefully that last verse. Jesus said His divinity had been revealed to Peter by God the Father. The point is that the only way that anyone will ever know the deity of Jesus is by a divine revelation from God. Man will never come to this knowledge through philosophy, theology, or science. **It must be revealed.**

Man through his own knowledge will always conclude that Jesus was a great scholar, inspired teacher, visionary prophet, moral leader — or whatever.

But Man, reasoning on his own, will always miss the central fact that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. And therefore, man operating in the flesh will always deny the virgin birth because ***the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus are inseparable.***

If Jesus is God, then He must be born of God. He cannot be born of human parents. It is therefore my position that ***to deny the virgin birth is to deny the deity of Jesus.***

For you see, without the virgin birth, Jesus is — in the words of the Broadway musical — “just another man,” born with the flawed sin nature inherited by all of us from Adam. And if Jesus is just another man, then you and I have no hope whatsoever. That’s why the virgin birth is not a peripheral issue. It is central to the Christian faith.

The Essentiality of the Virgin Birth

Let’s focus for a moment on the essentiality of the virgin birth. Why is it so important to the Christian faith? I would argue



Madonna and child by Sassoferrato.

that there are three reasons.

First, it relates to the integrity of the Bible as God's Word. The Bible says point-blank that Jesus was born of a virgin. If that is not true, then what can we believe in the Bible? If what it says about the birth of Jesus is fiction, then how can we believe what it says about His death and resurrection?

Second, it relates to the integrity of Jesus as Messiah. In order for Jesus to be our Savior, three conditions had to be met:

- a) He had to be Human. No angel could die for our sins.
- b) He had to be Divine. A mere mortal could not bear the infinite price that had to be paid for our sins.
- c) He had to be Sinless. A sinner could not die for the sins of others.

The virgin birth guaranteed the fulfillment of all three of these conditions:

- a) Because He was born of Mary, He was Human.
- b) Because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was Divine.
- c) Because He was born holy, without a sin nature, He was qualified to serve as our Savior.

This last point is extremely important. You see, even though both Adam and Eve sinned, God placed the responsibility on Adam (Gen 3:17-19). Romans 5:12-21 emphasizes this point. It states that just as death entered the world through the sin of one man, Adam, and resulted in condemnation for all men, so also, the hope of life and justification have come through one man, Jesus Christ.

The point is that the sin nature is transmitted by the father, and therefore, for Jesus to be born without a sin nature, He had to be born without an earthly father. And this brings us to another important point. It was not the *birth* of Jesus that was miraculous. He was in the womb of Mary for 9 months and was born just like you and me. What was miraculous was His *conception*. In a great miracle of creation, He was placed in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Henry Morris, founder of the Institute for Creation Research, describes the process in these words:

The body growing in Mary's womb must have been specially created in full perfection, and placed there by the Holy Spirit, in order for it to be free of inherent sin damage.

Christ would still be "made of the seed of David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3), because His body was nurtured and born of Mary, who was herself of the seed of David. He would still be the Son of Man, sharing all universal human experience from conception to death, except sin. He is truly "the seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:15), His body formed neither of the seed of the man nor the egg of the woman, but grown from a unique seed planted in the woman's body by God Himself.

That is, God *directly* formed a body for the second Adam, just as He had for the first Adam (Genesis 2:7). This was nothing less than a miracle of creation,



An icon by an unknown artist depicting Joseph with the Christ child.

capable of accomplishment only by the Creator Himself.¹²

The Annunciation

Let's return now to the Scriptures and continue with the nativity story by reading from Luke 1, beginning with verse 26 — once again using the Jewish New Testament.

- 26 In the sixth month, the angel Gavri'el was sent by God to a city in the Galil called Natzeret,
- 27 to a virgin engaged to a man named Yosef, of the house of David; the virgin's name was Miryam.
- 28 Approaching her, the angel said, "Shalom, favored lady! Adonai is with you!"
- 29 She was deeply troubled by his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
- 30 The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Miryam, for you have found favor with God.
- 31 Look! You will become pregnant, you will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Yeshua.
- 32 He will be great, He will be called the Son of HaElyon [meaning Son of the most High]. Adonai, God, will give Him the throne of His forefather David;
- 33 and He will rule the House of Ya'akov forever — there will be no end to His Kingdom."

Let's pause for a moment because I want to remind you of a very important fact: the person who wrote these verses was a man named Luke who happened to be a medical doctor. This is



An icon by an unknown artist depicting the Gospel writer Luke.

important because he gives us more information about the virgin birth than all the rest of the Gospel writers combined.

And I don't think that was any accident. Think of it — God used a medical doctor, a man of science, to give us the detailed facts about the virgin birth! And I believe God did this on purpose so that no one could rightfully dismiss the story as the mythological imaginings of an ignorant and superstitious person. **The most important witness of the**

virgin birth is a medical doctor!

Another thing we need to keep in mind as we consider these verses from Luke is that in that day and time, there was no such thing as shot-gun weddings — they just didn't exist!

A formal marriage contract, called a Ketubah, was negotiated and signed at which point the couple was considered to be married, but the marriage was not consummated until after a waiting period of 9 months to a year. During that time the husband prepared a house for them to live in and the wife proved her faithfulness.

And if the woman became pregnant during that time, it was a very serious matter. It meant she would either be stoned to death for infidelity or else be humiliated by a divorce decree. So, Gabriel's announcement that Mary was to become pregnant during that waiting period carried grave consequences, to say the least.

Let's consider Mary's response to Gabriel's announcement:

- 34 "How can this be," asked Miryam of the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
- 35 The angel answered her, "The Ruach HaKodesh [the Holy Spirit] will come over you, the power of HaElyon [the Most High God] will cover you. Therefore, the holy child born to you will be called the Son of God.
- 36 "You have a relative, Elisheva, who is an old woman; and everyone says she is barren. But she has conceived a son and is six months pregnant!
- 37 "For with God, nothing is impossible."
- 38 Miryam said, "I am the servant of Adonai; may it happen to me as you have said."

Mary's Response

Now the first thing we need to note about Mary's response is that although she was probably no older than 14, she was no naive child. She knew what it took to have a baby, and so she immediately proclaimed, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" Gabriel responds by telling her that the conception will be miraculous by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I doubt that Mary had any idea what that meant — just as we cannot fully understand it today — but nonetheless, knowing it would highly complicate her life and her relationship with Joseph, she responded, "I am the Lord's servant, so do to me as you please." That, my friends, was an incredibly brave statement of faith.

The Innocence of Mary

But Mary's response is not the only evidence of her innocence. Further evidence can be found in Luke's account. Let's continue reading:

- 39 Without delay, Miryam set out and hurried to the town in the hill country of Y'hudah
- 40 where Z'kharyah lived, entered his house and greeted Elisheva.
- 41 When Elisheva heard Miryam's greeting, the baby in her womb stirred. Elisheva was filled with the Ruach HaKodesh
- 42 and spoke up in a loud voice, "How blessed are you among women! And how blessed is the child in your womb!"
- 43 "But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"
- 44 "For as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy!"
- 45 "Indeed you are blessed, because you have trusted that the promise Adonai has made to you will be fulfilled."



Elizabeth greets Mary.

Notice that the innocence of Mary is attested to over and over again in these particular verses. For example, the first thing they tell us is that Mary ran to a relative, Elizabeth, to share with her the good news of her pregnancy. Let me ask you, how many pregnant unwed girls have you ever seen behave in that manner? They are normally overwhelmed with shame, and the last people they want to know about their situation are their relatives!

And her innocence is further confirmed by the fact that she chose a **priestly** family to share the news with! The significance of this is that Elizabeth's husband, Zacharias, was a priest. If Mary were pregnant by fornication, it would have been the responsibility of Zacharias to report her and have her tried and stoned to death.

I think Mary's innocence is also confirmed by the reaction of Elizabeth when she cried out "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" She did that before Mary

could even tell her the purpose of her visit!

The passage says she did it under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Elizabeth was given a supernatural word of knowledge, and this must have served as a confirmation to Mary of the message that Gabriel had given her.

And further confirmation is supplied by John the Baptist who at that time was still in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. He began to leap with joy in his mother's womb when Mary arrived, because he sensed the presence of the Messiah!

Mary's Song

Let's continue with our search for evidence of the innocence of Mary. The next piece of evidence is to be found in a beautiful song that Mary sings to Elizabeth:

- 46 Then Miryam said, "My soul magnifies Adonai;
47 "and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior,
48 "who has taken notice of his servant-girl in her humble position. For imagine it! From now on, all generations will call me blessed.
49 "The Mighty One has done great things for me! Indeed, His name is Holy;
50 "and in every generation He has mercy on those who fear Him."

I ask you, what unwed pregnant girl has ever behaved in this manner, singing songs of praise to God in front of her relatives?
The behavior of Mary is the behavior of innocence!

The Response of Joseph

And her innocence is also confirmed by what Matthew tells us about the behavior of her husband, Joseph. Matthew says that because Joseph was a righteous man, he at first wanted to divorce Mary quietly, but then changed his mind and decided to go ahead with the marriage because an angel appeared to him and assured him of Mary's innocence (Matthew 1:18-23).

Matthew makes it clear that Joseph's initial response to the news of Mary's pregnancy was one of shock. He was clearly an innocent party. And his willingness to continue with the marriage showed that he was convinced by the angel's visitation that Mary, also, was completely innocent.

The World's Objections

Yet, the world, including some professing Christian leaders, screams "Nonsense!"

"It's scientifically impossible!" they say. Well, of course it is! But the conception of Jesus was a miracle of God performed by the One who spoke the whole universe into existence. As Gabriel said to Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God."

C H R I S T M A S



The first Christmas stamp issued by the U.S. Post Office was in 1962. It featured a wreath and two candles. Since 1966 there has been a religious stamp issued each year featuring a Madonna and Child painting, mostly by Renaissance painters. The stamp above featuring a painting by Sassoferrato (1609-1685) was issued in 2009.

The critics respond, "But it's mentioned only in Matthew and Luke. There is no mention of it in the Gospels of Mark and John, nor is there any mention of it in the epistles of Paul, Peter and John." My response is to ask, "How many times must God state something for it to be true?" One is enough for me.

It is stated specifically in two Gospels, and it is referred to indirectly by Paul in Galatians 4:4 where he refers to Jesus as having been "born of a woman," which was a very quaint statement in a male dominant culture.

The critics counter by claiming that the early Christians simply tried to deify Jesus by relating his birth to pagan myths of great people, like Alexander the Great — people who were supposedly born of a union between a god and an earthly woman. But all such myths crudely pictured gods coming to earth and having sexual intercourse with women.

The idea that Orthodox Jews in the First Century would try to deify their Messiah by applying pagan myths to Him is preposterous. It is equally preposterous to believe that they would devote their lives to a myth and be willing to die for it.

The last gasp of the critics is their contention that a virgin birth was nowhere anticipated in the Hebrew Scriptures, and therefore, it had to be a myth that was conjured up later by ignorant and superstitious people.

But this ignores the fact that the two writers who mention the virgin birth were both educated men — Matthew, the former Roman tax collector, and Luke, a medical doctor.

The argument also ignores the fact that the virgin birth of the Messiah was definitely anticipated in Bible prophecy.

Bible Prophecy

At the dawn of history, in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned, God promised them that one day they would be reconciled to Him through "the seed of woman." That statement clearly implies a Messiah who would be virgin born. You can find that statement in Genesis 3:15 —

And I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.

Thousands of years later, the prophet Isaiah specifically stated that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. In Isaiah 7:14 we find these words: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

Some liberal theologians argue that the Hebrew word for virgin used in this passage can also mean "maiden," but they overlook two facts:

1) When the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek about 280 years before Jesus, producing what is called The Septuagint, the 70 Jewish sages who made the translation used a Greek word in this passage that can only mean virgin, because that was their interpretation of the meaning of the passage.

2) And that word, *parthenos*, is the word that Matthew used in his Gospel when quoting the prophecy. Again, it can only mean virgin.

Faith Based on Evidence

As we have seen, the Scriptures are filled with solid evidence of the virgin birth. And yet, they do not prove the virgin birth because the virgin birth, like the deity of Jesus and His resurrection, must ultimately be accepted by faith.

But, we are not called to exercise a blind faith. We are given substantial evidence upon which to base our faith.

Yet, the world still screams: "It is impossible!"

In response, we need to keep in mind the words that the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary. He said, "With God, nothing is impossible."

What the world so desperately needs today is the simple, child-like faith of Mary when she said, "Behold, I am the hand maid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to the Lord's Word."



Thoughts About Mary

In that regard, I'd like to add a word about Mary. In the Protestant tradition she has been almost completely ignored, mainly due to the fact that Catholics have given her so much attention.

Now, she certainly is not to be elevated to the status of a god, as some have done, but she does deserve our attention. For one thing, most people don't seem to be aware of the fact that she was probably only about 13 years old when she was visited by the angel Gabriel. That was the age of marriage in Israel at that time, as it still is in much of that part of the world.

So, we are talking here about a teenage girl who is a model of faith and purity and devotion to God. And one of the keys to her character is revealed in the song of rejoicing that she sang when she became pregnant with the Christ Child. That song, recorded in Luke 1, reveals that she was steeped in the Scriptures. She obviously had been born into a righteous family where she had been taught God's Word from childhood.

Nonetheless, the Scriptures also reveal that she was a sinner in need of a Savior, just like all the rest of us. She began her song of rejoicing by declaring, "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God *my Savior*" (Luke 1:47).

And like Mary, all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. All of us need a Savior. ✚

Notes:

- 1) ReligiousTolerance.org, "The Virgin Birth of Jesus: Fact or Fable?" www.religioustolerance.org/virgin_b.htm, page 1.
 - 2) Keep Believing Ministries, "Born of a Virgin," sermon by Dr. Ray Pritchard, www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2008-12-09-Born-of-a-Virgin/, page 1.
 - 3) Ibid., page 2.
 - 4) ReligiousTolerance.org, "The Virgin Birth of Jesus: Fact or Fable?" page 1.
 - 5) Dr. Mark D. Roberts, "The Birth of Jesus: Hype or History?" www.markroberts.com/htmfiles/resources/jesusbirth.htm, page 10.
 - 6) ReligiousTolerance.org, "Common Beliefs of Many Liberal Theologians, Skeptics, Humanists, etc.," www.religioustolerance.org/virgin_b1.htm, page 4.
 - 7) Dr. Gregory R. Reid, *Trojan Church: The New Age Corruption of the Evangelical Faith*, (LaVergne, TN: Xulon Press, 2008), page 100.
 - 8) David Stern, *The Jewish New Testament* (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Communications, 1989).
 - 9) STL Lyrics, "I Don't Know How To Love Him," www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/jesuschristsuperstar/dontknowhowtolovehim.htm, page 1.
 - 10) ReligiousTolerance.org, "Beliefs of Christian Clergy & Public," www.religioustolerance.org/virgin_b7.htm, page 1.
 - 11) Wtop.com, "61 Percent Believe in Jesus' Virgin Birth," www.wtop.com/?nid=773&sid=1544302.
 - 12) Henry Morris, "Creation and the Virgin Birth," pamphlet published by The Institution for Creation Research (no date), pages 5-6.
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Mary Did You Know?

From a song by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Would calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
Had walked where angels trod?
And Mary, did you know that
When you kissed your little baby
You had kissed the face of God?

The Mystery of the Incarnation

Author Unknown

He who is Almighty — became a suckling baby.

He who is all wise — took on the dumbness of a new born.

He whom the heavens cannot contain — was enclosed in a woman's womb.

He before whom the seraphim continually cry, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" — was born of a sinner into a world under the dominion of sin.

He who is unchanging — went through nine months of constant change to enter a world of change.

He who is infinite — became but a microscopic cell.

He who is all-knowing — had to communicate through baby cries.

He who is love — was born outside a hotel because no one had room for His laboring mother.

He who is the Creator — became a creature.

He who has always been spirit — took on the awkwardness of a human body.

He who is eternal — allowed Himself to be bound by time.

He who is light — was entombed for nine months in warm darkness.

He who is perfectly just — was accused of being an illegitimate child.

He who is sovereign God — became dependent on a human man and woman for His food and clothing.

He who is clothed with majesty — was laid at birth in a cattle trough.

He who alone is self-sufficient — had to be cleaned and nursed.

He who is life — was born with a death warrant around His neck.

Can there be a greater mystery?

Can there be a greater miracle?

Praise be to God for the gift of His Son!



Nativity painting by Simon Dewey

The Deterioration of Society —

“Values are eroding because of the three deadly M’s — Movies, Music, and Media.” — Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville.

“The four modern horsemen of the apocalypse that are riding forth to wreak havoc and destruction in our society are: 1) The denial of the sanctity of human life, 2) The rise of hardcore Internet pornography, 3) The radical homosexual agenda and its attempt to undermine marriage, and 4) Radical Islamic jihadism.” — Dr. Richard Land, president of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

“We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one’s own ego.” — Pope Benedict XVI.



“Not all revolutions begin in the streets with tanks and guns. Some advance slowly, almost imperceptibly, until a nation is transformed and the public realizes too late that their freedoms are gone. Such is the revolution now taking place in America. The ‘60’s crowd has emerged from the ideological grave and is about to impose on this country a declaration of dependence in the form of government-run health insurance and treatment . . . Welcome to the U.S.S.A. — the United Socialist

States of America.” — Cal Thomas, syndicated columnist.

Tolerance —

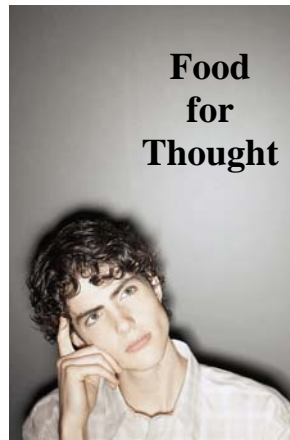
“Tolerance is the last virtue of a dying society.” — Aristotle.

“Tolerance is easy because it stands for nothing and requires no search for the truth.” — Denise Murray, Durango, CO.

“The culture of our day has redefined tolerance to mean the acceptance of all beliefs as equally true. If you say $2+2=4$, and I say $2+2=31$, both of us are equally right! Your ‘truth’ has no superiority over my ‘truth.’ According to today’s mindset, the only belief that matters is the belief that *nothing* matters. And the *only* thing that is *not* tolerated is the belief that some things are intolerable. The newly defined ‘tolerance’ has become the ultimate virtue, and the only unpardonable sin to a society that does not admit the existence of sin is the belief that Jesus Christ is indeed ‘the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man comes to the Father except through Him.’” — James Newman, retired Baptist pastor.



Pastor James Newman



Theological Briefs —

“The ultimate hope of an atheist is that there will be nothing after death.” — Dave Hunt of Berean Call Ministries.

“The more you allow the blessings of God to flow through you, the more they will flow to you.” — Al Gist of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries.

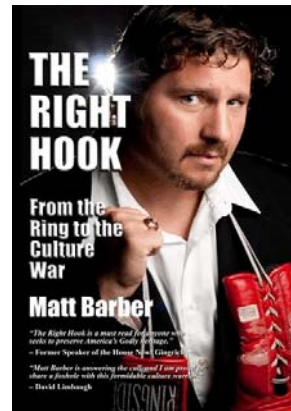
“We need to write our plans in pencil and give God the eraser.” — Bob Yawberg, retired Christian Church pastor.

“Lord, when we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.” Dr. Peter Marshall (1902-1949), Scottish-American preacher and Chaplain of the United States Senate (1947-1949).

“In Wall Street terms, Christ is bearish when it comes to investing on earth. His financial forecast for the world is ultimately bleak. But He’s unreservedly bullish about investing in Heaven where every market indicator is eternally positive!” — Randy Alcorn of Eternal Perspective Ministries.

Homosexuality —

“No one, be he gay, adulterer, thief, prostitute or liar, can strike a bargain with God and say, ‘I’ll let you save me, but leave my sin alone.’ God requires unconditional surrender, and if we mark a corner of our lives as ‘off limits’ to God, we have not repented, and there is no salvation. That doesn’t mean we step into sinless perfection — we are all people in the process of becoming what God wants us to be — but we must surrender our wills to Him. The homosexual who is not willing to lay his sin at the feet of Jesus will never be saved until and unless he does.” — James Newman, retired Baptist pastor.



“Being black is what someone is. On the other hand, being ‘gay’ is what someone does. It involves feelings and changeable behaviors. Homosexual conduct is more akin to gambling or pot smoking behaviors than it is to skin color . . . To compare ‘black’ or ‘heterosexual’ to ‘gay’ is to compare apples to oranges. Understandably, many African Americans find this disingenuous comparison tremendously offensive . . . Moreover, ‘heterosexual’ is the state of sexual normalcy.

It’s our God-given design. There remains no credible or replicated scientific evidence to the contrary. Homosexual conduct is but one of many sexually deviant behaviors.” — Matt Barber, Director of Cultural Affairs with Liberty Counsel and Associate Dean of the Liberty University School of Law.

“When I joined the military it was illegal to be a homosexual, then it became optional. I’m getting out before President Obama makes it mandatory!” — Sergeant Harry Berres, United States Marine Corps. ♦

A Miraculous Conversion in Tel Aviv

Avi Mizrachi

[Editor's Note: Avi Mizrachi is a native Israeli who is one of the most effective evangelists in the nation of Israel. He does street ministry in Tel Aviv where he has a congregation called Adonai Roi (The Lord is My Shepherd). He also operates a Christian book store and coffee house in Tel Aviv called Dugit, which in Hebrew means "The Little Boat." Lamb & Lion Ministries supplies his ministry with regular monthly support.]

On May 16, 2010, my mother passed away. We buried her in the cemetery near her home and sat *Shivah* (mourning for 7 days) at my brother's house on his kibbutz. Despite the pain and grief of losing my mother, today I can truly rejoice because I know that by the grace of God, she is now in Heaven, together with her Messiah.

Both of my parents were born in Sofia, Bulgaria. My mother, named Rivka (Hebrew for Rebecca), immigrated to Israel with a Zionist youth group. She met my father in Jaffa (the biblical city of Joppa), located south of Tel Aviv, after Israel's War of Independence, and they soon got married.

After the birth of my older sister, Simcha, my mother suffered post-natal depression. She lost hope and had no desire to live anymore. She heard about a Rabbi from Bulgaria, living in Jaffa who had a reputation for helping people, and she decided to visit him at his synagogue.



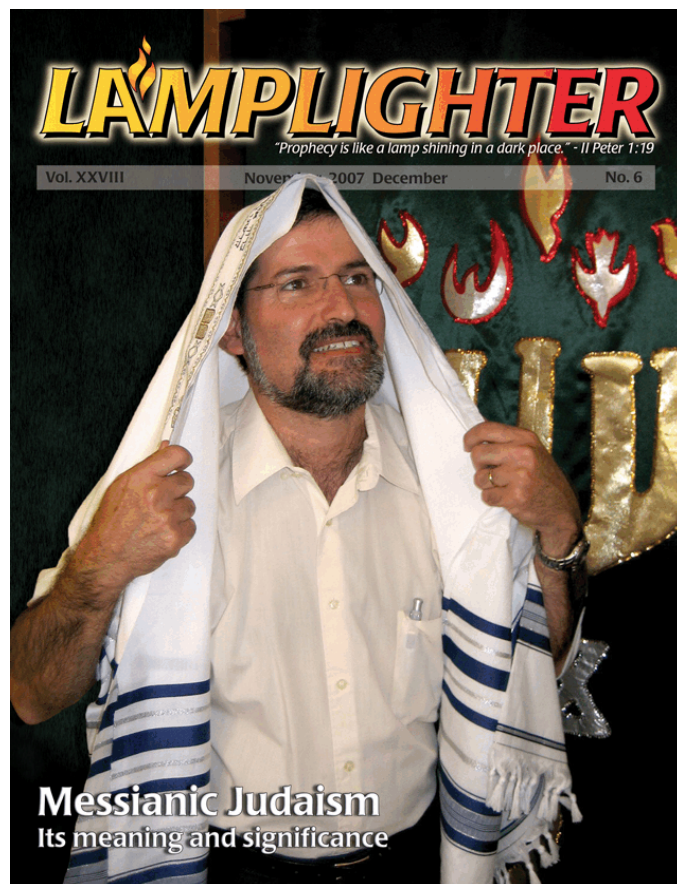
Rivka Mizrachi

After morning prayer, Rabbi Daniel Zion, the former Chief Rabbi of Sofia, Bulgaria, noticed my mother holding baby Simcha in her arms as he was leaving the synagogue. She seemed to be full of grief and severely depressed. He spoke to her and asked, "My child, what is your problem?" She replied that she did not want to live anymore. He went back into his synagogue and returned with a book that he asked her to read. He also laid his hand on her head and prayed for her.

When Rivka arrived home she began to read the book the Rabbi had given her. It was the New Testament. When she had finished the book, she had many questions and returned to the synagogue for answers. Rabbi Zion, an Orthodox Jewish rabbi who believed in Yeshua, sat with her and explained the Gospel.

Rivka became a believer in Yeshua and was healed of her depression. My father noticed the change in her life but didn't understand what had happened to her. It was many years later, after my sister Simcha became a believer, that my father also invited Yeshua to be his Messiah and Lord.

I praise God for that meeting with Rabbi Daniel Zion that changed my mother's life, and the lives of all our family members, forever. ☆

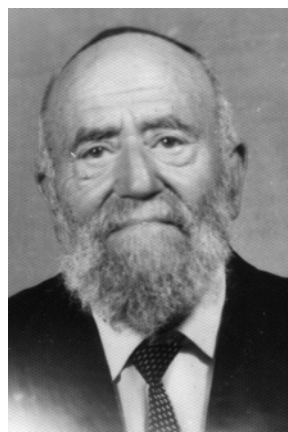


Avi Mizrachi was featured on the cover of the November - December 2007 issue of our magazine.

Rabbi Daniel Zion

Messianic believer Joseph Shulam, who heads up a ministry in Jerusalem called Netivyah Bible Instruction Ministry, has written an in-depth article about Rabbi Daniel Zion that can be found on the Internet at www.messianicart.com/davar/articles/danielzion.htm.

According to Shulam, Rabbi Zion was the Chief Rabbi of Sofia, Bulgaria when the nation was taken over by the Nazis on March 1, 1941. Immediately the Bulgarian government was pressured by the Nazis to start passing anti-Semitic laws which resulted in severe persecution of the Bulgarian Jews.



Rabbi Daniel Zion

The persecution came to a head in 1943 when it was announced that all the Jews of Bulgaria would be expelled from the nation. Rabbi Zion knew that this order meant that the Jews would be taken to the death camps in Poland. He called on the Jews of Bulgaria to come to his synagogue in Sofia. He urged them to resist the removal order, stating, "It is better for us to die here than in Poland."

Because of this action, Rabbi Zion was made an object of persecution and ridicule. At one point he was publicly flogged in front of the Great Synagogue of Sofia.

He was finally arrested and confined to a concentration camp.

When the war ended, he was released, and he resumed his duties as Chief Rabbi of Sofia. But the Nazis had been replaced by the Communists, and the persecution of both Christians and Jews continued.

In 1949, one year after the establishment of the nation of Israel, Rabbi Zion decided to emigrate to the Jewish homeland. He settled in Tel Aviv where he was immediately accepted as the rabbi of the Bulgarian Jews. He continued his ministry there until 1979 when he died at the age of 96.

Rabbi Zion was a devout believer in Yeshua as the Messiah of Israel. According to him, he had a “road to Damascus experience,” similar to that of the Apostle Paul. He said that one morning while he was praying in Sofia, a vision of a man appeared to him. He was confused by the vision and had no idea what it meant. The vision occurred two more times, and after the third time, Rabbi Zion asked the man to identify himself. The man said he was Yeshua.

This revelation forced Rabbi Zion to investigate the New Testament in detail. He also sought help by visiting an Orthodox priest who told him to “forget about Christianity and concentrate on Yeshua Himself.”

Rabbi Zion never officially converted to Christianity, but his belief that Yeshua was the Messiah became a well known secret within his congregation and among Jewish leaders. However, as Joseph Shulam puts it, “. . . his position was so honored and his services so highly esteemed that none of the Jewish functionaries in Sofia could openly criticize the rabbi.” He never stopped living as an Orthodox Jew in the strictest sense of the term.

In 1954 the new Chief Rabbi of Israel invited Rabbi Zion to become a judge in the Rabbinical Court in Jerusalem. When rumors began to fly that Rabbi Zion believed in Yeshua, the decision was made to try him before the very court that he was a member of.

Evidence was presented of his faith in Yeshua through statements he had made in four books that he had written about the Messiah. In response, Rabbi Zion told the court:

I am poor and feeble, persecuted and vulnerable. Yeshua conquered me, and with the New Man He honored me. He delivered me from my poverty-stricken self. With His great love, He cherished me.

Every day the canny devil aspires to grab my faith. I hold on to my faith and chase the devil away. I stand here alone in my faith, with the whole world against me. I give up all my earthly honor for the sake of the Messiah, my mate.

The Rabbinical Court stripped Rabbi Zion of his rabbinical title, but the Bulgarian Jews continued to honor him as their rabbi. He was given a building in downtown Tel Aviv by one of his followers, and this became the synagogue where he taught until his death.

Rabbi Zion wrote many songs about Yeshua being his savior and friend. Joseph Shulam sums up his life by saying, “He lived a 100% Jewish lifestyle, and was a 100% follower of the Messiah Yeshua.” ☆

A Modern Day Rabbi Zion?

On January 28, 2006, one of the most influential rabbis in Israel died. He was Yitzhak Kaduri. Rabbi Kaduri was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on an unknown date. It was estimated that he was between 106 to 110 years old when he died.



Rabbi Yitzhak Kaduri

As a youngster, Rabbi Kaduri excelled in his studies and began learning Kabbalah while still in his teens, a study that would last his entire life. Early in his life he became renowned for his photographic memory. He memorized the Hebrew Scriptures and mastered the Talmud by heart.

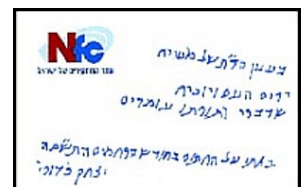
Rabbi Kaduri moved to Palestine in 1923 and later settled in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1934. He lived there the rest of his life, studying and teaching Kabbalah (a discipline and school of thought concerned with the mystical aspects of Rabbinic Judaism). When the leading kabbalist, Rabbi Efraim Hakohen, died in 1989, the remaining kabbalists appointed Rabbi Kaduri to be their leader.

The rabbi was highly esteemed. He had a charismatic personality, and he was considered by the chief rabbis to be a *Tsadik* — that is, a righteous man or saint. He was constantly besieged by people seeking advice, blessings, and healing.

During the last years of his life, Rabbi Kaduri focused his teachings on the Messiah. Like Rabbi Zion, he claimed that the Messiah had appeared to him in a vision. A few months before he died, Rabbi Kaduri presented a message at his synagogue on how to recognize the Messiah, and in that message he stated that the Messiah would come after the death of Ariel Sharon. (The former Prime Minister has been in a coma ever since he suffered a massive stroke in January of 2006.)

Also a few months before his death, Rabbi Kaduri told his followers that he had written the name of the Messiah on a card which he had placed in a sealed envelope. He instructed them not to open the envelope until one year after his death.

The envelope was opened in 2007, and the Orthodox Jews of Israel have been in a state of shock ever since. The name he gave for the Messiah was Yehoshua, or Yeshua — the name of Jesus!



Specifically, the card read as follows:

This I have signed in the month of mercy,
Yitzhak Kaduri

The Messiah will lift the people and prove that his
word and law are valid.

In typical kabbalist form, the message was written in code. The first letters of each of the Hebrew words in the sentence spelled out the name of the Messiah: Yehoshua or Yeshua. ☆

A Sad Announcement

Dr. David R. Reagan

On September 8 the Reverend Peter J. Marshall died suddenly of a massive heart attack while working out in a gym. His funeral was held on September 13 at a church in his hometown of Orleans, Massachusetts, located on Cape Cod. He was 70 years old.

He was the son of two very famous Christian parents. His father, Dr. Peter Marshall, was a Scottish immigrant who came to this country in 1927. He quickly became recognized as one of Christendom's most eloquent preachers. He became pastor of the "Church of the Presidents" in Washington, D.C. — The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Later he was appointed twice to serve as the Chaplain to the United States Senate. He died of a heart attack in 1949 at the age of 46.

Following his death, his wife, Catherine, wrote a best selling book about his life that was titled, *The Man Called Peter* (1951). The book was converted into both a play and an Oscar-nominated movie (1955). Catherine continued writing, producing more than 20 books. Many of these were compilations of her husband's sermons and prayers. But her most successful books were a series of novels, the best known of which was *Christy*, published in 1967.



Peter John Marshall

Peter John Marshall emerged from the shadow of his famous parents 32 years ago in 1977 when he published his seminal study of the Christian heritage of our nation, *The Light and the Glory, 1492 - 1793*. This book went through 24 printings before a revised and expanded second edition was published in 2009. He subsequently wrote two sequels, *From Sea to Shining Sea, 1787-1837*, and *Sounding Forth the Trumpet, 1837-1860*. He was working on the fourth book in the series, one about the Civil War, when he died.

After corresponding with Peter for several years, I had the privilege of getting to know him personally earlier this year when our ministry hosted a conference in the Dallas area that featured him speaking on the Christian heritage of our nation and the current challenge to it. We also shot three television programs with him which we put together in a video album called "America's Christian Heritage."

During the time I spent with him, I was greatly impressed with his commitment to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God, and I was blessed by his passion for the Christian heritage of our nation. He proved to be an eloquent prophetic spokesman, calling this nation back to its Judeo-Christian roots and constantly warning that if we did not repent, God was going to pour out His wrath upon us.

When he returned home, he called and asked if I would provide him with an endorsement that he could post on his website. I was delighted to do so. Here's what I wrote: "The Reverend



The picture above of Dr. Reagan with Peter Marshall was taken in January of 2010. As you can see, Peter was a tall man, about 6'6."

Peter Marshall is a prophetic voice God has raised up to remind this nation of its spiritual heritage, its blessings and its purpose, while calling the nation to repentance before it is too late."

Each week, Peter would post an essay on his website about our nation. The essays were always insightful and powerful. They never minced words.

The last essay he posted before his death was concerned with the mosque to be built at ground zero in New York City. He blasted the mosque as an exercise in "moral blindness." He said it is nothing more than "the planting of the Islamic flag on the site of an Islamic victory." He emphasized that the building of the mosque at that site is an act of moral indecency, equivalent to the Japanese building a Shinto shrine adjacent to the Pearl Harbor monument. He pointed out that President Obama had defended the constitutional right of Muslims to build the mosque, but he had refused to comment on the moral propriety of doing so. "That is simply moral cowardice," he observed.

The week before, his essay was titled "A Time to Stand Up and Speak Up." In it he bemoaned the downward spiral of our society into paganism. He concluded the essay with these words:

People need to find the courage to stand up and fight for the legacy given to us by our forefathers, even if it costs us our job or a recommendation for grad school or acceptance by the family, or whatever.

One courageous person can make a great impact.

Settle it in your heart, Christian, that you are not going to sit idly by and watch our beloved America slide into a secular swamp of sin and chaos.

Stand up and speak up. Do it for the Lord. Do it for your children and grandchildren. As the hymn says: "May all who come behind us find us faithful."

It can certainly be said of Peter Marshall that he was faithful to the Lord and to the heritage that was bequeathed to him by his mother and father. The voice of Peter Marshall is going to be sorely missed. ✚

The Peter Marshall website can be found at <http://petermarshallministries.com>.

New Archaeology Programs

In mid-August we were blessed to be able to shoot four programs about archaeology with Dr. Jim Fleming, a highly respected teacher of biblical archaeology.

Dr. Fleming became world famous among archaeologists in 1969 when he accidentally discovered the location of the ancient Eastern Gate in Jerusalem. The current Eastern Gate was constructed by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 1500's. It was built on top of tons of debris that had been pushed off the Temple Mount by the Romans when they destroyed the Temple in 70 AD. Since a Muslim cemetery sits directly in front of the current Eastern Gate, no one has been able to excavate the area to discover the location of the gate that existed at the time of Jesus.

In 1969, while he was still a student in Jerusalem, Dr. Fleming decided to photograph the Eastern Gate. To do so, he climbed up on a Muslim grave. It had been raining for several days, and the limestone on top of the grave was water-soaked. The limestone suddenly gave way, and Dr. Fleming fell about 8 feet into the grave. Realizing his remarkable opportunity, he pulled out a camera and started shooting flash pictures in a circle.

He then climbed out of the grave and ran away as quickly as he could before his intrusion could be discovered. His pictures revealed a mass grave, and the picture taken toward the wall showed the top of the ancient Eastern Gate, located directly below the current gate. His pictures were published worldwide.

In the first program we shot with Dr. Fleming, he discussed the importance of biblical archaeology. In the second program he talked about the importance of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The third program was devoted to his discovery of the ancient Eastern Gate and its archeological significance. The last program focused on biblical archaeological issues. These programs will be broadcast early in 2011.



Dr. Jim Fleming is shown above in the middle with Dr. Reagan on the left and Nathan Jones on the right.

Schedule Change

Our broadcast time on the Inspiration Network has been changed from 11:00am Central time on Friday to 10:30pm Central time on Monday. This will enable us to follow the Hal Lindsey program.

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

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

Inspiration Network				
Available on cable networks				
DirecTV Channel 364		DISH Channel 259		
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Mon. 8:30p	Mon. 9:30pm	Mon. 10:30pm	Mon. 11:30pm

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

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

Regional Networks



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



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

The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at www.lamblion.com. 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. ☙

Thank You, Jack!

Jack Van Impe, one of America's foremost teachers of Bible prophecy recently paid Dr. Reagan a major compliment when he wrote the following words about Dr. Reagan's book, *God's Plan for the Ages*:

God's Plan for the Ages by Dr. David R. Reagan offers a sweeping, panoramic view of prophetic events unlike anything I have ever studied, even after having read more than 11,000 books! . . .

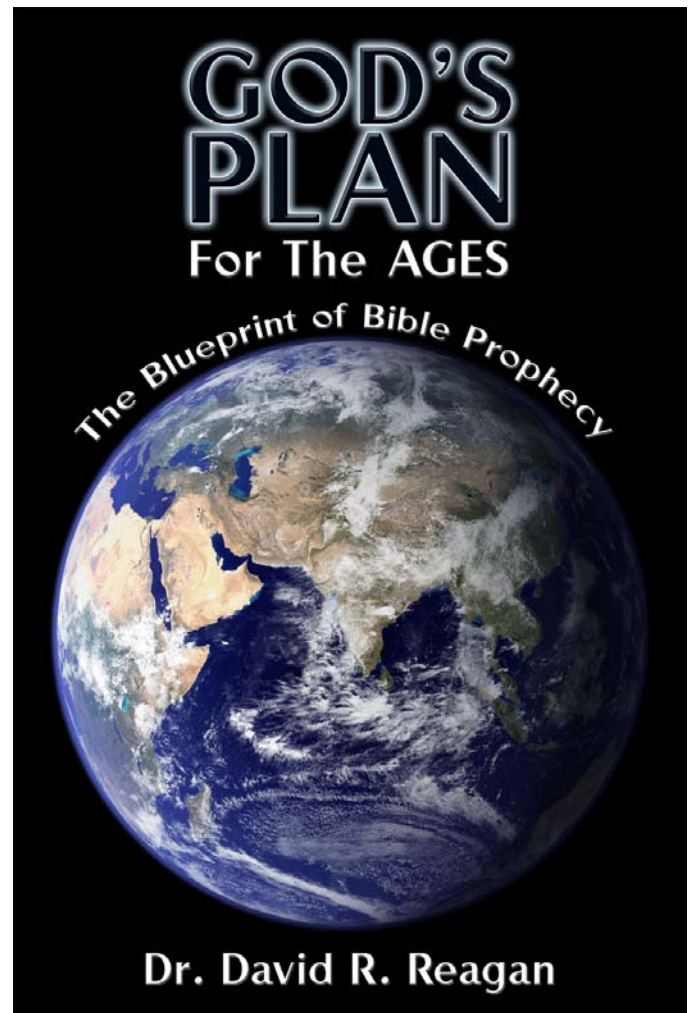
This book so literally covers scores of prophetic signs and details that numerous scholars have missed. I, as one who has more than 100,000 hours of study in God's Word, was blessed beyond measure spiritually.

In a humorous manner, Jack went on to explain that when he reads a book, he often underlines or circles key passages, and that when one of those passages really moves him, he will write GREAT! or WOW! in the margin. Or, if he finds a passage to be incorrect, he will write BUNK! or BALONEY! He then added:

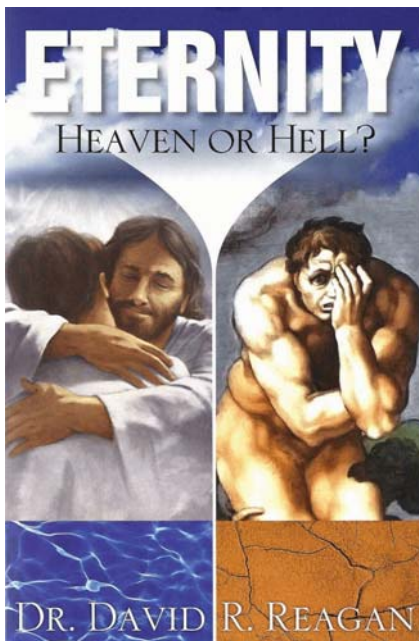
However, as I studied this extraordinary volume, I not only repeatedly marked passages — nearly 60 separate times — but also wrote "WOW!" often. That's some kind of record, Beloved! Believe me!

Based on this enthusiastic endorsement, the Van Impe Ministry (www.jvim.com) sold almost 5,000 copies of the book in one month's time, forcing us to order a third reprinting of the book.

The book runs 416 pages in length and sells for \$15. You can order it by calling 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. ❖



Dr. Reagan's Newest Book



Dr. Reagan's newest book was published in July. It is titled *Eternity: Heaven or Hell?*

The book deals mainly with questions related to what happens after death. This has always been one of the focal points of Dr. Reagan's study and teaching. Early in the history of the ministry, he wrote an in-depth article titled, "What Happens When You Die?" It turned out to be the most popular article in the ministry's history.

Some of the specific questions dealt with in the book include the following:

- Do you cease to exist after death?
- Will you experience soul sleep?
- Will your soul be reincarnated?
- Will you go to purgatory to suffer for your sins?
- Will you go directly to Heaven or Hell?
- Will you be given a second chance to get right with God?

In addition, Dr. Reagan deals with questions pertaining to salvation: Are there many roads to God? Can salvation be earned through good works? Can salvation be lost? He also takes an in-depth look at the resurrection of Jesus, examining the evidence for it and discussing its essentiality to the Christian faith.

What more important topic could there be than that of eternity? Every person who has ever lived or who is alive today has an eternal destiny of either Heaven or Hell.

This book will help you think about eternity as never before. 200 pages. \$15. To order, call 800-705-8316 or check our website at www.lamblion.com. ❖

Peter Marshall's Last Video Interviews

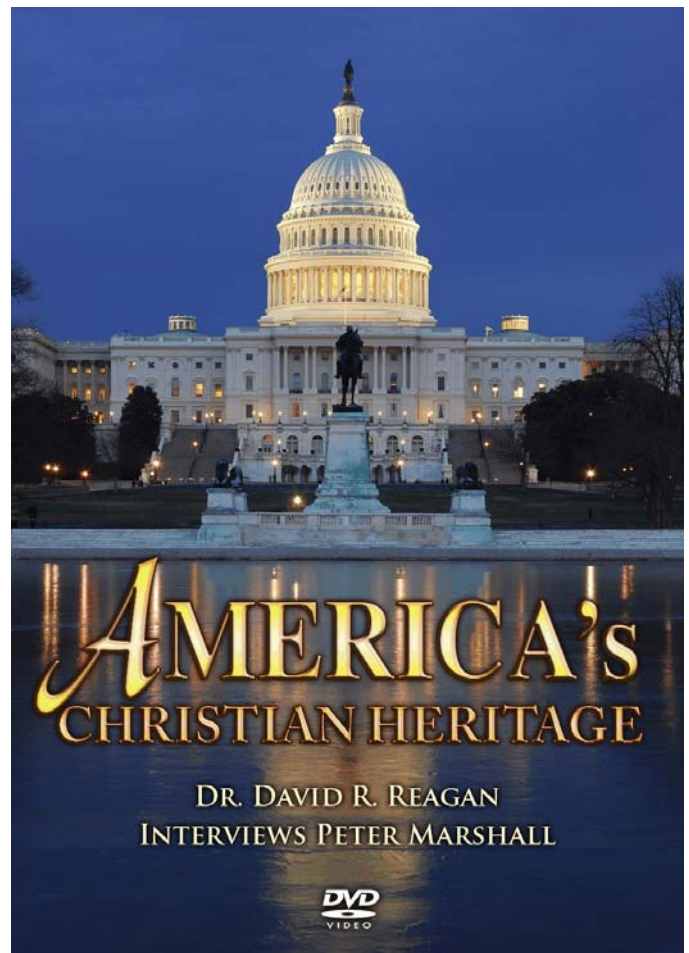
In January of this year, Dr. Reagan videotaped three interviews with the Reverend Peter Marshall. Those interviews were broadcast on national television before, during, and after the celebration of our nation's independence on July 4th. Unfortunately, those turned out to be the final video interviews of Peter Marshall before his sudden death on September 8.

In the first interview, Peter talked about the great Christian heritage of our nation. He emphasized that our nation's forefathers were persons who were guided by biblical principles with regard to their concept of government and their interpretation of the rights of the people. He made it clear that biblical principles even guided the way in which our government was constructed, with its emphasis on the separation of powers and its implementation of a system of checks and balances.

In the second interview, Peter focused on the current attacks on our Christian heritage, including the attempt by revisionist historians to deny that our founding fathers were even Christians.

In the final interview, Peter got very personal as Dr. Reagan asked him to talk about his own Christian heritage. He discussed his famous parents, Peter and Catherine Marshall, and their remarkable lives.

All three interviews are contained in a video album this ministry has produced called "America's Christian Heritage." The album runs 70 minutes in length. It sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping and handling. You can order a copy by calling 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. ✚



2011 Holy Land Calendar Ready for Distribution

Our annual Holy Land calendar for 2011 will focus on the Gates of Jerusalem. Once again we are featuring the remarkable photographs of Todd Bolen, one of the foremost photogra-

phers of the Holy Land.

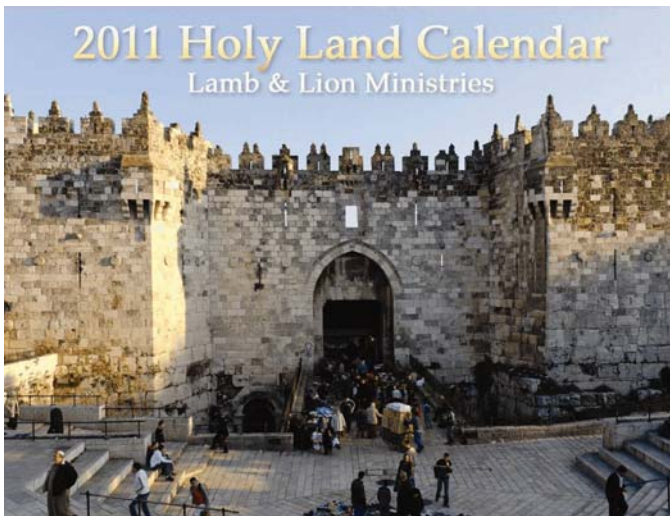
The cover picture shows the Damascus Gate, the largest of all the gates of the Old City of Jerusalem. If you look closely, you will see the ancient Damascus Gate that existed at the time of Jesus at the lower left of the current gate.

All our Prophecy Partners will be receiving a copy of this calendar free of charge as their gift for the month of November. For others, the cost is \$5, plus the cost of shipping..

All the gates of Jerusalem are featured in the calendar, including the newly restored Tanner's Gate which was covered up when the walls of the Old City were rebuilt by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 1500's.

The Eastern Gate is featured in three of the pictures because it is the gate that plays such an important role in Bible prophecy. It is prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures that the gate will be closed and will not be re-opened until the Messiah returns. In fulfillment of that prophecy, the gate was closed in the 1500's and remains closed to this day. The gate is pictured in all its glory in full sunshine, and it is pictured on a gray winter day in snow. There is also a picture of the backside of the gate, taken from the Temple Mount.

This calendar would make a great Christmas present. ☆



2010 Bible Conference

All six of the presentations that were made at our 2010 Bible conference are now available in a video album that contains 3 DVD discs. Each presentation runs approximately 50 minutes. The total running time of the album is thus about 300 minutes.

The theme of the conference was “Defending the Faith.” Each speaker focused on some fundamental belief of the Christian faith, showing how to defend its validity.

The specific speakers and topics were as follows:

- Brannon Howse: “The Truth of the Christian Worldview”
- Mike Gendron: “The Truth of the Bible”
- Jobe Martin: “The Truth of Creation”
- Dave Reagan: “The Truth of the Virgin Birth”
- Eric Barger: “The Truth of Jesus’ Divinity”
- Ron Rhodes: “The Truth of the Resurrection”

In addition to using the album for personal study, it would be a great one to share with a Bible study group or a Sunday School class.

Dr. Ed Hindson, one of America’s foremost teachers of Bible prophecy was the guest speaker at the ministry’s 30th anniversary celebration that was held in conjunction with the conference. His presentation was titled “The Battle for the Heart of America.” That presentation is being sold separately.

The album costs \$25 plus the cost of shipping. The Ed Hindson presentation sells for \$7 plus shipping. We can supply both to you (a total of 7 presentations) for \$30 plus shipping. To order call 800-705-8316 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. ❖



Foreign Publishing

One aspect of our ministry that is not widely known is our involvement in foreign publishing.

It all began in the early 1990’s when the first version of Dr. Reagan’s book *God’s Plan for the Ages*, was published in both Russian and Polish. The title at that time was *The Master Plan*. That book was later greatly expanded and published under the title *God’s Plan for the Ages*.

Dr. Reagan’s children’s book, *Jesus is Coming Again!* has been published in Russian, Polish and Spanish. Only the Spanish version is currently available.

Dr. Reagan’s most widely published book has been his commentary on the book of Revelation. It has been published in Urdu, Telugu, Nepali, and Chinese.

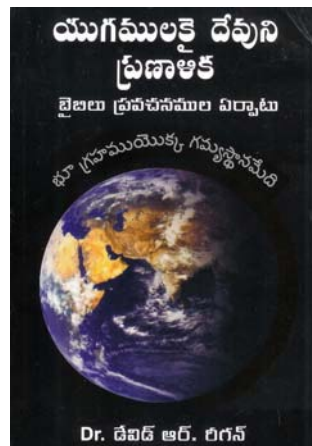
Urdu is the language of Pakistan. It is also one of the main languages of India. Telugu has the third largest number of native speakers in India (74 million according to the 2001 census) and is 15th in the Ethnologue list of most-spoken languages worldwide. Nepali is the official language of Nepal and is also spoken in Bhutan, parts of India and parts of Myanmar (Burma).

The Chinese edition of *Wrath & Glory* took years to produce because it is extremely difficult to get Christian books published in mainland China. The book was finally published underground and is being distributed to seminaries by a native Chinese missionary who is supported by Lamb & Lion Ministries.

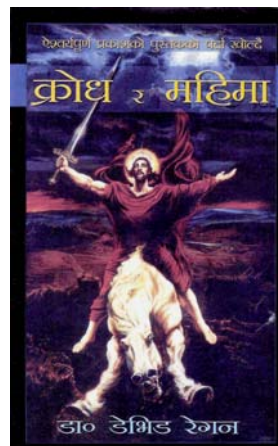
In India, our magazine, *The Lamplighter*, is being printed in reduced size and distributed by Revival Literature Fellowship, a ministry headed up by John Ishmael. You can find his website at www.rlfministries.com. ❖



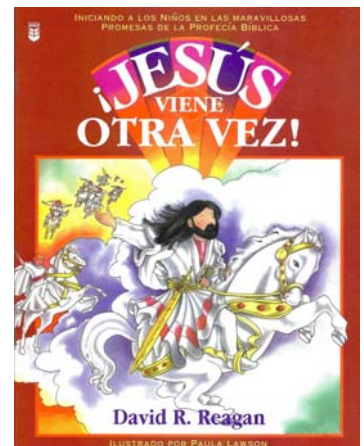
“America the Beautiful?” in Urdu.



“God’s Plan for the Ages” in Telugu.



“Wrath & Glory” in Nepali.



Children’s book, “Jesus is Coming Again!” in Spanish.

Schedule of Engagements —

In **November** Dr. Reagan will speak at a conference at First Baptist Church in Alma, Arkansas (5-7) before departing for Israel with a pilgrimage group (12-23). In **December** the ministry's Board of Trustees will hold its annual retreat at Lake Texoma (3-5). Dr. Reagan will speak the following week at the annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference in Dallas (7-9). In **January** of 2011 Dr. Reagan will attend the annual Board of Trustees meeting for Acts 29 Ministries which will be held in Panama City Beach, Florida (9). Later that month Dr. Reagan will speak at First Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona (16).

Holy Land Pilgrimages for 2011 —



Dr. Reagan hopes to lead two pilgrimage groups to Israel in 2011. One will be a special advanced tour; the other, our regular tour of the whole land. The dates for both tours are tentative, awaiting confirmation of flights and hotels. The projected tours are as follows:

“Focus on Jerusalem” — This will be a special advanced tour open only to those who have made a general tour of Israel in the past. The tentative dates are March 19-27. We will spend five and a half days visiting sites in Jerusalem that we do not visit on our general tour of the Holy Land. En route back home, we will spend a night in Frankfurt, Germany. This special tour will be limited to 30 persons.

“Introduction to the Holy Land” — This is our annual tour of the whole land, from Tel Aviv to Tiberias to Jerusalem. It will be limited to 50 persons. The tentative dates are July 9-20.

If you are interested in either one of these pilgrimages, let us know by calling 972-736-3567. We will put you on a list to receive detailed information as soon as the dates are confirmed.

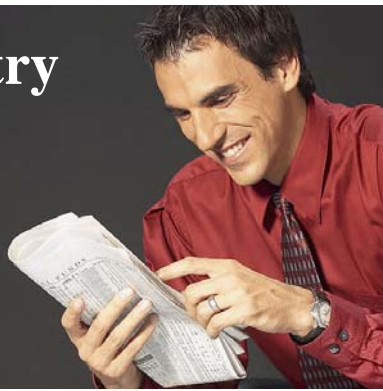
Missions —



Pastor Blanco

Each year in December we try to bring to this country one of the foreign missionaries we support so that they can spend some time with our trustees and staff at our annual Board of Trustees retreat. The purpose is to encourage them and to get better acquainted with them personally. This year, the missionary we have invited is Pastor Remeigio Blanco of the Philippines. He is a remarkable man of God who has a great zeal for lost souls. He has hosted several Bible prophecy conferences for us in the Philippines. We need \$2,000 to cover all his expenses. Anything we raise above that amount will be given to him as a gift for his ministry. Please help us bless Pastor Blanco.

Ministry News



Communications —

Magazine — “I have been in the ministry going on 59 years and your magazine is the only one I read from cover to cover each edition. Keep up the good work.” — A. N. Hollis in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Videos — “I wanted to tell you what a blessing your ministry has been to me. Listening to you teach over the Internet and on DVDs has enriched my love of Bible prophecy. Every morning, my

children and I pray on the way to school. When we finish, I say, ‘And all God’s people say . . .’ Instead of ‘Amen,’ we all shout, ‘Maranatha!’ Then I say, ‘And what does that mean?’ With the voice of an angel, my 7 year old daughter, Mary Camille, says, ‘Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!’” — Cynthia Humbert of Austin, Texas.

Television — “It is great watching your TV program here in India. It helps me in my study of Bible prophecy to learn deeper and wider about the end times.” — Sonny John in Tamil Nadu, India.

Book — “I am reading your book, *Wrath & Glory*, and it has me very excited. That’s the first time I have ever said that about a book, except perhaps for Ted Nugent’s book, *Kill It and Grill It!*” — An email signed “Hogjawz” from Noblesville, Indiana.

Article — “Oh my goodness, your article about the wars of the end times makes me so excited about getting out and telling others about Christ. Wow! Very powerful, and my spirit feels like I just ate a big juicy ribeye steak! YUM, YUM!” — Cindy Redmond of Sandy Run, South Carolina.

Website — “I just wanted to tell you how much I thoroughly enjoy your website. I found you through a search the other night, and I was so enthralled with everything I was reading that I stayed up past 4am. I kept saying to myself, ‘I just read ONE more article.’ You’ve opened my eyes to a new way of thinking about things I’ve always wondered about.” — Amy Groh (address unknown).

Magazine — “Your magazine is like a breath of fresh air after a lifetime of smog!” — Kenneth Clark at the Stafford Creek Corrections Center in Aberdeen, Washington.

Conference — “I just wanted to thank you for your recent Bible conference. I have been to many Christian conferences and have always left disappointed at having expected much more. However, this was not the case with your conference. It was, by far, the best conference I have ever attended. I left feeling spiritually fed, inspired, and excited. I certainly had ‘my socks blessed off!’” — Kristy Self of Corinth, Texas.

Magazine — “The *Lamplighter* magazine is always SUPER, but your last issue was SUPER-SIZED SUPER!!” — Jay Shutt of Hamlet, North Carolina.

Thanks! — “I’m writing to thank you for preaching the Word and not some shaky, unclear, watered-down gospel. More students my age (22) need to be taught these things. Thanks, and I hope this will encourage you to know that you are reaching the younger generation.” — John Niscavits of Houston, Texas. ✚



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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, Cathie Grubb, Kay Bien, and Rachel Houck. Second row (left to right): Trey Collich, George Collich, Nathan Jones, Gary Byers, Dave Reagan, Jack Smith, Leo Houck, Larry Watts, and Brett Everett. The group is shown on the ministry's new television set. (Photo by Jack Smith.)

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 **800-705-8316** and make a commitment 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 provide you with news updates about the ministry, including our financial and prayer needs. You will receive a gift each month, usually a DVD of one of our TV programs. You will be eligible for discounts on purchases of materials produced by the ministry, and you will receive a free subscription to this magazine.

Please pray about this request. Thank you! ✚