

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Observations by the Editor

Looking for Jesus

As we approach the beginning of the new year, I find myself yearning for the Lord's soon return, hoping earnestly that 2015 will prove to be the year of the Rapture.

I'm very weary of this evil world. It is full of so much injustice, immorality, violence and suffering. I want a world flooded with peace, righteousness and justice — and that will not become a reality until Jesus returns.

Until that glorious moment, we who are followers of Jesus have been commanded to commit our lives to holiness, share the Gospel, and stand for righteousness.

I am so thankful for those of you who have partnered with us in our effort to share the Gospel and proclaim the soon return of Jesus. It is not an easy task. Satan knows Bible prophecy, and he can read the signs of the times. He knows his time is short. He wants to take as many people to Hell with him as possible, and part of his strategy is to discredit and discourage anyone who is proclaiming the Lord's soon return.

In that regard, I am convinced that my wife's illness is a Satanic attack designed to derail me from the task God has called me to perform. I have drastically cut back my travel schedule in order to spend more time with her. The wonderful staff and trustees of Lamb & Lion have rallied to help me in every way possible.

I'm having to make a lot of changes in how I work and what I can do, but I am determined to continue to shout from the rooftop that "Jesus is coming soon!" Accordingly, I am very thankful for the incredible outreach God has so graciously granted this ministry through television and the Internet.

I am also grateful for the addition of Tim Moore to our staff as a part time evangelist. He and our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, are taking on many of the speaking invitations that I can no longer accept.

To further help in filling the gap, we are currently in the process of calling an additional full-time evangelist to join our staff sometime next year. We hope to



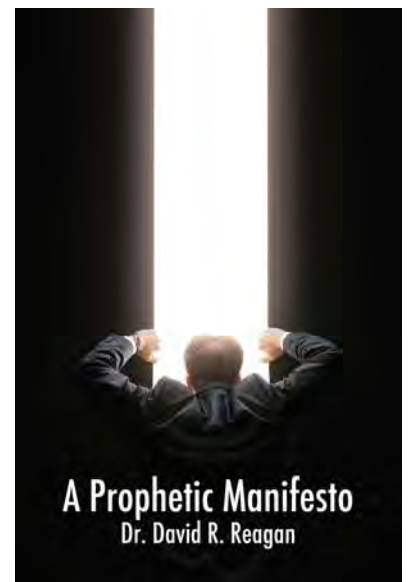
Dr. David R. Reagan

make an announcement concerning this important development in the March - April edition of this magazine.

The Bible says that one of the major signs of the end times will be an explosion of gross apostasy in the Church. That day has arrived. And a crucial part of it is blatant, sarcastic scoffing at the very idea that Jesus is about to return — scoffing by pastors and other Church leaders.

The irony is that such scoffing is a fulfillment of end time Bible prophecy (see 2 Peter 3:3-7). This development is heartbreaking to me, and I am determined to confront it.

That is why I wrote "A Prophetic Manifesto." We have now printed a total of 60,000 copies, and we have sent over 20,000 to pastors. Pray for the successful impact of this publication. Pray that it will open eyes to the fact that we are living on borrowed time. ✚



Prophetic Craziness

Dr. David R. Reagan

There are times when I am embarrassed to be a Bible prophecy teacher and preacher, and those times are becoming more frequent.

It's all because Bible prophecy is a playground for fanatics and sensationalists. One person has put it this way: "Bible prophecy is the *National Enquirer* branch of theology."

The Y2K Hysteria

I am reminded of something that happened to me back in the late 1990s. As we approached the beginning of the new century, the Bible prophecy sensationalists began to crank up their propaganda mill. Accordingly, they began to predict a "Y2K Disaster" (Y2K being an abbreviation for "Year Two Thousand").

One very well known Bible prophecy expert warned of the impending collapse of all the electrical grids due to the fact that computers had not been programmed for dates in the new year of 2000. He argued this would result in national chaos, with riots everywhere. He advised that Christians should buy land in remote areas, build concrete bunkers, and stow away food, water, money and guns.

Another equally well known prophecy author wrote a book about the impact of Y2K in which he listed 42 electrical gadgets that would likely cease operating at the turn of the century. Almost every electrical device in the average home was on the list, from alarm clocks to washing machines.

When I read that ridiculous book, I decided the time had come to write a counter-article. I was not a technical expert, but I had enough common sense to know that my toaster could care less what year it was!

I did a lot of research on the subject, and in the December 1998 issue of this magazine I published an in-depth article about Y2K in which I concluded that it was most likely that it would have no discernable impact whatsoever.

At about the same time, I got a phone call from a person who was putting together a major Bible prophecy conference concerning Y2K. He had already lined up some big name speakers. He asked if I would agree to be one of the speakers. I responded by asking him if he knew where I stood on the issue.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well," I replied, "I don't think Y2K is going to have any impact at all, nor do I believe it has any prophetic significance."

There was a long awkward pause.

"In that case," he responded, "I don't think we want you to be one of the speakers."



The cover of *Time* magazine for the issue of January 18, 1999 mocked all the Bible prophecy hysteria over Y2K.

The organizers of that conference were not looking for truth. They were seeking sensationalism.

Lineup of Planets

Adding to the Y2K hysteria was the fact that a lineup of the planets was scheduled to occur on May 5, 2000.

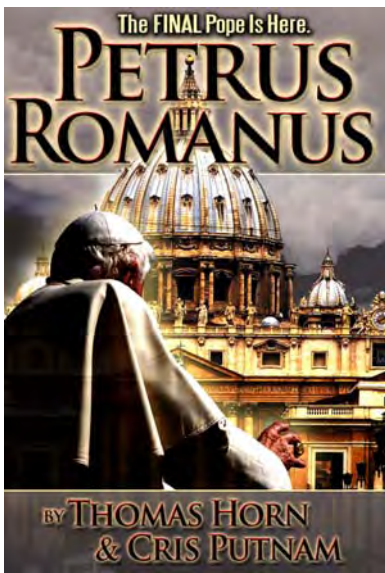
Some prophecy spokesmen went bonkers over this cosmological event, warning that it would alter the gravity of our planet, producing "killer earthquakes" and "massive tidal waves that would sweep across entire continents." Well, the lineup came and went, and hardly a whimper was heard nor a tremor felt.

Why All the Huksterism?

Why is it that rumor-mongering is so prevalent in the field of Bible prophecy? Well, for one thing, it sells books and tapes. Sensationalism appeals to the carnal nature of Man. People love to speculate about the future, and millions of others love to read the speculations.

Some of it is Satan inspired. Satan hates Bible prophecy. After all, it predicts his ultimate destruction and Jesus' ultimate triumph. So, Satan tries to undermine respect for Bible prophecy by motivating silly and hysterical speculations by Bible prophecy teachers.

These speculations then create the impression that Bible prophecy is nothing but a playground for fanatics. This motivates many Christians to wash their hands of the whole field and to turn their backs on God's Prophetic Word.



The Prophecies of the Popes

The prophecy craziness seems to be intensifying today. Consider, for example, all the recent folderol over the so-called “prophecy” of an Irish Catholic priest, St. Malachy, who lived in the 12th Century. He supposedly wrote a document called “The Prophecies of the Popes.” Its modern day proponents claimed the document prophesied the identity of every pope — all 112 of them from Pope Celestine II who died in

1144. And they therefore claimed that Pope Benedict XVI would be the next-to-the-last pope. That meant the current pope, Francis, would be the last, whom Malachy described as “Peter the Roman.” And that, in turn, was interpreted to mean that the Lord would return during Pope Francis’ tenure.

The first problem with this “prophecy” is that it was unknown before 1595. It is not even mentioned by St. Malachy’s biographer who was a contemporary of Malachy.

The second problem is that all the “prophecies” are very accurate up to the time the document was “found.” After that, the “prophecies,” like those of Nostradamus, are gobbledygook and are incapable of being applied to anyone or any event without a lot of imagination.

And, of course, the third problem is that the new pope who is supposed to be “Peter the Roman,” is not named Peter nor did he select that as his papal name. Instead, he became the first pope to choose the name of Francis.

Scholars have concluded that the papal prophecies of St. Malachy are a complete fraud, written by a man named Arnold de Wyon. He was motivated by a desire to get his candidate for the papacy confirmed in 1590 by providing a description of him in the “prophecies.” The folks in his day and time did not buy it, and they selected another person.

Yet, our modern-day prophecy sensationalists have tried to pass off this forgery as containing some sort of “profound prophetic insight.”

The Mayan Calendar

Another recent prophetic craze that amounted to nothing was the Mayan Calendar fiasco. This ridiculous frenzy was centered around a calendar produced by the Mayan civilization of the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico — a society that flourished from about 250 to 900 AD. The calendar ended on a date that corresponded to December 21, 2012 on the Gregorian calendar. Some Bible prophecy enthusiasts began to speculate that the date would mark the end of the world or the beginning of the Tribulation.

The furor over the December 21, 2012 date was further heightened when it was learned that on that same date there was

supposed to be a galactic alignment of the earth with the center of the Milky Way. And to add fuel to the fire, the National Center for Atmospheric Research announced that 2012 would be a peak year for solar flares. This was enough to send the Bible prophecy sensationalists into overdrive!

Well, 2012 came and went, and nothing particularly important occurred. Bible prophecy sensationalists should have hung their heads in shame. Instead, they went looking for a new crusade.

The Blood Moon Theory

And they quickly found it in a “Blood Moon Theory” proposed by a pastor in Washington State. He had discovered that there is a phenomenon in astronomy called a “tetrad.” This occurs when there are four total lunar eclipses (usually producing red or “blood” moons) in a row over a two year period of time. He pointed out that since the time of Christ, there had been 87 tetrads, with a maximum of eight in a century. Some centuries had not had any.



But he discovered an even rarer phenomenon. Of the 87 tetrads that have occurred since the First Century, only eight have fallen on Jewish feast days, and he claimed the last three of those had been prophetically significant, pointing to a major event in Jewish history — a claim that simply was not true.

For example, he claimed that a tetrad in the 15th Century had been a prophetic omen pointing to the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. But the blood moon tetrad falling on Jewish feast days occurred in 1493-1494 — the two years *following* the event they were supposed to have prophesied! The same was true of his claim that a tetrad falling on Jewish feast days was prophetic of the re-establishment of Israel in 1948. Again, the tetrad occurred in 1949-1950 — the two years following the event.

In actuality, of the eight tetrads falling on Jewish feast days since the First Century, only one could be considered “prophetic” in nature. That was the last one in 1967-1968. The Six Day War occurred following the first blood moon in this tetrad.

But these facts denying the prophetic significance of the blood moon phenomenon seemed unimportant to the prophecy buffs who jumped aboard the band wagon and began proclaiming that the tetrad of 2014-2015 — the only one of the 21st Century that would fall on Jewish feast days — would be of great prophetic importance.

The pastor who discovered the blood moon phenomenon in 2008 originally suggested that it was a sign that the Lord would return after the last blood moon of the 2014-2015 tetrad —

specifically, in September of 2015. Later, he retreated from that position. He and others are now arguing that the tetrad is simply a sign that “something important” will happen in Israel during that two year period of time.

My response is, “Duh! You call that a prophecy?” Something important is likely to happen in Israel during any two year period of time.

The Latest Craze

The latest prophecy craze that is gaining momentum is what prophecy sensationalists are calling “The Prophecy of the Ten Jubilees.”

This so-called end times prophecy was first revealed to the public in March of 2008 in a magazine called *Israel Today*. The magazine is published in Israel by Messianic Jews and is distributed worldwide over the Internet.

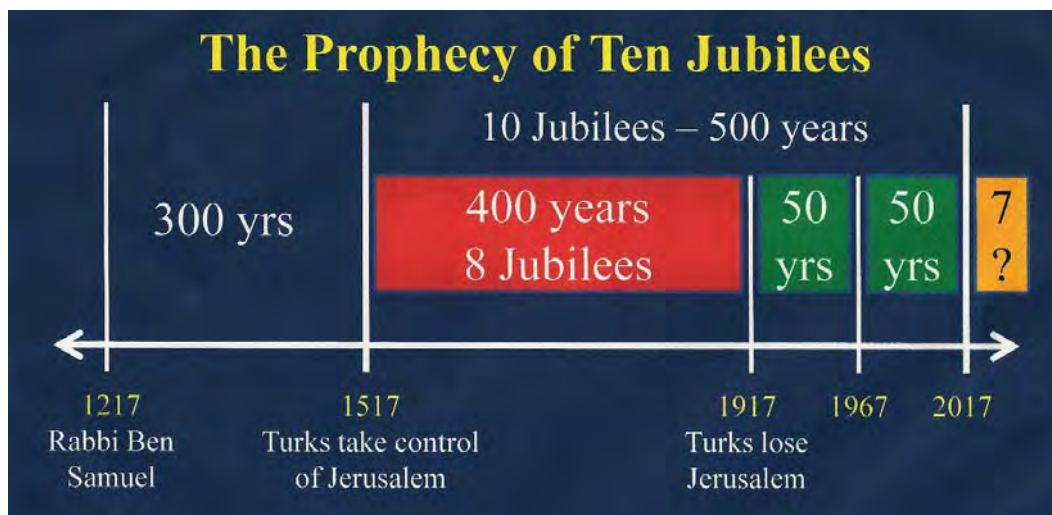
The article asserted that a remarkable end time prophecy had been found in an 800 year old manuscript written by a German rabbi named Judah Ben Samuel (1140 - 1217).

When this “prophecy” was revealed in 2008, very few seemed to notice it until World Net Daily picked up on it and published a major article about it on its website in October of 2012. The validity of the prophecy was endorsed and the significance of Rabbi Ben Samuel as a Torah scholar was emphasized.

That’s when the “prophecy” really took off. Since that time it has been accepted and endorsed by many of the Who’s Who of Bible prophecy. Some are saying that 2017 could mark the date of the Rapture and the start of the seven year Tribulation.

The rapid embracement of the Ten Jubilees Prophecy is a clear indication of how gullible Christians can be. Consider these facts:

- 1) Where was this lost Prophecy found?
- 2) Why hasn’t a copy of it been presented to the public for review?
- 3) Who is the person who wrote the original article for



The rabbi’s “prophecy” read as follows:

When the Ottomans conquer Jerusalem they will rule over Jerusalem for eight jubilees. Afterwards Jerusalem will become a no-man’s land for one jubilee, and then in the ninth jubilee it will once again come back into the possession of the Jewish nation — which would signify the beginning of the Messianic end time.

This prophecy, of course, is amazingly accurate. The Ottoman Turks conquered Jerusalem in 1517 and proceeded to rule over the city for 400 years to 1917 — a total of eight jubilees (a jubilee being 50 years according to Leviticus 25:8-12).

Between 1917 and 1967, Jerusalem became a no-man’s land for one jubilee (50 years) while it was divided between Israel and Jordan, with the boundary between the two actually being designated a “no-man’s land.” In 1967 Israel conquered the city of Jerusalem in the Six Day War, beginning the ninth jubilee which will lead up to the “beginning of the Messianic end time.” This ninth jubilee will conclude in 2017 — and thus the reason for the current prophetic frenzy.

Israel Today? It was signed, Ludwig Schneider. This man has been identified in various places as “a German language scholar” and a “Pentecostal pastor.” I could find evidence of neither. His entry in Wikipedia simply states that he is a German journalist and a Messianic Jew who founded *Israel Today* magazine.

- 4) Who translated the prophecy? Even if Ludwig Schneider is a “German language scholar” that does not mean he could translate medieval German dating back 800 years ago. How many English professors could translate the English of Chaucer just 600 years ago? The answer is very few.
- 5) Ludwig Schneider never makes a claim in his article that he was the one who found the prophecy or that he was the one who translated it, despite the fact that the proponents of the prophecy say he both found and translated it.
- 6) Ludwig Schneider refers to Rabbi Judah Ben Samuel as “a top Talmudic scholar.” There is no evidence of this. In fact, in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* he is identified as a person who focused his writing on

ethics and who considered the study of the Talmud “to be fruitless.”

- 7) The Ottoman Empire did not come into existence until 1299, 82 years after the death of Rabbi Samuel. How could he know about an empire that did not exist at the time he supposedly wrote the prophecy?

I think it is obvious that this is a bogus prophecy that someone made up recently and attributed to Rabbi Samuel.

The Search for the New and Exciting



What is particularly distressing to me is that all the prophetic craziness over extra-biblical “prophecies” has become characteristic of people who claim to be Bible prophecy experts. They, of all people, should be watchmen on the wall, intent on warning people against giving any significance to such non-biblical, so-called prophecies. Evidently they feel that they

must constantly be feeding the public something new and sensational in order to justify the existence of their ministries.

I actually had a person write me a letter along this line. He criticized me for “never coming up with anything new.” He said my ministry was “boring” because I kept preaching “the same old message” of the Lord’s soon return. I responded by telling him that the Bible is all we need and that the message of the Lord’s soon return is anything except boring — it is an exciting message full of glorious hope for a sin-weary, war-torn earth.

Prophecy Circuses

The thirst for the sensational never seems to be satisfied. It is currently being manifested in a new fad of prophecy conferences which I would describe as “prophecy circuses.”

I was invited to be a featured speaker at one of these conferences about a year ago. I accepted the invitation without realizing what kind of conference it was. I thought it was going to be a legitimate conference where Bible prophecy specialists would deal with serious topics.

Fortunately, one of my staff members warned me about the conference. He suggested that I call the organizer and get a list of speakers and topics. I did so, and to my horror, I discovered that the conference was going to feature four kinds of speakers: Bible prophecy experts, survivalists, conspiracy theorists, and paranormalists (persons who specialize in UFO’s, Aliens and the Nephilim).

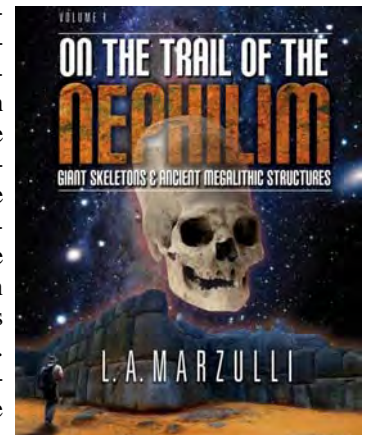
One of the ministries promoting these bizarre conferences has evidently come under some considerable criticism because the head of the ministry recently posted a defensive essay on the ministry’s website that was appropriately titled, “The Dark Side of Bible Prophecy: Why We Must Discuss the Strange and the Supernatural.”

He began his essay by stating that more and more people are asking him why he is putting together conferences that emphasize paranormal phenomena like UFO’s, hybrid giants, mystery lights, aerial trumpets and explosions, alien implants, and the Nephilim.

He answered the question by writing: “There is another aspect of Bible prophecy that, up until the last couple of decades, has remained quietly in the background. It grows out of the biblical pronouncement that the latter days would witness a veritable explosion of dark and alien power.” My response to this statement was to ask, “What ‘biblical pronouncement’?”

The Nephilim

But if you continue reading the essay, he finally produces two scriptural foundations for his fascination with the paranormal. One is the presence of supernatural giants on the earth during the time of Noah — called Nephilim (Genesis 6:1-4). These creatures appear to have been the product of fallen angels mating with human women. Since the Bible says that society in the end times will be like “the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37), then shouldn’t there be Nephilim on the earth again?



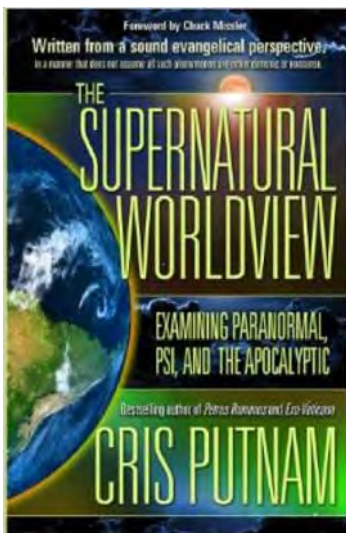
The answer to that question is provided in Jude 6 where we are told that the “angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode,” are being “kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” Based on the judgment they received, it seems very doubtful to me that any other fallen angels would follow in their footsteps in the future.

The reference to society being like it was in “the days of Noah” more likely means that the end time society will have the two main characteristics of Noah’s society — namely, immorality and violence (Genesis 6: 5 & 11).

The other scripture reference that is cited in the essay is Daniel 2:43. This verse contains a description of the feet of the great image of a man that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his famous dream that Daniel interpreted to signify a succession of world empires that would impact Israel (Daniel 2:31-45). In the King James Version, the verse reads:

And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay [the feet of the man], they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

The argument of the paranormalists is that this verse refers to angels mating with humans once again in the end times, producing a new group of Nephilim. To interpret the verse in this way requires a very active imagination. Nor is there any reference to sexual activity. The verse is simply saying that the last Gentile empire, represented by the feet of the statue, will be composed of a mingling of people who will be loosely affiliated,



just as clay does not cleave to iron.

So, in actuality all this verse is saying is that the final revival of the Roman Empire will consist of a loose confederation of states (before it will be firmly united when the Antichrist takes over). The unstable confederation is symbolized by the iron and clay that do not “cleave one to another.”

Here are other conservative translations of the verse that make its meaning much clearer:

NIV: “And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.”

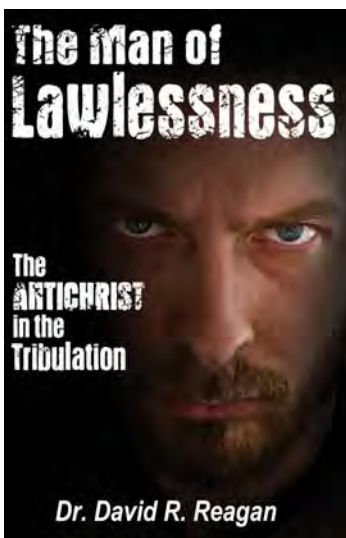
Holman: “You saw the iron mixed with clay — the peoples will mix with one another but will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with fired clay.”

To summarize, this is a prophecy that in the end times the Romans shall mix themselves with people of many other nations and unite in setting up a final Gentile world kingdom, but this union will be highly unstable. That is exactly the situation that exists with the European Union today. And it will continue that way until the Antichrist takes over and solidifies it for a short time.

Date-Setters and Antichrist Seekers

Two of the worst forms of sensationalism that give the field of Bible prophecy a bad name are the date-setters and those who are determined to identify the Antichrist.

I never cease to be amazed at the mental gymnastics of those obsessed with identifying the Antichrist. It has become a competitive intellectual sport. In my opinion, it ranks in irresponsibility right up there with attempts to establish the date of the Lord’s return. Most of the attempts end up being nothing more than exercises in silliness.



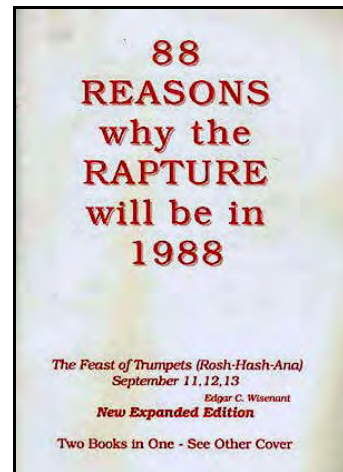
In my book, *The Man of Lawlessness: The Antichrist in the Tribulation*, I devote an entire chapter to surveying different attempts to identify the Antichrist — all of which are fruitless since the Bible clearly teaches that we cannot know the identity of the Antichrist before the day of the Lord, which begins with the onset of the Tribulation (2

Thessalonians 2:1-3).

Thessalonians 2:1-3).

The date-setters are the worst ones when it comes to giving Bible prophecy a black eye. They do more damage than all the sensationalists combined. That’s because the press always focuses on them, and then, when the dates they have set come and pass without the Lord’s return, the press mocks them and the whole field of Bible prophecy.

Satan loves date-setters because they discredit Bible prophecy, causing both seminaries and pastors to shy away from it. And ignoring Bible prophecy must delight Satan because he does not want anyone studying prophecy. Why? Because Bible prophecy clearly reveals that a day is coming when Satan will be totally defeated and Jesus will be totally triumphant.



But the fanatics who love to play with prophecy seem to never learn. Do you remember Edgar Whisenant? He was the man who published a pamphlet entitled “88 Reasons why the Rapture will be in 1988.” He sold over 4 million copies of the pamphlet and created a national frenzy with it. And when nothing happened in 1988, he quickly published a new pamphlet which presented 89 reasons why Jesus would come in 1989!

The most recent example of this nonsense has been Harold Camping who owned one of the nation’s largest Christian radio networks. He used that network to proclaim that Jesus would return in 1994. Did he learn his lesson? No! In 2010 he cranked up his prognosticating machine and once again set another date for May 21, 2011. And when nothing happened on that date, he proceeded unabashed to revise the date to October 21, 2011.

Why Sensationalism Prevails

One of the reasons prophetic craziness tends to prosper among Christians is because Christians as a whole tend to be rather naive and gullible. All a person with a weird idea or preposterous theory has to do is mention the name of Jesus several times and Christians tend to swallow what he has to say — hook, line and sinker.

A classic example of what I’m talking about is the “Drilling to Hell” scam that swept American Christendom several years ago in the early 1990s. This incredible tale got started in this country when it was announced by the Trinity Broadcasting Network. The story concerned a supposed discovery by a geological group in Siberia which claimed to have drilled a hole over 14.4 kilometers deep (9 miles). They said they had dropped a microphone down the hole and had heard people screaming in agony in Hell!



Rich Buhler

Many ministries across the United States picked up this report and repeated it in their newsletters and their radio and television shows. But one evangelist, Rich Buhler, a Christian radio talk show host in California, thought he smelled a rat, and he decided to investigate the claim.

His investigation led him to what was supposed to be the source of the claim — a Finnish newspaper owned by Finnish Christians. But the editor of that publication stated that their article was simply based upon a word-of-mouth recollection of a staff member who claimed he had read it in a major daily Finnish newspaper. That newspaper was then contacted, and its editor reported that the “article” was really only a letter to the editor.



Rich Buhler (who died in 2012) must have been a very persistent man because he continued to trace the story from one source to another until he finally ran across a Norwegian man who he discovered was the one who originally wrote to TBN with the tale. His conversation with the man went as follows:

“Are you the one who sent information to a Christian television network in the United States about scientists drilling into hell?” I asked.

“Yes,” he said, without hesitation.

“Well,” I continued, “Do you have any way of knowing whether it is true?”

“Yes I do,” he replied.

“Tell me about it,” I asked.

“None of it is true,” he said. “I fabricated every word of it!”

The man then told Buhler that he had included his name, address and telephone number with the report he had sent to TBN. He explained that he was prepared to tell them it was a hoax, if they contacted him. They did not.

Responsible Bible Prophecy Teaching

I am glad to say that there are some very responsible Bible prophecy teachers on the scene today — men who do not traffic in speculations and sensationalism. I have in mind men like Andy Woods, Al Gist, Don McGee, Gary Fisher, Don Perkins, Gary Frazier, Nathan Jones, August Rosado and Ed Hindson.

One Bible prophecy expert who has exhibited consistent responsibility over the years is Mark Hitchcock. Mark is an attorney who became a pastor. He currently serves as the pastor of Faith Bible Church in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Mark is a prolific writer of excellent books about Bible prophecy. And every time he sees a new sensationalist fad come roaring down the highway, he puts up a road block in the form of a book on the subject — a book that is always level-headed, biblically based, and full of common sense. The field of Bible prophecy needs more like him.



Mark Hitchcock

The Value of Bible Prophecy

There is no doubt that Bible prophecy is a playground for fanatics. Tragically, what is usually overlooked is that it can also be green pastures for disciples.

Pastors often dismiss it to me out-of-hand with a comment like this: “It’s all pie-in-sky, with no relevance to the present.” I can understand their attitude in light of all the silly nonsense that goes on among Bible prophecy enthusiasts.

But the pastors are dead wrong, and I can easily prove it, for you can radically transform any congregation if you can convince them of two fundamental prophetic truths:

1) Jesus really is coming back. Most Christian will confess a belief in this truth, but they believe it superficially with their minds and not truly with their hearts.

2) Jesus could return at any moment. There is not one prophecy that must be fulfilled before Jesus can return for His Church in the Rapture.

If a pastor can ever get these two truths firmly established in the hearts of his congregation, they will be motivated to holiness and evangelism. What could be more down-to-earth and practical than that?

Conclusion

The time is long overdue for Christians to start exercising some discernment, first by testing everything by the Word, and second, by using some common sense.

But, of course, the problem with common sense is that it is not very common!

Christians as a whole are very gullible people. I suppose that is due to the fact that our strength is love, and one’s strength is always his weakness. The enthusiastic person, for example, is also impulsive. And a people of love can easily be deceived because they are reluctant to challenge motives.

Tragically, the gullibility of the Christian community strikes at the heart of the Gospel. You see, when the world observes how gullible we are, they conclude that only such a people could believe that Jesus was really resurrected from the dead. ✚

The Prophecy of Elam

Dr. David R. Reagan

I first ran across Bill Salus in 2008 when he published his first book, *Israelestine: The Ancient Blueprints of the Future Middle East*. He seemed to spring onto the Bible prophecy stage out of nowhere. I learned later that he had spent most of his life as a mortgage broker until his Christian conversion in 1990, at which point he became a music minister and an ardent student of Bible prophecy. In 2010 he went into full time ministry with the establishment of Prophecy Depot Ministries which is located in La Quinta, California.



Bill Salus

His first book focused on the prophetic meaning of Psalm 83. It was not easy reading. I found the writing to be mechanical, repetitious and tedious. It was also unfocused, as he spent much of his time chasing irrelevant rabbits. But the book was very insightful, and I quickly concluded that Bill had been anointed by the Lord to see the end time significance of prophecies that had been either ignored or overlooked by other prophecy scholars.

I therefore endorsed his first book because I felt that he had discovered a significant end time prophecy that would help us to better understand the well-known prophecy of Gog & Magog contained in Ezekiel 38-39.

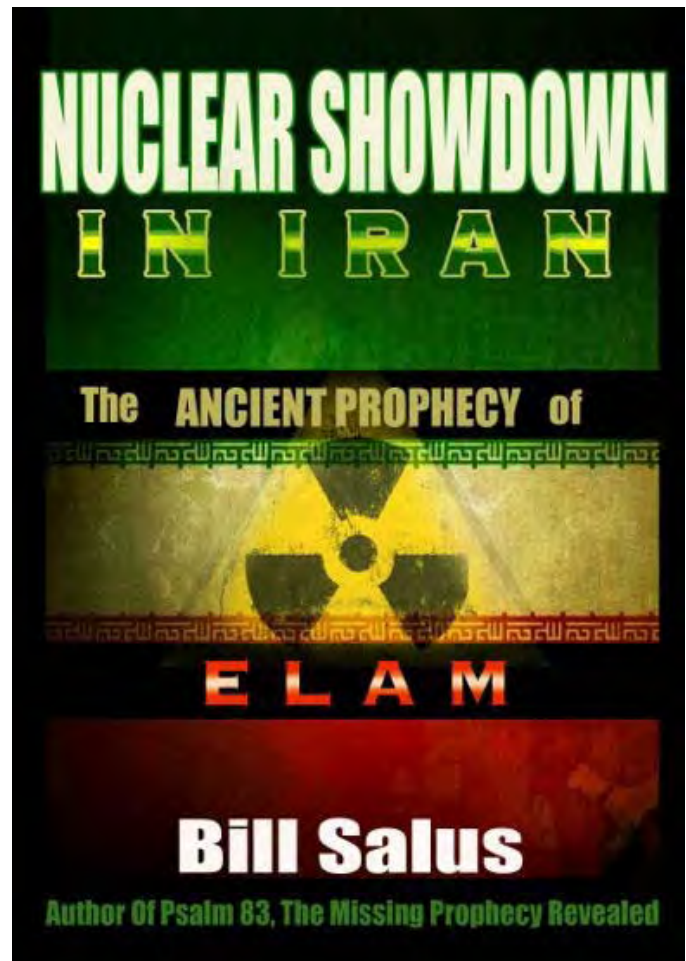
Criticism

Many of the established Bible prophecy experts reacted very negatively to Bill's interpretation of Psalm 83. After all, who was this upstart from nowhere who was suddenly proclaiming that he had found an end time prophecy that had been overlooked?

Actually, I was not surprised at all that Bill had made such a discovery. That's because we are told in Daniel 12:8-9 that not all end time prophecies will be understood until the time comes for them to be fulfilled. Furthermore, my study of First Coming prophecies had convinced me long ago that there were most likely Second Coming prophecies that had not been recognized as such.

Take, for example, the First Coming prophecy in Hosea 11:1 which reads as follows: "When Israel was a youth, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." How could anyone recognize this as a prophecy related to the First Coming of the Messiah until after something happened in the life of Jesus that related to it? It doesn't even read like a prophecy. It reads like nothing more than a simple historical statement referring to the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian captivity.

But when King Herod commanded the killing of the male children of Bethlehem, Jesus' parents, Joseph and Mary, fled with Him to Egypt. Later, Joseph had a dream in which an angel told him to return to Israel. So, Jesus, the Son of God, was "called out of Egypt." Even so, the statement in Hosea might never have been recognized as a prophecy about the Messiah if it had not been for the fact that the Holy Spirit revealed this truth



to Matthew when he was writing his Gospel (Matthew 2:14-15).

In like manner, Psalm 22 reads like a description of agonies experienced by King David. Yet, in retrospect, after the torture and death by crucifixion that Jesus experienced, it is obvious that David was speaking prophetically in detail about the death of the Messiah, probably without realizing it himself.

I'm sure that as we get closer to the Rapture, the Tribulation and the Second Coming, the Spirit will reveal to students of Bible prophecy the relevance of additional overlooked prophecies concerning the end times. And I believe that has happened again with Bill Salus, for once again Bill has put his finger on a passage that few have paid attention to, and he has revealed its end-time significance in his new book, *Nuclear Showdown in Iran: Revealing the Ancient Prophecy of Elam*.

Jeremiah's Prophecy About Elam

The book is exceptionally well written. It flows. It is easy to understand. And it is focused. The passage it so beautifully illuminates is Jeremiah 49:34-39 which describes the fate of the ancient nations of Elam. It reads as follows:

34) That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying:

35) Thus says the LORD of hosts,
'Behold, I am going to break the bow of Elam,
The finest of their might.

36) 'I will bring upon Elam the four winds
From the four ends of heaven,
And will scatter them to all these winds;
And there will be no nation
To which the outcasts of Elam will not go.

37) 'So I will shatter Elam before their enemies
And before those who seek their lives;
And I will bring calamity upon them,
Even My fierce anger,' declares the LORD,
'And I will send out the sword after them
Until I have consumed them.

38) 'Then I will set My throne in Elam
And destroy out of it kings and princes,'
Declares the LORD.

39 'But it will come about in the last days
That I will restore the fortunes of Elam,'"
Declares the LORD.

This rather obscure passage says that "in the last days" Elam's military might will be broken and that the nation's population will be widely scattered. The passage further states that this disaster will happen because of the Lord's "fierce anger" against them. But the passage ends with good news. It says that one day the Lord will bring back the captives of Elam and re-establish them in their land. It also promises that at that time, the Lord will set His throne in Elam.

Interpreting the Prophecy

The first thing Bill does is to clearly delineate the geographical area of Elam. He identifies it as one-tenth of modern day Iran, being located between the Persian Gulf and the Zagros Mountains, as indicated in the adjacent map. He then points out that the Iranian nuclear reactor is located today in the southern portion of this precise area at Bushehr, on the coast of the Persian Gulf.

Bill spends considerable time proving rather conclusively that no part of Jeremiah's prophecy about Elam has been fulfilled at anytime in past history. He then postulates that its most likely fulfillment will occur when the nuclear reactor is destroyed, either by the Israelis or by an earthquake, releasing radiation that will force the evacuation of the whole area.

Bill then speculates that at the end of the Tribulation when the Lord returns to conduct His Millennial Reign, He will regather the Elamites to their land and establish His throne among them.

This latter point about the throne is the most mysterious part of the entire prophecy. That's because the Bible makes it clear in many places that Jesus will reign from Jerusalem (see, for example, Isaiah 2:1-4 and Zechariah 8:1-3). So, what does it

mean when the passage says, "I will set my throne in Elam"?

Bill says it could refer to the establishment of a government that will be yielded to God. Or, it could be referring to a secondary capital where Jesus might go from time to time to relax.

Bill says the Lord's "fierce anger" will be focused on the area of Elam because Iran is using that area to develop a nuclear weapon which it has declared that it will use to destroy the Jewish state. Bill concludes that the destruction of Elam is imminent and is most likely to occur before the war described in Psalm 83. One scenario he considers is the possibility that Israel might militarily strike the Bushehr reactor, which, in turn, would trigger the Psalm 83 war in which all the nations with a common border with Israel will unite and attack Israel with the purpose of annihilating the Jewish state.

A Needless Error

One mistake that Bill makes in his book, for which he will be heavily criticized, is that he presents a chronological listing of end time events as follows:

- 1) Jeremiah 49:34-39: The destruction of Elam
- 2) Psalm 83: The War of annihilation against Israel
- 3) The Rapture
- 4) Ezekiel 38 & 39: The War of Gog & Magog
- 5) The Pre-Tribulation Period

Such a list destroys the imminence of the Rapture. Bill tries to cover himself by stating that the list is only an "estimation," and that "the Rapture could occur before any of these events."

But I suspect that his critics will ignore this caveat.

Eschatologists

When Bill refers to me in his writings, he always calls me an "Eschatologist." I hate that term. It sounds so academic and stuffy. To me, such a term is appropriate only for a person devoted to the academic study of prophecy. I am a prophecy teacher and preacher, not a prophecy academician.

Bill is a true Eschatologist — together with such people as Tommy Ice and Arnold Fruchtenbaum. And, as such, I expect Bill to continue to supply

us with insightful discoveries he is likely to make from his ardent study of God's Prophetic Word. ✚



Note: You can order copies of Bill's book from Amazon.com or directly from Bill's ministry through his website: Prophecy DepotMinistries.net. Bill is available for speaking engagements and can be contacted at bsalhus@gmail.com.

Sacrifices in the Kingdom

David M. Levy

(Editor's note: One of the most common attacks made on Premillennialists relates to their literal interpretation of Ezekiel 40-48. These chapters describe in detail a glorious new Temple and the worship services that will characterize it. Premillennialists argue this is a description of the Millennial Temple that will exist in Jerusalem during the thousand year reign of Jesus. Amillennialists spiritualize these chapters, arguing that they are a symbolic description of the Church. Further, they point out that the Ezekiel chapters describe the reinstitution of a sacrificial system, which they argue is contrary to the teaching in Hebrews that the sacrifice of Christ was all-sufficient to cover our sins, whereas the sacrifices of animals were not. The usual Premillennial response has been that the millennial sacrifices will be memorial in nature, pointing people back to the Cross, just as communion does today.)

This is the background for David Levy's very insightful and thought-provoking article below which originally appeared in the September/October 2011 issue of *Israel My Glory* magazine, published by The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. The article is copyrighted by The Friends of Israel and is reprinted here by their permission.

David M. Levy is director of International Ministries for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry. He is also a prolific writer of books concerning Bible prophecy.)



David M. Levy

The Millennial Temple's main objective will be to provide a place of worship for Israel and the Gentile nations that will be similar to, yet distinct from that under the old Levitical system.

Jews and Gentiles alike who have mortal bodies will be required to bring animal sacrifices (Isaiah 56:7 & 66:20-23; Jeremiah 33:18; Ezekiel 45:13-17; and Malachi 3:3-4). The prince will receive the gifts and oversee the sacrifices used "to make atonement" for the house of Israel

(Ezekiel 45:15, 17, 20).

There will be burnt, sin, trespass (Ezekiel 40:39), grain (45:24) and peace offerings (46:2). The prince will offer the sacrifices at "the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel" (45:17). Only morning sacrifices will be offered daily (46:13).

The feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread will be kept to memorialize Israel's deliverance from Egypt (45:21-24). All nations will be required to appear in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles; those that do not will be denied rain, or, as Egypt's case, receive a plague (Zechariah 14:16-18). The "year of liberty" (Jubilee, cf. Leviticus 25) will be commemorated at its proper time (Ezekiel 46:17). The feasts of Pentecost and Trumpets, and the Day of Atonement, will not be kept during the



The Passover Lamb

(<http://doubleportioninheritance.blogspot.com>)

Millennium.

When reading Ezekiel 43 to 46, people often ask, "If Jesus' sacrifice is the only efficacious, once-for-all sacrifice to expiate sin (Hebrews 9:12), why should animal sacrifices, which could never take away sin (Hebrews 9:12), be offered during the Millennium?" We know these sacrifices cannot remove sin any more than the Levitical sacrifices could.

Memorial

Some scholars believe the Millennial offerings will be memorials, similar to keeping the Lord's Supper today in remembrance of Christ's death. They reason that sacrifices are needed because Millennial saints will live in an ideal setting where Christ's righteousness will fill the earth and people will need a reminder of the awfulness of sin.

Therefore, the shedding of blood will visibly remind them that only Christ's blood can take away sin. This interpretation has two problems: (1) Nothing in the text indicates the sacrifices are memorials, and (2) the prophet says the sacrifices are to make atonement.

Consequently, these offerings must be much more than memorials. The word for "atonement" (Ezekiel 45:15, 17, 20) is the Hebrew word *kippur*, meaning to "cover" or "propitiate." Under the Levitical system, sacrifices were required to atone for sin and to cleanse the buildings, the altar (43:20-27), the Levites (44:25-27), and the sanctuary (45:18). The blood sacrifices covered the worshiper's sins (Leviticus 17:11) and functioned as propitiation to God.

Ceremonial

Animal sacrifices offered in the Millennial Temple will be needed to cover the worshipers' ceremonial uncleanness. Why? Because God will be dwelling on Earth in the midst of sinners living in their natural, unresurrected bodies. Without blood sacrifices, these impure worshipers would defile God's holy Temple when they come to worship Him.

Bible professor Jerry Hullinger came to the same conclusion:¹

Hebrews states that animal sacrifices were efficacious in the sphere of ceremonial cleansing. They were not efficacious, however, in the realm of conscience and therefore in the matter of spiritual salvation. Because of this, Christ's offering is

superior in that it accomplished something the Levitical offerings never could, namely, soteriological benefits.

Only Christ's sacrifice was of the kind that could form the basis for eternal and spiritual salvation. But this in no way refutes the . . . efficacy in the Old Testament sacrifices . . . Eternal or spiritual salvation was not the issue. Therefore, the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament and the sacrifice of Christ in the New Testament were effective at their own respective and totally different levels.

Ezekiel 40 - 48 indicates that during the Millennium, God's glory will return to the Temple where sacrificial ritual will take place and in which offerings will make atonement. For Ezekiel the concept of atonement is the same as it was in the book of Leviticus, namely, an act that wipes away and purges uncleanness.

This purgation will be required because the divine presence will once again be dwelling in the land. As argued earlier, impurity is contagious to both persons and sancta. Further, impurity is inimical to Yahweh, who refuses to dwell among a people if uncleanness remains untreated. Because of God's promise to dwell on earth during the Millennium . . . it is necessary that He protect His presence through sacrifice.

This function of sacrifices, according to the book of Hebrews, is efficacious. However, this was never the purpose of Christ's sacrifice, for it dealt with the internal cleansing of the conscience. Therefore, the two are harmonious.

It should be further added that this sacrificial system will be a temporary one in that the Millennium (with its population of unglorified humanity) will last only one thousand years. During the eternal state, all inhabitants of the New Jerusalem will be glorified and will therefore not be a source of contagious impurities to defile the holiness of Yahweh.

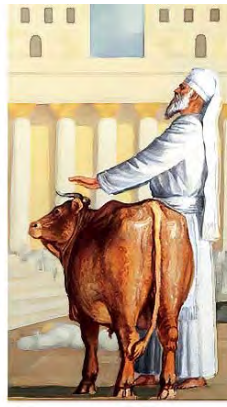
Conclusion

Sacrifices in the Millennium will not be a substitute for God's plan of salvation or change the way a person is redeemed. Salvation has always been, and will always be, through faith in Christ and His shed blood on the Cross. Nor will these sacrifices diminish Christ's work on the Cross (Hebrews 10:10). It was Christ's death, not the Levitical system, that made it possible for sins to be permanently removed. ❖

1) Jerry Hullinger, "The Problem of Animal Sacrifices in Ezekiel 40-48," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 152, no. 607 (1995), pp. 288-289.

Other Viewpoints

OFFERINGS



"The Bible Answer Man," Hank Hanegraaff, who is a Preterist (a person who believes that most or all Second Coming prophecies were fulfilled in 70AD), has labeled as "blasphemous" the idea that animal sacrifices will be reinstituted during the Millennium.¹ But then, he also does not believe in a future one thousand year reign of Jesus. Tommy Ice responded by asking, "Since when is it blasphemous to take God's Word to mean what it says?"²

Tommy proceeded to point out that the existence of a sacrificial system during the Millennium is mentioned by at least four other prophets: Isaiah 56:7 and 66:20; Jeremiah 33:18; Zechariah 14:16-21; and Malachi 3:3-4. He further observed that the great detail in which the sacrifices are described in Ezekiel 40-48 is "meaningless" unless taken literally.

Tommy points out that the purpose of a temple is to reveal through its rituals the great holiness of God. Since God will be present in the Temple in Jerusalem during the Millennium, there will be rituals, including sacrifices, that will be required to approach Him. "This is contrasted," Tommy writes, "with the fact that no temple will exist in eternity (Revelation 21:22) . . . since there will be no sin in heaven, thus no need for ritual cleansing."

Tommy also stresses the point that the sacrifices in the Mosaic system were purification rituals which atoned ceremonially, cleansing both the participants and the objects utilized in the Temple rituals. He concludes by observing: "This is why atonement can be said in the past to be effective, yet still need Christ's future sacrifice." The Old Testament sacrifices resulted in an outward cleansing. The sacrifice of Christ provides internal cleansing from sin.

But Tommy does not limit the Millennial sacrifices to outward purification. He also asserts that they will serve as a memorial to Jesus' once-for-all atoning work.

In an unsigned article on the GotQuestions.org website, the conclusion is that the Millennial sacrifices will be primarily memorial in nature.³ The author writes:

It is incorrect to think that animal sacrifices took away sins in the Old Testament, and it is incorrect to think they will do so in the Millennial kingdom. Animal sacrifices served as object lessons for the sinner, that sin was and is a horrible offense against God, and that the result of sin is death. ❖

1) Hank Hanegraaff, *The Apocalypse Code* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007), pp. 268-69.

2) Dr. Thomas Ice, "Why Sacrifices During the Millennium?" www.pre-trib.org/articles/view/why-sacrifices-in-millennium.

3) GotQuestions.org, "Will there be animal sacrifices during the millennial kingdom?" www.gotquestions.org/millennial-sacrifices.html.

The Tribal Theory of God

Nathan E. Jones

Does history in any way support a “Tribal Theory of God”? That’s the question once pondered by Dr. W. Mackintosh MacKay, former pastor of a church in Glasgow, Scotland. He defined Tribal Theory as “a belief that because God has blessed a country with material advantages for many years, He has a peculiar affection for that country and will never cast it off.”¹

This is the foundational thinking for the present-day belief many Americans tie to the mantra “God Bless America.” It is the idea that since God’s blessings over the past decades haven’t stopped flowing, therefore the United States is extra special to Him and so must be invincible.

Those who ascribe to Tribal Theory are apt to point to various verses that promise a nation great material blessings. Though the verses are directed at ancient Israel, adherents feel the blessings can be transferred to any nation.

Favorite verses are Malachi 3:10 where God declares, “see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” God in Exodus 15:26 promises the blessings of health. Exodus 19:5 promises the nation that they shall be a special treasure to God. In Exodus 23:22, God will be the great national protector who serves as “an enemy to your enemies.” God in Leviticus 26 promises boundless crops, removal of wild animals, an undefeatable army, and a fruitful population. And, according to Exodus 20:6, the blessings will flow down for thousands of generations, or in other words, they’ll be unlimited practically forever.

God does indeed grant abundant favors to His children, but there are often overlooked caveats to these promises. To receive the blessings of Malachi 3:10, the Lord challenges the nation to “bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house.” To receive the health of Exodus 15:26, God expects the people to, “diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight.” To be treasured in Exodus 19:5, Israel has to “obey My voice and keep My covenant.” For God to be the protector of Exodus 23:22, the people have to “obey His voice and do all that I speak.” Totally overlooked from Leviticus 26 is where God warns that if they “despise My statutes” and “break My covenant” that horrible calamities will ensue, including national destruction by exile. And, the blessings of Exodus 20:6 actually only last three to four generations if the people no longer “love Me and keep My commandments.” Made abundantly clear, the promises of national blessings from God are conditional in nature, requiring the people’s continuing faith in God and obedience to His commands.

A strange response happens after those nations who initially meet God’s requirements are then showered with blessings. Humans just don’t behave very well once they receive them. Periods of unusual prosperity inevitably lead to spiritual complacency and ethical laxity. This is a curious thing about our fallen human nature. As we are blessed, instead of becoming more

thankful to God and more generous towards others, we oddly enough become more thankless and self-centered. Love is replaced by greed, and indifference to everything else, other than self, swiftly follows. The cultured hearts of those blessed transform into calloused hearts, One commentator has described it this way: “They can talk learnedly of art, commerce, business, patriotism, religion and politics, but not the slightest concern is felt or expressed concerning the real woes, the real dangers, the real sores of the people.”²

The sin born of blessings is ultimately the love of self. Well-fed and well-dressed men and women adopt a “spirit of self-sufficiency and smug complacency.” They “thrive on material prosperity” while “idolatry, hypocrisy, moral corruption, and social injustices are everywhere.”³ True faith is expressed through action (James 2:17), but when the peoples’ actions are

nothing but cold, corrupt and unjust, there is no real faith in God anymore. No faith means an end to the blessings, a vital point the Old Testament prophets tried to pound into the hard-headed minds of their people.

No nation then is ever immune from being cast off by God. For pagan nations, they are judged by how they respect their own laws. For God’s Chosen People, the Jews, their knowledge of right and wrong through the Mosaic Law burdened them with an extra responsibility for their actions. They were judged based on their obedience to divine law. This also carries over to nations who today claim to have been founded on the Bible, for as author John Hunter warns, “A people who publicly proclaim ‘In God We Trust,’ who solemnly declare day after day ‘One nation under God’ are in great peril. We have seen that privilege brings responsibility.”⁴

Go study the time of the Minor Prophets and you’ll perceive that a remarkably frightening similarity exists between the affluent nations of today and Israel in the time before the first exile. We have become the unfaithful Israel of the prophets’ time whose people erroneously thought themselves to be invincible. Realizing that, our nation must seriously take God’s caveats to heart and abandon our false confidence in Tribal Theory. We must in faith embrace the fact that God is ultimately sovereign over the nations of the world and that our leaders are merely temporary stewards.

No national sin goes unnoticed or unpunished by the Omniscient One. While the righteousness of the nation ensures the blessings of God, the sins of the nation most assuredly ensures His judgment and curses. And, as the multitudes of extinct nations that litter the dustbin of history prove, God most certainly will cast off unfaithful nations. ✚



Illustration by Pat Marvenko Smith

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- 3) Jensen, I. L. *Minor Prophets of Israel* (Chicago, IL: Moody Bible Institute, 1975), p. 45.
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Should Christians Surrender the Cultural War?

Bob Russell



Bob Russell is the former pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, one of the nation's largest churches. He is scheduled to be one of the featured speakers at our 2015 Bible conference whose theme will be "Messages for a Rebellious Nation."

God has entrusted us with the most outstanding nation in the history of the world. The freedom, technology and wealth of the United States of America have provided the opportunity for the Gospel to be disseminated throughout the world. For believers to have a cavalier attitude toward the moral free-fall that threatens the future of our nation is not only spiritually naïve but is a terrible stewardship of the blessings that have been passed down to us.

Jesus warned His disciples that following Him would put them in conflict with the culture. "If the world hates me, it will also hate you" (John 15:18). "I did not come to bring peace but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). "I am sending you out as a sheep among wolves" (Matthew 10:16). "I will set father against son and . . . daughter-in-law against mother-in-law" (Matthew 10:35).

That's why our forefathers used to sing songs that were battle cries, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," "Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war," and "Stand up, stand up for Jesus you soldiers of the cross." They understood that Jesus had not called them to a playground but a battlefield. They took seriously the admonition of Paul to, "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11).

In recent years, however, many churches have dropped all images of war in favor of a peace treaty with the world. We speak of Jesus as the healer and leader but not Lord and King. We shout grace and whisper repentance and make inordinate attempts to ingratiate ourselves with those who oppose us. We retreat into silence in the face of horrendous evil and hope it will all go away.

Do you suppose our children or grandchildren will one day ask us, "Where were you when America lost the cultural war? What did you do when the world approved cohabitation, same-sex marriage, the proliferation of pornography, abortion on demand and the teaching of evolution as the source of life in public schools? Did you stand up and fight when the anti-God

forces insisted on removing any reference to God and the Bible from the public arena?" How will we answer when those questions come?

Will we excuse our silence by saying, "We didn't feel like it was our role to clean up the marketplace." If that had been God's response in Jonah's day, He would not have insisted that Jonah go to the pagan city of Ninevah and warn them to repent or be destroyed. If Jeremiah had that philosophy he would have been a popular prophet instead of being thrown into a cistern where he ended up knee deep in mud.

Will we explain our failure to get involved by saying, "Our ultimate hope is to win people to Christ, so we focused on building up the church." And, "We didn't want the church to have a negative image in the community so we emphasized only what we're for." If John the Baptist had that philosophy he would never have confronted King Herod's immorality and got himself beheaded.

Will we try to explain our passivity by saying, "I believed in the separation of church and state. Christians should not get involved in political battles so I remained neutral." If that had been Jesus' philosophy He would never have said, "You are the salt of the earth," or "blessed are you when men persecute you." If Dietrich Bonhoeffer would have had that philosophy there would be no books hailing him as a courageous Christian martyr for opposing Adolph Hitler.

Read the following passages of Scripture and ask yourself, "Am I standing for God's truth with boldness or am I cowering because I fear opposition?"

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them . . . though they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. (Ezekiel 2:6-8)

"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:28-29)

Admittedly, it appears the cultural war is all but lost. Unless the Lord intervenes through His return or the outpouring of His Holy Spirit in a dramatic revival, our civilization is heading for moral collapse.

However, our calling is not to surrender to the forces of darkness but to stand firm in the faith. The rest is up to God — and with Him all things are possible. Besides, I'd like for my grandchildren to know that I had enough perception to see what was coming their way and enough love for them to courageously fight the good fight of faith.

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2). ❖

A Lament for Suffering in Israel

Colonel Tim Moore

Over the past few months, the world's attention has once again been focused on the Middle East. As prophesied long ago, all eyes are turned toward Israel.

When I led a pilgrimage on behalf of Lamb & Lion in June, the nation of Israel was gripped by the unfolding tragedy of 3 teenagers kidnapped on the way home from their yeshiva school. For many days, Israelis held out hope that the teenagers would be found alive. The government quickly determined that the boys' kidnapping had been the result of a Hamas plot.

A manhunt was initiated for the boys and their suspected kidnappers, but the Palestinians of Gaza and the "West Bank" hailed the missing kidnappers as heroes. When the boys' bodies were found, there was no outcry of compassion or remorse from the Palestinians and their leaders for the triple murder. Instead, Palestinians in Gaza and the "West Bank" danced in the streets and Hamas stepped up its rocket and mortar offensive on Israeli cities.

Sadly, the quid pro quo of Middle Eastern animosities apparently inspired some angry Israeli Jews to kidnap and murder a Palestinian teen. But Israel's response was swift and morally upright: it condemned the kidnapping and murder as a crime, arrested the Jewish suspects, and started seeking prompt justice in an Israeli court of law. In spite of the obvious and maddening difference in responses by the Israelis and Palestinians (yet again), most Western media outlets showed their bias with lopsided coverage emphasizing the suffering of the Palestinians and morally equating the Israeli and Palestinian response. And even though Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East (with Arab citizens welcomed as members of the Knesset), Israel-haters like Jimmy Carter have the audacity to call it an Apartheid state.

In 2005 when Israel yielded to pressure from the Western nations (including the United States) to pull out of Gaza and turn it over to Palestinian control, it was promised that this gesture would ease hostilities and lead to peace. Instead, Hamas — one of the most virulent and hate-filled terrorist organizations in the Middle East — soon rose to power. It turned Gaza into a breeding ground for terrorism and began to amass and use weapons — not to defend itself, but to kill Jews. Closely aligned with the discredited Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas is so radical that even Egypt refuses to support its destabilizing efforts. It is also at odds with the Palestinian Authority that oversees the West Bank. Fulfilling the prophetic word of the Angel of the Lord in Genesis 16:12, Hamas exemplifies the "wild donkey of a man" whose hand is against everyone. They also live up to the Arab saying, "I against my brother, my brothers and I against my cousins, then

my cousins and I against strangers."

Living as neighbors to a terrorist-run enclave, Israel has indeed "shown restraint" by absorbing the continual attacks and threats of Hamas for years (10,000 rockets in the past 10 years!). But, as the rocket and mortar fire became more intense and threatened a large swath of the Jewish homeland (up to 60% of Israeli citizens have had to rush to bomb shelters on a regular basis in recent months, with only a 15-second warning that missiles and bombs are inbound), Israel determined to put an end to this external threat to its safety.

The air strikes and ultimate ground campaign into Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force targeted command and control centers (including the houses of Hamas leaders), its underground storage and infiltration tunnels, and its caches of mortars and rockets. Hamas had by design located these offensive weapons in civilian neighborhoods, schools and mosques. It actively encouraged its civilian population to act as human shields, so that any Israeli defensive strike will produce camera-ready carnage that can be used as propaganda.

No Christian wants to promote or encourage bloodshed. But, common sense and justice dictate that no nation can be expected to sit idly while its people are threatened and targeted by terrorists. And, no other nation on the earth would "show restraint" after enduring incessant attacks on its people.

This conflict will end when Hamas' ability to threaten Israel is degraded, or when it realizes that hatred and conflict is no way to serve its own people. As Golda Meir, the former Israeli Prime Minister once said, "Peace will come when the Arabs start to love their children more than they hate [the Jews]." Referring to Israel's military might, she also rightfully said, "We don't thrive on military acts. We do them because we have to, and thank God we are efficient." Consider just one more reality: even if injured as a terrorist fighting against Israel, every Palestinian knows they will receive excellent and compassionate medical treatment at Israeli hospitals, while every Jew knows that they will be torn to bits if they are caught in any part of the Palestinian territory.

So, as you watch the news and see the anti-Israeli bias in most of the media, realize that too is a sign of the times. Zechariah said that in the end times the nations of the world will be united in opposition to Israel (12:3). While the ultimate culmination of the world's satanic hatred of the Jewish people will occur when armies march against it on the plains of Armageddon, the media's prejudice is an indication that we are in the season of the Lord's return.

Finally, even as we obey the Scriptural admonition to bless Israel and pray for peace in Jerusalem, we must recognize that there will be no real peace — no Shalom — until the King of kings and Lord of lords reigns from Jerusalem with a rod of iron. As we anticipate that glorious day, let us shout, "Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" ❖

Editor's note: Tim Moore is an Assistant Evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries, and he is available for speaking engagements concerning all aspects of Bible prophecy. You can contact him at tmoore@lamblion.com.

“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

The Church Channel Network DirecTV Channel 371 DISH Channel 258				
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

Golden Eagle Broadcasting Network DirecTV Channel 363				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Tues. 4:00pm	Tues. 5:00pm	Tues. 6:00pm	Tues. 7:00pm

The TCT Network DirecTV Channel 377				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm	Sun. 6:00pm	Sun. 7:00pm

The CTN Network DirecTV Channel 376 DISH Channel 267				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Mon. 3:00pm	Mon. 4:00pm	Mon. 5:00pm	Mon. 6:00pm

LeSea World Harvest Network DirecTV Channel 367 AT&T U-verse Channel 578				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm	Sun. 6:00pm	Sun. 7:00pm

Cornerstone Network 113 Affiliated Stations and Glorystar Satellite				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun 6:00pm	Sun. 7:00pm	Sun. 8:00pm	Sun. 9:00pm

Regional Networks

Family Vision Network in Louisiana — Various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision. Three broadcast stations and 11 cable systems.

KSCE in El Paso, Texas — Sundays at 10:30am Mountain time. Channel 38. Also carried locally on DirecTV, DISH, & AT&T U-verse on channel 38.

VTN Victory TV in Arkansas — Saturdays, 6:00pm Central time. Three broadcast stations. Also carried locally on DirecTV, DISH & AT&T U-verse on channel 25.

KTLN in San Francisco, California — Sundays at 6:30pm Pacific time. Channel 25. Also carried locally on DirecTV & DISH on channel 68.

TLN in Chicago, Illinois — Sundays at 6:30pm Central time. Channel 138.

KVBA In Alamogordo, New Mexico — Thursdays at 8:30 pm Mountain time. Channel 19.

iHope TV in Knoxville, Tennessee — Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:00pm Eastern time. Channel 241.

KAZQ TV-32 in Albuquerque, New Mexico — Sunday at Noon and Friday at 9:00pm Mountain time.

WTGL in Orlando, Florida — Sunday at 12:30am Eastern time.

Internet Networks

HisChannel.com — Sunday at 9:30pm Central time. On demand access anytime.

LightSource.com — On demand anytime.

YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy — On demand anytime.

Vimeo.com — On demand anytime.

GodTube.com — On demand anytime.

DailyMotion.com/us — On demand anytime. This is the European version of YouTube.

LambLion.com — On demand anytime.

Expanding Our Outreach



The largest network that we broadcast on is Daystar, located in the Dallas area. It has extensive national and international coverage, and it has been expanding its coverage rapidly this year. In July, the network added 218,000 homes through the Charter Communication cable system in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. In August, Daystar added another 155,000 homes via Liberty Cablevision in Puerto Rico. And in August, they began broadcasting over the NETV network in Great Britain, which currently has 960,000 subscribers. Daystar is also the only Christian network that is available on the HOT cable system in Israel.

We have recently added two new regional stations to our television outreach. We are now broadcasting over **KAZQ TV-32** in Albuquerque, New Mexico — Sunday at Noon and Friday at 9:00pm Mountain time. The KAZQ satellite, cable and broadcast signal covers a population base of approximately 1.8 million people in New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona.



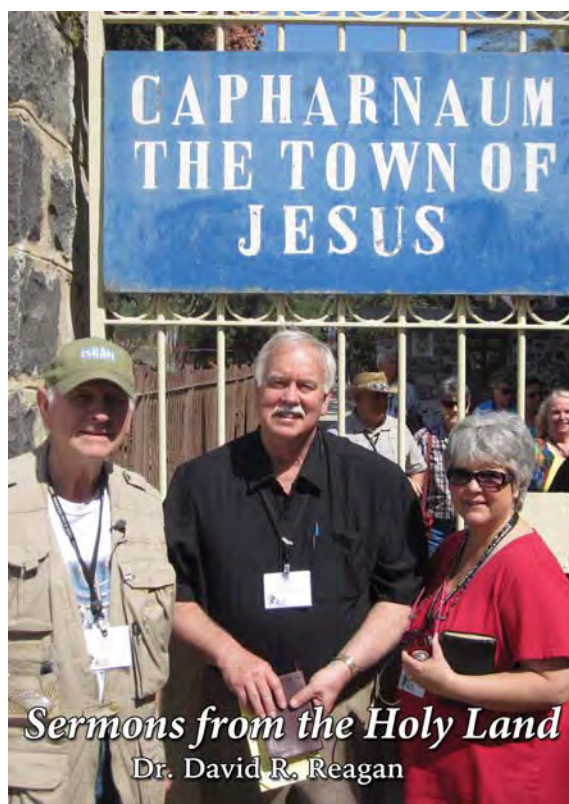
Another regional station we have recently added is **WTGL** in Orlando, Florida — Sunday at 12:30am

Eastern time, following Jack Van Impe. It is seen on cable in the Orlando market on Bright House channel 19, Comcast channel 6, 17 or 19, and Cox Ocala channel 19.

In mid-September we began broadcasting 11 programs that we shot in Israel. These will run through the end of November. If you miss any of them, you can watch them on demand at our website or on any of the Internet websites that are listed on the previous page. These programs are featuring sermons that Dr. Reagan delivered in Israel while hosting a pilgrimage group in 2013. Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries in Franklin, Tennessee assisted Dr. Reagan with the pilgrimage group and will be featured with him in the television programs. He is pictured below with Dr. Reagan and Avi Mizrahi, a Messianic evangelist in Tel Aviv. ✚



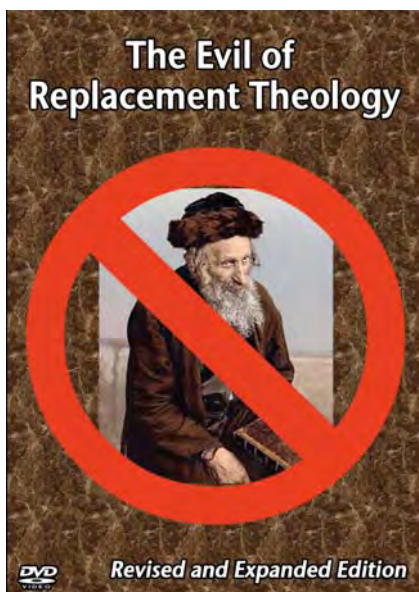
New Video Album!



We have extracted ten of Dr. Reagan's sermons from the 11 television programs we are currently broadcasting that were shot in Israel while he was hosting a pilgrimage group. They are available in a video album that contains two DVD discs that run a total of two hours and 35 minutes. The sermons are:

- 1) "The Miracle of Israel," delivered at Independence Hall in Tel Aviv.
- 2) "The Evil of Replacement Theology," delivered at the Crusader Castle in Akko.
- 3) "The Healing Ministry of Jesus," delivered at Korazin.
- 4) "The Virgin Birth," delivered at the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.
- 5) "The Wars of the End Times," delivered at the Fortress of Megiddo in the Valley of Armageddon.
- 6) "David's Passion for God," delivered at the Ein Gedi Oasis at the Dead Sea.
- 7) "The Eastern Gate in Prophecy," delivered at the Dominus Flevit Chapel on the Mount of Olives.
- 8) "The Israeli Military in Prophecy," delivered at the grave of Jonathan Netanyahu in the Mount Herzl Cemetery.
- 9) "David and the Ark of the Covenant," delivered at the Church of the Ark in Abu Gosh.
- 10) "Symbolic Prophecy and the Resurrection of Jesus," delivered at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem.

The album sells for \$25 plus the cost of shipping. You can order it through our website at lamblion.com, or you can place your order by calling our office at 972-736-3567. ✚



This is a greatly expanded version of our original video production about this crucial topic. It is a presentation that was shot live as Dr. Reagan presented it to the Pre-Trib Research Center's annual convention. The presentation received a standing ovation, something unheard of at this conference of scholars.

Replacement Theology teaches that God has washed His hands of the Jewish People because they are "Christ killers," and that the Church has therefore replaced Israel, receiving all the blessings that had been promised to the Jews. Dr. Reagan shows in detail how this concept developed in the early history of the Church as it came to be dominated by Gentiles with a Greek philosophical viewpoint. He demonstrates that the concept had become entrenched in the Church's theology by the beginning of the Middle Ages and was the source of virulent anti-Semitism. All throughout the Middle Ages, the tide of anti-Semitism continued to build until it reached its climax with the writings of Martin Luther — diabolical writings that paved the way for the Holocaust.

Dr. Reagan concludes by showing that anti-Semitism in the Church is still strong today in the form of anti-Zionism. The video runs one hour in length and sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping.

To order any of the items featured on this page, call 972-736-3567 or access our website at lamblion.com. ✚

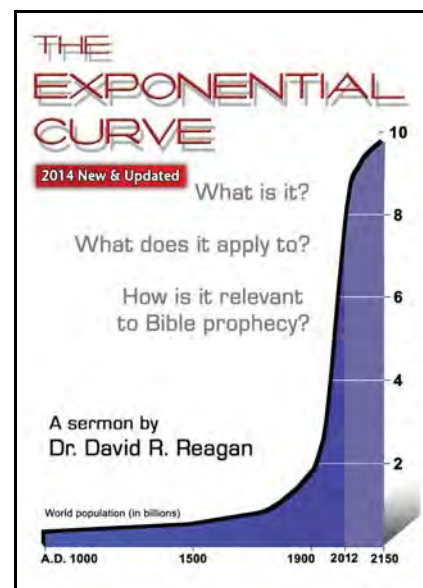


The book focuses on the evil of Replacement Theology and the tragedy of Dual Covenant Theology. In the process, it deals with the following questions, among others:

- Have the Jews ceased to be God's Chosen People?
- Are they guilty of the unforgivable sin of "killing God."?
- Has God replaced them with the Church?
- Has God transferred their promises to the Church?
- Have they lost all hope as a nation?
- Are they devoid of any role in the end times?
- If God still loves them, how could He allow them to experience the Holocaust?
- Do they have their own way of salvation, separate and apart from Jesus?

Other topics covered in the book include the phenomenon of Messianic Judaism, the hope of Christian Zionism, the horror of the Holocaust, and the most important prophetic development of the 20th Century. Dr. Reagan also takes a look at the Middle East crisis in biblical perspective.

The book runs 232 pages in length and sells for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. ✚



One of the most popular videos we have ever produced is now available in a completely updated version, expanded in scope and containing updated statistics.

The video contains Dr. Reagan's unique and fascinating presentation on "The Exponential Curve." In it he reveals how the Bible prophesies that all aspects of life will be increasing exponentially in the end times, and then he presents the evidence from every aspect of life, showing the fulfillment of the prophecies during the 20th Century — indicating, of course, that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

This is a fascinating study of the impact of technology on both common life and world events. Dr. Reagan covers the exponential increase in population, knowledge, communications, natural disasters, military power, and computer technology. He presents an overview of the exponential changes in world politics, and he surveys the evidence of the exponential decline in morality and the stability of society. But he ends on a positive tone by pointing out that the exponential curve also applies to worldwide evangelism.

He concludes by observing that the exponential curve is both ferocious and sudden, in fulfillment of what the Bible means when it says that in the end times people will be saying, "Peace and safety!" when "sudden destruction" will come upon them (1 Thess. 5:3). The running time is 50 minutes. \$12 plus the cost of shipping. ✚

Ministry News

Speaking Schedule — Dr. Reagan will begin the month of **November** by speaking at a Bible conference at First Christian Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, together with James Walker of Watchman Fellowship and Henry Morris III of The Institute for Creation Research (7-9). Later in November Nathan Jones will be speaking at Grace Bible Church in Winchester, Kentucky (14-16). In **December** Dr. Reagan and the ministry's video crew will interview Bible prophecy experts attending the annual Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas (1-3). Due to his wife's illness, Dr. Reagan will be limiting his speaking engagements during **2015** to one out-of-town appearance per month. But our other evangelists, Tim Moore and Nathan Jones, are available to accept invitations.

2015 Calendar — Our 2015 Holy Land calendar is ready for distribution. It contains 13 full color photographs taken in Israel. It sells for \$5 plus the cost of mailing. Consider this calendar for your Christmas gifts.



Mail Room Staff — We are very blessed to have a great mail room staff who work tirelessly to process the hundreds of orders that we receive from television viewers and others. They are pictured below.



From left to right: Joyce Shurtleff, Jana Olivieri, Rachel Houck and Tony Privitt. (Missing is Cathie Grubb.)

Finance Staff — Our finance department consists of three outstanding servants of the Lord, all of whom are pictured below. Our senior staff member, George Collich, who has been with us for 24 years, is our Director of Finance.



Left to right: Reva Frye, George Collich and Kay Bien. Kay is ringing a cow bell that is rung each time we receive a gift of \$500 or more.

Mission Spotlight — The Lord continues to use our ministry as a channel of funds to the persecuted Christians of Nigeria. We are working there through the supervision of a great man of God named Standfast Oyinna. About three years ago, his village was burned to the ground by Muslim fanatics associated with the terrorist group called Boko Haram. A couple of months ago, it happened again. This time he and his fellow Christians fought back and drove out all the Muslims from their village. Currently, Brother Oyinna is supervising the distribution of aid not only to his fellow villagers but also to hundreds of Christian refugees who have flooded into his area. These people are desperate. The government of Nigeria will do nothing to help them. Please pray for them, and please consider making a special donation to help them survive. Below is a photo of what was left of Brother Oyinna's office after the latest Muslim attack.



Prophecy Partners — We need your help and support as a Prophecy Partner. To become one, all you need to do is inform us of your desire to join the program, make a commitment to pray for us regularly, and provide the ministry with a monthly donation of \$25 or more. In return, you will receive a monthly letter from Dr. Reagan about the ministry, together with a special gift (usually a DVD video program). You will also be eligible for discounts on many of your purchases of our materials. Hope to hear from you! ✚



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New Video about Hell

Did you know?

- Hell is a real place.
- Hell and Hades are not the same place.
- Hell was created as the eternal abode of Satan and his angels.
- There is no one in Hell now.
- There are going to be degrees of punishment in Hell.
- The soul is not inherently immortal.
- Believers do not become immortal until they are resurrected.
- Unbelievers never become immortal.
- For unbelievers, Hell results in an eternal punishment, but not eternal punishing.
- Unbelievers are promised they will “perish,” they will suffer “destruction,” they will be “consumed by fire,” and they will experience a “second death.”

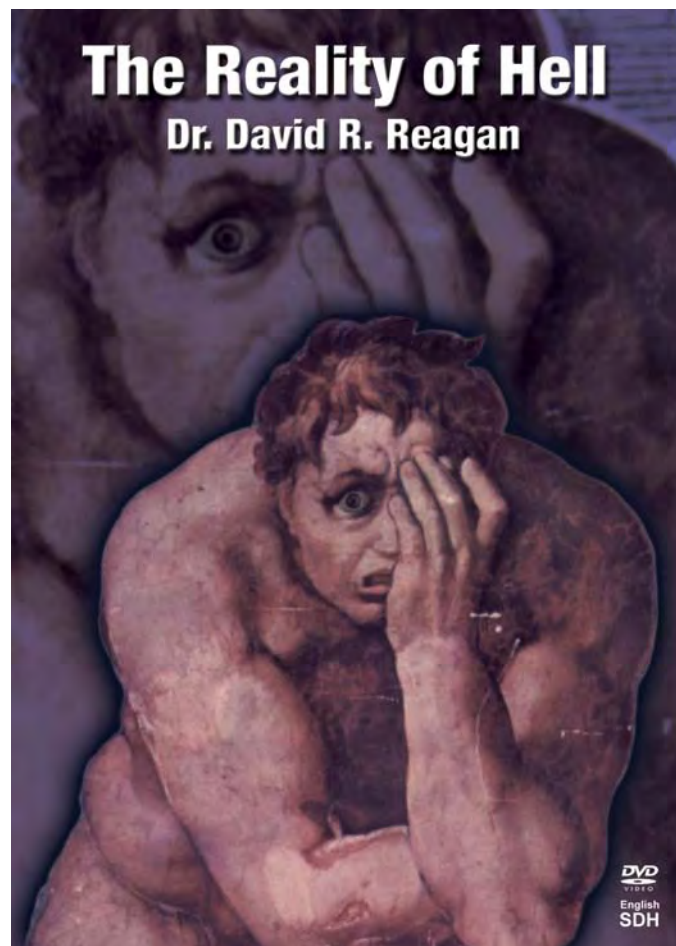
These and many other insights drawn directly from the Scriptures are shared in this video program by Dr.



Dr. David R. Reagan

David R. Reagan, the founder of Lamb & Lion Ministries and the host of the nationally broadcast television program, “Christ in Prophecy.”

There are two Evangelical views of Hell — the Traditionalist view that Hell is a



place of eternal torment and the Conditionalist view that Hell is a place of torment followed by destruction. In this video Dr. Reagan presents both views and evaluates them from what the Scriptures have to say.

The video sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. Or, you can place your order through our website at lamblion.com. ♦

