

LAMPLIGHTER



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

Vol. XL

November 2019 December

No. 6

**The Miracle of
The Incarnation**



The Lamplighter

is published bi-monthly
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

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Observations by the Editor

Censorship

Dr. David R. Reagan

Christianity in America is under attack. All across this nation, attempts are being made to silence Christians. Liberals, Socialists and so-called "Progressives" like to preach tolerance, but they refuse to practice it toward those who disagree with them. Let me share a few examples with you:

1 A prison in Arkansas recently refused to allow one of its inmates to receive the July-August edition of this magazine because the prison authorities labeled it as "material that incites, encourages, advocates or promotes racism or other illegal discrimination." The only article in the magazine that could have provoked this arbitrary and highly subjective decision was one written by a professional Christian journalist in London, England — a lady named Pat Franklin. The article was about the gender madness that has swept this country, as well as Europe. In the article, she simply asserted that there are only two genders — male and female — and she proceeded to quote the Scriptures to prove her point. I wrote a letter to the warden and pointed out that the article just quoted what the Bible has to say on the subject. I then asked if he was willing to ban the Bible? I never got a response. But about a month later the inmate wrote and told us that the magazine had been released to him.

2 Michael Brown is one of the best known Messianic Jews in America and is an outstanding prophetic voice calling this nation to repentance. He recently reported that several of his videos were canceled from the Vimeo Internet channel because they had a "mean-spirited vibe," whatever that gobbledegook means. In 2017, this same channel removed many videos that had been posted by a former homosexual who heads up a ministry to homosexuals, calling them to repentance.

3 Billy Crone is a pastor and Bible prophecy teacher in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has many powerful videos posted on the Internet. Recently, PayPal suspended his account and froze the funds in the account. When he called to find out why, he was told he would have to hire



an attorney and serve them with a subpoena to get an answer!

4 The American Family Association has been targeted by the Ways and Means Committee in the Federal House of Representatives to have its tax exempt status suspended because some of the Democrats on the committee consider it to be a "hate organization." And what is the nature of its hate? It amounts to simply taking a biblical stand against homosexuality and endorsing the biblical definition of marriage.

These are only four of hundreds of similar attacks that are taking place daily. The bottom line is that the Liberals, Progressives, Socialists and leaders of the Democrat Party are determined to stamp out all Christian opposition to their perverted values.

It's only going to get worse. Once the Left regains control of the federal government — which they eventually will do — we can expect efforts to revoke the tax-exempt status of churches and ministries. And we can be certain that hate speech legislation will be expanded to outlaw all opposition to abortion and sexual perversion, among other things.

Regardless, you can be assured that this ministry will continue to speak out in behalf of righteousness. That may mean going to prison, but then Paul wrote some of his best epistles from prison!

I am reminded of a statement that Don Wildmon, the founder of the AFA, made to me years ago: "We may not win, but God has not called us to win. He has called us to stand. We will not win until Jesus returns."

Maranatha!

The cover painting, "Adoration of the Shepherds," is by Guido Reni (1575-1642), an Italian painter of the Baroque period.

The Miracle of the Incarnation



“The Nativity” by Lenain. The paintings simply signed, “Lenain” were a collaborative effort produced by three brothers who were painters in 17th-Century France: Antoine Le Nain (c.1600-1648), Louis Le Nain (c.1603-1648), and Mathieu Le Nain (1607–1677). (Pinterest.com)

Dr. David R. Reagan

I was recently thinking about the miracles of God, and I decided to make a list of what I considered to be the greatest miracles of history. Below is the list I compiled:

- The Creation of the Earth
- The Noahic Flood
- The Incarnation of Jesus
- The Resurrection of Jesus
- The Regathering of the Jewish People

As I pondered this list, something struck me that I had never thought of before. In terms of Bible prophecy, there is only one miracle on the list that is unique.

The Resurrection

And it is not the one that most people would identify — namely, the Resurrection of Jesus. Many do not consider it to be unique because there are examples scattered throughout both the Old and New Testaments of people who were raised up from the dead.

But these were not true resurrections. Instead, they were resuscitations because each one of these people died again. A true resurrection is where a person comes back from the dead to live forever.

Thus, Jesus’ resurrection is unique for the time being. But Bible prophecy says that it will not remain unique, for a time is coming when other resurrections will occur. At the Rapture of the Church, all those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior during the Church Age and who have died, will be resurrected to eternal life. Further, at the Second Coming of Jesus at the end of the Tribulation, all the Old Testament saints and Tribulation martyrs will be resurrected.

The Creation

So, what about the first item on the list? Surely the creation of the earth is a unique miracle. Well, not according to Bible prophecy. Following the Millennial reign of Jesus, God is going to envelop this earth in fire to burn away the pollution of Satan’s last revolt (2 Peter 3:12). And we are told that out of that fiery inferno is going to come a new, perfected earth that will serve as the eternal home of the Redeemed. In other words, God is going to perform a miraculous re-creation of this earth (Rev. 21:1).

The Noahic Flood

The next item on the list, the Noahic Flood, certainly looks unique, particularly when you consider the fact that God has promised He will never again destroy the earth with water.

But what was the flood all about? It was a manifestation of God's wrath in response to the overwhelming sin of Mankind.

And Bible prophecy says that God is going to unleash His wrath once again in the future when the world will become as violent and immoral as it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37). We are told that God will respond to this wickedness by pouring out His unmitigated wrath during a period of seven years called the Tribulation (Revelation 6-19).

The Regathering of the Jews

So, what about the regathering of the Jewish people from the four corners of the world? This is a miracle that began in the 1890s and continues to this day.

It is true that there was a regathering of Jews from Babylonian captivity that began in 538 BC, but that was only a handful, namely from the tribes of Benjamin and Judah. It cannot be compared to the regathering we are witnessing today as God is bringing back to the land of Israel literally millions of Jews from all the tribes and from all the nations of the world.

Two times, Jeremiah prophesied that when history is over and done, the Jewish people will look back and will no longer swear by the God who delivered them from Egyptian captivity; but they will swear instead by the God who regathered them from all over the world (Jeremiah 16:14-15 and 23:7-8). The same God did both. The point Jeremiah is making is that the Jewish people will consider their regathering in the end times to be a greater miracle than their deliverance from Egyptian captivity.

But the regathering of the Jewish people we are witnessing today will not be a unique miracle according to Bible prophecy. That's because the Bible says that at the Second Coming of Jesus, He will conduct another regathering in which He will call every believing Jew left alive on earth to return to Israel to enter the Millennium in their mortal bodies and to become the prime nation on earth through whom all of God's blessings will flow (Deuteronomy 30:1-9).

The miraculous regathering that is going on now is a regathering in unbelief. The one that will occur when Jesus returns to this earth will be a regathering in belief.

The Incarnation

Well, as you can see, this leaves only one miracle left on my list — the Incarnation, that incredible moment when God became Man. This is the only unique miracle on the list. It will never be repeated.

And what a miracle it was! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Jesus was Emmanuel, meaning "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23).

When He became flesh, He experienced humanity, with all its trials, temptations and disappointments. He suffered emotional and physical pain. The only thing He never experienced was the grief of sin — until, of course, He was nailed to the Cross and had all the sins of Mankind placed upon Him, at which

point He experienced a momentary break in His perfect communion with God the Father, prompting Him to cry out from the depths of His soul, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

All of this is beyond our full comprehension. After all, if we could fully understand the Trinity and the Incarnation, then God would not be God. His infinite, eternal nature as one God in three persons is beyond our finite minds.

The Incarnation emerges, therefore, as the most unique miracle of history. It will never occur again. Jesus is still in His resurrected, glorified body, and always will be. The wounds in His hands and side were visible to His disciples after His resurrection, when He was in His glorified body (Luke 24:39 and John 20:24-28).

I believe those wounds will always be there as a reminder to the Redeemed of the price that had to be paid for our sins to enable us to be reconciled to God the Father.

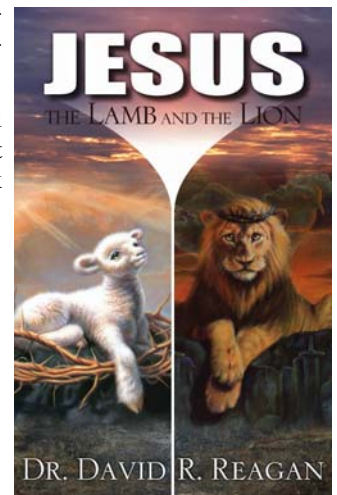
This Christmas, in the midst of all the hoopla that the celebration has become, let's remember what Christmas is all about — God becoming Man in a humble stable in the tiny village of Bethlehem some 2,000 years ago. Let's praise God for that incredible, sacred event, and let's shout, "Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" ✚

For More Detailed Information

Dr. Reagan's book about Jesus is comprehensive in nature.

In addition to covering all the prophecies about His first and second comings, the book contains the following chapters:

- Jesus in Symbolic Prophecy
- The Truth of the Virgin Birth
- The Preincarnate Jesus
- The Divinity of Jesus
- The Miracles of Jesus
- The Death of Jesus
- The Resurrection of Jesus
- Evidence of the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection
- The Promise of the Second Coming
- Living for Jesus in the End Times



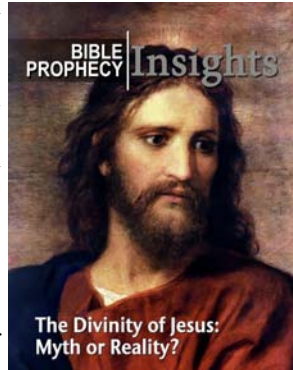
The book is 238 pages long and is softbound. It is written for the person in the pew and not for theologians. It is, therefore, easy to read and understand. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

You can order it through our website at lamblion.com, or you can place your order by phone by calling 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚

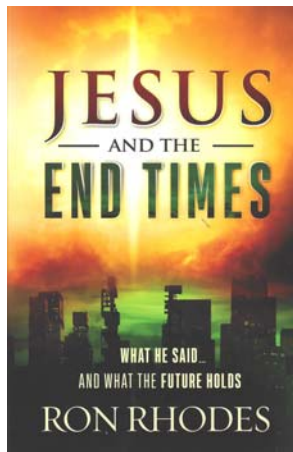
What About Christ's Deity?

Dr. Ron Rhodes

(Editor's note: My presentation at this year's Lamb & Lion Bible conference was titled, "Defending the Divinity of Jesus." Because of a ceremony that was scheduled at the end of the conference, I had to cut my presentation from the usual 50 minutes to 30 minutes. For that reason, I prepared an in-depth presentation in written form by the same title. It was distributed to all the conference participants at the end of the conference. Printed copies can be purchased at \$5 each. Free pdf copies can be downloaded from our website at lamblion.com.



One of the issues I did not have room to mention in the publication is the assertion by unbelievers that Jesus could not have been God in the flesh because of His statement recorded in Matthew 24:36 where He said, "But of that day and hour [the day of His return] no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." So, the critics ask, "If Jesus truly was God in the flesh, why did He say He did not know the date when He would return to earth?"



In his newest book, *Jesus and the End Times* (Harvest House, 2019), Dr. Ron Rhodes presents an answer to that question. Dr. Rhodes is a prolific writer with over one million copies of his books in print. He is also a frequent speaker at our Bible conferences. This article is excerpted from his book.)

If Jesus Himself does not know "the day or hour" of His return, and only the Father knows, what does this say about Jesus' deity? This is a critically important question and deserves a thorough answer.

I can promise you that there is indeed a good answer. But it requires that I provide a bit of theological backdrop relating to the incarnation. Though a bit complex, the point I want you to grasp is that the eternal Son of God, prior to the incarnation, was one in person and nature. (He had a wholly divine nature.)

The Impact of the Incarnation

At the incarnation, however, Jesus became two in nature (divine and human) while remaining one person. The Son, who had already been a person for all eternity past, joined Himself not with a human person but with a human nature at the incarnation.

(I know this may seem a bit confusing, but hang with me. I'll clarify my meaning below.)

One of the most complex aspects of the relationship between Christ's two natures is that, while the attributes of one nature are never attributed to the other, the attributes of both natures are properly attributed to His one person.

Here's what I mean: Christ — as God in human flesh — had at the same moment in time what seem to be contradictory qualities. He was finite yet infinite, weak yet omnipotent, increasing in knowledge yet omniscient, limited to being in one place at one time yet omnipresent. In the incarnation, the person of Christ is the partaker of the attributes of both natures so that whatever may be affirmed of either nature — human or divine — may be affirmed of the one person of Jesus Christ.

Fully Man and Fully God

Though Christ sometimes operated in the sphere of His humanity and at other times in the sphere of His deity, in all cases, what He did and what He was could be attributed to His one person. Even though Christ in His human nature knew hunger (Luke 4:2), weariness (John 4:6), and the need for sleep (Luke 8:23), in His divine nature He was omniscient (John 2:24), omnipresent (John 1:48), and omnipotent (John 11:42-43). All of that was experienced by the one person of the incarnate Christ.

The Gospel accounts clearly show that at different times, Christ operated under the major influence of one or the other of His two natures. Indeed, He operated in the human sphere to the extent that it was necessary for Him to accomplish His earthly purpose as determined in the eternal plan of salvation. At the same time, He operated in the divine sphere to the extent that it was possible during the period of His humiliation on earth (Philippians 2:6-9).

Here is the key point: ***Both of Christ's natures came into play in many events recorded in the Gospels.***

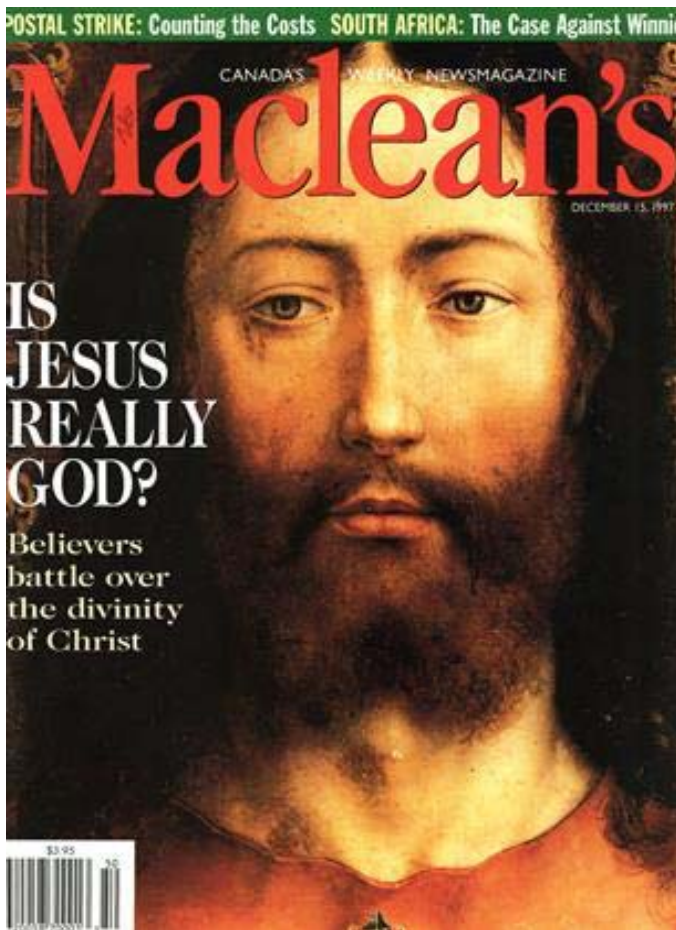
Examples

For example, Christ's initial approach to the fig tree (Matthew 21:19a) to pick and eat a fig to relieve His hunger reveals that His human mind was unaware of the tree's condition. (That is, in His humanity, He did not know from a distance that there was no fruit on that tree.) But then He immediately revealed His divine omnipotence by causing the tree to instantly wither (verse 19b).

On another occasion, Jesus, in His divine omniscience, knew that His friend Lazarus had died, so He set off for Bethany (John 11:11). When Jesus arrived, He asked (in his humanness, without exercising omniscience) where Lazarus had been laid (verse 34).

Theologian Robert Reymond notes that as the God-man, Jesus was "simultaneously omniscient as God (in company with the other persons of the Godhead) and ignorant of some things as man (in company with the other persons of the human race)."

All this helps to give a proper understanding of Jesus's comment in Matthew 24:36 [about not knowing when He would return] . . . In this passage Jesus was speaking from the vantage point of His humanity. As a human being, Jesus was not omniscient, but was limited in understanding, just as all humans are. If Jesus had been speaking from the perspective of His divinity, He would not have said the same thing.



Jesus' Omniscience

Scripture is abundantly clear that in His divine nature, Jesus was omniscient — just as omniscient as the Father. The apostle John said of Jesus that “no one needed to tell Him about human nature, for He knew what was in each person’s heart” (John 2:25). The disciples said, “Now we understand that you know everything, and there’s no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God” (John 16:30). After the resurrection, when Jesus asked Peter for the third time whether Peter loved Him, the disciple responded, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you” (John 21:17).

Bible scholar Thomas Schultz has provided an excellent summary of the abundant evidence for Christ’s omniscience:

First, He knows the inward thoughts and memories of man, an ability peculiar to God (1 Kings 8:39 and Jeremiah 17:9-16). He saw the evil in the hearts of the scribes (Matthew 9:4); He knew beforehand those who would reject Him (John 13:11) and those who would follow Him (John 10:14). He could read the hearts of every man and woman (Mark 2:8; John 1:48; 2:24-25; 4:16-19; Acts 1:24; 1 Corinthians 4:5 and Revelation 2:18-23). A mere human can no more than make an intelligent guess as to what is in the hearts and minds of others.

Second, Christ has knowledge of other facts beyond the possible comprehension of any man. He knew just where the fish were in the water (Luke

5:4-6 and John 21:6-11), and He knew future events (John 11:11 and 18:4), details that would be encountered (Matthew 21:2-4) and He knew that Lazarus had died (John 11:14).

Third, He possessed an inner knowledge of the God-head, showing the closest possible communion with God as well as perfect knowledge. He knows the Father as the Father knows Him (Matthew 11:27; John 7:29; 8:55; 10:15 and 17:25).

The fourth and consummating teaching of Scripture along this line is that Christ knows all things (John 16:30 and 21:17), and that in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

Certainly a key affirmation of Christ’s omniscience is the fact that He hears and answers the prayers of His innumerable people (1 Peter 3:12 and 1 John 5:15) . . .

A Final Thought and a Summary

Now, here’s something important to think about: Philippians 2:6-7 says of Jesus that “though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.”

When this text tells us that Christ gave up His divine privileges, it means He submitted to a voluntary nonuse of some of His divine attributes *on some occasions* in order to accomplish His messianic objectives. Christ could never have actually surrendered any of His attributes, for then He would have ceased to be God. But He could (and did) voluntarily cease using some of them on occasion during His time on earth in order to live among human beings and their limitations.

To sum up, then, Christ, in His deity, has absolute and undiminished omniscience. He knows all. But in His humanity, Jesus was just as ignorant as any other human. When He became incarnate, there were occasions when He chose not to use His divine attributes. Matthew 24:36 is an example of this. In this verse, Jesus spoke only as a human. ❖

Ron Rhodes is the founder and president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries (ronrhodes.org). He is the author of over 60 books (including three Silver Medallion winners). As time permits, he teaches cult apologetics at various seminaries, including Dallas Theological Seminary, where he earned his doctorate in theology degree. He has served as a featured speaker at the Lamb & Lion annual Bible conference more than any other speaker.



Dr. Ron Rhodes

How Can the Incarnation be Reconciled with God's Immutability?

GotQuestions.org

(Editor's note: GotQuestions.org is one of the most useful websites on the Internet for Bible study. The site contains biblically based Evangelical answers to thousands of questions, and they are all presented in condensed and easy to understand articles. This is one of them, and it is used by permission.)

Question: Malachi 3:6 says that God cannot change. If God cannot change, then how can He become man?

Answer: Great theological minds have had to wrestle with this very question, often in the course of responding to false teachers. As the early theologians formulated their answers, they upheld the affirmations of Scripture.

On the one hand, they upheld the full divinity of Jesus Christ, and rightly so. There are biblical passages that explicitly assert His divinity, such as John 1:1, and other passages which imply His divinity by showing Him performing actions that only God can do: judging humanity, forgiving sin, healing people and creating the cosmos.

At the same time, the early theologians upheld the full humanity of Jesus Christ. Scripture gives proof that Jesus was a human being, able to suffer, die and experience weaknesses, both physical and emotional.

When "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14), He did not become two people (one divine and one human), but He became one Person with two distinct natures, a fully divine nature and a fully human nature. The Word was unchanged as He entered a union with sinless human nature in a physical body (Hebrews 10:5).

Here lies the specific answer to the question: as to Jesus' divine nature, He is unchanging; as to His human nature, He is changeable. As God, Jesus is unchangeable, infinite, ever-supreme in every way. But as to His human nature, He is changeable, subject to weakness, able to suffer, able to die. He is simultaneously divine and human, infinitely strong and suffering weakness, immortal and mortal. He is the God-man.

The Son of God did not change His nature at the Incarnation. The divine nature did not "blend" with the human nature — that would have required change. Rather, the divine nature resides with the human nature in the Person of Christ. The Incarnation means that Jesus can lay claim to both His divine nature and His human nature.

In John 17:5, Jesus prays to the Father, "Glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." Both of Jesus' natures are evident in this request. He refers to His pre-existence with God in which He shared the Father's glory (evinced His divine nature), and He asks to be glorified (evinced His human nature).



God must be immutable (unchanging), since He cannot degrade into a worse state and He cannot improve into a better state. He is ever-perfect and, as God, cannot be otherwise. Perfection is an absolute, and it is impossible for Him to be "more perfect."

By contrast, a human being lacks infinite capacities. A human is finite and mutable and always has room for improvement, which explains the fact that Jesus "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

In the end, the great theological minds of the fourth and fifth centuries who wrestled with this problem responded by saying, in so many words:

We cannot fully explain it, but based on Scripture, we know that Jesus Christ was both human and divine. We are bound to affirm what Scripture affirms even if we must admit that aspects of the Incarnation are a wonderful mystery. Mysterious or not, we avow what God has revealed to us concerning this.

There is a wonderful connection to our salvation that flows out of this mystery of the Incarnation. It is that Christ, God the Son incarnate, is the ideal ambassador between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). As God, He can perfectly represent God to us; as a human, He can perfectly serve as our advocate before God the Father, making peace on our behalf. "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (1 John 2:1). ❖

Those Despised Shepherds

Doug Greenwold

(Editor's note: Doug Greenwold was called home to his Heavenly reward on June 23rd of this year. He was a very anointed commentator on Scripture context, and he was a very popular person with our television audience. His insights will be missed.)



Doug Greenwold is pictured above on our TV set with Dr. Reagan on the left and Nathan Jones on the right. This picture was taken during his last taping of one of our TV shows, in March of 2019.

It is easy to conjure up a romanticized view of shepherding when reading the 23rd Psalm. Not so in first-century Israel where the Rabbis decided who God likes — observant Jews like themselves — and does not like — an ever-growing list of reprehensible (to them) people, for example: tax collectors, prostitutes, Romans, Samaritans, Hellenistic Jews, people with disabilities, barren women, and yes, shepherds.

Why shepherds? In the creative minds of the Rabbis, sheep eat the grass on hills and lands owned by others as the herds migrate from south to north seeking food. Since shepherds did not pay for what their sheep ate, the grass was deemed “stolen” and that made shepherding a despised profession.

Many Rabbis had contrition and retribution woven into their paradigm of forgiveness. Because of the wandering “trespass” nature of their profession, shepherds had no way to provide retribution for the grass their sheep “stole.” Thus they could never be forgiven.

As a result, they were despised people who were perpetually unclean, who could never be trusted, and were forbidden from ever testifying in a Jewish court of law — who would ever believe them?! Welcome to the compassionless world of the Rabbis! It was to just this kind of a hopeless person living in chronic, cultural shame that God directed the angels to announce His incredible Good News!

Near-Eastern shepherding was one of the most demanding and least appreciated and rewarded tasks in first-century culture. Sheep are helpless and not particularly bright animals. They are easily spooked and will always impulsively react before they think. Sheep are also vulnerable to a wide variety of diseases such as ticks, insects and parasitic afflictions.

Consequently, they require constant attention and care. Shepherding is a “hands on” calling. It can’t be done from a distance. The shepherd must be with the sheep and they have to know and feel his presence.

The following is a condensed version of a shepherd’s daily life:

- Leading sheep to grasses that are good to eat. Some grasses are poisonous while others will produce nausea and stomach gas in the sheep. Other grasses look good, but provide no nourishment.
- Making sure that bully sheep will not run roughshod over younger sheep to get to the best grass first.
- Knowing how to store winter rains in cisterns so sheep will have water to drink during the long, dry, hot summer.
- Making sure that all conditions are met so that sheep will lie down at night and sleep, feeling safe and secure — full stomachs, adequate water, unbothered by flies, ticks, leeches or parasites.
- Protecting the sheep from lions, bears, wolves, hyenas and foxes; and scaring off these predators with a sling or fighting them with the rod.
- Lifting up those sheep that are suddenly “cast down” — who have fallen upside down into a ditch and can’t get back up on their own.
- Never giving up on a sheep regardless of how difficult and disobedient it may be.

Have you pondered why the greatest announcement ever made was given to humble, “unclean,” despised shepherds rather than to the proud Chief Priests in the Temple? Likely God was



“The Shepherds and the Angel” (1879) by Carl Bloch, a Danish painter (1834-1890).



Fresco in the Shepherd's Field Church in Bethlehem.
(iStock.com)

showing us what kind of oversight He desires for His flock. Not rich Temple leaders who were taking advantage of His flock. Not proud Pharisees and their Rabbis who despised portions of the flock “not like them.” Rather, God looks for caring shepherds with humble hearts who will provide His sheep with good grass and clean water while protecting, leading and guiding them.

Many years later, Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). As it says in the Isaiah scroll, “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young” (40:11 NKJV).

Do you want a glimpse into God’s ways? Note that these “despised” shepherds are honored by God with being the first to hear the “Good News” that Bethlehem night of His long-planned invasion of Grace. Giving shepherds a role to play as part of Yeshua’s birth makes perfect sense in God’s economy. These caretakers serve a highly symbolic role, modeling the kind of oversight God wants for His Kingdom on earth.

Shepherds exemplify the kind of pragmatic “seminary” training essential to a thriving body life — leaders called and equipped, not (just) to manage a church, or preach a good sermon; but to sacrificially care for, lead, and protect God’s flock.

What if every incoming seminarian had to successfully complete a two-month internship with Bedouin shepherds before beginning their (westernized) seminary training to become a “pastor”? How do you think that might impact/reshape/revitalize the Western Evangelical scene?

The angel’s use of the word “manger” is pregnant with meaning for these despised and unwelcomed shepherds. When they heard they would find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, they knew that only the poorest of parents would ever put their new born baby in a manger — a feed trough for animals, typically fashioned from stone (basalt or limestone) and occasionally from mud and straw. To loathed

shepherds who were undesirables in that first-century culture, the word, manger, communicated, “Maybe these are our kind of people. Maybe they won’t reject us and turn us away. Let’s give it a try and see what happens.”

A final thought. When those shepherds left the birth venue (most likely a half-cave, sub-basement for the housing of small animals) that Grace-invasion night, with whom do you think they initially shared this “Good News”? Not with Temple leadership, nor the Jerusalem aristocracy, nor the Pharisees and their Rabbis; not even with ordinary observant Jewish townspeople.

The only ones who would listen to them were other “outsiders,” people who had been marginalized and despised, people who likewise had little to no hope of ever being forgiven. As a result, the “Good News” of Bethlehem was initially propagated from one despised person to another!

Amazing, isn’t it, how God chooses to do things; what His priorities are; what really matters to Him. That’s all part of the incredible Good News — God has come to be with us (even with those despised and shamed by the culture).

Rejoice! It’s Advent. ✚



Painting of Bethlehem Shepherds by an unknown painter.
(Pinterest.com)

Lessons for Today From the Incarnation

Colonel Tim Moore

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, so that He might redeem them that were under the law . . . (Galatians 4:4-5).



Col. Tim Moore

The First Advent of Jesus can teach us some important lessons about the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, the timing of God and the blessing of living with an eternal perspective.

Literal Fulfillment of Prophecy

The Bible tells us that God the Father established His plan of salvation before the very foundation of the world. In other words, He knew that Jesus would come as a child, be born of a virgin, live a sinless life, be rejected by man, die a cruel death, serve as a propitiation for the sins of the world, be buried in a borrowed grave and rise again to demonstrate His power over death. Multiple prophetic passages foretold those various elements of the Messiah's life, death, and resurrection. Even the events of His conception and birth were prophesied in great detail.

In our ministry's publication, *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*, we have shown that although there are more than 300 different prophetic references in the Old Testament to Jesus' birth and life, many of these are repetitious. Those that are separate and distinct total 109 — all of which were literally fulfilled.

We therefore proclaim that the Lord will keep His promises regarding His Second Coming with the same exactitude, fulfilling each one literally. The prophecies concerning the gathering of His saints in the Rapture and His glorious return to earth will be fulfilled literally, just as those that pointed toward His First Advent.

God's Perfect Timing

There is another important and informative aspect of His incarnation that is often overlooked — namely, the timing. Scripture tells us that He arrived at the "appointed time."

Arguably, faithful Jews living in the era leading up to Jesus' birth would have longed for the Messiah's arrival much sooner because life in Judea under Roman rule prior to Jesus' birth was very harsh.

No doubt, the same hope would have echoed in previous generations as threatening foreign empires rose and fell and people were marched off into exile. And yet, the Messiah did not come at a time anyone desired or would have expected.

Instead, Paul wrote that God sent forth His Son "when the fullness of the time came," meaning that His incarnation occurred at the right and perfect time in human history. There is no value in speculating the advantage that might have been gained or the obstacles that would have been present had He come sooner or later. The Father set the time and the Son was sent.

Why the Delay in Returning?

With our own world descending into chaos and many hearts growing cold, you may ask, "What is Jesus waiting for? Why does He delay?" Scripture says that it's because God wants more people to be saved (2 Peter 3:9).

The Bible tells us He will return at the *appointed time*, known only to the Father in Heaven. In doing so, He will fulfill the prophetic promise He made to Abraham so many years ago and echoed to Habakkuk years later: "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you . . ." (Genesis 18:14 and Habakkuk 2:3).

For those of us looking for our Blessed Hope and awaiting our transformation in the twinkling of an eye at the Rapture, we must accept the blessed assurance that the time of His coming has also been set before the foundation of the world and that it too will be right and perfect. And we can praise the Lord, knowing that even His apparent delay is "for the glory of God and so that the Son of God may be glorified by it" (John 11:4).

The Blessing of a Spiritual Perspective



There is one more element of Jesus' First Advent that is instructive to us, and that is the blessing that was bestowed on those who were eagerly looking for the Messiah. Scripture tells us that Jesus was first adored by a group of shepherds, a group of sages who likely hailed from pagan nations (Isaiah 60:6 and Psalm 72:10-11), and two old but faithful Jews.

The Shepherds

The shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem would have been considered outcasts from polite society due to their menial task and would not have been highly educated. But as Jews they would have had some understanding of the promise of a Messiah. Following the angelic announcement they rushed to Bethlehem, eager to see the newborn Savior. Their initial fear changed to excitement and then to wonder and awe.

If you have come to know the Lord as your Savior, your fear should have given way to excitement. He is no longer your "Holy Terror" but your "Blessed Hope." Your heart should be filled with eager anticipation of seeing Him. Your wonder and awe should inspire you to long to be with Him and to share your

encounter with Him — just as the shepherds did regarding the Holy Child.

The Magi



A painting of the Magi by the Italian painter, Andrea Mantegna (1431-1506).

When Magi from the east arrived in Judea, they expected to meet a king. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they inquired about the “King of the Jews” so they could worship Him. But although the priests and scribes knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, they did not even bother venturing the five miles to go and see Him for themselves.

If you are a Gentile believer, you can give thanks that the Lord has grafted you into His family as a co-heir with Jesus. You can study the Hebrew texts and prophecies that point to the Messiah just as the Magi did. And no matter how humble your circumstances or giftedness, you can follow the Magi by worshipping Him and giving Him your very best.

The Expectant Ones



Anna and Simeon rejoicing over the arrival of the Messiah when His parents took Him to the Temple to dedicate Him to God. (The artist of this picture is unknown. It is a Google image.)

Luke tells us that outside Jesus’ family only two people in Judea were anticipating His arrival. Simeon is described as a righteous and devout man who was “looking for the consolation

of Israel” — a Messianic term (Isaiah 12:1, 40:1-3, and 49:13). Most importantly, the Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would see the Messiah during his lifetime. Is it any wonder that he was at the Temple waiting for the fulfillment of that promise?

Another saint was at the Temple that day — an aged prophetess named Anna. She worshipped the Lord day and night with fasting and prayer. She too was given insight to recognize that the baby Jesus was the promised Messiah when His parents brought Him to the Temple to dedicate Him to God.

Both of those faithful souls were blessed to see the Messiah, and they praised God for the privilege. Anna was so exuberant in her joy that she shared the good news with others who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:38).

Tellingly, those others might have been looking forward to deliverance from the trials and tribulations of life under Roman rule, but only Simeon and Anna were living with spiritual expectation — aligning their lives to witness the Messiah’s arrival. They knew the ancient prophecies of Scripture, so they were looking forward. The blessing of recognizing the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit’s promise led them to burst forth in praise to God.

Summary

Are you aware of the promises in Scripture that point to Jesus’ soon return? Do you trust that the timing of His return will be perfect — determined not according to the whim of man but by the will of the Father? And, are you eagerly awaiting His arrival?

I believe that the Holy Spirit will reveal to many whose hearts are fully devoted to Him — like Simeon and Anna — that they will not see death before they have witnessed Jesus Christ coming in glory. As we follow Mary’s example and ponder all the events surrounding Jesus’ birth, let’s also determine to apply the lessons of His incarnation to our anticipation of His return.

As wise men and women, we can study the ancient texts to discern the prophetic promises of God. Let’s determine not to become impatient with God but trust in His perfect timing. And, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, let’s purpose to live expectantly — “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

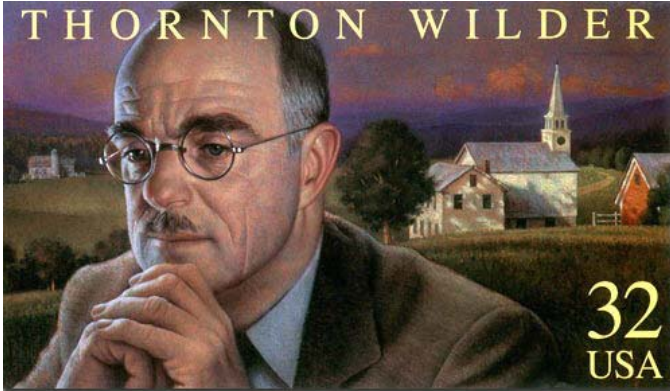
The promises of God are absolute. The timing of the Rapture and Jesus’ Second Coming will be perfect, reflecting the righteous will of the Father. If you know His promises and are eagerly awaiting Him, you will be blessed with joy indescribable. Soon and very soon He will return — and we will dwell with Him forevermore. ✚

Tim Moore is a retired Air Force Colonel. He serves as the Associate Evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries and is Dr. Reagan’s designated successor. He also leads the ministry’s pilgrimages to Israel. He is scheduled to become the Director and Senior Evangelist of Lamb & Lion Ministries in late 2021. Email him at tmoore@lamblion.com to schedule a speaking engagement or to inquire about our Holy Land pilgrimages.

The Address of the Messiah

Dr. David R. Reagan

My all-time favorite drama is *Our Town*, written in 1937 by Thornton Wilder and performed for the first time in 1938, the year of my birth.



Thornton Wilder was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1897. From age 9 to 17 he lived in China where his father was the U.S. Counsel to Hong Kong and Shanghai. Wilder earned degrees at both Yale and Princeton. He died in 1975 at age 78. By that time he had become an American icon and was internationally recognized as an outstanding playwright and novelist.

I witnessed *Our Town* my first time in 1953 when I was in junior high school. It impacted me so profoundly that I wept on and off for three days afterwards. It is a story about family life in a small New Hampshire town, Grover's Corners, at the turn of the 20th Century. It is a deceptively simple, down-to-earth story that emphasizes the beauty and sacredness of life.

There is a scene in the play where a sister shares an insight with her brother:¹

Rebecca: I never told you about a letter Jane Crofut got from her minister when she was sick. He wrote Jane a letter, and on the envelope the address was like this: It said: Jane Crofut; The Crofut Farm; Grover's Corners; Sutton County; New Hampshire; United States of America.

George: What's funny about that?

Rebecca: But listen, it's not finished: The United States of America; Continent of North America; Western Hemisphere; the Earth; the Solar System; the Universe; the Mind of God — that's what it said on the envelope.

When I was recently reminded of this remarkable passage, I decided to use it as a format to write my own unique address:

David R. Reagan
The Milky Way
Planet Earth
Western Hemisphere
North American Continent



United States of America
State of Texas
County of Collin
Town of Princeton
Zip Code 75407
County Road 463
Number 2067

In similar manner, each of us has a unique address, and so did the Messiah. His address was spelled out in advance in Bible prophecy:

- 1) From the Shemite branch of humanity (Genesis 9:26 and Luke 3:36).
- 2) Through Abraham (Genesis 12:3 and Matthew 1:1).
- 3) Through Abraham's son, Isaac (Genesis 17:21 and Luke 3:34).
- 4) Through Isaac's son, Jacob (Genesis 28:14 and Luke 3:34).
- 5) Through the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8 and Luke 3:33-34).
- 6) Through the family of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1 and Luke 3:32).
- 7) Through the house of David (Jeremiah 23:5 and Luke 3:31-32).
- 8) Through a virgin (Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:19-25).
- 9) In the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1).
- 10) Would reside in Nazareth (Matthew 2:23).

Jesus, the son of Joseph and Mary of Nazareth, fulfilled every one of these prophecies, and in doing so, there should be no doubt that He was the Messiah promised by God through the Hebrew prophets.²

The Scriptures give the Messiah a unique address, an address that points to only one person in history — Jesus of Nazareth.

You know your current distinctive natural address here on earth. But do you know your eternal address? Can you say with absolute confidence that you have a mansion reserved for you in the magnificent New Jerusalem where the Redeemed will live eternally with God? (Revelation 21:1-7). Or, is your current eternal address a place of unimaginable horror called Hell?

The glorious thing is that you can decide your eternal address. You can do so because God in His unfathomable grace and mercy sent His only begotten Son to die for your sins, and when you place your faith in Him as your Lord and Savior, you are born again and sealed for eternal life in the New Jerusalem (John 3:16 and Ephesians 4:30).

Place your faith in Jesus today and guarantee your eternal address. ✚

Notes:

- 1) *Three Plays* by Thornton Wilder (New York: Harper Brothers, 1957), p. 45.
- 2) All the First Coming prophecies fulfilled by Jesus can be found in Dr. Reagan's book, *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*. 150 pages. \$20, including shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567.

Celebrating the Incarnation

This Time, No Manger

Lori Fiechter

Bluffton, Indiana

He's not coming back to a manger,
And He's not coming back to a cross.
This time, He's coming to a throne.

He's not coming back to Bethlehem
As a helpless little babe.
He's coming to the Mount of Olives,
And it will shake!

The first time, Jesus came to die,
To undo Adam's sin.
The next time, He'll come to reign,
And He will restore all things.

"Peace on Earth" will be more than
Just a Christmas card.

"Peace on Earth" will be reality
For a thousand years and more.

One thousand years on David's throne,
The Kingdom finally come to earth!
The King we've waited for,
The perfect Prince of Peace,

The Lamb and Lion who is worthy
Of our allegiance and our praise,
The Righteous One
Who will judge from Zion.

And what of us?
Are we like Simeon? like Anna?
Even the magi expected Him.
And what of us?
Are we looking for Him now?
Do we even know Who we're looking for?

Look past the manger,
Look past the cross,
Look up!

There is a Lamb who was slain,
And a Lion who will reign.
All creation groans in expectation
Of their Creator.
Redemption is approaching,
Feel the expectation in the air!

Look up! ✚



Lori Fiechter

Sometimes A Lion

Rebecca Huseby

Bonnars Ferry, Idaho

He was sent down to a stable, the most humble place on earth,
But the roar from that manger announced Messiah's birth.
The Lion of Judah come down to set us free,
Open wide the gates of heaven and proclaim the victory.

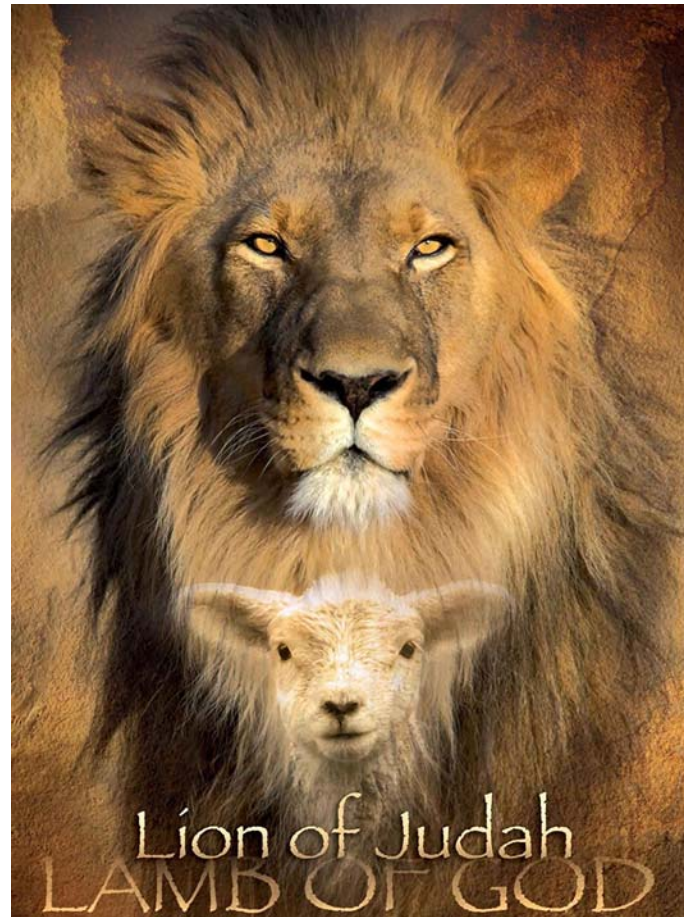
Chorus

Sometimes it takes a Lion — to break every chain
And give to us the victory again and again.
So when you ask Him what His name is, He simply says I Am.
Sometimes it takes a Lion — sometimes it takes a Lamb.

He looked down through the ages, and He saw me here today.
He knew I'd need a Savior and somebody had to pay
The price for my sins, or forever I'd be lost,
So the Lamb laid down His life for mine.
Hear the bleating from the cross.

Chorus

Sometimes it takes a Lion — to break every chain
And give to us the victory again and again.
So when you ask Him what His name is, He simply says I Am.
Sometimes it takes a Lion — sometimes it takes a Lamb. ✚



(www.amazon.in/Desgin-Studio20-Judah-Poster)

How Many Are There?

Nathan E. Jones

Lamb & Lion Internet Evangelist

One of the grandest spectacles along the parade of events marching towards Christ's birth was when Heaven's choir broke out in song way above the heads of the lowly country shepherds. The Gospel of Luke tells of this glorious event in the Christmas story (Luke 2:8-14):

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them . . . And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

As impressive as that worship service sung by the heavenly choir must have been, the Apostle John described an even more spectacular display of angelic vocals in Revelation 5. John had been taken up to Heaven and had just seen the resurrected Jesus — the Worthy Lamb. He watched as Jesus took the seven-sealed scroll out of the right hand of His Father who sat on the throne. Upon taking this scroll, which was the title deed to the earth, all Heaven erupted into praise!

I'd imagine John, as a visitor to the biggest worship service there has ever been, must have torn his eyes away from the Lamb for just a few moments to scan across the celestial crowd. The sheer number of worshipping angels must have boggled the Elder's mind. Later, when John had returned to his Patmos cave to finish writing down all that he saw while visiting Heaven, he recorded how many angels had been involved in worshipping Jesus. He wrote, "And the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Rev. 5:11).

That verse begs the question: Just how many angels were up there in Heaven participating in that glorious worship service? And, larger in scope, just how many angels are there altogether?

Well, that's tough to calculate. With 108 references to angels in the Old Testament and 176 references to them in the New Testament, not one of those verses provides us with an exact angelic count. The reader is left pecking through the various Bible verses like a puzzler picking through a pile of puzzle pieces in the search for the ones that, when connected, form a particular corner of the puzzle. Some of these "puzzle pieces" are:

- Describing an encounter with God, Moses said, "The LORD came from Sinai . . . And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones . . ." (Deuteronomy 33:2).
- When Daniel was given a vision of God's heavenly throne, he proclaimed that he saw: "thousands upon thousands . . . attending to Him" (Daniel 7:10).
- When Peter tried to defend Jesus at His arrest, Jesus told him He needed no defense because His Father could

supply Him "with more than twelve legions of angels" (Matthew 26:53).

- The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews referred to the heavenly Jerusalem as a place where there are "myriads of angels." (Hebrews 12:22).

With so vague a numbering system, it's no wonder that one of Job's friends exclaimed, "Is there any number to His troops?" (Job 25:3). There are so many angels that, when God answered Job out of a whirlwind, He compared the angels to the countless morning stars all singing together (Job 38:7). How many stars are there in the universe? Space.com estimates that our own single Milky Way galaxy could contain some 200 billion stars or more, and there are 2 trillion galaxies in the observable universe spanning a mind-blowing 48 billion light-year's radius, for a total of 1 septillion stars!¹



Theologians, such as Ron Rhodes, report more conservative figures based on the Scriptures.² Bearing in mind that angels do not procreate and never die, that means there remains a fixed number. The Jewish Kaballists have estimated 301,655,722. With such a massive number of angels, Thomas Aquinas concluded that there are clearly more angels than there are human beings.

I think we can conclude that there's not a single person, other than God, who knows exactly how many angels there are. The angels themselves may have lost count, like a child attempting to number the stars in the night sky.

And so, the vague biblical counting of angels is meant to convey a great but indefinite figure. I suppose it is one that will stagger the human imagination one day when we learn their true numbers. One thing we know for sure, as one commentator has observed: "[Angels] meet us at the beginning of the Bible, at its close and almost everywhere in between."³ ✚

Notes:

- 1) Elizabeth Howell, "How Many Stars Are In The Universe?," Space.com, (May 17, 2017), www.space.com/26078-how-many-stars-are-there.html.
- 2) Ron Rhodes, *What Does the Bible Say About . . . ?* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1997), pages 234-235.
- 3) Herbert Lockyer, *All the Doctrines of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1964), page 128.

A Deception of Satan: Christians Don't Hate Homosexuals

Dr. Eric N. Haley

Are you tired of how often the news media portrays Christians as hating homosexuals? This is one of the current trends in social media that Satan has parlayed — that Christians hate homosexuals.

Jesus said in the Gospel of John 13:35, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Christians love everybody and all races. However, a disciple is a follower. A follower of Jesus Christ is also a witness for Jesus.



Dr. Eric Haley

That means it is a Christian's duty to let homosexuals know that homosexuality is a sin before God. The Bible points this out in numerous places. I'll list a few in both the Old and New Testaments:

- "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22).
- "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them" (Leviticus 20:13).
- "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals . . ." (1 Corinthians 6:9).

Whereas all sin is bad, sexual sins carry their own special type of punishment. First Corinthians 6:18 reads, "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body."

Fornication is all kinds of sex outside of the marriage bond. Yes, God designed sex to be enjoyed within the bonds of holy matrimony: "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

Genesis 2:24 describes the first marriage, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." All sex outside of marriage is considered immoral (a sin in God's eyes).

As followers of Jesus Christ (disciples) we are commanded by Jesus to tell the truth in love. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching

them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God in Genesis because five judges approved of homosexuality in five cities of the plain. Remember on June 26, 2015, our United States Supreme Court legalized same sex marriage in all 50 states. This was and is a mandate directly opposed by God in the Bible.

The Bible explains that God brought judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, where he killed 23,000 that committed fornication, to be an example so that any societies reading the Bible would not repeat these same mistakes. First Corinthians 10:11 explains, "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

The same judgment that God poured out on Sodom can happen to the United States too. So, remember, homosexuals, Christians are not being mean when they witness to you about what the Bible says about homosexuality. Christians are sharing what the gospel of Jesus Christ says to you out of love and duty to God's command. We warn you because we love you.

Our nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. George Washington is credited with saying, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." Likewise, Abraham Lincoln said, "In regards to this great book (referring to the Bible), it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book."



(www.inc.com)

The question I ask the reader is, "Has America reached the point of no return? Will God take his hedge of protection away from America?"

Remember that just because you have the legal right to practice homosexuality, doesn't make it right in God's eyes. Two times in the book of Proverbs, God provides a very sobering warning: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25).

Something to think about. ✚

Editor's note: Dr. Eric Haley is the pastor of Little Zion Baptist Church in Mendota, CA.

Christian Megachurch Pastor and Author Joshua Harris Kisses His Marriage and Faith Goodbye

Larry Alex Taunton



In recent days the Christian world has been rocked by the news that pastor and author Joshua Harris is divorcing his wife and has renounced his faith. The latter is the real bombshell.

Harris first gained notoriety as a young man with the publication of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* (1997), a book in which he condemned traditional dating and encouraged parent-initiated and guided courtship instead. Though heavily criticized, the book had a noble objective: the idea was to date with more intentionality.

But one suspects that it had a very negative result for the author. Having been so open about his own courtship with his soon-to-be ex-wife, Shannon, and having offered it as a model for a healthy marriage, this aspect of his life fell under great scrutiny and pressure both from those within the faith and those without. Chinks in the marital armor became proof that he was wrong and that this recipe to successful marriage was no more insulation against divorce than a Paula Deen recipe is against diabetes.

Harris' recent announcement was delivered in the most modern of methods: in an Instagram post complete with a posed photo of this Christian defector looking out upon a beautiful lake in deep reflection, as if it were Walden Pond and he were Henry David Thoreau:

I am learning that no group has the market cornered on grace . . . I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus . . . By all the measures that I have for defining a Christian, I am not a Christian . . . I do not view this moment negatively. I feel very much

alive, and awake, and surprisingly hopeful.

In Christian theology, this is what is called apostasy. I shall not burden this column with a thorough explanation, but suffice it to say that it is regarded as the gravest of sins because it involves the rejection of Jesus himself. Of more interest to me here is how Christians process Harris' announcement. I get the sense that it has jarred the faith of many.

It shouldn't.

Coupled with Harris' social media post was a profession of "repentance" for his legalism along with an apology to the LGBT community: "My writing and speaking contributed to a culture of exclusion and bigotry. I hope you can forgive me."

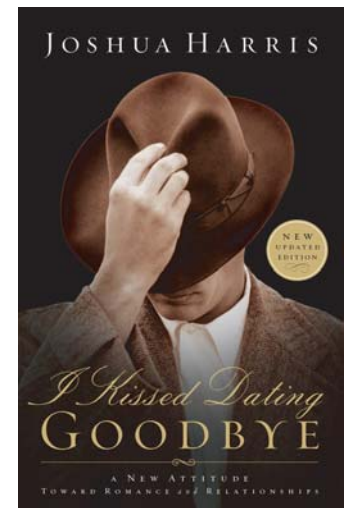
This is noteworthy. Not only is Harris apologizing for his own legalism, but he is also blaming the Christian faith for that legalism. That, it is implied, is why he is leaving the Christian faith: Jesus made him a judgmental person! He has finally seen the light, and that light is not found in Christianity!

He adds that he has received "strong words of rebuke from religious people" for his renunciation. Did he expect atheists to condemn him? The LGBT community? Not a chance. Harris would have a scriptural claim (Galatians 6:1-2) to mercy, understanding, and restoration from Christians were he confessing weakness, sin, or doubt.

But that is not what this was. Harris was celebrating his rejection of Jesus Christ, rubbing it in the faces of those he formerly taught, a "blasphemy against the Spirit" that many Christians regard as the only unforgivable sin. Harris' "journey," as he characterizes it, is not that of a searcher like Nicodemus or a doubter like Thomas; it is, rather, the path of Judas Iscariot.



Joshua Harris



The Christian life is hard. Our Lord called it a "narrow path." You will get bumps and bruises. Your marriages will hit the rocks. The kids will rebel. Your career won't always go as smoothly as you hoped. Doubts creep in, and so on. If the Christian's faith is built upon strict adherence to a set of rules rather than the grace of God and a work that he already accom-

plished upon the Cross, it will not endure.

Harris, it seems, has never understood grace. He has mistaken freedom in Jesus Christ with the shackles of legalism. But legalism, contrary to popular belief, has no place in Christianity. On the contrary, we have been set free from the Law (Romans 8:1-4). No, legalism is a condition of the human heart. Indeed, some of the most legalistic people I have ever met were not religious at all. They were adherents to secular ideologies like environmentalism and socialism.

It is interesting to me that Harris says that he has learned that “no group has cornered the market on grace.” I, too, have learned that in the wreckage of my own failures. Often the grace we expect from Christians is scarce. But that is only because they are sinners like we are whose default responses are not always consistent with their professed beliefs. Regardless, Jesus Christ is the exclusive author of grace, and in walking away from Him, where does Harris hope to find it? Instagram? The LGBT community?

Recognizing my own limitations to adhere to rules — I can’t even stop biting my fingernails — I am with the Apostle Peter, who said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” ✚

Larry Alex Taunton is an author, cultural commentator, and freelance columnist who has contributed to USA Today, Fox News, First Things, the Atlantic, CNN, and The American Spectator. You can subscribe to his blog at larryalextaunton.com. This article is reprinted with his permission.

Other Comments About Joshua Harris’ Apostasy

Will Vining

[I commend Joshua Harris, and] the reason I commend Harris is how he handled his departing . . . The progressive Church is full of those who made the same journey as Harris. The main difference between Harris and the progressive Christian is one denounced God and left the faith, the other molded God into the god they wanted, thus making an idol.

For example, Harris struggled with how Scripture taught on homosexuality. He has since renounced his opposition . . . and has made steps of amends with the LGBTQ community. He did not try to manipulate the scripture as the Rob Bells or Jen Hatmakers of the world, he simply didn’t agree. Instead of trying to change the Bible, he walked away . . .

What we’re seeing in this time period is the fallout from the Boomers. A rebellious generation embracing postmodernism has created a younger generation of postmoderns. Like the Israelites mixing in idol worship, we see the Church mixing in idol worship in the form of postmodernism, which has birthed the progressive Christian doctrine . . .

Joshua Harris has made the appropriate choice considering his lack of faith. Obviously, we would like to see all believers hold fast, but he could have done more damage by trying to hold onto Christianity and embracing the progressive doctrine to solve

his questions.

I believe Joshua Harris stands closer to returning to God than a progressive Christian . . . a progressive will have to deconstruct what they have come to believe, walking a hard road back home. All the while Harris is under no pretense that God endorses liberal doctrine . . . he does not agree with or believe in the God of the Bible; thus he’s leaving. Perhaps, he will one day see that God is good and is sovereign and return.

Ultimately, we would have a healthier Church if more behaved in the manner of Harris when they have doubts that drive them from the faith. My hope is that all will cling to Christ amidst the storm and accept by faith His ordinances. If one does not desire to hold on to Christ, then do as Harris has done.

If one chooses to change Scripture they’re running further from God than those who denounce the faith.

To the Joshua Harris of the world, my hope is in your reconciliation. I pray all who have wandered, near or far, may still hear the call of our Father. ✚

(The paragraphs above are excerpts from an essay titled, “Joshua Harris made the right decision, here’s why.” The essay was published by *The Christian Post*. Will Vining is a passionate follower of Jesus who lives in Austin, Texas.)

Albert Mohler

The headlines concerning Joshua Harris—indeed, concerning both Joshua and Shannon Harris—are deeply humbling to American evangelicalism. They should be very sobering. They should make us pray for the Harris and for our churches. They should lead us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel and exultation of the Gospel of Christ and simultaneously, an introspection concerning our biblical fidelity and the depth of our commitment to Christ and to biblical Christianity.

But this heartbreaking headline also reminds us that we can place our trust in no sinful human being, but in Christ alone, the One who alone is worthy of our trust. ✚ (Albert Mohler is President of Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.)

Kevin Rogers

Today, after I got the news, I read through Paul’s first letter to Timothy and found it very grounding. Several times Paul mentions former Christian leaders “swerving from,” “wandering from,” or “making shipwreck” of their faith.

So, while this is sad and confusing, it isn’t new. Christian leaders occasionally veered from faith at the very beginning. Paul says some had gone off course theologically. Others behaved in ways that violated Christian conscience. For others, it was greed.

In every case, Paul’s hope was for redemption and restoration — that these leaders would develop “love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (1 Timothy 1:5). That should be our hope and prayer for Josh as well. ✚

(Kevin Rogers is the Senior Pastor of the Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland — the church where Joshua Harris formerly served as pastor.)

How the Loud Left Hijacked Hate

Tim Wildmon

(Editor's note: Tim Wildmon is the president of the American Family Association which is headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi. This article is taken from his newsletter that was dated February 14, 2018. The AFA website is located at www.afa.net.)

One of the most insidious impacts of the "Progressive" movement of the last 20 years is the way the voices of the liberal left have imposed politically correct language on the American public by creating new meanings for old words.

For example, in an attempt to quash reasoned dialogue on important cultural and moral issues, the misuse of the word "hate" has worked very well for the left against conservative Christians.

Most Americans — especially Christians — recoil at the idea of hating people. Rightfully so. Therefore, if one can establish hate as the motive for opposing a particular issue or behavior, it sabotages any real debate. End of discussion.

The Progressive parade is crowded with societal movers and shakers. They control much of our culture — media, education, entertainment, business, and government. The legions are led by a fervent few, religious zealots in their own right.

Their religion is called Secular Humanism. For them, man is god, and there is no higher power to answer to. They reject Christianity and the morality of the Bible unless they can co-opt and twist it to further their own agenda. Their goal? To crush Christianity and rob it of its historical and traditional impact on our nation.

And it is working within and without the Church.

Let's look at how Progressives use the concept of hate against Christians. Think about this for a moment. The idea of hate has no meaningful context outside a biblical one. In other words, if God doesn't exist to reward and punish, what difference does it make if I hate someone? Why is it wrong? It's wrong because there is a God, and He defines love and hate.

In fact, God has charged His followers to spread the word that He loves all people and calls them to turn away from their sin and seek Him. When we do this, however, we almost always run into conflict with the Progressives' rejection of God and His standards.

For example, when it comes to human sexuality, Progressives have done a masterful job of seemingly turning Christianity against Christians. How? By convincing the general public — and even many Christians — that to speak against homosexuality or

transgenderism is in fact hateful. Thus, Christians must be haters, even though their Bible and their creeds teach love. It's akin to saying that because Christians believe drunkenness is a sin, we, therefore, hate the person who is drunk. The teaching of "hate the sin but love the sinner" is not allowed by the Progressives.

One illustration of this is North Carolina's HB 2, which simply states that on government property, one must use the restrooms, showers, and changing areas that match one's biological sex. Progressives immediately denounced and declared it a hate bill. End of debate.

Then there are many stories of businesses owned by Christians being told they must participate in homosexual wedding ceremonies or be closed down. Those Christian business owners were motivated by hate, said the Progressives. End of discussion.

In Mississippi, where I live, the legislature passed, and the governor signed, a law protecting people of faith from being forced to participate in homosexual weddings. That law, according to the Progressives, is a sign of hatred toward lesbians and gays.

It's hard to fight back against a barrage of lies when they're repeated 24/7 by the liberal media, and when well-funded LGBTQ activist groups pound on the doors of politicians and corporate executives demanding support and promising punishment if they dare side with those "hate-filled Christians."

Unfortunately, many weak-kneed Christians quickly fold on this issue. They either distance themselves from their fellow Christians or they go silent. In either case, it's shameful and cowardly.

The Bible is clear that the act of homosexuality is a sin. That has been the teaching of the Church for 2,000 years. But subscribing to this teaching today, according to Progressives, is unacceptable in this new world they are attempting to create — a world without the Christian God, but rather man, as supreme.



The truth: Christians do not hate lesbians, gays, or transgendered people. And without Christians, America would be a much meaner, much uglier place to live. American Family Association has never advocated hate for anyone, nor have we ever said anything but that God loves sinners and calls us all to repentance.

But we refuse to call right wrong or wrong right, and we will continue to stand on the Word of God and proclaim the truth therein.

End of debate. ✚

The Criminalization of Christianity is on America's Horizon

Peter Heck



Peter Heck

Don't be shocked when many "Christians" cheer the criminalization of Christianity. The number of supposedly Christian individuals whose moral compasses are calibrated to the spirit of the age rather than the authority of Scripture has become astounding.

As I read the enraged responses from professing Christians at the news that Vice President Mike Pence would be the commencement speaker for Taylor University (a leading private, Christian institution located in tiny Upland, Indiana) I realized something.

Keep in mind that Pence has been one of the most outspoken Christian public servants in recent decades. He makes no effort to hide his faith, acknowledging himself as, "A Christian, a conservative, and a Republican . . . in that order." Therefore, it is completely logical that a Christian institution would invite him to speak, in addition to the fact that he was a long-time Congressman from the Hoosier state, as well as its Governor, before

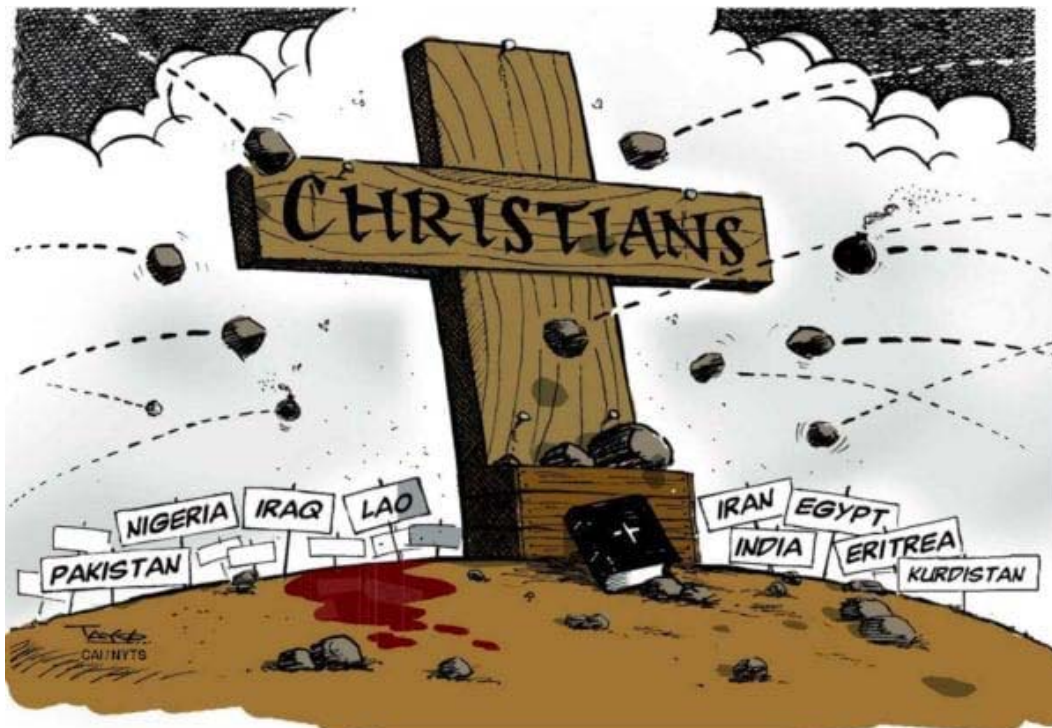
ascending to the second highest office in the land.

The odds of students at Taylor University getting the opportunity to have a sitting U.S. vice president deliver their commencement speech are minuscule at best. To say this was a coup for University President Lowell Haines and the rest of his administration would be a gross understatement. Haines announced the news by posting: "Mr. Pence has been a good friend to the University over many years, and is a Christian brother whose life and values have exemplified what we strive to instill in our graduates."

And that, the fact that a professing Christian, native Hoosier, and sitting Vice President would give the inaugural address at their school gave a number of alumni and current students the shakes. No, seriously:

- "I have never been made to feel so physically ill by an email before. Taylor University, you should be ashamed of yourselves,"
- A graduate from Taylor in 2015 began in a long Facebook post. "I am physically shaking. The fact that the school who claims to love and support me, and each of its students and alum, would invite such a vile individual to speak on the most important day of the year??"
- Another alum wrote: "The fact that Taylor would invite Pence as a speaker honestly kills me a little bit. I can't imagine what it must feel like for LGBT students to have to see this man's harmful bulls**t be honored on the Taylor stage. Really disgusting stuff, Taylor. Really ashamed to be an alum right now."

These voices were not alone. A few thousand signed a Change.org petition calling on the university to rescind its



Christianity is under severe attack all over the world, and that persecution has now come to the United States. More and more Christians in America are being subjected to persecution for their faith — in the military, the classroom, the work place and the public arena. (godinterest.com)

invitation. And that's when it dawned on me – when the criminalization of Christianity comes to this land (and it is coming), it will be championed by and met with the fanfare of many professing Christians.

The number of supposedly Christian individuals whose moral compasses are calibrated to the spirit of the age rather than the authority of Scripture has become astounding. Leaning on their own understanding they choose the attributes of a god they want to worship, one who seems “worthy” of their worship, and they bow to it. The God of Scripture is too narrow-minded.

When another Christian actually clings to the words of Scripture, not only are they reviled by the world, but a sense of guilt triggered by conviction prompts the culturally compromised Christians to react with bitterness, condemnation, and (ironically) a judgmental contempt. I say ironically, given that being judgmental is the go-to condemnation heaped upon Bible-believers by this crowd. All this leads to a surreal spectacle of Christians attacking other Christians as terror-inducing, vile, and stomach-churning. And that's just at Taylor University; Chick-fil-A could tell you a bit about this as well.

A couple years ago when my local city council was preparing to enact a non-discrimination law for sexual orientation and gender identity, several Christians in the community spoke out against the unintended consequences — everything from opening up girls' bathroom facilities to grown men, to the potential violation of the conscience rights of Christian florists, bakers and photographers.

When I stood for my public comment, I asked the council a simple question: “Your ordinance exempts ministers from this non-discrimination policy, ostensibly meaning that if a minister doesn't want to participate in a gay wedding, he doesn't have to. I'm curious as to why you've done that? What makes a Christian minister's right to conscience any less offensive, bigoted or discriminatory than a Christian baker's?”

While no councilman could or would answer my question, it sparked a conversation in which a culturally compromising Christian journalist in the town admitted on Twitter that he thinks ministers should have to perform such weddings. And if they don't? “Government fines, jail, and/or loss of tax-exempt status for the church.”

That's why I often tell fellow Christians that when the day comes that the government is telling them how they can and can't exercise their faith, the kind of beliefs that are acceptable and the kinds that aren't, and the type of public expression that will be allowed and the type that won't, don't be surprised when it comes accompanied by the raucous cheers of many wearing the name of Jesus. ✚

Peter Heck (peter@peterheck.com) is a speaker, author and teacher who hosts a weekly radio broadcast on WIBC (93.1 FM) in Indianapolis, Indiana. This column originally appeared on his website and is reprinted with his permission.

Persecution

Christianity Under Attack in the Middle East & Africa

Dr. David R. Reagan



Christians who had fled the unrest in Syria and Iraq demonstrate in Beirut in February 2015. (CNS photo/Nabil Mounzer, EPA)

The Catholic organization, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), has issued a warning that the persecution and dislocation of Christians throughout the Middle East and North Africa has become so severe that it can be considered genocidal ethnic cleansing.

A recent report commissioned by the British Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, came to the same conclusion. The report pointed out that in the Middle East, the population of Christians used to be about 20%, but now is only 5%. Likewise, the population of Palestinian Christians has dropped from 15% to 2%, due to Israel turning Bethlehem over to Palestinian rule.

Both reports attribute the persecution in the Middle East and Africa to militant Islamists. But both reports also emphasize that Christian persecution is worldwide, including for example, Hindu radicals in India, Buddhist extremists in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, and the totalitarian governments of China and North Korea.

The ACN report reveals that the exodus of Christians from Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East “highlights the real possibility that Christianity could soon all but disappear from much of its ancient homeland.” Take Iraq, for example. There were 1.3 million Christians there in 2003; today there are only about 120,000. And in war-torn Syria, the Christian population has declined from 1.7 million to 450,000.

On the positive side, the worldwide persecution of Christianity underlines its validity, for Satan has no interest in orchestrating the persecution of false religions. Christian persecution is also a fulfillment of end time prophecy. But, of course, this does not alleviate the suffering of those who are under attack.

So, let's commit to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. And if you want to do something in addition to praying, you can contribute to the Lamb & Lion fund for Nigeria. Through that fund we are supplying food, clothing, housing and job training for 250 Christian refugees in Nigeria who are victims of the Muslim terrorist group, Boko Haram. Just designate your donation for “Nigeria.” Thanks! ✚

The Politics of Greed

Dr. David R. Reagan

Our formerly great political system has deteriorated to the point where politicians are now appealing primarily to greed by attempting to purchase votes. Just consider the current promises that presidential candidates are making:

- The forgiveness of all college loans.
- A guarantee of free college education in the future.
- The provision of reparations to all descendants of slaves.
- A promise of reparations to same-sex couples.
- A pledge of universal medical care.
- The gift of a \$1,000 savings account for each new baby.
- The provision of free child care.
- A guaranteed job for every person.
- A guaranteed minimum income.

The Illusion of “Free Stuff”



(www.dealnews.com)

This insane list goes on and on. All the candidates seem to be yelling. “Free stuff! Free stuff! Vote for me and get free stuff!”

And people are responding like cows running to a fresh bale of hay. It’s a sad scene of unmitigated greed.

And who is going to pay for all this “free stuff”? The answer of the mob is, of course: “Someone else, but certainly not us.”

It reminds me of what H. L. Menken once wrote when he characterized elections as “an early auction on stolen goods.” George Bernard Shaw put it this way: “A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul.”

Modern day commentator, Louis DeBroux, has summed it up this way:

Of course, anyone with an IQ above room temperature knows nothing is free. Every good or service is produced at a cost, and producers demand to be

paid. So [politicians], while promising you free stuff, are really promising to make your neighbor pay for it.

Covering the Price Tag



So, if the greedy masses are not going to pay for all the “free stuff,” then how is it to be financed? The solutions being put forward are: “tax the rich,” “tax the corporations” and “print money.”

Did you know that you really cannot tax a corporation? That’s because when you put taxes on a corporation, the response is always one of three things or a combination of them:

- 1) Freeze or lower wages.
- 2) Reduce the dividends to investors.
- 3) Raise prices to the consumers.

The most frequent choice is, of course, to raise prices. In any case, it is people who end up paying the taxes.

So, what about slapping a 70% tax on the rich — or even 90% as FDR did? This is always self-defeating because such high tax rates curtail investment, resulting in a reduction in business activity. And that, of course, means a massive loss of jobs. This is one of the main reasons that the economic downturn in 1929 morphed into The Great Depression.

The Socialist Congresswoman from New York, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, has dismissed all the concern about cost by simply proposing that we “print money.” That is the prescription for a run-away inflation which would destroy the value of all savings.

Political Protection

The politics of greed is the inherent weakness of pure democracy. It will always end up destroying the democratic system.

Our Founding Fathers were very aware of this problem because they believed in the biblical view of Mankind — namely, that people are born with a sin nature and therefore cannot be trusted.

As we all know, they rejected monarchy. What is amazing is that they also rejected Oligarchy (the rule of the privileged). The reason that is remarkable is because most of them were aristocrats. But the point is that they did not even trust themselves. Nor did they believe in pure democracy because they did not trust the Common Man. They knew that pure democracy always evolved into mobocracy.

So, they established a Representative Democracy whereby, hopefully, enlightened persons with high morals and great wisdom would be elected to represent the masses.



(<https://politicallyincorrecthumor.com>)

This is why they insulated the federal government from the direct vote of the people. They accomplished this by making only members of the House of Representatives eligible for direct election. Senators were appointed by state legislatures. And the President was selected by an Electoral College whose members were, in turn, selected in any manner a state might choose.

The Erosion of Political Protection

Over time, this system of political protection from mobocracy has eroded. Consider, for example the selection of members of the Electoral College. At the beginning, electors in about half the states were selected by the legislatures; in the other states they were selected by popular vote. A trend toward popular election picked up fast, and by 1832, only South Carolina was still appointing electors.

Today, despite the fact that all members of the Electoral College are selected by popular vote, there are increasing demands that the College itself be abolished so that the President can be elected directly.

Meanwhile, the same trend toward direct election characterized the selection of Senators, leading up to the adoption of the 17th Amendment in 1913 which mandates their popular election.

Other roadblocks to mobocracy and the politics of greed which our Founding Fathers instituted were states' rights and the brilliant system of separation of powers and its built-in checks and balances — a concept based on the Scriptures (Isaiah 33:22).

States' rights have almost disappeared over the years due to the centralization of power in the national government. And likewise, the separation of powers has been undermined by the focusing of power in the presidency.

The barriers to the mob mentality are the reason our Constitution has continued to exist to this day — longer than any other constitution in history. But those days appear to be numbered.

The "Progressive" Agenda

The "Progressives" want no barriers to "the will of the people," regardless of how perverted that will may be. So they are advocating the abolition of the Electoral College and a scheme to pack the Supreme Court with judicial activists who have no respect for our Constitution.

Concerning the Supreme Court, it comes as a surprise to most people that the number of justices on the Court is not

specified in the Constitution. Six times in America history Congress has changed the size of the Supreme Court by either increasing or decreasing the number of justices — each time for political reasons.

"Power to the people!" That's the politically correct cry of today. It sounds so good, but it results in horrors like the French Revolution because there is no magical goodness in the people or in the majority vote.

The current attempts to abridge freedom of religion should be sobering to all those who think "the majority knows best." The same is true of increasing attempts to broaden hate legislation to include any speech against abortion, same-sex marriage, homosexuality or any other perversion, like pedophilia, which the majority may decide to endorse.

The Nature of the Crisis



(<https://tiktok.com/tag/socialism>)

The question looming before the American electorate is whether or not we are willing to sell our souls and our freedoms for "free stuff." I believe we are.

Keep in mind that in the last presidential election, the future of our nation — the Millennials — overwhelmingly supported Bernie Sanders, an out-and-out Socialist, and when he failed to get the nomination, they voted for Hillary. Remember too, that Hillary received three million more votes than Trump. The only reason Trump is our President is because of the Electoral College which the Liberals and Socialists are determined to abolish.

The most sobering thing to keep in mind is that all the recent polls reveal that only 9% of Americans have a biblical worldview, and only 15% of professing Christians can be characterized as "Bible-believing."

Our nation's glory days are over. We are destined for destruction, and the fundamental reason is that we have forgotten about God.

You have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not remembered the rock of your refuge.
(Isaiah 17:10) ✚

Television Schedule

An Appeal

Please pray for the effectiveness of our television outreach. And please consider becoming a Prophecy Partner. It is the donations of our Prophecy Partners that make our TV outreach possible. Call our office for the details of the Prophecy Partner Program (972-736-3567).

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks (9):

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, cable, broadcast stations, satellites and web streaming (daystar.com).

Word — Tues. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 373, Cable, AT&T U-verse, cable, satellites and web streaming (thewordnetwork.org).

CTN — Wed. & Fri. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 376, Dish 267 and web streaming (ctnonline.com).

GEB — Sat. 5:00pm CT, DirecTV 363 and web streaming (gebamerica.com).

GodTV — Thurs. 8:30am CT, DirecTV 365 and web streaming (god.tv).

NRB — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 and web streaming (nrbtv.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, and web streaming (tct.tv).

Upliftv — Mon. & Fri. 9:30am CT, DirecTV 379 (upliftv.com).

WHT — Sat. 7:00pm CT, DirecTV 367 and web streaming (lesea.com/wht).

Regional Networks & Area Stations (25):

Arizona

KASW — Phoenix, Sun. 7am PT, channel 61 (yourphx.com).

Arkansas

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas, Sun. at 10:00pm, Tues. 9:30am and Sat. at 2:30pm CT (vtntv.com).

Colorado

KCDO — Denver, Sun. 8:00am MT, channel 3 (k3colorado.com).

KXTU — Colorado Springs, Sun. 9:00am MT, channel 57 (fox21news.com/soco-cw).

Florida

WTOG — Tampa and St. Petersburg, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 44 (cwtampa.cbslocal.com).

Georgia

WATC — Atlanta, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 57 (http://watc.tv).

Kentucky

WBNA — Louisville, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 21 (wbna21.com).

WDKY — Lexington, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 56 (https://foxlexington.com).

Louisiana

FVN — Southern Louisiana broadcast stations and cable, Sun. 12:30am, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm CT (familyvisiontv.com).

KMCT — Monroe, Fri. 10:30am CT, channel 39 (http://kmct.tv).

KTAL — Shreveport, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 6 (arklatexhomepage.com).

WBRL — Baton Rouge, Sun. 9:00am CT, channel 21 (bproud.com).

Missouri

KMCI — Kansas City, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 38 (kshb.com/38-the-spot).

KFJX — Joplin, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 14 (fox14tv.com).

North Carolina

WCCB — Charlotte, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 18 (ccbcharlotte.com).

Ohio

WUAB — Cleveland, Sun. 7:30am ET, channel 43 (cw43.revrocket.us).

Pennsylvania

WPCW — Pittsburgh, Sun. 7:30am ET, channel 19 (https://cwpittsburgh.cbslocal.com).

Tennessee

WNAB — Nashville, Sun. 7:00am CT, channel 58 (http://cw58.tv).

WBXX — Knoxville, Sun. 8:00am ET, channel 20 (wvlt.tv/cw/home — WVLT is a sister station).

Texas

CFNT — Wichita Falls, broadcast station, Fri. 3:00pm CT (cfnt.org).

KCEN — Waco & Temple, broadcast station, Sun. 6:30am CT, channel 9 (kcentv.com).

KDAF — Dallas-Ft. Worth area broadcast station, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 33 (cw33.com).

KMID — Midland/Odessa, broadcast station, Sunday, 8:00am CT, channel 2 (yourbasin.com). **NEW!**

KSCE — El Paso, broadcast station, Sun. 10:30am MT, DirecTV & DISH Local 38, AT&T U-verse 38 (ksctv.com).

KUBE — Houston, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 57, Comcast cable 53, DirecTV & DISH local 57 (http://kub57.com).

Internet Networks (8):

Lamb & Lion — lamblion.com

HisChannel — hischannel.com

YouTube — youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

GodTube — godtube.com

Truli — truli.com

Vimeo — vimeo.com

DailyMotion — dailymotion.com/us

Roku — roku.com

FaithXtreme — faithxtremetv.com (Australia) ✦

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

LED BY EVANGELIST
TIM MOORE

EXPERIENCE THE
BIBLE COME ALIVE!

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH
LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

Lamb & Lion Ministries is excited to announce that dates have been confirmed for our June 2020 Holy Land Pilgrimage, hosted by our Associate Evangelist, Tim Moore. Tim is a retired Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. He is also a commercial pilot and has recently completed 13 years in the Kentucky State Legislature. Tim is an expert in Bible prophecy and an experienced host of Israel pilgrimages.

This exciting tour in the Holy Land builds on the foundation of the spiritual pilgrimage designed by Dr. David Reagan, Founder and Director of Lamb & Lion Ministries.



TIM MOORE, HOST
ASSOCIATE EVANGELIST
LAMB & LION MINISTRIES

Pilgrims will be visiting major sites throughout Israel related to the First and Second Comings of Jesus, and will be presented from a spiritual viewpoint.

The cost of the 12-day tour is \$4,530 per person. This includes airfare, bus transportation within Israel, hotels, all entrance fees and three meals each day. The only extra cost is a fee for tips. For a detailed brochure or to sign up and join the group, contact us at:

(972) 736-3567, Mon-Fri, 8a-5p CT
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This experience will bring the Bible alive to you and draw you into a closer relationship with the Lord - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who protects and preserves those who are His. Join us for this life-changing journey!

Holy Land Pilgrimage June 13-24



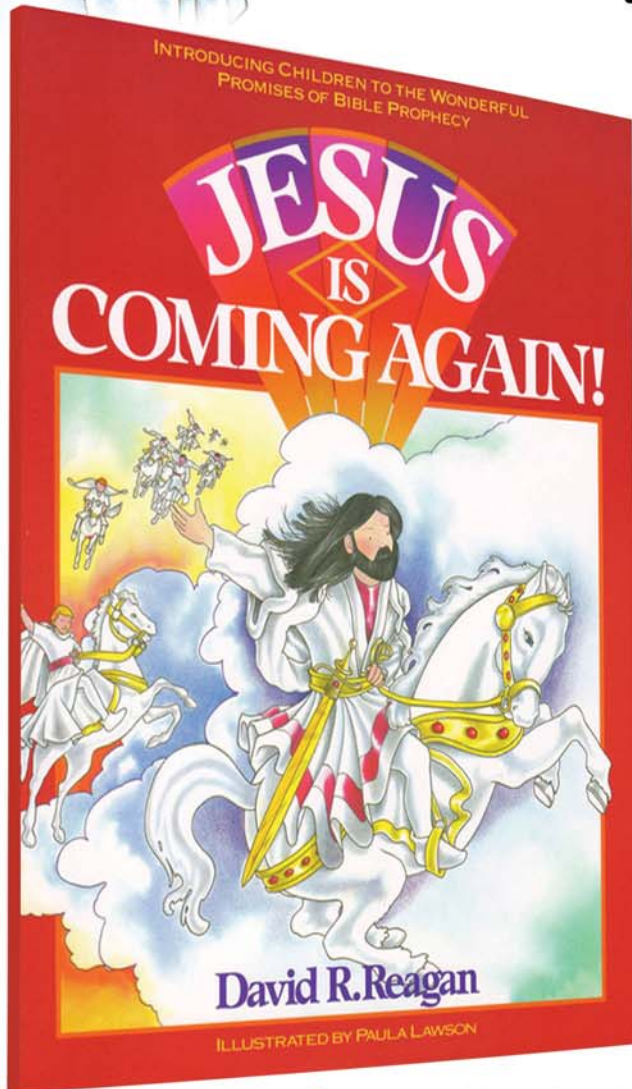
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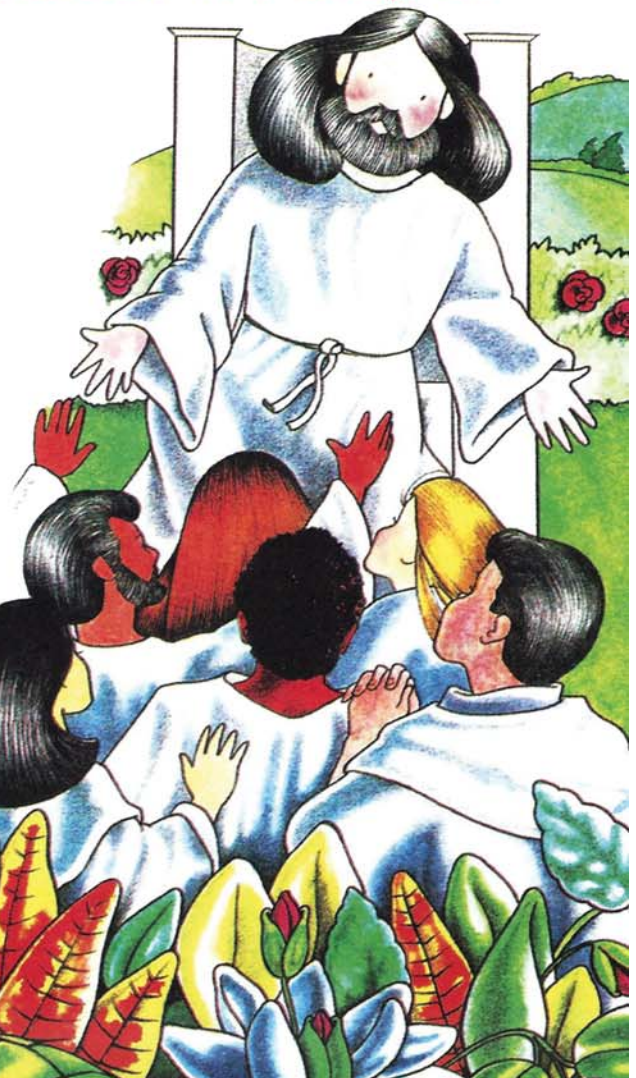
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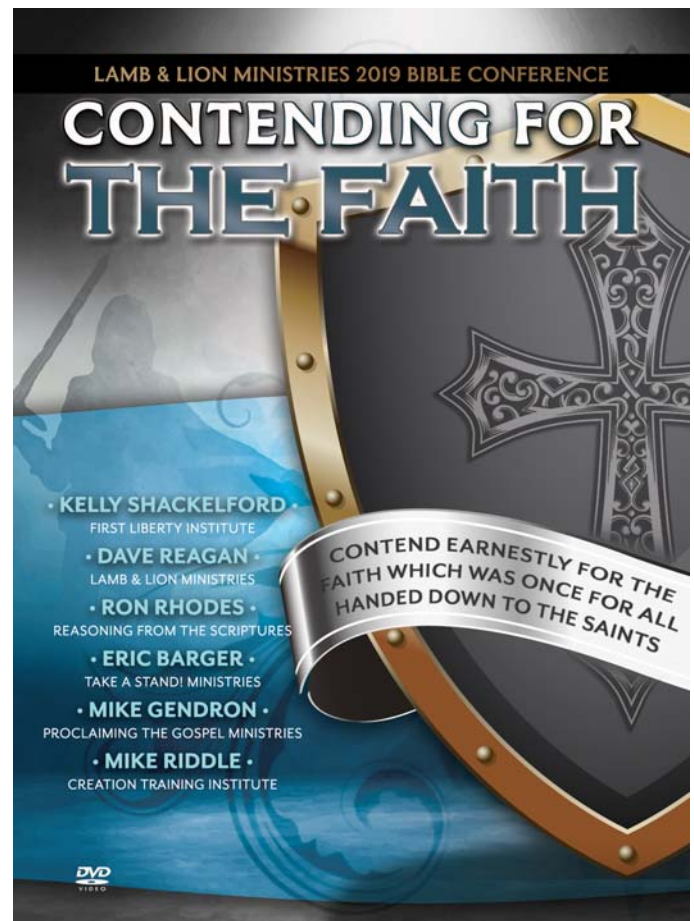


2019 Conference Video Is Ready For Distribution

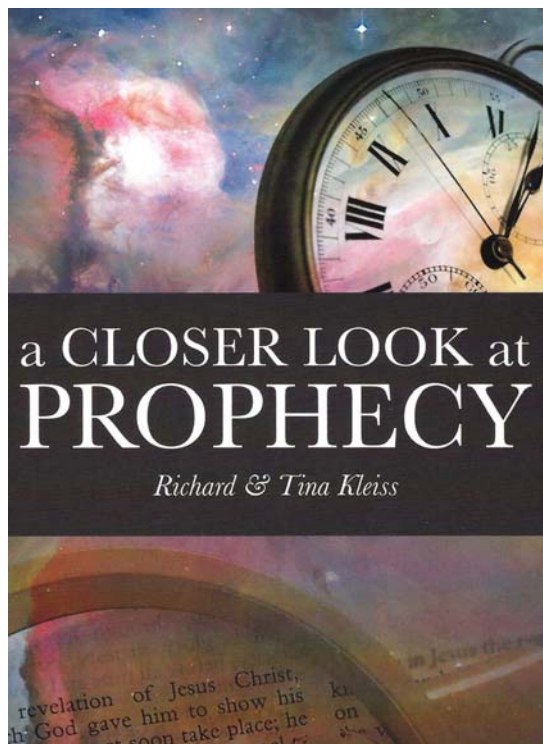
This album contains some of the finest presentations ever made at one of our annual Bible conferences:

- **Kelly Shackelford**, founder and CEO of First Liberty Institute, the largest legal firm in America devoted exclusively to the protection of religious freedoms. Topic: "Defending Christian Freedoms."
- **Mike Riddle**, founder and president of Creation Training Initiative. Topic: "Defending the Genesis Account of Creation."
- **Mike Gendron**, founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries. Topic: "Defending the Bible and the Gospel."
- **Ron Rhodes**, founder and evangelist for Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries. Topic: "Defending the Promise of the Lord to Return."
- **Eric Barger**, founder and evangelist for Take a Stand! Ministries. Topic: "Defending the Church Against Apostasy."
- **Dave Reagan**, founder and evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries. Topic: "Defending the Deity of Jesus."

The video also includes the "passing of the baton" ceremony during which Dr. Reagan's successor, Col. Tim Moore was honored. The album contains three DVDs. \$25, including the cost of shipping. Call 972-736-3567 to order. ✚



New Devotional Book



Reading this devotional book on a daily basis would be a great way to start off the new year. It would also serve as a great Christmas gift to family and friends.

The book runs about 400 pages in length, including the introduction and reference notes. (The pages are not numbered; rather each one is given a date for the year.)

Both First and Second Coming prophecies are covered. The authors use some very clever symbols which appear at the top of each page to indicate the content of the devotional for that page. The topics include: Prophetic Promise, Prophecy Basics, Scientific Foreknowledge, Prophetic Warning, Israel, Prophecy Fulfilled, Prophetic Type, Digging Deeper and Key Verse. Each devotional concludes with a quote from the Prophetic Scriptures.

Contributors include Bible prophecy experts like Henry Morris, Tim LaHaye, Ed Vallowe, John MacArthur, Noah Hutchings, David Jeremiah, Daymond Duck, Mark Hitchcock, Beth Moore, Terry James, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Billy Crone, Grant Jeffery, Bill Salus and Nathan Jones, among others! Thirty-six of the devotionals are by Dr. Reagan.

The book sells for \$15, including the cost of shipping. You can place your order through our website at www.lamblion.com or by calling 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, Central time. ✚

Ministry News

Schedule of Activities —

November:

Bible conference at First Christian Church in Elizabethton, TN [Reagan & Mike Riddle] (8-10).

The Trammell Creek Baptist Church in Greensburg, KY [Moore] (10).

December:

Board of Trustees retreat in Allen, TX (6-7).

January:

“Unity & Urgency Conference” at New Day Christian Church in Port Charlotte, FL [Reagan & Bob Russell] (11-13).

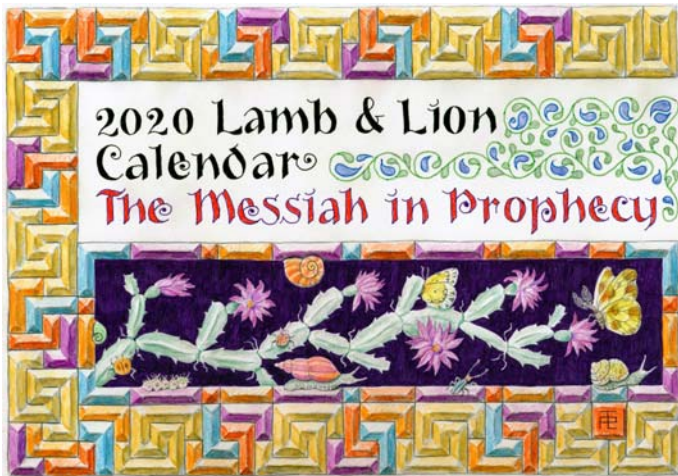
Prophecy conference at Love & Unity Christian Fellowship in Compton, CA [Reagan & Don Perkins] (19-20).

February:

Steeling the Mind conference in Coeur d’Alene, ID [Reagan and other speakers] (15).

Prophecy conference at Christ Community Church in El Centro, CA [Reagan and other speakers] (21-23).

2020 Calendar —



Our annual calendar is focusing this year on the Bible’s Messianic prophecies. It features the amazing watercolor calligraphy of a Christian artist named Richard Trefrey. The calendar sells for \$10, including the cost of shipping. Call for a special price for orders of ten or more. This would make a great Christmas gift. To order, call 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time.

Prophecy at Sea —

Our recent Bible prophecy cruise was greatly blessed. It was a brief one of only five days out of Galveston, with two stops in Mexico. Four other speakers joined Dr. Reagan in making presentations about the fundamentals of prophecy. Dave was blessed to meet many wonderful Prophecy Partners from all over the United States. And he was grateful for the opportunity to make many new friends for the ministry. We are hoping to schedule a similar cruise for next year, either in the Caribbean or along the coast of Alaska. So, stay tuned!

Appeal for Indian Ministry —



John Ishmael is shown above speaking at a Bible prophecy conference in India. The man with the microphone is his translator. India has two official languages: Hindi and English. But there are 21 other major languages. John publishes Lamb & Lion books and other materials in a variety of languages.

In the last issue of this magazine we announced that our wonderful colleague in India, John Ishmael, has finally been presented with the opportunity to acquire a permanent headquarters for his great ministry — after 40 years of seeking one! As I have mentioned before, they rent a facility, get settled in, and then the Hindu extremists come and put pressure on the landlord to evict them. This vicious cycle has been repeated over and over again.

Now, after several years of fervent prayer concerning the situation, a remarkable opportunity has opened up for Brother Ishmael. A close Christian friend of his is in the process of building an eight apartment complex that will be limited to Christians only. He has told John that he is willing to sell one of the apartments to him to be used as the office for the ministry. The price is \$313,589. Over the years, the ministry has accumulated a building fund of \$108,695. That leaves a total of \$204,894 that has to be raised before the end of December. To date, we have received \$138,250 designated for this project. This leaves a total of \$66,644 that needs to be raised before the end of this year. This money cannot be borrowed because banks in India will not loan money to churches. We need to help raise this money for John and his ministry before the apartments are completed in December. Please consider a very special and generous donation designated for this purpose. Thanks!

Persecution —

Many of the foreign missions we support operate under constant persecution and even life and death situations. Nazir Gill in Pakistan recently had his headquarters sprayed with bullets. No one was injured, but there was a lot of damage to his building and computer equipment. In Nigeria, herdsmen affiliated with the Boko Haram Muslim terrorist group recently ran their cattle over the crops being grown by Standfast Oyinna for his 250 Christian refugees. When Standfast protested to the local Muslim leader, he was told, “Cows need to eat too.” ✚



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New Book!

Dr. David R. Reagan

Nathan Jones' second book has just been published, and it is outstanding. It is the best book about angels I have ever read.

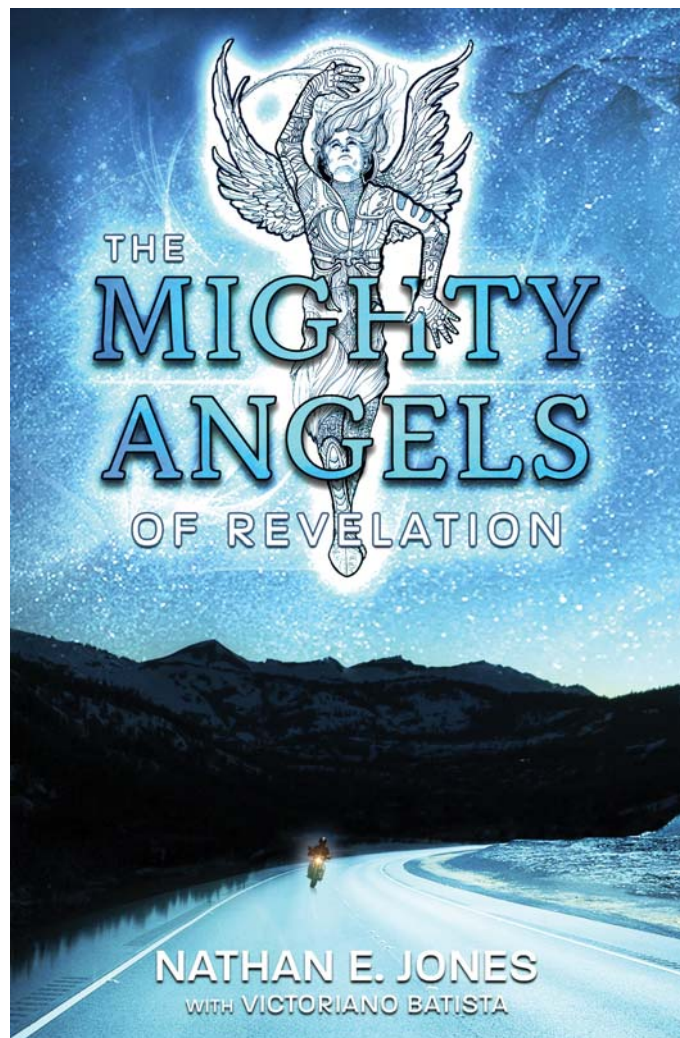
A devastating car wreck nearly killed Nathan's parents. If it were not for a lone biker who stopped at the scene of the accident and administered first aid, some say they would have died before medical help arrived. The problem — only one person could recollect the biker ever having been there. Their rescuer had mysteriously disappeared without a trace! The only survivor who could remember insisted they must have been rescued, not by a mere man, but by an actual angel sent from God.

This jolting event in the life of his family led our ministry's Internet Evangelist, Nathan Jones, to set off to explore the greatest source in the study of Angelology — the book of Revelation. With its whopping 72 instances of references to angels, Revelation stands apart from all of the other books in the Bible as the most prolific source for learning about these supernatural beings.

Come and travel along with a man called the Elder and his angelic guide as the end times are revealed throughout the book of Revelation in stunning detail. Along the way, meet 72 of God's mighty angels as they proclaim God's messages of warning and hope to a lost world. This book is a thrilling introduction to the Mighty Angels of Revelation!

A special added feature of this book is 12 fantastic full page drawings of some of the main angels mentioned in the book of Revelation. The drawings are by a very gifted Christian artist named Shalis Stevens.

The book originated out of a series of year-long



radio programs which Nathan made together with Vic Batista, a Calvary Chapel pastor in Florida.

The book sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can order it through our website at lambandlion.com. Or, you can place your order by phone by calling 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚