Video Shooting in the Holy Land
Observations by the Editor

The Death of a Church

As this issue went to press, The Episcopal Church ordained its first homosexual bishop and was on the verge of approving same-sex marriages.

This denomination, which has been bleeding members for a long time, is signing its death warrant as it takes these totally unbiblical actions. A group simply cannot thumb its nose at God and expect God to bless it.

The Bible is crystal clear in its condemnation of homosexuality. It says that those who are involved in this sin and refuse to repent “will not inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

That’s the bad news. The good news is that the same passage says that those who repent and place their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be cleansed and justified before God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

People who have a homosexual orientation can be saved, but they cannot continue to be practicing homosexuals. They can also be delivered from homosexuality. The Bible says so (1 Corinthians 6:11), and there are thousands of former homosexuals today who attest to the truth of the Bible.

The Episcopal Church has been in deep trouble for a long time. One of its recent bishops, John Spong of New Jersey, has written books in which he has denied the virgin birth, denied the miracles of Jesus, denied the resurrection, and denied the Second Coming. He has even argued that Paul and Timothy were homosexual lovers!

Many Episcopal churches have withdrawn from the denomination because of the gross apostasy that exists among the national leaders. They have done this knowing that they would immediately lose all their church property confiscated by the denominational headquarters. In like manner, many individual Episcopalians have given up hope and moved to other denominations.

There are still stalwarts of the faith among Episcopalians. One of the persons

Dr. David Reagan

God used in the past to greatly impact my life spiritually is a Spirit-filled Episcopal priest. The Bishop of Dallas, James M. Stanton is a man who affirms the Word of God.

But many of these will undoubtedly decide to leave the denomination and form a more conservative, Bible-based Episcopal fellowship.

The Episcopal Church in the United States is following in the footsteps of its mother church, the Anglican Church of England. That church was the world’s center of Christianity in the 19th Century, firmly committed to the advancement of the Gospel all over the world.

But late in that century, its leaders began to adopt the attitude of the German School of Higher Criticism, arguing that the Bible is not really the Word of God. Rather, it is Man’s search for God and is therefore full of myth, legend, and superstition. They began to preach the wisdom of Man rather than the truth of God’s Word.

The result was the death of the Anglican Church. Today, only 7% of the people in England bother to attend church. Why should they? The church has lost its anointing and its authority. It has become irrelevant.

Apostasy is sweeping the church, and it is a sign of the Lord’s soon return.
Video Shooting in the Holy Land

Dennis Pollock pats down his hair as the Lamb & Lion video crew prepares to shoot a scene at the Tomb of Zechariah in the Kidron Valley.

New TV programs focus on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Observations by Dr. David R. Reagan

In early June, I took a video crew to Israel to shoot four television programs, three of which will ultimately be combined into a video program to be called “Jerusalem through Spiritual Eyes.”

The Lord richly blessed the trip in many ways, but it turned out to be some of the hardest work I have ever done. We arose at 6:00am each morning, left the hotel at 8:00am, arrived back at 6:00pm, and watched and analyzed the day’s takes until around 10:00pm.

Obstacles

Video field shooting in a city like Jerusalem is the toughest work imaginable. It requires incredible patience, persistence, flexibility, and creativity. The most common obstacles that created constant stress for us were:

- Gawkers who insist on walking into the field of view and mugging the camera.
- Street children who pose a constant threat of theft and who demand money to be quiet.
- Cantankerous priests who harass you for photographing their churches.
- Greedy guards who seek bribes for allowing access to their sites.
- Technical snafus (like shooting a series of scenes on the wrong audio setting).
- Church bells, and more church bells!
- Muslim calls to prayer five times a day for about 20 minutes each time.
- Site changes like the closing of access to the tops of the Jaffa and Damascas Gates and severely restricted hours at many tourist sites.
But, as formidable as all these factors were, none of them proved to be as much of a challenge as the boiling sun that seemed to penetrate to the bone, sap us of our strength, and produce an insatiable thirst. We ended up spending more money on water than just about any other item!

The Crew

Left to right: George Collich, Jr., Don Gordon, Dave Reagan, Dennis Pollock, Larry Neichter, and Shai-Shalom Matter.

The leader of our video crew was Don Gordon, our media minister. He was in charge of all aspects of video photography. One of our administrative ministers, George Collich, Jr., served as the audio engineer. Larry Neichter, a volunteer from Louisville, Kentucky, served as our roustabout, carrying equipment, keeping our video log, and assisting with cue cards. A long time Israeli friend of our ministry, Shai-Shalom Matter, served as our guide, drive, and translator.

Dennis Pollock and I delivered the lines in front of the camera, but we also helped behind the scenes by toting equipment and holding cue cards for each other.

Serving as audio engineer is always one of the most challenging jobs on a video crew. It helps to be a contortionist. George had to hang from trees, hide behind tombs, and lie on hot pavement as he positioned the boom mike to pick up our voices without either him or the mike appearing in the picture.

Blessings

The obstacles we encountered were overshadowed by the blessings God poured out on us daily. First, He generously provided adequate finances for the trip. Then He gave us good health, personal safety, rich fellowship, creative ideas, excellent footage, and equipment that operated properly. He also answered our prayers by enabling us to wrap up four complete television programs.

The Programs

Three of the programs we shot were related to the life of Jesus, focusing on His death, resurrection and second coming.

The program about His crucifixion featured the Via Dolorosa ("The Way of Suffering"). It traces His path to the Cross — both the traditional path that ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and the non-traditional route that concludes at the Garden Tomb where we focused our attention on Skull Hill. The Holy Sepulcher is the site that Catholics revere. The Garden Tomb is the site favored by Protestants.

Shooting along the Via Dolorosa.

The program about the Lord’s resurrection features the tombs of Jerusalem, concluding, of course, with the Garden Tomb. In the program we show both the elaborate tombs of the rich and the simple graves of the common people which existed at the time of Jesus. We visit famous biblical tombs like the tombs of Samuel, David, and Rachel, and we take a look at the tombs of Israel’s modern day political leaders.

The program emphasizing the promise of Jesus to return features the gates of Jerusalem. We walk around the city, visiting each of its eight gates, concluding with the Eastern Gate or Golden Gate to which Jesus will return.

Shooting at the Garden Tomb.
The fourth program relates to worship in prophecy. It was shot in a small Arab village called Abu Gosh which is located about 7 miles northwest of Jerusalem. In biblical times this town was called Kiriauth-jearim. It is where the Ark of the Covenant was stored in a farm house for nearly 70 years during a period of spiritual apathy and apostasy. It is the site King David visited when he decided to move the Ark to Jerusalem and institute his revolution in the worship style of Israel.

Today the site is occupied by a Catholic church called The Church of Mary, the Ark of the Covenant. It is operated and maintained by an order of nuns from Ireland.

A Memorable “God-incident”

There were a number of memorable events on the trip, all in response to prayer. For example, we spent an hour late one afternoon looking for the tomb of Menachem Begin. I had a general idea where it was located, near the base of the Mt. of Olives, but I just couldn’t find it. Neither could our guide.

The reason Begin’s grave is so difficult to find is because he is the only former Prime Minister of Israel who was an Orthodox Jew. Accordingly, he refused to be buried in a fancy, well-marked grave in the nation’s national cemetery. Instead, he insisted on being buried in the Orthodox cemetery on the Mt. of Olives. And he insisted on a common type grave with no special marker.

The next morning after we had searched so hard for the tomb, the suggestion was made that we “do the Hollywood thing” by shooting the scene at just any grave. I agreed we might have to do that, but I really didn’t want to. I was determined to find the authentic grave. So, we prayed for the Lord to lead us to the grave.

Later that day as we were driving up the Mt. of Olives on a steep and narrow lane, we encountered a police car. Our guide flagged down the policeman and asked if he knew where Begin’s grave was located. When they finished talking to each other in Hebrew, our guide turned to us with a big smile on his face and said, “You won’t believe this, but he says his dad is buried next to Begin. He’s going to give us a police escort to the grave.” And that’s precisely what he proceeded to do!

Another occasion for prayer arose when we discovered that the top of the Jaffa Gate had been closed indefinitely due to security concerns. This presented a real problem since several of our scenes needed to be shot from that vantage point. After praying to the Lord for help, I suddenly got an idea. I asked our guide to go into the old historic Imperial Hotel located next to the gate and ask the manager if we could use his rooftop. The man graciously agreed, and to my astonishment, he refused to accept our offer of a financial gift. “I want to bless you,” he told me, “and accepting money would spoil the blessing.”

Dangerous Moments

The two most dangerous areas where we had to shoot were at Rachel’s tomb near Bethlehem and at some Second Temple tombs located in an isolated section of the Kidron Valley near a very hostile Arab village called Silwan. The latter area I call “the valley of the shadow of death.”

Rachel’s tomb is a dangerous place because it is located half way between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, just inside the Palestinian Authority. Because it is a Jewish holy
site inside the Palestinian Authority, it is a constant target of snipers and car bombers.

We had to rent an expensive armored taxi to get to the tomb. The taxi had steel plates in the doors and special windows that were an inch thick. When we arrived at the tomb, I was shocked by its appearance. I had not seen it in five years. During that time the Israelis had encased the entire building housing the tomb inside a concrete vault to protect it from terrorists. It now looks like a fortress.

![Rachel's Tomb in 1985.](image)

![Rachel's Tomb today.](image)

We had a very interesting experience at Rachel’s tomb. When we arrived, there was a group of men who were working feverishly to wrap the tomb in bright red yarn. When we asked them why they were doing this, they explained that they would later cut the yarn into small strips and then sell the pieces to raise money for charity. When we asked them to stop while we videotaped our scene, they refused. They said they were working on a tight time limit. So, we just went ahead and shot the scene, but introduced it by explaining what they were doing. It ended up making the scene much more interesting.

**A Special Blessing**

One of the greatest blessings of the trip was the exclusive access we were granted to the Garden Tomb where we shot various scenes one morning for almost four hours. This came about as the result of a $5,000 gift which we were enabled by the Lord to provide the Garden Tomb Association.

Last January, as I was making plans for the trip, I accessed the Garden Tomb’s website to check their operating hours. I was surprised to discover that they had radically revised their schedule. They were no longer open on weekends, and during weekdays, they were open only two hours each afternoon. Then, as I browsed the site, I saw the reason for their greatly reduced operating hours. It was due to the collapse of the tourist industry after the Arab uprising began in September 2000.

They had an appeal for help posted on the site, and it touched my heart because I know how important this ministry is in witnessing the resurrection of Jesus. So, I sent out an appeal to all the people who have ever gone to Israel on one of our pilgrimages, and through their generous response, we were able to raise $5,000.

When I delivered the money to Mr. Peter Wells, the director of the Garden Tomb ministry, he told me that they had received 2,800 visitors during the month of May. He then pointed out that during a normal tourist year, they would have that many visitors every day!

**A Strained Economy**

The collapse of the tourist industry has had a cataclysmic impact on the Israeli economy. Prior to September 2000, tourism was the nation’s second largest source of income, second only to diamond finishing. Today, many hotels are closed. Those that are open are operating only one or two floors. The Old City is like a ghost town. Most of its shops have closed. Unemployment is officially pegged at 11%, but it is more like 15%.

The absence of crowds of tourists in the land and in Jerusalem was a benefit to us in our video shooting, but I would have preferred the jostling of people in crowded streets.

**Humorous Moments**

We had two very funny incidents involving our volunteer crew member, Larry Neichter.

The first occurred when we got ready to shoot scenes at the mammoth tombs in the Kidron Valley. There is no easy access to the tombs. They are located at the bottom of a very deep ravine. The most direct way to get to them is to walk down about 150 steep steps, which is what all of us except Larry did.

Larry was reluctant to try the steps because of a nerve injury several years ago that afflicted his legs and made it difficult for him to walk. So, our guide told Larry he would drive him to the bottom of the ravine and let him out so that he could walk to the tombs on fairly level ground. I assumed the guide was going to take him to the safe end of the ravine. Instead, he took him to the dangerous Arab village of Silwan, told him to get out, pointed him to the tombs, and drove off! Shortly thereafter, as we were still descending the steps, we saw Larry walking down “the valley of the shadow of death” all by his lonesome self. We started praying for his safety.

Well, Larry made it okay, never realizing what danger he was in until he arrived and Don Gordon told him how fervently we had been praying for him. Don said, “Larry, I prayed ‘Lord don’t let Larry get shot because it will be very difficult and very dangerous for us to have to drag his body out of that ravine.’” Larry asked Don never to pray for him again!
Israel’s challenging terrain produced out of Larry’s mouth what I have since been calling “the quip of the trip.” After tromping up and down hills for three days, Larry turned to me and said, “I hope the next time Jesus comes, He will select Kansas!”

Our Thanks

We want to thank all of you who prayed for us and those of you who donated so generously to make this important trip possible. We hope next year to make a similar trip to shoot television programs in the Galilee area.

Related Items:

- **Broadcast Times:** The worship program is scheduled to be broadcast on August 20th. The Jerusalem programs are tentatively scheduled for airing on October 8, 15, and 22.

- **Holy Land Pilgrimage:** The ministry will sponsor a pilgrimage to Israel that will depart Dallas on January 17th and return on January 28th, for a total of 12 days. The group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two nights in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), five nights in Jerusalem, and one night in Frankfurt, Germany on the return trip home.

  The price is $2,439 and that includes transportation, lodging and three meals a day. It also includes taxes of $115. Tips of $65 per person are extra. Registration is $250 per person. The deadline for registering is December 1st.

  Dr. Reagan will lead the group. Jack and Sally Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministry will provide the music. For a detailed brochure, call 1-800-705-8316.

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Media Director, Don Gordon, the guy with the great sense of humor.

The other humorous incident involving Larry occurred at the end of a long hard day of walking. Keep in mind the fact that there is no level ground in Israel. When I take a pilgrimage group over there I always emphasize the importance of watching where they step by telling them: “The Bible says, ‘Look up, be watchful, for your redemption is drawing near.’ In Israel, if you walk around looking up, your redemption will be immediate because you must always look before you step.”

Shooting at the tomb of Oskar Schindler, the only member of the Nazi Party ever to be honored by Israel as a “righteous Gentile.”
The Pre-Incarnate Jesus
His Manifestations and Roles

Dr. David R. Reagan

Several years ago I received a letter from a fellow in Champaign, Illinois in which he asked me a number of very thought provoking questions about Jesus before He became incarnate in the flesh. Since that time, a number of other people have contacted me with a variety of questions concerning the same subject. Listed below are the questions and my responses to them.

Questions and Answers

Question: Did Jesus make appearances before His incarnation?

Answer: Definitely. A good example is found in Isaiah 6. King Uzziah, who had reigned for 52 years in Judah, had just died, and Isaiah, who was probably only a teenager at the time, went to the Temple to mourn the king’s death.

Isaiah was surprised by a vision in which he saw the Lord – the King of kings — “sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted” (Isaiah 6:1). In John 12:41 we are told that what Isaiah saw was Jesus in “His glory” — the glory He had before He became incarnate (Philippians 2:5-8).

Question: I have heard that “the Angel of the Lord” who is often referred to in the Old Testament was really Jesus making pre-incarnate appearances. Is this true?

Answer: “The Angel of the Lord” is referred to 56 times in 51 verses in the Hebrew Scriptures. The first reference is found in Genesis 16:7-12 where it says that “the Angel of the Lord” appeared to Hagar as she was fleeing in the wilderness from the rage of Abraham’s wife. The Angel told her to go back home, and then He revealed to her that she was pregnant with a son whose name would be called Ishmael.

A study of the subsequent appearances of the Angel of the Lord makes it very clear that they were pre-incarnate appearances of Jesus.

A good example is found in Exodus 3. There we are told that the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush (verse 2). Then we are later told that the Angel spoke to Moses and said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Issac, and the God of Jacob” (verse 6).

In Exodus 23 we are told that God the Father spoke to Moses and said He would send an angel to guide and protect the Children of Israel in the Wilderness. He refers to this angel as “My angel” and states that “My name is in Him” (Exodus 23:20-23). This is obviously no ordinary angel.

In Judges 13 we are told that the Angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah and his wife to inform them that they would have a child named Samson. When Manoah asked the Angel for His name, He replied, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” (Judges 13:18). Manoah got the point of this statement immediately, for he turned to his wife and said, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God” (Judges 13:22).

The Angel’s deity is also attested to by the fact that on two occasions He accepted worship. When He appeared to both Moses (Exodus 3:1-5) and Joshua (Joshua 5:14-15), they were told to remove their sandals for they were “standing on holy ground.”

Question: But couldn’t these appearances of God in the form of “the Angel of the Lord” have been God the Father Himself instead of Jesus?

Answer: No, because there are many reports of people seeing the Angel of the Lord, and John 1:18 says, “No one has seen God at any time.” The verse then continues to make a very important point: “The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him [God].” Thus, according to John, the people in the Old Testament times who saw God really saw Jesus in a pre-incarnate form “declaring” God.

This conclusion is confirmed by a statement which God the Father made to Moses at Mt. Sinai: “You cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live” (Exodus 33:20). Likewise, Paul states in 1 Timothy 6:16 that God the Father “dwells in inapproachable light whom no man has seen or can see.”
This dramatic portrayal of the “strong angel” of Revelation 10 was painted by Pat Marvenko Smith. It shows the Angel standing with one foot in the sea and the other on the land as a symbol of His retaking authority over the creation. He holds the title deed of the earth in His left hand. Every aspect of this image speaks of deity. He is clothed with a cloud, He is crowned with a rainbow, His face is shining like the sun, and His feet are like pillars of fire. All this imagery is used in Revelation chapter 1 to describe Jesus. His right hand is lifted as He swears that the time has arrived for “the mystery of God to be finished.” This is a flash-forward to the Second Coming of Jesus. The Revelation writer is using the Old Testament imagery of the Angel of the Lord. This image is copyrighted by Pat Marvenko Smith (www.RevelationIllustrated.com)

In Genesis 32 we are told that Jacob wrestled with a “Man” (verse 24) who identified Himself as God (verse 28). In fact, Jacob says, “I have seen God face to face . . .” (verse 30). Since we know from John 1:18 that no one has seen God the Father, Jacob must be talking about Jesus in a pre-incarnate appearance. This is made clear in Hosea 12:3-4 where we are told that the God-Man Jacob wrestled with was “the Angel.” In verse 5 Hosea identifies the Angel as “the Lord, the God of hosts.”

In Malachi 3:1, in a prophecy about the First Coming of the Messiah, God the Father is quoted as promising to send His Son: “Behold, I am going to send my messenger . . .” The word translated “messenger” is the Hebrew word, malakh, which literally means “angel.”

Further evidence that the Angel of the Lord was the pre-incarnate Jesus is the fact that the Angel ceased to appear after Jesus became incarnate in the flesh. At that point in time, the Angel Gabriel took over the responsibility of serving as God’s chief messenger.

**Question:** Does the title, “the Angel of the Lord,” mean that Jesus is a mighty angel like Gabriel or Michael?

**Answer:** Not at all. In fact, we are told point blank that Jesus is “much better than the angels” (Hebrews 1:4) because He is the one and only Son of the Father (Hebrews 1:1-5). Therefore, the angels worship Him (Hebrews 1:6-7). Also, the angels were created at a point in time (Psalm 148:1-6) whereas Jesus has existed eternally (John 1:1-14). In fact, the Bible asserts that Jesus Himself was the one who created the angels (Colossians 1:16).

**Question:** If Jesus is not an angel, then why was He given the title of “the Angel of the Lord” in His pre-incarnate appearances?

**Answer:** The title is both a term of endearment and a description of Jesus’ primary role in these appearances. Just as my wife is my “angel,” so also is the Son the Father’s “angel.” Jacob used this type of terminology when he blessed his sons on his death
2 Chronicles 7:14 — “[If] My people who are called by My name [will] humble themselves and pray . . .”.

Exodus 4:22 — “Then you [Moses] shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Israel is My son, My first-born.”’”

Hosea 11:1 — “When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.”

**Answer:** God the Father loves names because He is a personal God (1 Peter 5:7). He Himself has a personal name, Yahweh, which He revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 6:2-3). This name is used in the Hebrew Scriptures 6,668 times. Unfortunately, it is camouflaged in most English translations by the use of the word, LORD — all in capital letters.

During biblical times, God often changed the names of people as their roles would change. When He called the man who was to become the father of the Jewish people, He changed his name from Abram, meaning “exalted father,” to Abraham, meaning “father of a multitude” (Genesis 17:5). Likewise, He changed the name of Abraham’s wife from Sarai to Sarah, meaning “princess” (Genesis 17:15). When stubborn and deceiving Jacob finally yielded to the Lord, his name was changed to Israel, meaning “he who strives with God” (Genesis 32:28). In New Testament times, Saul’s name was changed to Paul, and Simon’s name to Peter (Acts 13:9 and Mark 3:16).

In Revelation 2:17 we are told that when the Redeemed stand before the judgment seat of Jesus, each one will be given a white stone (a symbol of innocence) on which will be written a new name. Yes, we are going to have new names in the Eternal State. These names will probably relate to our Christian lives. Thus, some may be named Faith, while others might be called Perseverance or Love.

Jesus’ name — Yeshua in Hebrew — means “the salvation of the Lord” (Matthew 1:21). His name expresses the purpose of His First Coming. We are told in Revelation 19:12 that when He returns to reign He will be given a new name. This name will

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**Question:** What was the pre-incarnate name of Jesus? Could it possibly have been “Israel” in light of 2 Chronicles 7:14, Exodus 4:22, and Hosea 11:1?
undoubtedly relate to His new role as King of kings. Jeremiah 23:6 hints that His new name may be Yahweh-Tsidkenu, meaning “The Lord’s Righteousness.” That would be an appropriate name because He is returning to bring peace, righteousness and justice to this world.

Considering all these points, it certainly makes sense to assume that Jesus might have had some other name before He became incarnate. But what it may have been, the Bible does not reveal. “Angel of the Lord” is a title, not a name.

It certainly was not Israel because that name means “one who strives with the Lord.” How could that be the name of one who co-exists in perfect unity with God the Father? In fact, Jesus said that He and the Father are One (John 10:30).

In Exodus 4:22 God told Moses to say to Pharaoh, “Israel is my son, My first-born.” This phraseology was selected in order to emphasize to Pharaoh how important the Jewish people were to God. But it is a metaphor, similar to the New Testament concept that the Church is the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-26 and Revelation 19:7).

Hosea 11:1 quotes God the Father as saying, “When Israel was a youth, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.” Again, the Lord is speaking metaphorically of Israel as His son, just as He refers to Israel elsewhere as His wife (see Jeremiah 3:1-5, Jeremiah 31:32, and Ezekiel 16:15-34).

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 God refers to Israel as “My people, which are called by My name.” Literally, this passage says, “My people over whom My name is called.” The point here is not that God’s name is Israel. Rather, the point is that the Jewish people are the people of Yahweh.

**Question:** What other roles did the Angel of the Lord fulfill besides that of a messenger?

**Answer:** Delivering messages was certainly His primary role. He appeared to the prophet Balaam and gave him orders (Numbers 22:22-35). He instructed Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites (Judges 6). He prophesied the birth of Samson (Judges 13), and He commanded David to build an altar in Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 21:18).

Sometimes He provided guidance. He led the Children of Israel in the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night (Exodus 14 and Judges 2:1). He directed Elijah when he fled to Mt. Horeb (1 Kings 19).

Occasionally He served as an avenger, executing judgment upon the enemies of Israel. When the Assyrians threatened to destroy Jerusalem, it was the Angel of the Lord who killed 185,000 of them in one night, forcing those remaining to retreat (2 Kings 19:35). In times like this, He also served as a protector of Israel and is lauded in the Psalms as such: “The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them” (Psalm 34:7). *

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**The Incarnate Jesus**

**What did He look like?**

**Dr. David R. Reagan**

The Bible contains four biographies of Jesus, and one of the most intriguing mysteries is that none of them presents a physical description of Him.

Was Jesus tall or short? Did He have long or short hair? Was He handsome or plain looking?

One thing is certain: He did not look like the common depictions we most often see — fair skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes. After all, He was from the Middle East. He was of Semitic heritage.

Over the centuries, there have been a wide variety of portrayals of Jesus. Most of the modern ones seem to have been based upon the image embedded in the Shroud of Turin — a long narrow face with long hair.

There is a church in Israel that is filled with images of Jesus. It is a very large and beautiful church in Nazareth called the Church of the Annunciation. It supposedly sits on the site where
the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would be the mother of the Messiah.

Cultural Portrayals

When this church was being built, a call went out to Catholic communities in every nation of the world to present Madonna-type paintings of Mary with the Christ child. Each of these paintings, which are on permanent display in the church, depict both Mary and Jesus ethnically as representatives of the culture that presented the painting. Thus, the picture from Japan shows a mother and child with distinctive Asian features, whereas the paintings from African nations depict a black Mary and Jesus.

These cultural representations (like our blue-eyed and blonde-headed Jesus in the West) are appropriate, because Jesus came as the Savior of the world. He died for all people — black, white, yellow and brown. But they are certainly not accurate historical portrayals of what Jesus looked like.

Occasionally, but not often, an artist will buck the traditional cultural portrayal of Jesus and present an image that is more realistic. This occurred when Time magazine put a very realistic painting of Jesus on its cover of December 6, 1999 (see below). But such realistic images are not usually popular with the public.

The image was produced by a scientific team of Israeli and British forensic anthropologists, archaeologists, and computer programmers. The same science has been used to reconstruct facial images from skulls. Commenting on the resulting image they produced, one of the experts observed: “It isn’t the face of Jesus, because we’re not working with the skull of Jesus, but it is the departure point for considering what Jesus would have looked like.”

The Archaeological Record

Using First Century Jewish skulls uncovered in the Jerusalem area by archaeologists, the research team constructed a composite picture of what a Jew in the time of Jesus would have looked like.

Skeletal remains from the same period of time helped the team to resolve the issue of Jesus’ height. These remains indicated clearly that the average build of a Semite male was 5 feet, 1 inch, with an average weight of 110 pounds. They also drew another conclusion:

Since Jesus worked outdoors as a carpenter until he was about 30 years old, it is reasonable to assume he was more muscular and physically fit than westernized portraits suggest. His face was probably weather-beaten, which would have made him appear older, as well.
The Historical Record

Next, the research team turned to drawings found at various archaeological sites which were dated to the First Century. From these they were able to determine that the common Jew of Jesus’ time had dark rather than light-colored eyes. They also concluded that the men of that time, in keeping with Jewish tradition, were bearded.

The Biblical Record

Finally, the scientists turned to the Bible for clues. The first thing they noted was that in Matthew’s account of Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas had to single Him out from the rest of His disciples by kissing Him on the cheek. To them, this indicated that Jesus was a typical-looking Galilean Semite who did not stand out in any physical way from his colleagues.

The conclusion that Jesus had short hair was also based on biblical evidence. The apostle Paul mentions that he saw Jesus (Acts 22:17-18 and Galatians 1:12, 15-16), and then later, he denounces long hair on men as being disgraceful (1 Corinthians 11:14).

Overlooked Evidence

In their search for biblical clues, the researchers overlooked the most detailed description of Jesus that is contained in the Scripture. That’s because it is found in Old Testament prophecy and not in the New Testament Gospels.

The description is located in Isaiah 53:2-3, where, speaking of the Messiah to come, Isaiah writes: “He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.” The passage goes on to say He will be a “man of sorrows, acquainted with grief” and that He will be one “from whom men will hide their faces.”

This is a fascinating passage which definitely supports the physical image of Jesus that was produced by the Popular Mechanics research team. It says point blank that the Messiah will be so common looking that nothing about His outward appearance will be attractive.

The Attractiveness of Jesus

I believe that was true. Jesus did not attract people because He had Hollywood features. What attracted people to Him was the quality of His life and the truth of His teachings. In looks He was a common man. But in the life He lived, He was God in the flesh, radiating the love of God while walking in perfect righteousness.

The bottom line, of course, is that it really doesn’t matter what Jesus looked like. What matters more than anything is that He loved us enough to take on human flesh and die for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God the Father.

Sources:
Producing New Programs

While airing a series of re-runs in late May and early June, we began preparing a whole series of new programs based on interviews we made with prophecy teachers who attended the Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas last December.

Programming

The new programs we have recently produced are as follows:

1) “The Most Important Sign of the Times” (interviews with 13 prophecy teachers).
2) “Secondary Signs of the Times” (13 prophecy teachers).
4) “The Value of Bible Prophecy” (Tim LaHaye and 12 others).
5) “The Error of Preterism” (Tommy Ice and four others).
6) “The Antichrist in Bible Prophecy” (Ed Hindson and Dennis Pollock).
7) “Biblical Archaeology” (Randall Price).

You can purchase any of these programs for $10 each, including the cost of mailing. To order, call 1-800-705-8316.

Additionally, we have been working on two very interesting programs about the revival of the Tabernacle of David which is prophesied in Amos 9:11. The first is the one we shot in early June near Jerusalem at the biblical site of Kiriath-jearim, where the Ark of the Covenant was stored for 70 years after it was stolen by the Philistines. The second consists of an interview with Randall Bane who is considered to be the world’s leading teacher and practitioner of Davidic Worship. These two TV programs will be combined into one video program to be entitled “Worship in Bible Prophecy.” It should be ready for distribution before the end of the year.

The other three programs we shot in Jerusalem in early June are scheduled to be broadcast in late September. They focus on the Via Dolorosa, the gates of the city, and the tombs of the city.

Dave Reagan makes notes for a voice-over as the crew prepares to shoot a panoramic scene of the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives from the top of the Imperial Hotel in Jerusalem, located near the Jaffa Gate. The crew spent ten days in Jerusalem in early June shooting four television programs related to the life of Jesus.

The three will be combined into a single video program to be entitled “Jerusalem through Spiritual Eyes.” We hope this program will also be available before the end of the year.

Increasing Outreach

Last month we reported that the DayStar Network had been added to the Dish Satellite system, almost doubling our coverage within the United States.

We are pleased to announce that DayStar has now been added to two additional international satellite systems. Our program can now be seen throughout Canada over AMC-3 and throughout the world over Thaicom-3. We were already being aired throughout Europe over Hotbird 6. We recently received an e-mail message from viewers in the United Arab Emirates!

New Equipment

Due to the overwhelming generosity of two of our supporters, we have been provided with the funds to purchase an automated DVD reproduction system that will make four DVD copies at a time and then print full color labels on the disks.

We hope to have this new system operational in the near future, at which time we will start offering all our video programs and TV programs on DVD as well as VHS.

DVD reproduction is much faster than VHS. For example, it takes a full hour to reproduce a one hour VHS tape, whereas it takes only about four minutes to reproduce the same program on DVD. Also, DVD provides the capacity for indexing. Thus, with our new Revelation video, we can put a menu at the front of the DVD that will enable a user to move immediately to any chapter of Revelation they may be interested in viewing. That sure beats having to scan a VHS tape!

Request

Please pray for the effectiveness of our television outreach. We need your earnest prayers in our behalf!
DayStar Television Network Coverage

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

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

Television Stations

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Channel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>WDTB</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apex</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>WCNC</td>
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<td>66</td>
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<td>OK</td>
<td>KOCH</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>WPEC</td>
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<td>Charleston</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>WTSF</td>
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Note: Station numbers will be different on cable. So, if you are on cable, consult your TV guide for the proper channel number.

Cable Systems

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<td>Time Warner</td>
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Satellite Systems

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<tr>
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<td>National</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dish Network</td>
<td>National</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sky Angel National Ch. 9713
AMC-3 Canada Ch. Tr 133
Hotbird 6 Europe Ch. 51
Thaicom-3 World

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

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

KAZQ TV 32 in Albuquerque, NM
Tuesdays at 9:30pm
Fridays at 12:30pm

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

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

A “Must Read” Book

Dr. David R. Reagan

I recently read a remarkable book called “The Stones Cry Out.” It is subtitled “What Archaeology Reveals about the Truth of the Bible.” The book was written by an archaeologist who is a Christian evangelical. His name is Dr. Randall Price.

I picked this book up in Israel and started reading it on the plane on the way back home. That proved to be a mistake because I found it so fascinating that I could not put it down. Instead of sleeping, as I should have done, I read and read and read! I arrived home exhausted but brimming over with enthusiasm over the discoveries I had made. The book was a real spiritual blessing, and I’ve been recommending it to everyone since that time.

The book is full of diagrams, charts, maps, and photos, and it addresses one fascinating topic after another, such as:

- Were the Patriarchs real or imaginary?
- Did Sodom and Gomorrah really exist?
- Was the Exodus a figment of Jewish imagination?
- Did Joshua really conquer Jericho?
- Does archaeology verify the existence of Jesus?

The book runs 437 pages in length. And, as I said before, it is full of fascinating maps, charts and photos. It is easy to read, and it will build your faith as you see all the archaeological evidence that has been found to substantiate biblical stories.

The book can be yours for $20, and that includes the cost of mailing.

To order a copy, call 1-800-225-7977.
Meet our Staff Members

Dave Reagan

Birth place and date: Sherman, Texas, 1938.
Wife’s name and years married: Ann, 43 years.
Names of children: Ruth Smith and Rachel Houck.
Number of grandchildren: 4.

Education: B.A. in Political Science and History from The University of Texas in Austin; M.A., M.A.L.D., and Ph.D from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy of Tufts and Harvard Universities.

Lamb & Lion position and duties: Senior Evangelist and CEO.

Number of years on staff: 23 years.
Number of years a Christian: 53.
Church membership: Lucas Christian Church in Lucas, Texas.

Spiritual gifts: Prophecy, teaching, giving, and encouragement.
Favorite scriptures: Isaiah 26:3-4 and 1 Peter 5:6-7.
Favorite Bible character: David.
Favorite Christian book: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis.
Favorite Christian hymn: “It Is Well With My Soul.”
Favorite contemporary Christian song: “Days of Elijah.”
Favorite Christian Musician: Robin Mark.

All-time favorite movie: “Babbette’s Feast” (Foreign), “Shane” (American).

All-time favorite novel: Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.
Favorite pastimes: Photography, art collecting, reading biographies, and driving sport cars.

Meet our Trustees

Bob Wallace

Birth place and date: Cordell, Oklahoma, 1934.
Wife’s name and years married: Grace, 45 years.
Names of children: Michelle Lea Williams and Todd Wallace.
Number of grandchildren: 5.

Education: Two years of college.
Occupation: Businessman.

Numbers of years a Christian: 14.
Years of service on the Lamb & Lion Board: 7.
Church membership: Lakewood Christian Church in McAlester, Oklahoma.

Spiritual gifts: Giving and encouragement.
Favorite scriptures: Psalm 51:10,12 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
Favorite Bible character: Paul.
Favorite hymns: “Amazing Grace,” “The Old Rugged Cross,” and “Sweet Hour of Prayer.”
Favorite contemporary Christian songs: “Shout to the Lord” and “Majesty.”
Favorite Bible version: New International.
All-time favorite movie: “The Music Man.”
All-time favorite novel: “The Ultimate Gift” by Jim Stovall.
Favorite pastimes: Motor home traveling, reading, and watching television.
**Biblical Tidbits**

Noah’s Ark — Why seven of some?

**Adapted from an article by Dr. Ken Hamm**

**Question:** Most people seem to think that Noah only took two of each kind of land animal on board the Ark — but that’s not correct, is it?

**Answer:** No, it certainly isn’t. Here’s what the Bible says in Genesis 7:2 — “You shall take with you of every clean animal by sevens, a male and his female, and of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female.” Thus, God’s Word informs us that Noah actually took two of each of the unclean animals and seven of each of the clean.

Now, why was it necessary to take so many of the clean animals? I believe there were two reasons. First, after the Flood, in Genesis 8, we read that Noah took one of every clean beast and fowl and offered them as a sacrifice to the Lord. If there had been only two of these, they would have become extinct very quickly.

Also, the clean animals are those that were used for food and clothing. It would therefore make sense that God would have Noah take more of these on board to the new world. They undoubtedly served as food for Noah and his family during their long voyage.

**Note:** Dr. Ken Hamm is President and Co-founder of Answers in Genesis, a creation science ministry.

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Who in the world is Henry?

**Dr. Norman Neaves**

A man once approached me after the worship service one Sunday morning and asked, “Who in the world is Henry?”

I was confused by his question, so I responded, “I don’t know. I’m not sure I know what you’re talking about.”

The man pointed to the cross in the sanctuary. “See, he said, the word is up there at the top of the cross.”

When I looked, I realized that the word he was pointing to was “INRI” which he seemed to be pronouncing as “Henry.”

I could not help but chuckle a little. Finally understanding what the fellow was asking, I proceeded to explain that the letters, “INRI,” are actually an acronym for the words that were put on a sign that was nailed to Jesus’ cross. The letters in the acronym stand for Latin words.

The letter that looks like an “I” is actually a “J” in Latin and stands for Jesus. The “N” stands for Nazareth. The “R” stands for Rex, which means King in Latin. The last “I” again stands for “J,” but represents the word, Jews. Thus, “INRI” is a Latin acronym for the phrase, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Actually Pilate had the sign written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek so that everyone who stood at the foot of the cross could read the sign in the language with which they were most familiar (John 19:19-20).

**Note:** Dr. Norman Neaves is the founding pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Servant in Oklahoma City.

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**Milestones**

**Gary Byers** (on the left) completed 20 years of service with Lamb & Lion Ministries in July. God brought Gary to the ministry when it was only 3 years old and was still located in a house in Plano, Texas. Gary currently serves as Administrative Minister for Income. He processes all the donations received by the ministry and keeps records on our Prophecy Partner Program.

**Dennis Pollock** (on the right) also celebrated a work anniversary in July. God brought Dennis to the ministry in July of 1993, so this July marked his 10th year as the ministry’s Associate Evangelist. Dennis stays busy writing for the ministry’s magazine, conducting meetings and conferences, recording audio programs, and helping produce television programs.
Suggestions for Christmas Presents

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

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

The video runs 45 minutes in length and sells for $12, including the cost of shipping.

Living for Christ in the End Times — This is a hard-hitting commentary on how Christians should respond to the decay of society and the increasing apostasy within the Church. The book is full of practical guidelines for overcoming paganism and living a triumphant daily life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The books run 263 pages in length and sells for $12, including the cost of shipping.

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

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

The running time is 65 minutes. The cost is $18, including the cost of shipping.

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

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

The video sells for $18, including the cost of shipping.

The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide — This guide lists in chronological order all the prophecies in the Bible concerning both the First and Second Advents of the Messiah.

The book is printed in a large format (8½ x 11”) and is spiral bound for easy access. It contains topical and scripture indexes. 150 pages long. The cost is $20, including shipping.

Jesus is Coming Again! — A book for children (pre-school and elementary). This is the only book ever published for children about end time prophecy. It is beautifully illustrated in full color. It has a large format (8½ x 11”) and a durable cover. There are teaching tips for parents, together with a list of Scripture references.

28 pages long. The cost is $7, including the cost of shipping.

Ordering Instructions:

You can order any of the items on this page through our website at www.lamplighter.com. Or, you can order them by telephone by calling 1-800-705-8316. Call between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

Special Bonus:

We will provide a special bonus gift for all orders totaling $30 or more. We will send you a free copy of our brand new video program called “Worship in Prophecy.” It features a teaching by Dr. Reagan that was filmed in Israel together with an interview with Randall Bane, the world’s leading teacher and practitioner of Davidic Worship. It also contains a variety of scenes of Davidic Worship drawn from the International Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

Wrath and Glory — One of Dr. Reagan’s newest books. He provides an easy-to-understand, down-to-earth explanation of the entire book of Revelation. In the process, he supplies guidelines for interpretation and responds to the most frequently asked questions. He also explains how the book of Revelation relates to Christian living here and now.

The book runs 240 pages in length. The cost is $12, including the cost of shipping.
Ministry News

Israel Pilgrimage — Dr. Reagan is scheduled to take a pilgrimage group to the Holy Land in January. The dates are January 17 through 28. For a summary of the trip, see page 7. To secure a detailed brochure, call 1-800-705-8316. The registration deadline is November 17.

Foreign Publications — The ministry’s publications continue to be published in foreign languages all over the world. The newest is an edition of *Wrath and Glory* in the Telugu language, one of the major languages of India. The same book is scheduled to be published soon in Pakistan in the Urdu language. In Nepal a collection of prophecy articles from this magazine has been published in the Nepali language under the title, “The Importance of Bible Prophecy.”

Meeting Schedule — During October Dave will speak twice at the Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, California (in the northwestern area of Los Angeles). His first appearance will be on October 2; the second on October 22. While in the Los Angeles area the first time, Dave will hold a conference at the Fountain Valley Christian Church in Fountain Valley (southeast Los Angeles area) from October 3 through 5. That same weekend Dennis will begin a meeting at the Antioch Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas (5-7). Later in the month, Dennis will conduct a weekend conference at Southland Christian Church in Springfield, Missouri (19-20). Dave will end the month at Hebron Christian Church in Winder, Georgia (25-26).

In November Dave will conduct a weekend conference at Oakwood Christian Church in Enid, Oklahoma (7-9). Later in November, Dave and Dennis will both be participants in the Louisiana State Prophecy Conference at Tall Timbers Baptist Encampment located near Alexandria, Louisiana (21-23).

In December Dave and Dennis will participate in the Pre-Trib Study Group Conference to be held in Dallas (8-10). They will be interviewing prophecy teachers for future television programs. Dave will end the year with a weekend conference at the Christian Church in Mulhall, Oklahoma (12-14).

If you are interested in having either Dave or Dennis speak at your church during 2004, you need to call them now. The number to call is 972-736-3567.

Messages

Television — “I’ve been watching your new program on DayStar, and I want to tell you it’s EXCELLENT!! What people need is exactly the kind of no-nonsense, down-to-earth information you give. The filming in Israel is just wonderful. It helps to bring your messages to life.” — Jamie Wilcox in Weatherford, Texas.

Books — “I am in the process of reading your book, *Wrath and Glory*. It has stirred me deeply to serve Christ much greater than I have in years . . . Once I began reading your book, I’ve been hopping out of bed at 4:15am every morning without an alarm clock! The book is so very exciting and so easy to understand. Thank you, thank you, thank you for this superb book!” — Cathy Dera in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Website — Today has been one of the worst days of my life. Due to the wickedness of a few dishonest people, my reputation and integrity have been impugned, and my law practice has been damaged. I have spent the day in tears, but then I read some of your articles on the Internet, and my heart quieted, my backbone and resolve strengthened. I am at war with Satan . . . but your kind words, breathed through your articles, gave me the strength to carry on. I am overwhelmed today, but I am not defeated!” — Name withheld.

Videos — I just finished viewing your four part video series on Bible prophecy that you delivered at Southeast Christian Church (“Preaching Prophecy”). It was AWESOME! Your messages really got me searching and studying God’s Word like never before.” — John Hynes in Louisville, Kentucky.

Television — “Hello, I live in Washington, and I am 14 years of age. I saw your program this evening, and I must say it was very enlightening. I have many questions about the Rapture, and the book of Revelation. — Leah Cole in Washington State.

Magazine — Thank you for the *Lamplighter* magazine. When I receive a copy, I read it from cover to cover before going to bed . . . I can hardly wait for our Lord’s return. I received Him as my Savior when I was 12 years old, and now at age 82 I am anxiously awaiting His return. Tonight would not be too soon for me.” — Rosena Warkentin in Lincoln, Nebraska.
New Bible Prophecy Study Resources

America the Beautiful?
The United States in Bible Prophecy

Dr. David R. Reagan

This is Dr. Reagan’s newest book. It addresses itself to the number one mystery in Bible prophecy — namely, the role of the United States in end time events. It is biblically based and is not speculative or sensationalist in nature.

The book runs 127 pages in length. It sells for $10, including the cost of shipping. To order this book or the video on the right, call 1-800-705-8316.

Revelation Revealed

Just released! A 75 minute video tour of the book of Revelation, chapter by chapter. Full of vivid pictures, graphs, charts, maps and historical footage.

It will prove to you that anyone can understand the book of Revelation as long as they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The cost is $18, including shipping.