Observations by the Editor

Deja Vu?

It's a French term for the feeling that you are reliving something. That is my feeling about the Presidential campaign this year.

At the end of 1991 the first President Bush had just completed a highly successful war against Iraq and was riding a wave of popularity. Then, suddenly, he turned against Israel, forcing the nation to go to the negotiating table and begin the suicidal policy of trading land for "peace." Within a year he was forcibly retired from office.

George W. Bush appears to be walking in his father's footsteps. Like his father, he engineered a spectacular military victory against Iraq. But to secure the alliance of the British, he sold out Israel, promising Prime Minister Tony Blair that he would join with him in forcing Israel to allow the creation of a Palestinian state. Since the so-called Roadmap to Peace was issued in the Spring of 2003, Bush's popularity has been plummeting. It now looks like he could be defeated in November.

George W. Bush has been a good President in many respects. He has stood against abortion and same-sex marriage. He has eased the onerous burden of taxation. He has provided strong and visionary leadership in response to the challenge of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has refused to subordinate American interests to One World Globalism.

But he has proved to be hypocritical in his policy toward Israel. He declared war against terrorism, yet he pressures Israel to allow the creation of a Palestinian terrorist state in the heart of its homeland. He called for the capture of Saddam and Osama "dead or alive," yet he refuses to allow Israel to touch the world's most infamous terrorist, Yasser Arafat. He condemns Israel for responding with force to terrorist attacks, yet he authorized our Air Force to devastate Afghanistan.

The Bible says that God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel (Genesis 12:3). God means what He says. We need to pray for President Bush to get his thinking straightened out regarding American policy toward Israel.

We also need to pray earnestly about the upcoming election. It is going to be a savage one because the two candidates are representatives of the culture war that is tearing this nation apart.

When I was growing up in the 40's and 50's, the two major parties differed primarily on economic issues — on how to raise money and how to spend it. Neither party represented a threat to the Judeo-Christian heritage of America.

That is no longer true. The Democratic Party has aligned itself with the forces of Secular Humanism. It is calling evil good and good evil as it seeks to put down religion and promote abortion, gambling, homosexuality, multiculturalism, and One Worldism. Our fundamental way of life is at stake in these elections. We can decide to resist the slide toward Gomorrah, or we can chose to accelerate it.

Does that mean that President Bush and the Republicans are the best hope for America? No! The only hope for our nation is a great spiritual revival that will call us back to God's Word and His Son Jesus. Let's pray earnestly for the Lord to send revival to our nation.

Note: For information about the cover art, see page 9.
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

THE MESSAGE OF PSALM 22

Dr. David R. Reagan

We have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place . . . — 2 Peter 1:19

There are many reasons to study Bible prophecy. One of the most important is that it validates Jesus as God in the flesh.

There are over 300 prophecies concerning the First Coming of the Messiah in the Hebrew Scriptures. One hundred and eight of these are separate and distinct. The odds of only seven being fulfilled accidentally in the life of one person are 1 in $10^{17}$ or one in one hundred quadrillion. All 108 — not just 7 — were fulfilled in the life of Jesus.¹

Bible prophecy also helps us to better understand Jesus — to understand who He was and what He did.

One of the most remarkable prophecies about the Messiah is contained in Psalm 22. This psalm was written by David ben Jesse one thousand years before the birth of Jesus (see the superscription of Psalm 22).

A Cry of Desperation

1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;
   And by night, but I have no rest.

The psalm begins with an agonizing cry of despair. David cries out: “Where are You, God?” He bemoans the fact that although he has been seeking the Lord’s help both day and night, all he has received in response is silence.

Have you ever had that experience? If you pray regularly, you have. It happens because God answers prayers in three ways — Yes, No, and Wait. Yes and no we can deal with. It is the waiting that wears on our nerves. We usually desire instant gratification rather than God’s will in His perfect timing.

David had experienced this feeling before. An example can be found in Psalm 6:6-7 —

6 I am weary with my sighing;
   Every night I make my bed swim,
   I dissolve my couch with my tears.

7 My eye has wasted away with grief;
   It has become old because of all my adversaries.

This type of statement is not evidence of a loss of faith. The psalmist would not even bother to cry out to God if he had lost his faith. It is more an expression of impatience and a verbalization of a sense of desperation.
A Reaffirmation of Faith

In fact, after issuing his cry of despair, David immediately reaffirms his faith in God. He reminds himself of God’s faithfulness:

3 Yet You are holy,  
O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 In You our fathers trusted;  
They trusted and You delivered them.

5 To You they cried out, and were delivered;  
In You they trusted, and were not disappointed.

As if to preserve his sanity in the midst of his suffering, the psalmist reminds himself of God’s faithfulness in responding to the desperate needs of his forefathers.

A Mystery

Now, it is one thing for David to cry out to God in desperation in his frail humanity, but how can the fact be explained that Jesus, the Son of God, exclaimed the same plaintive cry while hanging on the cross?

About the ninth hour [3pm] Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” — Matthew 27:46

Again, how can such words coming from the mouth of the Son of God be explained? I believe, as with David, this expression was not related to a loss of faith. Rather, it was a desperate cry of inexpressible agony and lament over the separation from God the Father that Jesus experienced on the Cross.

Spiritual Suffering

You see, the greatest suffering that Jesus experienced in His passion was not physical or emotional — it was spiritual.

Think of it — He had experienced eternally a perfect fellowship of love with God the Father. Then, suddenly, that sweet communion was broken because your sins and mine were placed on Jesus, and the wrath of God, which we deserve, was poured out on the Son. Here’s how the apostle Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 5:21 —

He [God the Father] made Him [the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Again, for one brief moment the perfect fellowship between Father and Son was broken because our sins were placed on

“Jesus Being Nailed to the Cross” by Gustave Doré (1832-1883). He was an Alsatian artist who specialized in book illustrations. He produced more than 200 woodcuts illustrating the life of Jesus.

Jesus — and the holiness of God cannot countenance sin. God the Father had to turn His back on His Son, prompting Jesus to cry out from the depths of His soul: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Physical and Emotional Suffering

At verse 6 of Psalm 22 the psalmist shifts from the Messiah’s spiritual suffering to His physical and emotional distress.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
A reproach of men and despised by the people.

7 All who see me sneer at me;  
They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,

8 “Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him;  
Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”

The Hebrew word translated “worm” in verse 6 is tola, the word for crimson or scarlet. It is also a word for a certain type of worm. In this context it is most likely referring to the bloody red condition of the Messiah after His flogging — when He would have been so mutilated and swollen that He would no longer even resemble a man and would be an object of derision.

So, this passage describes the intense physical suffering of the Messiah combined with the emotional suffering He would experience as onlookers sneered at Him and cried out caustic taunts.
We find the fulfillment of this prophecy in Matthew 27:39-42 —

39 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him [Jesus on the Cross], wagging their heads,

40 and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him, and saying,

42 “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him.”

Another Affirmation of Faith

Once again, in verses 9 through 10 of Psalm 22, the psalmist has the Messiah reaffirming His faith in the midst of His intense sufferings.

9 Yet, You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother’s breasts.

10 Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother’s womb.

This reaffirmation of faith is an incredible act of will, and it is an example for all of us. Our tendency is to wallow in self-pity when the going gets tough. David refuses to do this. He takes the opportunity to reaffirm his faith and indicates prophetically that the Messiah will do the same in the midst of His passion.

Tough Faith

It reminds me of the tough faith of Paul. When he was in prison in Rome, awaiting execution, he wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). He proceeded to urge his fellow believers to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). He then revealed the secret of his positive attitude in the midst of suffering: “I can do all things through Him [Jesus] who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

In other words, Paul was saying that we should keep our eyes focused on the Lord rather than our troubles, and “the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

Another great example of tough faith can be found in the life of the Old Testament prophet, Jeremiah. He prophesied that if the Jewish people did not repent, their nation would be destroyed. He lived to see his prophecies come true.

When the siege of Jerusalem had been completed by the Babylonians, Jeremiah walked through the streets writing a funeral lament in which he vividly described the physical destruction and human carnage that surrounded him. That lament constitutes the book of Lamentations.

In the middle of his lament, as if to preserve his sanity, the prophet suddenly stops weeping and vocalizes one of the greatest statements of tough faith recorded anywhere in the Bible (Lamentations 3:21-24 — RSV):

21 This I recall to mind, Therefore I have hope.

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end.

23 They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.

24 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul. “Therefore, I will hope in Him.”

Emotional Suffering

With verse 11 of Psalm 22 the psalmist returns to the Messiah’s emotional suffering:

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help.

This is a prophecy concerning the solitude the Messiah would experience in His passion. He would suffer emotionally from His desertion by all His disciples.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is recorded in Matthew 26:47,49-50,56b —
47 While He [Jesus] was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs...

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

50 And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

56 . . . Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

More Spiritual Suffering

At verse 12 of Psalm 22 the focus shifts back to the Messiah’s spiritual suffering:

12 Many bulls have surrounded me;
   Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

13 They open wide their mouth at me,
   As a ravening and a roaring lion.

I believe this is a prophecy that the Messiah in His passion would be surrounded by demonic hordes gloating over His approaching death. In the New Testament, Peter describes Satan as “a roaring lion seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Although there is no recorded fulfillment of this prophecy in the New Testament, I have no doubt that it happened. The people who were witnesses of the crucifixion could not see the demons with their physical eyes. But Jesus, with His spiritual eyes could undoubtedly see them as they danced around the Cross and gloated over their “victory” in orchestrating the murder of God’s Son.

The Physical Suffering Intensifies

At verse 14 the psalmist begins to describe the Messiah’s physical suffering in gory detail:

14 I am poured out like water,
   And all my bones are out of joint;
   My heart is like wax;
   It is melted within me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
   And my tongue cleaves to my jaws;
   And You lay me in the dust of death.

His bones are out of joint. He is suffering from extreme thirst. His heart is stressed to the point of bursting. Death hovers about Him.

Here’s how the Gospel of Mark describes the suffering of Jesus (Mark 15:15-17,19):

15 . . . after having Jesus scourged, he [Pilate] delivered Him to be crucified.

16 And the soldiers took Him away . . .

17 They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him . . .

19 They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him . . .

John in his gospel adds that Jesus suffered extreme thirst while he was hanging on the cross, and when He cried out, “I am thirsty,” the soldiers taunted Him by putting a sponge to His mouth that was full of sour wine (John 19:28-29).

The Method of Execution

When we come to verse 16 of Psalm 22, we encounter one of the most remarkable prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures:

16 For dogs have surrounded me;
   A band of evildoers has encompassed me;
   They pierced my hands and feet.

Keep in mind that these words were written 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus. That means they were also written 700 years before the Romans refined crucifixion as a method of execution. Yet, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, David prophesied that the Messiah would die by having His hands and feet pierced!

The Jewish method of execution at the time David wrote the psalm was by stoning. This was still true a thousand years later when Jesus lived. But the Jews had lost the power of implementing capital punishment under Roman rule, so they turned Jesus over to the Roman authorities when they decided He should be executed.

All four of the gospel stories record the execution of Jesus by

“The Crucifixion,” a woodcut by Felix Philippoteaux (1815-1884).
crucifixion. The Gospel of Mark describes it succinctly as follows (Mark 15:22-24):

22 Then they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

24 And they crucified Him . . .

A Final Comment About Suffering

The prophet concludes his observations about the suffering of the Messiah in verses 17 and 18:

17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

All the Messiah’s rib bones are laid bare as He gasps for air while hanging on the execution stake. And the emotional suffering continues as no one shows any compassion. Instead, while His life ebbs away, those carrying out the cruelty pass the time by gambling for His clothing!

Matthew describes the fulfillment of this prophecy in this manner (Matthew 27:35):

35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots.

A Final Prayer

In verses 19-21 of Psalm 22, the psalmist records a final prayer uttered by the Messiah. It is a plea for deliverance from Satan:

19 But You, O Lord, be not far off; O You, my help, hasten to my assistance.

20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog.

21 Save me from the lion’s mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

None of the Gospels record Jesus uttering such a prayer on the Cross, but undoubtedly He must have done so, perhaps silently or in a whisper.

In the prayer, the Messiah affirms that God the Father is near to Him, although He seems distant because He cannot countenance the sin that the Messiah must bear. He ends the prayer by asking for deliverance from Satan (the lion) and his demonic hordes (the wild oxen).

The Greatest Miracle of History

Between verses 21 and 22 of Psalm 22 the greatest miracle in history occurs — the resurrection of the Messiah.

The event is not specifically stated, but it is certainly inferred. Verse 21 ends with a prayer for deliverance from Satan’s attack. Verse 22 begins with a song of celebration, thanking God for answering the prayer:

22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

25 From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.

The most direct prophecy concerning the Resurrection in the Old Testament is found in Psalm 16:10 where David wrote: “You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; neither will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.”

In the New Testament, Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He would be killed and resurrected. It was one of His most frequently stated prophecies. For example, in Matthew 17:22-23 He is quoted as saying: “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day.”

Luke records the fulfillment of these resurrection prophecies in the following way (Luke 24:1-7):

1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they [a group of women] came to the tomb bringing spices which they had prepared.

2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;
5 and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead?

6 “He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,

7 saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

And all the families of the nations will worship before You.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord’s,
And He rules over the nations.

When that glorious reign begins, all the Redeemed will be prospered, while those who are damned by their unbelief will bow before Him and confess Him as King of kings and Lord of lords before being consigned to Hell:

29 All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship,
All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep his soul alive.

Isaiah states that “every knee will bow, every tongue will confess” that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is affirmed in Romans 14:11 and Philippians 2:10-11.

Think of it — a day will come when Hitler and Stalin will bow and confess the lordship of Jesus, as will Madeline Murray O’Hare, Charles Darwin, and ever other nefarious person who has ever lived. But it will have no impact upon their eternal destiny. Only those who make that confession in this life will receive the blessing of having their “hearts live forever” (Psalm 22:26).

The final consequence of the Cross that is mentioned in Psalm 22 is that during the millennial reign of Jesus, the Redeemed (who will be in glorified bodies) will teach those who are born during that time of the righteousness of Jesus and of the all-sufficiency of His sacrifice on the Cross:

30 Posterity will serve Him;
It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.

31 They will come and will declare His righteousness
To a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

A Fascinating Possibility

Notice again the last phrase of Psalm 22: “He has performed it.” Literally, in the Hebrew, it says, “It is finished.”

This fact has prompted some scholars to theorize that as Jesus hung on the Cross, He quite likely quoted all of Psalm 22, beginning with the words, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” and ending with the words, “It is finished.” The witnesses then simply wrote down the opening and closing words which were recorded in the Gospels (see Matthew 27:46 and John 19:30).

A Certainty That Poses a Crucial Question

One thing is certain — the fulfillment of all the prophecies of Psalm 22 in the life of Jesus confirms Him to have been the promised Messiah.

This fact raises a crucial question — the most important question of your life: “Who is Jesus to you?”

When Jesus was tried by the Roman authorities, the Roman
governor, Pontius Pilate, asked the assembled mob, “What shall I do with this Jesus who is called the Messiah?” (Matthew 27:22).

This is the most important question in the universe. So, let me put Pilate’s question to you: “What will you do with Jesus?”

Will you accept Him as Lord and Savior, as did the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43). If so, then you will receive the same promise as did the thief: “You shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

Or, will you wash your hands of Jesus, as did Pilate? (Matthew 27:24). If so, then your destiny will be one of eternal separation from God in Hell (John 3:16 and Matthew 10:28).

Your eternal destiny — Heaven or Hell — depends upon your answer to one question: “Who do you say that Jesus is?”

An Illustration

I’d like to close with an illustration of the significance of what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

In pioneer days, when wagon trains were crossing this nation to California, there were many things that the wagon masters feared — things such as dried up water holes, Indian attacks, plagues, and blizzards. One of the most fearsome sights was an approaching prairie fire.

In the plains of Kansas the prairie grass would often stand nearly three feet high, and when it was dry it could burn very rapidly. Prairie fires, often started by a lightning strike, could travel as fast as 50 miles an hour, depending upon the winds.

Consequently, when smoke was spotted on the horizon, the wagon master knew he had only minutes to prepare for the protection of his wagon train.

As fearsome and dangerous as the fires were, there is no recorded instance of a wagon train being destroyed by one. The reason is that there was a very proven way to protect the wagons.

What the wagon master would do is quickly start a fire on the opposite side of the train from where the prairie fire was approaching. When the fire had burned away enough, the wagons would then be formed in a circle in the burned out area. When the prairie fire reached them, it would simply burn around them and go on its way.

How does this story relate to the Cross? When Jesus was hanging on the Cross, all the sins that you and I have ever committed and ever will commit were placed upon Jesus, and the wrath that we deserve was poured out on Him.

When you place your faith in Him, you step into the area where the wrath of God has already fallen, and you become immune to the wrath that is to come.

The Bible says that every person on planet earth is under either the wrath of God or the grace of God because those are the two ways in which God deals with sin (John 3:36). Are you under wrath or grace? You can move from wrath to grace by putting your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Do it today. Do not delay.

What a glorious Savior we have!

Notes:


2) The cover painting on this month’s issue was done by James Tissot, a French painter who lived from 1836 to 1902. He was a very popular painter who was best known for his depictions of fashionable 19th Century life. Late in his life he had a deep religious experience that motivated him to devote his remaining years to illustrating the life of Jesus. He made several trips to the Holy Land to do research. His series of 462 gouache illustrations (opaque watercolor) were published in 1896. The cover illustration is entitled “It is finished!” As women at the base of the Cross mourn His death, the prophets in Heaven rejoice over His fulfillment of their prophecies.
The Inspirational Art of Robert Doares

Dr. David R. Reagan

In November of 2003 I was given the blessing of visiting Wheaton College, located in the Chicago area. I toured the college, attended a lecture about C. S. Lewis, visited the C. S. Lewis library, and spent a full morning at the Billy Graham Center.

The Billy Graham Center houses a museum of memorabilia concerning the entire span of Billy Graham’s remarkable ministry. I found the museum to be fascinating, informative and inspiring, but I must admit that I was much more intrigued by a special art exhibit that was on display in the foyer of the museum. It was a display of 54 remarkable pencil drawings and five oil paintings that focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Each picture had a panoramic format measuring 15" wide by 48" long. One thing about the pictures that immediately caught my eye was their cultural and geographical accuracy. They had obviously been drawn by someone who had walked the land of Israel and who had studied the cultural dress and architecture that prevailed in the land at the time of Jesus.

The picture reproduced above, depicting Jesus inaugurating His ministry in the synagogue in Nazareth is a good example of the art that captivated my attention that day.

The Artist

The artist proved to be equally captivating. I discovered that he is a 93 year old man by the name of Robert Doares who is still actively drawing and painting!

Mr. Doares is a native of North Carolina, and he and his wife, Kay, live in Salisbury, North Carolina.

By the time he was 40 years old, Mr. Doares was a highly

Robert Doares is shown above using magnifying glasses.
successful illustrator for magazines such as Redbook and Outdoor Life. He also illustrated books published by Doubleday and Harpers.

He says that one day he got an idea “that came out of the blue.” As he was contemplating the graciousness of God, he says, “It just came over me that there was a higher calling if I was willing to take it.” As one of his biographers put it, “A sense of gratitude permeated his being, and he decided that he wanted to spend the rest of his life serving God.”

He began studying the Bible fervently, and that led to a focus on the life of Jesus. He then started researching the topography and customs of Israel in the time of Christ. The result was a magnificent series of highly detailed drawings done on Masonite panels coated with gesso. Each picture took an average of 400 hours to complete. His original plan was to oil paint all the scenes, but with a feeling that time was running out, he decided to retain most of them as pencil drawings.

A humble man, Mr. Doares has not signed any of the works in his life of Christ series. “You’ll never find my signature,” he says. “The Lord is the subject, not me.”

The Availability of His Art


The pictures are also available in high quality giclée prints suitable for framing. They can be purchased through the Artopia Gallery at www.ArtopiaGallery.net. The book and prints of some of Mr. Doares’ newer paintings can be purchased through the artist’s new website at www.RobertDoaresArt.com. He will be happy to personally sign the book if you request him to do so.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can order Mr. Doares’ book or prints through LightShine Ministries, 2284 Lakeview Terrace, Burlington, NC 27215. The book sells for $59.95 plus shipping and handling. ♦
The Passion of the Christ
An Analysis of the Movie

Larry Watts

The movie, The Passion of the Christ, has been seen by millions of people. The movie amazed Hollywood with its box office sales. It angered, humbled, convicted, stunned, horrified, and sobered both the public and the media pundits. If you’ve seen the film, you know it is not something easily forgotten, and there is little question that it has become a major cultural milestone for Americans.

Many reports indicate a positive spiritual effect on people, but it did not begin a revival as some predicted. People who saw the movie had widely divergent reactions, both negative and positive. It raised many questions among non-believers and believers alike. (Probably more questions came from believers because they took it more seriously.)

Before the film’s release, the PBS television network aired a very interesting group discussion that showed the variety of opinions that could be produced by the movie. This special program included Newsweek magazine’s religion editor who was joined by a university professor and the film critic, Gene Shallat. It was almost comical as the religion editor tried at every opportunity to attack the Bible (and the film) in some way. The university professor also was quite negative in her comments. Gene Shallat kept upsetting their tirades by saying things like: “This really worked for me. I thought it was brilliant.” He actually apologized several times when he kept complimenting Mel Gibson’s work!

Whether you liked the film or not, it is undeniably a major work of art. Many of the scenes could be framed and hung on a museum wall. This was not a stroke of luck because classic paintings were emulated for the lighting and composition of the film. The use of the original languages was captivating and gave it a heightened sense of realism. The caliber of the acting, the editing, and music, although criticized in some reviews, maintained the high professional standards of Hollywood.

So let’s look at the film — its characteristics, its message and its impact — and answer some of the questions it has provoked.

Was it anti-Semitic?

Anti-Semitism was the hot issue before the film was released. Jewish organizations and some individuals were fearful that it would spark acts of hatred. In light of the Holocaust and the violence Israel faces every day, I think we should show understanding concerning their fears. History is replete with Jewish persecution. What many Jews don’t seem to understand, however, is that biblically literate Christians love Jews. They cannot blame Jews alone for the crucifixion if they are true to the Bible since Scripture states in Acts 4:27 that the blame must be shared.

27 “For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, assembled together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed . . .”

What parts of the movie were extra-biblical?

Before we identify the added scenes it’s important to understand the purpose and motivation for the film. Mel Gibson is a conservative Catholic and does not follow the liberalization of Catholicism that came with Vatican II. (He prefers the Latin Mass.) His objective for the film was to impact the viewer with the enormity of the sacrifice Jesus undertook on our behalf. He consulted “thousands” of theologians, and it was his desire to remain true to the Bible. One must also understand that there would not be enough material from biblical quotes alone to make a feature length movie on just the passion. Here is a quote from another writer:

Gibson co-wrote the screenplay with Benedict Fitzgerald (Wise Blood). Its drew faithfully from the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as the script’s main sources. Still, Gibson knew he was going into largely unexplored artistic territory — into the realm where art, storytelling and personal devotion meet. “When you tackle a story that is so widely known and has so many different pre-conceptions, the only thing you can do is remain as true as possible to the story and your own way of expressing it creatively,” Gibson said. “This is what I tried to do.”

So, we can be thankful that this movie contained much Scripture, was reverent, and portrayed our Lord in a positive and powerful way.

Mel Gibson drew from the Catholic traditions of the 14 stations of the cross as the skeletal outline for the film. He also incorporated the visions of the Spanish nun, Mary of Agreda (1602-1665) and the German nun, Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824). These two women were mystics and their visions were published in two books respectively titled, The Mystical City of God and The Dolorous Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the visions that Mr. Gibson used were:

a. The appearance of a snake during Satan’s temptation of Jesus in Gethsemane and Jesus crushing it with his heel. (The gospel account of an angel ministering to Jesus was omitted.)

b. Children taunting Judas after his betrayal.

c. Mary awakening at night and saying “Why is this night unlike any other night?” (This language is taken from the Jewish liturgy of the Passover.)

d. A brief scene where bribes are being handed out to people for testifying against Jesus.
e. The appearance of Jesus' mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene in the courtyard of Pilate's fortress.

f. Jesus working on the table as a carpenter.

g. Jesus being defended by several high priests.

h. Peter confessing his sin of denial to Mary, mother of Jesus, and calling her "mother."

i. Satan watching as Jesus carries the cross to Golgotha.

j. The extended conversations between Pilate and his wife.

Another added scene, and one which Lamb & Lion received the most number of questions about, was the place where we see Satan holding a baby. As you get a better look you see a baby with hair on its back and an ugly grown-up looking face. It only lasts a few seconds, but it gets your attention. Since this ugly baby is totally extra-biblical (not in the gospel accounts) Mel Gibson has often been asked to explain it. Here's what he has said:

It's evil distorting what's good. What is more tender and beautiful than a mother and a child? So the Devil takes that and distorts it just a little bit. Instead of a normal mother and child you have an androgynous figure holding a 40-year-old 'baby' with hair on his back. It is weird, it is shocking, it's almost too much — just like turning Jesus over to continue scourging Him on His chest is shocking and almost too much, which is the exact moment when this appearance of the Devil and the baby takes place.

What portions of Scripture were omitted?

The first omission was one found in the book of Matthew. In a concession to Jews, Gibson cut from the film the words of Matthew 27:25: "And all the people said, 'His blood shall be on us and on our children!'"

The second omission is John 19:30 where Jesus cries out, "It is finished." We take this as a Divine declaration proclaiming that the price of redemption has been paid once and for all.

Why was this left out? We did not find any stated reason for this. Some Protestant writers speculate that it is due to the Catholic teaching on Holy Communion. Catholics believe in transubstantiation, which means that during communion the juice and the wafer become the literal body of Christ. They also believe that the Catholic Church must continually make this offering for the forgiveness of sins over and over again. That is why the words "It is finished" have no real significance.

Did the added scenes enhance or detract?

A protestant pastor commenting on the scenes showing the close relationship of Jesus and His mother reflected that they were very meaningful to him. He said that his rejection of Mary's elevated role in Catholicism had caused him to overlook the human bond they must have experienced.

The added scenes certainly contributed emotion and character development to the film. The added scenes for the most part complimented Scripture and added theological import without being specifically Catholic.

Was the amount of suffering and violence overdone?

Based on other historical accounts of Roman crucifixions, it is doubtful that the violence depicted in this film is exaggerated. The Scriptures state the facts about the crucifixion in such a matter-of-fact or non-emotional way that a person could easily fail to grasp the really brutal nature of the event. Often the text only says "Jesus was crucified." It is only when a person is confronted with the details of crucifixion (whether by studying historical details or viewing a vivid portrayal in a film like this) that the reality of it slaps you in the face. This explains why people were so moved by the film.

The number of times Jesus fell on His way to Calvary was taken from Catholic tradition. Most seem to agree that the amount of suffering that was portrayed in the film was most likely quite accurate.

Should Protestants be concerned about the Catholic teaching in this movie?

When a Catholic sees this movie they pick up on the theology behind it immediately. When a protestant unfamiliar with Catholic teaching sees it, there usually is no doctrinal impact. There is no doubt that there is Catholic teaching in the movie that Protestants must reject. But, again, to the uninformed it is subtle, and I doubt that the movie in itself would lead someone astray.

For the most part Christians have been excited about the film's potential for evangelism. (We've also found Christian websites telling people to avoid the film entirely. This seems a bit extreme.)

The film certainly provides a very easy conversational transition to spiritual things. All one has to do is ask a series of questions: "Did you see the Passion?" "What did you think about it?" "Why was that?" "What kind of spiritual upbringing did you have?" "Have you come to the place in your life where you know for sure you are going to heaven?" "Would you like to have that assurance?"

Note: Larry Watts is Lamb & Lion's media associate. In that capacity he is responsible for assisting the media director with all aspects of video and television production. Larry is a graduate of Talbot Theological Seminary.
Our Outreach in Kenya

Dennis Pollock

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." To me that classic line sums up the mission outreaches that I have been involved with in the last few years. They are the worst of times in that there are just so many hassles involved with organizing the meetings and then traveling halfway around the world.

When I was young I used to think that it would be exciting to go on long airplane trips. Ah, the folly of youth! I didn’t know what it was like to be stuffed in a tiny seat for hours, fitfully trying to sleep. Nor did I know about the boredom that overwhelms you while you are awake.

But once you get to your destination the boredom ends, and then comes the really challenging part. Keep in mind that I am a man of routine. (My kids call me dull, but I prefer to think of myself as prudent!) I love for things to go as planned. But despite my best efforts to control all things, mission trips never, ever go as planned. There are always little surprises that pop up that require thinking out of the box, and lead in directions you never expected. For an old fogey like me, this can be a severe trial.

The Sunny Side

So much for the worst of times; let’s get to the best! I have found, to my delight, that God really likes mission trips. The way I know this is that I find that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is far stronger whenever I preach Christ’s soon return in a foreign nation. The Holy Spirit seems absolutely delighted to give Hisself in greater measures when I stand before people in India, the Philippines, the Ukraine, and the various other nations where I have proclaimed the glorious appearing of our Blessed Hope.

It’s the same guy preaching. The messages are not different, and I have the added encumbrance of sending every sentence through an interpreter. Yet God shows up so richly. I may be functioning on three hours of sleep and eating strange foods, and my body may be complaining terribly about the rude treatment I’m giving it, but my spirit is soaring all the while.

Arriving in East Africa

In May of this year Trey Collich (one of our young media staff members) and I had the privilege of going to Kenya in East Africa. I held two pastors’ conferences there, in the cities of Webuye and Kitale, and I preached in outdoor evangelistic meetings as well. I was invited by a young pair of brothers, Gideon and Eric Mudeyno, who oversee a group of churches located in western Kenya.

When Trey and I landed in Nairobi, we didn’t have to wait long for our first little surprise. British Airways had lost Trey’s bag that carried the stand for his camera, many of his videotapes, and a number of personal items as well. We were not to see this bag again until our ministry time was halfway finished.

As in all third world countries, the meetings never started on time. This is not something you can do anything about except to adjust your schedule accordingly. But by the time we were well into the first morning we had a good sized group of pastors and church leaders, and eventually we had over 600 registrants for the Webuye conference. The building had no electricity, but the men had rented a generator, and through it, we had sound and lights at night. The church building, which was large enough to seat 1,000 people, was lit with only five weak light bulbs.

The Anointing of the Spirit

Anyone who has done much preaching knows about that mysterious thing the old timers used to call unction. Today we might refer to it as liberty in the Spirit. It’s almost impossible to define, but when it is missing, you know it. Abundance of this liberty is a preacher’s dream; absence of it is his nightmare.

From the beginning I sensed a special liberty in preaching that was thrilling. As I taught on such topics as: "The Day of Christ," "The Signs of the Times," and "Understanding the Book of Revelation," my Kenyan brothers and sisters were enthusiastically receptive. Somehow it made all the travel hassles seem as nothing. It is a wonderful feeling to sense that you are exactly where God wants you to be and that you are doing precisely what He wants you to do.

In fact, the pastors were so appreciative it made me ashamed. They acted like I was someone to be honored, when in truth, I felt like I was hardly worthy to wash their feet. We had brothers and sisters from Uganda who had suffered at the hands of Idi Amin. A pastor from Tanzania had traveled over twenty-four hours to get to the conference. Many of these pastors were serving their congregations for a few dollars a week. No one was getting rich out of being in the ministry.

Surprises and Challenges

We had one little unexpected blessing during this first conference. I had been preaching on the signs of the times, describing how these were to be like the birth pains of a woman. One of the women (obviously a literalist) took me at my word
and went into real birth pains. They took her to the hospital where she had a little baby boy, and she named him Dennis!

Trey was a great blessing to me. He got a lot of great pictures and video footage, and prayed for me and with me. But it was maddening to hear his cheerful reply of “just great” whenever I asked him how he had slept. I have traveled a lot more than Trey has, and the older I get the worse I seem to sleep on these overseas trips. My body is determined to be on Texas time. It steadfastly refuses to accept any other time zone.

**Preaching Outdoors**

I have to say a little bit about the outdoor meetings. When I was a young pastor, I used to thrill in reading about the outdoor evangelistic meetings of Wesley and Whitefield. For years I have dreamed of doing something like that, but the opportunity never seemed to arise.

At last the doors have opened, and I find little in life so satisfying as preaching Christ in the open air and seeing large numbers of people responding to the message of the cross, the resurrection, and the return of our Lord. We had five such outdoor meetings in Kenya, where I preached to as many as 2,000 people, and saw scores of Kenyans praying to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was an intoxicating experience!

As is almost always the case, the messages I preached on the soon return of Jesus resulted in the largest number of people coming forward to receive the Lord. One of the thoughts that comes to me at such times is: “I would love to do this again and again and again!”

**Healings**

We also saw the miracle working touch of the Holy Spirit. Medical care is not always readily available in Kenya, and many come to the meetings expecting prayer for physical healing. I was not about to disappoint them.

One woman had been in severe stomach pain. After prayer, she collapsed and then rose up to describe how she had felt a smoky sensation in her lungs and then sensed it leave her. Her pain had left her as well. Another woman had come with terrible joint pain. She told how she had been feeling her pains leaving her throughout the sermon. After prayer, the pains left her completely. An older woman, who could only walk with difficulty, asked for prayer. After prayer, I encouraged her to walk with me. I sensed God was up to something special when she flashed a large smile as she began to walk. She told how her stiffness and pain had left her, and now she was “going to walk and walk . . .”

**Church Growth**

One of the greatest blessings I experienced was a report given by Eric Mudayno, who had gone back to Webuye to preach on the final Sunday, and then returned that night to be with us in Kitale. He reported to us that their church had 28 new visitors who had come as a result of the outdoor meetings. He stated that he felt this was happening in churches all over Webuye. I was astonished. This was the closest thing to genuine revival I have ever experienced in my life.

**Reflections**

During the conferences and evangelistic meetings I had little time to do anything but put myself on automatic pilot and go with the flow. As we flew back to the United States I finally had some time to reflect upon the great things God had done. It had been an awesome trip. I had seen once again that God’s Prophetic Word has a reviving, life giving effect upon pastors and upon sinners. I rejoiced that God was opening doors for me to return to Africa. Even before I left I had requests from pastors in Uganda and Tanzania to come to their nations to proclaim this message of Christ’s return.

The revival continues today. Not long after I got back I heard word that the church with the 28 new people now had over 80 added to their numbers and had run out of chairs to seat everyone. God is good!

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all our friends who have contributed to our missions outreach efforts. You are making a difference! Not only were souls won to Christ directly, but these pastors and evangelists who have been equipped for preaching Jesus’ return are going out and touch many more souls. Only eternity will be able to reveal the results of this one outreach trip. My prayer is that the Lord will raise up an army of partners to enable us to take the message of Jesus’ soon return all over the globe in order to better equip thousands of pastors, evangelists, and church leaders for Spirit-filled ministry.

**Note:** Dennis is scheduled to go to India in September to teach Bible prophecy for one week at the largest Bible college in Asia. He will also hold an outdoor crusade and a pastor’s conference. He will be accompanied by one of Lamb & Lion’s Prophecy Partners, Mike Vansickel of Brea, California. In November Dennis is scheduled to hold pastors’ conferences and crusades in Nigeria. He will be accompanied on that trip by one of our former trustees, Bob Bethke, pastor of Lucas Christian Church in the Dallas, Texas area. Please pray for the effectiveness of these outreaches. Donations to help with the costs should be labeled “Missions Outreach.” Thank you.
Presbyterian Church (USA)

At its recent General Assembly meeting held in Richmond, Virginia, the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted a resolution in which it compared Israel's policies toward the Palestinians to those of Africa during the years of apartheid. The assembly then voted to divest itself of any financial holdings in multinational corporations that do business with Israel.

The Anti-Defamation League strongly protested the resolution, stating, "To assert that there is a moral equivalency between the racist policy of apartheid and the efforts to protect the citizenry of Israel is unconscionable."

The nationally syndicated columnist, Dennis Prager, responded to the vote with a column entitled, "Presbyterian Church defames Christianity!" Asserting that "the greatest sin is committing evil in God's name," he pointed out that the resolution calls for "the economic strangulation of Israel" in the name of Jesus. "It takes a particularly virulent strain of moral idiocy and meanness to single out Israel," he added. He then asked why the assembly did not condemn Arafat's terrorism, or Saudi Arabia's subjugation of women, or Iran's issuance of death decrees. He concluded by stating: "One of the most decent societies, one of the most liberal democracies in the world, is fighting for its life against Islamic fascists who praise the Holocaust and publicly call for the annihilation of Israel — and the Presbyterian Church calls for strangling Israel!"

Dr. Reagan wrote the following letter to the Presbyterian Church:

I am appalled over the resolution your church recently adopted calling for a divestment campaign against the nation of Israel.

Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. It is a staunch ally of the United States.

To compare Israel with South Africa is sheer idiocy of the first order. Over one million Arabs live in Israel. All of them have complete citizen rights. They are entitled to welfare, medical care, education — you name it. They also have the right to vote, and they elect representatives to the Knesset. The only right denied them is the right to serve in the military.

In contrast, the Arabs have forcefully expelled all Jews from their countries and have confiscated all their material goods. The Palestinian Authority wants to expel all Jews from its territory.

Now, I ask you, who are the ones who are discriminating? Who are the ones guilty of ethnic cleansing? Who are the ones guilty of terrorism?

You have aligned yourselves with the Devil. Arafat is a modern day Hitler.

The Bible says that God will bless those who bless the Jews and that He will curse those who curse the Jews. May His curse be upon you.

United Methodist Church

A jury of 13 Methodist clergy in Bothwell, Washington recently decided that a fellow minister, the Reverend Karen Dammann, did not violate church law by being in a lesbian relationship. The vote was 9 to 2. Nine voted to find her not guilty. The other two were undecided. The Reverend Karla Frederickson, speaking for her fellow jurors, said they were not convinced that the church's Book of Discipline barred homosexuals from serving as ministers.

No one seemed to be concerned about what the book, the Bible had to say about the matter.

Nader Rampage

When Bob Woodward revealed in his book, Plan of Attack, that President Bush prayed before deciding to invade Iraq, Ralph Nader responded by saying: "We are dealing here with a basically unstable president . . . a messianic militarist . . . Talk about separation of church and state — it is not separated in Bush's brain, and this is extremely disturbing."

So, from Nader's viewpoint, the last thing we need is a President who prays over his decisions.

Gay Network

MTV, the controversial cable network known for promoting sexual immorality, has announced that it is going to launch a new network in February of 2005 aimed at homosexuals. It will be called Logo and will feature gay-themed movies and reality programs. Viacom CEO Tom Freston, who until June was head of MTV, promised that Logo would not be "indecent," adding, "We're not using sex. This will be mainstream programming."

Mainstream programming? Who's kidding whom?

Why Marry?

Movie superstar Johnny Depp says he would never ask the mother of his two children, Vanessa Paradis, to marry him because it would "ruin her perfect name." He added, "Her name is so perfect and so beautiful. It would be a drag to stick her with the name Paradis-Depp. It's like a flat note."

No, it's more like trouble in Paradise.
Gross Apostasy

Tom Harpur is Canada’s best known spiritual author, journalist, and TV host. He began his career as an Anglican priest before becoming a university professor and then a journalist for the Toronto Star. In a recent column he expressed his doubts about the crucifixion, both its historicity and its necessity.

When I was a boy, I was told Jesus died on the cross for my sins and that God required a “sinless sacrifice” to atone for the sins of all humanity. Only through faith “in the blood” shed on Calvary could I or anyone else be saved...

By the time I wrote a book in 1986 about the contemporary meaning of Jesus, I realized I no longer accepted the orthodox dogmas. I felt like Paul where he writes, “when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

I wrote that the idea of a God prepared to see his son murdered by the Romans to “assuage his own passion for righteousness”...is “not only crude but immoral.”

John Spong, former Anglican bishop of New Jersey, has rightly said that the whole theory of blood atonement for sin through the cross is an outdated, barbaric conception that must be dropped by any would-be future church.

What’s more, a growing number of scholars, myself included, now doubt completely that the purported “events” of Holy Week are historical. Research makes it increasingly evident that the narrative was originally composed and staged as a mystical or “mystery religion” drama with a profoundly allegorical meaning.

Here’s what the apostle Paul had to say about “scholars” like Tom Harpur: “Even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

The Danger Greater Than Terrorism

Robert Reich, the former Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, believes people who follow God pose a more significant threat to the modern world than terrorists do. In an article entitled “Bush’s God,” which appeared in the American Prospect he wrote:

The great conflict of the 21st Century will not be between the West and terrorism... The true battle will be between modern civilization and anti-modernists; between those who believe in the primacy of the individual and those who believe that human beings owe their allegiance and identity to a higher authority; between those who give priority to life in this world and those who believe that human life is mere preparation for an existence beyond life; between those who believe in science, reason, and logic, and those who believe that truth is revealed through Scripture and religious dogma.

WorldNetDaily responded by observing: “Never has anyone who has gone this high in our government made such sinister comments.”

Mr. Reich is currently positioning himself to run for governor of the People’s Republic of Massachusetts.

The Crowning of a Self-Proclaimed Messiah

On March 23rd of this year, more than a total of 81 federal lawmakers gathered at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. to attend a congressional reception honoring the cult leader, the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. At the meeting Reverend Moon declared himself to be the Messiah and claimed that his teachings have helped Hitler and Stalin be “reborn as new persons.”

The highlight of the meeting came when Congressman Danny Davis (a Democrat from Illinois) entered the room wearing white gloves and carrying a pillow on which sat an ornate gold crown that was placed on Reverend Moon’s head.

The Korean-born businessman and cult leader then delivered a long speech saying he was “sent to earth...to save the world’s 6 billion people...” He proceeded to proclaim that “Emperors, kings and presidents...have declared to all heaven and earth the Reverend Sun Myung Moon is none other than humanity’s Savior, Messiah, returning Lord and true parent.”

Reverend Moon, 85, has been controversial for years. Renowned for officiating at mass weddings, he received an 18 month prison sentence in 1982 for tax fraud and conspiracy to obstruct justice. In a 1997 sermon he likened homosexuals to “dirty dung-eating dogs.”

Once this bizarre ceremony was revealed to the public in June of this year, most of the politicians who attended started making all kinds of lame excuses for their presence.

To see a movie clip of the ceremony, go to John Gorenfeld’s website at http://www.gorenfeld.net/blog. While watching it, remember the words of Jesus: “Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many” (Matthew 24:11. See also: Matthew 24:5,24.)

“I think mainline Protestantism has traded the holy trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — for a less holy trinity — peace, justice, and inclusiveness.” — Dr. Randall Balmer, professor of Christian History at Barnard College of Columbia University.
Video 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. VHS only.

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. VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — 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.

VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — including the cost of shipping.

Jerusalem through Spiritual Eyes — Using the ancient city of Jerusalem as its setting, this 65 minute video focuses on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and His promise to return. You will walk around the city, examining each one of its gates. You will walk through the city, following the course of the Via Dolorosa. And you will examine the fascinating tombs of the city.

VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — including the cost of shipping.

Revelation Revealed — A dramatic, visually packed 75 minute presentation that takes the viewer through the book of Revelation chapter by chapter. Appropriate for both individual and group study. Full of maps, diagrams, charts, still photos, animations, and video footage. The theme from beginning to end is that the book of Revelation can be understood and that it has a message that is relevant to Christian living today.

VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — including the cost of shipping.

The Ark of His Presence — A 75 minute program that blends music, dance, and pageantry to present the ageless story of God’s presence among His people. Videotaped before a live audience. The congregation is involved from beginning to end as they celebrate God’s presence in the Tabernacles of Moses and David and His indwelling presence in believers today. The program features Randall Bane, who is considered to be the world’s foremost teacher and practitioner of Davidic praise worship.

VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — including the cost of shipping.

Preaching Prophecy — An album of four sermons on two VHS tapes or two DVD disks.

- The Importance of Bible Prophecy
- The Signs of the Lord’s Soon Return
- The Most Important Prophetic Development of the 20th Century
- The Spiritual Signs of the Times

VHS, $15; DVD, $17 — including the cost of shipping.

Ordering Instructions:

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

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 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 book runs 263 pages in length and sells for $12, 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.

Ministry News

Missions Outreach — Lamb & Lion’s associate evangelist, Dennis Pollock, will be in India in early September holding pastor’s conferences, preaching outdoor crusades, and teaching at the largest Bible college in Asia. One of our Prophecy Partners, Mike Vansickel, of Brea, California, will accompany Dennis. In November, Dennis is scheduled to conduct a similar outreach in Nigeria. He will be accompanied on that trip by one of our former trustees, Bob Bethke, who serves as pastor of Lucas Christian Church in the Dallas, Texas area.

Trey Collich is shown above with children in Kenya. Trey is a media assistant who accompanied Dennis Pollock in order to videotape the highlights of the trip.

Videotaping in Israel — In mid-October Dr. Reagan will lead a video crew to Israel consisting of six staff members and six volunteers. They will spend ten days in the Galilee area of the country shooting television programs about the life and ministry of Jesus. A total of $20,000 is needed to cover the costs of this important trip. If you can assist, please mark your donation with the words, “Israel TV.” Thank you!

The Lamb & Lion video crew shooting at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem in June of 2003.

Schedule of Meetings and Conferences — To obtain a listing of Dave and Dennis’ speaking engagements for the rest of the year, go to the ministry’s website at www.lambion.com. On the home page, click on “Our Outreach” and then click on “Meetings, Conferences, and Seminars.”

Ordering Instructions:

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

This 50 minute program features Alan Franklin, a Christian newspaper editor from London, England who is an expert on the European Union.

He is interviewed in depth by Dr. Reagan, and in the process he reveals the demonic nature of the EU, the world's fast emerging superstate. He points out that its development fulfills prophecies given by the prophet Daniel over 2,500 years ago.

It is a sobering program, but it also illustrates how near we are to the return of Jesus.

The program is accented by many illustrations taken from the British press and the documents of the EU.

The video is available only on DVD and sells for $12, including the cost of shipping.

Special: You can order all three videos for a cost of $30, including shipping. That is a savings of $6. To order any or all of the videos, call 1-800-705-8316.

This is a 60 minute video that presents the amazing life story of Jack Hollingsworth, the featured singer on Lamb & Lion's television program, "Christ in Prophecy."

The program begins with an interview of Jack and his wife, Sally, and it concludes with a lively 30 minute concert by Jack which he performed before a live audience.

You will be inspired by Jack's story of God's redeeming love — of how God rescued him from 20 years of living on the streets as a homeless person and then transformed him into a dynamic evangelist and singer.

This program would make a great Christmas present.

Available only on DVD, the video sells for $12 including shipping.

A blockbuster 50 minute interview with a former professor of Islamic history at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.

In the process of this interview, Dr. Gabriel reveals the true nature of the Qur'an and the murderous religion it has produced. He summarizes the history of Islam as "a river of blood."

He describes in detail how he was arrested and tortured for simply questioning whether or not the Qur'an came from God. He then tells how the gift of a Bible to him led to his discovery of Jesus and the true God of love, grace and mercy.

This is a program all Americans need to view to help them better understand the nature of the enemy that we face.

DVD only: $12 including shipping.

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