

THE WORLD AHEAD

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December 1995
Volume 3, Issue 9

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EDITORIAL



Roderick C. Meredith
Editor in Chief

The Spirit of Compromise

The “spirit of compromise” is abroad in our land. It is profoundly affecting millions of professing Christians far more than most of them even begin to understand. It is undermining the entire fabric of our society.

Morally corrupt Hollywood writers and producers turn out movies and television scripts that would have gotten them *run out of town* a generation ago. Their scripts commonly employ filthy language, lewd sex scenes and bloody violence so awful and often so perverted that it ought to make your hair stand on end. Do our national, religious and political leaders stand up boldly and say, “Enough”? They do NOT.

Usually, most of those leaders act as if they were tongue-tied. And even at the local level, when the city fathers (or mothers) will occasionally stand up and protest about a particularly rotten movie, they are usually made fun of by the national media and by many of the local citizens. Usually, they cave in and eventually let the thing go on. For it takes a real understanding and commitment to *God's* standards and *His* “values” for a person to stand up against a society that is constantly seeking to compromise. Our society is *constantly* compromising with the “liberal,” licentious forces of evil that unceasingly press forward to tear down almost every standard of decency still left in America, Canada, Britain and the rest of the West! These forces have taken almost total control of the media, the educational system and in many cases even the religious institutions, which ought to be teaching godly morals and ethics.

Of all people, why don't the professing ministers of God unitedly stand up against the rot and decay of our society? Where *are* the modern Jeremiahs and John the Baptists? Speaking specifically of the ministers of the modern house of Israel—the U.S., the British-descended and Northwest European nations—God says, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God to the shepherds: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost’” (Ezek. 34:2-4).

So even our religious leaders are compromising, compromising, compromising. They try to “please” the people—to give the people what they want instead of what GOD instructs! The Apostle Paul warned of this, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Depending on the circumstances, it may be a good thing for a husband

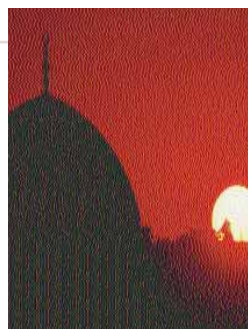
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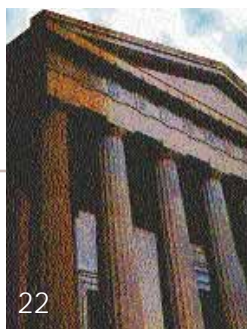
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The World Ahead is published monthly except for combined issues in July/August and October/November by the Global Church of God, 16935 W. Bernardo Dr. Ste.111, San Diego, CA.
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Application to mail at Second-Class postage rates is pending at San Diego, CA.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The World Ahead, P.O. Box 501111, San Diego, CA 92150-1111.

Jerusalem—Capital of the Entire World?

—by Roderick C. Meredith

Will Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's assassination speed up events in the Middle East? What does your Bible say is going to happen?

In a front page headline, *The Jerusalem Post* recently reported that Prime Minister Rabin's assassin said, "God told me kill the Premier!"

Yitzhak Rabin bore the image of the quintessential, native-born Israeli—the tough and gruff sabra who was prickly on the outside to foes but sweet on the inside to family and friends. For better than 50 years he served his people's cause: helping to chase out the British Mandate authorities in the 1940s, beating back the invading Arab armies upon the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, directing Israel's military to a dramatic victory that crushed three Arab armies in the Six Day War of 1967.

In the 1970s, after a distinguished career on the battlefield, Yitzhak Rabin began a turbulent political career that ultimately led him to head up the present Israeli left-wing government as prime minister. Rabin engineered a strategic shift in how his beloved Jewish State would safeguard its existence amidst an ocean of hostile Islamic neighbors. Israel was to seek security by peaceful accommodation rather than depending solely on force of arms. Rabin was prepared to give back some of the land he had conquered in 1967 for peace with his Arab neighbors.

But other Israelis saw these concessions as giving away the land which was promised by God to the descendants of Abraham through Isaac (Heb. *Yitzhak*) rather than

through the descendants of Ishmael or Esau (the Arabs). While many religious Jews care little for the Gaza Strip, many more are profoundly attached to the West Bank which they call by this land's ancient biblical names of Judea and Samaria. Rabin's willingness to give up control of much of the West Bank to Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority has given many zealously religious Israelis nightmares suspecting that their own prime minister would also give back part of Jerusalem. They mistrusted Rabin despite strong denials that Israel's "eternal and undivided capital of Jerusalem" would be up for negotiation.

After all, what the Arabs want is plain. When the Israeli army withdrew from the West Bank city of Jenin on

November 13, a billboard appeared in the newly liberated Palestinian city proclaiming, "Today Jenin, tomorrow Jerusalem" (*Los Angeles Times*, "Gleeful Arabs Take Control of West Bank City," Nov. 14, 1995).

"A Jewish mystic opposed to Israel's giving up the West Bank land for peace stood outside Rabin's house on the eve of the Day of Atonement and placed a curse on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a month ago, appealing to the angels to kill him by this week. The rabbi cursed Rabin with a *pulsa denura*—Aramaic for 'lashes of fire.'

"And on him, Yitzhak son of Rosa, known as Rabin, we have permission... to demand from the angels of destruction that they take a sword to this wicked man... to kill him... for handing over the Land of Israel to our enemies, the sons of Ishmael" (*The Jerusalem Report*, "Invoking the Spirits," printed end of October and cited by the *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 5, 1995).

But Yitzhak Rabin's assassin was no angel! WHY did this have to end this way? And what does the Bible directly prophesy is going to happen to the State of Israel—and to the city of Jerusalem?

Nearly every able-bodied Jew is drafted into their armed forces and taught to defend the nation—taught how to effectively *kill* the enemy. They are a nation armed to the teeth.

Yigal Amir, the young man who killed Prime Minister Rabin, was specifically trained as an elite soldier. "Amir spent 20 months in the elite Golani infantry brigade, in a company that proudly called itself 'the cruel ones.' He became, in the words of a friend, 'a real Golanchik. He was crazy about the army.'"

Being questioned by an Israeli judge after the assassination, notice how Amir tried to piece together both *his* idea of Jewish law and the military training he had received and inculcated into his thinking. "'According to *Halakha*,' Amir responded, referring

to the body of Jewish law, 'the moment a Jew turns over his people and land to the enemy, he must be killed. I have studied [Jewish law] all my life, and I have all the information,' Amir continued, lecturing the judge. "There are 613 *mitzvot* [commands] in the Torah. And there is a commandment more important than "Thou shalt not kill." It is *pikuach nefesh* [the preservation of life]" (*Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 10, 1995).

Something more important than the Ten Commandments? With his background in the "cruel ones," and with his fervent nationalism driving him to put his ideas about *self-preservation* above even the laws of God, it is no wonder that Amir acted as he did. So Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is *dead*.

But Israel's Enemies Are REAL

Even though Rabin's Israeli assassin made a horrible mistake in

putting *his* ideas above the Ten Commandments of God, the threat posed by Israel's *outside enemies* is very real. For starters, Israel is out-

Clockwise from left: Flowers on a T-shirt placed on Rabin's grave; Jerusalem at sunset; Rabin greeting Anwar El-Sadat near Tel Aviv in 1977. Sadat was assassinated in 1981 by an Islamic extremist—Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist; picture from the end of the Six Day War in June 1967 when then Chief of Staff Rabin (R) entered into the Old City through the Lion's Gate with Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and General Uzi Narkiss. Reuter's photos.

numbered by its Arab neighbors 49 to 1! Then there is the matter of territory. The land controlled by Israel, even including the occupied territories, is pitifully small compared to its Arab neighbors' lands (the Arabs control a land mass advantage of 656 to 1).

Yet the Arabs are insisting that Israel give up much of this territory for "peace." Egypt, Jordan and other Arab states have recognized Israel and made various overtures toward total peace. Yet, one of Israel's biggest and most heavily armed immediate neighbors, Syria, is seemingly intransigent. Syrian president, Hafiz Assad, is known as a very cunning operator who gives little and takes much (Assad refused to send even a short note of condolence to Rabin's widow, Leah). He wants Israel to give up the strategic Golan Heights.

Before Israel conquered the Golan Heights in the Six Day War, Syrian gunners would routinely bombard Israeli farms below,

wreaking havoc. Controlling these commanding heights has been a source of Israeli pride and protection. Giving them up could be a military disaster.

Meanwhile, Syria's Hafiz Assad hangs back from the peace process and waits, biding his time. Frankly, *all* of recent history should tell us that he, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the leaders of Iran are not waiting for peace—but for a weakening of Israel's resolve and ability to defend itself. Then they will make the long-promised move to CRUSH Israel—to completely obliterate the State of Israel and butcher most of its citizens. As most of you know, these leaders have told their people of this desire for years and years. This is certainly no secret in the Middle East.

Thousands of astute Israelis know this, of course, and are therefore opposed to the “peace process” that is being pushed on them by naive American and other Western nations.

They *know* that the day will come when a weakened or irresolute America will NOT come to their rescue as in times past. So, humanly speaking, they feel they “have” to train virtually all able-bodied young men and women in the art of war and prepare to defend themselves, even to death.

So *where* is all this leading?

The Future of Jerusalem

There is a worldwide concern about the State of Israel, the city of Jerusalem and the disposition of the Temple Mount—site of ancient King Solomon's temple. It is of tremendous interest to all three of the world's major monotheistic religions—Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Both Jews and Arabs claim that they are supposed to control the Temple Mount. A great debate is even now raging about whether to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Many Islamic nations oppose this because they want to see the two mosques on the Temple Mount under Arab sovereignty *and*, to this end, the Palestinians claim Jerusalem as *their* capital. Yet the Jewish claim for Jerusalem goes back 3,000 years to the time of King David.

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin illustrates to a small degree the religious and political passions which the “Holy Land” incites in millions of people—both Arabic and Jewish. Frankly, in the near future—*perhaps* the next 10 to 15 years—there is going to be more strife and bloodshed over Jerusalem and the ancient land of Israel than most people can possibly imagine.

Speaking of the years just before His Second Coming, Jesus Christ said:

For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled [Luke 21:22-24].

This is a direct prophecy that Jerusalem will *once again* be conquered. The captivity of its Jewish citizens, and of the peoples of America and Britain as well, will be ended only by the return of the Messiah—Jesus Christ as King of kings!

What will precipitate this final captivity of the city of Jerusalem?

Shortly after Rabin's assassination, *Time* magazine's senior correspondent, Scott MacLeod, talked with Yassir Arafat at his Gaza headquarters. The reporter wanted to know what would happen to the peace process if the current Israeli government lost power to the right-

wing opposition Likud party, which wants to slowdown or scuttle the *signed* Oslo peace agreements. Arafat warned, “**These are not bilateral agreements. These are international agreements.** Who signed the last one? Me and Rabin. Then President [Hosni] Mubarak [of Egypt], King Hussein [of Jordan], [U.S. Secretary of State] Christopher, [Russian Foreign Minister] Kozyrev, [**Spanish Prime Minister**] **Gonzalez in the name of the European Union**” (Nov. 20, 1995, p. 81)!

The Great Tribulation

Notice the amazing prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45. This describes the “king of the north”—prophetically identified as the super dictator over a coming European Empire—swooping into the Middle East! He will “enter” into the “Glorious Land”—not necessarily conquering it—because the Jews may *already be cooperating* with this power as a result of events described above! But while he shall “enter” Israel, this coming charismatic ruler of Europe shall obviously *conquer* Egypt, as verse 42 states: “The land of Egypt shall not escape.”

This coming Hitler-like dictator will eventually make *Jerusalem* his headquarters! (v. 45). Coming with him from Europe will be a great religious leader, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the TEMPLE of God, shewing himself that he is God**” (2 Thess. 2:4 KJV). We *do not* set exact dates. But every indication from the timetable of prophecy is that this will probably take place in the near future!

This *revival* of Europe's heavy involvement and influence in the Middle East, the building of a *literal Temple* or at least the completion of an *altar* on the Temple Mount (cf. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 11:31), the eventual takeover of Israel and Egypt by a revived Roman Empire of European nations culminating in a great religious leader making his headquarters right in Jerusalem (“in the glorious holy mountain,” Dan. 11:45)—these will be definite “signs” to those who believe what God's Word says concerning the END of this age!

The final conquest of Jerusalem by Gentile forces will NOT primarily involve Arab armies! Rather, a religiously united European power led by the coming Beast described in Revelation 17 and 18 will be the conquerors of Jerusalem.

Jesus prophesied about all of this in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. In Revelation 11, the Apostle John is told to “measure” the Temple of God. He is told that the Gentiles “will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months” (v. 2). Here and in Revelation 12:14 and 13:5, the

indication is that the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord will last three and one-half years (Tribulation, 2 1/2 years; Day of the Lord, 1 year).

Once again, *Jerusalem* is at the center of the action. “And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth” (Rev. 11:3). So for the three-and-one-half-year period of the Tribulation and Day of the Lord, God has two “witnesses” *right in Jerusalem*—WARNING of the sins and of the vile nature of this European political/religious system

that is soon to rise.

Then, “When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” (Rev. 11:7-8). So these two servants of God are executed—*in Jerusalem!* After three and one-half days, God supernaturally resurrects them—for it is time for man's *misguided human governments* to come to an END. “Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”” (v. 15).

God also inspired the Prophet

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Counterclockwise from left: Young partisans of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement march behind a drummer in Beirut celebrating the death of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin -AFP; King Hussein of Jordan eulogizes during the funeral service -Reuters; an Israeli mourns with his family while waiting for the convoy carrying the prime minister's coffin -AFP; mourners under the Israeli flag during the funeral -Reuters.

What Do You Mean— Born Again?

Millions of professing Christians think that they're ALREADY born again. What about you? Are you sure? Many millions are deceived on this vital subject! Could you be one of them?

by John H. Ogwyn

Warm, humid September air wafted through the open windows of the little country church in Taylor, Louisiana. A “revival” was in progress. As the evening drew on and some of us kids sat squirming next to our parents, the minister continued his plea for us to give our hearts to the Lord and to experience a new birth. “You must be born again!” he emphasized over and over throughout the week-long revival meeting.

For those of us present that evening, as well as for millions of others, the new birth was equated with a one-time, emotional experience that takes place when an individual “accepts Christ.” Is that really what Jesus Christ meant when He told Nicodemus that it is necessary to be born again? Make no mistake about it, a new birth is absolutely vital! Without it we will never see the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ said so in John 3:3!

Different Ideas About the New Birth

Millions, influenced by Protestant evangelical preaching, understand being born again in much the same way as did the revival preacher to whom I responded almost forty years ago. Many other professing Christians see it differently. Those whose background is in one of the more formal, sacramental churches have quite a different view of the “new birth.” The *Dictionary of the Bible and Religion* explains in the article “Regeneration” that the rite of infant baptism, practiced not only by Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, but by many Protestant churches as well, “is historically known as *baptismal regeneration* and rests on the belief that the sacrament, when performed aright, has the power to confer what it signifies, namely regeneration or new birth of the child to God’s family.”

Churches which view infant baptism as a sacrament believe that the ceremony itself confers regeneration and the person at that point enters into the Kingdom of God. Evangelicals think that the individual must first make a personal profession of faith, but then he is born again and is in the Kingdom from that moment on.

Belief in the necessity of being born anew is not limited to those who profess Christianity, however. In today’s world both Buddhists and Hindus also talk about rebirth. *The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible* brings out in its article on regeneration that many of the ancient mystery religions taught that their adherents were born anew following special rituals. They used the term “regeneration... to designate the salvation attained for the believer by means of initiation.” From Stoics and Pythagoreans to adherents of Mithraism and of the ancient Eleusinian Mysteries there was belief in the necessity of rebirth.

Arguments in religion have a tendency to spill over into other areas of life. Back in the 1970s with the election of Jimmy Carter to the U. S. presidency, “born again” was thrust onto the front pages of newspapers. In the years since,

this term has increasingly been used to distinguish those who call themselves “born-again Christians” from others who are viewed by them as simply “nominal Christians.” This religious divide plays an increasing role in American politics. Among those who emphasize the importance of what they term a “born-again experience,” there is a growing tendency to look to “speaking in tongues” and similar types of emotional, charismatic experiences as proof of the new birth.

There is one area of common ground held by both those who view the new birth as a matter of sacrament and those who view it as a matter of personal, emotional experience. That common ground is that they both believe they are **already born again at this present time**. That belief is basic to their view of God’s plan of salvation. While reference to receiving a new birth is made by many religions, an understanding of what precisely *is meant* by the new birth varies greatly.

Understanding *when* the new birth occurs is crucial to clearly understanding what is involved in salvation.

The WHEN of Salvation

One of the most misunderstood aspects of salvation is that, according to the Bible, it is a process. To begin with, why do we need to be saved? Saved from what? After understanding these issues we can then look at the *when* and *how* of salvation.

Simply put, we are saved from death, eternal death! The Apostle Paul tells us clearly, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). He explains, “The wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Rom. 6:23). It is the divine Father who takes the initiative in bringing a person to salvation: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died *for us*” (Rom. 5:8; cf. John 6:37, 44). Does the death of Christ then save us? Notice this startling truth. “Much more then, having now been *justified* by His blood, we *shall be* saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we *shall be* saved by His life” (Rom. 5:9-10).

Notice, there is a salvation process! All of us have sinned. In other words we’ve all broken God’s holy, righteous law (1 John 3:4 KJV). In fact, Paul explains in Colossians 1:21 we were previously alienated from God and enemies in our mind because of our own wicked works. As a result, we deserve eternal death. God took the initiative in making salvation possible: Christ took our place and died in our stead. This alone, however, does NOT save us! It makes possible our justification and reconciliation. This means that we can be innocent and brought into harmony with God. Although God took the initiative, nevertheless, we must *respond* to this. Peter

explained this to those who heard his sermon on the day of Pentecost: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

That’s really only the first stage, however. At baptism we make a commitment and begin a spiritual development process. In Matthew 24:13, Jesus Christ makes it plain that it is only those who *endure to the end* who will be saved. Salvation is a process that begins for us when we receive God’s Holy Spirit following baptism and culminates when “this mortal must put on immortality” at the resurrection that occurs at Christ’s return (1 Cor. 15:53).

Between our conversion and our death, God expects us to do something! Paul wrote, “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1). Jesus Christ summarized what’s required of us in response to God’s love when He said, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21). We don’t inherit the Kingdom at conversion; rather God expects us to live a life of growth and overcoming empowered by His Holy Spirit.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul explains how we are to spiritually grow: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (KJV). Christ not only died to pay the penalty for sin, but then after three days and three nights He came forth out of His grave *alive* for evermore. He was raised in power and glory as the “firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:18). It is through His *life* that we also might have life eternal (Rom. 5:10).

Just as in the human birth process, there is the imparting of new life, a period of growth and development, and then a coming forth into the world, so it is also in the process of salvation which results in our entrance into the Kingdom of God. **The when of salvation is the resurrection. We will then finally inherit the Kingdom of God** as spirit-born sons of God. Christ said in Luke 20:36 that we will be the “children of God, being children of the resurrection” (NRSV).

Telling a Pharisee to Be Born Again

Nicodemus was shocked. He had come to Jesus secretly, at night, and had privately acknowledged to Him that he and other religious leaders recognized Him as a man from God. Did he think Jesus would be appreciative of this stamp of approval, private though it may have been?

Whatever the Pharisee had expected, what Jesus told him came as a complete shock. For you see, Nicodemus, as a Pharisee, had long assumed that he was already saved!

GREEK EXPRESSIONS REFERRING TO A NEW BIRTH

The Greek word *gennao* is rendered into English by both “born” and “beget.” Sometimes these terms are used by various translators of the Bible as though they were totally interchangeable. But that just isn’t so. And this seemingly small matter can lead to great confusion and result in a major error in understanding.

Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament says that *gennao* means “properly: of men begetting children... more rarely of women giving birth to children” (Strong’s no. 1080). *The Interpreter’s Bible*, a 12-volume commentary, gives a simple but clear rule about when *gennao* should be rendered “born” and when “beget” would be preferable: “Birth can be considered either from the father’s side, in which the verb is to ‘beget,’ or from the mother’s side, in which the verb is to ‘bear’” (vol. 8, Abingdon Press, p. 505). To “bear” is the active form of the passive “to be born.”

The English word “beget” refers to the father’s causal action which generates offspring. Synonymous verbs would be “engender,” “sire,” or “father.” To “bear” refers to the mother’s role in producing offspring—i.e. carrying them to term and bringing them forth into the world. In English, “begettal” by the father is limited to conception. In Greek, however, *gennao* is a broad word and can be used to cover the entire gamut of the process of “bringing forth” a child into the world. To demonstrate, in Matthew 1:20—the very first time *gennao* occurs in the Bible—it is translated “conceived” (KJV). In Luke 2:11 it is rendered “born.” In each case the context makes obvious the proper translation into English.

One might wonder how a man engendering a child could equate to a woman giving birth to a child. The answer is that the process is viewed as a whole. A *conceived* child in the womb is seen as *gennao*—“brought forth”—of its father. A *born* child is *also* seen as *gennao*—“brought forth”—of its father. (If the child dies before birth, it was “brought forth” but is no longer.) A born child is *also* “brought forth” of its mother. For this reason, “brought forth”—which covers every aspect of the birth process from both parents’ sides—is probably the best translation of *gennao*. True Christians are “brought forth” of God right now. We will *remain* “brought forth” of Him as long as we continue to grow with God’s Spirit. Then, if we are “overcomers” (Rev. 2:26), we will finally be FULLY “brought forth” when we are spiritually BORN at the resurrection!

The term *gennao* can be found in combination with other prefixes or words to refer to regeneration or a new birth. One such term is *anagennan*, which literally means “rebeget” or “rebear.” It occurs only in 1 Peter 1:3 and 23, and refers to our having been brought forth anew by “incorruptible seed”—a process which is seen as having begun with spiritual conception and culminating in the resurrection (vv. 4-5).

Another word, *palingenesia* (literally “becoming again”) is used in Matthew 19:28 and Titus 3:5. From these two verses we again learn of a process which begins with spiritual renewal, symbolized by baptism, and culminates in the resurrection—when the Twelve Apostles will have literally “become anew,” having received glorified spirit bodies (1 Cor. 15:43-44). This is when they will sit on 12 thrones judging the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

A form of this expression, *palin genomai*, is the only Greek expression referring to a new birth that is ever used in the *Septuagint* (a Greek translation of the Old Testament in use at the time of Christ). It is used in Job 14:14 where Job anticipates the resurrection: “If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my CHANGE [*palin genomai*, “rebirth”] come” (KJV).

The last expression we will examine is *gennan anothēn* in John 3:3. It is often rendered “born again.” But many scholars believe it is best rendered “begotten from above.” *Thayer’s* explains *anothen* as meaning “from above... from the top.... Often... from heaven, or from God.” But the next definition given is “from the first.... Hence... anew, over again, indicating repetition (a use somewhat rare, but wrongly denied by many...)” (Strong’s no. 509). *Thayer’s* advocates this second definition for John 3:3 based on Nicodemus’ response, in which he thought Christ meant he would have to “enter the *second time into his mother’s womb* and be born” (v. 4)—a *repeat* of the human birth experience. However, strong arguments can be made for “from above” as well.

This, of course, is not the crux of the matter. Both ideas are correct. We must be brought forth AGAIN—only this time it must be FROM ABOVE. It is a process which originates with our Heavenly Father—not from below with an earthly father. The important point about John 3 is what stage of the process is being described. In *another* context, *gennan anothēn* might have referred simply to our present stage of being “brought forth” or “fathered” of God right now. But, based on Christ’s words in John 3, we can determine that He is indicating a *completed* process. Those who are *gennan anothēn* are seen here as composed of spirit (v. 3) and invisible like the wind (v. 8). So the phrase *gennan anothēn*, in the immediate context of John 3, is best rendered “fully brought forth again”—i.e. *born again* as “the children of God, being the children of the resurrection” (Luke 20:36 KJV)!

After all, he was a scrupulous observer of the law according to Pharisaic tradition. He had been born of the seed of Abraham to whom God had anciently made the promises. He had been circumcised the eighth day, which made him a member of the Covenant Community. He was not one of the hated publicans whose continual contact with Gentiles made them synonymous with unclean and sinners in the eyes of observant Jews. He wasn’t even one of the *am ha eretz*, “the people of the land.” They were the ordinary masses of people who were so concerned with the mundane matters of making a living that they didn’t have lots of free hours for the study of the Torah.

The Kingdom of God was the hope of Pharisees such as Nicodemus. They believed in the resurrection and in the fact that the Messiah would establish a Kingdom to rule all nations just as foretold by the prophets. However, Jews of the first century looked upon the Kingdom and the resurrection in almost wholly physical and materialistic terms. They looked upon entrance into the Kingdom as their birthright through the promises made in the covenant with Abraham. While they recognized the necessity of a Gentile proselyte shedding his old identity following circumcision and the “*mikvah*” (ritual immersion) to become a child of Abraham, they saw no similar need for themselves (cf. John 8:32-36). Were they not already the children of Abraham and therefore heirs of the promises by nature?

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On the night his separatist-sovereignty movement barely lost the referendum vote that he had hoped would give him a mandate to negotiate the separation of the province of Quebec from the rest of Canada, Quebec’s provincial premier, Jacques Parizeau bitterly remarked, “It’s true we’ve been beaten, but at the bottom of it, by what? By money and the ethnic vote!” (*La Presse Monréale*, “Le NON de justesse,” Oct. 31, 1995).

Several times Parizeau hammered away in his “concession” speech that a majority of French-speaking Quebecers (about 60 percent) had voted in favor of sovereignty-separation. Yet their nationalistic aspirations had been frustrated by the province’s *féderastes*—minorities including long-resident English-speakers and recent immigrants plus French-speaking Quebecers fearful of the negative financial impact separation might cause them. While Parizeau’s intemperate gaffe led to his promise to resign from his various political and governmental offices at the end of this legislative session, his acerbic, though acute, observation has hit hard at the province’s social unity.

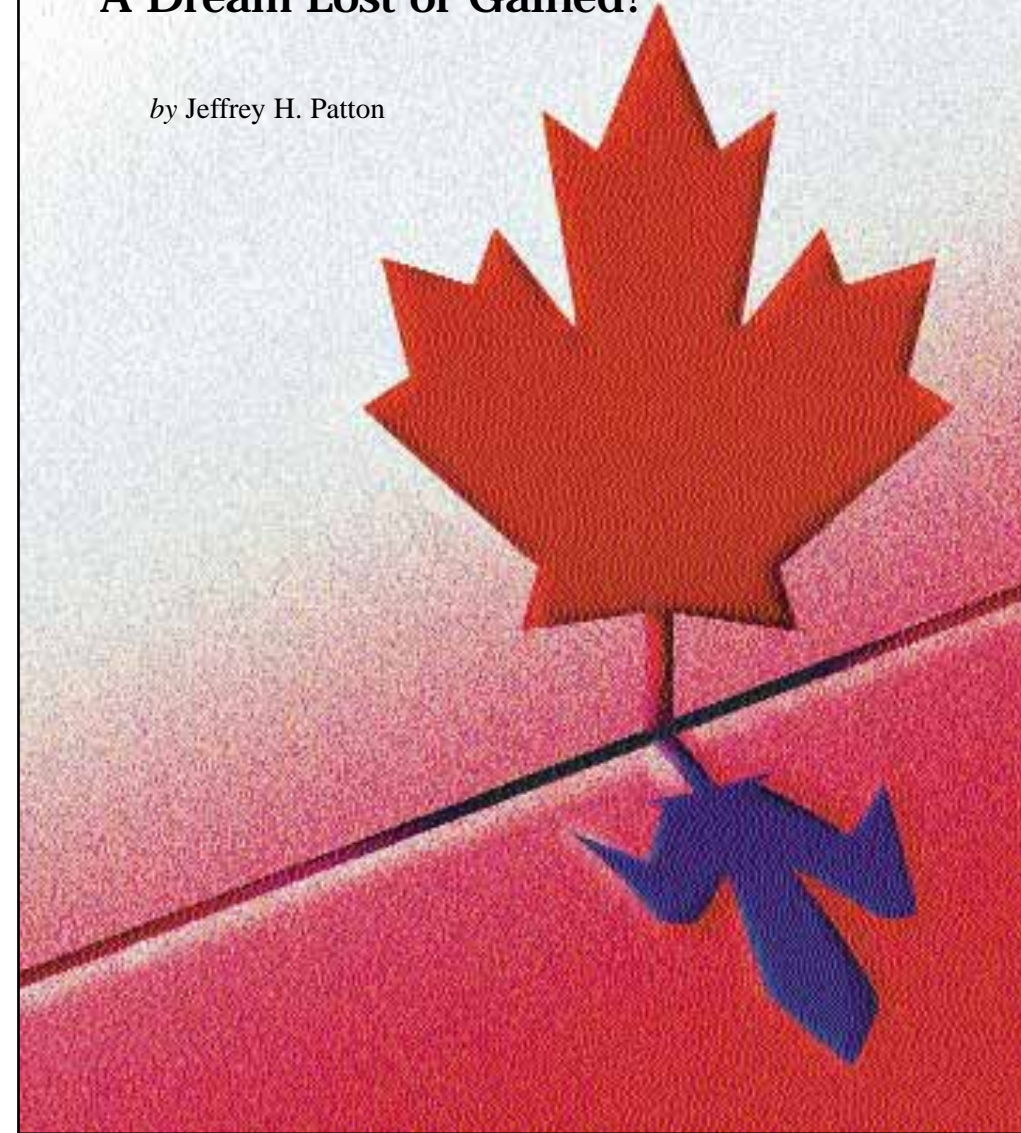
“Two employees at Montreal’s Inter-Continental Hotel say that Bernard Landry, the deputy premier of Quebec, arrived at the hotel early Tuesday, a few hours after the referendum loss, ranting about ‘immigrants’ who had deprived the Yes forces of a victory.

“According to two female hotel employees, Landry, who is also responsible for immigration and cultural communities, spoke abusively about immigrants, yelled at them and created a scene obliging them to call hotel security” (*The Montreal Gazette*, Nov. 3, 1995).

Several days later, at a press conference outside the House of

Separatism: A Dream Lost or Gained?

by Jeffrey H. Patton



Commons in Ottawa, Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, armed with a thick handful of reports about comments made by members of the *Parti Québécois*, *Bloc Québécois* and other pro-sovereignty groups, accused the separatists of having a racist agenda. She noted that Premier Parizeau’s comments were not an isolated incident. “Copps said sovereignists are already gearing up for a third sovereignty referendum because they don’t think the vote of minority groups is *as valid* as the vote of the majority” (*The Montreal Gazette*, “PQ, Bloc racist: Copps,” Nov. 3, 1995).

Is Canada Going into Political Purgatory?

The referendum evoked an astonishingly high electoral turnout. Some 94 percent of registered voters cast ballots. Favoring the position advocated by the separatist movement’s leaders Lucien Bouchard, Jacques Parizeau and Mario Dumont was 49.4 percent of the vote—falling short of a majority by scarcely 50,000 votes!

Due to the No side’s narrow win, the 25-year-old head of Quebec’s pro-separatist *Action Démocratique* party, Mario Dumont, observed immediately

after the results were known, “Tonight, history will note that the end of this present Canada was signed.... If I were on the side of this night’s winners [the No vote], I would not celebrate” (*La Presse Monréale*, “La fin du C a n a d a actuel,” Oct. 31, 1995).

Many of the separatists are promising to plunge this remarkable confederation of 10 provinces and two territories—the second largest country in the world with borders stretching about 4,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific—into *political purgatory!* “With a defeat that is really a moral victory—extraordinary besides since the margin is absolutely minimal—the separatists escape the responsibilities of governing. **They remain the bearers of a dream which they can frequently evoke as a Promised Land barely lost....** We are entering—and God knows when we will get out of it—into an era of perpetual confrontation and sullen militancy. Canada will become somewhat ungovernable,

Counterclockwise from upper left: Quebec Premier and leader of the “YES” side gestures during his speech following the referendum on October 30 after their defeat. -Reuters; a group of youths cheer for Daniel Johnson, leader of the “NO” side at a youth rally -AFP; Quebec Liberal Party leader Daniel Johnson addresses youth supporters -Reuters; Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien giving an emotional plea to fellow French-speaking Quebecers not to break up Canada on October 29th -AFP; a “YES” supporter sits with a Quebec flag crumpled up in his hand after the defeat of 49.62% to 50.38% -AFP; voters in Quebec casting their ballots -Reuters; Lucien Bouchard, one of the separatist leaders, speaks to a group of women trying to sway their vote.

and the federalist bosses are going to pay dearly for this half-victory.... One can say that we are in purgatory. Not heaven, nor hell. Only unbearable waiting” (Lysiane Gagnon, *La Presse Monréale*, “Le purgatoire,” Oct. 31, 1995).

This is not the way Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien had hoped the election would turn out. He was hoping for a definitive, clear-cut victory. But the prime minister, overconfident, misreading the public’s evolving attitude since the last such referendum in 1980 when the separatists were trounced by the federalists 60 percent to 40 percent, did not realize until mid-October that the Canadian confederation’s united ship of state was perilously close to shipwrecking on separatist shoals!

Aroused at the last moment, Chrétien began furiously campaigning to preserve his country. On Wednesday night before the election, he went on prime-time television in an appeal to his fellow Quebecers, saying, **“The end of Canada would be nothing less than the end of a dream.** The end of a country that has made us the envy of the world. Canada is not just any country. It is unique. It is the *best* country in the world” (*The Edmonton Journal*, Oct. 26, 1995).

Two Peoples Wrangling in One State?

Why are the French-speaking Quebecers so unhappy? “‘English’ Canada understood with its head, maybe, what was going on [in Quebec], but not with its heart. It still does not. The referendum campaign has been full of Anglo astonishment that a n y o n e could want to part from a country that is, cliché of the season, ‘the envy of the world’” (*The Economist*, “That’s that, until Quebec tries again,” Nov. 10, 1995, p. 45).

Viewing the situation with cool logic, English-speaking Canadians thought the real and perceived economic costs of separation to Quebec were so high that no one would rationally walk away from the present political and economic arrangement. The polls seemed to bear out this point of view until early October. With the separatist cause flagging, Jacques Parizeau, head of the Yes-Sovereignty drive, stepped aside to allow the more charismatic Lucien Bouchard to lead the drive to independence.

“From that moment the campaign, and the opinion polls, changed. Why? Because Mr. Bouchard put his side’s economic calculus into the cupboard and took out of it the big French drum. He is good at lofty emotion, brilliant at rancor, Mr. Bouchard” (p. 45).

Sadly for the Canadian confederation, “French-speaking Quebecers feel more affec-

tion for Quebec than they do for Canada and, if many of them still vote to stay in Canada, they do so more out of a fear of the unknown than of loyalty to any concept of Canadianism. Moreover, it is hard to see how greater loyalty to such a concept could be fostered, least of all by weakening the federal arrangements of what is already the loosest federation in the world” (*The Economist*, “Break-up postponed,” Nov. 10, 1995, p. 19).

“When the Earl of Durham was sent from England in 1838 to investigate grievances in Canada, he ‘expected to find a contest between a government and a people’; instead he found ‘two nations warring in the bosom of a single state.’ They are still warring, and for the same reason: the French-speakers want to run their own show” (p. 19).

Nationalism and ethnic rivalries are increasing throughout the world. Witness the breakup of the Soviet Union into the Confederation of Independent States led by the ethnically fractious Russian Federation. Or recall the bloody, divisive travails of ex-Yugoslavia with its “ethnic cleansing.” Or remember the split of Czechoslovakia into independent Czech and Slovak states. Ironically, in the bilingual African state of Cameroon, in which the majority of its provinces speak French, two English-speaking provinces have long

felt exploited and underserved by the French-speaking bureaucracy in the capital city of Yaoundé. The two Anglophone provinces are now seriously agitating for separation.

Canadian divisiveness is having an impact on other countries whose social foundations are also built over ethnic fault lines. “The referendum on Quebec sovereignty is giving ideas to French-speaking Belgian autonomists for whom a YES success would reinforce their position in Belgium. ‘If the Quebecers vote for independence, this would be an example of a French-speaking people who liberate themselves and that would provoke a similar dynamic in the French-speaking parts of Belgium’ declared Maurice Lebeau, president of the Walloon movement for a return to France” (*La Presse Monréale*, “Des effets en Belgique,” Oct. 31, 1995).

Do continuing storm clouds up north portend rain in the United States? Of course! Canada and America are each other’s largest trading partner accounting for about one billion dollars in exchanges each day! So any future Canadian disturbance might well affect U.S. interests. But more significant for the U.S. is the failure of Canada’s much-lauded effort to make that country multicultural. As President Bill Clinton said shortly before the referendum, “Everybody’s got problems, but Canada looks like a country that is really doing the right things, moving in the right direction, has the kind of values that we’d all be proud of” (*The Montreal Gazette*, “Clinton wants a strong Canada,” Oct. 26, 1995).

Is America, the world’s last remaining multi-ethnic superpower,

destined to be wracked by separatist movements? According to James Pinkerton, a writer who previously worked in the Bush White House, **“The existence of a widening racial divide in America at the end of the 20th century is so troubling that it should be a top concern.** But there is a more subtle problem that isn’t likely to be discussed so much. It’s the *potential Balkanization* of America, the splintering of society into a collection of ethnic, religious and political subgroups whose members retreat into their own enclaves and seek to seal out others. If the present trends continue, we are going to devolve to the point where America is *unrecognizable*” (*Wall Street Journal*, “The Real Issue: Can Americans Hang Together?,” Oct. 25, 1995).

To many people unfamiliar with the Bible, it may come as a surprise that Jesus of Nazareth foresaw almost 2,000 years ago the worsening ethnic relations and increasing intercommunal strife that has become a dominant characteristic of the post-

Cold War world. Jesus Christ prophesied that one indication signaling the end of the current world order would be: when *ethnos* will be raised against *ethnos*, and *basileia* against *basileia* (cf. Matt. 24:7). The

(continued on page 29)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Longer Scared

I thoroughly enjoy your literature. Please forward my appreciation to the authors for taking the time to write such important, well-written pieces. I really believe in these booklets and find them very helpful in dealing with today's problems. These booklets have definitely made me a more positive person and everything is easier to understand.

I do pass them on to my family and inform people of what is in store for us ahead and why things are happening in the world today. I thoroughly enjoyed the booklet *Fourteen Signs Announcing Christ's Return*. I am understanding why things are happening and why they have to happen. I am no longer scared and feel secure in believing in Christ and that He will look after us in the devastating times ahead!

S. R.
East Burwood, Australia

Appreciates TV Program

We happened to catch the end of your show last week, being shown locally on WRCB-TV in Chattanooga, Tennessee. We called for your literature and were eager to see the whole show this week. I want to tell you that we are very favorably impressed! It was just wonderful to hear the Truth of God presented as a witness and warning without any apologies, and without political opinion diatribes or weird cryptic imaginary "doctrines."

Sadie Morgan
Rossville, Georgia

I just recently turned to your program with Roderick Meredith and I finally found an interesting religious program!

Estelle Epstein
Far Rockaway, New York

I have been watching the *World Ahead* television program on Saturdays. I have learned so much about the Truth of God through His message in the Bible. Thanks to this wonderful, God-given

show, I know I can better prepare myself for the soon-coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't have a telephone. Could you please send me the booklets you offered and may I receive the monthly magazine, *The World Ahead*?

Kimberly Wagner
Hesperia, California

I am a listener of *The World Ahead*, and I sure enjoy it very much. I've never in my life heard a preacher speak the Word of God from the Bible so clearly. Mr. Meredith explains it so plainly that even a child could understand it.

Beulah Seward
Butler, Missouri

Good Marriages

Your article on marriage ["A Good Marriage-Your Loving Oasis in a Harsh World," Oct.-Nov. 1995] was so profound and deeply spiritual. I know Christ is the inspiration and it is His mind reflected in your writing. I've seen so many who need this article, myself included. God always rehearses things in our ears and I know we desperately need to work in this area. My observation is that marriage is where we are tested the most. But we have a tendency to allow the precious lessons we learn to fade, rather than become polished stones reflecting Christ. We often end up neglecting marriage, when we should be cherishing it the most.

Larry Summers
Chatsworth, California

I find your magazine to be a fine piece of literature. I have just read the October-November issue, and was particularly impressed with the article, "A Good Marriage-Your Loving Oasis in a Harsh World."

I have considered divorce several times in my own marriage, but have always pulled up short. My wife suffers from bipolar mental health problems. I have had to endure a lot in marriage: mood swings, excessive spending on credit cards, vocal abuse, etc. To compound the problem, she is an atheist,

with no spiritual base to help with her disorder. I have paid a deep price to stay married, but still am after 20 years.

Perhaps you could write an article sometime on the challenges mental health problems present in marriage.

Name withheld
Cincinnati, Ohio

"Surfs the Net"

The World Ahead magazine is very well done. The articles and pictures are tops, and the messages are very straightforward. The July-August cover story ["What's Ahead for Europe and North America"] goes right along with the information we have read about the World Council of Churches.

We just received Mr. Meredith's letter telling about the *World Ahead* program on WWOR and KCOP television stations, as well as your magazine being available on the Internet. Sounds great! There are a lot of Internet "surfers," like our grandson, out there.

Bill Amburgey
Waco, Texas

A complete listing of stations airing the *World Ahead* television program, as well as the address of our WWW home page on the Internet can be found on page 31—ed.

"Vested Interests"

By this letter, I would like to draw your attention to the negative impact of what some present-day Christian ministers teach. These so-called authorities seem to quote Bible verses to support their own vested interests. Will you please recommend a suitable remedy to this problem in the Church?

K. Jacob
New York, New York

What you mention is a concern for all Christians. *The Bible is the Word of God, His instructions to mankind showing how to live and what our destiny will be. In 2 Timothy 3:16, we see that "All*

Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." God's Word is never to be used for personal gain, or to advance a private agenda or "vested interests."

The Bible warns us about those who teach false doctrine. They are referred to as wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). But a Christian can identify false teachers by their fruits—those whose teachings and actions do not coincide with the plain words of Scripture are not true ministers of Christ (vv. 18-20; cf. Is. 8:20). It is our duty to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21 KJV). The Apostle Paul commended the Bereans of his day for searching the Scriptures to prove whether his teachings were the Truth of God (Acts 17:11). We at The World Ahead magazine believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God and base all of our teachings on the Scriptures. We invite our readers to study all that we say in their own Bibles for more in-depth understanding—ed.

Modern-Day Israel

I have enjoyed the articles on God's intervention on behalf of modern-day Israel. Another area where God helped them was during World War II in the field of espionage.

Gilbert Morris
Montgomery, Alabama

You are referring to our 24-article series on the identity of modern-day Israel and God's continuing involvement with His people. For a more in-depth study on this subject, write for our free brochure, *America and Britain in Prophecy*—ed.

We welcome your comments, criticism or questions. Please mail letters for this section to "Letters to the Editor" at our U.S. address. Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit your comments for clarity, propriety or space.

EDITORIAL (continued from page 3)

to compromise with his wife on where they will spend their vacation. It may be all right at times for politicians to compromise on some piece of legislation so that the genuine needs of the majority are taken into account. But it is absolutely WRONG to compromise on *spiritual principles*—on the direct teaching of God's Word and His law! That approach is simply giving a very real Satan the invitation to move in and bring about *more* compromises! That is what we see occurring in many churches and in many nations in our so-called "Christian" societies of the West.

When religious people get to politicking and even *voting* on the doctrines they want in their churches, it is absolutely CONTRARY to everything revealed in the inspired Word of God! WHY? Because human nature has *not* changed. Voting leads, eventually, to accepting the LOWEST common denominator set by the majority—as we now see occurring in our ENTIRE SOCIETY.

God inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would NOT be a bondservant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10).

I hope all of our readers will—in *religious matters*—learn to sincerely seek to believe and practice *what God says* in His inspired Word even if it is not easy, pleasant or currently acceptable to the mainstream of society. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). We must all learn to be men and women of TRUTH. We must learn NOT to accept watered-down doctrines and religious practices of misguided men, which are not clearly validated in the Word of God.

Near the end of His ministry, the Apostle Paul could with good conscience tell the Ephesian elders, "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the WHOLE COUNSEL of God" (Acts 20:25-27).

God grant that *every one of you* may learn to seek the "whole counsel" of God—to zealously *study* it in His Word, to *live* by it, and to *stand up* for it even when it is not fashionable or popular to do so. Thus you will develop character that will last forever. And your reward will be awesome. For God has said, "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Is. 66:2).



UNDERSTANDING GOD THROUGH HIS CREATION

by Dexter B. Wakefield

A mistake can be very instructive! There's an old fable involving three blind men who lived in a land where the god of the people was a sacred elephant. The blind men took a long pilgrimage to worship the elephant and upon arrival were allowed to approach and touch the elephant in order to experience it in the absence of sight.

The first man touched the elephant's tail and said, "Ah, our god is like a great serpent and is truly the wisest of all creatures." The second touched a massive leg and said, "Ah, our god is like a great tree from which all the creation is fed." The third man felt the huge body of the elephant and said, "Ah, our god is like a great house in which all the creatures may dwell." After leaving, they argued angrily all the way back to their village about the nature of their god, because each one had experienced a different part.

The *flawed* moral of this story is that as physical beings we are like these blind men, that a spiritual God is beyond our comprehension, and that no individual should be so presumptuous to think that he or she comprehends what God is actually like.

This is wrong. The *flaw* in the fable is that unlike the elephant, our God is self-aware, knows that He is God and is capable of *revealing* Himself and His plan for humanity. The elephant in the fable did not know that he was held to be a god, but our God is still God whether we know it or not, and He reveals Himself to us. **The fact that God reveals what we cannot discern by ourselves is extremely important.**

This fable was referred to in an article about religion by Sidney J. Harris (*Miami Herald*, June 26, 1986), and reflects a certain school of thought



in modern, "pop" theology. Consider these points from Mr. Harris's story:

"Suppose, just suppose that everyone is wrong, that every faith is partial and fragmentary, that each religious conviction has only a piece of the truth by the tail [the elephant's], and imagines it possesses the whole truth? Suppose that gods are created in the various images of man, just as man is said to be created in the image of God? And so we have God the Ruler, God the Magistrate, God the Father, God the Mother,

God the Healer, God the Punisher, and all the rest of the divine roles....

"When monarchy was the universal form of government, He was translated as a 'King.' When only males were considered to be full-fledged humans, He was perceived as a 'Man.' When the forces of nature were not fully understood, He was made responsible for visiting floods and hurricanes upon His subjects.

"What is remarkable is that no matter how our conception of the

world has changed and expanded, these obsolete images still remain, not only in our vernacular, but in our minds as well....

makes atheists out of the skeptical, and infants out of the rest, to the despair of the deeper thinkers among the philosophically devout of all sects...."

The French philosopher, Voltaire, summed up this thinking quite well when he wrote, "If God created man in his own image, man has certainly returned the compliment."

But the Great Creator God sees things very differently from the natural, human mind. **Reality is the world as God sees it**, and He reveals essential things to us through His Word and creation that we cannot discern ourselves.

God says, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are My ways your ways,' says the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher

than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Is. 55:8-9).

The Apostle Paul, a great scholar, admonished the Corinthians "that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the

rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:5-11).

Herbert W. Armstrong, a productive leader for over 50 years in the Church of God, used to say, "You can't understand who and what God is until you understand type and antitype." A type is not merely an analogy or a metaphor, but a true model of a greater fulfillment to come. **The Scriptures teach us that the physical mirrors the spiritual—it's not the other way around**—and examining how this is so is helpful in understanding God's nature and what He reveals about His plan for humanity.

Having the right words to express an idea helps us think about the idea. So at this point, understanding the meaning of two words would be useful. The word, "anthropomorphic," (Gk. *anthropos*, "man") means to put human characteristics onto nonhuman things. Examples of anthropomorphic metaphors would be "the laughing brook" or "the long arm of the law." The Harris and Voltaire quotes mentioned above take an anthropomorphic view of our concept of God as a Father or Healer. Human beings tend to reason anthropomorphically about God.

Another useful word is "theomorphic" (Gk. *theos*, "god"). This refers to putting divine or spiritual qualities onto physical things. Contrasting the *erroneous* anthropomorphic view of God with the biblical theomorphic view of creation is a good way to understand how God

reveals His nature and purpose to us.

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20). In this scripture, Paul clearly teaches that physical things can have spiritual characteristics and that we should look to these things for understanding.

When God created the cosmos, He began from scratch. Everything in the universe reflects the imprint of His planning. He did not create it with attributes that are totally alien to Himself. Rather, spiritual things—the invisible things—can be understood clearly by the physical things that God has made, even the Godhead or divine nature. It makes sense that God would do this if He planned to reveal Himself and His plan to His children. And God’s Spirit works in our minds to enable us to understand things as He does. This understanding is often the opposite of what men reason about God.

For instance, the Scriptures describe the relationship between Christ and the Church as a marriage relationship. However, theologians and churchmen frequently refer to this as merely an analogy or metaphor, since they assume that marriage is primarily physical and human. They reason that the Bible uses an anthropomorphic analogy in order to give us something that we can relate to from our own world.

But the Bible sees it differently. Jesus Christ “chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4). So the marriage relationship between Christ and the Church existed in God’s plan for humanity prior to the institution of human marriage. God did not pattern Christ’s marriage to the Church

after human marriage.

It is clear that human marriage *pictures* the relationship between Christ and the Church, not the other way around. For example, when you take a photograph of a friend, the photo has many characteristics of your friend, but it is hardly the reality. And your friend existed first—the photo came later. So it is with the marriage between Christ and the Church.

Human marriage is a *type*, a *picture* of a far greater, preexisting spiritual reality which God planned from the beginning. Herbert W. Armstrong used to say, “Family relationships are God-plane relationships!” He was explaining that the marriage between Christ and the Church was not anthropomorphic; rather, human marriage and other family relationships such as father/son or brother/sister are *theomorphic*. God put these relationships into His creation so that we could understand greater spiritual realities and prepare for them.

Theologians often reason that the spiritual world cannot be anything like the physical world, and therefore, God is not like anything that we know. From that they reason that the familial nature of God (Father, Son, Husband, etc.) must be anthropomorphic and that God is a father merely by analogy, like the “father of an idea.”

“We become children of God and he our Father in virtue of a moral likeness... while of any... metaphysical, or (so to speak)

Can you discover spiritual knowledge by reasoning alone? The belief that you can is called *rationalism* and rationalists are very influential in modern theology.

J. S. Semler is considered to be the first great rationalist leader. His contention was that “true religion springs from the individual...” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, “Rationalism,” 11th ed. p. 917). *The Britannica* goes on to say that all true knowledge is viewed “as deriving deductively from fundamental elementary concepts.”

The flawed premise of this statement is the rationalist’s assumption that he or she can reason correctly when dealing with spiritual absolutes.

Scientists know they cannot assume that they have all available information about any particular subject. So they take the available information from observation and experiment and, eventually, formulate a theory that accounts for all the known phenomena. Then they can reliably reason within the theory’s framework. When new information comes in that does not fit the theory, they change or discard the theory. This is a constant process in science. Scientists learned long ago that they are not *omniscient*. They do not naturally have all knowledge.

But theologians profess to seek *absolute truths*, not just functional theories that are used today and changed tomorrow. In order to reason correctly about anything, one must be aware of all the available alternatives among which to reason. Reasoning among limited alternatives results in an error in logic called “**The Fallacy of the False Choice.**”

For example, you might think you are reasoning correctly between, say, Alternative #1 and Alternative #2, but be completely unaware of Alternative #3, which is the correct choice. Only God is omniscient. In order to discover knowledge regarding absolute truth by reason alone, the rationalist would have to be confident of knowing all the available alternatives. For absolutes, that requires omniscience which human beings do not have.

Because human beings are not omniscient, “The Fallacy of the False Choice” is the grave of rationalist theology. This is why the revealed knowledge in God’s Word is absolutely essential in understanding spiritual things.

There is, of course, nothing inherently bad about reasoning, and the Scriptures often ask us to reason in order to learn a particular lesson or apply a principle. For instance, Jesus often answered a question with a question. Simile and metaphor are frequently used to communicate abstractions much more successfully than explicit language, although, this is usually by bypassing the deductive reasoning process. When the Scriptures ask us to reason, this request to reason is a part of what God is communicating.

What God reveals, He communicates in His Word by *various* means, and He may withhold something from one generation and make it plain to another. But when rationalists reason beyond what God teaches in His Word, we should remember that they are in the slippery realm of fallible wisdom and not God’s revealed Truth.

physical relation to God, Jesus says nothing” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, “Christianity,” 11th ed., p. 282).

This kind of reasoning is often used in formulations of the Trinity. But the Scriptures reveal that **the familial nature of God is not anthropomorphic; rather, the familial nature of the family is theomorphic.** Since some prefer their human reasoning to God’s revealed knowledge, they get it backward.

The Father is *actually* a father, and He is the reality of what human fatherhood pictures. Jesus Christ is *actually* a husband and our great, firstborn elder brother. The New Jerusalem is called the “mother of us all” (Gal. 4:26). Resurrected saints are *actually* Sons of God, and the Church collectively is *actually* a bride, the affianced wife of Christ.

Humans reason that God is not like anything that we know. But the Bible reveals that **things that we know are like God.** Here are a few examples:

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’” (Gen. 1:26). The Scriptures often describe God and man as having characteristics in common; but God is not like man—man is like God.

The physical creation and the spiritual are not mutually exclusive. Rather, the creation is a subset of the spiritual, “For in Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

When God teaches us that “as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12), He means *true children*. “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption [sonship]. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and *joint heirs* with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that **we may**

also be glorified with him.” And in addition “*conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren*” (Rom. 8:15-17 NRSV, 29 NKJV).

Many people cannot bring themselves to believe what the Scriptures are saying: that we are the Father’s *true children, sons of God, joint-heirs* with Christ, to be *glorified* with Christ, *conformed to the image of Christ* who is the firstborn of *many* Sons of God. The Father is actually making children, bringing us to His glory, and Christ Himself calls us His *brethren* (Heb. 2:10-11).

This is not merely a “family-like relationship” or an analogy but rather, the *reality* of family. We are to be glorified with Christ and to be the *same kind of son* that He is, though much lesser in power and authority than He and the Father. Our Elder Brother has all power in heaven and earth, and He is going to share with us the glory that He and the Father had “before the world was” (John 17:5). This is because the Father’s great transcendent purpose for mankind is the creation of His immortal children (1 Cor. 15:53-54).

Human reproduction is only a physical type of this greater spiritual reality. This is why Herbert W. Armstrong said, “God is reproducing Himself!” The Father plans to bring children into the glory and oneness that He and the Firstborn Son have together. Christ said, “Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” (John 17:11, cf. v. 22). It is not a question of *whether* God is one, but *how* God is one. **The oneness of the human family is a physical type of the greater spiritual reality of the oneness of God.**


The scripture is clear. “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God!... Beloved, now we are the children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we

shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, *we shall be like Him*, for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:1-2).

This is our incredible human potential! Our Elder Brother “will transform our lowly body that it may be *conformed to His glorious body*, according to the working of which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:21). These plain statements are so astonishing that many people simply cannot believe what God is saying. But this revealed knowledge is at the core of a full understanding of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

This is why the Global Church of God, which publishes *The World Ahead*, continues to teach what Herbert W. Armstrong taught for so many years about who and what God is. Stated simply, **“God is family,”** and understanding what this means is at the heart of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. A kingdom has a ruling family, and Christ promises, “To him that overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21). He promises to make His brethren “kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:10), with Christ as “King of kings” (Rev. 17:14).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. This is the Gospel that He preached everywhere He went. Bringing many sons to glory in the Kingdom of God is our Father’s great transcendent purpose for creating humanity, and *everything* revolves around it!

Understanding our family relationships as God sees them—as types of far greater spiritual realities to come—helps us to understand our incredible potential and future in the Family of God. 

Send in for our free booklets,
The God YOU Can Know!
& ***Your Ultimate Destiny***

Herein lay the shock to Nicodemus in the statements of Jesus Christ the evening of their private meeting. What Christ was telling him was that he, Nicodemus, was not entitled to inheritance in the Kingdom of God based upon his *physical* parentage as a descendant of Abraham. Entrance into that Kingdom is solely based upon *spiritual* parentage.

In the first chapter of his gospel, the Apostle John set the stage for the conversation he recorded in chapter three. Here he contrasted the entitlements of those who were to be born of the Spirit with those who had merely been born of the flesh. “He came unto his own possessions, and his own received him not. **But as many as received him, to them gave he authority to become children of God, even to them that believe unto his name: who were begotten, not of bloods, nor of the will of flesh, nor of man’s will, but of God**” (John 1:11-13 Panin).

The ancient Greeks understood conception to take place when the seed of the father was united with the blood of the mother. Christ was emphasizing that the conception, which occurs in the mother’s body as a result of human choice and passion is not the one which produces offspring who will inherit the Kingdom. Ultimately it is not our physical parentage that is paramount, but rather our spiritual parentage!

When Will the New Birth Occur?

The biblical illustration of being “born again” is analogous to the physical birth process. The *spiritual regeneration* that occurs at baptism is compared to begetting by the father. Following this begetting, we must grow and develop as Christians just as a fetus must grow and develop inside the mother before it is ready to be born. The Bible compares the actual birth to the resurrection. This is made clear in John 3:6 when Jesus told Nicodemus, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 that, while flesh and blood can’t inherit the Kingdom of God, we will be changed into immortal spirit at the resurrection.

Just as the wind possesses great power yet is invisible, so also will those be who will actually have been born of the Spirit (John 3:8). In this life we have been like Adam—having a physical, mortal body. After the resurrection from the dead we will have a glorified spirit body—just like Jesus Christ following His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:43-49; Rev. 1:13-15). Jesus Christ no longer gets tired or hungry. He is no longer subject to pain or death. Rather, He emerged from the grave never to die again! Jesus was restored to the glory which He shared with the Father before the world was, and now sits at the Father’s right hand as our Intercessor and

soon-coming King (John 17:4; Heb. 4:14-16).

In Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 1:5, Jesus Christ is called the “firstborn from the dead.” In Romans 8:29, He is termed the “firstborn among many brethren.” This clearly implies that we will also be “born from the dead”! The Greek term which is translated “firstborn” is *prototokos*. *Protos* is a Greek word meaning “first in order and importance.” This meaning is demonstrated by its use as a prefix in English words such as prototype or protoplasm.

While the Bible uses many analogies to characterize true Christians—new-born babes in 1 Peter 2:2, adolescent children in Hebrews 12:6-7, living stones to be constructed into a spiritual temple in 1 Peter 2:5, parts of the human body in 1 Corinthians 12:12 to name but a few—nevertheless, the *new birth* is the most powerful and complete description of what is literally involved in our entrance into the Kingdom of God. It explains what salvation is really all about becoming—literal sons of God (Heb. 2:10).

Right now, true Christians are only heirs, not yet inheritors. Christ makes it plain that it is only at the resurrection, “When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him...” that He will say to the resurrected saints, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom” (Matt. 25:31, 34). Jesus Christ clearly revealed to His disciples in Matthew 24:13 that only those who endure and persevere to the very end will be saved. God has a great ultimate purpose. He is reproducing Himself in us! We can be in God’s Family as fully born children, younger brothers of Jesus Christ who was the firstborn of *many* brethren (Rom. 8:29).

In the ceremony of baptism Christians prefigure the resurrection itself (Rom. 6:1-5). It is at the resurrection that we will finally put on immortality and actually inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:50-53). We are symbolically buried in a watery grave and then emerge out of the water to walk in newness of life. Christ referred in John 3:5 to the necessity of being born both of water and of the Spirit. In the Scriptures, water is often used as a type of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39). Emerging from the waters of baptism is only a symbolic birth which is used as a type of our actual rebirth at the resurrection.

To equate the biblical “born again” with an emotional experience at baptism or conversion is to miss the entire point that salvation is a process! Salvation *begins* with receiving God’s Holy Spirit after baptism and thus becoming a partaker “of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4). The Christian then grows in grace and knowledge throughout his physical life. Then the salvation process culminates at the resurrection with the Christian’s full arrival into the glorious Kingdom of God as a fully glorified, Spirit-born son of God. Truly, God is “bringing MANY sons to glory” (Heb. 2:10)! Will you be one of them? If so, you must be “born again”!

QUESTIONS & SHORT ANSWERS

Q. “In Matthew 5:29-30, and Mark 9:43-48, did Jesus Christ mean that we are to literally cut off different parts of our bodies if they are causing us to sin?”

A. Let’s see what Christ said in Matthew 5:29-30: “And if your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you.... And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members [body parts] perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell”—Heb. *Gehenna*, i.e. “the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (cf. Rev. 21:8).

Are we to literally cut off members of our body? Absolutely not! The Bible makes it quite clear that we are to take good care of our bodies (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20). It also tells us that we are not to make “cuttings” in our “flesh” for religious purposes, as pagans do (Lev. 19:28; 21:5). Furthermore, our body parts themselves are not really where sin (transgression of God’s law—1 John 3:4 KJV) originates. Sin begins in the mind! What, then, did Christ mean?

There *is* a fleshly connection to some sins. “Because the carnal [margin: “fleshly”] mind is enmity [hostile] against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7). And 1 John 2:16 mentions the “lust of the flesh.” James refers to “your desires for pleasure that war in your members [body parts]” (Jas. 4:1). *Sin* occurs when we mentally give in to these physical urges: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (Jas. 1:14-15).

What, then, are we to do? Notice the Apostle Paul’s instruction: “Therefore put to death your members which are on earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the

wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you also once walked when you lived in them” (Col. 3:5-7). Paul here uses “members” of our bodies to represent SINS! Why? Because these sins are so common to fleshly human beings, it is as if they are physically *part* of us. And to overcome these sins would be like putting body parts to death—or cutting them off! Yet, with the help of God’s Spirit, we *must* overcome.

Now we can see what Christ was getting at. He was making essentially the same point: Christians must not tolerate sin as a normal part of their lives—as they did in the past. To do so amounts to, as Paul said, “idolatry”—focusing on something else ahead of God. The answer, according to Christ, is to totally eradicate it. For example, if you have a sinful habit, you must “pluck it out”—even if doing so is as painful as losing an eye! Also, *if* the influence of an unconverted friend is damaging to your relationship with God, you must “cut off” that friendship (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14-18)—even if your friend is so close that being separated from him or her would be like losing your right arm!

Failing to obey Christ’s command in this regard could ultimately land a person in the lake of fire! Eternal life in the Kingdom of God is far too valuable to give up over fleeting physical pleasures or destructive relationships. Think about it.

Q. “Why did Jesus, prior to His crucifixion, always tell people, as well as demons He expelled, not to mention that He was the Son of God and the Messiah?” (cf. Mark 1:25, 44; 8:26, 30).

A. To answer that, let’s look briefly at an incident in which Christ charged someone not to reveal him. In Mark 1, Christ healed a leper and, in verse 44, said, “See that you say nothing to anyone.” This would seem to be a very odd condition for one just

healed of such a disease. But, as the *Jamieson, Fausset & Brown Commentary* points out, the reason for the condition becomes clear in the following verse: “But he [the former leper] went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, **so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city**, but was outside in deserted places.”

Christ continually took measures to make sure the crisis that would precipitate His execution did *not* occur prematurely! An open proclamation that Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah would have instantly sealed His death warrant. When Jesus *did* give indication of who He was in John 8:58 by saying, “Before Abraham was, I AM,” the Jews tried to stone Him for blasphemy—in this case, calling Himself by the name of God which was revealed to Moses (Ex. 3:14).

In John 7:2-4, Christ’s unbelieving brothers taunted Him—telling Him to go to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem to present Himself before everyone (especially the religious leaders): “For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.”

Christ’s response was frank: “My time has not *yet* come, but your time is always ready.... I am not yet going up to this feast for My time has not yet fully come” (vv. 6, 8). In other words, Christ was saying that His brothers could die at any time, and it wouldn’t change God’s plan of salvation. Christ’s death, on the other hand, had to be at a particular time—on Passover at the end of His three-and-a-half-year ministry.

Incidentally, the fact that Jesus Christ was always trying to HIDE His identity proves that believing on His *person* was not the *central focus* of His Gospel message—though it did become a very important focus after His resurrection (yet *still* not the *central one*). To find out what the main focus of Christ’s message was—and still is today—please send for our free booklet, *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* It is eye-opening reading.

Anglo-American Government—Destined for the Trash-Heap of History?

by Raymond F. McNair

As surprising as it may be to many, we American and British peoples are prophesied to yet choose a *totally new type of government* to live under in the World Ahead!

Most Americans and Britons are shocked to hear anyone proclaim that, according to Bible prophecy, our peoples are destined to soon *reject* their present form of government and choose to be under an utterly new, revolutionary kind of government!

Admittedly, the overwhelming majority of our Anglo-American peoples will receive this news with dumbfounded disbelief! To them, it is *incredible* that democracy—as we know it in our American Republic and the parliamentary democracies of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand—will soon cease to be the form of governance under which our peoples will live.

Democracy Has Been Found Wanting!

Millions of our disillusioned peoples now admit that our democratic way of life is in *deep trouble!* Clearly, our present form of government has *not* been able to produce lasting peace or material abundance for *all* our own citizens—much less has it been able to bring about real peace between our *democratic* nations and the other countries of the world!

Instead of gleaming “alabaster cities,” many of our urban centers are like *festering scabs*—just waiting to erupt in racial strife and uncontrollable violence. Our inner cities are breeding grounds for rioting, gang violence, substance abuse, poverty, illiteracy, teenage pregnancy and increasing misery.

While our *upper class* gets richer and richer, the lower *class* is getting larger and poorer as the *middle class* continues to shrink! For some years now, Americans have been striving to cope with a reduced standard of living. Comparatively speaking, the Anglo-American portion of the “world pie” (now shared by nearly six billion human beings) is shrinking!

Why is such a rich and powerful nation as the U.S. finding that its “American way of life” can no longer be sustained at our past levels of conspicuous consumption?

The average American now pays out nearly 40 percent of his income in all sorts of taxes: income tax, estate tax, sales tax, property tax and social security tax. Much of America’s taxes now go to pay the *interest* on its debt. The Anglo-American leaders, like Israel’s leaders of old, saddle our tax-weary peoples with ever-increasing taxes (1 Sam. 8:10-15; 2 Kings 12:6-11)! Where will it all end?

Will we someday come to see that, even though many believe our democratic way of life is the best that humans have to offer, nonetheless it is riddled with serious shortcomings? Many have already concluded that the “American dream” is an illusive *mirage!* Bible prophecy

reveals that the peoples of Northwest Europe, North America and Australasia will someday come to realize just how much our political leaders have shortchanged us!

The Word of God reveals that our peoples will someday conclude that no constitution in the world remotely compares to the DIVINE CONSTITUTION, which Almighty God gave our forefathers at Mt. Sinai, nearly 3,500 long years ago (Ex. 20; Deut. 4:1-13). Someday we will wake up and learn that God’s Ten Commandments are mankind’s most perfect Constitution! Only when humanity wakes up to this fact, will all nations begin embracing that perfect divine code—God’s “royal law” (cf. James 2:8), His “perfect law of liberty” (1:25; cf. 2:12).

Ezekiel Foresaw Anglo-Americans’ Repentance

Like Isaiah and Jeremiah, the Prophet Ezekiel mentions both the DISPERSION and the REGATHERING of Israel (modern Anglo-Americans) and Judah (modern Jews) to their ancient “Promised Land.” After mentioning that God’s people, Israel, would be widely dispersed among the countries (Ezek. 34:1-23), God’s Word says, “Therefore I [God] will save My flock [the scattered peoples of Israel], and they shall no longer be a prey.... I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—*My servant David* [resurrected at that time]. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David [will be] a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

“I will make a *covenant of peace* with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods [without fear of being raped, mugged, or murdered!].... and I will cause showers to come down in their season.... Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her

increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bands of their YOKE and delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. And they shall no longer be a prey for the nations... but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid” (vv. 22-28).

God also says, “For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you [the land of Israel] shall be tilled and sown. I will multiply men upon you, all the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young” (36:9-11).

Furthermore, God told Ezekiel to tell His people Israel, “I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.... I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and **you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities** and your abominations.... O HOUSE OF ISRAEL” (vv. 24-26, 28-33). God’s Word plainly says Israel (modern Anglo-Americans and Jews) will repent of their many abominations!

Jews and Anglo-Americans to Become One United People?

Why have 20th century Americans and Jews had such a close relationship? Anciently, our people were

Many who have read our articles in *The World Ahead*—revealing our ancient Anglo-American roots—have been surprised to find that our peoples trace their forebears back to Southwest Asia. And from there, our *ancestral roots* go still further back—all the way to Israel’s ancient Promised Land! It was, in actual fact, our ancient ancestors, the peoples of the Ten Tribes living in northern Canaan, who were taken captive by the Assyrians. In about 734-721 B.C., they were deported into the lands of “Assyria” and “the cities of the Medes” just south of the Caspian Sea (2 Kings 17:6).

Those captive tribes later became known as the “Ten Lost Tribes” and, according to both biblical and secular history, they never returned to their ancient Promised Land. Rather, over a period of many centuries, they migrated from Southwest Asia into Northwest Europe. And, in modern times, many of their descendants emigrated from Northwest Europe into North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, etc.

In this series we have examined the biblical prophecies which clearly reveal that, because of our mounting sins, our beloved Anglo-American peoples will be taken captive—just as were their ancient forefathers in 734-721 B.C.! World Wars I and II were, by comparison, rather *tame preludes* to the soon-coming, horrifying World War III—when our peoples will be enslaved by vengeful foes and suffer horrendous abuse at their hands! The Bible refers to this cataclysmic time of unprecedented suffering as “Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer. 30:7) and “the Great Tribulation” (Matt. 24:21-22).

But Bible prophecy also reveals that *after* going into national enslavement, our peoples will finally wake up, come to loathe themselves and cry out to their Redeemer. Then He will at last deliver them from that terrible time, and they will be *blessed as never before*—with unimaginable good health, abundance, peace and everlasting security, as well as eternal life in the wonderful World Ahead!

The previous article in this series on *America and Britain in Prophecy* examined some of the prophecies in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah which show our peoples finally repenting and embracing God’s way of life. This article, which concludes our series, examines similar prophecies from Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos and Micah.

united! Prophecy reveals that the time is near when God Almighty will again *unite* the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples with the Jews as *one people* (Ezek. 37:15-17). “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I will take the stick of JOSEPH [the Anglo-Americans], which is in the hand of EPHRAIM and the TRIBES OF ISRAEL, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of JUDAH [the Jews], and make them *one stick*, and they will be one in My hand’” (v. 19).

“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations [where they will then be held captive!] wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land [the Promised Land]; and will make them one nation in the land... and one king [David] shall be king over them all; **they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.**”’”

““Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. **David My servant shall be king over them,** and they shall all have one shepherd... Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them... an everlasting covenant... I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle [cf. Ezek. 40-48] also shall be with them; indeed I will be their

into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them...

“**Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel** [all Twelve Tribes!]... When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands... then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their own land [the land of Palestine], and left none of them captive any longer. And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel” (Ezek. 39:22-25, 27-29).

The Prophet Hosea also prophesied that “the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together [still two separate peoples], and appoint for themselves one head; and they shall come up out of the land [of their captivity]” (Hos. 1:11).

In Amos 9, God reveals, “Behold the days are coming... when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine. And all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land [the Promised Land], and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them” (vv. 13-15).

Israel Yet to Be God’s Model Nation

If *ancient* Israel had obeyed God, they would have become His “special treasure,” a “kingdom of priests,” God’s “holy nation”—by setting a good example before the rest of the nations of the earth (Ex. 19:5-6). They would have been “the head and not the tail” among the nations (Deut. 28:13, 44). Noticing Israel’s wonderful example, all the nations would have acknowledged, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people” (Deut. 4:6)!

Unfortunately, however, the nation of Israel behaved like the Prophet Jonah. When God commanded him to deliver a

warning message to the wicked city of Nineveh, Jonah rebelled in trying to run away from God’s calling by boarding a ship and sailing out into the Mediterranean Sea. But God caused him to be thrown into the sea where he was quickly swallowed by a huge fish and then vomited up onto the shore. A chastened, repentant Jonah was

then ready to fulfill his calling (Jonah 1-4).

Israel of old rebelled, thereby refusing to fulfill *its* calling. So God dispersed the Ten Tribes among all nations. Then, after a period of chastisement, God granted to their descendants the rich lands of Northwest Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand—blessing them as no nations had ever been blessed! But they besmirched and misused those blessings. Now, because the Israelites have *still* not lived up to their calling, God says He will chastise them *again* by stripping all their blessings away and sending them into cruel bondage. Only then will they sincerely cry out to Him. Then He will lift them out of despair, clean them up and bless them far greater than ever before!

Though the immediate prophetic news concerning our American and British peoples is bad news, there is wonderful GOOD NEWS for our peoples soon following. The Prophet Micah also foretells the time when God will greatly bless Israel and the whole world! “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains [big nations], and shall be exalted above the hills [small nations]; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of [Mt.] Zion the law [of God] shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

“He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid” (Mic. 4:1-4).

At last the people of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel (Anglo-Americans) and Judah (the Jews), and ALL NATIONS, will learn that the only way to peace, prosperity, happiness and abundance of every sort is to listen to our Creator, obeying His commandments and statutes.

Bible prophecy clearly reveals that both the Anglo-Americans and the Jews will once again become *united* under a new government—this time under the just rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and His servant, King David, then resurrected to immortality. During that Golden Age, the prolific people of Israel will truly become a great blessing to all peoples—God’s model nation! They will show other nations how to serve God wholeheartedly—in the wonderful millennial world just ahead of us!

Our peoples will have learned their lesson—that *obedience* to our wonderful Creator always pays. We shall no

more wallow in a cesspool of pornography, perversions, violence and the many other abominations which are a stench in the nostrils of a holy God (Is. 65:1-5). Our peoples will have learned to reject human forms of government (socialism, communism and even democracy!) and will enthusiastically embrace the government of God in the wonderful, utopian *Kingdom* of God—when Jesus

I will plant them in their land,
and no longer shall they be pulled
up from the land I have given them.
Amos 9:15

Everyone shall sit under his vine
and under his fig tree, and no one
shall make them afraid.
Micah 4:4

God, and they shall be My people”” (Ezek. 37:21-27).

Ezekiel continues: “So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward. **The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity:** because they were *unfaithful* to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them

How Do You Prevent Disease and Promote Health?

by Douglas S. Winnail, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Important principles that could revolutionize the health of individuals and nations are actually found in the pages of the Bible!

If you wanted to improve your health or the health of your family, community or nation how would you approach your task? Where would you start? What would you do? Would you make a big purchase of nutritional supplements or miracle medicines? Would you seek the advice of the best physicians or the most famous health practitioners? Would you tour the world looking for “the secrets” to health? Or would you look into the Bible for God’s inspired instructions on the subject?

One of the most incredible ironies of history is that nebulous philosophical and theological arguments about God and about the Bible have apparently caused many—including theologians—to overlook or ignore clear, practical biblical instructions about such vital subjects as health! However, some of the most significant and best-documented discoveries of modern medical science and some of the most obvious lessons of recent history are

revealing just how important those inspired instructions really are. The biblical approach to health provides accurate and essential information for effectively dealing with one of the biggest problems that individuals or nations face—health and disease.

But just what can we learn from history about health? What do the discoveries of medical science reveal about the Bible? What advice does the Bible contain? How do you put that advice into practice?

Magic Bullets No Answer!

While the dates and events of history can be boring, the lessons of history are important. A quick look at what has happened in the last century in health is a good example. In the 1890s the leading causes of death in America and most of the world were infectious diseases caused by microorganisms. As “microbe hunters” discovered the causes of those diseases and laws were passed to improve san-

itation and protect food and water supplies, epidemics began to subside. With the discovery of antibiotics—the magic bullets of modern medicine—the conquest of infectious diseases appeared imminent. Medical technology seemed to be the key to controlling deadly diseases.

However, the 1990s finds us wrestling with a new set of problems. Today the leading causes of death in America and the developed countries of the world are chronic, degenerative “civilized” diseases like heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes, cirrhosis of the liver and atherosclerosis. We have merely traded one set of diseases for another. Attempts to control this modern epidemic by medical treatments and technology are proving to be incredibly expensive and not as effective as hoped. After several decades of declaring war on cancer with radiation and chemotherapy, and battling heart diseases with drugs, bypasses and transplants, these two diseases are still the leading causes of death. Medical

technology has its limits. Magic bullets may be helpful, but they have not provided the real solutions.

Instead, there is a growing awareness that these diseases are related to *behavior and lifestyle*, to *personal choices* people make that involve “*abuse and neglect of their own bodies*” (*Life Choices*, Turner, et. al., 2nd ed., 1992, p. 4). Additional historical evidence comes from the Third World. In developing countries where infectious diseases still cause widespread suffering, when people adopt the diet and lifestyle of more developed countries, *over time*, they begin to suffer from the same chronic, “civilized” diseases.

Most of us in the West have been conditioned to expect quick cures through drugs, surgery or other types of treatments. However, it now appears that the most effective and least expensive method for curbing the epidemic of lifestyle disease is through *prevention—by influencing and modifying human behavior*. In fact, it has been estimated that between 50 and 75 percent of modern diseases are preventable—if people would make different choices in their personal lifestyles.

Greasy Couch Potatoes

The historical focus of medicine has been the study of disease and the search for cures and treatments for the *individual patient*. The skyrocketing costs and limited success of this approach is shifting attention to a more public-health oriented approach to the problems involved in controlling chronic diseases. Epidemiological studies that seek to identify factors in *populations* that contribute to the development of chronic diseases have been helpful in isolating *behaviors* that are related to lifestyle diseases. These health-endangering behaviors are called *risk factors*.

The most prevalent chronic diseases—heart and circulatory diseases, cancer, liver disease and diabetes—

share many of the same risk factors: consuming *high-fat diets* (eating lots of meat and dairy products, fried foods and oils), *high serum cholesterol levels* (elevated by high fat diets), consuming *low-fiber diets* (eating a lot of refined flour and sugar products, and few fruits, vegetables and whole grain foods), *lack of exercise* (too much TV), *obesity* (eating too much, not enough exercise), *excessive use of alcohol*, *smoking* and *high levels of stress*.

In America, where the average diet contains about 35-40 percent fat, and where only about 25 percent of the population gets an adequate amount of exercise, the number of overweight children and adults has *doubled* in the last 25 years. “More overweight kids... portends a future of more overweight adults, *with all the related chronic health risks*” (*U.S. News & World Report*, Oct. 16, 1995). In developed countries at least five or six of the leading causes of death today are related to *poor lifestyle choices* that involve diet.

We are digging early graves with our own fork and spoon!

The *real hope* for controlling the spread of chronic disease rests first in teaching people to understand what *causes* these degenerative problems and then learning how to *motivate* individuals and nations to adopt lifestyles that help *prevent* disease. Such knowledge has been available for decades.

Keys to Better Health

One of the most promising developments in recent years is the increasing amount of serious research into factors that *promote health*. Instead of studying disease, researchers are focusing on what *maintains health*—what people who remain free of chronic disease *do* to stay healthy. This approach to health is similar to that which is revealed in the Bible.

One early study that surveyed nearly 7,000 adults in Alameda County, California, identified some health-promoting behaviors: 1) get-

ting 7-8 hours sleep; 2) eating regular meals, especially breakfast; 3) maintaining normal weight; 4) being physically active; 5) not smoking; and 6) avoiding excessive use of alcohol. The effects of these behavioral choices were found to be additive. Those who adopted more of these principles were healthier. Those who adopted fewer of them were in poorer health (*Preventive Medicine*, vol. 1, 1972, pp. 409-422). Follow-up studies in the same county over the next several decades revealed that those who maintained good health habits experienced less than half the disability and mortality that occurred to those with poor health habits (*Preventive Medicine*, vol. 22, 1993, pp. 86-95).

What is remarkable and may be surprising to many is that *nearly all* of the health principles that have been identified and documented as effective were *revealed and recorded in the Bible* thousands of years ago!

Cut That Fat!

One of the leading recommendations for reducing the risk of heart and circulatory disease, various types of cancer, diabetes and obesity is to *reduce the consumption of dietary fat*. This advice is based on decades of scientific research that has cost millions of dollars with dozens of scientific studies of peoples all over the world.

Yet few seem to realize that God gave *exactly the same instructions* to Moses about 3,500 years ago! In Leviticus 3:17 we read, “This shall be a perpetual statute throughout all your generations in all your dwellings: *you shall eat neither fat nor blood*” (numerous infectious diseases can be transmitted by blood). God gave these basic instructions to promote the general health and well-being of the nation of Israel (Deut. 4:40) so it could be an example to surrounding nations (vv. 6-8).

Application of this fundamental principle includes learning to

recognize sources of fat in your diet and making alternative food choices, reducing or eliminating fried foods and many processed meats, and using dairy products and oils in moderation.

Another important and well-documented discovery has been the role that *dietary fiber* plays in promoting good health. This emerged from observations made by two medical missionaries in Uganda who noticed “the rarity of many ‘Western’ diseases in Africans whom they treated. Their patients did not have coronary heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, or... constipation, diverticulitis, hemorrhoids, appendicitis, cancer of the large bowel, or hiatal hernia.”

The doctors postulated that “these diseases did not occur in Africans because their diet contained *much roughage* (fiber) that had been purified out of the Western (more refined) diet (*New England Journal of Medicine*, Jan. 18, 1990, pp. 193-195). Their findings have been widely confirmed by dozens of scientific studies that show “populations that consume high levels of dietary fiber (eating lots of fruit, vegetables and unrefined whole grains) have a lower incidence of Western diseases.... Diets high in whole grains are also generally low in fat; low-fat diets have been shown to be protective against Western diseases” (*Nutrition Today*, July/Aug. 1994, pp. 6-11).

These discoveries, too, are in direct harmony with the dietary advice found in the Bible. In Genesis 1:29-31, God reveals that He created plants to provide food for human beings and animals, and that those plant foods were very good *as He created them*. You should avoid grains refined for the sake of appearance and to extend their shelf-life—for reasons of marketing and economics—not for health! Refining and processing destroy and remove vital nutrients!

In Ezekiel 4:9, we read that God instructed Ezekiel to make bread from a *variety* of grains and other plant

products. Most Bible commentaries focus only on the famine conditions these verses foretell, apparently unaware of the health principles that are also there. God gave Ezekiel a recipe for bread that was to be his only food source for over a year. When the ingredients are analyzed from the perspective of modern nutrition the results are quite informative. This bread would be very high in dietary fiber, and the different kinds of fiber (from the different plant sources) would have multiplied health benefits. The complementary proteins found in the grains, seeds and legumes would make up for the lack of meat in this meager diet.

If you decide to eat more fruit, vegetables and whole grains while reducing or eliminating the consumption of refined flour and sugar products, your diet will be in line with scriptural principles associated with better health and a lower risk for chronic disease.

The Bible and Health


The Bible is not a health or nutrition textbook. Rather, it is a textbook *about life* that provides important information about *how to live*. Jesus Christ stated plainly, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it *more abundantly*” (John 10:10). Good health and freedom from disease are definitely part of an abundant life. The guidelines that God recorded in the Bible were *designed* to promote long, healthy lives (Deut. 4:40; Prov. 3:1-2). Since health is such a vital aspect of physical living, it is not surprising that God would provide essential information about the most effective ways to stay healthy (Ex. 15:26).

When this vital information is overlooked or ignored people suffer (Hos. 4:6-10). This has been a major reason for the epidemics of infectious and chronic diseases that have afflicted human beings down through history. Although medical science has only

recently discovered how to prevent these diseases, this valuable information has been available for thousands of years in the Bible. It is a tragedy that theologians—the very individuals that should be explaining these powerful principles—have been so preoccupied with speculative spiritual ideas about God and the Bible that they have overlooked or ignored the *practical, physical applications* of God’s clear instructions about health.

It is not God’s will that people suffer and die from lifestyle-induced diseases, but that people “prosper and be in health” (3 John 2). **This is why the Bible emphasizes behavioral principles that prevent disease and promote health instead of focusing on cures and treatments.** God gave the responsibility for teaching people basic health principles to the *religious* figures—the priests and Levites. God knew thousands of years ago that religious values and beliefs are much more powerful motivating factors than physical knowledge alone.

If the divinely inspired health principles, which have been in the Bible for thousands of years, were understood and applied by doctors, scientists, theologians and the average person, it would totally revolutionize our approach to the problems of health and disease. While this may not happen in this age, the time is *coming* when Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth to *restore* the knowledge of God’s intended way to live for all mankind (Acts 3:19-21).

Those who have begun to understand and to live by the remarkably effective principles of health that God has recorded in the Bible will have the opportunity to share this abundant way of life with all the peoples of this earth (Is. 2:2-4; 30:20-21). Wouldn’t you like to help lift one of the real burdens from humanity? Learn to *prevent* major diseases and *promote* God’s way to a healthier and more abundant life yourself first! Then you can speak with conviction to others in the World Ahead! 

Separatism (continued from page 13)

Greek word *ethnos* is translated by *The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon* as meaning “race, nation” (p. 168). *Basileia* is translated as “a kingdom, i.e. the territory subject to the rule of a king” (p. 97). According to *The Oxford Encyclopedic English Dictionary*, the word “ethnicity” comes from the Greek word *ethnos* (p. 488).

Why is ethnic conflict and social disharmony exploding? “For years, Tom Sowell [formerly of the University of Chicago and now a researcher with the Hoover Institution at Stanford] has been warning that America’s persistent expansion of *racial preferences* was driving the United States toward the same racial or ethnic crisis that has been experienced many times elsewhere: ‘Where separate group identities are government-subsidized—often under the general label of multiculturalism in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States—an artificial Balkanization is fostered, in utter disregard of the tragic historic consequences of Balkanization in many parts of Asia and Africa’” (*Wall Street Journal*, “One Nation?,” Oct. 12, 1995).

Canada, America, Belgium, Cameroon and other countries with diverse populations need a strong unifying institution to hold them together lest they fragment. Yet the trend in Canada and the U.S. is just the opposite.

What is the social glue that could hold us together? Ancient Israel’s King David observed, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps. 133:1). If you are to have peoples of diverse backgrounds peaceably share a common, intertwined destiny, then they must also share the same goals, hopes and dreams (cf.

Amos 3:3). What is the common dream that can transcend different languages, cultures and ethnicities?

How about having one law, one standard of justice and righteousness for everyone regardless of their ethnicity? “One ordinance shall be for you of the congregation and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD. **One**

law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you” (Num. 15:15-16).

Sadly, the present political entities of this world do not practice this. A world-famous court case in Los Angeles, California, recently highlighted the perceptions most Americans have that an accused person’s race and financial status have a great deal to do with preferential or detrimental treatment at the hands of the U.S. justice system.

In Canada, ethnicity and spoken language have a great deal to do with educational and employment opportunities.

When Israel conquered the West

Bank and Gaza territories in 1967, it instituted a whole series of laws and standards of administration to govern the Palestinian population that were plainly different from the way governance was carried out in, let’s say, Tel Aviv. The anger and resentment that resulted was monumental.

Japan’s discriminatory treatment of its Korean minority is well known. How Hutus treat Tutsis and Tutsis treat Hutus in Rwanda and Burundi has been graphically displayed by the world’s news media.

God knew thousands of years ago that when a land’s governing elite is of a different ethnicity from those governed, there would be incredible social strife and wrangling—whether merited or not. This is why He commanded ancient Israel, “When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; **one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother”** (Deut. 17:14-15).

Tragically, in the case of Canada where both the French-speaking and English-speaking citizens are related blood brothers, from antiquity, they still can’t get along without continuing rivalry due to a history of one brother dominating the other.


Ethnic enmities, rivalries and separatism are ancient human problems. During the early first century A.D., humanity was rigidly divided into two categories—a sort of “us and them”—Jews and Gentiles, circumcised and uncircumcised, saints and sinners. The Apostle Paul illustrated the “otherness” of the Gentiles this way: “You were at that time without Christ, being aliens

from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12 NRSV).

Undoubtedly, every time Jesus Christ entered the Temple of God in Jerusalem to pray, He would have seen that “an enclosure or barrier surrounded the inner sanctuary beyond which Gentiles were forbidden to go. Tablets written in Greek and Latin were apparently placed at thirteen entrances on the low parapet that marked the boundary to the area specifically reserved for Jews; the tablets warned non-Jews not to enter” (*The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 2, p. 963).

The Temple’s custodial keepers clearly enforced ethnic separation by law or ordinance. Archaeologists have recovered one of the “separatism” tablets. It reads, “No foreigner is to enter within the forecourt and the balustrade around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his subsequent death.”

But the Creator God who made all men of one blood did not intend for humanity to be hopelessly divided into perpetually arguing ethnic camps. Paul wrote, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.... that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it” (vv. 13-16 NRSV).

The Church of God is the commonwealth of all believers, having covenants of promise to life everlasting. It is by the Church with its vision of a just society in the World Ahead that ethnic hatreds will cease. Then the peoples of this earth will sing, “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” 

Jerusalem (continued from page 7)

Zechariah to describe some of these final events in detail:

Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. *Half of the city* shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south [Zech. 14:1-4].

When God describes this last conquest of Jerusalem, He states that “HALF of the city shall go into captivity.” Other prophecies make it abundantly plain that it is the *Jewish* half of the population which becomes captive to the coming Beast power. For the Arabs—and most of the surrounding Arab nations—will have by then thrown in their lot with the overpowering European Empire.

But after three and one-half years Christ will return directly to the Mount of Olives—now part of the city of Jerusalem. As the book of Revelation also makes clear, He will crush the Gentile armies and set up His world-ruling government. “And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—‘The LORD is one,’ And His name one” (Zech. 14:9).

Jerusalem—The World’s Capital

One of the Messiah’s first acts will be to deal directly with those who mistreated His people: “And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths” (Zech. 14:12). Then, “the wealth of all the surrounding nations shall be gathered together: gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance” (v. 14).

The city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel will again—as in King Solomon’s day—become *fabulously* wealthy and beautiful. For it will be the seat of Christ’s authority as He directly rules over the peoples of the earth for 1,000 years. Yes, Jerusalem will be the *capital* of the whole world!

Again, Zechariah’s inspired prophecy tells us, “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain” (vv. 14:16-17).


Notice that *all* nations of the earth must come up to *Jerusalem*—obviously the **WORLD’S CAPITAL**—to appear before Jesus Christ. These Holy Days are not just for Jews! This is a mandate for *all the nations of the earth* to appear before their King and keep *His* appointed Festivals!

The Prophet Micah also wrote of this time: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come,

and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the LAW shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1-2).

God’s spiritual law—the Ten Commandments—will be the basis of this coming rule of Jesus Christ over the whole earth. Men will finally learn to truly *worship* and OBEY God—to DO what He says! And they will learn to LOVE their neighbor as themselves. All of this teaching will proceed from the city of Jerusalem—the future capital of the whole world.

May God grant *all* of you who read this an appreciation of this soon-coming REALITY! Jesus Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah (cf. Rev. 5:5), shall be the future KING over the entire earth. And He will exercise His authority through a *literal*, world-ruling government of God, whose headquarters shall be *in Jerusalem*. Now is the time to genuinely *study* your Bible and come to understand what God plans for *your* future!

“Watch” for prophesied incidents as they are being fulfilled in world news. “Watch” *Jerusalem* as the events affecting this city tell us a great deal about how prophetic events are shaping up. “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:36). 

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