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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



THE “END OF THE WORLD”?

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

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PHOTO: PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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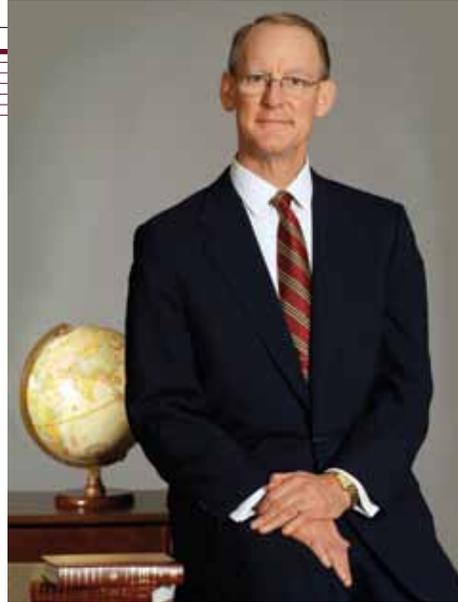
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Pack



America and Britain in Bible Prophecy

ALL NATIONS are now rushing toward the conclusion foretold to occur in the “last days.” Humanity plunges ahead—blind, pleasure-crazed and largely detached from important world events occurring daily.

American, British, Canadian and other Western leaders would take action, if they only knew what lies ahead. Great prophetic truths, revealing amazing—truly *astounding*!—climactic changes to stagger all civilization, go unrecognized. In fact, the entire world remains in ignorance—WHY?

You can learn what vast millions have *not* understood!

What Lies Ahead for the World?

Everyone wants to know what the future holds. So many are confused, not knowing where to turn for *answers* to the great questions about the future! Many have opinions, but few recognize how to find the answers. Others think they already understand the prophecies of the Bible. They are wrong about what is LIFE-CHANGING knowledge.

Awe-inspiring prophecies recorded long ago have been fulfilled. Others are now coming to pass. Still others are yet to occur. These involve the greatest nations in the history of the world—and are part of a *divine*

purpose far beyond the imagination of the world’s most brilliant minds!

About one-third of the Bible is prophecy—history written in advance. Over 80 percent of this future history is yet to be fulfilled. Tragically, most Bible readers are completely unaware of awesome, impending world events, soon to shock all nations—focusing first on the *greatest* nations. Vast sections of Scripture are hidden from them. Thus, most simply have no idea what the future holds. Even those who are interested in learning remain tangled in a Gordian knot of disjointed, confusing, competing popular ideas and opinions.

This need not be you!

God intended these “great nations prophecies” be understood, or He would not have recorded them. They involve events no man could carry out—but *God* can—and their fulfillment does not hinge on the thinking or agreement of human beings. God’s Word is sure and all would do well to *take heed*—pay attention!—to what God makes known.

The most educated, prosperous and influential civilizations have all come and gone, with no exceptions. The pattern of history is that Rome, Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Persia, and other powerful, developed empires, rose to dizzying heights before crumbling and final collapse. Will America’s and Britain’s future be the same?

Everything is at stake for the Anglo-Saxon peoples—literally. Cataclysmic prophecies must yet be fulfilled—

and these will soon begin to crash upon unsuspecting populations. You *can*, indeed you **MUST**, understand all that lies ahead for hundreds of millions.

The ultimate future of the American and British peoples is astounding, with their greatest period of prosperity and world influence yet ahead. But this time will not come as leaders, planners and thinkers believe.

What precedes it is totally unexpected.

Dire World Conditions

The Bible is a jigsaw puzzle, and it must be permitted to interpret itself. Most have never heard this. When related Bible passages are assembled in clear and concise form, the prophecies about America and Britain (and certain other Western countries) are not difficult to understand. In fact, you will wonder why so few have been able to comprehend them. God has left a *plain message* in His Word—a clear path—for those *willing* to read and understand, and *willing* to accept blunt warnings, impossible to misunderstand.

Suppose you could know the direction and conclusion of world events—*world history*—in advance of the outcome. What if you could know the courses of nations before they happen? What if the future of great nations—indeed the greatest in all history—could be known? In other words, imagine knowing tomorrow’s biggest headlines before they come to pass, and how events will affect *you*, and every human being, personally.

Again, the governments of the West do not know the world-shattering changes just over the horizon for the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and certain Western European nations—with the Middle East at the center of the coming explosion of events. But, again, *you* can know!

Turmoil, fear and confusion now grip the nations of the West. Terrorism, resultant economic upheaval, rising prices and widespread uncertainty have left people confused, not knowing where to turn for answers to the great questions about the future, now on the minds of millions!

Many sense that the differences both between and within nations are intensifying—threatening to spin out of control. New and different power blocs are forming, with traditional alliances wavering, waning or disappearing.

Ominous signs of grave difficulty in resolving humanity’s most fundamental problems are everywhere. Many sense the world is hurtling toward terrible trouble, even absolute calamity. Disease, famine and war sweep the planet as never before. New diseases are continually appearing and old ones are reappearing worse than ever. This and famine, which always follows in the wake of war, are decimating entire segments of local populations. Weapons of mass destruction, so incomprehensibly destructive that they boggle the mind, now threaten humanity as *never* before. Many nations have learned to live on alert to terrorist cells, which can strike anywhere without notice.

World conditions, events and trends speak daily in frightening terms about how things could quickly turn in the wrong direction. The courses of nations, indeed the greatest nations, hang in the balance. History shows that *all* the great civilizations eventually crashed, having become decadent—awash in material prosperity and greed—and educated in wrong knowledge.

This can happen again!

Addicted to War

Of course, many are unfazed—not concerned—about the tumultuous events surrounding them, trusting things will work out in the end

“because they always do.” Believing things will eventually “turn out all right,” these close their eyes, choosing to pursue pleasure and accumulation of material goods at a frantic pace. But for the short term, things will *not* turn out all right. World conditions are and will become infinitely more serious than most realize.

At the same time, regarding just the physical location of nations, “Generation X,” and now the much worse “Generation Millennium,” reflect an appalling ignorance of the most basic geography, and a nearly total lack of knowledge about even the most rudimentary understanding of relationships between countries—with studies now revealing that most people ages 18 to 24 cannot even locate them on a map.

Why can the very best minds not find peace? Why do even these remain in almost complete darkness about the staggering events soon to strike all humanity? Both Isaiah, in the Old Testament, and Paul in the New Testament, flatly state that men “*do not know the way to peace*” (Isa. 59:8; Rom. 3:17). This vital knowledge has been missing for millennia. The institutions of men are woefully uninformed—and ultimately toothless—concerning the *causes* of peace, leading to the right *effects* all peoples long for—world peace. In the end, neither diplomacy nor war has worked, while knowledge of the right causes that lead to peace remains unseen, eliminating any hope of success.

While men may talk about, call for and pretend to seek peace, world leaders always seem to fall back on the tool of war to achieve it—and suffering, misery and unhappiness *increase* in its wake. American Confederate general Robert E. Lee warned, “It is well that war is so terrible, or we should get too

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You Can Know the Future...



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EUROPE'S CULTURE CLASH

Has Multiculturalism Failed?

The experiment of Europeans and immigrants living side by side strains under the weight of age-old problems.

BY ROBERT R. FARRELL AND SAMUEL C. BAXTER

THEY JUST KEEP coming. Tired, hungry, poor and desperate. Wearing only the clothes on their backs, often in tiny fishing vessels crammed with 300 or more people—all seeking the kind of refuge and better lives their home countries cannot provide.

Since the beginning of 2011, more than 26,000 immigrants from North Africa have reached Lampedusa, a tiny Mediterranean

island off Italy's coast, tripling its population. So many have arrived that overwhelmed authorities have allowed them to set up refugee camps along the water's edge, rather than detaining them in immigration centers.

The exodus has sparked tension between displaced immigrants and locals who are dismayed by the intrusion into their once-sleepy island. Residents have posted signs and formed human blockades in an attempt to stop the flow of new arrivals—sometimes

more than 1,000 daily. Those who fled have protested the Italians' treatment of them once they arrive.

Standard operating procedure is to transport immigrants to the Italian mainland, where some are granted temporary visas and handed a 150 euro train pass. With these documents, migrants can then set out for other nations within the European Union,

■ **HEATED DEMONSTRATION:** Immigrants in Greece protest in front of the Athens City Hall against attacks by far-right extremists (May 16, 2011).

PHOTO: LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

which has had open borders since 1985.

Many immigrants granted temporary residency head to a specific destination. A large number travel to France, where they connect with family or friends already living there.

Large enclaves of immigrants are present in virtually every large European city. These ethnic neighborhoods have their own culture, language, and often their own set of rules. This is the case in London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Brussels and Oslo—where immigrants are a substantial part of populations.

For a long time, their presence was tolerated, even welcomed, adhering to the “melting pot” standard favored by democratic societies. This gave way to the concept of multiculturalism—or two distinct cultures living side-by-side within a nation.

Time has shown, however, that many immigrants have not assimilated into European cultures, thus threatening the unity EU member-states have worked hard to cultivate.

What has blocked the concept of multiculturalism from being successful?

Division from Within

The growing number of immigrants, combined with religious and cultural tensions, concerns about crime, slowing economies, and even the threat of terrorism, have worried natural-born EU citizens, and strained relations between countries that believe the problem should be addressed by the entirety of Europe.

“From the start the Italian government set out to make this a European problem,” a *BBC* editorial stated. “... the Italian government issued the migrants with temporary visas, knowing only too well that with no border checks a majority of them would head to France. The Schengen Agreement, signed in 1985, created open borders among 25 countries. The UK and Republic of Ireland did not sign.

“The French saw the Italian move as cynical. They responded by stepping up

border patrols and briefly stopped trains running between the two countries. The Italians were outraged. They accused France of violating one of the basic EU agreements. Then on 22 April the Elysee Palace hinted at a ‘suspension’ of the Schengen agreement. Later that was qualified to mean reviewing some of the exemption clauses. The French say Europe is not about the free movement of illegal migrants.”

Over the last year, certain government leaders have spoken against the concept of multiculturalism as a whole.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said during a television interview: “Of course we must respect differences, but we do not want...a society where communities coexist side by side.”

“If you come to France, you accept melting into a single community, which is the national community, and if you do not want to accept that you cannot be welcome in France.”

British Prime Minister David Cameron said, “The doctrine of multiculturalism has encouraged different cultures to live separate lives apart from each other and apart from the mainstream.”

Last October, German Chancellor Angela Merkel addressed problems with the “multikulti” concept and immigrants not assimilating: “We kidded ourselves a while...We said: ‘they won’t stay, sometime they will be gone,’ but this isn’t reality...The approach to build a multicultural society and to live side by side and to enjoy each other...has failed, utterly failed.”

Key Issue

Immigrants coming to Europe are often viewed as political refugees fleeing harsh governments, or as victims of environmental catastrophes, and even called the downtrodden who are looking for a better life. These statements are generally accurate. But, afraid to be politically incorrect, government leaders and news outlets usually will not mention a common characteristic of these immigrants: they are Muslim. Political discussions on “multicultur-

al” woes become a thinly veiled way of discussing Muslims in Europe.

Look at Libya, Tunisia and Turkey—all main sources of migration for Europe. The *CIA World Factbook* places Libya at 97 percent Sunni Muslim, Tunisia at 98 percent Muslim, and Turkey at 99.8 percent Muslim. In addition, many immigrants also come from other majority-Muslim nations in the Middle East and South Asia.

The upsurge in Muslim immigrants is happening fast.

“Europe’s Muslim population has more than doubled in the past 30 years and will have doubled again by 2015,” an article by the *Telegraph* stated. “In Brussels, the top seven baby boys’ names recently were Mohamed, Adam, Rayan, Ayoub, Mehdi, Amine and Hamza.”

While Muslims constitute only about 4.6 percent of the total population, cities generally have higher numbers. For instance, the *International Business Times* noted that Austria’s Muslim population is only 2.2 percent, while its capital, Vienna, is estimated at 10 percent.

A Pew Research study called “The Future of the Global Muslim Population” revealed, “France had an expected net influx of 66,000 Muslim immigrants in 2010, primarily from North Africa. Muslims comprised an estimated two-thirds (68.5%) of all new immigrants to France in the past year. Spain was expected to see a net gain of 70,000 Muslim immigrants in 2010, but they account for a much smaller portion of all new immigrants to Spain (13.1%). The U.K.’s net inflow of Muslim immigrants in the past year (nearly 64,000) was forecast to be nearly as large as France’s. More than a quarter (28.1%) of all new immigrants to the U.K. in 2010 are estimated to be Muslim.”

The study estimated that Muslims will account for 8.2 percent of the EU population in 2030, up from approximately 4.6 percent today.

Many native Europeans are wary of continuous waves of immigrants. A poll showed that 60 percent of Britons feel immigration is bad for the coun-

try. Eighty percent feel the government needs to impose stricter controls. A 2010 study by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation published by the *BBC* showed that 30 percent of Germans believe foreigners are overrunning the country.

While public apprehension can be fed to some degree by prejudice, it is understandable. One only has to recall a number of extremist attacks. Britain's government reports that as many as 20 Britons are in Pakistan training to launch suicide attacks on England's capital city.

In addition, news articles have detailed two UK residents who were linked to a terrorist group planning shooting sprees in Britain, France and Germany. And French citizens fear their country will be overrun when they see hundreds of Muslims blocking public streets while praying.

European governments are responding to public sentiment: French authorities banned women from wearing a full-cover veil, called a burqa, and cut the number of immigrants entering the country by 10 percent. Italy passed a law making illegal immigration a crime punishable with fines as high as 10,000 euros. The British government proposed a permanent cap on immigrants from outside the EU.

Speaking in Munich, Prime Minister David Cameron said Britain needs to build a stronger national identity. He warned Muslim groups they would lose government funding if they do not endorse women's rights or promote integration.

Parallel Societies

Why should Europe, which has long promoted religious freedom, fear an influx from Muslim nations? The answer runs deeper than the "terror" stigma Islam has gained since the United States September 11 attacks.

The current wave of European immigration started just after the Second World War, as the economies of devastated nations began to bounce back in the 1950s and 60s.

To meet the growing demand for workers, Europeans recruited immigrants to do jobs they were unwill-

ing to do. These were deemed "guest workers." Most people expected they would eventually return home after working several years.

After the OPEC oil crisis of 1973 triggered an economic slowdown, many European governments stopped issuing work visas—but by then it was too late. Having settled into life in their adopted countries, most temporary migrants never returned home, and instead convinced family members to come live with them in Europe.

Natural disasters, weak economies, and abject poverty spurred another migration wave in the 1990s, this time by refugees primarily from North and sub-Saharan Africa, and the Indian sub-continent. As more arrived, Europeans permitted them to receive welfare benefits, even if they had never worked in the EU. This was especially true of those who claimed refugee status.

Because many immigrants did not know the language of their new countries, they began to congregate in specific neighborhoods with others from their home countries. This gave rise to the large immigrant neighborhoods now characteristic of European cities.

This has caused numerous problems. Immigrant communities tend to be poorer, and have higher crime and unemployment statistics. They often cite harassment from law enforcement as the reason for their troubles with the law and non-acceptance by the indigenous population for the reason they have not integrated. This has created a generation of young people who do not identify with the European countries in which they were born.

"As morally indignant young Muslims turn away from what they view as decadent German culture, some are cultivating feelings of superiority," a *Der Spiegel* article stated. "While their immigrant parents and grandparents tried to assimilate, at least on the surface, some young Muslims deliberately flaunt the fact that they are different by wearing strict Islamic clothing in public." According to a survey by the newspaper, 71 percent of Muslims believe "sexual morals in Western society are totally degenerate" and 65.6

percent believe "Islam is the only true religion." These ideas clash with the relaxed approach many Europeans take toward lifestyle choices, including the way they view religion.

Although the two cultures believe they possess completely different mindsets, they actually have more in common than they realize, according to *Der Spiegel*: "Ironically, many Muslims in Germany 'tend to be lax when it comes to religion,' says Katajun Amirpur, a Berlin expert on Islamic studies. According to Amirpur, religion 'doesn't play a very dominant role' in their daily life, and yet they would characterize themselves as devout Muslims—even if they 'occasionally drink a glass of Arrak or Raki' [liquor] and 'sometimes forget one prayer or another.' They are easily their Christian fellow citizens' equals when it comes to disobeying the commandments of their faith."

Why then are they not able to co-exist?

Two Sides

Just as "multiculturalism" is generally a codeword for tensions between Europeans and immigrant Muslims, *Europe* is a codeword for Christendom. The continent's historical roots are steeped in traditional Christian culture, teachings, morals, values. Put simply, multicultural problems are a result of tensions between two religions: Christianity and Islam.

In a forum sponsored by Pew Research, Bernard Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University, said the source of the Islam and Christendom conflict comes not from the two religions' differences but from their *similarities*.

"These two religions, and as far as I am aware, no others in the world, believe that their truths are not only universal but also exclusive," Mr. Lewis said. "They believe that they are the fortunate recipients of God's final message to humanity, which it is their duty not to keep selfishly to themselves...but to bring to the rest of mankind, removing whatever barriers there may be in the way."

Because both believe they hold the key to human salvation, Mr. Lewis said tensions between Christendom and Islam occur because each have “aspired to the same role”—bringing God’s message to the whole world—“each seeing it as a divinely ordained mission.”

How does this apply to today, a time in which many people call Europe a “post-Christian” continent? Even though Europe is not dominated by religion as it once was, centuries of Christianity’s fingerprints are still found across the continent.

“In order to understand what is going on, one has to see the ongoing struggle within this larger perspective of the millennial struggle between the rival religions...” Mr. Lewis said.

The scars from the competing reli-

gions can be found most easily on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, which switched hands repeatedly during the Crusades. Muslims took the mount in AD 700 and built a wooden Al-Aqsa Mosque on the foundation of a Roman temple. Christian crusaders then violently seized the Holy Land and, in the early 12th century, reconstructed an earthquake-damaged Al-Aqsa Mosque as the Temple Solomonis and the Dome of the Rock, renamed the Temple Domini. Crusaders revamped both buildings, adding altars, icons, new mosaics, and Christian inscriptions—crosses replaced all crescent

moons. Muslims recaptured the area in 1187, reclaiming the mount’s two mosques. Islamic followers purged the Catholic icons and renovated the marble mosaics and inscriptions. These two mosques remain standing today.

During that time, Christian Europe clashed with the Islamic caliphate, constantly shifting control of the land. The caliphate, an Islamic empire established after Muhammad’s death and ruled by a caliph, clashed with the Byzantine Empire, the Holy Roman Empire, and then Western European empires. It was not until 1924, when the creation of the Turkish Empire deposed the last caliph, that this religious rivalry faded from view.

Since that time, entire generations of Europeans have grown up not understanding the constant battles that once took place between the rival belief systems. Therefore, when they were presented with the idealistic option of a multicultural society, it seemed a good idea. Indeed, the concept was born out of a desire for tolerance and peace.

But history makes one point clear: these two religions do not get along. In fact, they *cannot*. Today, when EU Christendom and Muslim immigrants

alike refuse to give up their respective cultures, it should come as no surprise. These two religions have never budged.

Demographic Time-bomb

Historical tensions shed new light on the multicultural woes in Europe. Without substantial change, the increasing Muslim presence in Europe could bring back violent clashes of religion.

Europe’s changing demographics make this clear. According to *Newsweek*, the number of deaths is expected to outnumber births in 10 of the 27 member-

states in 2015. The article stated that this means, starting in 2015, Europe’s population will experience negative natural population growth, and by 2050 the population is projected to decrease by as much as 52 million from its present level. The United Nations has said that Europe needs as many as 1.6 million immigrants per year just to maintain the current population level through to 2050. This represents at least 60 million new residents.

On the other hand, the Muslim population is predicted to soar to 20 percent of the European population by 2050, with countries such as Spain, the United Kingdom and Holland showing even higher increases.

Clearly, for Europe to emerge as an economic superpower, it appears to have one choice—Muslims and Christians must learn to get along.

Making Multiculturalism Work

European policymakers have a tough road ahead of them. How can they find concessions in a millennia-old rivalry between Islam and Christianity? The prospect seems as insurmountable as bringing peace to the Middle East.

Take a step back, and remove Islam from the equation. Despite sharing a similar government, history, culture and religion, the common mode for the 27 European Union member-states is to disagree—about everything. On an international scale, the United Nations attempts to bring peace between countless combinations of ideologies, cultures and government styles. In fact, any *two* different governments (say communist China and the democratic United States) likely have vastly differing ideas for mankind’s future. Despite his best intentions, man cannot find peace.

It seems hopeless. History foreshadows that European Muslims *will* clash with European Christians, EU member-states *will* disagree, and peace *WILL* elude mankind.

While the ability to bring world peace lies in reconciling all belief systems and governments, it will not happen as most expect. To learn more, read *How World Peace Will Come!* □



■ **MARCHING TOGETHER:** Protesters hold banners and posters in Paris during a demonstration against the French government’s immigration policy (May 28, 2011).

PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PERCHED ON THE EDGE of an 18-foot boat, Sahal scans the glistening waters of the Indian Ocean with long-range binoculars. He is the leader of a group of 20 men in a small fleet of three powerboats, armed with AK-47 machine guns, prowling for their next target.

Back home in rural Somalia, his wife and two children wait for him to return home with food and money. Ayanna, Sahal's spouse, thinks he is fishing. A few years earlier she would have been correct—but not anymore. If she knew her husband's real occupation, she would be much more anxious and afraid.

Sahal and his crew of bandits are actually fishermen turned pirates. Out of what they call "necessity" and desperation, they have resorted to hijacking, kidnapping and extortion to make a living.

The soft-spoken Somali man does not fit the image of a traditional pirate. He does not wear an eye-patch or carry a sword. Nor does he steal treasure and bury his spoils on exotic tropical islands in the Caribbean. His type of piracy is a sophisticated, ruthless and dangerous global endeavor in which many lives are regularly lost.

Until 1991, Sahal and his friends were honest fishermen. They worked long, hard hours for their incomes and lived honestly. It was, after all, what their fathers and grandfathers did.

From a young age, Sahal would help pull the nets off the fishing boats and carry the morning catch to market for a modest but acceptable price. He earned enough money to afford a humble home, buy clothes, and send his children to school.

But everything changed when civil war broke out in the country. The government collapsed and maintaining order became impossible. As a result, foreign fishing trawlers began to travel as they pleased throughout the country's waters because there were no established maritime borders. This



TERROR on the SEAS

Somalia's Piracy Plague

Modern-day piracy has turned peaceful oceans into dangerous routes for cargo and passenger ships.

What is behind the rash of attacks?

BY GERHARD J. COETZER

lapse allowed companies from France, Spain, Indonesia, South Korea and other nations to strip millions of dollars' worth of fish from the water without having to acquire legitimate licenses.

The once tuna-rich waters of Somalia soon became a popular docking place for international fishing boats

with large nets, which left almost nothing for locals to catch. The struggling fishermen became desperate, knowing their government did not have the resources to patrol a 2,000-mile coastline—and protect their livelihoods.

Initially, some Somali fishermen became a self-appointed "coast guard."

■ **PREPARATIONS:** Somali pirates ready a boat for a hijacking mission in Hobyo, northeastern Somalia (Jan. 4, 2010).

PHOTO: BERTRAND GUAY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

They armed themselves and started to patrol the seas. In one incident, these coast guards crossed the line—they stormed a fishing vessel and demanded money for its release. When their victims conceded to paying a ransom, the captors saw a new opportunity to make a living.

Soon these men were hijacking any boat they came across—not just fishing vessels. They realized their initial policing efforts were a waste of time and that they could make more money capturing cargo ships.

Today, oil tankers hauling millions of dollars of oil and luxury cruise liners are the top prize. Pirates, such as Sahal, are no longer interested in fishing, or even protecting Somali waters.

They are now in it for the money.

Other pirates claim they still have no choice—they must feed their families. A 2008 *Newsweek* article quoted one Somali pirate as saying, "...when evil is the only solution, you do evil. That is why we are doing piracy. I know it is evil, but it is a solution."

What drives men to resort to such measures?

Driven to Violence

While Sahal's story is hypothetical, his plight, and those of others like him, is not. Such scenarios of desperation and hopelessness play out daily for many Somali fishermen—always with tragic consequences.

At first, only struggling fishermen felt forced into this way of life. But now nearly anyone and everyone are drawn to the lucrative life of riches and relative job security—lawlessness has become the order of the day.

In the midst of defending their way of life, many pirates have lost the ideal of "doing good" that they once tried to maintain. They own expensive homes and cars. When not "working," they spend their time vacationing in exotic locales. They have also become structured, forming organized groups through the involvement of warlords, who control payment of the ransom money and split it with other hijackers.

It is no longer a question of survival—all-out greed now motivates them

to commit these crimes. The average pirate makes more money from one "job" than he could earn from many years fishing. Statistics show that over 40 ships were hijacked off the coast of Somalia during 2010, netting pirates millions of dollars! This is quite a large reward for those claiming to only want to "right" a wrong.

According to an April 2011 report by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), 142 pirate attacks occurred worldwide during the first three months of 2011. This surge in the number of attacks was mostly driven by the increase in incidents that occurred off the coast of Somalia, totaling 94, up from 35 during the same period last year. Consulting firm Geopolicity estimated that Somali piracy cost nations a total of up to \$8.3 billion in 2010.

The IMB report also revealed: "Of the 18 ships hijacked worldwide in the first three months of the year, 15 were captured off the east coast of Somalia, in and around the Arabian Sea and one in the Gulf of Aden. In this area alone, 299 people were taken as hostage and a further six were kidnapped from their vessel. At their last count, on 31 March [2011], IMB figures showed that Somali pirates were holding captive 596 crew members on 28 ships."

During the same time period, pirates also murdered seven crew members and injured 34.

Pirates are not just holding "loot" and captives for ransom. They are also increasingly torturing their victims and using them as human shields.

Boston Herald reported: "Pirates have recently tied hostages upside down and dragged them in the sea, locked them in freezers, beaten them and used plastic ties around their genitals, Maj. Gen. Buster Howes told The Associated Press."

In addition, the rogue fishermen have retaliated against jail sentences imposed by the government to deter piracy—which the Somali men consider a lawful practice. In February of 2011, four Americans were kidnapped in response to a 33-year jail sentence handed to a pirate for the 2009 hijacking of the ship, *Maersk Alabama*. After

the pronouncement, another pirate said he and his gang would retaliate by targeting American citizens.

A seemingly once-noble desire—that of Somali fishermen merely wanting to support their families—has turned into an evil business.

Endless Cycle

All sides—pirates, businessmen and the Somali government—blame each other for the problem of piracy. But none can truthfully justify their actions. Fishermen turn to violence and use AK-47 rifles to hijack luxury cruise ships, and large multi-national companies exploit those in other countries and engage in corrupt practices with the government. None have the moral high ground.

While Somalis adamantly state that they tried for years to obtain international aid and are therefore justified in their actions, foreign governments are obligated to protect their assets and citizens abroad. In their minds, terrorism, kidnapping, murder and torture committed by pirates are intolerable and must be stopped at all costs.

Countries spend millions of dollars and use sophisticated technology and manpower, but it is still not enough to deter pirates. When they are caught by American Naval forces, they are usually set free again, without serious consequences. Despite the fact that some lose their lives in skirmishes during the actual hijackings, or that only one in 20 attempts to capture a ship is successful, they still pursue this perilous trade.

It is a typical Robin Hood story. Those who view themselves as protectors of the rights of the less fortunate often become the ones who infringe on the rights of others. While trying to protect the innocent, they end up using force and violence to fight injustices.

In turn, the so-called "haves" are then forced to defend themselves and their assets against the "have-nots." The problem escalates as one side tries to outdo the other.

Clearly, all sides are wrong. Evil actions are not the answer to eradicating evil. Then what is the solution?

One imprisoned pirate told *Newsweek* the answer to the problem is a stable government that can restore law and order in the country and bring foreign investments to create more jobs. He believes an effective and legitimate government could enforce the laws of the country, and thus stop illegal fishing.

“We know the EU and NATO forces are coming, but that is not the solution,” he said. “The solution is to restore peace in Somalia so that we can have a better life and more job opportunities. I can tell you that sending forces will not stop us going into piracy. They can arrest us if they find us out at sea, they’ve arrested our friends several times, but that will never deter us from this business. The only thing that can stop piracy is a strong government in Somalia.”

Is this realistic?

Somalia, if freed from a state of war, will need billions in foreign aid to help rebuild itself. Even then, the fishing waters will need many years to be replenished to a level that can sustain the small scale fishermen as in the “old days.”

Similarly, the civil war in Somalia has raged for decades. There is no reliable infrastructure and corruption is a fact of life.

“It’s a major hindrance to sustainable business and economic development throughout the continent and is corrosive on the progress of the society and the countries in the African Continent,” a document issued by Anti-Corruption Conference Africa stated. “In many parts of the world, corruption adds an additional 10% financial burden on the overall costs of doing business. The World Bank study on corruption has stated that ‘bribery has become a \$1 trillion industry’. The impact of corrupt practices on development is very significant—it impedes economic growth, distorts competition and represents serious legal and image risks.”

Even if a legitimate government were elected today, it would take many more decades to re-establish law and order completely.

“Countries torn apart by conflict pay a huge toll in their capacity to govern,” Transparency International chairman Huguette Labelle said in *Forbes* magazine. “With public institutions crippled or nonexistent, mercenary individuals help themselves to public resources, and corruption thrives.”

Look at the examples of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and others. Billions of dollars go into these countries, but rarely is it reported that the money is used productively.

More than 20 countries are now directly involved in the fight against piracy. Every effort so far has failed to dissuade pirates. The United States Navy is in the process of testing an advanced—and costly—laser technology intended to distract and disorient any would-be attackers.

Though U.S. forces generally look for less offensive ways to deter and capture pirates, other countries are not so forgiving, often using increasingly forceful and violent means to fend off pirates. This does not treat the cause of the conflict, but rather attempts to use the “eye for an eye” principle—continuing the cycle of violence.

How Will It End?

Consider the misery created by mankind in pursuit of “survival.” There is no end to the cycle of problems it confronts. Violence begets violence and evil begets evil. Seemingly, without miraculous intervention, this cycle will continue.

So then, what is the way to stop it? The answer lies in the very heart of man himself.

Clearly, mankind does not know how to eradicate evil. It does not understand how to stop human beings from preying on and destroying their own kind. Think of all the mayhem—genocides, hate-mongering, wars, destruction, anger and strife—that has occurred throughout man’s history.

Yet the Creator God does understand, and He reveals the answer through the Instruction Manual He designed to guide man, the Bible.

The book of Jeremiah states: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...” (17:9). James 4:1-2 adds, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not...”

Put together, these passages explain that man’s nature is “deceitful,” “desperately wicked,” and greedily “lusts.” This begins to touch on the reason there is a cycle of violence in the first place: human nature.

This human nature, which guides everything that man does, runs contrary to God’s principles. By rejecting the Instruction Book created for him, man has effectively cut himself off from being able to understand how to achieve peace.

Consider just one verse regarding the use of evil practices to avenge wrongdoing. The book of Romans states: “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men” (12:17).

Think of how much better off humanity would be if it followed just these instructions. Piracy, hijackings, extortion, bribery and corruption would be a thing of the past. Governments would function correctly. There would be no need for fishermen to resort to violence to feed their families. The world would be a better place.

So then, where did human nature come from—and how can it be changed?

One Solution

Thousands of years ago, God instructed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to eat of the Tree of Life, which would allow them to have contact with Him and enable them to receive His Holy Spirit to make them complete. Yet there was another tree in the garden: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. While both trees were there, God commanded them not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,

*Please see **TERROR**, page 23*



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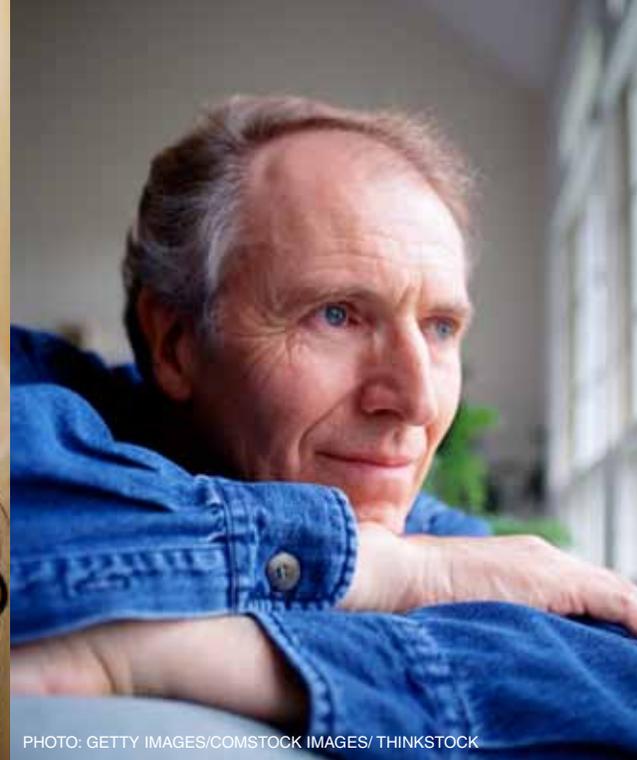


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Stop and Think

Using the Tool of Meditation

Meditation allows you to contemplate the ultimate purpose for your life—and what can be your incredible future.

BY JACOB C. TOEWS

“WHY CAN’T I think straight anymore?” While many have wondered this for a while, it was technology writer Nicholas Carr who brought the question into the public forum with his article “Is Google Making Us Stupid?”

The premise of the 2008 piece, which appeared in *The Atlantic*, was that the Internet may be “rewiring” users’ minds, making it difficult to focus for long periods of time, particularly when reading.

Mr. Carr’s hypothesis was quickly met with a wide range of responses: everything from hearty agreement to bitter dispute. But the idea that technol-

ogy has affected the way society thinks has grown in acceptance over the last three years.

When the article first came out, then-Google CEO Eric Schmidt dismissed Mr. Carr’s idea, stating that people often voice similar worries after nearly every major technological development. Instead, he stated that “we’re smarter than ever.”

Almost a year later, Mr. Schmidt seemed to have changed his tone during a *PBS* talk show: “I worry that the level of interrupt, the sort of overwhelming rapidity of information—and especially of stressful information—is in fact affecting cognition. It is in fact affecting deeper thinking.” Similarly, he stated in an *Agence France Presse* article in 2010, “As the world looks

to these instantaneous devices...you spend less time reading all forms of literature, books, magazines and so forth. That probably has an effect on cognition, probably has an effect on reading.”

But the effects do not end with thinking and reading. From the instant a person wakes up, he is catapulted into a “go-go-go” lifestyle, with little down time—there are schedules to keep, meetings to attend, emails to reply to, and cellphones to answer. A barrage of instant messages and text messages are also often thrown into the mix. Most of this occurs while constantly connected to the Internet, which allows access to many millions of websites, which themselves are continuously updated.

At work, the rat race can cause you to underperform. A number of stud-

ies throughout the United States have found that employees are interrupted about every three minutes. Yet it takes the brain about eight minutes to fully focus on one task to allow maximum creative input. Regardless, workers are expected to be high-alert multi-taskers at all times.

Edward M. Hallowell, an expert on the condition known as attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), notes that it is common for business executives to suspect they suffer from ADHD, when what they really suffer from is a type of “brain overload.” He explained in the *Harvard Business Review* that “studies have shown that as the human brain is asked to process dizzying amounts of data, its ability to solve problems flexibly and creatively declines and the number of mistakes increases.”

Welcome to life in the 21st century—with its “overwhelming rapidity of information” and “dizzying amounts of data.” For all of its positive benefits, the information age has left many feeling unproductive, “fuzzy” and scatter-brained.

All the while, many have a nagging feeling something is missing—a notion they are rushing headlong through life, with little say in how it progresses. Amid the busyness, days, weeks and months can breeze past without a person even so much as reflecting about how he is spending the 75-or-so years given to him.

So, what is the missing component in our lives? What is lacking in our hectic lifestyles?

Time to meditate.

You Are What You Think

For some, the word *meditation* conjures images of someone sitting cross-legged on the floor, arms folded, repeatedly chanting “Ommm.” Many have the idea that meditation is only practiced in eastern religions. Others believe that the purpose of meditation is to go into a trance to receive visions, achieve a “higher plateau,” or experience an “awakening of the inner self.” Still others feel it is idle daydreaming.

The definition for meditate from the *American Dictionary of the English Language* clears up the confusion: “to dwell on any thing in thought; to contemplate; to study; to turn or revolve any subject in the mind,” “to intend; to have in contemplation.”

Meditation is deep, serious, controlled thought. It involves reflection, contemplation, pondering, weighing, studying and imagining. This is exactly the type of activity high-speed lifestyles crowd out—making one feel overextended, frazzled and stressed out.

Not taking time to clear mental clutter can lead to health problems. Medical and scientific studies have found that a continually stressed mind will often become worried, anxious and apprehensive. This may, in time, contribute to heart trouble, cancer and arthritis.

Meditation alleviates these problems. It calms the body, which helps it to repair itself. This allows hypertension to recede.

Some studies have even shown that the risk of heart attacks and strokes are nearly cut in half in those who meditate. Improved memory, enhanced learning abilities, and increased concentration levels are other positive effects.

Yet meditation brings much more than health benefits.

Start Small

Just as with muscles in the body, the brain must be exercised for it to function correctly.

“Research in neuropsychology and neuroscience shows that vigorous mental activity can lead to good brain fitness, which in turn, translates into a sharper memory, faster processing of information, better attention, and other improved cognitive skills,” Dr. Elkhonon Goldberg and Alvaro Fernandez state in the book *The Sharpbrains Guide to Brain Fitness*.

In this day and age—with all of its time-stealing gadgets—one of the most challenging exercises you can do is to actively control your mind. By steering thought processes, you

can become the person you not only would like to be, but also the person you *should* be.

Consider the biblical proverb: “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). Although the context of this proverb is slightly different, the *principle* still applies to the subject of meditation. Said another way, we are what we think.

Philippians 4:8 adds another dimension: “...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

A person who constantly focuses on negative aspects of life will tend to suffer physical and mental problems. On the other hand, a person who thinks positive thoughts will most often experience better health and overall life satisfaction.

Meditating will also help you learn to think before you act, instead of allowing your body to act before you think. You will become known as someone who is able to prevent himself from acting on impulses—which evidences a high level of self-control. This also reflects on your character. Consider: “He that has no rule over his own spirit [self] is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” (Prov. 25:28). In ancient times, a city without walls could not protect itself from outside forces. It was defenseless, and could easily be overrun by invaders or even animals.

Since meditation is controlled thinking, best results are obtained when there are minimal distractions and interruptions. Any tranquil, peaceful area is suitable. For many who live in large cities, leaving the constant hum of activity is most beneficial. Going to a calm lake, a forest or serene farming area helps. If this is not an option, then a quiet park within a city may suffice. Even a still room in your home is suitable for meditation.

In the Bible, we read the example of what one of the patriarchs did: “And

Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide” (Gen. 24:63). In such a setting, free from distractions, he could quickly adjust from dealing with daily irritations and enter into a reflective mode.

Meditation of some length is best done daily. Begin with short periods and gradually extend to longer sessions of 20 minutes or more. Use time in meditation to plan out your day. Set small goals. Think about these later in the day, perhaps during the car ride home from work. Be sure to turn off any music. This will help you concentrate. You may also want to keep a pen or pencil nearby to write down thoughts.

Carefully pondering daily questions will yield positive results. Consider: “A prudent man foresees [considers and discerns] the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished” (Prov. 22:3). Analyzing a situation and its possible outcome will allow you to stop and think before acting. It will give you greater perspective about how to handle a situation, which will most likely benefit you and those around you.

As you grow and develop in your ability to control your thoughts, you will receive great encouragement. Your life will take on new meaning. For the first time, you will feel as though *you* are in control of your life—not the world around you.

Big Picture

As contemplating smaller tasks becomes a way of life, you can also start to meditate on other sections of your life—which involve the “big” questions. Your long-term goals. Your family. Where you want to be in a number of years.

This will naturally lead you to other questions that revolve around your existence: *Where is the world going? Why was I created? What is my purpose?*

Nearly everyone has certain short-term and long-term goals they hope to achieve. For some, it is to improve the quality of their lives—health-wise or financially. Others hope they will

become famous. Many desire to make this world a better place to live, while some aspire to travel to space. The list is endless.

One of the many benefits of meditation is that it helps keep goals in sharp focus. It also enables us to understand the differences between right and wrong goals, as well as differentiate between worthwhile, attainable and achievable goals, and mere “pie in the sky” dreams.

Goals define where we want to go. They give structure to our existence. However, for numerous individuals, goals are often vague and hazy. As a result, certain objectives are never fully realized.

What about you? Do you ever think about where you want to be in five, 10 or 20 years? Do you think about where your children and your family will be? Do you ever wonder about the purpose for which you were born—and what happens when you die? Contemplating such questions will become a driving force in your life.

But keep it simple. Thinking about deep questions does not need to become overly complicated. Pondering life’s looming questions does not mean you need to become a philosopher.

Road Map for Life

There is one source you can turn to that will help you further understand your purpose and lead to greater and deeper questions—the Bible.

As we strive to reach our goals, we need direction and guidance. The analogy of a modern-day airliner leaving New York for London, England, serves as an example. Although the correct destination is known, unless the aircraft’s guidance system continually makes adjustments and course corrections, it may land hundreds of miles away from its intended destination!

Our lives are no different. Without direction and guidance, the chance we will arrive at our “destination” is hopeless at best. Therefore, if we are to have a successful “journey’s end,” we also need assistance.

The Bible is the only guidebook that can steer us in the right direction on life’s most important matters. Carefully studying and meditating on its instructions will assure a safe course whereby we may reach our goal. King David understood the importance of this, stating in Psalms, “Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (119:105).

Undoubtedly, the greatest goal anyone could have would be to live forever—to attain immortality. And unknown to most, this is exactly the goal our Creator has for us. In fact, it is the very reason we were created! If we meditate on His Law, this can be our destiny. Notice Psalm 119:97: “O how love I Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”

God’s Law teaches us the right way to live—and leads us to understand more about God Himself and the Master Plan He has established for the world.

Speaking about humanity’s ultimate destiny, the apostle Paul wrote “...Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him” (I Cor. 2:9).

In his book, *The Awesome Potential of Man*, David C. Pack expounds on this concept, “Most assume that God is trying to save the world now...But because the masses have no idea *why* they were born—*why* they were put on Earth—they also do not understand why man cannot find peace, happiness, health, and abundance on his own. The whole world has been deceived about salvation and the most important questions and answers of life.”

True meditation—the kind that involves controlling your thoughts and focusing on your purpose in this life—



God’s ultimate purpose for you—will lead to the reason you were born—and your incredible future.

To learn more, read *The Awesome Potential of Man*. □



OCTOBER 21, 2011

NOT the “End of the World”!

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DARNITRA D. JACKSON

Harold Camping, voice of Family Radio, has spun yet *another* doomsday scenario and date—and thousands are *again* awaiting a “rapture.” This false prophet will be *wrong* again! *Why?* What does the Bible *really* say about where events are going?

SCORES OF MILLIONS—and in virtually all nations—wondered whether May 21, 2011 would begin the countdown to the end of the world. The masses saw ads on billboards, in newspapers, on the Internet and

elsewhere. Great numbers were captivated by the possibility of imminent destruction. Fear was everywhere. So was confusion. Thousands of believers thought they would vanish into heaven on this day.

Radio preacher Harold Camping had painted a stark picture for May 21: a great worldwide earthquake, “such as the world had never seen”—dead bodies thrown out of graves to be “shamed”—and believers “raptured.” The earth would be bathed in blood for five

months—and destroyed on October 21.

May 21 came and went like any other day—nothing happened.

Realization began to dawn on Camping followers: no rolling earthquakes starting in the South Pacific and crossing the globe—graves still closed—and true believers still here. The prophecy failed. But some things *did* happen.

A distraught 14-year-old Russian girl scrawled a note in her diary: “We are not righteous people, only they will go to heaven, the others will stay here on Earth to go through terrible sufferings.”

The writings, obtained by Russian news agency *RIA Novosti*, indicated the prediction that “Judgment Day” would arrive Saturday, May 21, 2011, was too much to bear. Her final entry said, “I don’t want to die like the others. That’s why I’ll die now.”

On May 21, she hanged herself.

A Taiwanese man reportedly also committed suicide by jumping to his death. A California woman attempted to kill herself and her two daughters weeks earlier, slitting their throats then her own, in an attempt to escape Earth’s doom.

Other stories began to unfold, less tragic, but still painful. Some now face bankruptcy. They had quit their jobs ahead of an expected “rapture” and emptied retirement accounts and savings in order to send all the funds to the Judgment Day group. Others had alienated family and friends through their fixation on the “end of the world.”

Terror. Panic. Hysteria. Suicide. Financial ruin. Embarrassment. Depression. Disillusionment. Anger. Confusion. Feelings of betrayal. Thousands—*many* thousands—wrote us describing their feelings.

After two days of silence, Mr. Camping held a press conference. He stated, “I don’t have any responsibility. I can’t be responsible for anybody’s lives. I am only teaching the Bible. I am not teaching what I believe, as if I am the authority. I am just simply teaching what the Bible says.”

Another “Great Disappointment”

In the week preceding May 21, Mr. Camping stated in interviews heard the world over that he could not entertain the *possibility* this day would not mark the rapture and the beginning of the end. How did he explain a Judgment Day that failed to materialize, despite assurances that “The Bible guarantees it”?

David C. Pack, *Real Truth* magazine Editor-in-Chief, stated the following in a special *World to Come* video presentation released May 17, and viewed by millions: “When his prophecies fail, the man who uttered these predictions will have only two options: admit he is a false prophet—highly unlikely—or spin events by claiming his prophecy *was* fulfilled in some *mysterious* fashion... Prepare *now* for the spin!”

The spin arrived on schedule. It took the form of a common tactic among false ministers—“spiritualizing away” events and scriptures that are literal in meaning. “The Bible is a very spiritual book,” Mr. Camping said. “There are a lot of things that are very factual, very factual, of course, but there are a lot of things that are very spiritual. How to know whether to look at it with a spiritual understanding or a factual understanding is hard to know...The fact is when we look at it more spiritually then we find that He did come...God brought judgment day to the whole world...It will continue to October 21, 2011 and at that time the whole world will be destroyed.”

The long game of deceit continues...

The leader will not admit his prophecy failed—but no false prophet would, or the game ends.

How to Know a False Prophet

Many know Mr. Camping falsely suggested “Judgment Day” would *likely* occur May 21, 1994. History repeated itself 17 years later, but this time carrying the “guarantee.” Both errors would be impossible with a prophet of God. Why? The apostle Peter wrote, “We have also a more *sure word* of prophecy...” (II Pet. 1:19). God’s prophecies are *certain*. They *never* miss. Not one!

Harold Camping will not admit his prophecy failed—but no false prophet would, or the game ends.

God’s instruction regarding prophets is “If you [ask] in your heart, How shall we *know* the word which the LORD has *not* spoken?” (Deut. 18:21). God’s answer? “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing *follow not, nor come to pass*, that is the thing which the LORD has *not* spoken, but the prophet has spoken it *presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him*” (vs. 22).

Men *can* presume to speak for God. It happens every day. Therefore, you must KNOW if God sent a man—or if the man sent himself.

The *true* prophet Ezekiel recorded, “Son of man [Ezekiel], prophesy against the prophets of Israel...and say you unto them that prophesy out of *their own hearts*, Hear you the word of the LORD; thus says the Lord GOD; woe unto the *foolish prophets*, that follow their *own spirit*, and have seen *nothing*” (13:2-3).

This is a SERIOUS matter to God—and it should be to *you!* Mr. Camping cannot be a servant of God. God tells you, “You shall *not* be afraid of him.” Do you—will you—believe God?

Will the World End?

Mr. Pack, author of *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked!*, writes this: “What about the Return of Christ? Will this usher in the end of planet Earth on October 21, 2011?—on December 21, 2012?—or on any *other* date? Will *all people* die in the fulfillment of end-time prophecies—as so many assume? The answer is a resounding NO! And here is proof.

“When Jesus described world conditions leading to His Return, He stated, ‘Except those days should be shortened [cut short], there should no flesh be saved’ (Matt. 24:22).

“Some religionists believe the phrase ‘no flesh be saved’ refers to *spiritual salvation*. But that is *not* what Jesus is talking about. Rather, that unless God cuts the Tribulation short, no human beings—‘no *flesh*’—would survive. The human race

would become extinct *if* Christ did not return. The implication is that He will return *before* this happens. For those who believe God, this is further proof that 2011 could not possibly end human existence.

“Other prophecy writers speak of the ‘end of the world’—that the earth itself will supposedly be destroyed. This could not be further from the truth. This idea often stems from a misunderstanding of Christ’s disciples asking Him for a sign of the ‘end of the world.’ The Greek word (*aion*) translated *world* means ‘age.’ The disciples were asking when the period of *man’s rule* would end—and the kingdom of God would be established. They well understood the many Old Testament prophecies that speak of the Messiah setting up the kingdom of God on Earth. They also knew Jesus said, ‘The meek shall inherit the earth’ (Matt. 5:5), and that He was merely repeating Psalm 37:11.”

“Countless verses could have been cited to disprove the 2011 deception. Scripture makes plain that 2011 does *not* mark the ‘end of the world,’ and that such ideas are preposterous to the point of almost humorous—were it not for the fear and confusion they spawn.”

When—not *if*, but **WHEN**—October 21 fails, Mr. Camping may again claim that God has “heard the prayers of the faithful,” and “shown His mercy.” This ploy will enable him to calculate another date, then another, and another...

Prepare now! Determine to never let a false prophet—or any other kind of false teacher—mislead you!

Ludicrous Teachings

Mr. Camping’s doctrines are—and in his case, seemingly without exception—unbiblical, illogical and indefensible. This article can only counter a sampling, but the approach will serve as a template that can be applied to all others.

Let’s bring critical thinking—which has been defined as thinking that “clarifies goals, examines assumptions, discerns hidden values, evaluates evidence, accomplishes actions,



■ **ON A MISSION:** People gather on a street corner in New York City holding signs declaring that “Judgment Day” will occur on May 21 (May 13, 2011).

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

and assesses conclusions”—to his teachings.

Ask: What about all the specific events he had predicted for May 21? A worldwide earthquake, five months of horror, corpses ejected from graves—did all of this occur “spiritually” as well? Or did God simply cancel them? Camping had based this five-month period on Revelation 9:5: “...they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man.” Are the unsaved currently—**NOW!**—under attack by *spiritual* scorpions, unbeknownst to them?

Must the saved now loiter on Earth for five months? According to this man, judgment has been rendered and salvation closed. What would be the point of postponing supposed world punishment for five months when there is no longer opportunity to repent and seek God?

Further, Mr. Camping teaches that the Creation of Genesis 1 occurred in 11,013 BC, and Noah’s flood in 4990 BC.

This alone invalidates *all* his predictions—every one. Commonly understood biblical chronology places the flood around 2350 BC—almost 26 and a half centuries later! Creation was in or near 3981 BC. Both dates are based on historical accounts and events

described in the Bible, such as the completion of Solomon’s Temple, coupled with genealogies like the detailed one in Genesis 5.

Another factor Mr. Camping set forth in determining the doomsday dates is the belief that May 21, 2011 was “722,500 days” after the Crucifixion. Citing this number as significant is an example of how ignorant gobbledygook thinking can seduce the unwitting because they think it sounds “profound.” Biblically, this number has no meaning of itself—whatsoever.

Mr. Camping’s calculations also involve assigning “spiritual meaning” to random numbers. For example, he teaches, “17 represents heaven.” This is a ludicrous assertion without a shred of biblical support—pure fiction. But this is a key part of the formula that produced both the May 21 and October 21 dates!

When specific time periods in the Bible do not fit Mr. Camping’s chronology, he calls them “spiritual” and “symbolic.” One example, from his booklet *We Are Almost There!* is his revision of the 1,000-year Millennium described in Revelation 20: “Satan... was bound so that he could not deceive the nations during the complete period of the church age, which was symbolically described as a period of 1,000

years (Revelation 20:1-3). The 1,000 years must be understood as a symbolic or spiritual number that signifies ‘completeness.’ The actual period he was bound was 1,955 years (from A.D. 33 to 1988).”

If you find this confusing, that’s a good sign!

And all of this is in addition to Camping’s use of the *Roman* calendar (a solar calendar) to analyze dates and time periods marked in Scripture using the *Hebrew* calendar (which harmonizes both solar and lunar events).

These errors alone should end all discussion of whether this man is a biblical authority—on ANYTHING!

In regard to the *most basic point* of salvation, he made this worst of statements during a press conference: “The fact is there is only one kind of people that will ascend into heaven and that has nothing to do with any religion. They could be a Hinduist, they could be a Muslim...If God has saved them, they are going to be caught up [in the rapture].” This teaching is *utterly* false! The Bible—which Mr. Camping describes as the “university” he attended—states, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [other than Jesus Christ] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12) and “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13). Many more verses could be cited.

Who would follow such a man to the kitchen, never mind salvation? Yet thousands do. And vast millions more follow men who are little better.

The Great Tribulation

Mr. Camping writes, “...the church age ended on May 21, 1988 (A.D.)” ushering in a 23-year Great Tribulation.

Numerous passages explain that the Tribulation lasts 3½ years, including the year-long Day of the Lord that concludes it. Together, these events fulfill the 1,260 days—or 42 months—before Christ’s Return (Rev. 11:3).

A 23-year period, let alone Tribulation, is found *nowhere* in Scripture! Another Camping fiction.

Further, the Bible describes the Great Tribulation as the worst time period in history. As you read these passages, ask if they could possibly apply to today.

Jesus said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not *since the beginning of the world* to this time, no, nor *ever shall be*” (Matt. 24:21). Mark’s account repeats it for emphasis: “For in those days shall be affliction [tribulation], such as was not from *the beginning of the creation* which God created unto this time, *neither shall be*” (13:19).

In the Old Testament, the prophet Jeremiah recorded, “Alas! For that day is great, so that *none is like it*: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it” (30:7). The prophet Daniel wrote, “...there shall be a time of trouble, such as *never was since there was a nation even to that same time*: and at that time your people shall be delivered” (12:1).

These are all speaking of the same event—there cannot be *three* times that are all the *worst* time of ALL time!

Now consider that in 1988, the Cold War was nearing an end and the Western world entered one of the most prosperous periods in history, with wealth being created on an unprecedented scale. Does this—and the years that followed—sound remotely like the worst time ever?

Luke brings horrific detail to what must occur at the *outset* of the Tribulation: “...there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people [modern Western nations]. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of [overrun by] the Gentiles” (21:23-24). Revelation 11:2 describes this “treading down” as a period lasting 42 months.

This time has so obviously not come! However close it is—and it certainly *is* growing closer—no thinking person can believe *any* of it has yet arrived.

In addition, Jesus also plainly said in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 that a series of *other* very serious events and conditions must *pre-*

cede the Tribulation. He describes increasing *deception, war, famine, disease, earthquakes and commotions* as the “beginning of sorrows.” While these *are* increasing, and intensifying, they are foretold to grow *much* worse before the Tribulation. Again, however close this time now is, it has not yet come.

The Rapture Fiction

While many believe a rapture has always been the Bible teaching, the idea was *unknown* before the 16th century.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, reformers John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Martin Luther and Jan Huss campaigned against the dominance of the Catholic Church. These men shook Catholic theology to its core—calling that church the antichrist.

To dispel the church’s label of antichrist, Jesuit priest Francisco Ribera created the belief of *futurism*. This declared that the prophecies of Revelation *only* apply to the last seven years preceding Christ’s Return.

Ribera’s false idea opened the door to the rapture theory.

Ironically, almost 300 years later, Protestants adopted Ribera’s “futurism” invention. Anglican preacher John Nelson Darby, often called the “father of the rapture,” taught that Christ would first *secretly* collect His followers and take them to heaven, and return to defeat the antichrist.

Since the 16th century, countless millions have blindly accepted the rapture theory—fearing what would happen if they did not. But grasp this. The doctrine began in the minds of Catholic priests, then continued development in the minds of the *reformers*—not GOD’S mind, as revealed in the Bible!

In I Corinthians 14:33, the apostle Paul states, “For God is not the author of *confusion*, but of *peace*, as in all churches of the saints.” Verse 40 states, “Let all things be done *decently and in order*.” What could possibly be *orderly* or *peaceful* about millions of people suddenly vanishing from beds, workstations, automobiles and airplanes? The *obvious* result would be utter *confusion* and *chaos*!

Let's state this plainly! The rapture is a doctrine of chaos, and makes God and Christ the AUTHORS of *confusion*.

Now think. Disagreeing theologians—rapture theorists *do not agree*—found different ways of interpreting the Bible to present the rapture. Which should one listen to? The answer? None! Mr. Camping becomes a proof of this.

Rapture supporters cite certain verses as supposed “proof texts.” When read correctly, each one, however, in fact *disproves* the rapture! The rapture is a big subject, and over the years an elaborate “theological” scheme to sell it has come into place. To learn much more about the rapture deception—and to see the so-called proof texts *correctly* explained—the serious person will want to watch *The World to Come* broadcast “Is a Secret Rapture Biblical?”

Evil Men and Seducers

The arrival of modern false prophets and false teachers—even false christs—was foretold by Jesus and other New Testament writers. Paul wrote, “...in the *last days perilous times* shall come” (II Tim. 3:1). “Perilous” means *dangerous*. Paul then lists specific character traits that will appear as civilization breaks down, concluding with, “...*evil men* and *seducers* shall wax [grow] worse and worse, *deceiving*, AND *being deceived*” (vs. 13).

The Greek word God chose, translated “evil,” means, “hurtful,” “calamitous,” “culpable,” “derelict,” “degeneracy,” “vicious,” “malice,” “wicked,” “grievous,” of “the devil” (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). This definition should hit like a thunderbolt! These men both deceive others and are themselves deceived. That they may be sincere is not relevant.

Verses 2 to 7 in the same chapter describe a worldwide breakdown of character in our time that contributes to the peril Paul referenced. Take time to read them, and ask if you see what they describe in your neighborhood?—your workplace?—the news? These are signs of the times as much as the rise of false teachers.

Scoffers in the Last Days

Collateral damage from events like the phony “Judgment Day” takes many forms. False prophets and failed predictions lead to one: “...there shall come in the last days *scoffers*, walking after *their own lusts*” (II Pet. 3:3)—people choosing and following the course of human nature, as in Sodom and Gomorrah, and Noah's time (Luke 17:26-29).

Continuing in II Peter 3, verse 4, scoffers are described as asking: “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers [Abraham, Isaac and Jacob] fell asleep, all things *continue as they were* from the beginning of the creation.”

This describes people who are unwilling to believe that serious times—the last days!—could actually come. Never mind in *their* lifetimes. They choose to dismiss obviously worsening conditions and trends, declaring that these things “continue as they were from the beginning.”

God declares, “For this they *willingly* are *ignorant*...” (vs. 5)—this speaks for itself! And, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise...but is longsuffering to us-ward [patiently waiting, because He is] not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance” (vs. 9).

Sadly, most will not repent—will not change their ways.

Worsening False Prophets

The rolling 2011 doomsday event is more than just a curiosity or an entertaining sideshow for onlookers' amusement. It is an *outrage* foisted on great numbers of naive people who trusted that their leader understood the Bible—and that he could do their research *for them*. This destroyed lives.

The folly of Mr. Camping's teachings, combined with his botched predictions, causes most to view his and his followers' efforts as a joke. Similarly, the bizarre Mayan calendar 2012 phenomenon can be expected to roar to life next year, perhaps with

one or more “authorities” leading the charge. This prediction will also fail, casting further doubt on *all* prophecy. Grasp this: the world will see many more false prophets in the years ahead, and this will be deadly serious. Far beyond simple predictions, they will perform miracles—displays of *supernatural power*—that even hardened skeptics will be unable to dismiss. You will witness staggering events, and beyond what you can begin to imagine!

Does this sound far-fetched? Notice passages that describe *our time*:

Mark 13:22: “False Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.”

Matthew 24:24: “There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

II Thessalonians 2:9: “Even him [the final False Prophet], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”

If thousands can accept Harold Camping's teachings, imagine the response when false prophets begin to do MIRACLES!

Mr. Camping taught that conditions would greatly worsen over the next five months. Of course, it cannot be denied that world conditions and trends *are* deteriorating—Mid-East turmoil, droughts, wildfires, floods, tornadoes and other weather upsets, rising food prices, rising fuel prices, divided governments, governments collapsing under impossible debt loads, riots in Europe, earthquakes and volcanoes increasing. What we saw Jesus called “the *beginning* of sorrows,” while not yet in full force, are at the world's door.

Mr. Camping and many other false teachers will use this as an opportunity to perpetuate a cycle of fear, holding sway over their adherents. And when their prophecies fail, a worse condition arises. Followers blow off the *truth* of prophecy! It is as though they con-

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WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Unnecessary confusion and disagreement reign because God's Word is ignored.

BY DAVID C. PACK

IN 1966, as God began to call me into His truth, I had the opportunity to meet with my United States congressman from Ohio. All applicants to the U.S. Naval Academy were required to have a personal interview with their congressman before possible acceptance. At the end of the interview, my congressman asked if I wished to ask him any questions. Here was a highly respected, long-time member of Congress—for 26 years, until 1973—giving me the opportunity to ask him any question.

I had only one.

I was learning about a coming, world-ruling, supergovernment to be established at the Return of Jesus Christ. I asked the congressman his opinion of one world government, if it were in the hands of men. His answer was immediate and emphatic, "I do not believe it would work, but if I did, I would shout it from the housetops." He went on to express various concerns.

Since that time, more and more people have suggested that *one world government* is the only way to save civilization. But many questions arise. Who would bring it? How would it be phased in? What laws would it administer? How would they be enforced? Would sovereign nations relinquish their authority to it? Would it succeed, or eventually oppress and enslave all mankind? These questions always stop thinkers, planners, leaders and politicians in their tracks!

Like a newscaster far ahead of his time, Jesus came with an announcement about a complete change in the way the world would one day be governed. World peace, happiness, harmony, universal health and prosperity would come.

But He did not bring it in the way that most believe.

In Mark 1:15, Jesus declared, "Repent you, and believe the gospel." We must ask, just what *is* the gospel? Most "gospel believers" never concern themselves with what it is they believe. The truth of the gospel has remained hidden to the vast majority of professing Christians. Ever since the first century there has been a conspiracy to deceive would-be Christians about the meaning of the gospel.

As a result, most believe the gospel is about the *Person* of Jesus. Certainly, Jesus' role *is* enormous, but He is *not* the gospel. The Bible shows that Jesus Christ is preached in conjunction *with* the gospel.

Some proclaim a "gospel of salvation" or "grace." Others a "gospel of miracles" or a "social gospel," or one

about "foods" or "healing" or "faith." Some talk of "gospel music." These are all *manmade ideas*—and *not* what the Bible says!

Notice what Mark recorded! "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the *kingdom of God*" (vs. 14). That is the gospel Jesus preached. It was in this context He said, "Repent you, and *believe the gospel*." What gospel?—the "kingdom of God." Verse one refers to, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ." The gospel of Jesus Christ was about the kingdom of God—not something else! One must believe and understand *that* gospel to be saved. No counterfeit or substitute will do.

Paul explained that the apostles were entrusted by God to preserve the true gospel. Notice: "But as *we* were allowed of God to be *put in trust* with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God" (I Thes. 2:4). This is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. *True* ministers teach what God commands, not what "pleases men."

Why do preachers not fear to do this? Why are so many willing to teach a variety of false gospels? Because they fear preaching what could displease their congregations—and cost them their jobs. Also, the churches of mainstream Christianity cannot agree on what the gospel is.

The masses are deceived by the god of this world, who uses his ministers as instruments to spread the most popular false gospel, that of the *Person* of Jesus, instead of Jesus' *message* about God's kingdom.

People need to wake up to the deception—the mass delusion—of a supposed Christianity that denies virtually all the truths of the Bible! God's Plan for mankind is staggering—incomparable to anything human beings have devised to replace it. The world ignores plain, clear, *unmistakable* scriptures found *throughout* the Bible about God's kingdom.

Very few recognize that Jesus Christ was born to be a king—to rule all nations of Earth forever with the help of *other* spirit-composed kings. This is the central theme of the entire Bible: "And out of His [Christ's] mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should smite *the nations*: and He shall *rule them* with a rod of iron...and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:15-16).

To learn much more about the astonishing truth of the kingdom of God, watch the two-part *World to Come* broadcast series "The Kingdom of God—What No One Knows!" □



■ **WEDDING FEVER:** Above, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and Princess Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, journey by carriage to Buckingham Palace following their marriage ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London, England (April 29, 2011). Right, people gather in the streets of London to celebrate the royal wedding (April 29, 2011).

PHOTOS: (ABOVE) PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; (RIGHT) AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Far beyond the tabloid stories, the royal wedding carries more significance than most realize.

BY NESTOR A. TORO

TENS OF MILLIONS watched worldwide. Thousands of spectators lined lawns in downtown London, waving placards and holding flowers, jostling each other to catch the slightest glance of the newlyweds. Others shed tears of joy over a glimpse of the splendor Britain once had as a regal and respected nation.

For most in the crowd, it did not matter if they knew the bride or groom personally. A living symbol of Britain's power and history was married. An heir could now be produced and the nation's stately lineage continued.

On a bright spring day, Catherine Middleton officially became the

"Duchess of Cambridge" when she exchanged vows with Prince William at Westminster Abbey. The couple was then whisked away by horse-drawn carriage to Buckingham Palace, escorted by dozens of uniformed cavalry wearing traditional headgear and ceremonial tunics.

The pomp and circumstance of the event, royal protocol, lavish accommodations, ornate preparations, VIP guests, designer hats, and pageantry captured the fascination of millions. According to *CNN*, data from online service provider Akamai showed the royal wedding ranked as "the sixth biggest event in Internet history," eclipsing the November 2008 United States presidential election.

In the U.S. alone, excitement over Britain's most celebrated marriage in

three decades generated an audience of tens of millions. American celebrities hosted galas, activity centers sponsored tea parties, and Web-savvy middle-class workers eagerly snatched up monarchy memorabilia. Television channels dedicated hour-long specials to interviews with those involved in royal-wedding preparations and featured shows about the lifestyles of princes and princesses.

Others wondered *why* there was so much interest. After all, was it not just another pricey wedding involving an aristocratic family—a tabloid event?

Clearly, the event did stand out on the world scene. While the June 2010 wedding of Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, the heir to the country's throne, had royal appeal, it was not nearly as widely viewed as the marriage of Britain's new duke and duchess.

Why is there such fascination with the British monarchy? While some claim it is due to the British Empire's



widespread influence, the reason lies in the roots of the monarchy itself.

Unbroken Line

Amid the excitement of the wedding, there was growing interest in the royal family's lineage, particularly that of Catherine Middleton.

Of the new duchess, a *Guardian* columnist wrote: "She brings fresh blood into the royal family, offering the prospect of a new generation and a secure succession. For William, this may have been a wedding. For the institution of monarchy, it was a blood transfusion."

PBS reported: "...although coverage of this royal wedding, especially in the British media, focuses on Kate Middleton's family lineage of three generations of coal miners, the great-great-great-great-grandmother that really counts is Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901. She and her German consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, produced nine children, and the consequences rippled through the tumultuous his-

tory of Europe well into modern times. Indeed, dynastic marriages and arrangements, so symbolic of an old Europe, were at the heart of a conflict that brought about its end—World War I from 1914 to 1918. Three of the major warring nations—Britain, Germany and Russia—were ruled by two grandsons and a grandson-in-law of Queen Victoria. By war's end, only the British monarchy would remain."

For centuries, British kings and queens have played a crucial part in world events. Yet to truly comprehend the incredible legacy of England's monarchy, one must trace it back to well before Victorian times, even prior to the period of English and Scottish monarchs, who reigned from AD 400 to 1603.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society brings a different perspective regarding the fascinating history behind Britain's royal family, and details the royal lineage, using the Bible to support its findings. In 1921, the organization wrote in its quar-

terly publication, "...admitting that the covenants of the Old Testament are to be accepted as utterances upon divine authority, we have the covenant as uttered in Genesis [49:10]—'The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.'"

"With this covenant as a basis of argument, supported by the accepted genealogies of the Old Testament, we have it proven that the sceptre did remain in the house of Judah in unbroken line until the reign of Zedekiah."

The promise of Genesis 49 is often called the scepter promise. It refers to an unbroken royal line that began with King David, who came from Judah.

King Zedekiah's daughter Tea Tephi was taken to Ireland, where she married Eochaidh, thus continuing the line of King David.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society continued: "By this union of two strains of the blood of Judah in the marriage of Tea Tephi and

Eochaidh, the covenant that the sceptre should not depart from the house of Judah was perpetuated; and by the evidence of the Annals of the Irish Kings and those of the Kings of Scotland we are furnished a substantial argument... that the sceptre continued in the house of Judah by the way of the Irish Kings and thence by intermarriage, by way of the Scottish Kings, and again by direct descent, by the way of the English Kings, to the present representative of British Sovereignty, King George V of England, in whose person is perpetuated the covenant to the house of Judah.”

The link between the British monarchy and Davidic line does not end there. At each coronation of a British monarch, the Stone of Destiny, a rectangular sandstone block reported to have traveled from Israel, was present.

Encyclopaedia Britannica states: “According to one Celtic legend the stone was once the pillow upon which the patriarch Jacob [a direct ancestor of David] rested at Bethel when he beheld the visions of angels. From the Holy Land it purportedly traveled to Egypt, Sicily, and Spain and reached Ireland about 700 BC to be set upon the hills of Tara, where the ancient kings of Ireland were crowned.”

The stone then moved to Scotland, where it was used in the coronation of Scottish kings. Since 1307, the stone has been used at the crowning of British monarchs.

Unbroken Promise

During King David’s reign over ancient Israel, God expanded the scepter promise: “And when your [David’s] days be fulfilled, and you shall sleep with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you...and I will establish the throne of his kingdom *forever*...And your house and your kingdom shall be established *forever* before you: your throne shall be established FOREVER (II Sam. 7:12-13, 16).

God promised that He would *never* allow the Davidic line to end. And God NEVER breaks His word. He declares: “I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also

do it” (Isa. 46:11). When God says a throne will be established *forever*, He means it!

Therefore, David’s throne must exist *somewhere* on Earth today. And it must be a long-held line. What other unbroken monarchy has historical ties to ancient Israel? What other lineage of kings and queens are coronated on Jacob’s pillow stone?

After David died, his son Solomon reigned in his place: “Then Solomon sat on the *throne of the LORD* as king instead of David his father, and prospered” (I Chron. 29:23).

Notice that it is “the throne of the LORD”—not of David!

In the New Testament, the same promise is confirmed. In Luke 1, an angel told the mother of Jesus, “... you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the *throne of His father David*: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob *forever*; and of His kingdom there shall be *no end*” (vs. 31-33).

While men and women—now in the form of the British monarchy—have been occupying David’s throne for thousands of years, it is ultimately *Christ’s throne*—which He will claim at His Second Coming.

Watching a marriage celebration within the British monarchy—which can lead to an heir to the throne—should remind you that God has kept His scepter promise. And just as God also promised, Christ *will* come back to claim the throne.

God also prophesied a blessing that the descendants of Jacob, including Britain and the United States, would receive. He stated, “...be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of you” (Gen. 35:11). (Read David C. Pack’s book *America and Britain in Prophecy* to learn how God has delivered what He promised.)

What the Future Holds

The purpose of kingdoms and governments should be to bring order,

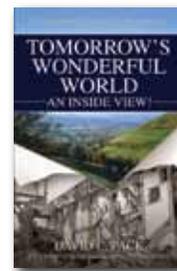
peace and prosperity. Ideally, they will look out for the well-being of their citizens.

While manmade governments can never fully or permanently deliver on these promises, when Christ returns to claim His throne, it will be markedly different. Isaiah 9 describes Christ’s coming reign: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, *upon the throne of David*, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever” (vs. 6-7).

Unknown to most, this is the same kingdom of God that Christ announced throughout His earthly ministry. He preached the gospel *of the kingdom*, NOT a gospel *about* Himself! Read Matthew 6:33, Mark 1:14 and Luke 4:43.

Jesus Christ will return and rule—forever—on the very real, continuing throne of David!

Contrary to those who support the racist idea of “British Israelism,” which equates the nation’s former empire with God’s kingdom, Christ’s soon-coming reign on the throne now held by England’s monarchy does not make Britons superior. The kingdom of God will be a global SUPERGOVERNMENT to bring peace and prosperity to *all* nations: “And there was given [to Christ] dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that *ALL people, nations, and languages*, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:14).



To learn what the world will look like during Christ’s coming reign on the throne of David, read *Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!* □

TERROR

Continued from page 10

since doing so would result in (eventual) death.

By allowing these two trees to be in the garden, God gave human beings a choice: obey Him or cut themselves off from Him by disobedience. Sadly, they chose to disobey God and concede to Satan, a spiritual being who was also in the garden. Plying his trade, Satan convinced the first man and woman that

joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness [and] temperance” (Gal. 5:22-23).

Man rejecting his opportunity to have God’s Spirit in the Garden of Eden does not mean all is lost. God is merciful. He sees the suffering of mankind, and just as any loving parent, it pains Him to see His Creation make wrong decisions, and then have to learn from mistakes. But this is necessary.

God also realizes that without help, mankind would not be able to end the violence so prevalent in the world

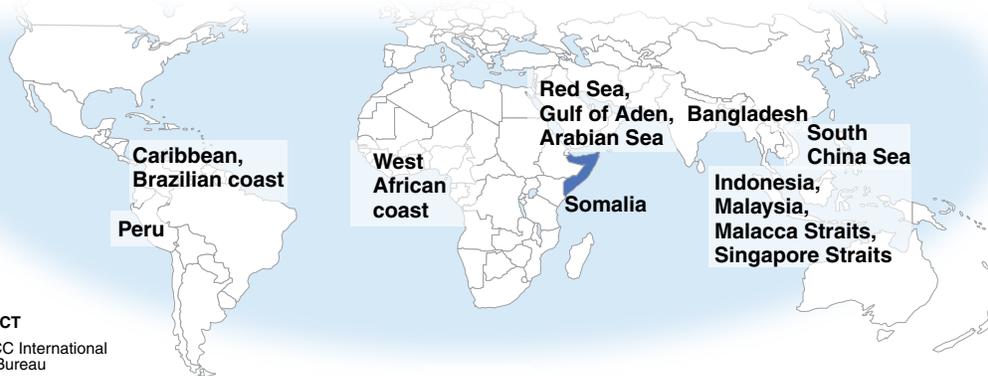
ken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever” (Mic. 4:3-5).

Though God promises His government *will* come to pass, this does not deter Satan from trying to thwart His Master Plan. Since the first time Satan deceived mankind, he has continually attempted to dissuade people from obeying God—or even from believing that God exists! (Read Psalm 14:1.)

Notice Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out, that old ser-

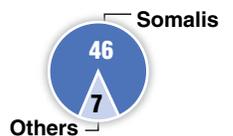
2010 Piracy Flashpoints

Somali pirates were responsible for 92 percent of all ship hijackings in 2010.

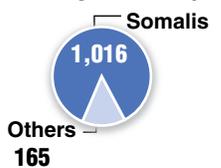


© 2011 MCT
Source: ICC International Maritime Bureau

Ships hijacked by:



Hostages taken by:



they did not have to obey God—which cut man off from God. This remains true today.

While many view the account in the garden as a fairy tale, it explains exactly why man has made the decisions he has—and why he has not been able to find the way to peace in a way that no other historical account can. How else can one explain the idea that man cannot of himself find peace—why he has not been able to apply basic principles to “get along with his neighbor”? What else so perfectly mirrors the reason man cannot seem to find happiness today—why even though the Bible says “do not commit adultery,” “do not kill” and “do not steal,” no one is able to adhere to such simple instructions?

This inability to apply instructions stems from the fact that man does not have access to God’s Holy Spirit—which would have allowed him to apply such principles and live a righteous life—yielding the fruits of “love,

today. Therefore, His ultimate goal is to bring a solution somewhat related to the one mentioned by a Somali pirate—restoration of government.

But this will be His government!

Unlike any human government, with its scandals, corruption and tyranny, God’s government will stand for eternity. Administered by a just and loving Jesus Christ, everyone will have what they need. Abundance, prosperity and happiness will be commonplace.

This awesome promise is given in the book of Micah: “And He [Christ] shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spo-

pent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives *the whole world*: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” This attempt to deceive includes the wonderful news that God will one day restore His kingdom to Earth.

But Satan—the ultimate “hijacker” who has captured mankind—will be defeated with the arrival of God’s government. This will end the cycle of greed and violence that he has brought to this world, and restore peace and prosperity for all.

No longer will companies be able to steal from and abuse the poor. No longer will downtrodden men murder to feed their families. No longer will a wife wonder if her husband will come home alive. No longer will there be crippled, ineffectual governments and worldwide chaos and confusion.

And no longer will anyone—pirate or otherwise—be able to say, “Evil is the only solution.” □

END OF WORLD

Continued from page 18

clude, “Men lied to me, so I don’t have to obey God. I can continue walking after my own lusts.”

The grave danger of false prophets will culminate in a final figure, called *the False Prophet*. He will lead a universal religious system centered in Europe that will deceive the entire world through use of false miracles, in an unholy church-state alliance with a powerful civil ruler called the Beast, or final Antichrist (Rev. 16:13).

Consider yourself forewarned!

Most professing Christians will fall into one of two ditches: becoming a scoffer, believing “my Lord delays His Coming” (Matt. 24:48)—or being “seduced” by the more convincing false prophets just ahead. Either way, the devil—called the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), and who is the source of both attitudes—is served.

There will be exceptions.

How Will You Respond?

The worst tragedy in all that happened is that Mr. Camping’s predictions seem to discredit God’s Word. Those who had real fear of God’s judgment, however misguided, feel they can now heave a sigh of relief and get back to being “lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...” (II Tim. 3:1-4).

If learning that October 21 will pass in the same way as May 21 tempts you to relax and think, “Everything is going to be okay,” fight this feeling. Resist concluding, “Men deceived me, I have no further responsibility!”

False teachers never negate *true* Bible prophecy!

Serious readers will look beyond simple relief that the world will not soon end. They will want the *truth* of Bible prophecy. A third of God’s Word is prophecy—history written in advance. This future history is as certain as tomorrow. Over time, failed doomsday scenarios will leave many millions jaded. This need not be you.

Once you have proven the authority of the Bible, you must act on the *other* two-thirds of Scripture. After warning of “perilous times,” Paul described the only defense: “Continue you in the things which you have learned and have been assured of...*the holy scriptures*, which are able to make you *wise unto salvation* through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all GOOD WORKS” (II Tim. 3:14-17).

To survive this age, you must follow Paul’s admonition. This means you must first learn what the “holy scriptures” *actually say* about prophecy. And then you must APPLY God’s instruction to produce *true* “good works.”

The Bible promises that those who are faithful and obedient will be *protected* through the worst calamities that could fall upon an unsuspecting world. While the last days *are* perilous, this is but the run-up period prior to the *infinitely worse* final three and a half years to follow before the good news of the *true* gospel is fulfilled in Christ’s Coming.

Of the thousands who wrote us, more than a few expressed a determination to learn the truth of what lies ahead.

You Can Know!

The two false 2011 predictions and the worldwide attention they garnered are but a small warning shot—the mere tiniest precursor of what is to come. Understand. However effective his advertising campaign, largely because it was powered by millions of dollars, Harold Camping is spectacularly ignorant of Bible prophecy, and of even the most basic understanding within it. He is a particularly *unskilled* false prophet—a rank amateur. Others who come will be more schooled, subtle, clever and attractive—and will be viewed as more mainstream. These are the most dangerous.

Believe this—and prepare for them now!

In his book *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked!*, David C. Pack, the world’s foremost authority on Bible prophecy, writes: “God’s servants understand the basic framework of His overall prophetic timetable and plan. They are not confused about ‘what happens next’ as certain end-time prophecies intensify, and others take place. Many prophecies involve a tremendous amount of understanding that God makes available, and with all necessary details. They understand *exactly* what lies ahead for all mankind, and for themselves—if they are faithful.”

He also writes, “Suppose you could know the direction and *conclusion* of world events—*world history*—in advance of the outcome. What if you could know the courses of nations *before* they happen? What if the future of great nations—indeed the *greatest* nations—could be known? Imagine knowing tomorrow’s biggest headlines *before* they come to pass, and how events will affect *you*, and every human being, *personally*.”

“Tragically, most Bible readers are completely unaware of awesome, impending world events, soon to involve all nations. Vast sections of Scripture are hidden from them, and remain outside their understanding—completely lost to their thinking. The result is that most simply have no idea what the future holds.

“Many have opinions, but few know how to find the *answers*. Others think they already understand the prophecies of the Bible. The result? They remain ignorant of fascinating, incredible knowledge—*life-changing* knowledge.

“No book you have read, or ever will, on prophecy is like this one. Different from all others on the subject, it is destined to be read by vast numbers—soon.”

If you are serious about learning the truth of all that is coming, view the *World to Come* video “All the Great Prophecies Unlocked!” It introduces the most comprehensive book ever written on prophecy. Consider also watching another video, “The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy.” □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

fond of it” (*Words on War: Military Quotations from Ancient Times to Present*, Jay M. Shafritz). Nations have grown fond of war—indeed, they are addicted to it. For 6,000 years, man has proven himself unable to break the cycle of war.

As a result, history’s *greatest* wars lie dead ahead!

America and Britain in the Bible?

Against the backdrop of growing fear, mixed with confusion, many wonder—and are openly asking—about America and Britain’s role in the prophecies foretold in the Bible to occur in the last days. Recognizing their rise to extraordinary prominence, having become so big and dominant that their impact on the world is enormous, people naturally wonder, “What about the United States and Britain?” Surely, among the Bible’s great prophecies, God would not ignore them. Are they mentioned in prophecy? If so, *where*? And will these nations be exceptions to the collapse of all the great civilizations that preceded them?

Not knowing who or what to believe, some ask their ministers—and find they do not know! Others turn to so-called prophecy experts—psychics, seers, crystal ball gazers and self-described prophets, and other “experts”—but find none of these know either. Truly, the educated of this world—but uneducated in basic, right spiritual knowledge—commentators, columnists, generals, scientists and educators—have absolutely *no idea* how to answer this question. Deceived, and having *closed* their minds, many at least do recognize this is beyond their field.

My book *America and Britain in Prophecy* provides answers—and a *powerful warning*—that no one else is telling you! I urge you to read it—all of it. It will change your thinking forever.

Only about 200 years ago, America and the British Commonwealth of nations suddenly shot to great promi-

nence and power. Not so long ago, the combined wealth of these nations was over 70 percent of the total wealth and physical resources of the world. All the rest of the nations combined possessed less than 30 percent. Of Britain, it was said, “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” Yet, right on schedule, Britain declined to an almost third-rate power.

Now consider. Virtually all of Bible prophecy has to do with world trends and events for *our* time. How then could the mightiest nations of all time be left unmentioned?

Religious leaders explain that America, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are merely Gentile nations, thus believing that end-time prophecy totally disregards these great countries. Deceived, they usually focus on prophecies describing the Jews, totally unaware of enormous understanding available about the identity of the peoples of the West. These leaders simply do not know *where*, *how*—or *what*—to look for. Thus, answers remain elusive.

Confusion About Prophecy Abounds

Knowing something is terribly wrong, many sense the world has reached what the Bible calls the “end time”—or “last days.” This has caused a mushrooming of interest in biblical prophecy.

Millions of people now routinely discuss terms such as “Antichrist,” “Great Tribulation,” “Millennium,” “Armageddon,” “the Beast,” “False Prophet,” “God’s Wrath,” “Abomination of Desolation” and others, without proper meaning or comprehension. Again, they simply do not know where or how to look within God’s Word to get correct understanding of what these and other terms mean, and how they will play out, sequentially, within God’s incredible Master Plan for the end of the age. Like a kind of prophetic Rubik’s Cube, the many critical pieces of the puzzle never come together. This is because, instead of directly examining the hundreds of clear scriptures on these and other prophecies—for *proof* (I Thes. 5:21)!—many seem content to trust in

human interpretations. Thus, confusion and disagreement about how to solve this great Rubik’s Cube have mushroomed.

We offer a tremendous amount of truth about Bible prophecy. It is all found on our websites. For those desiring virtually all of what we offer in one book, *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out* is available.

Most students of Bible prophecy remain in near total ignorance of its meaning, unable to recognize the *speed*, *sequence*, *seriousness*—and AWESOME MAGNITUDE!—of onrushing events. They just cannot untangle the maze of *what* happens *when*, as well as *where* and to *whom*—never mind *WHY*. This book removes the veil of mystery shrouding God’s Plan and makes prophecy come alive—and reveals what lies ahead for all nations before Christ’s Return. This book will permanently—and completely—change you! At almost 600 pages, *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked!* is free of charge on our websites. But you can order a hardcopy or eBook at *Amazon.com* and other online booksellers.

The Bible is close to 750,000 words. This means about 250,000 are devoted to many, many prophecies. Now ask: What possible purpose would God have for devoting a third of His Word to a subject—*any* subject—and then leave mankind in the dark about it? God gives prophecy for two clear reasons: (1) as a *warning* for those who will take heed and (2) *proof* of the existence of the God of the Bible, and therefore the *authority* of the Bible.

This Personal introduces the PLAIN TRUTH of final events prophesied to soon strike an unsuspecting world in general—and the United States and Britain in particular!

What Is Prophecy?

Any study of prophecy must begin with the proper definition of what it *is*. Most lack even this most basic knowledge.

Bible prophecy is the inspired, divine revelation or foretelling of his-

torical events, written *in advance* of those events, pertaining to the unfolding of God's Plan for mankind. A shorter definition is simply "foretelling the future."

The apostle Peter wrote this about how God intends that prophecy illuminate the understanding of those who study it: "We have also a more *sure word of prophecy*; whereunto you do well that you *take heed*, as unto a light that shines in a dark place" (II Pet. 1:19). God's purpose regarding His "*sure word of prophecy*" is that people "take heed." You must be willing to take heed to what is written.

Now continue: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any *private interpretation*" (vs. 20). This is crucial to understand. No single verse—or even any 2 or 3 passages—is sufficient to bring correct prophetic understanding. God says His Word is written "precept upon precept; line upon line...here a little, and there a little" (Isa. 28:10). One must know how to put many related verses together to get the full picture.

Continue again in II Peter 1: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were *moved by the Holy Spirit*" (vs. 21). In short, prophecy comes from *God*, through His servants, as He inspires them to record *His* words.

God alone can fulfill prophecy. No human being has even the knowledge of what are world-shattering future events, let alone the power to bring them to pass centuries or even millennia beyond his lifetime. In Isaiah 41, God challenges all would-be "prophets" of this world to try to do what only He can do (vs. 21-24). In Isaiah 48, God says, "I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of My mouth, and I *showed* them; I did them suddenly, and they *came to pass*...I have even from the beginning declared it to you; *before* it came to pass I *showed it you*" (vs. 3, 5).

The Moffatt translation reads, "What has occurred I foretold long ago; it fell from My lips, I *predicted* it, then suddenly I *acted*—it was *done*" (Isa. 48:3). What God purposes *will happen*! If He tells us something—*anything*—is to occur, it *will* occur!

Isaiah 46 states, "I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me. Declaring the *end* from the *beginning*, and from ancient times the things that are *not yet done*, saying, My counsel *shall stand*, and *I will do* all My pleasure" (vs. 9-10). Strong words—and all skeptics should heed them!

God gives this sure promise of what will happen in advance of events He intends to fulfill: "Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but He *reveals His secret* unto His servants the proph-

ets" (Amos 3:7). God keeps His promises. He always reveals *major events before* they occur.

Understand! Almighty God will soon have to intervene and save humanity from itself. But before this occurs, world trouble will greatly increase—intensifying to staggering proportions. This will be followed by unexpected and cataclysmic events that will *shake* the whole world! Civilization as we know it will change forever.

Obedience Tied to Understanding

The book of Revelation opens showing God's intent is to *reveal* to "*His servants*" what lies ahead for all nations. It is for all who will heed His words: "The Revelation [meaning a *revealing*] of Jesus Christ [not the apostle John]... to show unto *His servants* things which must shortly come to pass...signified... unto His servant John: who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ...Blessed is he that *reads*, and they that *hear* the words of this prophecy, and KEEP those things which are written therein: *for the time is at hand*" (Rev. 1:1-3).

Obviously, none can keep the great prophecies of Revelation, or any others, unless they understand them. Therefore, God must provide the necessary *keys* to grasp all that lies ahead. We will examine these keys.

Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 are parallel accounts of what is called



The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy

Watch *The World to Come* broadcast on this topic at www.worldtocome.org

the Olivet Prophecy. This all-important prophecy works in combination with the books of Revelation and Daniel. It puts in sequence events that transcend the entire period from Christ's First Coming until His Return, almost 2,000 years later.

Most have not understood the events of this prophecy because they do not know the *keys* to unlocking it—and they do not understand that Christ spoke it privately to only His disciples—His servants. This *must* be understood because it identifies who are and are not able to understand what lies ahead for the world!

Matthew uses the most detail, so we will look there, where the prophecy picks up: “As He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him *privately*, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the *sign* of Your coming, and of the end of the world [age]?” (Matt. 24:3). Christ then lists a whole series of events, which occur sequentially until just before His Return. He concludes referring to Daniel the prophet and “whoso reads, *let him understand*” (Matt. 24:15).

Of course, most today do not—and will not—understand the shocking crush of events soon to smash into civilization. Here is why. God's servants obey Him (Acts 5:32). Understanding flows directly from obedience to God. Notice: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that *do* His commandments” (Psa. 111:10).

All who yield themselves in obedience to God will be able to understand ALL prophecies to be fulfilled in the last days! Almost everyone in professing Christianity refuses to obey God, rejecting His authority over them—and remains blind as a result. No amount of trying to understand will unlock God's purpose to those who will not keep His Law.

This is the great *first* key to grasping the meaning of major prophecies for America and Britain. They are intended for, and will only be understood by, God's true people. All others will remain in confusion!

Great Prophecies Now Unlocked!

There is a crucial *second* key that must be identified, and understood by all seeking to grasp God's end-time purpose. Without it, nations have remained in *total blindness* regarding even the question of human survival on Planet Earth. Of course, cynics and skeptics dismiss all the prophecies of the Old Testament as dusty, antiquated, old Hebrew literature and poetry, of no use to us today. They will soon learn how terribly wrong they have been!

Now note this second key well, for almost *none* have understood it: All the major prophecies of the Bible have been *sealed* until the time of the end—the last days. You do not need to take my word for it.

Daniel foretells a time—now here—when “knowledge shall increase,” including the incredibly compelling—and electrifying—story of what God plans to do in our time. Daniel's message had no application for his own time!

The book of Daniel spans a period of over 2,500 years of events then all yet to be fulfilled. Generations of Bible students, unwilling to believe God, have attempted to interpret Daniel's prophecy. All have failed, resulting in endless disagreement and confusion. An angel instructs Daniel, near the last verses of his book: “*Shut up* the words, and *seal* the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and *knowledge shall be increased*” (Dan. 12:4). Not grasping what was told him, Daniel sought to understand: “I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the *end* of these things?” (vs. 8). The angel repeated: “Go your way, Daniel: for the words are *closed up* and *sealed* till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the *wise shall understand*” (vs. 9-10). Let me reiterate that God says *obedience* brings understanding. No wonder Daniel said that “none of the wicked shall understand.” Any who rebel against God's Law, regardless of

how they see themselves, fall into this category.

No one with eyes to see could possibly doubt we are in the end time. God's promise was always to *unseal* the prophecy when this time arrived. Of course, we now live in what is called the “Information Age.” No one doubts that knowledge has been increased in a general way—and this has been extraordinary. But the primary meaning must be understood in context with the knowledge of the prophecy's true meaning being revealed at the end.

So, the second vital key to properly understanding Bible prophecy is that all previous generations—of even God's true servants—had *no chance* to understand events described in this book, or other biblical passages.

Master Key Found!

This Personal has only laid the foundation for all there is to learn about America and Britain in Bible prophecy.

A master lock has padlocked the source revealing where civilization is going. Until the 20th century, the key to this lock had been lost. Have you ever lost your keys? The world, like you, has been literally “lost without them.” Unlike you, the world has not been shown where to look. But this great master key has been found.

The identity of America and Britain—and what is foretold to happen to these countries just before Christ's Return—is the most important *single* key, unlocking the over 80 percent of prophecy yet to be fulfilled.

Again, I urge you most strongly: Read this vitally important book, *America and Britain in Prophecy*. You will be shocked at what you learn. It reveals the incredible unknown history of the nations of the West and their connection to the lost tribes of Israel—the identity of these tribes in modern times—why they were lost to history—how God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and how it relates to the rise of America and Britain. It introduces the terrible bad news, but then the awe-inspiring good news, of what lies ahead for these great nations. □

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Tornado Deaths Top 500 in 2011



■ **PATH OF DESTRUCTION:** Top, an aerial view shows extensive tornado damage in the city of Joplin, Missouri (May 24, 2011). Bottom left, a tornado passes through southern Denton County, Texas (May 24, 2011). Bottom middle, neighbors pray in north Minneapolis the day after a tornado damaged homes (May 23, 2011). Bottom right, a cafe is surrounded by debris from a tornado that killed one and destroyed homes and businesses in Reading, Kansas (May 22, 2011). PHOTOS: (TOP) J.B. FORBES/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT; (BOTTOM LEFT) RANDALL N. LANTZ/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT; (BOTTOM MIDDLE) JERRY HOLT/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT; (BOTTOM RIGHT) JOHN SLEEZER/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT



Wild weather systems throughout the United States led to a massive multi-vortex tornado—which flattened Joplin, Missouri—reports of large hailstones, and a 2011 tornado death toll of at least 500 people.

Destructive weather on May 22 spawned nearly 50 tornadoes, and came only three weeks after the largest

tornado outbreak in U.S. history killed more than 300 victims.

Joplin was hit the hardest, devastated by a half-mile-wide tornado. The American Red Cross estimates that more than 75 percent of the town of 50,000 people was destroyed.

The Register Herald estimated the toll for Joplin: “8,000 structures, 300

businesses, 4,000 jobs, 1,150 injured and at least 142 lives lost.”

“You see pictures of World War II, the devastation and all that with the bombing,” a Joplin high school principal told *USA Today*. “That’s really what it looked like.”

More than 20 cars and tractors were strewn across the town’s highway, and X-ray films from a wrecked hospital were retrieved as far as 70 miles away, *AccuWeather* reported. Missouri television station *KSDK* aired a story about a missing woman whose car had been found with the driver’s seatbelt still fastened, which could imply that she was “sucked out through the top of the car that was peeled off by the tornado.”

CNNMoney reported that the Joplin tornado caused up to \$3 billion in insured losses.

While Joplin was the most-affected town, the storms were “part of a larger system that triggered severe weather that killed one person in Kansas on [May 21] and caused damage from Minnesota to Texas on [May 22]. At least one person was killed and 29 injured in storms that hit Minneapolis, Minn. Meanwhile, La Crosse, Wis., was also hit hard as winds tore roofs off homes and trapped residents inside” (*AccuWeather*).

Since the tornado swarm, severe weather has continued to ravage the United States:

■ A storm led to 50 tornado reports and about 16 deaths in the Central U.S.

■ A thunderstorm in Atlanta, Georgia, killed at least three and left more than 200,000 people without power. Elsewhere in the state, softball-sized hail was reported.

■ Violent winds toppled trees in Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

■ In Vermont, the National Weather Service recorded hailstones the size of baseballs.

■ A Springfield, Massachusetts, tornado ripped through the city’s downtown area, killing at least four people and injuring dozens of others. The twister also ripped roofs off homes, smashed vehicles, and left thousands without electricity. □

MIDDLE EAST

Arab Uprisings Increase Israeli-Palestinian Tensions

Uprisings in Arab nations surrounding Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA) stating they are preparing for a United Nations bid for statehood in September, and political jockeying from the United States and Europe has left Israel uneasy about the coming months.

According to *Haaretz*, “The Palestinian Authority plans to approach the United Nations Security Council in July to begin the process of getting Palestine recognized as a full member of the United Nations and to assure a vote on the matter by the General Assembly in September...”

United States President Barack Obama said America would vote “no” on the PA’s bid for statehood. Mr. Obama had previously stated that his support of Israel was “unshakable,” but that he thinks the “borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps.”

Speaking to the U.S. Congress, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the pre-1967 borders indefensible.

“You see, our conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state,” he stated. “It has always been about the existence of the Jewish state.”

To gain support in the UN General Assembly, the PA is increasingly looking to Europe to support its cause. While Germany will almost certainly not recognize a Palestinian state, French President Nicolas Sarkozy has voiced his support, and British Prime Minister David Cameron has hinted at the possibility of backing an independent Palestine.

Tensions have also increased due to the numerous uprisings across the Arab world. *The Christian Science Monitor* reported, “Israel got its first real taste of the Arab spring Sunday [May 15, 2011] as tens of thousands of Palestinians and their supporters

amassed on its borders to protest its creation 63 years ago—an event they refer to as the ‘nakba,’ or catastrophe...Ten people were killed and hundreds injured as some protesters attempted to breach Israel’s borders and clashes broke out with Israeli security forces.”

Following the government shift in February, Egypt removed travel restrictions for its shared border with Gaza for the first time in four years.

Israel’s relations with Egypt, a longtime ally, remain uncertain.

Al-Ahram, an Egypt-based newspaper, stated, “Regardless of which type of government ultimately emerges [in Egypt], Israel is extremely nervous at the changes taking place in the Arab world. The majority of Israeli political elites, regardless of their position in government or on the political spectrum, believe that democracy, by its very nature, responds to popular

Current Mideast Boundaries Defined by Conflict

Below is a review of how the boundaries of Israel and the Palestinian territories have changed over the years.



1967

Israel defeats Egypt, Jordan and Syria in a brief war and gains control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula; in response, the UN Security Council passes Resolution 242, which calls for Israel to withdraw from the conquered land and for all states in the region to acknowledge one another’s sovereignty; U.S. supports the resolution

Legend: Israel (solid tan), Territories gained (hatched tan)



1979

Israel and Egypt sign the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that provides for the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt, which takes place in 1982; U.S. helps negotiate the agreement

1993

U.S. brokers an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization for limited Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories; agreement also lays the groundwork for the establishment of a Palestinian state

2000

Negotiations on a permanent settlement between Israel and the Palestinians break down over disagreements on Israeli settlements, Palestinian refugees, borders and the status of Jerusalem

2011

As part of a major speech on the pro-democracy movement in the Middle East, U.S. President Barack Obama urges Israelis and Palestinians to rekindle peace talks, saying “the international community is tired of an endless process that never produces an outcome”

Current map of area

Legend: Palestinian territories (green)



Source: U.S. State Department, AP, Middle East Review of International Affairs

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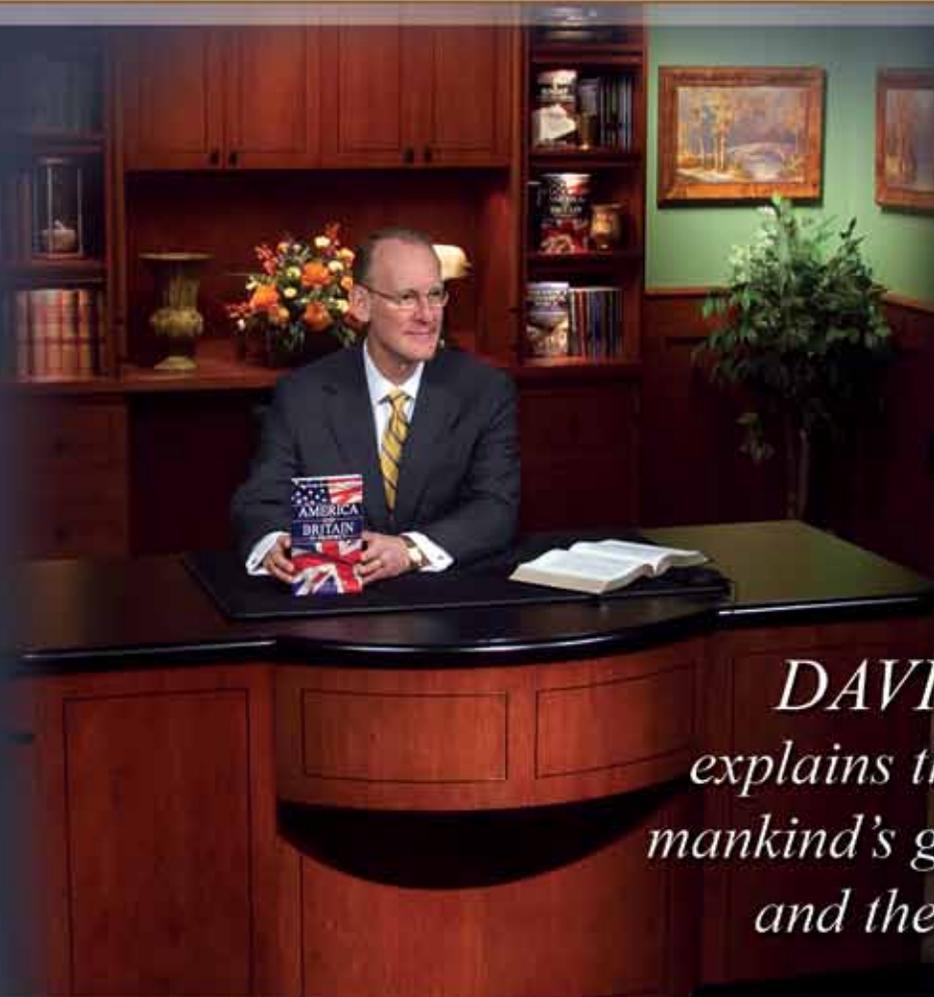
According to *Bloomberg*, “Egypt’s decision to scale back crossing restrictions for the Gaza Strip has been welcomed by the Hamas Islamic movement, which controls the Palestinian enclave, while raising concern in Israel that the wider border access poses a security threat.”

feelings and moods, which politicians exploit in order to gain support... They further fear that if the nascent democracies assume an Islamist character, Israel will not only be facing Hizbullah and Hamas, but a plethora of new versions of these organisations spread across the Arab world.” □



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