

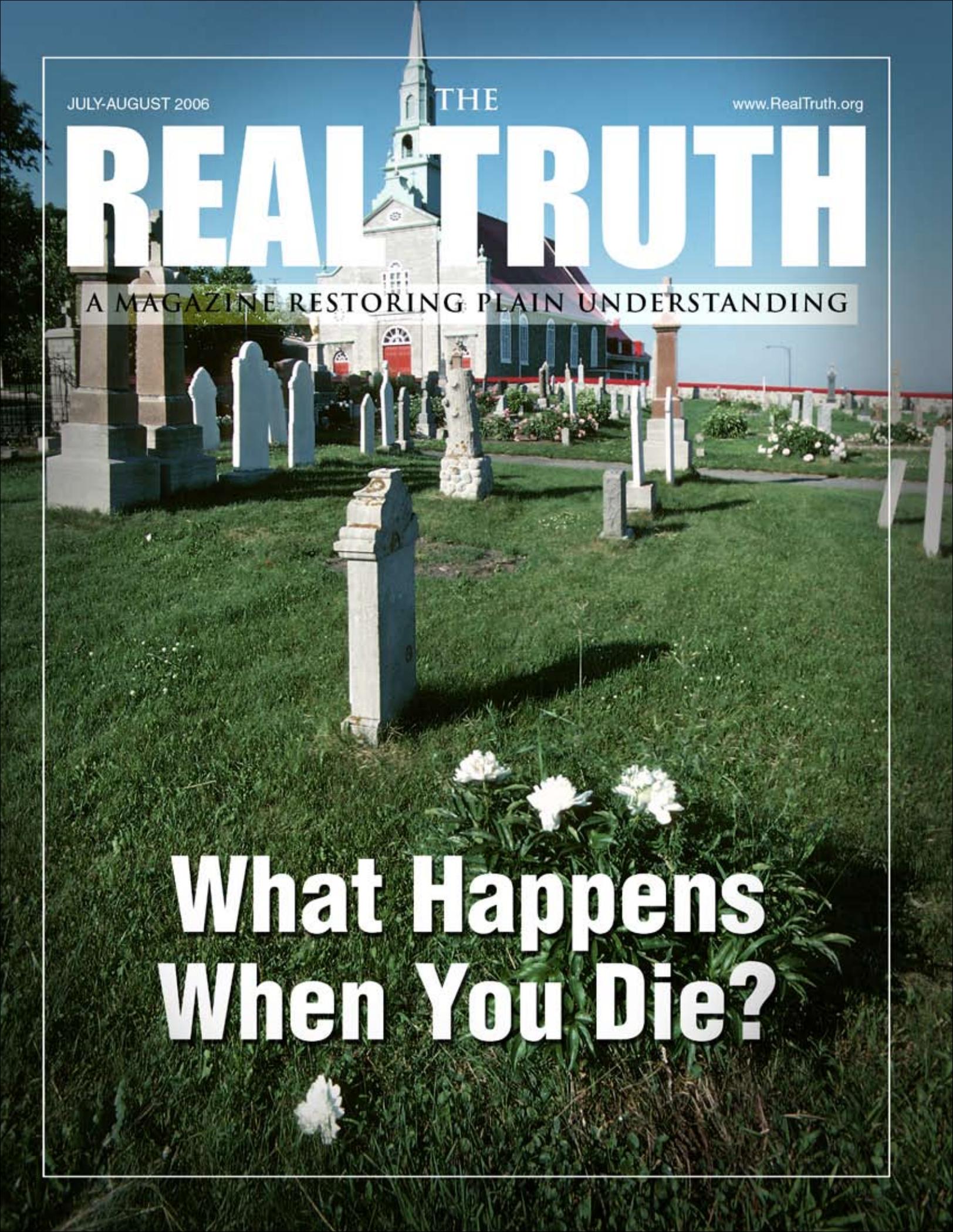
JULY-AUGUST 2006

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

A photograph of a cemetery with various gravestones and a church in the background. The church has a prominent steeple and a red door. The gravestones are of different shapes and sizes, some with flowers placed on them. The scene is set in a grassy area under a clear blue sky.

**What Happens
When You Die?**

THE
REAL TRUTH

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VOL. IV | NO. 4 | JULY-AUGUST 2006

A R T I C L E S

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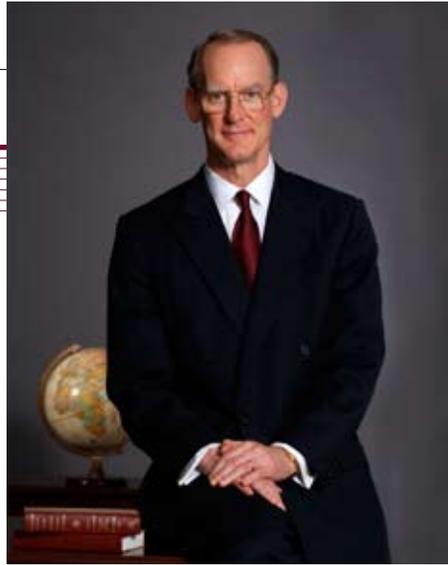
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



“THE UNKNOWN GOD”

YOU COULD NOT READ an article more important than this! It will forever change your perception of what you have been taught about who and what is God. Read every word carefully.

Virtually every student of the Bible is familiar with the term, “The Ten Commandments.” The famous almost 50-year-old movie of the same name is rerun every spring in connection with the celebration of the ancient supposed Christian tradition of Easter. Many millions have come to know the Hollywood version of the Bible account of the receiving of the Ten Commandments.

America has been embroiled in a legal battle over whether the Constitution—requiring the separation of church and state—allows for the Ten Commandments to be displayed publicly in courts and government buildings. But Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia put it best when he said, “I think 90 percent of Americans believe in the Ten Commandments, but 85 percent probably couldn’t tell you what they are.” And how many could even *paraphrase half* of them is another question.

Therefore, largely lost in this astounding account in the book of Exodus is the all-important First Commandment, establishing *Who* it was that gave these laws to ancient Israel in the wilderness. This commandment—the identity of the true God—lies at the heart of all religion!

Moses recorded God’s words: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Ex. 20:3).

Surely, if the Bible is the inspired INSTRUCTION BOOK of an all-wise and all-powerful Creator God, who was also the *only true God* in the universe, His first com-

mandment could not have been otherwise. Under no circumstances would that God want *other gods* worshipped in His place. In fact, in the very next commandment, the Author of these laws describes Himself as “a jealous God.”

Notice this second, longer command: “You shall not make unto you *any* graven image, or *any* likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am A JEALOUS GOD” (vs. 4-5). This commandment is a very broad, sweeping, explicit prohibition intended to cover *every* form of false worship involving *every* other kind of supposed “god,” and representation of such, that human beings with creative human reasoning could devise. Like any parent whose children chose to come home to a different house and to different parents after school, the Parent who made all human beings—His children—*would* certainly be jealous if they went off after idols and false gods.

Even the Third Commandment is tied directly to the first two. It describes the careful reverence with which the God of the Bible wants His name to be used at all times. Here is that command: “You shall not take the NAME of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His NAME in vain” (vs. 7). The meaning of this commandment is that when people even *reference* the true God, they should be very careful how they do this (Psa. 111:9). They should think about the purpose—the reason—for which they mention His most holy name.

The fourth and final commandment that we will examine here is also tied directly to the identity of the God of the Bible. Let’s first read this considerably lon-

ger command before examining it more closely: “Remember the SABBATH day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: but the SEVENTH DAY is the sabbath of the LORD your God: in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” (vs. 8-11).

Although the world has generally discarded observance of the seventh-day Sabbath in place of Sunday, the first day of the week, this is nevertheless an extraordinary command, given for a vital purpose. This command also creates a special problem for the evolutionist—even the one who professes to believe in God, and more specifically, in the God of the Bible.

Here is how: God expects all of His servants to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. Why? So that they would never forget *which God* it was Who “in six days” created “heaven and earth,” and who sealed this by resting on “the seventh day.” In this way, the God who authored the Bible directly ties *all* of the Ten Commandments to the Creation account, which, in turn, leaves no room for His servants to drift into following and worshipping other gods. While one may not otherwise be correctly worshipping God, at least by observing the Sabbath every seven days, the adherent is forced to be cognizant of the sole God of Creation.

The God of the Bible leaves no room for doubt in the first four commandments. He expects to be worshipped *as He is*, including on the day that He, not man, has selected for this worship. He allows no room for confusion and does not

want human opinion added—He accepts no substitution of the true for the false.

The evolutionist has a big problem trying to explain belief in a God who created the earth and all life upon it in six days. Having rejected the Creation account of this God, it becomes much easier to go on to the next step—the very rejection of that God, and possibly the idea that there even is a God! Of course, faithful Sabbath observance would eliminate this problem.

God Most Plain

These commandments are not difficult to understand. The God of the Bible speaks plainly—He says what He means and means what He says! (Note that God repeats in Deuteronomy 5 the same Ten Commandments verbatim for emphasis.)

We might pause at this point and ask: Do these four commands, when understood collectively, sound like the laws of a God who takes lightly those who worship any other but Himself? Do they seem like mere wishful instruction on the part of this God—things that He only *hopes* His followers will remember to do? Do they sound like the words of a God who is willing to let people worship idols, false gods or even any other wrong *form* of supposedly who and what He is, as long as the proponent proclaims such to be the true God?

A relationship with the God of the Bible begins with a recognition, understanding and acceptance of the first four commandments. All other approaches will preclude contact with Him.

To Be a Model Nation

God first revealed Himself to an entire people when he called the nation of Israel and led them out of the land of Egypt. God intended that ancient Israel be a MODEL NATION that all other nations would copy. This was always His purpose.

He expected His people to set an example for these surrounding nations of how happiness, peace, abundance, blessings and protection from enemies would result from obedience to Him. Sadly, despite an early willingness and determination to obey God, starting when the commandments were first given at Sinai, Israel repeatedly found herself *copying* the nations around her and worshipping their gods, thus achieving the very opposite of God’s purpose! (Recall how quickly Israel fell into worship of the “golden calf” after the Ten Commandments were given—before Moses could even get down from the mountain.) This worship of false gods has had repercussions lasting thousands of years.

The long, broken history of Israel is that she turned from the true God and fell into the seductive trap of idolatry and the worship of foreign gods, doing this over and over again. Each time this pattern repeated itself, God sent her back into captivity and slavery. After a time, she would cry out in bondage, offering repentance, and God would raise up a judge and deliver her. This cycle, described in the book of Judges and elsewhere, was never broken until ancient Israel and Judah finally went into captivity (for the next-to-last time), with ten of the twelve tribes becoming lost to history. Only the Jews—the tribe of Judah mixed with one other tribe—have retained their national identity, and this is largely attributed to having continued to observe God’s Sabbath.

Jeremiah Summarizes

Here is how God, through the prophet Jeremiah, describes and laments the continual actions of His people—His “nation”: “Has a nation *changed their gods*, which are yet no gods? But My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be astonished, O you heav-

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GLOBAL

WARMING

Reason for Alarm?

According to some, humanity is sitting on a volatile time bomb—one that could send the entire planet into a tailspin of epic destruction, with detonation not far in the future.

But is this a realistic scenario?

BY GABRIEL N. LISCHAK

THE FACTS ARE IN: The thermohaline ocean current—which moderates temperatures worldwide, preventing Europe from having a climate similar to Alaska—is slowing. Glaciers in Greenland, Alaska, the Himalayas and the Antarctic Peninsula are retreating. Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean during summer is disappearing. Permafrost (permanently frozen soil) in Canada, Alaska and Siberia is melting at an alarming rate. Hurricanes are becoming more numerous and more intense, and sea levels are rising.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, the average surface temperature of the earth has risen by one degree Fahrenheit (°F) during the past

■ **MELTDOWN:** According to scientists, global warming has caused the Columbia Glacier to retreat seven miles in the last 20 years, leaving calves of ice in Prince William Sound.

PHOTO: KRT

100 years, with accelerated warming occurring within the past 20 years. NASA climatologists state that 2005 was the warmest year in a century, with 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2004 next in line.

Few dispute that the earth is growing warmer and that there are signs identifying this. The debate lies in the seriousness of this warming trend, who or what is to blame, and whether there is a direct connection to hurricane frequency and intensity.

The term “global warming” is at the forefront of many minds, and for several reasons. Should we be concerned?

Greenhouse Gases

The earth’s climate and weather is driven by energy from the sun. This energy heats the planet, which in turn radiates that heat back into space. However, much of this heat is retained

by various greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide—and this is a good thing. Without such gases contributing to this natural greenhouse effect, life as we know it would not exist. Temperatures would be similar to our airless moon, ranging wildly from 225°F during the day to negative 243°F at night. Obviously, this would not be an environment conducive for life.

But due to greenhouse gases, the earth’s average temperature is a hospitable 60°F. However, problems arise when the concentration of these gases increase.

Huge amounts of carbon have been captured by plants and buried in the ground in the form of coal, oil and natural gas, called fossil fuels. (In contrast to human beings, plants take in CO₂ and expel oxygen.) These fuels have accumulated over the course of

perhaps millions of years. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, mankind began extracting and burning earth’s vast reservoirs of these fuels. This released millions of tons of carbon, in the form of CO₂, into the atmosphere, thus increasing the levels of greenhouse gases beyond what the earth can safely handle. Since then, atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ have increased nearly 30%, methane concentrations have more than doubled, and nitrous oxide concentrations have risen roughly 15%. These increases have enhanced the heat-trapping capability of earth’s atmosphere, and will continue to do so for years to come.

Fossil fuels burned to power cars and trucks, heat homes and businesses, and power factories are responsible for about 98% of U.S. CO₂ emissions, 24% of methane emissions and 18% of nitrous oxide emissions.



Also contributing a significant share of emissions are increased agriculture, deforestation, landfills, industrial production and mining. In 1997, the United States discharged roughly one-fifth of the world's total greenhouse gases.

Estimating how much of these gases will be emitted in the future is difficult, as it depends on demographic, economic, technological, policy and institutional developments. Based on differing projections of these principal factors, several scenarios have been developed.

For example, in the absence of emissions control policies, by the year 2100, CO₂ concentrations are projected to be 30 to 150% higher than today's levels. However, even if human beings were to cease emitting heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, the climate still would not stabilize for quite some time, as

■ **AT RISK:** On the frozen Beaufort Sea outside the Inupiat village of Kaktovik, Alaska, a polar bear pauses from a meal of whale meat. The 3,800 polar bears along the Alaskan coast face an uncertain future as global warming melts more summer sea ice each year.

PHOTO: KRT



the gases that are already there will remain for decades, even centuries.

Future Warming Uncertain

It is not easy to decipher to what extent this human-induced accumulation of greenhouse gases is responsible for the global warming trend. Other factors—natural climatic variations, changes in the sun's energy, and the cooling effects of pollutant aerosols—affect our planet's temperature, and understanding in these areas is incomplete.

Nevertheless, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated there is a “discernible” human influence on climate. The observed warming trend is “unlikely to be entirely natural in origin.” In another report, the IPCC wrote, “There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities” (*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*).

While scientists estimate that average global temperatures will continue to increase as levels of greenhouse gases rise, how much and how quickly remains uncertain. The IPCC projects that the planet will warm by an additional 2.2 to 10°F in the next 100 years. This large range is due to various uncertainties, such as future greenhouse gas emission rates, the possible cooling effects of atmospheric particles such as sulfates, and the climate's response to changes in the atmosphere.

Even the low end of this warming projection “would probably be greater than any seen in the last 10,000 years, but the actual annual to decadal changes would include considerable natural variability” (*ibid.*).

The computer models used to forecast global climate change are still unable to accurately simulate how things may change at smaller scales. As a result, scientists generally feel more certain about large-scale projections (global temperature and precipitation change, average sea level rise) than small-scale ones (local temperature and precipitation changes,

altered weather patterns, soil moisture changes).

As with perhaps all fields of scientific study, uncertainties associated with the science of global warming exist. Some aspects of this science are based on well-known laws and documented trends, while others range from “near certainty” to “big unknowns.”

Melting Ice

The Arctic, one of the most forbidding environments in the world, is home to the polar bear. During the summer, these animals roam this region on large chunks of floating ice, drifting for hundreds of miles. This is how they find mates and hunt for seals, fattening themselves to prepare for the severe winter. If these palettes of ice did not exist, the polar bear would not survive.

Within the past three decades, more than one million square miles of sea ice—an area the size of Norway, Denmark and Sweden combined—has vanished. Presently, ice at the southern Arctic region of the polar bear's range is melting about three weeks sooner than has previously been the case. This affords the bears less time to hunt, eat and store fat. Due to this early melting, the Hudson Bay polar bear population has declined by 14% during the past ten years.

Some climate models predict that 50 to 60% of this vital summer sea ice will disappear by the end of this century; others predict that by just 2070, the Arctic will be completely ice-free in the summer. If this does indeed occur, the world's largest bear could become extinct.

Meanwhile, glaciers in Greenland are receding at alarming rates. Within the last five years, those along the eastern and western coasts have receded about 300 miles each. Although a total meltdown is highly unlikely, with more than one-fifth of the population living less than two feet above sea level, not much melting is required to cause significant damage.

Permafrost in the Arctic region is diminishing as well. According to a

report in the *Geophysical Research Letters*, it could shrink by 60 to 90% by 2100. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate scientist states that this will increase freshwater runoff into the Arctic Ocean by 28%, lead to the release of large quantities of greenhouse gases from the soil, and upset ecosystems within a wide area.

Hurricanes Increasing?

The year 2005 was a record-breaking one for Atlantic hurricanes, with the most named storms, the most hurricanes and the most Category-five hurricanes occurring—with New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast being nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In terms of barometric pressure, the Atlantic Basin also experienced its most intense hurricane ever that year, Hurricane Wilma.

Some studies reveal that tropical storms around the world are intensifying, with computer models suggesting a shift toward extreme intensity. A big question on many minds is, “Does the warming of the earth have a direct effect on the strength of hurricanes?” Opinions are varied.

Scientists caution that one must consider questions of climate change over decades, even centuries. A particularly rough hurricane season or two cannot be blamed on global warming.

Preliminary evidence suggests that, once hurricanes form, they will be stronger if the oceans are warmer. However, much uncertainty exists about whether hurricanes and other storms will become more frequent.

According to the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, which assesses natural climate variability, “The strongest hurricanes in the present climate may be upstaged by even more intense hurricanes over the next century as the earth’s climate is warmed by increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Although we cannot say at present whether more or fewer hurricanes will occur in the future with global warming, the hurricanes that do occur near the end of

the 21st century are expected to be stronger and have significantly more intense rainfall than under present day climate conditions.” This is based upon an anticipated increase of energy from higher sea surface temperatures.

A study published in the *Journal of Climate* indicates that an 80-year buildup of atmospheric CO₂ at 1% per year (compounded) leads to roughly a one-half category increase in potential hurricane intensity on the Saffir-Simpson scale, and an 18% increase in precipitation near the hurricane’s core. Of course, if emissions of CO₂, along with other greenhouse gases, were to be higher, then hurricanes could potentially become even stronger.

However, many other scientists are quick to point out that since the 1940s, there has been an overall *decrease* in hurricane activity. According to the United Nations Environment Program of the World Meteorological Organization, “Reliable data...since the 1940s indicate that the peak strength of the strongest hurricanes has not changed, and the mean maximum intensity of all hurricanes has decreased” (*CNSNews*).

In September 2004, in response to some labeling the busy hurricane season a byproduct of global warming, a group of climatologists, scientists, professors and other experts in climate change stated, “Computer simulations suggest that in a warmer world most of the warming would occur in the Polar Regions. Atmospheric circulation, which crucially affects storms, is driven primarily by the temperature difference, or gradient, between the tropics and the poles.

“Warmer polar regions would reduce this gradient and thus lessen the overall intensity or frequency or both of storms—not just tropical storms but mid-latitude winter storms as well (such as blizzards and northeasters).

“Again, longer periods of history bear this out. In the past, warmer periods have seen a decline in the number and severity of storms. This

is well-documented in scientific journals for data extending back centuries or even millennia. If the surface temperature of the planet rises further in the future, it is likely that these declines will continue” (*ibid.*).

Some researchers believe other factors—including La Niña and other big weather systems—will overpower any effect global warming might have on hurricanes.

Certainty Does Exist

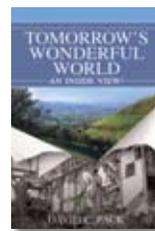
Global warming does in fact pose a real danger to mankind. Will human beings be able to find a solution? Or will it lead to cataclysmic events?

The Bible reveals that in the near future, there is coming a time of great distress upon the earth: “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth *distress of nations*, with perplexity; *the sea and the waves roaring*; men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26).

In the book of Matthew, Jesus Christ reveals more, stating that this time will be unlike any other in history: “For then shall be great tribulation, *such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time*, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [meaning mankind would become extinct]” (24:21-22).

This time of epic destruction—worse than any other in the history of mankind—is certain to come. Undoubtedly, the effects of global warming will play a role in these events; to what degree remains to be seen.

But beyond the bad news lies the good news—global warming will not result in the extinction of mankind. Human beings will continue to exist, although the earth as we know it will be entirely different! Find out how in our book *TOMORROW’S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!* □



“HOMEGROWN TERROR”

Seventeen terrorism suspects... Possible terrorist training camps... Alleged plans to behead the Canadian Prime Minister, kidnap members of Parliament and blow up federal buildings...



...is this Canada's **WAKE-UP CALL?**



With the arrest of 17 terrorist suspects, has Canada been given a wake-up call? If so, how will its government respond—and what does the future hold for the Canadian people?

BY MARK P. DENEE

SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, Canada has maintained, primarily for political reasons, a somewhat distant relationship with the U.S.-led war on terror. While certainly one of the first countries to assist the United States in the aftermath of that tragic day, Canada took a negative stance regarding the war in Iraq. Political tensions escalated to a point unseen for several decades between these two neighboring countries.

The fact that some of the previous terrorism aimed at the U.S., including the 9/11 attack, had at least some Canadian connection has remained primarily under the radar of most Canadians, at least until June 2, 2006.

Late that Friday evening and into the next morning, 400 officers led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) anti-terrorism task force arrested 17 suspects, charging them with terrorism and related offenses. All the suspects are Muslim Canadians, five of whom are under 18 years of age. Most are from Toronto and neighboring cities, while two (who are already serving a sentence for attempting to smuggle arms into the U.S.) are from Kingston, about 250 kilometers/150 miles due east. Together, they represent a fairly typical Canadian demography: mostly middle-class, some university-educated, coming from families of professionals, with no previous criminal convictions.

Several attended the same mosque, where the oldest suspect, 43-year-old Qayyum Abdul Jamal, occasionally gave sermons—which, according to one report, were increasingly “filled with hate” toward Canada and advocated intolerance.

A director of the Mississauga Muslim Community Center said that Mr. Jamal once told an audience that “the Canadian Forces were going to Afghanistan to rape women”

■ **TARGETS OF TERRORISM?:** Shown above, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Canadian Parliament building.

PHOTOS: KRT/HANDOUT (left); ARTTODAY, INC. (right)



■ **UNDER THE NEWS MEDIA'S SCRUTINY:** Friends and relatives of the suspects attempt to push past the media to get into the courtroom, as 15 of the 17 terror suspects appeared in provincial court in Brampton, Ontario.

PHOTOS: KRT

(Associated Press). Currently, Canada has approximately 2,300 troops there, primarily in the Kandahar region, to protect Afghan reconstruction efforts and to battle Taliban/al Qaeda insurgents.

As early as 2004, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the nation's intelligence agency, closely monitored the web surfing, Internet

chat room and email activities among various members of the group. This led to warning the RCMP of a possible domestically-based terrorist threat. Continued surveillance by the RCMP and other law enforcement agencies eventually led to a sting operation. In it, undercover operatives offered the group three tons of ammonium nitrate, a readily available chemical used by

the agricultural industry as fertilizer. One ton of ammonium nitrate was used to destroy the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, killing 168 people and injuring more than 800. During the sting, a harmless substance was delivered, and the arrests were made shortly thereafter.

Nine of the 17 have been charged with receiving training from a terrorist group; four have been charged with providing terrorist training; and six are also charged with intending to cause a deadly explosion. Possible targets mentioned in emails and other communication included the Toronto office of CSIS (adjacent to the CN Tower), as well as the Peace Tower, a section of the home of the Parliament of Canada, in Ottawa. Incredibly, part of the Ottawa plot included the storming of Parliament in an attempt to take members hostage, beheading Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and demanding the withdrawal of Canadian armed forces from Afghanistan.

While no direct connection has been made to al Qaeda, it is apparent that the Canadian terrorist suspects were inspired by and sympathized with jihadist ideology. However, some connection has been made to two men arrested in Georgia (U.S.A.), as well as other terrorist groups in the United States, Britain, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Denmark and Sweden. Authorities have stated that further arrests are possible.

Some Canadian journalists and analysts have commented that such an outrageous plot appears to be amateurish (and therefore of little concern). However, the terrorists involved in London's July 2005 bombing, which killed and injured dozens, were also considered "non-professional."

Canada's Multiculturalism

Of particular concern to some Canadians is that most of the suspects were born and/or reared in Canada from a young age. Yet, despite their upbringing, they were obviously susceptible to influence that apparently led them to plan an attack against what

is presumably their country as well. Those who knew some of the suspects said there were noticeable differences in their personalities within the last two years. They became activists for the plight of Muslims worldwide and allegedly felt that Muslims were being targeted unfairly in Canada. The most notorious example is the Khadr family, which emigrated from Egypt in 1977—the father, a founder of al Qaeda, was killed and a son paralyzed in a gun battle in Pakistan in 2003; another son remains detained at Guantánamo Bay, for allegedly killing a U.S. soldier in 2002.

Socially, Canada has insisted on retaining somewhat of a naïve outlook: Sentiments such as “Canada is different; those sorts of things only happen in America” and “Everyone in the world should love Canada” are common, and have been for some time. Canada’s perception of itself as an open, socialist-liberal, peace-keeper-type nation is well founded and based primarily on the vision and long reign of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (1968-1979 and 1980-1984). Lax immigration policies and a strong tendency to promote and protect multiculturalism (or the immigrant’s original ethnicity) have been Canada’s rule of law for several decades now, if not since the beginning when the country chose to build on an English-French foundation.

Despite Canada’s multiculturalism and relatively relaxed approach, ethnically motivated reprisals are not unheard of. Following the arrests, mosques in Toronto were vandalized and Muslim leaders reportedly received threatening emails. Similar

incidents occurred in the U.S. in the wake of 9/11. These discriminatory acts were taken against a whole group of people—but are far different from God’s approach, which only holds the perpetrator accountable for a crime committed (Ezek. 18:20).

The Big Picture

Even after the sobering event of 9/11, Canada, like her Western counterparts, continues primarily to seek after pleasures and acquire more material possessions, giving little thought or concern to the country’s moral state and direction.

The Canadian government recently voted to keep its troops in Afghanistan at least until 2009 (some have suggested 2016). While the troops are there to eliminate Taliban and al Qaeda insurgents, incidents of injustice will occur—as they always do, particularly in a war—which will fuel the fire in Canadian mosques and cities.

Will this strengthen a Canadian conservative majority in the next election? If so, what next—will the CSIS begin to monitor the sermons of Muslim imams and other religious leaders?

Or will the next terrorist incident (whether in Canada, the United States or Britain), along with the ever-increasing number of body bags carrying Canadian soldiers from Afghanistan, generate an unprecedented anti-conservative, anti-American backlash such as we have never seen before, further fueled by a liberal mainstream media?

In any case, it matters very little. All are man’s attempts to treat the effects as opposed to the cause.

Canada, Britain, the U.S. and other Western English-speaking nations are all headed for a punishment, a “time of trouble” that has never been seen before (Jer. 30:6-7, 11-15; Matt. 24:22), all caused by their neglect of a loving God and His Commandments, which they once knew! For more information, read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY*.

There is a pervasive desire among these nations to remain blind (Rev. 3:17)—naïve—keeping their heads in the sand and doing all they can to retain the status quo, hoping against hope that it remains. Yet it will not—and cannot. Jesus Christ prophesied that the end of the age, the time just prior to His Second Coming, would be similar to the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37-38), and that every thought of mankind would be evil (Gen. 6:5)—these verses describe much of the Canadian way of life!

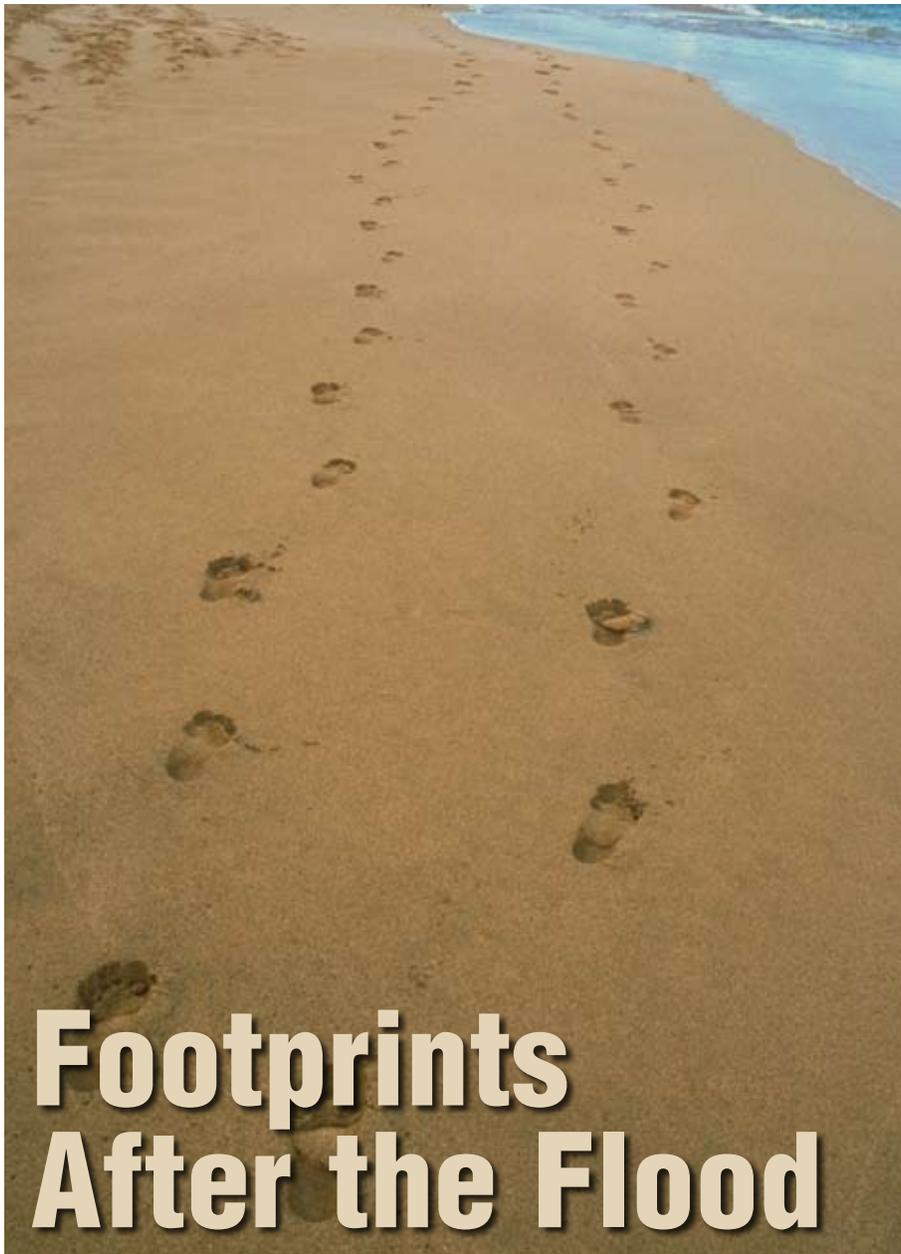
Consider this quote from a Hamilton, Ontario resident following the arrest of the 17 suspects: “The thing that most worries me is how the government is going to capitalize on these arrests, if they’re going to fear-monger their way into restricting our civil liberties.”

There is more concern here about a “right” to live as one sees fit, as opposed to what is actually right—what God says!

Another quote admitted that these were dangerous times, but pleaded for Canada’s law enforcement agencies to work closely together to protect its citizens—again, relying on government for protection, as opposed to considering their own conduct (Isa. 59:3-8), changing it, and looking to God for protection.

God, the Great Creator of heaven and earth, has promised a way of escape for those He calls, and those who change their way of life. Take a moment to reflect. Take time to read the pages of this magazine and consider your next step carefully. Time is short! □





Footprints After the Flood

WITHIN EACH HUMAN BEING IS A “ROADMAP”—A BLUEPRINT THAT CAN BE USED TO TRACE MANKIND BACK THOUSANDS OF YEARS TO THE FIRST STEPS TAKEN AFTER THE BIBLICAL FLOOD.

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

OVER 4,300 YEARS AGO, an event changed the course of history. Often termed “Noah’s Flood,” its effects have confused scientists to this day.

Besides those on the Ark, the Flood destroyed “all flesh, wherein

is the breath of life, from under heaven” (Gen. 6:17). The world was literally cleansed and started anew.

Once the waters had subsided, a new world emerged. The doors of the Ark were opened and mammals, birds, reptiles and human beings set out to repopulate the world.

Until very recently, much of what happened after the Flood has been shrouded in mystery. However, research in genetics sheds some light on mankind’s migration after leaving this enormous ship. Science has discovered certain genetic “markers” hidden in our DNA. These markers present a reasonably accurate map of the route humanity took after the Flood.

Modern scientists have stated much about this genetic footprint, but you will see they make wrong assumptions that misplace the starting point of this great human journey by a few thousand miles!

The trek spans the course of several thousand years, but the story it represents is unlike any you have read before. Using the information hidden in our genes, we can trace the path from ancient times to the doorstep of humanity today.

Markers Revealed

Most understand that a child is made up of attributes of both father and mother. When a baby is conceived, a combination of traits are mixed together to create a completely unique life.

These variations—a kind of genetic shuffling—are why families can have children who are distinct from one another. When these children have their own children, some attributes are passed, with new ones supplied from the other parent. Multiply this shuffling effect hundreds of times, and much of the genetic material becomes extremely diluted, making it difficult to trace an origin.

If one has a “baseline” sample, such as a parent’s DNA, it is very easy to determine if a child, grandchild or even generations of grandchildren later belong to that original baseline parent. Without such a sample, it was previously thought impossible to trace origins up the genetic tree.

However, this changed with the discovery of certain genetic mutations that, once they appear, remain in the genetic code. This constant allows a baseline upon which to map the genetic tree. As more of these muta-

tion markers were found, more of the picture clarified.

Think of it this way: Since these genetic markers are permanent, if two people have the same two markers, it can be demonstrated that they, at some point, share a common ancestor. If you can gather hundreds or thousands of samples, you can begin to chart when each marker appeared and where each race separated during the migration!

The first attempt to map the origins of modern people was done in the mid-1980s. Researchers at the University of California-Berkeley used these markers, actually mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), in an attempt to create a genetic map. This research began creating what has been described as the *human family*.

Their research indicated that all human beings came from a single ancestor! Of course, this is exactly what is explained in the Bible. All human beings can be traced back to the first woman—Eve. And this would mean that all people also originated from a single father—Adam.

Hills of Mount Ararat

The Bible records that once the waters of the Flood receded, the Ark rested upon the peaks of Mount Ararat (Gen. 8:4). This is our starting point, which you will see perfectly compliments the data.

From here, Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, were told by God to go out, fill and repopulate the earth. From these three sons, whose wives were each of a different race, humanity as we know it exists (Gen. 10:32).

After a time, they began to migrate to the lands to which they were directed by God through Noah. Thus begins the greatest journey in the history of mankind.

Three Families, Three Routes

The mtDNA from these three families acts as the starting point. The differences in races today point to three distinct “types” of people. Much confusion has been caused because, while modern science understands that there

was originally *one* mother and father for all of mankind, they do not realize that it was these *three* families that repopulated the earth after the Flood. This void in understanding—because they reject the Bible as a source of knowledge (Rom. 1:20-22; Hos. 4:6)—is why mankind’s origins are mistakenly placed in eastern-central Africa.

By properly aligning the scientific record with the biblical location of the Ark, we can clearly begin to form the migration picture. Genetic diversity of Africans shows they are distinct from the rest of the world. Modern science, which is seemingly obsessed with time-based analysis, purports that this diversity is the product of time—vast amounts of time—but this is simply not the case. While *some* of the DNA markers are the same, this is expected because they all shared a *common* set of parents—Noah and his wife.

It is interesting to note that the Bible states Noah was physically “perfect in his generations” (Gen. 6:9); and, as such, his DNA would contain very little or no mutations. However, nothing is said of his wife, and it is through the mother that mtDNA is passed on. The Bible’s silence on Noah’s wife’s lineage allows an assumption to be made that she already possessed some of the first genetic mutations from which we can trace. Some may consider it a coincidence that mtDNA is passed through the mother; others may see it as design. Either way, it is the mother-child transfer that allows the marvelous genetic atlas to unfold.

Footprints Revealed

From Mount Ararat, Shem traveled west. Genetic data reflects a clear picture of this journey. Unlike the descendants of Ham and Japheth, Shem’s descendants took a short and straight-forward trip through the Middle East and on to Europe. Modern peoples of European ancestry can trace their mtDNA back to a single father, Shem.

Another proof pointing to this similar origin is found in the study of

their languages, which are similar in many ways. If you divide the people of the world into three groups, you will find that the languages of Africa, Asia and Europe have very different structures—both in spoken and written form. This is, of course, due to three different migrations.

Ham, along with his sons Cush, Mizraim, Phut and Canaan, also took a shorter path. Turning southwest, the bulk of Ham’s descendants began to populate the African continent. Some descendants of Cush settled in parts of India and Ceylon, while Canaan’s sons settled in the Middle East. This path continues to western and southern Africa, thus, over time, populating much of the continent. Unlike many parts of the world, Africa has remained the most genetically pure. Several parts of the continent have, until only recently, remained isolated from the outside world. Their cultures, tools, social orders, genetics and even languages are largely unchanged. Much could be written about this fascinating continent.

The third leg represents a group who traveled much farther than the two other groups combined. Japheth and his wife journeyed to the east. Considering that these areas were likely populated in approximately 1,000 years, this group would have always been on the move. This nomadic characteristic can be seen today, as many tribes of Asia still remain in nomadic clusters.

Like the peoples of Ham, most of whom separated into two paths in central Africa, Japheth’s relatives dispersed in Central and South Asia. Some continued east and populated Indonesia and Australia, while others broke north and settled in modern Russia. Still others continued north, taking them through northern Siberia to eventually cross the Bering Strait (some anthropologists theorize by land bridge; others insist by boats), before settling in North and South America.

You may be surprised that most all of what you have read is agreed upon by science. Actually, the only



■ **TRACING ONE'S ROOTS:** A DNA ancestry scientist places samples into an incubator as he begins the process of extracting DNA at Trace Genetics in Richmond, Calif. The company specializes in DNA testing for genealogy purposes.

PHOTO: KRT

disagreement comes from the fact that they consider eastern-central Africa as the starting point. Beyond this faulty start, *their* map of migration looks very similar to what actually happened.

It is the near obsession with dates and dating that causes modern science to focus on the wrong location. This problem is caused by the woefully inaccurate method of radiocarbon dating.

The Dating Disaster

Science takes a sharp right turn when dating artifacts. Sweeping generalizations and assumptions are applied to radiocarbon dating. Deconstructing this method is critical to understanding how scientists assume Africa to be the cradle of mankind.

In radiocarbon dating, a ratio of non-radioactive carbon (carbon-12) to radioactive carbon (carbon-14) is measured to determine the age of the object. The following example makes this plain: One could take a sample of petrified wood. When it was alive, the wood would have had a ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 similar to

the air surrounding it. After its death, decomposition would slowly release carbon-14 into the air, while carbon-12 would remain constant.

If one knew the ratio of carbon-14 to carbon-12 in the air when the wood was alive, and the rate at which carbon-14 was released from the sample after it died, he could theoretically calculate its age.

Making this even simpler, imagine that you had two containers of water. One represents the air and the other the petrified wood. The “air water” container could be measured to know it contains one gallon of water.

Assuming that each container started with the same amount of water, we could then measure the “wood water” container. If it was found to retain only a half gallon of water, we would know that eight cups of water had been “released.” Further, if we knew that one cup of water was released every 100 years, we could date the wood to 800 years. This all sounds very logical.

However, what is used as the baseline—the carbon-12/carbon-14 air ratio—is *impossible* to measure.

Scientists have assumed that the ratio of these isotopes has remained constant in the atmosphere. But there is one problem—they *have not!*

Notice: “Not only then has open system behavior of these isotopes been demonstrated, but apparent ‘isochrons’ and their derived ‘ages’ are *invariably geologically meaningless*. Thus *none* of the assumptions used to interpret the...radiometric system used to yield ‘ages’ can be valid” (A.A. Snelling, “U-Th-Pb ‘Dating’: An example of False ‘Isochrons,’” *Third International Conference on Creationism*).

Of course, there are many attempts to explain these isotope variations. Regardless, variations *do* exist, thus making carbon dating “geologically meaningless.”

Scientists must then cross-reference their finds with items that have already been dated. This is also problematic because many of the items used for comparison were also dated using radiocarbon—meaning all determined ages are based on assumptions!

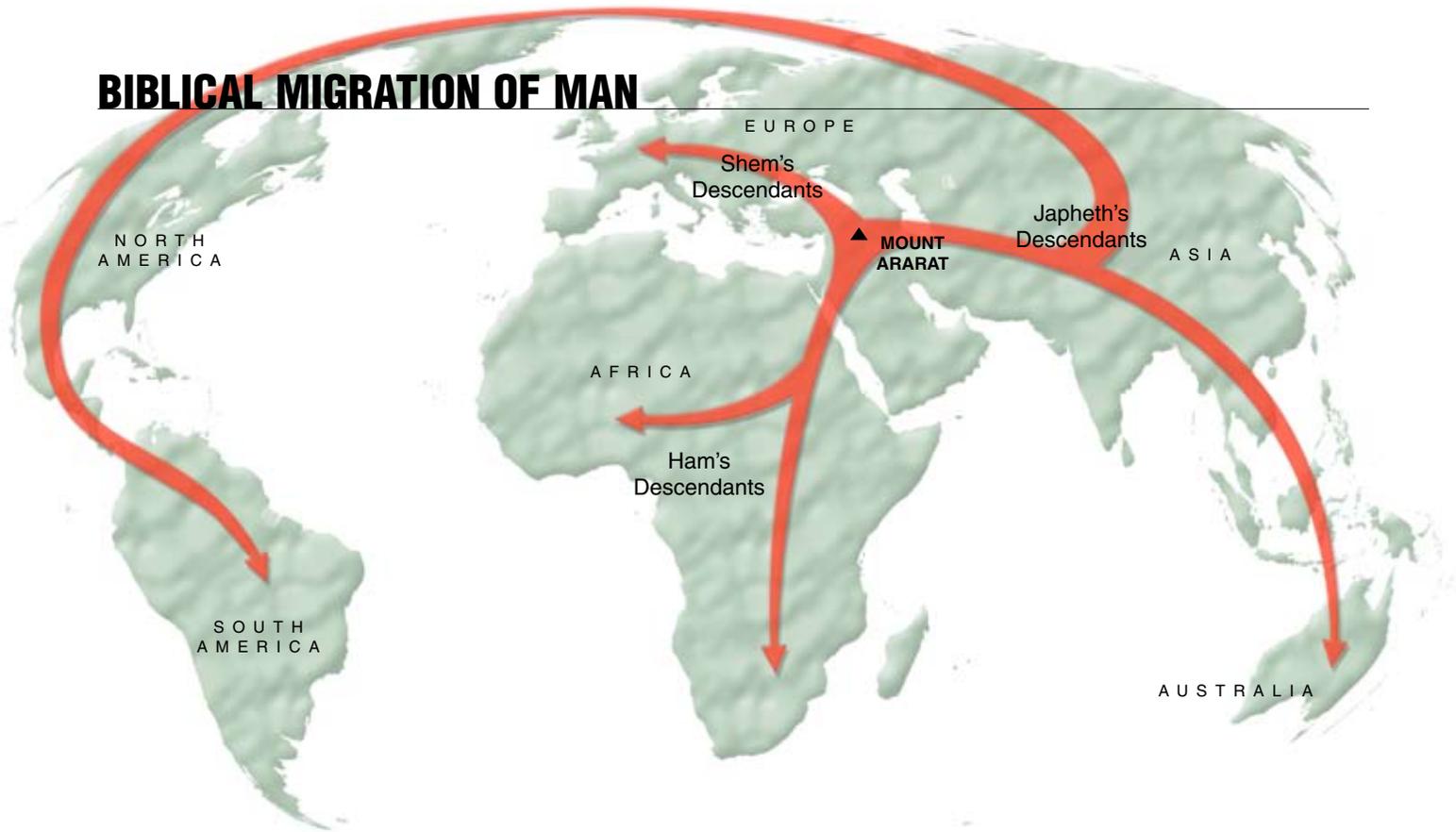
Can you see how this allows for samples to be dated across a wide range? It is far from reliable and is, in fact, puzzling that such a system is used at all!

But its use—coupled with rejection of the Bible—explains the faulty method scientists use to place mankind’s origin in Africa. When the facts are examined, it becomes obvious that if not for improper dating of certain artifacts, science would be forced to admit origins a few thousand miles northeast—Mount Ararat.

Historic Record Ignored

The Bible reflects many scientific facts—recorded for millennia for all to see—long before man discovered and understood them. Yet most people believe that God’s Word conflicts with science. Many fail to understand that the Bible is the *starting point*—the

BIBLICAL MIGRATION OF MAN



FOUNDATION—of all knowledge and understanding, including science.

This supposed disagreement is largely due to the fact that, in the past, false religion obstructed science whenever it did not appear to harmonize with the Bible. For example, for many centuries, the medieval Catholic Church embraced the false notion that the earth was flat and that the universe revolved around it. Typical of Catholic dogma, these ideas were borrowed from pagan sources.

Clerics and theologians were so unyielding that when the astronomer Galileo made a series of discoveries confirming the theories of Copernicus, he was put on trial in 1632. Galileo and Copernicus had confirmed the earth's orbital position in relation to the sun and other planets. They had clearly disproved the false idea of a flat, stationary earth being located at the center of the universe.

Nonetheless, church leaders would not accept this new knowledge because it contradicted their theological "truths"—admitting error was out of the question. Instead, they forced Galileo to publicly renounce his dis-

coveries (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., vol. 11, pp. 406-411).

A World Connected

The confusion created by professing Christianity has never been corrected, and now most view the Bible and science as being diametrically opposed. But time and again, when God's Word is used as the *foundation* of scientific knowledge, we find that not only is the result more accurate, but the final picture is framed in a much broader context.

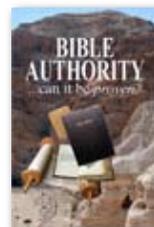
(To prove that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, read our booklet *BIBLE AUTHORITY... can it be proven?* You will never again look at the world's bestseller in the same way!)

The big picture points to a humanity that is connected, one that shares a common—and PLANNED—origin. The Being who created everything, from 10 billion trillion stars to comparatively minute human beings, has planned much more for us than an interesting common ancestry.

Jesus Christ foretold His Return to earth 2,000 years ago. Shortly after His Second Coming, the ignorance, confusion, famine, war, disease and death that is the product of man's rule will become a footnote in history. Christ will begin a millennial rule that will include re-educating the entire world in the right forms of science, the correct integration of nature and the Bible, and, of course, the truth about the origin of mankind.

Human beings will be taught that we are, in fact, descended from three sets of parents—who, in turn, can trace their origin to mankind's original parents—Adam and Eve. Only then will the tapestry of humanity be fully revealed and taught to a world that will experience the peace and happiness—including outgoing love and concern—of knowing that we are really one big family and, as such, will all equally share in mankind's incredible human potential.

(You can discover fascinating details of your incredible potential in our book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man*.) □



MEDICATED!

Society's Dependence on Prescription Drugs



“IT’S A MIRACLE DRUG.” “I can’t believe how much it helped.” “You can’t live without it.” “It changed my life.”

Such are the compelling television testimonials for prescription drugs. In recent decades, the number of advertisements for prescription drugs has greatly increased. Today, almost every commercial break includes at least one drug-related ad, often overstating the drug’s effectiveness.

Law enforcement and government officials are focused on the “war on drugs.” But illegal drugs are not the only problem society is facing. In today’s fast-paced, stress-filled world, millions are becoming increasingly dependent on prescription drugs. Often, people are looking for the “quick cure” for all ailments, from headaches to heart disease.

What are the facts regarding this

alarming trend? How many are taking prescription drugs—and why?

How Vast?

Consider these astounding statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Coalition on Health Care:

- From 1999-2002, the average number of Americans using at least one prescription drug in the past month was 45%.

- 1.6 BILLION DRUGS were ordered or provided during physician office visits in 2003.

- 1.7 drugs were ordered or provided per physician office visit in that same year.

- By 2004, one in six individuals—almost 17% of the population—was taking three or more medications.

- Five out of six persons ages 65 and older take at least one medication, with almost 50% taking three or more.

- Adult use of antidepressants nearly tripled during the periods of 1988-1994 and 1999-2000. For example, as of December 2004, 10% of adult women were taking antidepressants.

- In the same periods, there was a 13% increase in the proportion of Americans taking at least one drug and 40% in those taking three or more.

- Total health expenditures in 2004 were \$1.9 trillion, with prescription drugs being the fastest-growing in this category.

- The U.S. spent 16% of its GDP on healthcare that same year.

As is apparent, prescription drug use is on the rise, and this trend shows no sign of slowing.

Experts Explain the System

Recently, questions have arisen regarding the entire system that produces prescription drugs. Headlines are beginning to sound ominous. Take for example a *Consumer Reports*

article titled “Prescription for Trouble: Common drugs, hidden dangers. Tens of millions of people at risk.” It states, “...tens of millions of people may unknowingly have been exposed to the rare but serious side effects of a dozen relatively common prescription-drug types.”

The medical world is now learning of more effects of some commonly-prescribed drugs: “But their known or possible adverse effects—which include heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, irreversible bone loss, and cancer—were undetected or underestimated when the FDA [U.S. Food and Drug Administration] approved them for use. Some still don’t carry a black-box warning—the most serious label alert—that our chief medical adviser says they should.”

“Compounding the safety problem, drug companies have often failed to conduct the studies needed to identify risks that often emerge after approval. Wide distribution of newly approved drugs before their long-term safety has been established, plus immediate, heavy, and sometimes misleading advertising, may increase the chance of harm” (ibid.).

Frontline, a television program aired by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), produced a report titled “Dangerous Prescription.” In an interview, the acting director of FDA at the time openly admitted, “There’s no such thing as a totally safe drug. All drugs have risks, even over-the-counter drugs that are taken very commonly, like acetaminophen and aspirin. A lot of people don’t understand that, and they need to [understand] that all drugs...have risks...” He further stated, when speaking of side effect reporting, that the “system is imperfect.”

The Director of Public Citizen’s Health Research Group states, “... what has gone on in the last five and six years is unprecedented” (*Frontline*).

Dr. Raymond Woosley of the University of Arizona, who was a candidate to become the FDA commissioner, stated, “I think

Americans need to recognize that every time they put a pill in their mouth, especially a new pill that they’ve never taken before, it’s an experiment” (ibid.).

An Endless Cycle

Today, there seems to be a pill for every problem—from toenail fungus to restless legs, from trouble sleeping to lack of general happiness. When a problem appears, many people—almost as a reflex—search for a pill that will solve it as quickly as possible, and with the least amount of effort. Almost inevitably, in the short-term, an apparent solution is found and the patient feels better.

Tragically, millions upon millions do not realize that there are certain risks in taking prescription drugs; these can include weakened immune systems and sometimes addiction.

As adverse effects to prescription drugs arise, many of this generation simply try to address the new ailments with new additional drugs. This, in turn, causes other side effects, and the dangerous cycle continues.

Medicated Children

In the last couple of decades, various medications for children have also become very popular. Many children who are hyper or fidgety are prescribed Ritalin or a similar drug. Today, an estimated five million Canadian and U.S. children are prescribed medication for this condition (*Epoch Times*).

The FDA administered strong warnings in 2006 for some of these drugs. They are now learning of the VERY REAL side effects—including serious psychotic problems, heart attacks, etc.

In addition, a recent trend among millions of youth is prescription drug abuse. A study from *Partnership for a Drug-Free America* reveals that one in five teens abuse prescription drugs. This means that 20% of teenagers experiment with prescription drugs! And a portion of this number become

addicts. A growing number of teens are raiding their parents’ pill bottles or buying these drugs illegally through Internet pharmacies and dealers. Many are able to steal these prescriptions from home medicine cabinets and then use them to get high.

From potent painkillers to cough syrups, prescription and over-the-counter drugs can be misused to produce a “high,” and can cause death, injury or addiction just as easily as illicit drugs. Parents might not realize it, but far more teens use prescription or over-the-counter drugs to get high than use “harder” drugs such as heroin, cocaine or Ecstasy.

Effects not Cause

In a technologically advanced world, why is the rate of prescription drug use constantly increasing? With all of our science and research, why can’t we solve the *problems* that produce the ailments—and prevent them—rather than addressing them after they occur? Why do so many people turn to chemicals that have widely known and stated risks?

The answers lie in the fact that it is natural for human beings to put things off until they “need” to be addressed. Society at large takes on this habit of procrastination. People live their lives “putting out fires” rather than addressing *why* those fires are occurring.

In short, people address the EFFECTS of bad health, not the CAUSE—living life as if there are no laws or governing principles of health. When an unpleasant or painful symptom arises, they address the symptoms instead of the elements of their lifestyle that caused it.

Ultimately, people turn to prescription drugs for a “quick fix” to their problems in place of looking to the Author of life. The Creator of the entire universe has a health plan that you cannot afford to go without. To begin to learn about the CAUSE of health problems, read our booklet *God’s Principles of HEALTHFUL LIVING!* □



What Happens When You Die?

From the smallest to the greatest, from the richest to the poorest, everyone eventually dies. But what happens after death? Can you know for sure?



BY KEVIN D. DENEÉ

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN wrote, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Every minute on earth, 108 people die. Ultimately, everyone dies. It is not a matter of *if*, but *when*.

Sadly, and due to a wide variety of reasons and circumstances, some seek death, considering it the only solution. Others try to delay the inevitable through good health. Still others tragically lose their lives through time and chance. Sometimes disease or other illnesses bring a death sentence, leaving the person with nothing to do but wait for the end.

Many view the end of their lives with uneasiness. They ponder, “What’s next?”—“Will I live again?”—“Is this it?”—“Will I ever see my loved ones again?”—“Where am I going after this life?”

In contrast, others view death with fear of the unknown. Some fear the process and the suffering that may accompany death. Others, racked with guilt, have a different type



PHOTOS: KRT

of fear—fear that they will burn forever in “hell fire.”

Whatever the viewpoint, feelings or circumstances of one’s life—ultimately, life ends. Because of this unavoidable reality, every person at some point in his or her life thinks about the subject of death.

What about you? Have *you* ever considered where you are heading? Some live fast-paced lives, never stopping to consider such a large question.

On the other hand, most who are religious—including

adherents of traditional Christianity—think they know what happens when one dies. Yet you may be surprised to learn that the religions of this world have deceived them about what occurs at death.

In the News...

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda; the civil war that has raged on and off in Liberia for the last two decades; the current atrocities in Sudan, where endless numbers of peasants are being slaughtered—news of people dying in wars and conflicts around the world hits the headlines almost on a daily basis. In many instances, horrifying footage and photographs of the dead and dying arise afterwards; much goes unreported.

And then there are natural disasters that end hundreds, even thousands, of lives in an instant. In just the last 18 months, we have seen a devastating tsunami, crushing earthquakes, several destructive hurricanes and cyclones, wildfires and floods. In a matter of hours, families were uprooted, children made orphans, parents made childless.

Then there are criminals who torture, rape, brutalize and murder. For example, in June 2006, a Florida man cut down his son with a machete in front of neighbors, and then killed his wife. For those two individuals, death came suddenly, unexpectedly. Every reasonable human being expresses great sorrow for the victims of such heinous crimes. But what is next for the little boy? Is there any future for him?

There is much controversy surrounding death. For instance, the legality and ethics involving capital punishment is a highly emotional and politicized debate. Also, there have been high-profile cases in the media in which medical patients remain in a persistent vegetative state as

family members disagree on whether the person should continue to live. Then there is euthanasia, the question of whether a person should have the right to choose when and how he dies.

On an almost daily basis, we are confronted with the subject of death in various forms.

A Sea of Emotion

Many of the most powerful human emotions are tied to the cessation of life. The end of life can bring families, communities, nations, and sometimes even the world, to a standstill. When a sudden or tragic death occurs, this becomes a time for contemplation.

In the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, the entire world stopped in its tracks. People of every nation found themselves asking, “What if I had

lost my family members?” Witnessing other people die on their television screens—in real time—was an emotionally overwhelming experience. What about all the victims of that tragic day? Do they have a future beyond death? Or are their lives over—forever?

Consider the destructive aftermaths of the earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005 and the December 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. The struggle for survival; thousands left homeless; stories of those who would never see their families again—all tugged at the heartstrings of the entire world and stirred a sea of emotions.

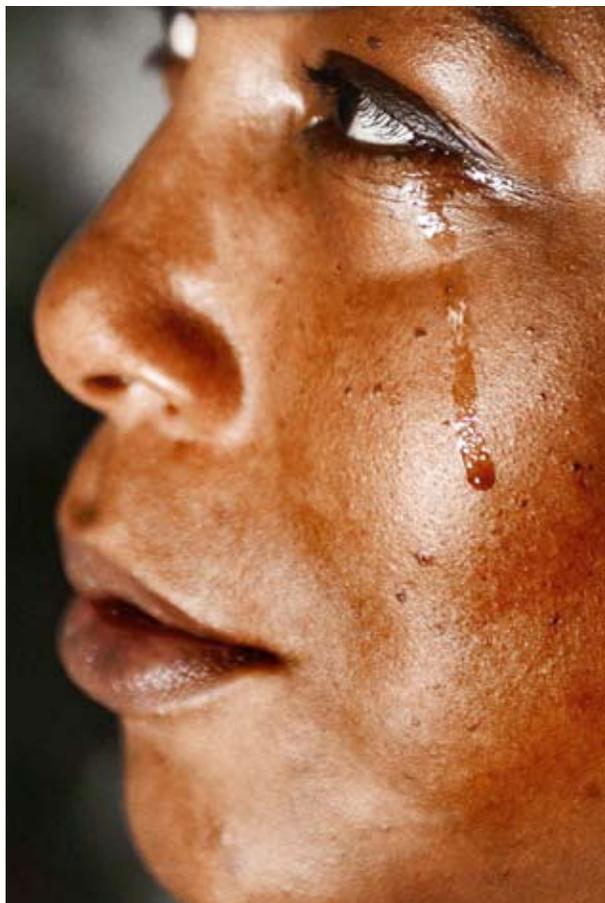
And then there is the personal grief one feels when a close family member or friend dies, which can almost seem unbearable. There are few things in life starker than facing the harsh reality that you will never again see that person in this life. All that remains are photographs and memories.

Is this all there is to life? Is there *anything* after death?

Religious Views

Religions abound in this world, thus opinions are plentiful. Some feel that all “good people” go to heaven or some form of paradise once they die, and that all “bad people” go to hell. Some believe that only the body dies, while the soul moves on to a “different plane of existence.”

Just as religions vary, so do beliefs surrounding the burial of the dead. Some are buried in watertight caskets so the body is not exposed to the elements underground. Others are not buried in caskets, but rather clothed so that the body does not touch the dirt. Some corpses are buried in warm clothes so they do not get cold underground. Some mourners will cook a chicken for the last meal and put it in the casket of the dead. Many hold viewings with open caskets



■ **A SOBERING REALITY:** For many—such as the woman above, who discovered that she was infected with HIV by her husband—facing the reality of one's own death comes suddenly.

PHOTO: KRT

before funerals, yet others feel that seeing the corpse is disrespectful. The list of superstitions and taboos surrounding dead bodies is endless.

But again, what happens to human beings after they die?

Consider the traditional beliefs of professing Christianity, which teaches that the saved go to heaven when they die. Presumably, this view is founded on the Bible—or is it?

Jesus Christ emphatically and clearly stated, “And *no man has ascended up to heaven*, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man [Christ]” (John 3:13). Billions of professing Christians believe that when one dies, he or she goes to heaven—but this contradicts what Jesus said! And keep in mind that when Christ said, “no man has ascended up to heaven,” scores of God’s servants from the Old Testament had already died. Take King David, for example, described as a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). The Bible explains that he will rule in God’s kingdom. Certainly, he would be in heaven, right?

But notice: “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both *dead and buried*, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day...For David *is not ascended into the heavens*” (Acts 2:29, 34). If we believe Christ’s words, then these faithful servants of God DID NOT ascend to heaven.

Surprisingly, the very groups that profess to follow the Bible do not actually read or understand what is found in it! God’s Word is very clear—heaven is not the reward of the saved. (To learn more, read our booklet *Do the Saved Go to HEAVEN?*)

Again, we must ask: What is the truth about life after death? What happens when you die?

Agnostics and Atheists

We have seen that the teachings of professing Christianity do not agree with



■ **UNIMAGINABLE GRIEF:** Many parents must bear the weight of their children dying prematurely. Above, a mother suffers the loss of her son, who succumbed to cancer.

PHOTO: KRT

the Bible. But what about atheists, who do not believe God exists—or agnostics, who believe that evidence for and against God’s existence is inconclusive?

For the atheist and agnostic, what happens after death is not important. According to their philosophy, life should be enjoyed in the “here and now.” But what if, like the teachings of traditional Christianity, they are wrong? What if God does exist and He offers an awesome future beyond the

grave, not taught by the religions and philosophies of men?

Now consider this. Suppose you came to a fork in the road—how would you decide which way to turn? If you had been told that one road leads to a dead end in a desert, and another to a beautiful oasis, would you not want to know which one to choose? Wouldn’t it be best to do some research to determine for sure *which is which*, and which path you should be on?

No matter our age or background, we are ALL on a path that leads to the same sobering destination: death.

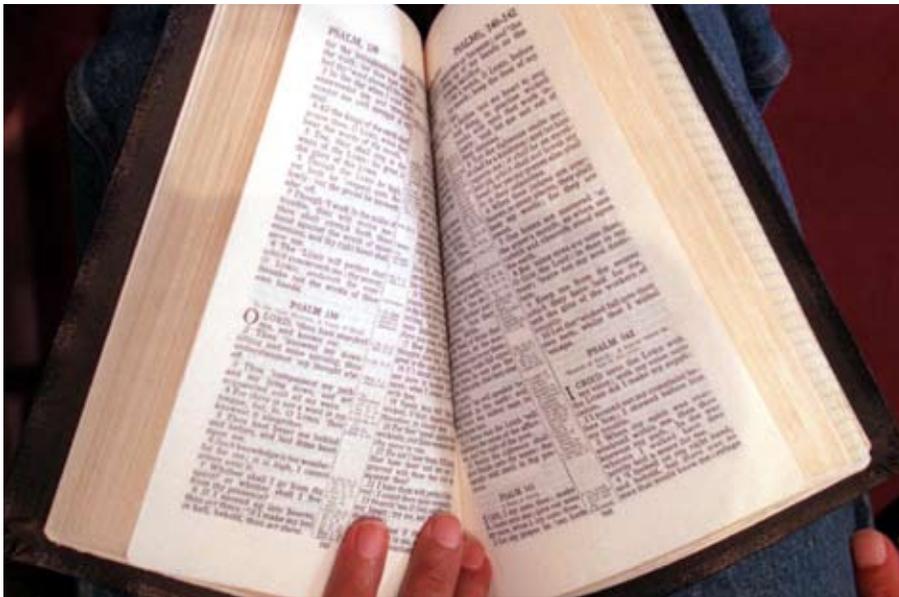
What Does Happen?

Now let’s examine Scripture more closely. The Bible can be proven to be God’s Word, and it is His INSTRUCTION MANUAL to mankind. It provides all the answers necessary to enjoy a wonderful, happy and successful way of life.

First, the Bible is emphatic and clear that *everyone* dies: “For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yes, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again” (Ecc. 3:19-20). This reveals that a human being simply dies and returns to dust like any other living creature on earth.

The Bible provides even more detail of what happens after death. Notice Psalm 146: “His [man’s] breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day *his thoughts perish*” (vs. 4). A human being no longer thinks once he is dead; he simply is not conscious.

Now read Ecclesiastes 9: “For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but *the dead know not any thing*, neither have they any more



■ **SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS:** When death is imminent, some turn to the Bible for comfort, encouragement and answers. But sadly, the churches of this world—whose beliefs are founded upon the traditions and commandments of men—fail to teach the truth of what God’s Word teaches regarding life after death.

PHOTO: KRT

a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten” (vs. 4-5). Again, the Bible is clear about the state of the dead.

But this leads to the age-old question asked in the Book of Job: “If a man die, shall he live again?” (14:14). The second half of the verse begins to answer the question: “...all the days of my appointed time will I wait, *till my change come.*”

God’s Word speaks of this “change” in scores of places, but what is it?

God’s Ultimate Goal

Most people believe that they are born with “immortal souls.” But the Bible states otherwise: “*For the wages of sin is death*; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Eternal life is a gift. People are not automatically born with it. Since “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23), and “*sin is the transgression of the law*” (I John 3:4), there is a penalty—wages earned—for breaking God’s Law!

Some religionists try to reason around Romans 6:23, saying that “death” merely means separation from God. But these scriptures are plain. God declares, “Behold, all souls are

Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine: the soul that sins, *it shall die*” (Ezek. 18:4, 20).

When a person dies, he is *dead*. Death is the ultimate “separation.”

However, there is hope after death! Everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be *changed*. For this corruptible must put on *incorruption*, and this mortal must put on *immortality*” (I Cor. 15:52-53). This is the “change” of which Job spoke—a change from this temporary, physical existence to eternal life. This is God’s ultimate goal for humanity.

Those who are being called by God *now*—who are being judged (I Peter 4:17) and are building holy, righteous character—will be a part of the first resurrection upon the Return of Jesus Christ (I Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:6).

For the following 1,000 years, God’s government will be administered across the world, bringing peace and

prosperity for all (Isa. 9:7). Then will come the second resurrection, in which every man, woman and child who has ever lived—but who had not yet received an opportunity for salvation—will be brought back to physical existence (Ezek. 37:5; Rev. 20:12-13). All will be given a chance to learn God’s way of life and to overcome the way of sin. Those who do will be given the precious opportunity to change to immortality.

No one is currently eternally burning in an everlasting hell—and no one ever will. What kind of God would send someone to an ever-burning hell to be tortured forever, without end? What kind of God would inflict such eternal punishing on those who never had the chance to learn His way of life?

Certainly *not* the God of the Bible! He will give all human beings the opportunity for salvation.

A Future for You

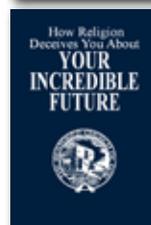
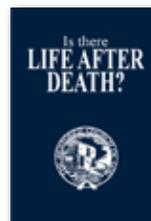
Death is terrible. The Bible describes it as a “sting.”

But there is coming a time when death will lose its sting—a time when death will no longer exist: “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in victory*. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?” (I Cor. 15:54-55).

Death has no place in mankind’s incredible future!

There are many questions that cannot be answered fully in a few short pages. Take time to study our booklets *Is there LIFE AFTER DEATH?* and *How Religion Deceives You About YOUR INCREDIBLE FUTURE*.

In the study of your future, as well as everything else you do for the rest of your life, apply Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go.” □





PHOTOS: KRT



“AND THE EARTH WAS F

“The rebel made Muctarr’s uncle hold out Muctarr’s right hand and sliced at it with the machete. It did not sever so the rebel held Muctarr’s arm against an orange tree and struck twice more before he succeeded at his grisly task. ‘Then he cut off my right ear and put it in my pocket,’ Muctarr said. When the rebel turned his back, Muctarr said he hid in the jungle. It was 15 days before he staggered into a hospital to get treatment.”

– “Victims Recount Terror in Africa,” *The Times Herald-Record*

IN SIERRA LEONE, atrocities such as the one described above are common. The violent thug cutting off the arm of a small boy is part of a group calling themselves the “Revolutionary United Front.” While the account is particularly gruesome, other radical, self-interested criminals repeat similar violent acts across the globe.

The acronyms of groups and names of individuals may change, but a common trait describes them—*they are all mercilessly violent!*

And this rising tide of violence is not restricted to the Third World. The West is also experiencing escalating acts of violence and lawlessness. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 2005, the rate of violent crime spiked for the first time in 13 years.

Why do terrifying atrocities occur? What drives man to inflict injury and death upon his fellow man? Why do human beings—created in the very image of God—seek to destroy other human beings? And, why does a loving God allow violence?

Rebellious Youth

A teenager approaches a woman standing quietly at a bus stop and punches her in the face. A gang of uniformed boys forcefully leads a boy to a remote area of a playground and knocks him out with a single punch. Incidents like these are referred to as “happy slapping.” This violent practice occurs regularly in Great Britain and other European countries. Generally, happy slapping involves a youth approaching an unwary victim and assaulting him or her—and this while another delinquent records the event with a cellphone camera! As the craze continues to spread, British authorities wonder how to stop it.

Hazing, a long practiced form of initiation rite, is also growing more violent. It is defined as the “ritualistic harassment, abuse or humiliation with requirements to perform meaningless tasks; sometimes as a way of initiation into a social group.” Hazing has been standard operating procedure in groups ranging from high school social clubs to United States military Special Forces such as the Navy SEALs and the Army’s Green Berets.

The hazing activities among social fraternities and sororities have been in the news in past years largely because of tragic consequences. Violence is no longer limited to male organizations, as demonstrated by the May 2003 hazing incident at Glenbrook High School in Illinois. Instead of the customary psychological hazing methods often used, this incident turned violent when a group of senior girls kicked, punched, pushed and even beat other girls with buckets. This was in addition to smearing the girls with pig intestines, feces, urine, fish guts, paint and coffee grounds!

A recent hazing incident at Plattsburgh State University in New York resulted in the tragic death of a prospective fraternity member. This young man was pressured to drink huge amounts of water over a period of ten days, resulting in heavy vomiting and finally death.

However, hazing is relatively mild when compared to the widespread violence seen in public schools and colleges today. Most are familiar with the plague of premeditated murders in public schools across the United States, such as Columbine. Students have been murdered at random.

The problem is twofold: (1) lack of character and (2) an absence of serious consequences for violent crimes committed by youth.

Juvenile murderers are protected by a legal system that often tolerates criminal behavior at the expense of justice. In March 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated any threat of capital punishment for minors—even if they commit cold-blooded murder. What message does this send to potential criminals among the nation’s youth?

Educated To Be Violent

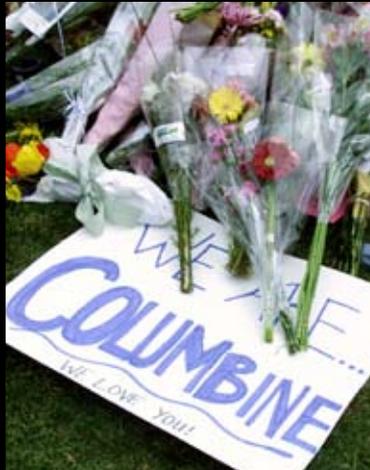
Generally, most teens spend hours watching television and playing seductive and violent video games. Such games condition and desensitize the player to commit increasing acts of

ILLED WITH VIOLENCE”

IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE: TRAGEDY, M

■ Littleton, Colorado, April 1999 – Two students on a shooting spree at Columbine High School murder 12 classmates and a teacher, before killing themselves. In the aftermath, students, parents and teachers grieve while struggling to understand why such violence was unleashed.

PHOTOS: KRT



violence. While the game industry will decry any association with crime, experience and hard statistics confirm the relationship between violent video games and acts of violence. A person who kills imaginary characters in an interactive game will gradually grow accustomed to violent behavior, accepting this as *normal* behavior. To satisfy increasing aggression, some teenagers participate in games with even greater and more violent behavior. A few will even act out their fantasy by committing murder!

The movies and sitcoms produced for television become more twisted with every passing year. Instead of providing a means to transmit healthy and wholesome family values, TV producers create programs that promote promiscuous sexuality, rebellion in children, sloppy etiquette, disrespect and weak father figures.

A wide range of violence is promoted and idolized. By the time the average child turns 11, he will have viewed more than 8,000 murders and 100,000 other acts of television violence.

In concert with this conditioning, today's educational institutions relentlessly attempt to socially emasculate and effeminize boys, while pressuring girls to become more aggressive. The reasoning goes that by enforcing these unnatural roles, violence—especially toward women—will be reduced. To avoid being a target of male dominance, girls and women are taught to become more belligerent.

However, this vain attempt at changing basic physiology in boys and girls does not accomplish the intent, but produces confused, frustrated and miserable young men and women. The increasing violence against women in recent decades should scream that this

philosophy of social engineering has resulted in disaster! Boys are either broken down into effeminate incompetents, or they react violently against the entire system, with many becoming criminals. Naturally, when girls are taught to be more aggressive, they will resort to violence to solve their problems!

A recent U-M study reported that women in their early twenties who had watched violent TV shows frequently as children, identifying with aggressive heroines, were much more physically aggressive and were more prone to have antagonistic personalities. Additionally, they were more apt to commit violent crime than women who did not watch much TV as children.

Sentence Not Executed Speedily

The first murder in history took place among the sons of Adam and Eve, as

ISERY...AND LINGERING QUESTIONS



Cain rose up in jealousy against his brother Abel and murdered him. Since that time, periods of peace have been as rare as the Hope Diamond, as mankind has succumbed to every form of evil.

In today's materially prosperous Western culture, we regularly read or hear about unimaginable violent crimes. The heinous acts committed by serial killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer—the Washington, D.C. beltway sniper shootings—the murder of a young college student with her own bikini—have horrified us. Just during the week of this writing, a family of seven was brutally murdered in Indianapolis during a robbery. None were spared.

We have all read about murders by former or present employees on the job, drive-by shootings, murders committed in churches by other church members, random murders committed as a gang

initiation requirement—practically every imaginable form of brutality and carnage.

While most murders can be attributed to vengeance, jealousy or greed, the motives of child-killers are particularly twisted. Such reprehensible, sadistic acts have become commonplace in a degenerating culture—why? How can human beings do such perverted things?

We live in a prophesied time of lawlessness and injustice. The legal systems of democratic nations often protect criminals by placing roadblock after roadblock in the path to true justice. Hence, those prone to criminal violence have little fear of being punished.

People have become more apathetic toward crimes committed against their fellow man. Solon, a Greek statesman who lived in the 6th century B.C., de-

scribed how crime could be reduced simply through neighbor showing outgoing concern toward neighbor: "Wrongdoing can only be avoided if those who are not wronged feel the same indignation at it as those who are."

Consequently, a culture that views itself as enlightened and civilized as it grows tolerant toward criminal behavior will soon find violence escalating and society disintegrating. In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon addressed the wisdom of administering swift and just punishment: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecc. 8:11).

The lack of swift punishment is one of the causes of escalating violence. However, this is not the fundamental cause.

The Root Cause

Conditions will continue to grow worse until man finds himself engulfed in the worst time of suffering ever. The author of this violence is a great created being who attempted a violent coup against the God who created him. The Bible calls him Satan the devil. This malevolent spirit being “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). His deception is so widespread and entrenched that most people find it ridiculous to even believe that the devil actually exists!

Jesus Christ bluntly spoke of those who unwittingly serve this evil being: “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a *murderer* from the beginning, and abode not in the truth” (John 8:44).

Human beings cannot understand the real causes of violence because they have been blinded by the powerful being by whom they are influenced. Mankind commits violence while scornfully rejecting the Bible’s way of peace.

It is Satan who is the father of violence in the earth. It is in Satan’s nature to be violent, for he hates God and passionately hates humanity because of its divine potential. He rages with jealousy because he understands that mankind is destined to become greater than he.

God’s Word calls the devil “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). As “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), Satan continually broadcasts carnal attitudes, thoughts and motives into an unsuspecting humanity. In effect, human nature—which is naturally hostile against God and the things of God (Rom. 8:7)—is actually SATAN’S nature, which is always violent! But Satan’s powerful influence does not excuse the countless acts of brutality that human beings commit day after day, year after year.

While mankind has always been violent, the Bible describes a time when violence will increase to a level experienced only in the days of Noah: “But

as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man [Christ] be” (Matt. 24:37).

We are entering that time, described more than 4,300 years ago: “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...The earth also was corrupt before God, and *the earth was filled with violence*” (Gen. 6:5, 11).

Today’s generation is filled with pleasure seekers, hating law and true justice. The apostle Paul described men and women in the last days as “lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” and “without natural affection” (II Tim. 3:1-3).

While proclaiming this generation as enlightened and progressive, man has in fact degenerated beyond imagination. He has even lost the natural affection a parent should have toward his child! What is on the opposite end of the emotional spectrum from “affection”? Hatred!—and hatred, mixed with lust and envy, leads to violence (Jms. 4:1-5).

Hence, violence and brutality are increasing in direct proportion to mankind’s lust, impudence and self-love. God has given man free moral agency. For the last 6,000 years, he has been allowed to choose his own way—tragically, he has chosen the way of cruelty and bloodshed!

But soon great changes will be ushered in!

The End to All Violence

There is a time coming soon when peace will literally *break out* around the earth. This absence of violence will not come as a result of man’s political alliances and inane schemes. The United Nations will not usher it in. No humanly devised

New World Order will bring peace.

The prophet Daniel interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, who ruled over the first great world-ruling empire. In that dream, the king saw a stone that broke into pieces an image representing the kingdoms of mankind: “...the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Dan. 2:35).

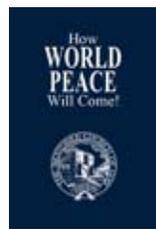
This stone represents the KINGDOM OF GOD—a divine, world-ruling government that will replace the governments of men: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom...shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (vs. 44). This is a message for our time.

Yes, God is going to end violence on the earth. His Son, Jesus Christ, will bring His government and will establish the peace that mankind has long desired, but never achieved. God will give man a new spirit—changing his very nature (Jer. 31:33). People will be taught to despise violence. They will be taught *to cooperate* instead of compete—to *give* instead of take—to *unite* instead of tear apart.

Finally, the earth will be at peace. The “wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them” (Isa. 11:6).

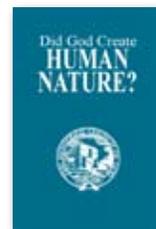
The nature of man will be changed through the knowledge of the truth: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain [or kingdom]: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (vs. 9).

The violence that fills today’s world will forever be banished. Happiness, peace and joy will prevail throughout the earth! □



SUGGESTED READING:

All nations long for peace. Leaders negotiate for it. Armies fight for it. Many pray for it. Yet it remains more elusive than ever. But the Bible says that it will come—and soon. Here's how!



SUGGESTED READING:

What is HUMAN NATURE? Why does it exist? Where did it come from? Did God create it? Why is it so selfish and evil? Few have understood this subject. Here is the truth.

HURRICANE SEASON 2006



How Will It Affect America?

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

IN LATE AUGUST 2005, Hurricane Katrina killed over 1,800 Americans and left about 100,000 homeless. In the process, it changed the world's perception of the United States of America, as well as the nation's view of its own vulnerability.

Some facts: Katrina was the most catastrophic event in a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season that saw 15 hurricanes (storms with winds of at least 74 miles per hour) among 28 named tropical storms (storms are named when winds reach 39 mph), both of which are the highest

tallies on record. Seven of these were considered "major storms" (Category Three or above, with winds at or above 111 mph; also referred to as "severe" or "intense"). Four of them made landfall in the U.S.—Dennis, Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

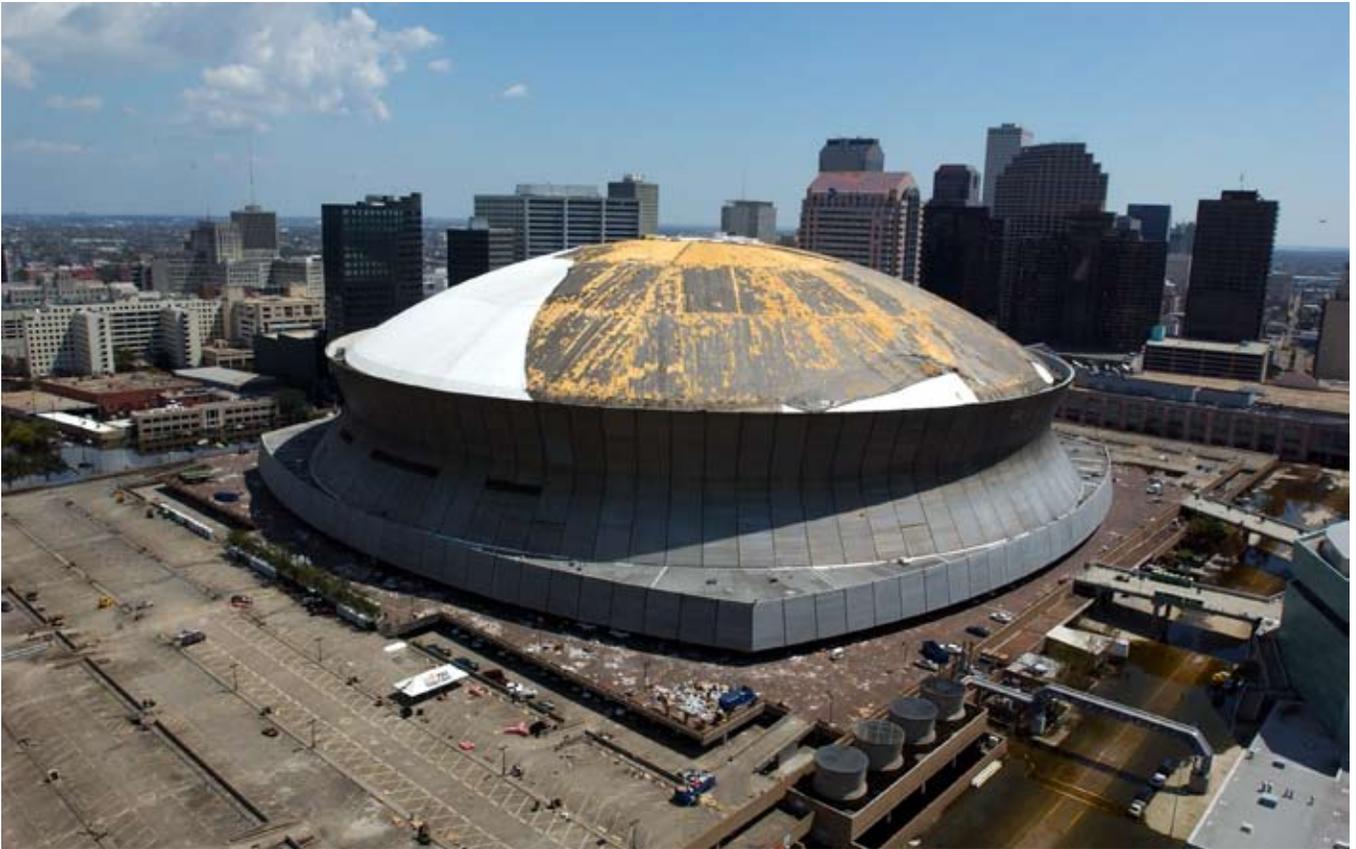
The season is officially marked as June 1 through November 30, but storms such as Epsilon and Zeta were still churning in December and even January 2006.

As the city of New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast continues to struggle with a prolonged rebuilding effort, the entire nation looks to the new season with heightened uneasiness.

The Atlantic hurricane zone includes the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and the North Atlantic. Forecasts for 2006 vary depending on the source. After early predictions of a storm season even worse than last year's, the most recent long-range forecasts predict that 2006 will

■ **CONSTANCE BEACH, LA:** A tattered American flag hangs from the remains of a home after Hurricane Katrina.

PHOTO: KRT



■ **NEW ORLEANS, SEPT. 8, 2005:** The roof of the Superdome was battered and stripped by the destructive winds of Hurricane Katrina.

PHOTO: FEMA

yield a season that is destructive—and considerably more active than average—but less powerful than 2005.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a division of the United States Department of Commerce, expects 13 to 16 named storms, above the 40-year average of 11, and predicts that anywhere from four to six will be intense storms.

The London-based Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), a group that provides risk analysis for the insurance industry and other sectors of business and government, forecasts 14 tropical storms, of which eight will become hurricanes and three will be intense. They expect four tropical storms to make landfall in the U.S., two of which will be hurricane strength. Colorado State University's hurricane forecast team anticipates 17 tropical storms, nine of which will become hurricanes and five of which will be intense.

These groups base their predictions

on data such as the speed of Caribbean and North Atlantic trade winds, as well as sea surface temperature. Though not as extreme as in 2005, surface temperatures of waters from the western end of Africa to the Gulf of Mexico are again above average; readings above 82 degrees are associated with the formation of hurricanes.

Taking a broader view, NOAA scientists believe that the year 1995 began a weather cycle that creates more favorable conditions for the formation of tropical storms—and that this cycle could last for decades! All but two seasons since 1995 have had an average or above average number of hurricanes. Also, the years 2003 to 2005 featured the highest three-year totals of both North Atlantic hurricanes (31) and U.S. hurricane landfalls (11). NOAA's director, Max Mayfield, told a congressional panel in September 2005 that "it's like somebody threw a switch" in 1995 (*MSNBC*).

So what might this season hold?

Danger Zones

The expectation of a somewhat milder season does not elicit a sigh of relief among meteorologists or government officials, since the ultimate impact of hurricanes depends not just on their strength and frequency, but also on *where* they make landfall. Although it is too early for analysts to accurately pinpoint which regions the storms will strike, they are now warning of the likely consequences of hurricanes hitting certain areas and cities.

The Georgia-based risk assessment firm Kinetic Analysis Corporation lists New Orleans as the American city most likely to be hit by a hurricane. This would be a major setback in an already slow recovery. The firm's report also includes Mobile, Alabama, as well as Key West and Pensacola, Florida (*Reuters*). The National Hurricane Center adds Houston and Galveston, Texas, New York City and Long Island, and New England.

Some view New York as being overdue for a hurricane hit. The last landfall there was Hurricane Gloria, a mild

Category Two that struck in September 1985. A 1990 study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed New York as the third most vulnerable American city, behind New Orleans and Miami.

Last year's hurricanes prompted city officials to reassess their preparedness strategy: "The city's Office of Emergency Management has plotted sobering block-by-block maps of how a hurricane could ravage New York. Even a small hurricane would put great stretches of the city under water: Coney Island, the fringes of lower Manhattan, the east and west sides of Staten Island, swaths of Queens and Brooklyn along Newtown Creek and the Gowanus Canal. A moderate hurricane would sweep up from Jamaica Bay and put much of southern Brooklyn and Queens under water, and a major hurricane would flood the eastern Bronx. New York is above sea level, unlike New Orleans, so a storm surge that flooded low parts of the city would drain out to sea within a day or two. But it would leave vital transportation paralyzed, with road, subway and train tunnels flooded" (*New York Daily News*).

A hurricane striking this city could present a worst-case scenario on a scale that would boggle the mind. There is historical precedent for severe storms in New York, as occurred in 1821 and 1938.

The former storm submerged lower Manhattan, with a 13-foot storm surge crashing into New York Harbor; the flooding would have been much worse had the storm arrived during high tide.

The latter storm was the area's worst on record, killing up to 700 people in New York, New Jersey and New England; it still ranks among the deadliest in U.S. history. "A total of 16,740 structures were destroyed

and many more damaged. 16,000 families were displaced or left homeless. The toll for mariners could only be described as catastrophic. Over 2,600 boats were lost or destroyed beyond repair and another 3,300 damaged. The landscape was instantly and permanently altered. Debris was everywhere. An estimated 2 billion trees were downed along with 20,000 miles of electric power and telephone lines. The wind-driven rains carried dissolved ocean salt, which damaged vegetation 50 to 100 miles inland. There were reports of a sea-salt residue on windows in Montpelier, Vermont.

"During the rainfall that preceded and accompanied the hurricane, an average of 11 inches of rain fell over a 10,000 square mile area. Four days of rain culminating in the hurricane downpours left 10 to 17 inches in the Connecticut River Valley, resulting in some of the worst flooding ever recorded there. The wave of flooding inflicted major damage from New

York and Connecticut to Massachusetts and Vermont...Christopher Landsea, a meteorologist at the Hurricane Research Division and Roger Pielke, a social scientist at the National Center of Atmospheric Research looked at the most destructive hurricanes and estimated the cost if they were to hit today. The Hurricane of '38, they found would be the sixth costliest of all-time. In 1998 dollars, their study estimates that a repeat of the '38 storm would produce \$19 billion in damages today" (*Intellicast*).

As destructive as the 1938 hurricane was, it also could have been much worse if the eye of the storm had hit Manhattan, the heart of the city.

The population density in New York, as well as general complacency on the part of New Yorkers—most have never lived through a severe hurricane—would present incredible obstacles in the aftermath of such an event. Local officials have warned residents to be prepared to survive for

up to five days without any assistance, services or utilities. Those who live in more frequently hit states such as Florida become somewhat accustomed to keeping a stock of survival supplies, boarding up windows, evacuating their homes and heading to shelters, which somewhat mitigates the loss of life and property. But this is not a routine that is practiced by their northern coastal counterparts.

In addition, New York State is second only to Florida in the total value of property at risk for hurricane damage. And since New York City is the largest American metropolitan area—and the third largest in the world—and the nation's financial center, the economic implications are nothing short of staggering.



■ SEPT. 4, 2005: A helicopter lowers a sandbag into the broken section of a New Orleans levee.

PHOTO: KRT

The economy of greater New York City is larger than the vast majority of nations on earth. A shutdown of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the city's port would affect the entire nation in an even more dramatic way than did Katrina, and would reverberate in economies around the globe.

Is New York, the rest of the nation—and the rest of the world—prepared? Could the American stock market quickly recover from extended down time? How quickly—and how far—would a crippled NYSE drag down the indexes of the British FTSE, the Japanese Nikkei or the German DAX?

The Ripple Effect

Before Hurricane Katrina, Americans who lived far from the Atlantic Coast may have been more likely to assume that their lives would be untouched by distant storms. This blissful ignorance was shattered on a number of fronts.

Displaced residents of New Orleans were dispersed across the country, having lost their homes, possessions and, in many cases, loved ones. They brought immediate needs, such as affordable housing and steady employment, to areas that were sometimes poorly prepared to absorb them.

Katrina shut down as much as 25% of U.S. oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, and roughly 20% is still out of commission. Drivers from the coasts to the heartland watched gasoline prices spike, with manufacturers' and retailers' increased transportation costs being passed on to the consumer across the board. Although the price per gallon was still well below the typical cost paid by Europeans or even Canadians, Americans loudly complained. Some chose to simply drive away from the pump without paying—plain theft rationalized away as a grassroots protest. Politicians made sure to capitalize on the discontent.

Add to all this the huge cost of federal disaster relief that eventually trickles down to the general public. After Katrina and Rita, Congress approved \$68 billion of aid. Investigations have

since concluded that up to \$2 billion of the \$19 billion spent so far was lost to fraud! Fraud cases have ranged from damage claims on non-existent properties to requests for funeral assistance for fictional relatives. Relief funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) were spent on season football tickets, pornography, Dom Perignon champagne, divorce proceedings, a 70-day stay in a Hawaiian hotel and even a sex-change operation! One individual used 13 Social Security numbers to receive \$139,000 in aid payments, all sent to the same address. With such a huge amount of money rushed into the relief effort, even prison inmates were able to scam FEMA—and all at taxpayer expense!

Who will pay for another crop of storms in 2006?

Another Struggling Industry

The oil business was not the only industry that took a hard hit in 2005. The insurance industry is still reeling from a record \$54.8 billion in insured losses. Katrina accounted for \$38 billion of this, and stands as the most costly catastrophe in American history, nearly double the cost of the 9/11 attacks. The season caused three American insurance companies to go out of business.

Insurers and reinsurers (the larger, global corporations that provide insurance for insurance companies) are now attempting to learn lessons and plan ahead. Moving to reduce financial risk, well-known companies such as State Farm and Allstate have halted the writing of new homeowners' policies in Louisiana, Florida, Texas and even parts of New York. Another firm has declined to renew existing policies for customers in coastal Massachusetts.

Despite the known risks, Americans have been increasingly flocking to the Atlantic coast for decades, both as permanent residents and owners of second homes. Soon, many may find that property insurance is priced beyond their means—or simply unavailable.

What happens when neither insurance nor federal and state governments can foot the bill in a storm's wake?

Whose Hand Is on the Switch?

An earlier quote compared the sudden onset in 1995 of an intensified hurricane cycle to the throwing of a switch. Why did this happen? Many view shifts such as this as merely the random acts of an unpredictable, impersonal "Mother Nature." But, ironically, a standard term used by insurance companies to describe a natural disaster such as an earthquake or hurricane is "an act of God."

Which view is correct?

The United States has been the single most blessed nation on earth. Its natural resources—complemented by a temperate climate—have played a large part in this prosperity.

Has this been a matter of chance?

It has not. Millennia ago, the God who created the earth described the path to blessing and cursing in His Word (Lev. 26; Deut. 28). Obedience to His Law leads to blessings, while disobedience brings curses, both for nations and individuals. And make no mistake—God is sovereign over earth's atmosphere, and will allow adverse weather if a nation flagrantly breaks His Law: "When He utters His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens; and He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth: He makes lightnings with rain, and brings forth the wind out of His treasures...He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow" (Jer. 51:16; Ps. 147:18).

God is removing the blessings that have been enjoyed by America and other nations that have descended from the biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (or Israel). While one cannot know exactly what is in store in 2006, you can know the big picture—in advance!

To learn more, read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY*. Also, look for our follow-up article "Hurricane Katrina: One Year Later" in the next issue of *The REAL TRUTH*. □



WORLD NEWS DESK

AN EDITORIAL ANALYSIS OF WORLD NEWS, TRENDS AND CONDITIONS

GEOPOLITICS, STRATEGIES & ECONOMIES

THE RACE FOR OIL

The U.S. has suddenly found it is losing a strategically and economically important race to secure the nation's oil supply.

Vice President Dick Cheney had recently been entrusted with the task to procure additional sources of crude oil to help stabilize U.S. gasoline prices.

Mr. Cheney was sent to Central Asia to coax certain allies to significantly increase supplies, but apparently found that many potential suppliers had become committed to China.

"We're in a race with China and so far we're losing," said an administration source familiar with Mr. Cheney's trip.

Sources also indicated that during his visit to Washington in April 2006, Chinese President Hu Jintao rejected

outright President Bush's appeal to cooperate on energy resources to ensure global market stability. On his way back to China, Mr. Hu visited Nigeria, which supplies about 17% of U.S. oil imports.

Oil contracts in many parts of the world are a very shady business. According to a Jamestown Foundation report: "In its substance it evokes the old approach: China subsidizing dictators by paying for pipelines as well as for gas and trying to knock prices down while tying up the producer for 30 years."

China's oil supply needs, due to its booming economy, are only surpassed by the United States in terms of overall consumption.

Source: *Insight Magazine*

GERMAN ECONOMY SET TO SURGE



A recent survey showed that German business confidence increased to its highest level in 15 years, with no signs of slowing. This unexpected rise showcases the recent growth in Europe's largest economy.

According to a recent report by research company GfK, the "consumer sentiment index" also rose to 6.8 in June, the highest it's been since 2001. Until this point, the consumer's outlook had remained bleak, and their spending weak.

"With the end of the long winter, the mood among consumers has significantly brightened and it looks as if the trough of recent years has now been left behind," said Rolf Buerkl of GfK.

"Optimism that the German economy will develop positively has increased considerably, while personal income expectations have also improved," he added.

With these indications, leading analysts upped their prediction for growth of the German economy in 2006 from 1.2% to 1.8%. GfK recently stated, "Trust in a positive development of the German economy has increased considerably."

Source: *BBC News*



WEATHER

FROM RECORD RAINS AND FLOODING...



■ **RISING WATERS:** Above, the Susquehanna River continues to rise in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. At left, traffic backs up as a mandatory evacuation is called for the city. Right, water surges over a dam on the Schuylkill River near a flooded boathouse row in the center of Philadelphia.

PHOTOS: MCT

A giant “1-in-300-year” storm system across the Northeast United States has caused massive flooding across 40,000 square miles, unprecedented amounts of rain and left at least 16 dead. More than 200,000 Americans were ordered to evacuate Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, due to major flooding of the Susquehanna River.

This followed the most rain ever recorded in Washington, D.C. Major flooding caused power outages, the delay of subway systems and the closing of federal buildings. Art galleries and museums were also shut down while heavy rain and wind collapsed a 100-year-old elm tree near the White House.

Some areas across three states received as much as 17 inches of rain in several days. The Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport recorded nearly 13 inches of rain for the month of June. This broke the monthly record since record-keeping began in 1871. Most of this rain came late in the month, with just under 10 inches recorded in two days, the most rain for any two successive days.

Source: *The New York Times*; Reuters; ABC News

...TO RAGING WILDFIRES



■ **OUT OF CONTROL:** Fires burn in the Texas Panhandle, outside of McLean.

PHOTO: MCT

Firefighters in five states struggled to contain multiple wildfires cutting a path across western United States.

In Arizona, fires have destroyed more than 4,200 acres of the beautiful Oak Creek Canyon, just northeast of Sedona.

In northern Nevada, lightning ignited new fires in an area that has already seen more than 50,000 acres burned.

A 13,425-acre wildfire in California’s Los Padres National Forest threatened oil fields, gas lines and other resources.

Areas in southern Colorado were evacuated due to fires spanning 9,000 acres, while New Mexico was devastated by a 24,300-acre wildfire.

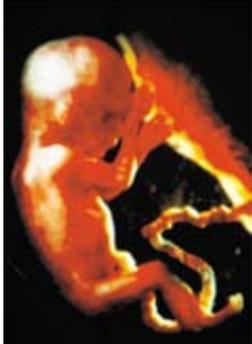
This widespread damage is rare for this season in the fire season and is said to have been caused by drought conditions.

Just this year, wildfires have already scorched more than 3.3 million acres across the nation. This is over four times the total for the same period in 2005.

Source: *CNN.com*; Reuters; ABC News

HEALTH, SCIENCE & SOCIETY

BABIES ABORTED FOR “MINOR DEFECTS”



In Britain, it was revealed that babies were being aborted for “minor, treatable birth defects.” Late-term abortions have been carried out on babies with club feet, webbed fingers, cleft palates, or extra fingers or toes. All these conditions can be corrected by simple procedures.

This comes at a time when use of a controversial abortion pill, linked to 10 deaths, is rising.

These shocking reports have led many to fear that abortion is being used by people who will only accept a “perfect” baby. Authorities in Great Britain have dismissed calls for prosecution.

Source: *Daily Mail*

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

FEMA AID SQUANDERED AND STOLEN

Investigations into the use of Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hurricane Katrina Aid have unveiled fraud and waste on a grand scale, costing U.S. taxpayers close to \$2 billion.

In one instance, a hotel owner is said to have billed FEMA for \$232,000 for nonexistent victims. Another report details a case of about 1,100 Gulf Coast prison inmates scamming more than \$10 million in rental and relief assistance. And 10,000 mobile homes sit at an Arkansas airfield, unused, while FEMA pays \$250,000 a month in storage costs.

There are also stories of Americans claiming to be victims and using their FEMA aid on everything from football season tickets to a sex change operation.

“The blatant fraud, the audacity of the schemes, the scale of the waste—

it is just breathtaking,” said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine.

The money lost to misuse and fraud makes up almost 11% of the \$19 billion spent by FEMA in the disaster-relief program. Another report, by the Government Accountability Office, estimates that of the \$6.3 billion directly distributed to hurricane victims, 21% could have been improperly used.

In total, 335 people have been indicted on fraud charges, a record number coming from one hurricane season. Officials at the Red Cross are looking into 7,100 possible fraudulent cases, while investigators from Congress have sent more than 7,000 cases to prosecutors.

This is, by far, the most astonishing and widespread case of fraud and waste seen in America’s recent history.

Source: *The New York Times*; *LATimes.com*

SCIENCE

SAN ANDREAS FAULT EARTHQUAKE OVERDUE



Yuri Fialko, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, California, has indicated that the southern end of the San Andreas Fault near Los Angeles, which has been still for more than two centuries, is under immense strain and could produce a massive earthquake at any moment.

He said that given the average annual movement rates in other areas along the fault, there could be enough pent-up energy in the quiet southern end to trigger a jolt of up to 32 feet (10 meters).

To put this in perspective, the earthquake that destroyed San Francisco in 1906 was produced by a shift of up to 21 feet (6.5 meters) in the northern end of the fault.

Source: *Reuters*

RELIGION

FEEDING A SPIRITUAL HUNGER?

In a review of the newest Superman movie adaptation, Dr. Reg Grant, of the Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas, stated that Superman has undergone “a change from an emphasis on his humanity to an emphasis on his divinity.”

With the latest Superman being described as a Christ-like figure, Dr. Grant goes on to say that this element of spirituality is found in many movies: “Spiritual themes feed a hunger—a universal longing for a superman. What some people chalk up as a myth really is true in the person of Christ.”

Source: *Akron Beacon Journal*



SOCIETY & LIFESTYLES

DUTCH PEDOPHILES TO FORM POLITICAL PARTY



In a truly disgusting development, Dutch pedophiles have banded together to form a political party calling for a cut in the “age of consent” from 16 to 12, and the legalization of child pornography and bestiality.

The Charity, Freedom and Diversity party said on its website it would be officially registered Wednesday, pro-

claiming: “We are going to shake The Hague (Holland’s parliament) awake!”

“A ban just makes children curious,” Ad van den Berg, one of the party’s founders, told the *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper.

“We want to make pedophilia the subject of discussion,” he said, adding that

the subject had been a taboo since the 1996 Marc Dutroux child abuse scandal in neighboring Belgium.

The Netherlands, which has very liberal laws regarding sex and drugs, was shocked by the plan—a poll indicated that 82% wanted the government to do something to stop the new party.

Source: *Reuters*

TEENAGED GIRLS “OUT OF CONTROL”

A recent British survey found that teenaged girls are now more likely than their male counterparts to drink, smoke, steal and use drugs. The so-called “ladette” culture of violence, aggression and self-destructive behavior has spread alarmingly over the past 20 years.

In part, it is blamed on increased psychological and social problems, as girls are now expected to compete on equal terms with boys for educational and employment opportunities.

Professor Colin Pritchard, who led the research, said, “Girls now significantly smoke and binge-drink more than boys. They [are] truant, steal and fight at similar rates, and start under-age sex earlier than boys.”

Source: *Daily Mail*

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

ens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be you very desolate, says the LORD. For My people have committed two evils; *they have forsaken Me* the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water” (2:11-13).

The latter phrase in this passage accurately describes *all* the false gods devised by men and nations over the last 6,000 years. These man-made “gods”—made of wood, stone, metal and *false thinking*—are truly “broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” Yet, those nations (and religions) cleave to these fictional gods with a faithfulness Israel never showed to the true God. In fact, it has become both politically and culturally correct today to acknowledge and “respect” the myriad of different “gods” that are nothing more than inventions of men.

Jeremiah continues, describing Israel’s approach to gods she had copied and created: “Saying to a stock [of

wood—a mere carved idol], You are my father; and to a stone, You have brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto Me, and not their face.” Speaking for God, Jeremiah then says of these gods, “but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us. But where are your gods that you have made you? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble: for according to the number of your *cities* are your gods, O Judah” (vs. 27-28).

This is a classic description of what is seen throughout the world in all the modern nations that consider themselves to be based upon Judaeo-Christian roots. Idols, carvings, religious statues and stained-glass windows abound on and in every church in every city, with no one thinking anything of it.

Worldwide Confusion— Gods and More Gods

The world is filled with gods of every sort. It is as though mankind has reserved the very best of its creative powers for the invention of every

conceivable type of god and goddess—whether composed of physical matter or defined by ethereal concepts in the mind. The world’s billions worship literally millions of gods.

The apostle Paul expresses it best as he introduces the true God of the Bible: “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth (as there be gods many, and lords many), but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge...” (I Cor. 8:5-7).

The Romans worshipped and built temples to an almost endless array of gods and goddesses. But it is said that the ancient Greeks worshipped as many as 30,000 gods. Not to be outdone, the Hindus of today reportedly have 5 million, including their own trinity consisting of Sheva, Brahma and Vishnu! Of course, the Egyptians, as did other civilizations, also had their own brand of a trinity—Osiris, Horus and Isis. Then there is Tao, Confucius, Buddha, Allah and a host of other

gods, goddesses and idols, worshipped today, including totem poles, nature, snakes, animals and fish in the sea, volcanoes and mountains, fire, wind, rocks, sun, moon, planets, stars and even certain human beings who are considered to be divine. Again, then, there are all the different kinds of metaphysical concepts of gods adored and worshipped in the mind—some of which have been depicted by physical symbols and representations rendered by artists. This describes the trinity.

Yet, and most are probably not aware of this, vastly more people believe in the three-in-one god of modern Christianity than any other form of god.

The Unknown God

A longer and fascinating passage illustrates how superstitious mankind will worship almost anything, including worship of many gods at the same time to avoid possible offense to whatever god they may have overlooked. This account paints an astounding picture. Take careful note of the last sentence. The story from Acts involves Paul in Athens:

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore you ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He gives to all life, and breath, and all things; and has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should *seek* the Lord, if haply they might *feel after* Him, and *find Him*, though he be not far from every one of us: for in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are

also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; *but now commands all men every where to repent*” (17:22-30).

Notice Paul’s reference “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD” (also found in capital letters in the King James Bible). God had to reveal the identity of this God to the superstitious Greeks through Paul. They had devised a “catch-all” inscription designed to include any other god missed in their “devotions.” Paul took note of how they had “covered themselves” in their determination to leave no stone unturned in the worship of every possible deity. But they had not tried to “seek,” “feel after” and “find Him”—the true God.

King Solomon recorded that there is “nothing new under the sun” (Ecc. 1:9). Truly, the God of the Bible *has been unknown* to countless millions who have been content to worship a god *selected for them* by men. Theologians and religionists have sought the opinions of philosophers, scholars and supposed experts, instead of the only important opinion—that of God, found in His Word. Centuries ago, these religious leaders reported their findings to the masses, who were only too willing to swallow what was presented to them without proof.

The God Who Is Alive

Ultimately, we ask, what is the difference between the God of the Bible and all other gods? How does God Himself differentiate who and what He is from all others?

Throughout Scripture, God describes Himself over and over again as “the living God”—the “Eternal”—“I AM THAT I AM” (the name in Exodus 3:14 that Moses was instructed by God to use when representing Him to Pharaoh). In other words, the God of the Bible establishes who He is and separates Himself from all other gods by declaring Himself to be ALIVE!—LIVING!—meaning ALL other gods are nonexistent or, in a sense, “dead.”

In effect, put another way, the true God states, “I AM,” meaning other gods “are not”—period.

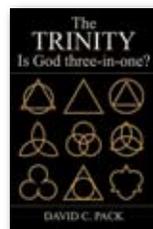
The reader must ask whether he or she is worshipping the ONE TRUE GOD—the God who is ALIVE—or something nonexistent, inert and “dead,” a god who *is not!* This question towers over everything else regarding the subject of the true God.

Some who have accepted evolution have not been willing to turn to outright atheism. But, *influenced* by evolutionary thinking, modern theologians and religionists have not honestly explored their god in light of the PLAIN FACTS of history and Scripture. They have *professed* themselves to be Christians, meaning that they have wanted to *appear* to be followers of the God of Creation. Again, in the end, these have not been willing to face the facts about their “god.” They have not been willing to come to understanding of the TRUE GOD—the LIVING GOD!

Then, in succession, millions of professing Christians, unwilling to explore the facts for themselves, follow such men. They remain duped by dishonest, seductive arguments designed by the god of this world to lead them to worship of himself. This is because, in their vanity (Rom. 1:22), they have foolishly rejected vital knowledge. The result has been that so many have unnecessarily become “darkened”—blinded—to the plain understanding of the true God, believing Him to be triune in nature.

For God to require strict obedience to His first four commandments without explaining who and what He is would be tantamount to cruel and inhuman punishment. If God had given this instruction without carefully *equipping* His worshippers to be able to distinguish Him from all other gods, He would have been most unfair.

He has not! □

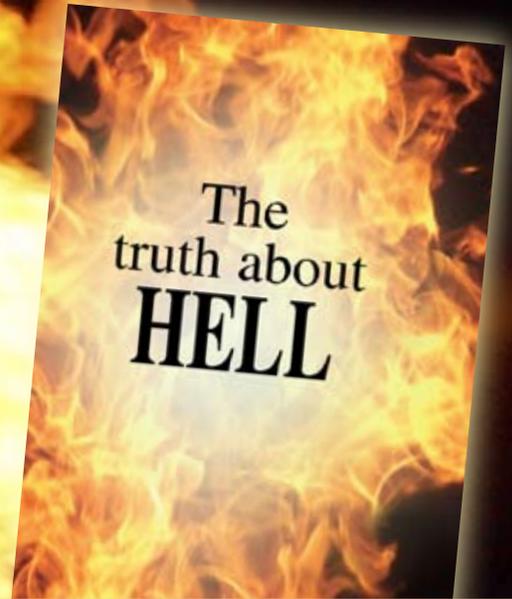


SUGGESTED READING: Millions assume the trinity doctrine to be true and that Scripture proves it. Yet here, made PLAIN, are the FACTS of history—and what the Bible *really* teaches about *what* and *whom* is its AUTHOR!

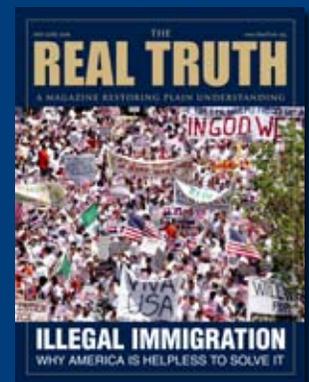
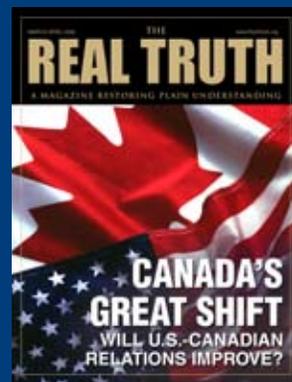
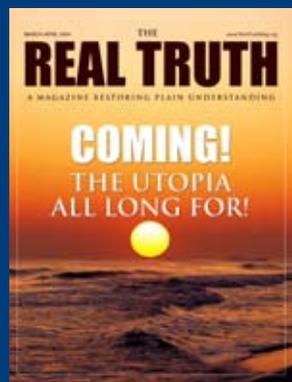
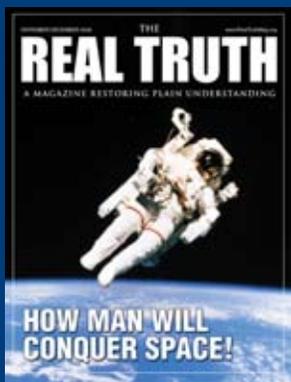
An EVER-BURNING FIRE of Eternal Torment?

The idea of an ever-burning hell has frightened countless millions! What *really* happens to the wicked after death? Are they “doomed to hell,” where their “souls” roast in “torment” forever? If hell exists, and the wicked go there, *where* is it and *what* is it? And *when* do they go? What about the resurrection of the dead? And the parable of Lazarus and the rich man? There are many popular beliefs about the fate of unrepentant sinners. Why such confusion? What are the Bible answers? Here is the *truth* about hell!

Read our booklet *The truth about HELL*.



Have you missed out on previous issues?



You can read them online at your convenience!