

MARCH-APRIL 2004

THE

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# REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

**COMING!**  
THE UTOPIA  
ALL LONG FOR!



# THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. 2 | NO. 2 | MARCH-APRIL 2004

A R T I C L E S

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## Genetically Engineered Foods – Why the Controversy?

As part of the continuing quest to “out-do” God, man has tampered with the very core of our food supply. What are the implications of this trend?

Page 5

## You Can Rear Healthy, Happy Children!

How can you, as a parent, hope to rear moral children in today’s immoral world? And can you be sure that what you teach them will stay with them for the rest of their lives? God’s Word provides the answers to these questions—and they are not what you would expect!

Page 3

## Evolution – Fact or Fiction? (Part Three)

Can you imagine a rock breathing? Or your house cleaning itself? Ridiculous? Of course! Yet, in essence, this is what evolution teaches. The third installment of this series addresses the many fallacies of the theory of evolution.

Page 9

## Good Works – Do You Have Them?

The Bible has much to say about good works. If asked, most people would say they strive to do them. Yet, few truly understand what good works really are!

Page 14

## Christ’s Resurrection was Not on Sunday

Did Jesus rise from the grave on Sunday morning? Had He been there for three days and three nights? He said this was the *only sign* (Matt. 12:40) that He was the Messiah! Does—can—this sign coincide with the tradition of a *Good Friday* crucifixion near sunset and a sunrise resurrection on *Easter Sunday*?

Page 16

## Our Children Used (Part Two): Enslaved and Forgotten

Many believe that the future is bright for our children. And yet, many children of this world are enslaved, trafficked, and forgotten. Here is the tragic reality of the loss of innocence.

Page 21

## Popular Religious Holidays – Where They Really Came From

Christmas, Easter, New Year’s, Lent—so many of the world’s holidays and traditions are universally observed. But where do these customs come from? How did they originate?

Page 25

**ABOUT OUR COVER:** All people, of every walk of life, nationality and religion, hope for a better world. God’s Word shows that a better world *is* coming. But it is not what most expect!

**PHOTO CREDITS:** All photos courtesy of ArtToday, Inc.; except pages 27 and 28 (Giovanni Lattanzi/Archart).

F E A T U R E S

Personal from David C. Pack  
World News Desk

1  
30

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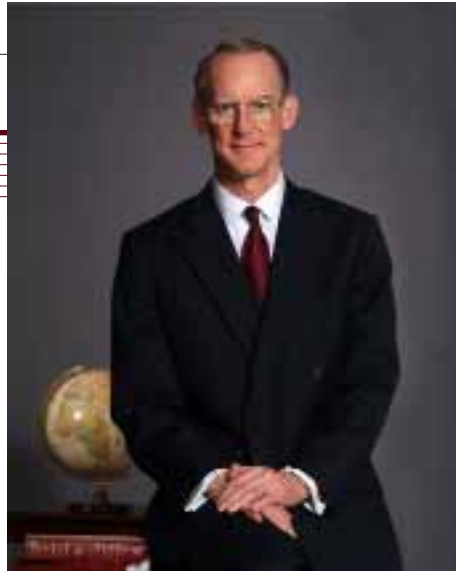
Scriptures are quoted from the King James (or Authorized) Version of the Bible, unless otherwise noted.

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## PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



# Coming—The Utopia All Long For!

**W**HERE IS THE world going? Why is it filled with problems, troubles, evils and ills, causing unhappiness, confusion and misery of every kind? What lies ahead? Is there hope for a different—and truly *better*—world? Yes! A WONDERFUL WORLD—unlike anything ever seen—*is* coming. Its arrival is certain. This article introduces *an inside view* of what it will be like!

Most of what is occurring in today's world can only be described as ALL WRONG! Why, when things go wrong, do so few search for the CAUSE?

Every effect—good or bad—can be traced to a root CAUSE. Conversely, every cause brings an EFFECT. Since the world is *filled* with bad effects, why do so few examine the cause? Why do scientists, educators, religionists and other “experts” and “thinkers” primarily devote their efforts to addressing these effects?

Think for a moment. The world is filled with problems of every conceivable nature—and they are only growing worse, and greater in number. Therefore, the headlines of today's newspapers are filled with bad news. Here is a sampling of headlines we are all too familiar with:

“War Rages in Middle East,” “Suicide Bombings Increase,” “Arms Race Reveals More Countries With Nukes,” “Man Kills Family, Then Self,” “Sniper Kills Ten, Wounds Twenty,” “HIV to Kill Ten Million

Annually—and Rise,” “Ferry Overturns—One Thousand Lost,” “Mysterious Illness Kills Ten,” “Market Crashes—Global Recession, Even Depression, on Horizon,” “CEO Indicted—Two Billion Unaccounted For,” “God Banned From Schools,” “Teachers Losing Control of Classrooms,” “Typhoon Kills Thousands,” “Record Drought Grips North America—500-year Flood in Europe,” “Pollution Chokes All Nations,” “More Huge Dead Zones Discovered in Oceans and Lakes,” “250,000 Starve to Death Daily,” “500 Million Contract Malaria Annually—2.5 Million Children Die,” “5 of 6 Marriages Suffer Adultery,” “Two-thirds of Inner-City Births Illegitimate,” “3,000 Pornography Websites Appear Daily,” “Drug Lords Cause Civil War,” “Government Corruption Adds to Growing Cynicism and Voter Apathy,” “Riots Kill 75” and on and on...

In reality, these headlines are reporting nothing more than a long list of bad effects. Since man does not know the causes, world problems only grow greater and humanity's general state of misery only seems to compound with the passing of time. Headlines scream worse and worse messages to those who can bear to read them.

I ask, why?

### But What If...?

While newspaper editors know that bad news sells, all long for good news in their own lives—and hope that

the world improves. Most people assume that, somehow, problems will eventually “work out alright,” merely because they *want* them to. People *want* to enjoy peace, happiness, abundance, well-being, good health and general prosperity.

Could these things happen for everyone? Could they become universal? Could *all* the peoples of the world come to enjoy *all* these conditions? Is it possible that the problems now plaguing civilization on such a grand scale could abate—and eventually disappear? Could newspapers one day find themselves only able to report GOOD NEWS—everywhere?

Instead of the above headlines, could these replace them?:

“Food Production Sufficient to Feed Entire World—With Plenty to Spare!”, “All Chemical Fertilizers Banned—Soil Begins to Heal from Years of Neglect and Abuse!”, “Food Now Much More Nutritious—and Tastes Better, Too!”

“All Deadly Viruses Eradicated—Including HIV, Ebola, West Nile, Polio and Smallpox!”, “All Lethal Bacteria Disappear—Including E.coli, Tuberculosis, Cholera, Staphylococcus, Salmonella and Bubonic Plague!”, “No More Fatal Illness—Cancer, Strokes, Heart Disease, Diabetes and Other Killers Now Gone!”, “All Blind, Deaf and Crippled Made Whole in Mass Worldwide Healing!”, “No More Sickness—Millions Report Perfect Health!”, “All Hospitals and Clinics Put Out of Business—Millions of Doctors, Nurses, Staff and Paramedics Find More Useful Vocations!”, “All Pharmaceutical Companies Re-oriented and Re-educated to Wise Use of Herbs and Vitamins!”, “Health ‘Breaks Out’ Everywhere—All Report ‘No Problems’!”

“Divorce Disappears—No More Broken Families!”, “No More Fraudulent Marriages—Prenuptial Agreements No Longer Necessary!”, “All Teenagers Practice Respect and Obedience to Parents and

Authority!”, “All Deadbeat Dads Take Responsibility and Find Employment!”, “All Mothers Find Nurturing Children at Home Rewarding!”

“War Outlawed Around the World—All Nations Disarmed!”, “Destructive Weapons Destroyed and Recycled!”, “All Military Personnel Moving into Construction Projects—Rebuilding Bridges and Critical Infrastructure!”, “Many Lands Recover From Civil War—Being Resettled and Farmed Productively!”, “Global Trade Competition Ceases—Nations Cooperate Fully!”

“No More Crime—All Rates Plunge to Zero!”, “Murder—Thing of the Past!”, “Armed Robbery Disappears—So Does Fear!”, “All Thieves Repent—Now Seeking Honest Employment!”, “City Streets Now Safe—Children Play Freely in Once Dangerous Neighborhoods!”

“Education Now Focuses on Right Values—No More ‘Situation Ethics,’ Secular Humanism and ‘No Absolutes’!”, “Bible Taught in All Schools!”, “All Peoples Speak and Learn One Language!”, “Law of ‘Cause and Effect’ Revealed—Explains Why Past Disease, War, Famine, Poverty, Ignorance and Misery!”

“Weather Revolution Brings Stability to World!”, “Today’s Weather—Beautiful Skies and Rain in Due Season Tomorrow!”, “Deserts Blossom Worldwide—Now Favorite Garden Spots!”, “Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Hurricanes and Floods No Longer a Threat!”

Do these headlines sound impossible? They are not. They are real—they are certain. A wonderful, prophesied UTOPIAN WORLD is coming to planet earth. It *will* happen soon—in *your* lifetime!

But that time is not yet.

While many are preoccupied with seeking pleasure and accumulating material goods, others struggle to survive, barely eking out an existence, in many cases hoping to live

just one more day. The world is filled with problems—disease, pollution, poverty, ignorance, religious confusion, war, terrorism, crime, violence, hunger, immorality, slavery, oppression, political upheaval and much more. *Why?* With the passing of time come *more* problems, not less. *Why?* Also, existing problems grow collectively worse instead of better. *Why?* Why, at every turn, has mankind bungled and botched all efforts to solve its truly great problems?

Individually, people have never seemed more incapable of addressing and overcoming their personal problems. As with the world in general, the passing of time finds individuals and families drowning under an ever-greater sea of decadence and seemingly insurmountable difficulties. More and more seem completely incapable of managing their lives.

*Why?*

While men have created many amazing technological inventions, they cannot create solutions to their problems. Mankind has harnessed the power of computers to help process vast amounts of information, but human beings cannot correctly process their personal problems. Scientists have discovered much about the size, magnificence and precision of the universe, but they cannot discover the way to peace. Astronomers can find majestic, beautiful new galaxies throughout the universe, but they cannot find a way to preserve the beauty and majesty of earth. Scientists have also unleashed the power of the atom, but they are powerless to unleash answers to life’s greatest questions. Educators have taught millions how to earn a living, but not how to live.

The well-known presidential historian and columnist Peggy Noonan summarized the complex, jumbled course that has been mankind’s history: “In the long ribbon of history, life has been one long stained and tangled mess, full of famine, horror, war and

*Please see PERSONAL, page 32*

# You *Can* Rear Healthy, Happy Children!



How can you, as a parent, hope to rear moral children in today's immoral world? And can you be sure that what you teach them will stay with them for the rest of their lives? God's Word provides the answers to these questions—and they are not what you would expect!

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

**R**AISING A CHILD in today's violent, morally permissive, "anything goes" world is the most trying, difficult thing a parent could do. To produce a productive, moral and emotion-

ally mature adult, parents must swim against the powerful currents of this world's trends, pulls and overwhelming pressures.

And so many drown under the strain!

Parents must counteract the pulls of

Hollywood, Madison Avenue and MTV, which glamorize rebellious attitudes and self-centeredness.

Parents must contend with a strange generation of youths who are different from previous generations. They have their own subcultures, and their own set of values that would—should—shock adults!

When it comes to childrearing, parents often do not know *what* to do—or *when* to do it.

Do you?

## **Instant Gratification**

Consider television sitcoms: Strong family values, once promoted in the past, have been corrupted into the dysfunctional family values of today.

Consider Hollywood films: Many glamorize sexual immorality. Movie characters change sex partners more often than they change their clothes! Hollywood manipulates audiences to shout for the rebel, the anti-hero and characters who thumb their noses at authority.

Consider the Internet: With a few clicks of a button, your child can access web pages that promote every sick idea known to man. Photographs of twisted and perverted images are only seconds away from your child's mental consumption.

We live in the age of instant gratification, through mass media: Television, music, movies, video games, music videos. All of these deceive children into believing that they are the center of the universe. Our children are constantly bombarded with messages of selfishness, greed and "me first" attitudes. These messages are boxed, wrapped and marketed to an unsuspecting generation in packages of vanity, illicit sex, hatred, physical aggression and rebellion against authority.

Television has spoon-fed garbage for so long that children do not know how to think, or solve problems with their *minds*. Instead, television has taught them to solve problems through *violence* and brute *force*.

Kids no longer read beyond what is required by their schools. To read, one must move his eyes back and forth across the page. And he must *think* about the words and what they describe. This is too much effort for a generation that has been programmed to stare at a TV screen. Television does not require thinking—or effort.

The result? Many youths have never visited a library or even owned a book. Much of their perspective on life is limited to what flashes across a TV screen. And what they constantly see is violence, corruption and widespread immorality. They have little concept of the world of books.

### **A Strange Generation**

Today's youths live in a different world than previous generations—a

world that teaches them that careers come first. That individual fulfillment is more important than raising a family. That stay-at-home mothers are as rare as four-leaf clovers. That households need two-parent incomes, otherwise many families cannot survive.

Consider these alarming statistics:

■ In 1990, 24% of U.S. families were single-parent households. By 1999, it rose to 27%.

■ In 1999, 68% of U.S. children lived in two-parent homes. That's down from 77% in 1980.

■ From July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999, there were 47 violent deaths in U.S. schools.

■ From 1992 to 1999, students were more likely to be victims of theft at school than anywhere else.

■ The U.S. has the highest rate of teen pregnancy of any industrialized nation—one million annually among girls ages 15-19. The United Kingdom is the next highest, with about half a million pregnancies.

■ Of Americans who are infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) annually, more than three million (25%) are teenagers.

■ Each year, about 25% of new HIV cases occur in people ages 13 to 21.

Teenagers have their own subcultures, their own set of values. Teen—and even pre-teen—sex is fast becoming the norm. So are teen pregnancies and STDs. Body piercing, tattoos, drug abuse and widespread fornication have become their way of life.

Notice: "They have dealt treacherously against the LORD: for they have begotten STRANGE CHILDREN: now shall a month devour them with their portions" (Hos. 5:7).

Kids today are cynical, world-weary and emotionally drained. They may *seem* tough and *talk* tough, but inside they are morally weak and spiritually vacant. They lack empathy—they cannot feel for others, but only for themselves. They lack the moral fiber or backbone to do the right thing even when it hurts. Instead, they have stumbled into adulthood believing that "if it feels right, do it."

This did not come about all at once. Modern society has reared a generation of "latchkey kids"—children who come home to an empty house after school. Without adult supervision, they are left to their own devices, practically rearing themselves into adulthood.

Now grown up, they are fiercely independent adults who need little supervision on their jobs. But they never learned to emotionally bond with people. They never learned to feel for others because they have been trained to feel—and fend—only for themselves. They do not know how to build loving, mature relationships. And they show little interest in parents who showed little interest in them.

### **A Valueless Generation**

Many kids today are void of true values. Their hearts are invested in material things, like \$200 sneakers and expensive leather jackets. Some will even kill to possess what others have. To them, life is about status, "getting respect," conforming to peer pressure. They do not care about tomorrow—only about today.

We are rearing a "generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother" (Prov. 30:11). This describes the last generation of every previous great society, which eventually fell—the Romans, Greeks, Babylonians, Egyptians, Assyrians, etc. Each of these great empires produced youths that were proud, arrogant and rotten. Just like today. There is nothing new under the sun (Ecc. 1:9).

We are rearing a "generation that is pure in their own eyes, yet is not washed from their filthiness" (Prov. 30:12). You cannot tell them anything. They already "know it all."

They do not know the meaning of the word "no." They expect parents to reason with them. Every issue is a *negotiation*.

And parents are unbalanced. They do not know how to properly rear their children. Rarely will parents make their kids *do* anything—they give them few

Please see **CHILDREN**, page 32

**The REAL TRUTH**

# Genetically Engineered Foods

## *Why the Controversy?*

As part of the continuing quest to “out-do” God, man has tampered with the very core of our food supply. What are the implications of this trend?

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

**F**OR AT LEAST the last decade, unbeknownst to many, human beings have been eating foods created in laboratories. This is a completely new phenomenon, with no long-term studies having been conducted as to the effects of such food. The human race—serving as guinea pigs—is part of the largest uncontrolled experiment ever undertaken!

Today, about two-thirds of all food available in supermarkets has been genetically engineered. Government agencies have long assured the public that these new “biotech” foods present no threat to human health or the environment. Only now are many realizing the extent to which they have been misled and the ominous consequences of this genetic intrusion.

### **What Is Genetic Engineering?**

Plants and animals consist of millions of cells. Every cell has a nucleus, and inside each nucleus are strings of DNA. As the building block of life, DNA contains the needed information for the structure and function of any particular organism. Comprised of distinct sequences in the DNA chain,

*genes* represent the blueprint of any given organism. All the characteristics of living organisms—whether plant, micro-organism, animal or human—are determined by the information stored in these genes.

Genetic engineering (GE) is the practice of altering that genetic blueprint, to create “genetically altered” (GA) or “genetically modified” (GM) foods, or “genetically modified organisms” (GMOs). Through genetic engineering, scientists can impart desired genetic characteristics by splicing genetic segments of one species into the genes of another. This could never occur naturally. Consider one example: Certain genes from a flounder—a fish—have been inserted into tomatoes in order to give them a longer shelf life.

### **Promises vs. Reality**

Biotech corporations, which develop and market genetically engineered crops, promote their products as ideal solutions to nutrition, world hunger and the environment.

Yet, biotech foods are looked upon with suspicion by most of the world. Only in the U.S. has the biotech pitch been so blindly accepted, as two-thirds of all food consumed here are already genetically engineered. But even this

has been done without public awareness.

The following summarized issues below show how some of the claims presented by biotech promoters fall far short of reality.

These summaries present a cross-section showing how the facts have been suppressed—especially in the U.S.

### **Nutrition**

Scientists claim that their genetically altered crops are nutritionally superior to naturally occurring crops. For example, the promoters of “golden rice” touted it to be superior to natural rice in vitamin A and other nutrients. Extensive testing later revealed this rice to be inferior to natural rice. The well-documented book, *Genetically Engineered Foods: Are They Safe? You Decide*, exposes the façade given to “golden rice” and other biotech foods. It presents ample proof that GE foods are missing vitally important nutrients.

This and related books shed light on biotech claims that their innovations are safe—being no different than the traditional hybridization and cross-breeding practiced over time. However, traditional means of growing crops and breeding animals never violate the natural boundaries of different species.

With the newly developed GE crops and animal species, ominous dangers now exist that were never a factor when working within natural boundaries.

## World Hunger

The developers of GE foods also claim that mutated foods are the answer to the dilemma of world hunger. It is interesting that one of the largest biotech companies has developed the “terminator seed,” in which the seeds produced are sterile. Farmers using this seed would have to purchase their seed annually instead of saving it from previous crops. If such crops were to become universal, as its promoters hope, then 1.4 billion farming families (mostly in third world countries, producing up to 20% of the world’s food supply) would be at the mercy of these biotech companies. Far from seeking a solution to world hunger, it would seem that these companies would hold the world’s poorest farmers hostage, in the interest of greater profits. Fortunately, the vast majority of third-world nations have flatly rejected the use of terminator seeds.

Assuming the biotech industry sincerely hopes to help feed the world, does it have the capacity? The promoters of GE crops claim their crops can produce much higher yields than what normally occurs. Researchers have repeatedly proven biotech claims as false. Genetically engineered seeds do not significantly increase crop

yield. In one study by the *Board of Agriculture of the National Academy of Scientists*, of more than 8,200 field trials, GE soybeans produced fewer bushels of soybeans than those grown from natural seeds.

## Environmental Safety

The claim that GE crops actually require less pesticide has not been proven through practice. In fact, new GE crops can withstand *increased* amounts of pesticides—the very pesticides the biotech companies seek to sell!

Biotech promoters claim that their newly developed crops will help preserve the environment. Ironically, the very companies that developed and promoted DDT and Agent Orange are once again assuring us that their latest innovations—GE crops—are environment-friendly. Farmers in the U.S. have planted over 90 million acres of GE crops for 5 years, constituting one-fourth of total available farmland.

Already, some unexpected surprises have surfaced. In the spring of 1999, scientists at Cornell University discovered that pollen from mutated corn settled on the leaves of milkweed plants, from which the Monarch butterfly larvae feed. The larvae died in just four days. As a result, about half of the Monarch butterfly population has

already died out—threatening its extinction. If the delicate Monarch is the first to die, what will be next?

Where will the cycle end?

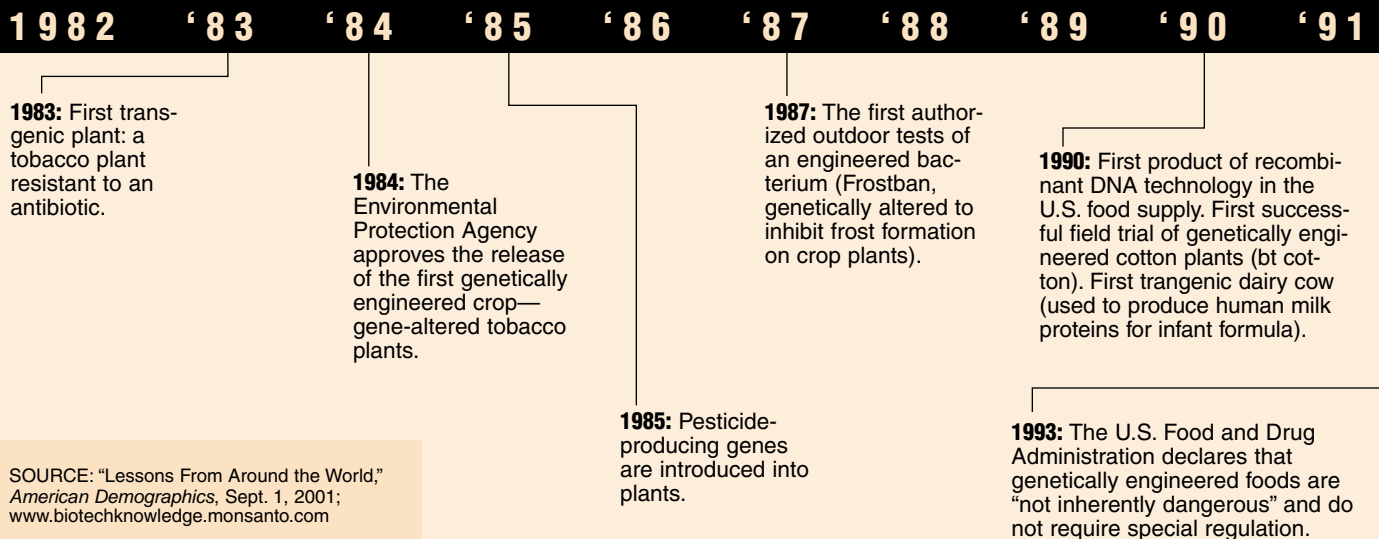
As the mutated GE crops cross-pollinate with other crops in their region, greater dangers will result. This is already beginning to occur. One example is that GE crops—mutated to resist pesticide—cross-pollinate with weeds, causing the rise of pesticide-resistant “superweeds.” Even worse, imagine the implications of the sterilization of natural crops from pollination by “terminator seed” crops.

Mutated Atlantic salmon, developed on biotech fish farms, grow to maturity four times faster than normal. An environmental nightmare would result if any of the mutated fish escaped into the wild and bred with their original species. This would devastate fish populations, because the available food supply could not sustain these fish.

## Pesticidal Potatoes

Genetic engineers have also introduced new versions of potatoes that produce their own pesticides. Most of the potatoes sold in U.S. supermarkets are these mutated potatoes. This potato was given the go-ahead by governmental agencies, quietly bypassing the testing and approval procedures normally required. It is called the New Leaf

# Timeline: Genetically Engineered Foods





Superior and produces its own insecticide, Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), which is naturally produced in certain plants—but never in potatoes. Bt is used to kill the Colorado potato beetle—a real and dangerous threat to potato farmers.

Unfortunately, as has been the case with all other GE foods, these pesticidal potatoes are not labeled. Unless you purchase organic potatoes, there is no way to insure that you are not consuming these pesticidal potatoes. And the long-term effects of ingesting significant amounts of Bt are simply not known.

Besides this novel potato, GE scientists at Edinburgh, Scotland have mixed jellyfish genes with potatoes, resulting in potatoes that glow in the dark when they need watering! Although not intended for human consumption (used only for water monitoring purposes), some ecologists fear that such potatoes could easily become mixed with other potatoes.

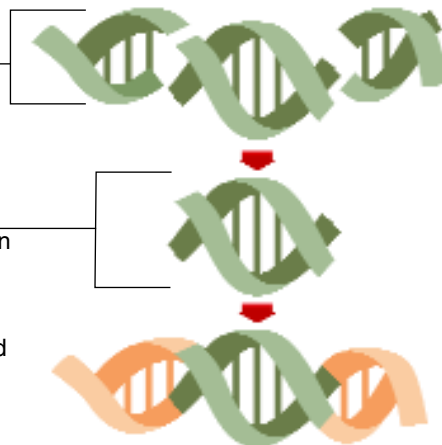
Government agencies, established to function in the public interest, have opted instead to function in the interest of the biotech industry. When questioned about the pesticidal potato, the director of corporate communications for a large biotech corporation told the *New York Times* that “Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is selling as

## Splicing Genes Together

Employing genetic engineering, researchers can take certain genes from a source organism and put them into another plant or animal.

### An Example of Genetic Engineering:

- 1** Scientists take *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a commonly occurring soil bacteria...
- 2** ...and use enzymes to remove from it the Bt gene, which produces a protein that turns toxic in the digestive tract of caterpillars.
- 3** The Bt gene is then incorporated into the chromosomes of cotton and corn, killing caterpillars that feed upon these plants.



SOURCE: North Carolina State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

much of it as possible. Assuring its safety is the FDA’s job” (*Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You’re Eating*).

### Health Concerns

The only way to completely avoid GE foods is to buy or grow your own organic food—literally. The first large-scale commercial harvest of GE crops was in 1996. As of 1999, over a fourth of all crops grown in the U.S. were the GE variety. By now, most of the com-

mercially-grown potatoes, tomatoes and various other vegetables are genetically engineered.

Soybeans, corn and their derivatives account for most GE foods. Currently, over half of all soybeans and corn grown in the U.S. are genetically engineered. The following processed foods are now almost entirely genetically engineered: Tortilla chips (except Frito-Lay), taco shells, veggie burgers, muffin mixes and baby formulas. The following soybean or corn derivatives are also primarily the GE variety: Soy oil, soy flour, lecithin, soy protein, corn

‘92 ‘93 ‘94 ‘95 ‘96 ‘97 ‘98 ‘99 ‘00 2001

**1994:** The Flavr-Savr tomato, designed to resist rotting, is approved by the FDA for sale in the U.S.

**1995:** Herbicide-resistant soybeans introduced, the first bioengineered major crop to be approved for marketing. About one million acres are planted in the U.S. Cotton and corn are next.

**1996:** One of the first shipments of genetically engineered soybeans to Europe is blockaded by Greenpeace in Hamburg, Germany; 100,000 Germans sign petition to ban the seeds. After much controversy, the EU votes to approve imports of genetically modified crops.

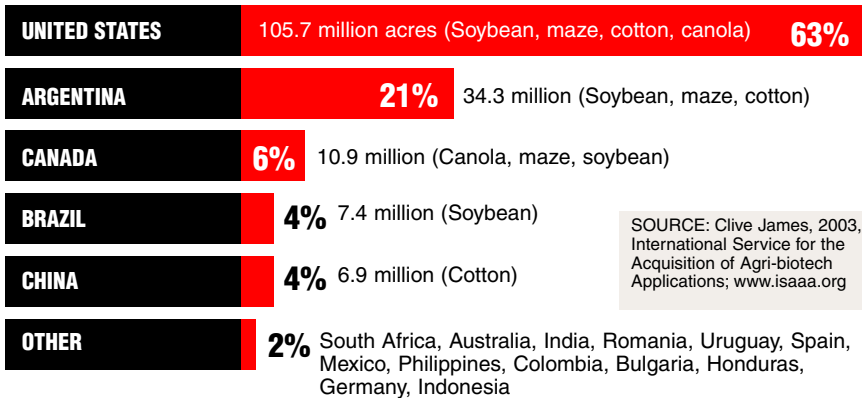
**1998:** More than 100 angry French farmers destroy France’s first biotech corn crop. More than half of the global soybean crop and nearly a third of the corn planted is genetically modified, but 44 percent of Americans say they are “not aware” of genetically engineered foods.

**1999:** Responding to consumer pressure, Britain’s largest grocery chain pledges to phase out biotech foods. Gerber stops using biotech ingredients in its baby foods, even though then-parent company Novartis is a leader in genetic engineering research.

**2001:** After pulling back in 2000 in response to protests and consumer fears, U.S. farmers return to biotech. This year, genetically modified crops cover more than 82 million acres of U.S. farmland, up 18 percent from 2000. The government estimates that 68 percent of all soybeans, 69 percent of cotton, and 26 percent of corn in the U.S. is grown from genetically modified seed. GM crop destroyers/protesters cleared in court case under pretense of doing criminal damage for the public good.

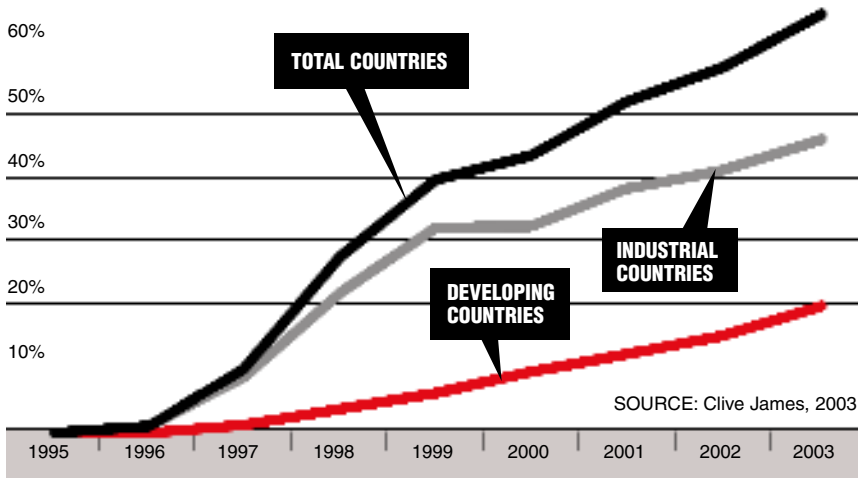
## Top Five Biotech Crop Countries in 2003

Eighteen nations have adopted biotech crops. In 2003, the global area of biotech crops was 167.2 million acres (a 15% increase over 2002).

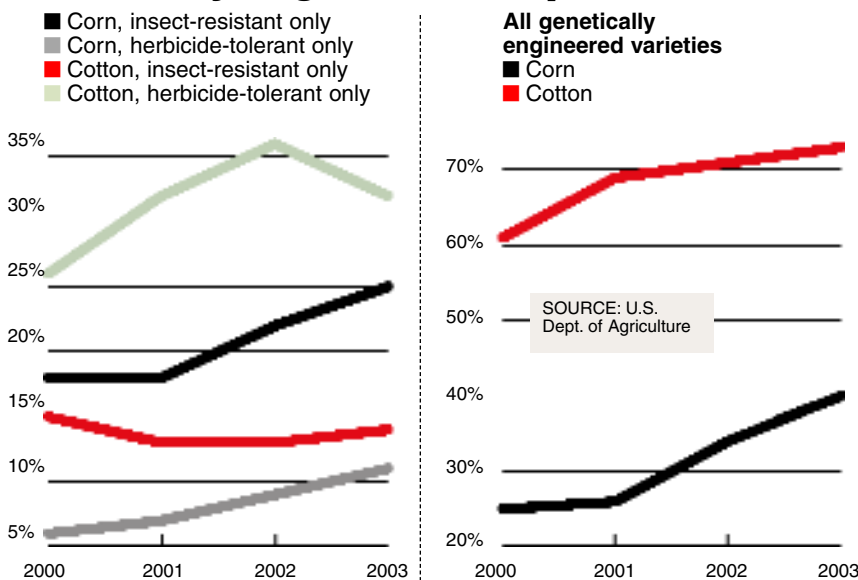


## Worldwide Area of Transgenic Crops

A 15% increase (22.2 million acres) between 2002 and 2003.



## Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S.



oil, corn starch, corn flour and corn syrup. (Gerber and Heinz both indicated that they would no longer use GE products in any of their baby foods.)

Since the bulk of soybeans and corn are fed to farm animals, GE mutated organisms find their way into meat, poultry and dairy products. As a side note, there is also concern about dairy products from cows treated with the bovine growth hormone (rBGH)—another biotech product.

Genetic engineering is a young—and poorly understood—technology. While American agencies have turned a blind eye to possible dangers, the Royal Society of Canada stated that the potential allergic effects and toxicity of GE foods could pose serious risks to human health. European agencies agree with this position and most GE foods have been removed from supermarket shelves there.

In 1996, scientists discovered that mutated soybeans contained genes from the Brazil nut, and also contained the same allergic properties of that nut—something the developers never anticipated. Scientists have also discovered that Bt insecticide-producing potatoes, corn and cotton have produced allergies in people—especially farm workers. *Science News* reported that Ohio crop pickers and handlers in July of 1999 developed allergies due to exposure to Bt—in this case, asthma and other serious allergic reactions.

Most readers will remember the incident in 1989, when a genetically engineered version of the supplement tryptophan produced toxic contaminants. By the time the mutated tryptophan was isolated and recalled, 37 people had died, another 1,500 were permanently disabled, and 5,000 became ill with a serious blood disorder. Yet, the biotech agenda presses on without regrets or hesitation.

### In the Wake of Genetic Engineering

The journal *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease* reported in 1998 that commercial gene technology may be behind the recent resurgence

Please see **ENGINEERED**, page 13

# ev·O·lu·tion

## [FACT or FICTION?]

Can you imagine a rock breathing? Or your house cleaning itself? Ridiculous? Of course! Yet, in essence, this is what evolution teaches. The third installment of this series addresses the many fallacies of the theory of evolution.

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

**I**MAGINE IT IS a hot summer day and you have spent too much time in the sun. Perhaps you are a little red or even sunburned. Over the next few days, an amazing process takes place as your body heals itself from overexposure to the sun.

No doubt, you paid more attention to this process if your skin got to the point of peeling or had become red and sensitive. But look at it from another angle—the amazing adaptability of skin. Through several processes, your skin is shedding its damaged cells and replacing them with new, healthy ones.

Your entire body—from your skin, to your eyes, organs, and brain—is made up of cells. In fact, your body consists of over 250 different kinds of cells totaling about 100 trillion. So efficient and effective are these “little factories” that in seven years, your body will have completely replaced all 100

trillion cells! The design of each of those 250 types varies in shape, size, density and purpose.

The inner functioning of the cell is most fascinating. You can think of any cell as a miniature factory—and miniature it is! Red blood cells, for instance, are 10 times smaller than the width of a single human hair. Yet, even though each individual cell is microscopic, if you placed all the cells in your body end to end, they would encircle the earth 200 times. Astonishing!

So far, we are only talking about the size of cells—never mind their function! Cells are made up primarily of three parts: Membrane, cytoplasm and nucleus.

The *membrane* surrounds the cell, and has the ability to recognize hundreds of substances. Acting as a “traffic cop,” it controls what enters the cell and what is purged.

The *cytoplasm* is the cell’s “factory floor,” on which are *thousands* of machines called *organelles*. At any

given time, there are over 20 different chemical reactions happening in the cytoplasm, for such purposes as: Communication, waste removal, repair, nutrition and reproduction. There is even an elaborate transport system to move products and waste throughout the cell.

While all of this is certainly remarkable, the intrigue of the cell goes even deeper. All of these functions are controlled by the “brains” of the cell—the *nucleus*. The nucleus houses all the information that the cell needs to repair and reproduce itself. This blueprint is made up of chromosomes and genes containing DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

When properly understood, DNA is one of the most breathtaking creations in the entire universe. In an age when computers are getting smaller and smaller, you may often be amazed at how tiny complex gadgets have become.

However, these *pale* in comparison to DNA.

If you transcribed the genetic information for just ONE person onto paper, it would fill a 300-volume encyclopedia set, each volume consisting of 2,000 pages. DNA is stored in an amazingly efficient spiral “staircase.” This is so effective in conserving space, that if you were to unravel this spiral from any human cell, it would be about *six feet in length*. In fact, it has been esti-

mated, that if you placed all the DNA in the human body end-to-end, it would reach the sun and back 400 TIMES!

Yet, all the genetic information needed to replicate the over 6 billion people on earth today could fit into an area of about *1/8 of a square inch*. (To learn much more about the divine fingerprint inside your cells, you may read our free article “The Wrong Assumption,” found on our website [www.RealTruthMag.org](http://www.RealTruthMag.org))

The nucleus, cellular membrane and all the machines in the cytoplasm make up every cell in your body. Now stop for a moment, and recall that there are 100 trillion cells in your body, all with these little machines, factories and “supervisors” constantly working and reproducing. The human body is amazing!

Here is an incredible fact about the largest and smallest cells of the human body: Both are the “bookends” for creating life. The smallest cell is the male sperm cell—spermatozoa. At the other end of the scale is the female egg cell—the ovum. All cells, and therefore all life, fall between these cells in size. But to create life, the largest and the smallest cells combine. It is interesting that the two most important cells of all are the largest and smallest, with all the rest falling in between. Coincidence or design?

So far, we have only discussed the building blocks that make up your body—living matter. As you are well aware, there is another type of matter—non-living. And this brings us to the next assumption in the theory of evolution: At some point in time, long ago, non-living—inorganic—matter made the jump to living matter—organic—thus starting the process of biological evolution.

### **A Breathing Rock?**

Is it possible for a rock to come to life? Could a lump of coal produce a chicken? While such questions seem silly, this is in essence what the theory of evolution teaches. Evolution stands or falls on whether NON-LIVING matter can be transformed, through a series of random events, into organic—

LIVING—matter. This concept is called by many names and explained by many theories, but most of the time, it is referred to as “spontaneous generation,” “chemical evolution,” “abiogenesis” or “biopoiesis.”

(But even to evolutionists, the topic of life’s origin remains a sticky one. Many even go so far as to assert that the origin of life is not related to the evolution of living matter.)

Renowned evolutionist Stephan Jay Gould stated: “Evolution is not the study of life’s ultimate origin as a path toward discerning its deepest meaning. Evolution, in fact, is not the study of origins at all. Even the more restricted (and scientifically permissible) question of life’s origin on our earth lies outside its domain...Evolution studies the pathways and mechanisms of organic change following the origin of life” (“Justice Scalia’s Misunderstanding,” *Natural History*, October 1987).

But is this really the case? Is evolution only restricted to the study of organic—living—matter? Allow geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky to answer: “Evolution comprises all the states of development of the universe; the cosmic, biological, and human or cultural developments. Attempts to restrict the concept of evolution to biology are gratuitous. Life is a product of the evolution of inorganic matter, and man is a product of the evolution of life” (“Changing Man,” *Science*, January 1963).

While the argument put forth by Mr. Gould sounds logical, if we attempt to limit evolution to biology, one is being “gratuitous”—and perhaps deceitful. If evolutionists separate biological evolution from the origin of life, or even the origin of the universe, it opens a big and completely unanswered door: How did events cause the universe and then life, if evolution applies *only* to life? How can life *evolve* if it *never* existed? Evolution must completely encompass the whole process—from that beginning of the universe to the diversity of plant, animal and human life on earth today. No amount of scientific “spin” can change this.

Consider: Why would such a prominent evolutionist blur the facts and separate this popular theory from the matter of life’s *origins*?

### **Unbreakable Laws**

At the absolute heart of the origins of life debate lies a fundamental scientific law—the Law of Biogenesis. It states that *life can only come from life*, that is, only living matter produces living matter. Are you beginning to see the inherent problem with the theory of evolution?

This law is so fundamental that Simpson and Beck’s biology textbook, *Life: An Introduction to Biology* states, “there is no serious doubt that biogenesis is the rule, that life comes only from other life, that a cell, the unit of life, is always and exclusively the product or offspring of another cell.”

Also, Martin A. Moe, a writer for *Science Digest*, recently wrote, “A century of sensational discoveries in the biological science has taught us that life arises only from life...” (“Genes on Ice,” December 1981).

Perhaps the most powerful statement is found as a footnote in Moore and Slusher’s biology textbook: “Some scientists call this a superlaw, or a law about laws. Regardless of terminology, biogenesis has the highest rank in these levels of generalization” (*Biology: A Search for Order in Complexity*, 1974).

These are three conclusive and irrefutable statements about the force and power of this scientific law. How then did evolutionists seem to bypass this law when trying to prove evolution? Are you beginning to understand why they attempt to separate the origin of life from the evolutionary process?

Recently, there has been much ado about scientists being able to produce a synthetic version of the polio virus. Some would say that, at last, it *appears* that man has been able to produce life from non-living synthetic products. But is this true?

This is just smoke and mirrors as evolutionists freely admit that viruses of any kind are *non-living* organisms, because they must have a living host in

order to reproduce. Not to mention that it took careful and deliberate design to produce even these!

So how do evolutionists explain life on earth?

### A Land Far, Far Away!

We have seen that it is impossible for life to have formed from non-living matter. Even many evolutionists will admit this process is “wrapped in a mystery.” However, in an effort to propel a dying theory, they have had to change the *focus* of the argument: If biogenesis cannot happen on earth, then perhaps it could happen in *space*. Take note of the divergence from standard science in this postulate. Generally, when a theory is disproven (spontaneous generation), it is dispelled and another hypothesis is put forward. But in this case, a new hypothesis is created because of the *lack* of evidence to sup-

being ejected from a far away planet, travel through space (all while being bombarded by high levels of deadly cosmic radiation), withstand the extreme heat of penetrating the earth’s atmosphere and finally survive the intense surface impact. How ridiculous! One does not need a degree in science to see how far-fetched such a theory is—yet, incredibly, it is discussed as a possibility!

This whole hypothesis is nothing more than side-stepping the original issue. This is called a “bait and switch.” Instead of addressing the Law of Biogenesis, which they cannot get around, evolutionists attempt to appeal to the great unknown of space as the answer (bait), thus avoiding the original problem (switch).

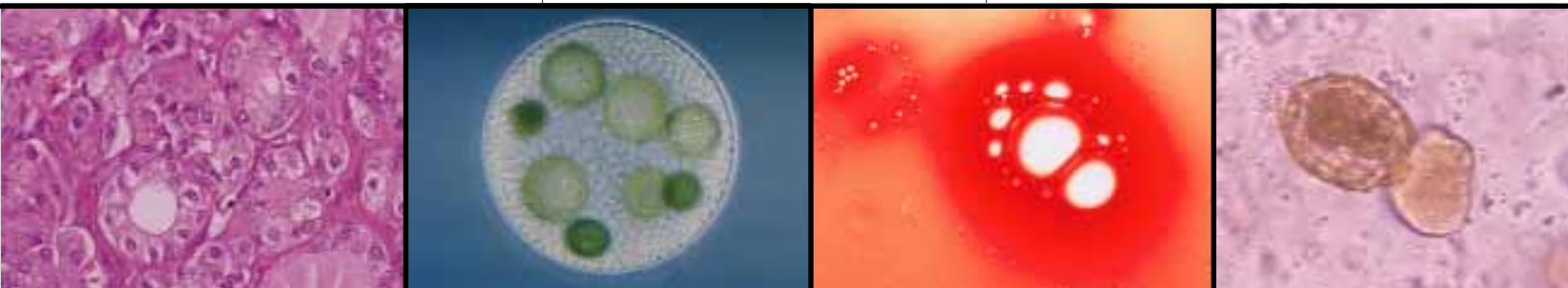
Biogenesis is a UNIVERSAL law. Just as it applies on earth, so does it apply throughout the universe. Moving

### Open or Closed—It Is Still Impossible

For the next assumption, we can use the game of “let’s suppose.” Suppose that the previous assumption was *not* false, and that at some future time, we will discover the naturalistic method in which living matter came into existence.

Obviously, with the proof above, this is quite a supposition. But for the sake of argument, assume there was a time when only very simple organisms, such as amino acids, existed. We can even extend our game of “let’s suppose” a few steps further and suppose that these amino acids had already formed into enzymes. Of course, we are being overly generous to evolution, but it will serve to prove a point.

Now we are ready to shatter this concept by once again bringing in the



port the old ones! And such is the case with so many aspects of evolution—a theory made of straw!

This new theory states that the precursor chemicals for life came from space. Astonishingly, this theory is gaining popularity in the scientific community. For such a theory to be valid, not only would these chemicals or simple amino acids have to be able to endure space travel, they would also have to be able to survive entry into the earth’s atmosphere!

A fact that is seldom mentioned in such discussions is that simple forms of life, as well as all living matter, are *highly unstable*. You see this all around you. Plants, animals and people die and decompose, while rocks and minerals last for millennia.

So, these highly unstable, simple forms of life would have to survive

the problem to outer space does not make it disappear!

So what is the solution proposed by evolutionists who do admit to these issues? They simply apply the *argument to future* logical fallacy (as covered in Part One of this series). They claim it is going to take further advances in science to be able to figure out the cause for life on earth.

This answer is really a “non-answer.” Evolutionists avoid the question and give no *real* answer, because they have none. Meanwhile, evolution is taught as fact in schools. Such fallacies and lack of evidence are the reason why Dr. Louis Bounoure, Director of the Zoological Museum and Director of Research at the National Center of Scientific Research in France, stated that “Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups.”

most fundamental and important law of science in existence today—the Law of Thermodynamics. Albert Einstein called this the premier law of *all* sciences. Sir Author Eddington stated that if “your theory is found to be against the Second Law of Thermodynamics, I can give you no hope; there is nothing for it but to *collapse in deepest humiliation*” (*The Nature of the Physical World*).

These are very strong words from two world-renowned scientists. Other writers have noted that the more that you work with these laws, the more respect you gain for them. Obviously, the Laws of Thermodynamics are absolutely immutable.

While they were touched upon in Part Two of this series, we will cover them in much more detail here. Their importance to all disciplines of science

is obvious from the quotes above. Therefore, to be true, evolution must fall within the constraints of Thermodynamics. Most applicable to this assumption, evolution must fall within the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

### Rewinding the Top?

Thermodynamics comes from two Greek words, *therme*, meaning “heat,” and *dynamis*, meaning “power.” In essence, thermodynamics is the study of “heat power.” The Second Law of Thermodynamics states three basic concepts: (1) Systems gravitate to the most probable (likely) state, (2) systems will gravitate to the most random state, and (3) systems will increase in entropy—the scientific term for “unusable energy.”

It is best explained by world-famous science writer and scientist Isaac Asimov: “Another way of stating the Second Law then is ‘The universe is constantly getting more disorderly!’ Viewed that way we can see the Second Law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and very easily. Even if we never enter it, it becomes dusty and musty. How difficult to maintain houses, and machinery, and our own bodies in perfect working order: How easy to let them deteriorate. In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the Second Law is all about” (“In the Game of Energy and Thermodynamics You Can’t Even Break Even,” *Smithsonian Institute Journal*, June 1970).

Perhaps you are already beginning to see where this law contradicts the theory of evolution.

But evolutionists have not given up yet! In an attempt to make the theory work, a debate between “open” and “closed” systems has arisen. The difference between the two is quite simple. In a closed system, there is no interference from an external source, so the Second Law applies without any complications. The system becomes

more disordered over time strictly in line with the Second Law. On the other hand, it is argued that in an open system, external sources of energy allow a product to have more sustained energy—or increase in useable energy.

In the case of evolution, it is stated that because our sun is supplying ample amounts of extra energy to the earth, this allows for systems to become more complex because they have the necessary energy to do so. And since the sun is winding down, the overall Laws of Thermodynamics in a closed system (the universe) are being met.

Basically, the extra energy from the sun supposedly allows evolution to take place on earth.

But is this true? As we have seen, clever arguments can sometimes be nothing more than smoke and mirrors.

### Energy Alone Doth Not Evolution Make

Can simply applying energy to a system allow it to move to a lower level of entropy? Is that all that is required for evolution to take place? There have been mathematical constructs to show how the Second Law of Thermodynamics *does* apply in an open system. Does evolution fall within these constructs?

While many evolutionists try to hide under the concept of an open system, there are some who do not. For instance, Charles J. Smith stated, “The thermodynamicist immediately clarifies the latter question by pointing out that the Second Law classically refers to isolated [closed] systems which exchange neither energy nor matter with the environment; biological systems are open and exchange both energy and matter. This explanation, however, *is not completely satisfying*, because it still leaves open the problem of how or why the ordering process has arisen (an apparent lowering of the entropy [an increase in useable energy]), and a number of scientists have wrestled with this issue. Bertalanffy called the relation between irreversible thermodynamics and information theory one of the *most fundamental unsolved problems* in biology”

(“Problems with Entropy in Biology,” *Biosystems*, 1975).

As you can see, it was understood decades ago that there are “fundamental unsolved problems” with this concept. Yet, even recently published articles fall back on it.

Raw energy alone is not enough to lower entropy! In fact, for this to happen, multiple conditions must be met. Two are summarized in the following quote from renowned scientists George Gaylord Simpson and W.S. Beck’s textbook *Life: An Introduction to Biology*, “But the simple *expenditure* of energy is not sufficient to develop and maintain order. A bull in a china shop performs work, but he neither creates nor maintains organization. The work needed is PARTICULAR WORK; it must follow SPECIFICATIONS; it requires INFORMATION on how to proceed” (emphasis ours).

“Particular work” requires more than just raw energy. Of course, there must be energy, but that energy must be *directed*. It cannot simply be a “bull in a china shop.” Such uncontrolled, undirected energy will never build—it *always* destroys! This is exactly the reason you should not leave photographs in direct sunlight. Over time, this undirected, raw energy will destroy them.

There is still another condition that must be met for energy to be “useable.” There must be a mechanism to convert one type of energy into another for a specific application. Without fulfilling these conditions, you have nothing more than raw, unbridled energy that will do nothing but destroy.

There *are* natural examples of energy—sunlight in particular—channeled into useful work. The most remarkable—photosynthesis in plants—also serves as the best illustration. Photosynthesis, an energy conversion system, is the process in which plants convert sunlight into the usable energy needed to make plants grow. Because this process is biological, we are dealing with the Second Law of Thermodynamics in an *open* system. In such a case, raw energy is available in the form of sunlight. And because plants have DNA, there is a highly

designed and detailed specification for this “particular work” to be carried out. *All* needed conditions are met and, in such a case, there is a lowering of entropy—an *increase* in usable energy.

There are also similar systems in our body—digestion, respiratory system, etc. Yet in all cases, the conditions described above are satisfied.

To perform specific work, there must be “information”—instructions—for the process to proceed, and a mechanism for those instructions to be carried out. As we have seen, this happens in the leaves of plants, as well as the systems in our bodies.

But you CANNOT perform the highly specific work of evolution by simply supplying energy from the sun and “hope for the best.” No matter the argument, no matter how intensely arms are waved, *no one* can circumvent these fundamental laws of science. They are *immutable*—and, as such, make evolution IMPOSSIBLE!

### Two More Pillars Fall

We have looked at two more of the false assumptions that make up the theory of evolution. The laws of science are SURE! They are absolute and have existed since the beginning of our

universe. Evolution cannot account for the appearance of life on this, or any other planet. Dishonest, yet clever, arguments cannot sidestep the laws of biogenesis or thermodynamics.

As you are learning in this series, evolution *is* simple—*simply* preposterous!

By now, you should be able to clearly and effectively refute the foolish assertions made by evolutionists. More importantly, your slate has been cleaned, and false concepts have been unlearned. The true Source of all life and the universe in which you reside should now be crystal clear! □

## ENGINEERED

*Continued from page 8*

of drug- and antibiotic-resistant infectious diseases.

The report stated, “At the heart of the issue is horizontal gene transfer—the transfer of genes by vectors such as viruses and other infectious agents—which is exploited by genetic engineers to make transgenic organisms. While natural vectors respect species barriers, the barrage of artificial vectors made by genetic engineers are designed to cross species barriers, thus greatly enhancing the potential for creating new viral and bacterial pathogens, and spreading drug and antibiotic resistance. Totally unrelated pathogens are showing up with identical virulence and antibiotic resistance genes.

“Recent statistics are frightening. Infectious diseases were responsible for one-third of the 52 million deaths from all causes in 1995. Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis is now estimated to affect 10 million each year with 3 million deaths. At least 50 new viruses attacking humans emerged between 1988 and 1996. Between 1986 and 1996, *E. coli* 0157:H7 infections increased 10-fold in England and Wales and 100-fold in Scotland. Vancomycin resistance rose from 3 percent to 95 percent in San Francisco hospitals in the four years between 1993 and 1997. And *Staphylococcus* is

now invulnerable to all known antibiotics.

“The first genetic engineers called for a moratorium in the Asilomar Declaration of 1975, precisely because they were afraid of inadvertently creating new viral and bacterial pathogens. The worst case scenario they envisaged may be taking shape. Commercial pressures led to regulatory guidelines based largely on untested assumptions, all of which have been invalidated by recent scientific findings. For example, biologically “crippled” laboratory strains of bacteria can often survive in the environment to exchange genes with other organisms...We may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg...”

In spite of mankind’s defilement of the creation, there remains one source of hope for the restoration of the entire ecosystem. This calls upon the existence of a Creator who is able and determined to restore the purity of air, water, soil and even the integrity of plant and animal life as it once existed.

At the creation of man 6,000 years ago, *God* created certain herbs and plants for food (Gen. 1:12, 29). Ever since, mankind has tried to improve on *God’s* perfect creation—and in every case has failed!

At the outset of the millennial reign of Christ on earth, the waters and land will have to be miraculously healed and purified from the abuse and arrogance of mankind. Ezekiel 47:8-12 describes part of this process, in which

the waters, fish, other aquatic life, the flora and fauna, and the land itself will be restored to the purity that *God* intended. Nothing short of the miraculous power of *God* will be able to restore the otherwise *irreversible damage* caused by mankind’s destruction of the earth and all life upon it.

### A New Civilization

A new world order truly awaits those who live to experience the millennial reign of Christ on this earth. As the ecosystem is being healed, a rebuilding program will begin, as the earth emerges from its state of ruins and ashes. A new civilization will be formed, from the ground up.

Under the new government, with the glorified Christ at the helm, the population of the earth (though no more than a tenth of the present population) will be given new purpose in life. Urban congestion will no longer exist, as the vast majority of people are spread out in an agrarian lifestyle.

At that time, every family will grow a sizable portion of their own food on their own land, in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility: “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it” (Micah 4:4). You can learn much more about this incredible GOOD NEWS just ahead by reading our book *TOMORROW’S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!* □

# GOOD WORKS

## *Do You Have Them?*

The Bible has much to say about good works. If asked, most people would say they strive to do them. Yet, few truly understand what good works really are!

BY JAMES F. TURCK

**H**OW OFTEN have you answered your phone to hear a voice on the other end asking you to give money to support this or that charity? How many times have you seen television commercials asking for your support of the underprivileged, needy, homeless or hungry?

And then there are the countless telethons and music concerts to which people from all walks of life give their time and money. Celebrities often lend their names in support of disease research, environmental causes, and efforts to relieve suffering around the world—giving millions of dollars of their money.

Many sincere, caring individuals spend multiple hours in community service. They perform volunteer work

helping to feed the hungry. They work in homeless shelters, serving in soup lines. They build homes for Habitat for Humanity and the like. Still others visit prison inmates or work with abused women and children in shelters.

Then others, considered by most to be religious, give years of their life (sometimes their entire life) to performing missionary work in remote parts of the world. One might call to mind Mother Teresa, who, having no children of her own, spent her lifetime trying to relieve the suffering of third-world children.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, some 59 million people performed volunteer work between September 2001 and September 2002, spending a median of 52 hours volunteering during the year. Roughly 28 percent of volunteers reported giving

between 100 to almost 500 hours of their time. Most of this volunteering was done by religious organizations.

And certainly not to be forgotten are all the corporations and major sports leagues, as well as the athletes, who contribute to various causes.

There are over 1.4 million charities, including religious organizations, in the United States alone, with 70 percent of households contributing in some fashion.

Consider: Total charitable giving reached an estimated \$240.92 billion for 2002, a historic level, lifted by growth in giving from corporations and estates, according to *Giving USA*, a report released by the AAFRC Trust for Philanthropy.

Of course, most people feel the desire to help in whatever way they can. They might give in smaller ways, such as donating clothes or blood to the Red Cross, or tossing a few dollars into the container for Ronald McDonald House, found inside most McDonald's restaurants.

### **"It's For a Good Cause"**

Very few people desire to be thought of as not wanting or willing to support a "good cause." How often have you heard people say they would give their



time or money as long as it is for a good cause? Would not most consider such actions *good works*? Of course they would! No one would even venture to call works such as these bad, wrong or evil.

Even in the secular world, the belief is that by getting involved in these causes—doing their part through “good works”—the goal of making this world a better place can be achieved. This is especially true among those who have strong “Christian” beliefs. They believe it is actually *required* of them—that it is their duty as Christians to “spread the kingdom of God.” After all, Jesus Christ stated, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). Even the apostle Paul later wrote, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has

all of mankind’s efforts, none of these problems have been solved or eradicated—rather, they only grow worse! All of man’s efforts—all his *works*—have amounted to prescribing aspirin to cure cancer.

Why?

Man does not understand that he really does not have good works. Therefore, he never gets to the CAUSE, only treating the EFFECTS. The Bible records that “There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 16:25). It is man’s *ways*—his *WORKS*—which are the *cause* of all the troubles in the world.

It is a matter of cause and effect. Because of iniquity—lawlessness—the world is cut off from God (Isa. 59:1-3). And the human race is simply receiving the wages, in the form of pain, suffering, wars and the like, for

Me, you that work iniquity [lawlessness]” (Matt. 7:21-23).

Outwardly, most people *appear* to do good, yet, in their private lives, they practice lawlessness—the breaking of God’s Law, His Ten Commandments. *This* is why the world is the way it is! Violation of God’s perfect law of love has produced the world in which we live.

A young man approached Jesus and asked, “Good Master, what good thing [work] shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” Christ replied, “Why call you Me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if you will enter into life, *keep the commandments*” (Matt. 19:16-17). Keeping the laws of God automatically brings blessings. Keeping them produces true peace, joy, prosperity, health, happy families, abundant living—and eventually leads to eternal life.

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“Man does not understand that he really does not have good works. Therefore, he never gets to the CAUSE, only treating the EFFECTS.”

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before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

Certainly these scriptures command us to make the world a better place—right? Are not the examples above the good works that Christians must perform? Should not everyone strive to work in soup lines, raise money for charities, etc.?

Consider this: Did you know it is possible to do all of these works in Christ’s name and His reply will be “I never knew you: depart from Me” (Matt. 7:23)? How could this be? And if these things are not good works, then what are?

### Examine Mankind’s Progress

Few ever stop to consider world conditions today, and how the world has come to be this way. Why the ever-increasing suffering, sickness, disease, homelessness, ignorance, unrest, wars and world troubles? What is the CAUSE of all these world conditions? Despite

the works people have performed. This may seem unbelievable, but it is true nonetheless.

Titus 1:16 states, “They profess that they know God; but in *works* they deny Him, being ABOMINABLE, and DISOBEDIENT, and unto every GOOD WORK REPROBATE.” People can literally say they know God, performing what many consider good deeds, even in Christ’s name. Yet by their works, they show that they do not truly follow what Christ taught.

How is this so? Christ’s own words provide the answer: “Not every one that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name? And in Your name have cast out devils? And in Your name done many *wonderful works*? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from

Concluding that the kingdom of God is here on earth now, many feel that it is their “Christian duty” to spread it worldwide, through good works. But the kingdom is *not* here! (To learn more, you may request our free booklet *What is the KINGDOM OF GOD?*)

In addition to keeping the Commandments, God expects those who are called—who understand His truth—to also support His Work (Luke 17:10).

At this time, God has called a few out of this world for a special purpose. His Church is called to do His Work of preaching the gospel of the “kingdom of God” (Matt. 24:14), teaching the full truth to “all nations” (Matt. 28:19-20) and warning (Ezek. 33:1-19) the modern-day nations descended from ancient Israel of what is coming and why!

These are the *true* good works for which we were created! □

# CHRIST'S RESURRECTION was **NOT** on Sunday

Did Jesus rise from the grave on Sunday morning? Had He been there for three days and three nights? He said this was the *only sign* (Matt. 12:40) that He was the Messiah! Does—can—this sign coincide with the tradition of a *Good Friday* crucifixion near sunset and a sunrise resurrection on *Easter Sunday*?

BY DAVID C. PACK

**W**HAT PROOF DID Christ offer that He was the Messiah? The Pharisees challenged Him on this very point and He gave them an answer—His *sign* that He was true: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a *sign*; and there shall no *sign* be given to it, but the *sign* of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be *three days and three nights* in the heart of the earth” (Matt. 12:39-40).

How, then, does the “Good Friday-Easter Sunday” tradition fit? Can 72 hours (three days and three nights) be made to fit into a period between late day Friday and early Sunday morning? Why do so few even seem to question this *only sign that Christ said He would give that He was the Messiah*? Could He have been wrong on this single great proof of who He was and still have been the Messiah?

Since no one directly witnessed His Resurrection, we must examine the only available authority on this great event—your Bible! The apostle Paul said to “Prove all things; hold fast that

which is good” (I Thes. 5:21). The Bible is the revealed Word of God. It is His written revelation to mankind. Prepare to be shocked at what the Bible *does* and *does not* say on this vital point!

While professing Christians willingly accept the common traditions of *men*, true disciples (learners, students) of Christ want to know what HE says. Christ warned, “In vain do they worship Me teaching for doctrines the *traditions* of men” (Mark 7:7).

What standard will you use? Will you accept the recorded facts of history found in God’s Word—or continue with the familiar, comfortable *traditions* of men?

## **The Tremendous Importance of His Sign**

Is it any surprise that Satan the devil would want to deny that Christ was the Messiah? Is it any surprise that he would seek to relegate the story of Jonah and the “whale” to folklore, myth, symbolism and superstition? If this miracle never occurred, then Christ’s sign, based entirely upon it, is nothing more than hollow and pointless allegory.

Consider what is at stake in Jesus’ statement in Matthew 12:39-40. Jesus placed His ENTIRE IDENTITY on the line

with His sign. If He failed His only sign, then He is not our Savior and *nothing* He said can be trusted. In effect, if His prophecy of this sign *failed*, then He must be considered a false prophet. He would be a fraud and should not be followed—and MANKIND HAS NO SAVIOR!

Do not confuse the *fact* of the resurrection’s occurrence as being the sign, with the question of “how long”—the precise *length of time*—He would be in the grave before His resurrection took place. *This* was the test of His sign.

Be under no illusion about the position of Bible critics—sometimes known as “higher critics.” While it is embarrassing to watch them try to explain away Christ’s only sign, they really have no choice. If Christ’s sign remains intact, the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition would be exposed as groundless—false—and collapse in a heap!

Some Bible commentaries nearly leave one breathless in astonishment when they assert that three days and three nights, in the Greek language, can actually mean *three periods of time*—either day or night. Friday night, Saturday daylight and Saturday night are portrayed as these three “periods” of time.

At least some are honest enough to acknowledge that the Friday-Sunday tradition is, in fact, only about *half* the length of time that Christ said He would be in the grave.

## **What Are Days and Nights?**

Can we know for certain or must we speculate on the meaning—the definition—of a *day* or the meaning of a *night*? Does the Bible leave this defini-

tion open to opinion—with one man’s opinion as good as another?

Jonah 1:17 plainly says, “And Jonah was in the belly of the fish *three days and three nights*.” The Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Here, scholars face a dilemma when they explore the phrase “three days and three nights.” Some of these same “scholars”—who are actually *critics*—acknowledge that the Hebrew language must mean a 72-hour period of time. There is no room for any “periods of time” theories in the Hebrew.

Here is the problem! Christ said His time in the grave would be “*as* Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish’s belly...” The word “*as*” sets the standard of comparison. It leaves no room to “negotiate” the meaning of the Greek. The margin of Jonah 2:2 even compares Jonah’s time in the “great fish” to “the grave.” In this verse, the Hebrew word translated “hell” is *sheol*. It literally means “the grave.” The comparison of Christ to Jonah—in a grave—becomes complete.

Did Christ understand the length of a “day” or the length of a “night”? He did! In John 11:9-10, He asked, “Are there not TWELVE HOURS in a day?...But if a man walk in the night, he stumbles.”

The Bible mentions in several places that Christ rose “the third day.” How long was this? The first half of the creation chapter, in Genesis 1:4-13, plainly says that God “divided the light from darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. And the evening [darkness] and the morning [light] were *the first day*...And the evening [darkness] and the morning [light] were *the second day*...And the evening [now THREE periods of darkness called *night*—three nights] and the morning [now THREE periods of light called *day*—three days] were *the third day*.”

This is the Bible’s definition of the length of time accounted for within the phrase “the third day.” It spanned three periods of darkness and three periods of light. We have proven that each of these periods is twelve hours. Six

times twelve hours equals 72 hours! What could be more plain?

### **The Source of the Problem**

We have now established the exact duration of Christ’s time in the tomb as a 72-hour period. He *was* there for three days and three nights “as Jonah was...” We will shortly examine four additional scriptures that prove the same thing.

In Mark 7:13, Christ strongly warns against “making the word of God of none effect through your tradition.” How is it that intelligent, well-educated Bible scholars seem to “know” that Jesus was crucified on Friday and resurrected on Sunday? What is it about Christ’s clear, straightforward sign that they cannot accept? The answer lies in the comfort of long-held but clearly FALSE *traditions*!

One of the most important rules of Bible study is to gather *all* of the scriptures on a subject to get the complete picture of that subject. There are other scriptures that prove the 72-hour duration of Christ’s time in the tomb.

John 2:19-21 states, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and *in* three days I will raise it up...But He spoke of the temple of His body.” Clearly, the use of the phrase “*in* three days” means that Christ’s time in the tomb *could not exceed* 72 hours—or it would not be *within* the three-day period.

Conversely, Matthew 27:63 establishes Jesus’ time in the tomb as not *less than* three days, or 72 hours, for it says, “*After* three days I will rise again.”

Examining two additional verses in Mark’s gospel account proves the same parameters of John 2 and Matthew 27. Notice Mark 8:31: “And He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and *after* three days rise again.” A late Friday afternoon entombment means a late *Monday afternoon* resurrection. It is as simple as counting one, two, three! Finally, in reference to this verse, if it stood alone without other

scriptures to qualify it—it must be plainly admitted that Christ’s use of the word “*after*” does not, by itself, *limit* His time in the tomb to 72 hours. He could still be there longer. He just could not be there one bit *less than* 72 hours. This much should now be clear.

We are now ready for Mark 9:31: “They shall kill Him; and *after* that He is killed, He shall rise *the third day*.” This verse presents another *limitation* on Christ’s time in the tomb. Consider! This verse, if taken by itself, places His time in the grave between 48 and 72 hours. The phrase “the third day” *caps* the duration at 72 hours—but it also creates a minimum of 48 hours—or the period would be somewhere in *the second day*! Again, if this verse is to be taken alone, a Friday afternoon crucifixion requires a resurrection somewhere *after* late Sunday afternoon and no later than late Monday afternoon.

### **Establishing the Time of the Resurrection**

The following fact should be clear. The exact moment and time of day when Christ was placed in the tomb had to coincide with the exact time of day of His Resurrection. We must establish *precisely when* Christ was placed in the tomb. We will then know precisely when He left the tomb. Plainly, *any* time of day or night—morning, noon, afternoon, evening, midnight, etc.—that Christ would have entered the tomb would have to be the very same time He would depart it by His resurrection!

While on the stake, after “the ninth hour” (three o’clock in the afternoon), Jesus “cried out” (Matt. 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:44-46) and died. Luke 23:44 also makes a reference to “*the sixth hour*, and there was darkness in all the earth until *the ninth hour*.” The sixth hour is six hours after sunrise—or noon! This would make the ninth hour three o’clock.

These events occurred on the day before “the Sabbath”—the day called “the preparation” (Matt. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54). We should recognize that the Bible counts days as the period from evening to evening (Lev.

23:32) or sunset to sunset. Recall Genesis 1: "...the evening [night or darkness] and the morning [day or light]..."

John 19:42 explains, "There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' *preparation day*." Jewish burial law (vs. 31) forbade the bodies of the dead remaining unburied at the outset of any Sabbath day or feast day. Remember, Luke 23:46 explained that Christ died at, or shortly after, three o'clock in the afternoon. He would have been buried soon thereafter—prior to sunset.

We have not yet established the day of the week that the crucifixion occurred. However, our previous computation and comparison of related scriptures reveals that Christ must have risen sometime after three o'clock in the afternoon—on whatever would have been the day that was three days later.

A brief summary is in order at this point. Again, Christ's Messiahship is at stake. Based on when He was buried (sometime between three and six o'clock on the day of His crucifixion), His sign as our Messiah was that He must—I repeat *He must*—rise at the same time 72 hours later. Otherwise, He is an impostor and a fraud, and we have no Savior. Unless we wish to make "the word of God of none effect through [our] tradition," we must now admit that a popular, great tradition has crashed in a heap of rubble. Some honest questions remain.

**The Crucifixion Preceded a Sabbath— But Which Sabbath?**

We have now reached the important issue of when to start counting the 72-hour period of Christ's sign. It involves the Sabbath. But *which* Sabbath? Could this question lie at the heart of why people assume a Friday crucifixion? We have already proven from all four Gospels that the day of Christ's crucifixion was called "the preparation." John 19:14 explains "it was the preparation *of the Passover*." However, verse 31 goes further by stating, "for that sabbath day was an *high day*." What does this mean?

What is a Sabbath that is a *high day*?

Any Jew will tell you that a "high day" is a FEAST DAY or an ANNUAL HOLY DAY! Leviticus 23 describes seven of these days that the nation of ancient Israel was commanded to keep year by year. A simple review of this chapter (verses 24, 26-32 and 39) reveals that God considered these days to be Sabbaths. Notice that Leviticus 23:2 refers to all of these Sabbaths as "the *feasts* of the LORD" and "even these are my *feasts*." This same verse also calls them "holy convocations"—meaning commanded assemblies. These days do not fall on the same day, year after year, any more than do the common pagan holidays that most people observe today.

Matthew 26:2 states, "You know that after two days is the feast of the

passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." (Leviticus 23 shows that the Passover was the one feast that was not also a Sabbath, wherein work was prohibited.) There is no doubt that Christ was crucified on the Passover. (Read our free booklet *How often should THE LORD'S SUPPER be taken?*)

The original Passover is described in Exodus 12. A lamb was slain and the blood of this lamb was struck over the doorposts of all the Israelite houses. It was this blood that caused the death angel to *pass over* any particular house, thus saving the firstborn of that house from death! Hence, the term "passover."

The Old Testament Passover always preceded the annual Sabbath called the first Day of Unleavened Bread. This day was a high day or a feast day to be celebrated each year, again, on the day immediately following the Passover. Notice Numbers 28:16-17: "And in the *fourteenth* day of the first month is the *passover* of the LORD. And in the *fifteenth* day of this month is the *feast*." This feast was the first Day of Unleavened Bread.

Jesus Christ was slain by crucifixion on the exact same day that the Passover lamb had been slain every year. While the above referenced booklet will take the reader into greater detail on this point, suffice to say that I Corinthians 5:7 plainly states, "Christ *our passover* is sacrificed for us." John the Baptist called

**Chronology of Events: The Death, Burial and Resurrecti**

Month of Abib (Nisan), A.D. 31

**14<sup>th</sup> PASSOVER**

(WEDNESDAY)

■ **Morning (after dawn):** Christ is tried and condemned.

■ **Evening (Tuesday after sunset):** Christ institutes footwashing ceremony and the new Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine.

■ **Night (before dawn):** Christ is betrayed and arrested.

■ **Afternoon (between 3 and 6 p.m., near sunset):** Jesus' body is buried.

■ **Afternoon (about 3 p.m.):** Christ dies.



**15<sup>th</sup>**

(THURSDAY)

**ANNUAL SABBATH**  
(First Day of Unleavened Bread)

**FIRST NIGHT AND DAY**  
of Christ being dead and buried in the grave.



Christ “the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Christ was crucified on the Passover and this day then would automatically be a preparation day for the feast day, or annual high day Sabbath—which was to begin almost immediately after His burial.

As mentioned, annual Sabbaths could occur on any day of the week. Tuesday and Thursday are more common than any other day for the first Day of Unleavened Bread, following the Passover. Thursday is probably the most common of all. For instance, in the thirty-six years (counting inclusively) between 1998 and 2033, the first Day of Unleavened Bread occurs on a Thursday 12 times, and on a Tuesday 10 times. All other days are less often during this period. In the year of Christ’s crucifixion, according to the Hebrew calendar, the *Passover occurred on a Wednesday!* This means that the annual Sabbath had to be one day later—or Thursday! *It was, in fact, THIS SABBATH that was approaching, thus requiring the swift burial of Jesus’ body prior to its arrival.* The weekly Sabbath, or Saturday, was to occur two days after that.

**Which Was the Day of the Resurrection?**

If Christ’s Resurrection was *not* on Sunday, then when was it? The world commonly believes that it was Sunday morning. Does the Bible say this, or have millions made an assumption?

John 20:1 says, “The first day of

the week comes Mary Magdalene early, *when it was yet dark*, unto the sepulchre, and sees the stone taken away from the sepulchre.” Compare this verse with Mark 16:2 and Luke 24:1.

It is now very early Sunday morning (it is still dark) and the tomb is open. Do these verses supply the supposed proof for the Sunday resurrection tradition? Do they support “Easter sunrise services”? A problem already presents itself. Christ is gone from the tomb *before* sunrise!

Now notice Luke 24:6. Mary Magdalene, and the others with her, are described as finding two angels standing before them. These angels stated plainly to these women, “He is not here, but *is risen*.” Also see Mark 16:6 and Matthew 28:5-6.

Christ was GONE—He was *already* risen! Notice the past tense of the two angels’ statement.

We can now establish the *day* of Christ’s resurrection. We have already established the *time* of day of His death and the burial soon thereafter and, therefore, also the time of His resurrection. It was late afternoon, between 3 and 6 p.m. Obviously, Christ was already risen, by this time, in the darkness of Sunday morning—*because He had been gone from the grave since late afternoon on SATURDAY!* Let us state this plainly. Christ died on the late afternoon of a Wednesday Passover and was resurrected three days later on the late after-

noon of the very next Saturday.

Thus, the resurrection did not even occur on Sunday—period!

**Christ’s Sign Fulfilled**

Who will you believe? Will it be theologians, scholars, higher critics and other traditionalists, who love to profess Jesus, but reject the sign that He gave? Or will you believe the words of your Bible—that Jesus Christ rose from the dead exactly as He said He would?

It is now time to read a different Gospel account of the two angels’ statement to the women at the tomb. This time notice Matthew 28:6. It states, “He is not here: for He is risen, *as He said*.” This would be impossible if Christ had been in the grave one second more or one second less than 72 hours. The One who said, “Are there not twelve hours in a day?” was well aware of exactly how long His sign required that He remain in the “belly of the earth”—the grave.

Not only did Christ state that He would fulfill His sign but it was also established by the mouth of two witnesses (Deut. 17:6; 19:15), who happened to be mighty angels of God.

Paul adds a final, great, corroborating proof that Christ *did* spend three entire days and three entire nights—from late Wednesday afternoon until late Saturday afternoon—in the tomb. In I Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul validates the words of Christ and the two angels who witnessed His fulfillment. Notice:

**on of Jesus Christ**

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
(FRIDAY)

**SECOND NIGHT AND DAY**  
of Christ being dead and buried in the grave.

**17<sup>th</sup>** WEEKLY SABBATH  
(SATURDAY)

**THIRD NIGHT AND DAY**  
of Christ being dead and buried in the grave.

■ **Near sunset:**  
Jesus Christ is resurrected from the dead.



“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins *according to the scriptures*; And that He was buried, and that He rose again THE THIRD DAY *according to the scriptures*.”

Further, the prophet Daniel gave a prophecy he described as “seventy weeks” (Dan. 9:24-27). In this prophecy, the Messiah was foretold to be cut off “in the *midst* of the week.” Wednesday is literally the fourth, or middle day, of a seven-day week. So then, it *was* in the “midst of the week” that Christ was “cut off.” (It should be noted that this prophecy in Daniel was a foretelling of Christ also being “cut off” in the midst of His ministry—after 3 1/2 years [Fall A.D. 27 to Spring A.D. 31]—if the biblical application of “a day for a year” is properly applied to the seventieth week of that prophecy.)

### **Are There Other Questions for Examination?**

Some will say, “But what about this scripture or what about that scripture or this point or some other point?” Are there other questions that should be examined?

Some ask about Mark 16:9. Certain people suppose that this verse proves the Sunday resurrection theory. Does it? Simply reading the verse makes plain that it does not say Christ “was rising” but rather He “was risen” from the grave. Take time to read the verse. It uses past tense because, as we have seen, Christ had been gone from the grave for about twelve hours (since late Saturday afternoon) by this time on Sunday morning.

But what about Luke 24:21? It states, “...and beside all this, today is *the third day* since *these things* were done.” The phrase “these things” is a reference to all the events related to the crucifixion. Verses 18-20 describe the particulars of “these things” to be Christ’s delivery to Pilate, His trial, His crucifixion, His beating, His death, up to the setting of the seal and the watch over His tomb, which occurred the following day—Thursday. This discussion occurred on Sunday, and

Sunday *was* the third day since all of “these things” were completed (on Thursday) with the setting of the watch on Christ’s tomb. Therefore, this is not a verse which can be used to set aside everything that all of the other scriptures on this subject have proven.

### **A Final Proof**

Matthew 28:1 contains an important statement that bears examination before this subject can be laid to rest. Notice that this verse begins with the phrase “In the end of the sabbath.” Most versions render it this way, but some use the phrase “After the Sabbath.” The Ferrar Fenton translation correctly renders this phrase. Fenton translates this phrase with “after the Sabbaths” (plural). Fenton is possibly the only translator to note that the original Greek has the word “sabbaths” in the plural. This is important. We will see why.

Notice Mark 16:1: “Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices.” Their purpose was to anoint the body of Jesus. They were not able to buy their spices until *after* the Sabbath was passed. Yet Luke 23:56 explains that they prepared these spices “and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.” While this may appear confusing, it need not be if these two passages are studied carefully.

Only one possible explanation emerges. It is that these women bought and prepared their spices on Friday, *after the Thursday annual high day Sabbath*—or the first feast day of Unleavened Bread—and then rested on the weekly Sabbath, which was Saturday according to God’s plain command found in Exodus 20:8-11.

Mark 16:1 and Luke 23:56 must refer to *two separate Sabbaths* of that crucifixion week—with a day in between, Friday. Any other explanation creates a contradiction of scripture and the Bible *never* contradicts itself.

### **Sunday Is Not “The Lord’s Day”**

There is another very important reason why theologians and many others

*must* conclude that the resurrection *was* on Sunday! Sunday is commonly referred to as “the Lord’s Day.” While the true Lord’s Day of the Bible is actually the *Day of the Lord*—the day of his wrath (Joel 2:1-11; Rev. 1:10; 15:1, 7)—the term “the Lord’s Day” has come to be synonymous with Sunday. But why? The reason is simple. If Sunday can be established as the day that Christ was resurrected, it can be a means of validating and “authorizing” the keeping of Sunday by the churches of the world, in place of God’s true Sabbath.

You have already seen references to the Sabbath day in this article. Exodus 20:8-11 shows that the keeping of the Sabbath is the Fourth Commandment! It was always the seventh day of the week and God never authorized Sunday—which would be keeping the *first day* instead. God hallowed it at creation—long before there were any Jews or Israelites to keep it (Gen. 2:1). The Sabbath was to be kept “forever”—“continually”—and “throughout the generations” of Israel, God’s intended model nation (Ex. 31:12-17). Christ kept it (Luke 4:16) and said that He was Lord of it and that it was “made for *man*” (Mark 2:27-28). He did not say it was “made for *the Jews only*.” Paul observed it (Acts 13:42, 44; 17:2; 18:4).

The subject of keeping the Sabbath as God’s command for true Christians is a big subject requiring its own book to explain it. More than the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition collapses if Christ was in the grave for 72 hours instead of 36. The largest single reason for the unscriptural *tradition* (recall Mark 7:7) of Sunday-keeping collapses at the same time. God has always said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Ex. 20:8). He has never said, “Remember *Sunday* to keep it holy—and just call it the Lord’s day!” The reader is left to ponder this.

(Request our free book *The SABBATH or Sunday—which?* for absolute proof of which day is the Christian Sabbath.) □

# Enslaved and Forgotten

Many believe that the future is bright for our children. And yet, many children of this world are enslaved, trafficked, and forgotten. Here is the tragic reality of the loss of innocence.

BY MARK P. DENEÉ

**I**N THIS TWO-PART series, we address the tragic abuse of children worldwide. The first part covered the issue of child soldiers, or the enslavement of children to fight war.

This second part will address other forms of child enslavement; children of parents who are enslaved in one form or another; and the tragedy of abandonment. Some of these issues may be distant, but others will hit close to home. We will address why these horrendous situations occur, and when and how they will end.

## Child Enslavement

Slavery has been a terrible but regular occurrence throughout history. Unfortunately, most people immediately relate the issue only to the tragic history of slavery in America. Yet, down through time, other peoples have been enslaved in other parts of the world.

Most people also largely believe that slavery is a thing of the past—that somehow with the recent “social advances” of the Western world, others no longer take advantage of the poor and desperate.

But slavery is alive and well today! Even more tragic is the level to which *children* are involved. In fact, at this very moment, children are being enslaved by some of the most evil industries man has created.

An article in the September 2003 *National Geographic*, “21<sup>st</sup> Century Slaves,” by Andrew Cockburn, reported that there are currently 27



million men, women and children who are enslaved—defined as “physically confined or restrained and forced to work, or controlled through violence, or in some way treated as property.”

Mike Dottridge, former director of *Anti-Slavery International*, began to explain why: “Back then, black people were kidnapped and forced to work as slaves. Today vulnerable people are lured into debt slavery in the expectation of a better life. There are so many of them because there are so many desperate people in the world.” He identifies two key variables: (1) The seeking of a better life, and (2) an increase in both the number of desperate people and the level of desperation.

Mr. Cockburn specifically illustrated the situation in Central America. First, most of the countries in that region were ravaged by various wars during the 1980s and 90s. Second, natural and man-made disasters wreaked

debt and must work as a prostitute. The debt never ends, so the girl is a slave.”

In El Salvador, another poor Central American country, thousands of children are forced to work in order to support their families. “I don’t really have time to do anything like going to school,” said Javier, a fifth-grader who must work to support his single mother and four-year-old sister. “Sometimes I go after the [coffee] harvest is over” (*Reuters*, June 29, 2002, “Child Labor: Seeking Change for a 200-Year-Old Dilemma”).

Notice here the disruption of the family unit: Javier’s education suffers, increasing the likelihood that his future children will also have to work early in life—continuing the vicious cycle of poverty.

Broken families are not uncommon in today’s world. And, as we will see, this is one of the key factors creating poor environments for our children,

version is not new to mankind. But as in war and child labor, today’s “sex industry” increasingly enslaves the youngest and most vulnerable of the world—children. Their innocent lives are completely shattered! And the “services” that this industry offers are in high demand—typically by the more affluent of the world. Many “successful” and “prominent” people travel great distances just to indulge in perverse pleasures.

In the United Kingdom, the problem is multi-faceted. First, African teenagers seeking asylum, some as young as 14, are rounded up by gangs and sold as prostitutes in Italy (*BBC News*, March 8, 2001, “Child Asylum Seekers Sold for Sex”).

Second, according to both the police and childcare agencies, hundreds of children are being used as prostitutes in and around Britain. Many are addicted to crack cocaine,

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“But as in war and child labor, today’s  
‘sex industry’ increasingly enslaves the youngest  
and most vulnerable of the world—children.”

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further havoc on the infrastructure, particularly Hurricane Mitch (1998) in Honduras and Nicaragua. In its aftermath, the number of homeless street children jumped by 20 percent!

Such pressures create a desire and demand to move to the United States, which is still the “land of opportunity” for many. Unfortunately, the perils of migrating north are many.

In the same *National Geographic* article, Ademar Barilli, a Brazilian Jesuit, explained what local bar owners in the tiny Guatemalan town of Tecún Umán (where migrants gather to cross into Mexico) do to migrant girls who roll in every day on buses: “They talk about a job working in a restaurant. But the job is in a bar. After the girl has worked for a while just serving drinks, the owner reports her to the police and gets her arrested because she has no documents. She is jailed; he bails her out. Then he tells her she is in

and accelerating the general decline of most societies.

In 2001, *ABC News* reported that schoolchildren in the southeastern Chinese village of Fang Lin were secretly being forced to work at making fireworks for part of the day, supplementing the school’s budget, as well as benefiting teachers and local officials. An explosion killed 42 students and teachers, revealing their enslavement. One parent, whose 11-year-old son was killed in the blast, said that the children were ordered not to tell their parents about what was going on—and those who did were punished.

So far, however, what we have covered has only scratched the surface of child slavery.

### **Sex, Drugs and Slavery**

The enslavement of women as prostitutes and the addiction to sexual per-

and will do anything to feed their habit.

Another *BBC News* report stated, “These children exist on the margins of society—they are extremely distrustful of the police and social services. It has been described as a revolving door situation—the police hand them over to social services, but within hours they are often back on the street.”

One case, involving a particularly dangerous pimp, included 22 girls, ages 12 to 18. A police inspector explained, “He [the pimp] was extremely skilled at identifying disaffected, unhappy, vulnerable young teenage girls, most of whom were either already in the care system or on the brink of the care system. On a commercial basis, he recruited and exploited them as prostitutes on the streets of central London.”

In 1996, *The New York Times* summarized the horrific nature of the



child-prostitution industry in Asia. The article estimated that there were tens of thousands of children who were slaves working in “the plantations of the 1990s”: The brothels of Cambodia, India, China, Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan and other countries. The article explained that these brothels were built by customer demand from Americans and other Westerners, and have in fact, descended from the brothels of the Vietnam War. What takes place in them would be classified in the West as *child molestation* and *rape!*

The *Times* article identified three factors that seemed to aggravate the situation in that part of the world: Rising economic development, which initially seems to increase the appetite for children more quickly than it reduces the supply.

The rise of capitalism in places like China and Indochina is resulting

In Japan, the situation is disgustingly different. A 1996 *Wall Street Journal* article pointed out that child prostitution there is not driven by poverty or slavery, but by *materialism*. Japanese teenagers have expensive desires—such as possessing the latest and most outrageously priced fashions from Italy—and so many sell their bodies to make money their parents would never give them.

“I wanted to make a lot of money all at once,” said 15-year-old Aya, who started prostituting when she was 13. Shinji Miyadai, a sociologist at Tokyo Metropolitan University, estimated that eight percent of schoolgirls nationwide—and one-third of girls at some schools that are not geared toward continuing education—are involved in the sex industry. Japanese police and social workers blame weak laws (i.e., poor and/or lack of leadership from politicians) and permissive

have to live with their drug-enslaved parents. A 2001 article in *The Scotsman* reported a study from the University of Glasgow showing that 20,000 children in Scotland were living with parents addicted to hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine and amphetamines. One can be sure the problem is not much different in the U.S., Canada or any other affluent country.

#### **Abandoned and Forgotten**

A growing problem in several developed countries is that of child abandonment. Authorities, after finding newborn babies left on porches, along highways, behind motels, in dumpsters, and even stuffed in knapsacks, are desperate for a solution.

However, as mankind often does, people choose to address the *effect* and not the *cause*. Several American states and European countries have, therefore, developed child abandonment

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“...20,000 children in Scotland were living with parents addicted to hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine and amphetamines.”

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in markets emerging not just for rice and pork, but also for virgin girls.

Perhaps most important, the fear of AIDS, which drives customers to younger girls and boys whom they regard as more likely to be disease-free.

Note the correlation with the world’s rising economic development, which is based on the wrong goals and values—primarily GREED, and the *lustful appetite* for children as sex slaves.

Also consider the current American (and former British, French, and Dutch) influence in that part of the world. How many American businessmen have partaken in the “comforts” of Asian brothels over the last century? Finally, note the fact that the fear of AIDS, which at one time would have scared most people “straight,” actually drives them deeper into their addiction and perversity.

attitudes among both parents and children.

Of course, this social scourge occurs in America as well. A *Burlington Free Press* article titled “December 15: Woman jailed on sex-ring charges” covered a 2000-2001 story in which a Burlington, Vermont woman pleaded guilty to recruiting local teenagers to work in New York City as prostitutes. The indictment referred to 12 young girls, half of whom were younger than 18. The woman, named “Holland,” would drive her victims to New York, where she taught and supervised their work there as prostitutes. Each road trip lasted up to one week before returning home; some made the trip several times. Holland had exerted a great deal of influence over her desperate victims—more influence than, regrettably, their parents and friends.

In addition to sex, some children

programs and centers, in which mothers can anonymously discard their unwanted children within hours of birth without fear of prosecution.

A telephone hotline worker for Project Cuddle, based in California, said, “We have received approximately 26 crisis calls from Chicago alone and [we] have rescued 11 babies” (“Discarded Babies Bill Up to Ryan,” *Daily Southtown*, May 27, 2001). At that time, the hotline had fielded thousands of calls and rescued more than 300 babies.

#### **Abandoned Babies—Preliminary National Estimates**

In Russia, the child abandonment problem has an additional tragic face: The babies are often HIV-infected. When a special infants’ ward in the Infectious Disease Hospital in Irkutsk opened in the late 1990s, the first arrival was tiny Vanya, who had been

abandoned by his mother 12 hours after he was born. By 2001, the roster numbered 18, consisting of children between four months and two years old. All were infected with HIV and abandoned by drug-addicted mothers. (*Detroit Free Press*, “AIDS in Russia: An epidemic’s tiniest victims,” Dave Montgomery, March 22, 2001).

Mr. Montgomery reported, “HIV was first recorded in Russia in 1987. It developed into a real epidemic in the mid-1990s as drug addiction spread, said Arkadiusz Majszik, who tracks AIDS in Russia for the United Nations. The number of HIV cases has at least doubled there every year since 1996.”

It is difficult to determine the exact number, but officials estimate that several hundred abandoned babies with HIV are hospitalized in Russia. In St. Petersburg, 30 abandoned children crowd a ward at the

## Abandoned Babies

Preliminary national estimates from the U.S.:

Abandoned babies	1991	1998
■ In hospitals:	21,600	30,800
■ In public places:	65	105

Abandoned babies in public places	1991	1998
■ Infants found alive:	57	72
■ Infants found deceased:	8	33

SOURCE: HHS Administration for Children and Families

Azerbaijan National Security Minister: “Under the guise of adoption, children who are allegedly afflicted by grave diseases are taken out of Azerbaijan, ostensibly for treatment. In the course of our investigations, it has come to light that these children are used for organ transplants, but we have no hard evidence.” The article also reported from an anonymous tip that more than 100 children disappeared in transit

lative result of man living his own way for 6,000 years—and quite plainly, “his way” is the way of *get*, or *greed*. It is also the way of Satan the devil, who has broadcast his influence (Eph. 2:2) upon mankind since the time of Adam and Eve.

Whether it is Japanese school-girls who sell themselves sexually or a Russian uncle who sells his nephew for his organs, people want more. They succumb to their lust for something they do not have. And, instead of choosing hard work, they greedily seek an easier way to “make a lot of money all at once.”

In addition, the propensity for adults to have children outside of wedlock, or to divorce at the drop of a hat, simply creates *vulnerable* human beings—both the parents and children. God intended children to be born and reared by a loving, married,

“These tragedies are a direct, cumulative result of man living his own way for 6,000 years...”

Republican Hospital of Infectious Diseases. The hospital’s director estimates that 20 percent of drug-addicted mothers abandon their babies.

Some children are subjected to a bizarre combination of abandonment and slavery. This atrocity is the result of the increasing black market for the *organs* of children.

In November 2000, *CNN* reported that while illegal adoption is nothing new in Russia, the case of an orphan named Andrei shocked police. He was sold for \$90,000 by his grandmother and uncle for his organs—kidneys, eyes, and possibly his heart or lungs. The uncle, a father of two daughters, explained to police, “I wanted to buy a house and a new car and some clothes. It was my dream. I wanted to leave him at the orphanage, but my mother was insisting that we could get \$70,000 for organs.”

A more recent *BBC* report contained the following statement from

between orphanages and hospitals in 2003—allegedly the result of official corruption.

According to UNICEF, the UN agency for children, about 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide each year in a thriving business worth \$10 billion. And it is only getting worse.

The *International Campaign Against Child Trafficking* points out that children are not only trafficked for their organs and body parts, but for a variety of illegal purposes, including sexual exploitation, adoption by childless couples, begging, and transporting drugs.

### Why?

Most people, given the time to digest and reflect upon the hideous facts of the reality presented above, should soberly ask, “Why?” And, “When will it end?”

These tragedies are a direct, cumu-

lative result of man living his own way, combined with living the way of *give*—God’s Way—that the family unit can remain strong and stable (Ecc. 4:12). Because a strong, physical family is a basic building block of any society, and is also a type or reflection of both the God Family and God’s Plan, Satan hates and tries to prevent and destroy as many families as he can.

But thankfully, the time *is* coming when these heartbreaking calamities will end. However, that bright future will not come at the hands of man. The soon Return of Jesus Christ *will* usher in that time of great peace and abundance. Satan and his influence will be removed (Rev. 20:1-2). Then all will have an opportunity to unlearn the way of *get*, and to then learn and implement the way of *give*. At that time, ALL children will rise up to laugh and play and hold to their innocence. □

# Popular Religious Holidays

## Where They *Really* Came From



**Hot Cross Buns:** One of many Easter traditions.

Christmas, Easter, New Year's, Lent—so many of the world's holidays and traditions are universally observed. But where do these customs come from? How did they originate?

**Y**OU WERE BORN into a world filled with holiday customs and traditions. And, like most people, you probably grew up practicing them. But have you ever questioned *why*?

Why do people observe Easter, with its hot cross buns, chocolate bunnies, and Easter eggs? Why do they keep Christmas—with Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, gift trading, the Yule log, and mistletoe?

The question could be asked: Did these holidays come from the Bible? If not, then where *did* they come from, and *how* did they come to be so universally accepted and celebrated today?

## The First-Century Church

Traditional Christianity is divided into varying denominations, sects and churches around the world, all teaching and believing differing doctrines.

Yet, on Pentecost, A.D. 31, when the Church of God first came into being, it “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine [teaching] and fellowship” (Acts 2:42). The first-century Christians “believed...together” (vs. 44) and “continued daily with one accord” (vs. 46). They all believed and taught the same thing. The Church that Christ built was never divided. As a result, it continually grew (vs. 47).

Most assume that these early Christians worshipped on Sunday and kept Christmas, Lent, Easter and other holidays observed by professing Christians today. Believe it or not, the first-century Church observed the same Sabbath, holy days and laws that the Jews kept. This can be proven from the Bible.

Most have been taught and believe that Christ came to “do away” with God’s Law and anything else having to do with the Old Testament. But Christ actually said: “Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to *fulfill*” (Matt. 5:17). After His death and Resurrection, He commanded His disciples to “teach all nations...to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (28:19-20).

The Bible clearly shows that Jesus kept the Sabbath, Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and other holy days and feasts found in the Old Testament.

Christians are those who follow Christ’s example (I Pet. 2:21)—that includes keeping God’s holy days and practicing the traditions that accompany them. Regarding Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians—who were primarily Gentiles, not Jews—that “Christ our *Passover* is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (I Cor. 5:7-8).

Concerning the Sabbath, Paul wrote, “There remains therefore a rest to the people of God” (Heb. 4:9). The Greek word used for “rest” is *sabbatismo*—meaning “a Sabbath-rest” or more properly “a keeping of the Sabbath.”

### The “Lost Century”

Following His example, the Church that Christ built observed the same Sabbath, holy days, laws and traditions that the Jews kept. So, in the eyes of the Roman authorities, Christianity was considered to be just another Jewish sect.

But eventually, the Church suffered severe persecution from within and without.

Before his death, Paul warned the Ephesian elders: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30).

The apostle Peter also warned of false prophets and teachers, “who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you” (II Pet. 2:1-3).

By the end of the first century, all of the original apostles had died. This vacuum was quickly filled by false leaders, who taught that God’s laws were “nailed to the cross” and that Christians were now solely under grace. All one needed to do was simply “believe.” Works (Commandment keeping) were no longer required. Thus, grace was turned into a license to sin—to break God’s Law (I John 3:4).

A false church had arisen. Its followers *looked* and *sounded* like the Church of God, but in reality they were far from it! This counterfeit church, led by the teachings of a Samaritan sorcerer named Simon Magus (Acts 8:5-25), largely destroyed the visible true Church.

Because of fierce Roman persecution, consisting of imprisonment, torture, and even death, most people gave up, departing from the truth and the true Church. By the turn of the second century, there were thousands of professing Christians—but only a tiny few held fast to what they had been taught by the original apostles.

This period is often referred to as “The Lost Century.”

For approximately the next 100 years, church writings became scarce. When such writings resumed, a very different church dominated the historical landscape. This church worshipped on Sunday instead of the Sabbath. It observed Easter and Lent in place of

## The Early Christians Kept the Passover

The *Encyclopedia Britannica* states, “There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers...The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it, of Christ as the true Paschal Lamb and the first fruits from the dead, continued to be observed” (11th edition, Vol. VIII).

Bede’s *Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation* states that the apostle “John, following the customs of the Law, used to begin the Feast of Easter [actually the Passover] on the evening of the fourteenth day of the first month, whether it fell on the Sabbath or on any other day” (III, 25).

But where did John’s custom come from? From the very example of Jesus Christ! “Nor did our Lord, the Author and Giver of the Gospel, eat the old Passover or institute the Sacrament of the New Testament to be celebrated by the Church in memory of His Passion on...[any other day], but on the fourteenth” (Ibid.).

the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. This church kept the same holidays and traditions that the world keeps today.

The Church that Christ built—the one to which He promised “the gates of hell shall not prevail” (Matt. 16:18)—was a tiny flock, barely noticeable on the historical radar screen. During the many centuries between then and now, these true Christians were referred to as Nazarenes, Ebionites or Quatrodecimani. However, God’s people always named themselves the Church of God—they still do today.

### Nimrod and the City of Babel

This new “Christianity” altered and rejected the true teachings of the Bible and embraced many pagan traditions and customs. Over the centuries, this counterfeit church grew enormously large, dwarfing the true Church.

But where did this counterfeit church get its teachings? How did it come to embrace Christmas trees, hot cross buns, Easter eggs, Yule logs and mistletoe? To get a clear understanding, we must go back in time thousands of years to the foundation of this world’s religions. We find this described in the book of Genesis. There we find a man named Nimrod. He was “a mighty hunter before the Lord” (Gen. 10:9), which is more accurately translated “in opposition to,” or “in place of,” the Lord.

Josephus, a prominent Jewish historian, stated, “it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God...he also changed the government into tyranny” (*Book of the Antiquities*, bk. I, ch. IV, pt. 2).

Nimrod, born after the Flood, claimed to be the “savior” of mankind—supposedly saving them from God! After God scattered the

nations at Babel (Gen. 11:8) and after the death of Nimrod, his followers continued their rebellion in secret. They developed an intricate system called “the mysteries.” In order to deceive the people, the priests of Nimrod began calling their customs by names that *appeared* to honor God!

Nimrod took the name “Baal,” which when translated into English means “lord,” and into Greek, “Adonis.”

Nimrod was so evil, it was later said by the Egyptians that he married his own mother, Semiramis. After Nimrod’s death, his mother-wife declared that Nimrod had survived as a spirit being. She claimed a full-grown evergreen tree “sprang up” overnight from a dead stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of the dead Nimrod. On each anniversary of his birth—December 25th—she claimed that Nimrod would visit the



**From an Assyrian artifact:** The Chaldean goddess Ishtar, referred to as “the mother goddess of dawn or light.”

evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it. Millions are unaware that *this* is the real origin of the Christmas tree!

Nimrod's mother-wife, Semiramis, took the title of the "mother of god," and was worshipped as "Ishtar," the mother goddess of dawn or light. Although the spelling differs, her new name was pronounced the same way as the word Easter! She was worshipped in the spring on her feast day—a ritual of fertility!

In this Babylonish system, the "mother and child" (Semiramis, and Nimrod reborn) became chief objects of worship. This worship of "mother and child" spread all over the world.

Their names varied in different countries and languages. One name for Nimrod was "Santa," commonly used throughout Asia Minor (*Langer's Encyclopedia of World History*, p. 37). The followers of "St. Nicholas" are termed "Nicolaitanes" in the New Testament. Nicolas was merely the Greek word for Nimrod. "Santa Claus" is a shortened form of St. Nicholas. All of these names were a direct attempt to disguise their true identity, and promote the "mystery."

Time and time again, the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4) has sought to overwhelm God's servants, attempting to pull them away from the true God and into embracing pagan customs and gods. Is Satan—as "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2)—still active in broadcasting this deception?

Christmas, New Years and Easter customs were celebrated in Rome long before the birth of Christ! This Babylonian mystery system is an economic and religious system reaching *all* parts of the world! Let's first look at Christmas.

### Origins of Christmas Customs

Near the end of December, the Romans set aside several days to celebrate the winter solstice (when the sun reached the lowest point in the heavens and the days were shortest). The high point of this solar festival was the "Saturnalia."

Notice: "In private the day [Saturnalia] began with the sacrifice of

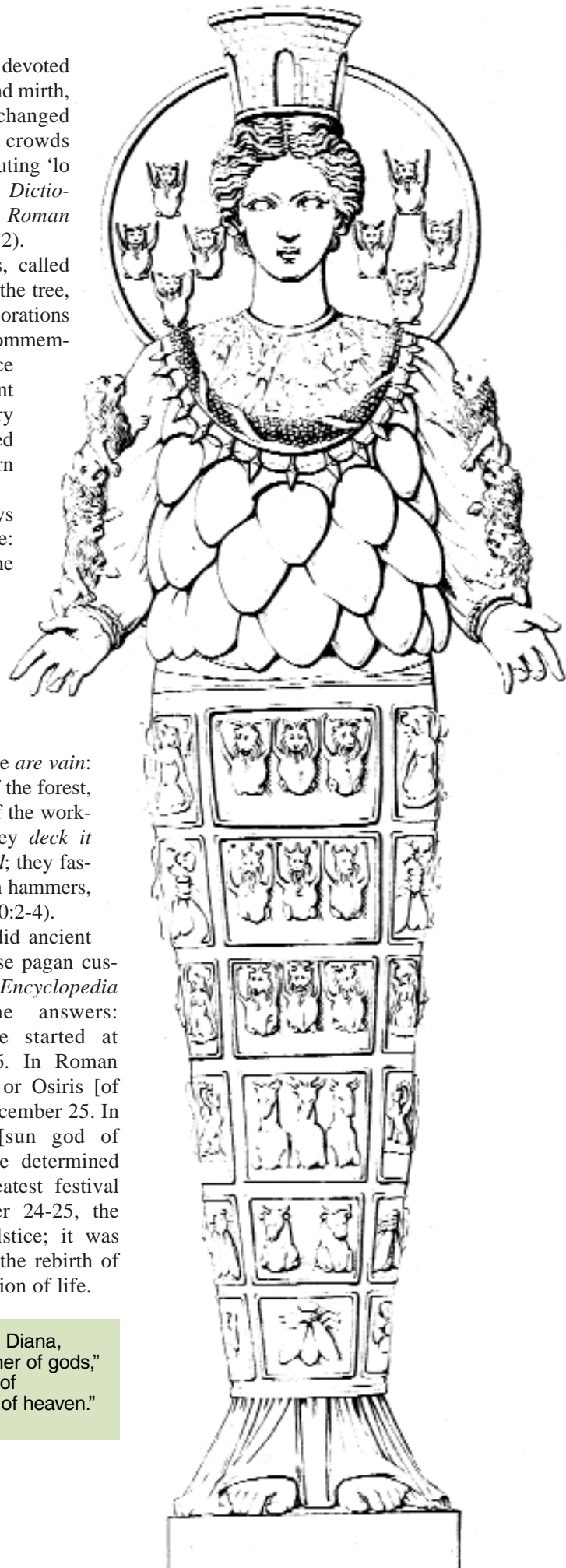
a young pig...all ranks devoted themselves to feasting and mirth, presents were interchanged among friends, and crowds thronged the streets, shouting 'lo Saturnalia!'" ("Oscilla," *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*, 3rd ed., vol. 2).

Figurines and masks, called "oscilla," were hung on the tree, similar to Christmas decorations today. The practice of commemorating the winter solstice is not limited to ancient Rome. Nearly every pagan nation has observed a "counterpart" to modern Christmas customs.

Notice what God says about the Christmas tree: "Learn *not* the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven [signs of the skies, winter solstice]; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people *are vain*: for one cuts a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They *deck it with silver and with gold*; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." (Jer. 10:2-4).

So, when and how did ancient Rome begin to call these pagan customs "Christian"? *The Encyclopedia Britannica* holds the answers: "Christmas observance started at Rome about A.D. 336. In Roman times, festivals of Isis or Osiris [of Egypt] were held on December 25. In the religion of Sol [sun god of Babylon] festivals were determined by astronomy. The greatest festival was held on December 24-25, the time of the winter solstice; it was regarded as the day of the rebirth of the sun, and the renovation of life.

The Ephesian goddess Diana, referred to as "the mother of gods," was the Ionian version of Semiramis, the "queen of heaven."



“In the time of Emperor Constantine, Rome’s policy was to ‘absorb’ the pagan observances to gain nominal adherents to the church. In the B.C. Roman world, the Saturnalia was a time of ‘merry making’ and ‘exchanging gifts’” (“History of Christmas,” *www.britannica.com*).

As can be seen, this festival dates back to the time of ancient Babylon. But some may think that gift-giving is scriptural—as it began with the wise men.

In actual fact, the wise men did not present gifts to Christ because it was his *birthday*. Rather, they came to present gifts to a King. People from the east never approached the presence of a king without a gift (*Clark’s Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 46). Nowhere in Scripture is there an endorsement to celebrate Christ’s birth.

All of these pagan traditions collided with Christianity, during the Fourth and Fifth Centuries, when hundreds of thousands of Romans were “accepting Christianity.” Their old pagan customs and beliefs were blended into this developing “Christianity,” and such concepts as the “Madonna” and “mother and child” idea, not to mention the decorating of a tree, became very popular at Christmas time.

### Origins of Easter Sunday

Like Christmas, the origins of Easter are deeply rooted in pagan customs. It was A.D. 325 when Easter displaced the Passover. Many think that Christ’s sacrifice removed the need to keep the Passover. However, Christ actually commanded us to keep the Passover, albeit with different symbols (Luke 22:13-20).

During the early fourth century, there was much prejudice between Jewish and Gentile Christians. The Jewish Christians kept separate from the Gentile Christians because Gentiles only accepted Christianity when the *Roman church* and Emperor agreed to also accept pagan ideas.

While Emperor Constantine was not a Christian, he saw the advantage of merging Christianity with the wor-

ship of the sun god. The intensity of this battle grew to a feverish pitch when Emperor Constantine made Easter the “official” day—replacing Passover. Notice his statement at the Council of Nicea: “We ought not, therefore, to have anything in common with the Jews [Jewish Christians]...we desire, dearest brethren, to separate ourselves from the detestable company of the Jews” (*Eusebius, Vita Const.*, Lib. iii., 18-20).

*Encyclopedia Britannica* goes on to state that “Rome’s policy was to absorb the pagan observances in order to gain followers” (*www.britannica.com*).

Also, note the statement regarding the tradition of the Easter bunny: “The Easter Bunny is a symbol of the pagan rite of fertility...Hot cross buns and colored eggs are traced back to the Chaldean rites of Babylonish worship” (*Ibid.*).

There are some other interesting facts surrounding the Easter and Lenten season. Notice: “In Babylon, a 40-day fast was observed as an important preliminary of the “great feast” held in commemoration of the “death and resurrection of Tammuz [Nimrod]...Lent is borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian queen of heaven [Semiramis]” (*Ibid.*).

As you can see, the links between ancient pagan festivals and Easter are undeniable. Long before Christ, Satan prepared to deceive mankind about Christ’s Resurrection. By creating the stories of Nimrod millennia ago, Satan has been able to deceive this world into believing that we should celebrate Christ’s Resurrection with Easter eggs, bunnies, and hot cross buns.

Any encyclopedia shows that Christmas, New Year’s, Lent and Easter (and, for that matter, Halloween and St. Valentine’s Day) are pagan festivals long predating Christianity.

### Christ’s Warning

Christ warned his disciples, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name [Christ’s name and authority], saying that I am Christ, and shall *deceive many*” (Matt.

24:4-5). As we have seen, this has happened!

But does God consider these modern practices wrong? Should you celebrate Easter or Christmas, but focus on Christ as you do it?

God has continually warned His people not to pollute His name by applying it to pagan worship (Ezek. 20:39). He has also warned about false ministers who validate these pagan holidays: “Which think to cause My people to *forget My name*...as their fathers have *forgotten My name for Baal*” (Jer. 23:27).

Christmas, Easter, New Year’s, St. Valentine’s Day, etc., are also very *commercialized seasons!* They are sponsored and supported by heavy retail advertising campaigns throughout the year. Newspapers sell ads and print flowery editorials exalting these seasons and their “spirit.” Why?—because these holidays make money (Rev. 18:3)! Many simply do not want to know the truth of their origin. They do not want to know that these pagan days do not honor Christ—but, in fact, honor Satan!

Like Satan himself, these holidays appear wholesome and pure, as an “angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). They are designed to *appear* good and appeal to the masses. Billions of dollars are spent throughout the year in these merchandising sprees, while the real purpose of Christ and the knowledge of the true gospel are being buried by pagan customs.

This system of Babylon still has a grip on the world through religion and economics!

Throughout the centuries, those whom God has called have had to face the pull of this world—and had to overcome it. If you understand the lessons of history and squarely face the facts, you too can achieve victory over Satan!

But this battle will soon come to an end. This Babylonian Mystery religion and its economic, political, and military powers will be destroyed *forever* at Christ’s Return! And finally, God’s Sabbath and Holy Days will be observed by the WHOLE WORLD! □

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# WORLD NEWS DESK

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## GEO POLITICS, STRATEGIES & ECONOMIES

### U.S. Debt Record

**T**he U.S. government's total debt—the accumulation of past budget shortfalls—totaled more than \$7 trillion for the first time last week. The debt ceiling currently stands at \$7.384 trillion, and is expected to be reached sometime this summer or fall. The Treasury would need approval from Congress before exceeding that debt limit. The MSN article used the U.S. gross national product in 2003 of \$11 trillion as comparison to show the sig-

nificant size of the debt. Of course, during an election campaign, this issue is almost certain to receive extra attention. This is just a continuation of the national and individual problem of over-spending in America. At some point, the world economy will not be able to lend more money to the U.S.—and then what?

Source: *MSN*



## RELIGION

### Pope Calls for UN Reform

**T**he Pope recently received Julian Robert Hunte, president of the U.N. General Assembly, and said the following in a brief address in English: "As you know, the Holy See considers the United Nations organization a significant means for promoting the universal common good. You have undertaken a restructuring aimed at making the organization function more efficiently." He also stated, "This will not only ensure an effective superior instance for the just resolution of international problems, but also enable the United Nations to become an ever more highly respected moral authority for the international community."

In his message for the 2004 World Day of Peace, he also said that the "United Nations Organization needs to

rise more and more above the cold status of an administrative institution and to become a moral center where all the nations of the world feel at home and develop a shared awareness of being, as it were, a family of nations."

During his meeting with Hunte, he said the reform is "a necessary prerequisite for the growth of an international order at the service of the whole human family."

Could the Vatican be planning some sort of strategic alliance with a reformed and renewed United Nations? Or is it laying the groundwork to replace the United Nations as a "moral center" for the world?

Source: *Zenit News Agency*





### Bird Flu

**T**he outbreak of the deadly bird flu virus in Thailand has reached such proportions that its government required soldiers and prisoners, in an attempt to control the epidemic, to participate in the slaughter of millions of chickens. The call came as the disease appeared to be spreading across the region, and after allegations that the Thai government had covered up initial outbreaks. Six people have died in Vietnam from the virus, and Indonesia is the seventh country in the region to declare cases of infection in chickens. (Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Cambodia, and Vietnam are the other six.) Thailand is the world's fourth-largest poultry exporter.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed deep concern regarding the possible implications, and has called the current simultaneous spread of the disease "historically unprecedented." The major implication is that the virus, which normally infects only bird species and occasionally humans that come in contact with diseased birds, mutates to more efficiently transmit from one human to another. "The opportunity for the virus to reform itself into something even more aggressive and dangerous to humans has most likely never been higher," Robert Dietz, a WHO spokesman in Hanoi, stated.

Source: *The Financial Times*



### Half of American Youth to Contract STDs

**R**ecent reports indicated that half of all young Americans will get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) by the time they are 25 years of age. The reports showed, for example, that in the year 2000, there were 9 million new cases of STDs among Americans ages 15 to 24. The three diseases that account for 88% of the new STD cases in that age group are:

human papillomavirus or genital wart virus (major cause of cervical cancer), a parasitic infection called trichomoniasis and chlamydia (can cause infertility). According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization figures, the United States has the highest STD rate of any industrialized country.

Unfortunately, many "sex education" groups use the reports to attack the federal government's policy to promote abstinence. In both cases though, mankind is once again treating the effect and not the cause.

Source: *Yahoo! News UK*

## WEATHER

### Weather Worries Pentagon

**I**n addition to al-Qaida and WMDs, even climate change is keeping strategic planners at the Pentagon busy these days. With some interesting insight into the earthquakes and droughts that we know are soon to come, David Stipp of *Fortune* summarized the threat like this: "Global warming, rather than causing gradual, centuries-spanning change, may be pushing the climate to a tipping point. Growing evidence suggests the ocean-atmosphere system that controls the world's climate can lurch from one state to another in less than a decade—like a canoe that's gradually tilted until suddenly it flips over.

Scientists don't know how close the system is to a critical threshold. But abrupt climate change may well occur in the not-too-distant future. If it does, the need to rapidly adapt may overwhelm many societies—thereby upsetting the geopolitical balance of power."

In the recent past, most environmental/climate alarms have been sounded in regard to gradual change, but that has now shifted to abrupt change, which is something that would certainly concern planners at the Pentagon. The Department of Defense commissioned Peter Schwartz, former head of planning for

Royal Dutch/Shell Group, to study the risk of abrupt climate change. The recently released report was shared with *Fortune*, and was interestingly summarized by Stipp in the latter half of his article. Unfortunately, he begins the scenario at 2010, which may be a critical mistake. What if it starts much earlier? What if it has already begun?

Source: *Fortune*

## CHILDREN

Continued from page 4

chores or responsibilities. They are more concerned with being their child's *friend* than in being his TEACHER and PARENT! They would rather be popular with their children than "upset" them by *teaching them right from wrong* and applying *discipline!*

Now consider: How can we possibly teach our children to be moral, to act justly and to be merciful when the daily news continually reveals the sins of adults? White-collar crime—government corruption—widespread child abuse among this world's clergymen and others of influence, who are supposed to help in their development. To children, such actions speak louder than words.

### Religions Have Failed

Religions have failed to give parents the tools they need to properly rear their children. This world's Christianity teaches that God's spiritual laws—His

Commandments—were "done away" and "there's no need to keep them." Therefore, morality has become a matter of personal taste: One man's *sin* is another man's *lifestyle*.

Theologians substitute the righteousness of God—His commandments (Psa. 119:172)—for the righteousness of men, and call it "political correctness."

No wonder kids today have smug faces and smirk at authority. They roll their eyes because they already "know" what is right and wrong—and no one can teach them otherwise. So many are ungovernable, unmanageable and unruly.

Political correctness teaches them that nothing is truly bad or wrong—except intolerance. Yet those who preach political correctness will not tolerate those who take a stand against sin.

What irony—and hypocrisy!

Teens are no longer taught right from wrong because their *parents* no longer know the difference. They embrace a world of "differing shades of gray," where clear-cut rules of morality,

ethics and integrity no longer exist. Some parents will even STEAL items from their jobs—pens, markers, paper, notebooks—and then wonder why their children SHOPLIFT.

What blindness!

Fifty years ago, if a child found a wallet filled with money, he would have turned it over to the police.

Today, such a child would be ridiculed by his peers—and even by some adults! He would probably be written up in the local newspaper because what was once considered a civic duty has now become a phenomenon. Such honesty is so rare, it makes headlines! Honesty is becoming a small flame—slowly flickering out.

How can you hope to rear a child in such a morally topsy-turvy world? What chance do you have to "train up a child" into becoming a successful, productive, moral, emotionally and physically mature adult?

There is hope. Request our free booklet *Train Up Your CHILDREN*. It contains the truths that will show you THE WAY! □

## PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

disease. We must have thought we had it better because man had improved. But man doesn't really 'improve,' does he? Man is man. Human nature is human nature; the impulse to destroy coexists with the desire to build and create and make better" ("America's Age of Uncertainty," *Knight Ridder*, Nov. 9, 2001).

Who could disagree?

### State of the Present—and Future

Consider some of the terrible conditions on earth today. Should events remain unchecked, they are predicted to grow far worse by the year 2050—if mankind survives for that long! Many of the following statistics come from the United Nation's "The State of World Population 2001" report. It is thorough, and makes for sobering reading.

The world population (6.3 billion) has more than tripled in the last seventy years. It has doubled since 1960 and is predicted to reach between 9.3 and 10.9 billion by 2050. The forty-nine poorest, least-developed nations will actually triple to a population of nearly two billion. This worldwide population growth will bring staggering problems.

Just 2.5 percent of the earth's water is fresh. Only 20 percent of this (or 0.5 percent) is accessible ground or surface water. The current population consumes 54 percent of this available water. By 2050, it will need 90 percent—because the earth grows by 77 million additional people *per year* (requiring an amount of water equivalent to the mighty Rhine River *every year*). Also, developing countries dump 90 to 95 percent of their untreated sewage and 70 percent of their untreated industrial waste into surface waters. Population growth insures that this problem will only grow worse to the point of catastrophic. In addition, acid

rain and chemical runoff from fertilizers and pesticides sufficiently ruin water quality, making it unusable.

Population growth continues to outpace food production. There are 800 million people who are chronically malnourished, and 2 billion who lack "food security." Only fifteen crop species provide 90 percent of the world's food, yet it is estimated that sixty thousand different plant species could reach extinction by just 2025! By that year, the projected 8 billion inhabitants of earth will require *twice* today's food needs, with greatly improved distribution, to eradicate hunger. Yet few experts see this as remotely possible.

Each day, 160,000 people move from rural areas to cities. This is happening fastest in under-developed countries. Enormous problems result from this: Sanitation, overcrowding, access to modern health services and the ability of schools to absorb the increase of students.

Fully 60 percent of all disease on earth is sanitation-related. Each year, air pollution kills nearly 3 million people in developing countries alone, with poor sanitation killing another 12 million. Various forms of indoor air pollution (soot, dung, coal for cooking and heating, etc.) affect 2.5 billion people a year and kill 2.2 million. Changes in climate are altering the zones of risk for insect-borne diseases. New and more virulent diseases are appearing or reappearing. Many bacteria are proving to be drug-resistant because of the ongoing over-prescribing of antibiotics.

Some of the problems predicted for the near future include: Limited and diminishing arable land, deforestation, urbanization, shrinking size of family farms, degradation of the land, shortages and degradation of water, irrigation problems, waste, the extinction of certain types of crops, the greater intensity and frequency of severe weather, which causes flooding and seasonal loss of crops, and greenhouse gases and changes of climate. Together, they spell untold calamity, and even catastrophe, for a mankind unprepared to solve these and many other problems.

While the world is suffering from “information overload,” none of that overload is truly addressing mankind’s growing number of complex, insoluble problems. With all of man’s creative ingenuity and intelligence, he cannot solve the most important problems—those that threaten his very existence on an earth he is systematically destroying.

Educators have duped generations into believing the evolutionary lie. This has caused those same generations to believe that mankind is continually evolving into a better and higher order of existence. Look around and you will see the fruits of this great deception. Mankind is not evolving upward, he is degenerating downward, into ever new lows of indulgence, decadence and immorality. (The final article in a series about evolution is found in this issue. It will soon be part of a very extensive brochure explaining the *implausibility*—and the *IMPOSSIBILITY*—of this theory.)

### The Hope of Many

Many scientists and experts believe the world is evolving toward a higher, and better, order. They see the future as a wonderful time of exciting, unending possibilities. They see general betterment of the human condition, medical advancement, improvement in agriculture—producing more and better food—and scientific breakthroughs undreamed of now. These thinkers are so hopeful that they barely recognize the severity and complexity of the world’s problems.

They live in a dreamworld—and wear rose-tinted glasses that filter out the harsh reality of the world around us. But they do represent one popular school of thought. Only when the brutal reality of world-shattering conditions and events slams into them will they realize their hopes were only a pipedream. Yet, they will learn that God has a plan to work things out in a way that they were not prepared for. But He will not use the “magic” of science to pull a rabbit out of the hat—as so many hope and suppose. This is *not* how God will save men from themselves at the last possible moment—before they blast themselves from the planet!

### A Coming Super-Government?

Numerous scientists recognize that the planet and civilization *are* on a collision course with calamity! Many are scared—and their statements of what could happen are frightening. They speak of the need for one world super-government to stop mankind’s runaway problems. Yet, virtually no one believes such a government would work if it were in the hands of men. The obstacles just to *achieve* the government—to say nothing of *how* it would solve man’s exploding troubles and ills—are enormous.

But there is good news!

The Bible is almost entirely a message about a COMING WORLD GOVERNMENT. Everywhere Christ went, He preached—*announced*—the coming of the kingdom of God. He explained that it would be a world-ruling government

that would smash and replace all the governments of men. He brought exciting, thrilling good news, in *advance* of its arrival. He spoke of a utopian, WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW—now *imminent*—explaining how many would qualify to rule with Him.

But the world of His day was not ready to receive His message.

When Christ comes, having been crowned as King of kings (*other* kings will rule with Him), He will possess vast power to affect change of every kind. The nations of the world will at first resist Him. But He will *force* them to be happy, healthy and prosperous, enjoying the abundant life. How ironic that mankind will have to be required—FORCED!—to accept and enjoy these conditions.

### A Truly Wonderful World

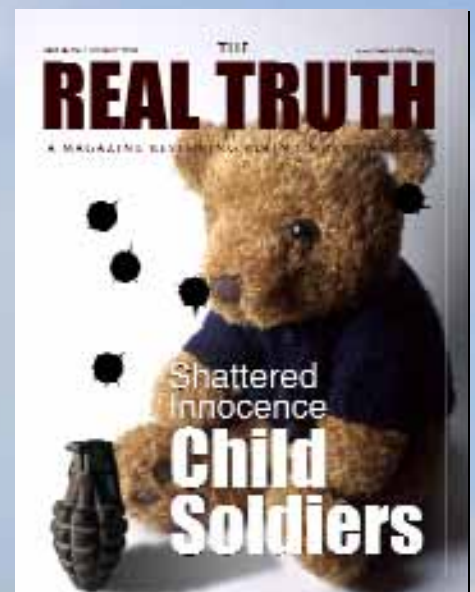
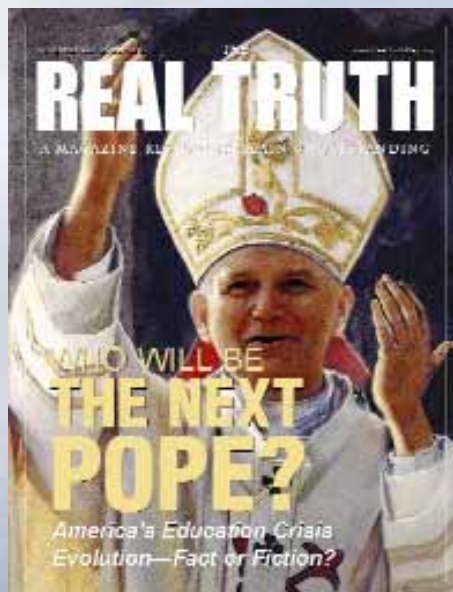
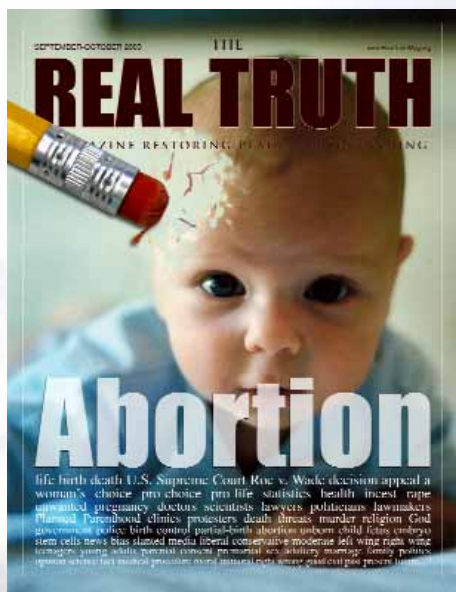
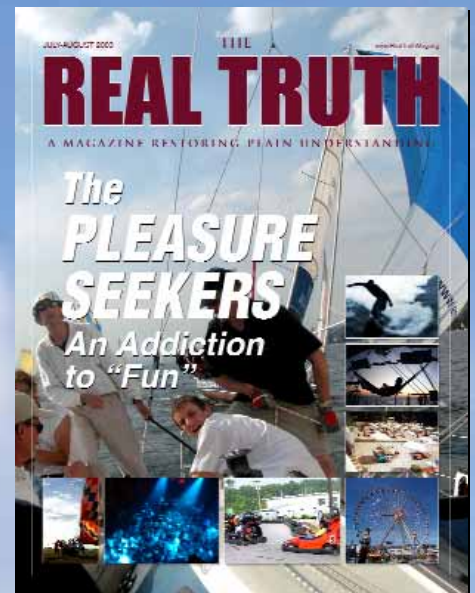
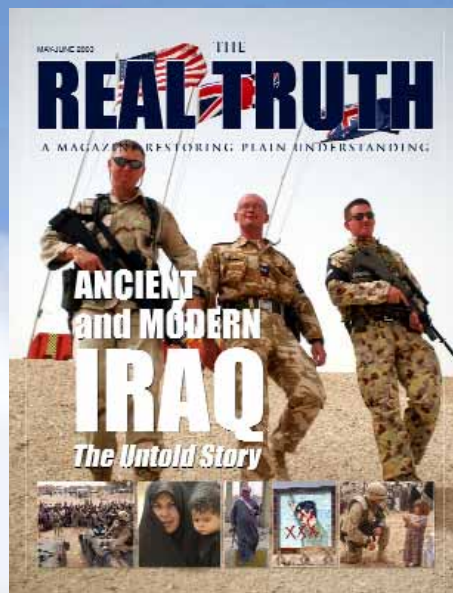
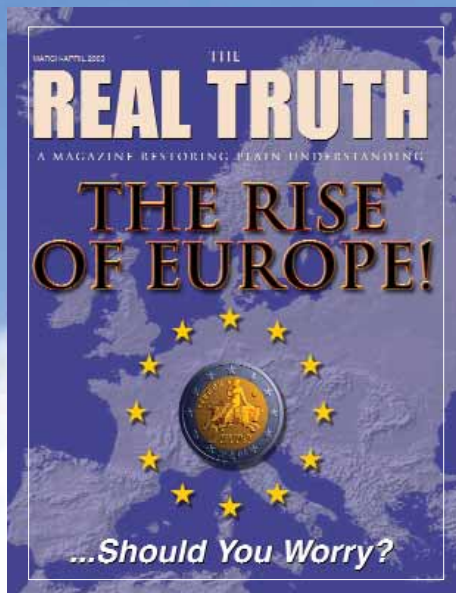
Tomorrow’s wonderful world will *be* wonderful because of the presence of the King, Jesus Christ, and the resurrected members of the God Family who assist Him. It will be wonderful because the whole world will keep and uphold the laws of God. All peoples will learn to put God first in their lives in everything—including learning to always seek the kingdom of God above every goal in life (Matt. 6:31-33).

There will be absolutely no exceptions for those who may wish to rebel and serve other gods: “For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, *every* knee shall bow to Me, and *every* tongue shall confess to God” (Rom. 14:11). Mankind will live in complete harmony with his Creator and with all peoples in TOMORROW’S WONDERFUL WORLD—and all will learn to say, “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which are, and was, and are to come; because You have taken to You Your great power, and have REIGNED” (Rev. 11:17).

God speed this day!

To grasp the full big picture of what this article introduces, you may read online, or request, our book *TOMORROW’S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!* □

# Missed out on previous issues?



You can read them online at your convenience!