Will Christ Return Tonight?  Millions of Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus Christ may come at any time. They see world events shaping up according to Bible prophecy. Is it likely that the Jesus Christing up according to Bible prophecy is being fulfilled? They believe that Bible prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes? Where else on this earth can you obtain real understanding of the problems of human suffering and meaning? The real answer is that although we do not truly follow the religion of Christ and the original apostles at all! We have lost our way. We have so “watered down” the teachings of Jesus that they would be virtually unrecognizable to Him and His original followers. The shocking truth is that most people in the “Christian” world have rejected the revealed physical and spiritual laws that produce peace, happiness and untold blessings from the Creator of heaven and earth. The proclamation of these revealed physical and spiritual laws is all about! It is to be given to the world as a witness just before the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth and to bring them genuine peace, harmony, prosperity and untold blessings from the Creator of heaven and earth. The proclamation of these revealed physical and spiritual laws is all about! It is to be given to the world as a witness just before the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth and to bring them genuine peace, harmony, prosperity and untold blessings from the Creator of heaven and earth. The proclamation of these revealed physical and spiritual laws is all about! It is to be given to the world as a witness just before the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth and to bring them genuine peace, harmony, prosperity and untold blessings from the Creator of heaven and earth. The proclamation of these revealed physical and spiritual laws is all about! It is to be given to the world as a witness just before the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth and to bring them genuine peace, harmony, prosperity and untold blessings from the Creator of heaven and earth.
Millions of Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus Christ may come at any time. They see world events shaping up according to Bible prophecy. And they want to be “ready.”

A recent feature article in the Los Angeles Times quoted Franklin Graham, son of Evangelist Billy Graham, as saying, “The churches believe that everything is coming to a head and that Jesus Christ may come TONIGHT. You need to be ready to meet your Maker NOW!”

Although any of us could die prematurely, is it likely that the Jesus Christ of the Bible will come tonight? For most people in this world, the reality of divine intervention does not seem very real at all. Even among “believers,” there is great disagreement as to when and how Christ will return or if He will literally return at all.

Will God intervene suddenly and mysteriously—to totally unexpectedly? Or has the Almighty revealed a specific chain of events that will inform and warn those who take the Scriptures seriously?

What does the BIBLE really say? You need to know! For most people in this world, the ability to get along with each other just has not improved over the last 4,000 years. Jesus said, “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matt. 24:37). The Bible clearly reveals that Noah’s day was characterized by rampant sin and violence: “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth’” (Gen. 6:5, 13).

The Apostle Paul was also inspired by God to look into the future to describe the last days as “perilous times”—times of crisis materialism, moral degradation and a false spirituality that denies the POWER of the true God of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Jesus warned that there would be a definite threat of human EXTINCTION—if He did not intervene to save man from his deadly ways: “For then there will be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (vv. 21-22).

The Bible reveals that man’s technological knowledge will be vastly increased just before Christ returns. It will also be a time of mass travel and large movements of immigrants; “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Dan. 12:4).

Despite this boom in technological ability, man’s know-how in spiritual things is stagnating! Our ability to get along with each other just has not improved over the last 4,000 years. Jesus said, “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matt. 24:37). The Bible clearly reveals that Noah’s day was characterized by rampant sin and violence: “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.... And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth’” (Gen. 6:5, 13).

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The Decline of the Anglo-American Powers

Believe it or not, there are prophecies that describe the overall condition of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand at the endtime. These prophecies state that the Anglo-American-descended peoples will be in a condition of national captivity, and slavery! The key is to understand under what name these modern peoples are identified in Bible prophecy. This key is fully explained and proved in our new brochure, America and Britain in Prophecy. If you have not already requested it, please call or write for your free copy today.

To briefly summarize this point, the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples are the descendants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel. The “birthright promise”—carrying a future of national greatness and power—was given specifically to the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, two of the Lost Ten Tribes (cf. Gen. 48:13-19). This divine birthright blessing promised that Manasseh would become a great nation and Ephraim a great “company” or “commonwealth” of nations (Gen. 35:9-11). But, these prophecies also noted that when the modern descendants of these two tribes become a threat to the modern nations of the endtime, God will turn aside and forsake God for the pleasures of selfishness, God stated that they would be PUNISHED.

Are we, the peoples of the United States, Canada, and other British-descended nations, God’s “pet people”? His “favorites”? Some might think so if they consider all the wealth and power our nations have enjoyed over the last 200 years. But God is not a respecter of individuals or nations! No indeed!

God does not play favorites! He chose us to properly use and set an example in character and influence; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened” (vv. 21-22).

God knew in advance that we would lapse into materialism, agnosticism and vanity once the promise of national greatness was obtained. So, over 100 years after Israel’s first captivity in antiquity, God prophesied about a future captivity through the endtime and then a final “restoration” at the Messiah’s return.

Coming National Captivity

Notice this prophecy that God gave to Jeremiah: “Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah (two separate nations)... So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer. 30:4, 6-7).

Again, it is important to note that Jeremiah lived and wrote over one hundred years after Israel’s ancient Assyrian captivity around 734-721 B.C. So the prophecy of Jeremiah 30 could only be talking about a future captivity in our time—NOW!

The coming, modern-day captivity is called by the Scriptures the Great Tribulation; it is the same time described by Jesus in Matthew 24:21-22. There cannot be two such terrible times, one over the past, and the other over the endtime.

Then, in the very next two verses of Jeremiah 30, God describes the yoke of slavery being removed from our peoples at the Second Coming of Christ. And our present captivity finally beginning to truly serve God: “But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (v. 9). This occurs at Christ’s return—aftter the resurrection from the dead, because David and all the righteous saints and prophets will have been raised to life!

Again, in Ezekiel 36:24-38, God describes how He will “rather” all the House of Israel out of captivity.
the kings of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever” (v. 15).

Yet, many religionists give the impression that we can have no idea as to when Christ may return.

No idea? After the worldwide shock of the coming destruction and national captivity of America and the British-descended Commonwealth, after the two witnesses were on the world during the coming Tribulation, after the “heavenly signs,” followed by the fearful plagues of God, you would have no idea when Christ might return?

We must all quit assuming that this world and our human societies are going to continue in normal, fairly predictable patterns indefinitely into the future. Rather, the most fearful and TRAUMATIC events of earth’s history are just ahead of us in this generation (Luke 21:31-32)! And the true Christ of your Bible commands, “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (v. 36).

How Will Christ Return?

Christ’s return to earth will be like the major homecoming of a conquering monarch—only much more so. For Christ will return as the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever” (v. 15).

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France Still Stuck in CRISIS MODE

by Dibar Apartian

A t last, with a deep sigh of relief, the French heard the news. It came suddenly, almost unexpectedly, in the midst of general disorder. Echoing the worldwide media, a headline in the Los Angeles Times announced, “Longest French Strike in 3 Decades Ends” (Dec. 16, 1995).

However, the French have not been duped by that “hopeful” news. They are well aware that the end of the crippling, 22-day general strikes didn’t mean a settlement or resolution of the country’s deficit-ridden, never-ending budget crisis. It simply meant that, after a series of concessions from Prime Minister Alain Juppé, French transport workers had decided to return to work.

Earlier in December, when the nation—especially the French capital—was virtually paralyzed by the devastating effects of the ongoing strikes, I was on my way to the airport in Martinique, a French island in the West Indies. “What do you think of the transport workers’ strike in France?” I asked my cabdriver.

“I personally don’t like strikes,” he protested, “but neither do I like foolish promises made by politicians. Before Jacques Chirac was elected president, he drew up a bright picture of his plans for the future: cutting taxes; raising wages; increasing public spending; reducing unemployment.... And now, look where we are!”

He and his ministers are demanding higher taxes, proposing to ration our health care and to reduce our pension benefits and subsidies.... How do they expect us to survive?”

Absorbed in our discussion, my French cabdriver did not realize—or, possibly, care—that while talking and thinking at the same time, he was causing traffic to slow down. “The government is adamant. It claims that our national deficit must be reduced,” he said. “Well, I have no qualms about that. That’s one step France will indeed have to take to meet the criteria for the European monetary union. However, he and his ministers nearly six months before they could offer a plan—a harsh one, a cruel one, in public opinion. No won- der most of the French, although recognizing the gravity of the situation, sympathized with the strikers.

Many consider the French tax system unjust and inequitable. They claim that it discourages both employment and higher income. The culprit in both cases may very well be the constantly increasing costs of social and welfare services. “France has to change. In a competitive world, it cannot continue to tax its citizens significantly more heavily. It causes disorder, hardship and inconvenience. But how else can our voices be heard?”

Two unions, representing transport workers, had begun striking in protest of the government’s plan to restructure the state-owned rail company known as the SNCF. Among other things, the unions objected to the government’s proposal to increase the amount of time public employees must pay into the social security system—from 37 1/2 years to 40 years—to qualify for full retirement benefits.

My cabdriver clearly perceived his country’s economic dilemma. But, like most other Frenchmen, he had no workable solutions. Today, most of the French understand that the entire social security and health care system must be changed somehow. Perhaps such a painful restructuring is even justified, but they don’t like the way the government is handling it.

Most Americans and Canadians can probably sympathize with the French because the United States and Canada are also facing similar challenges to reduce their ever-increasing public deficits.

Facts Are Facts

Like any candidate for election, Jacques Chirac had indeed made excessive campaign promises before being elected president—including reducing unemployment, slowing down immigration and other improvements to France’s social and financial infrastructure. However, he should have known that his country’s policy to pursue economic and monetary union in Europe would necessitate deep cuts in social spending. Although he knew such budget reforms were absolutely necessary, it took President Chirac and his ministers nearly six months before they could offer a plan—a harsh one, a cruel one, in public opinion. No wonder most of the French, although recognizing the gravity of the situation, sympathized with the strikers.

Perhaps the most onerous reform is the proposed proposal to increase the amount of time public employees must pay into the social security system—from 37 1/2 years to 40 years—to qualify for full retirement benefits. The heavy taxation enables the social security benefits to be very generous. “At the end of last year, the state was providing a guaranteed minimum income to 907,000 people, 60 percent of whom were unemployed. On top of that... recipients could claim family allowances and housing benefits. They could also, like almost everyone else in France, make use of an unusually indulgent health service. Patients could go to one doctor after another, taking their treatment à la carte and passing most of the bill on to the government. This is now to be curtailed” (The Economist, Nov. 25, 1995).

Today, the heavy tax burden in France is approximately 45 percent of GDP, while the unemployed constitute over 12 percent of the potential work force. But this heavy taxation also enables the social security benefits to be very generous. "At the end of last year, the state was providing a guaranteed minimum income to 907,000 people, 60 percent of whom were unemployed. On top of that... recipients could claim family allowances and housing benefits. They could also, like almost everyone else in France, make use of an unusually indulgent health service. Patients could go..."
overhaul of the French state health system. It runs an annual deficit of $12 billion, and its accumulated debts—estimated to be $50 billion. Moreover, government employees, who constitute 24.3 percent of the labor force, are estimated to be 4 trillion francs (U.S. $800 billion), up from 400 billion in 1980. The country’s very high financial deficit (Dec. 11, 1995).

With its 200 billion francs (U.S. $40 billion) loss, France’s large public sector is on the verge of bankruptcy with its generous social security system. The reaction in the French press

The Reaction in the French Press

During the devastating strikes, the French press recognized, almost unanimously, the urgency to reform and restructure, while disagreeing heatedly as to how to achieve it. France, an individualistic society, is divided between haves and have-nots.

The media stressed the fact that France was not merely on strike. It was—and it continues to be—in a deep social and political crisis, one of the worst it has known for the last 50 years. Besides paralyzing the whole country, the strikes created a climate of fear and mistrust. Train services were brought to a halt; the subway system was shut down; most schools, universities, and even airports were closed. In their anger, exasperated workers and students alike clogged the streets by the tens of thousands, sometimes even hundreds of thousands. Le Figaro, the prestigious Parisian daily newspaper, found it inconceivable that a rich and modern country like France—the world’s fourth most powerful nation in some rankings—should continue its archaic way of handling social issues. It underscored the fact that the French national debt is approaching 4 trillion francs (U.S. $800 billion), up from 400 billion in 1980. The country’s very generous social security system is on the verge of bankruptcy with its 200 billion francs (U.S. $40 billion) deficit (Dec. 11, 1995).

Most media sources conceded that the old system of subsidized benefits and retirement plans, established decades ago, was no longer viable in today’s economy. The time for cutting back, for lowering the standard of living, for austerity, had finally come.

Economic growth for 1995, estimated to be approximately 2.5 percent, is projected to be only 2 percent for 1996 (Le Point, Dec. 9, 1995). This means meager new job creation, higher financial deficit, higher unemployment, less industrial productivity—and, of course, failure to meet the European Union’s Maastricht economic targets imposed on France. The country must drastically reduce its public deficit to 4 percent of its GDP ($83 billion) to 3 percent. Today, the French people, fearing a decline in their living standard, are beginning to question the value of a European monetary union and a single market.

When Prime Minister Alain Juppé finally presented his austerity plan, the opposition violently objected to it—and the troubles began. Paradoxically, the French are known for their great revolutionary ideas, yet they don’t like change and reform. They fiercely resist change. When the pressure was building for a strike, instead of productive negotiation, the transport unions and the government chose confrontation and showdown, wrote Alain Duhamel in Le Point (Dec. 9, 1995).

Commenting on the action taken by “the Railroad Men,” Le Figaro Economic wrote that these men led the strikes because they were afraid for their future (Dec. 11, 1995). It stated that the SNCF’s total deficit is now over 175 billion francs, which is three times more than its annual income. The state-owned railroad company’s 1995 deficit was close to 14 billion francs—each day of strike cost the company another 100 million francs. What a way of reducing the deficit! According to Le Nouvel Observateur (Dec. 7-13, 1995), the SNCF had 182,350 employees at the end of 1994, while another 353,400 retirees were receiving pensions totaling more than 27 billion francs.

The strikes further revealed that students also feared for their futures. Young French, today, have a hard time finding a place in a work force where five million are already unemployed. Moreover, due to mergers, layoffs and cutthroat competition, many find their future goals in jeopardy. Marching down the streets by the thousands, students shouted for more professors and more classrooms that will help them prepare for better careers. They protested against the harshness and selfishness of the educational system’s administrators. Some even expressed fear about the rise of the extreme political right—the Le Pen movement.

Where Is the Solution?

There is a solution, but it requires sacrifice and self-discipline from everyone—a willingness to cooperate in mutual respect and concern. Obviously, neither individuals nor nations can continue living on borrowed money forever. No one should expect to balance the budget without giving up some benefits and privileges—and, especially, without shouldering more personal financial responsibility. Reform and growth carry a price tag. But in a world where the “buy now and pay later” system is encouraged, people, more often than not, choose the easy way. The French press

The Human Spirit REVEALED

by Raymond F. McNair

T he fantastic accomplishments of the human mind are truly mind-boggling! So far as is known, there is virtually no limit to the capacity of the human mind!

How is it that humans have been able to put men on the moon? When Neil Armstrong stepped out on the moon on July 20, 1969, he said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!”

Now, men are reaching for the stars!

Where did man’s seemingly limitless mental capacity come from? Is his fantastic mind the result of random forces which somehow prompted love and hate, inception, bringing life into being? Or is it the result of an all-wise, all-powerful Creator God? Speaking of the unique mind and body of humans, King David said, “I will praise You [God], for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139:14). How is it that man is so vastly superior to the most intelligent animals?

Nothing Beyond Man’s Ability?

Immediately after the Great Deluge destroyed all life forms on this earth except Noah, his family and those animals preserved in the ark (Gen. 7:11-23), God explained that man had been endowed by Him with virtually unlimited mental capacity. After taking notice of the city of Babylon and the impressive tower which the earth’s inhabitants were building there, God exclaimed, “Indeed the people are one [united] and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them” (Gen. 11:6). That is—unless the Eternal God intervened!

God knew that if He didn’t disperse Noah’s descendants over the face of the earth, they would pool their intellectual capacity and, over time, their inventive-ness would seemingly know no bounds! Yet it would only be to their detriment. For not only would they begin making leaps into outer space—they would also invent weapons of mass destruction capable of erasing all life from this planet!

How can one explain the source of man’s almost unlimited mental capacity? Science, which deals with the purely physical realm, has been unable to explain the enormous chasm between the animal brain, which is limited by instinct, and the virtually unlimited human mind. Is it possible, then, that we humans have a non-physical component, which somehow imparts to us our awesome
God-like mental powers of choice, apparently by helping in making moral judgments?

If so, isn’t it logical that our Creator would have revealed to us that man was created mortal! “But,” God plainly says, “there is a spirit [Heb. ruach] in man, and the breath [Heb. neshamah] of the Almighty gives him understanding” (Job 32:8).

What is the precise function of that “spirit”? Since it gives understanding, it evidently is that which imparts intellectual ability to the human brain. Further, the Bible tells us that God “formed the man, the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man [“human spirit” NSRV] within him” (Zech. 12:1). In other words, God formed the person and gave him life. For example, in the Old Testament, we read that “God... created the heavens and the earth, and the sea, and all that is therein, and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2). Further, in Deuteronomy 6:20, it says that “All of this shall go to pass, save the person who would consider it.

What happens to a man’s spirit at the end of earthly life and death? God’s Word says, “Then the dust [man’s physical body] will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit [Heb. ruach] will return to God who gave it” (Ecc. 12:7). Here ruach means the human spirit or mind. It would be ludicrous to conclude that the literal breath or air from a man’s lungs somehow goes back to God at death.

When “spirit” (either ruach or pneuma) of God is joined to a man’s inner self, it always refers to what we call the human mind. But the Hebrew word nephesh and the Greek word psuche (often rendered “soul” in English translations) can refer to a person (Gen. 35:11), his life (2 Sam. 1:9; Matt. 10.39) or his mind (Acts 13.14; Phil. 1:27)—depending upon the context of a particular verse.

With this background concern, the question of the meaning of “spirit” (ruach/pneuma) and “soul” (nephesh/psuche), we can now begin to understand the New Testament teaching regarding the spirit in man.

When a married couple in the early Church deliberately lied to the Apostle Peter (Acts 15:1-8), God willed that they die because they deceitfully lied attempting to “test the Spirit of the Lord” (v. 9). And “Ananias [the husband...] fell down, and gave up the ghost [Gk. pneuma] and great fear came on all them that heard these things” (Acts 5:6).

When Ananias “gave up the ghost,” what, exactly, did he give up? When humans die, they always give up two things: 1) the physical body, and 2) the human spirit—ruach, Gk. pneuma—which the Creator gives to every person He creates. The Apostle James wrote, “The body without the [human] spirit is dead” (James 3:15, RSV).

Notice another account of some-one dying—“And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’” (Acts 7:59, RSV).

And at Jesus Christ’s death, “He said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.’ And having said this, He breathed his last” (Luke 23:46). The Kjv James Version says, “And having said thus, he gave up the ghost [pneuma].”

What really happened? Before Christ died His last breath (pneuma), He commanded His “spirit” (His mind and His entire life—as well as His body) into the Father’s hands for safe keeping. When “in three days...” that He would be dead—totally unconscious (Matt. 12:40).

Are Dead People Conscious?

Some of the most intriguing questions you can ask yourself are: “What happens to me after death? Will I be in any way conscious?”

Will I go to heaven? Or to hell?

The famous magician, Harry Houdini (1874-1926), planned to communicate, if at all possible, with his friends and relatives after his death. Though many tried to make contact with him, their efforts all proved to be in vain! Why were they unable to ever contact him? The Bible gives us the answer:

Only the Bible can reveal to man what actually transpires after death. So let’s see what God’s Word says: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the days of your youth, in the days when the spirit of youth is in you, and you hear the commands of your heart by which you understand wisdom” (Eccl. 12:7). Here the spirit of youth means the human mind.

When a person’s “spirit” goes back to God, the question of “Are we living in the grave who will give an account of us?” (Rom. 14:12). Here we see that God’s Word says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;” (Rom. 3:23). When a person’s spirit goes back to God, that person will have to give an account of his actions or deeds. Therefore, the Bible teaches that there is no such thing as an immortal soul—definitely not from the Scriptures, but from passages cut off from their Creator by their vain imaginations—“Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:22; see vv. 18-25).

In our January 1996 World Ahead article, “What is Man?”, we noted that according to the Hebrew Scriptures man was made a mortal creature—a living being [Heb. nephesh]” (Gen. 2:7). The Greek Scriptures also say that Adam was created “a living being [Gk. psuche]” (1 Cor. 15:45).

Moreover, the Bible also states that nephesh and psuche mean exactly the same thing, and are translated by various English words: “soul,” “person,” “being,” “creature” or “life.” Nephesh and psuche usually refers to humans, but can sometimes refer to animals as well (Gen. 1:20-21; Rev. 8:9). In that verse we read that all souls (physical creatures) can die, be killed, destroyed or, in some way, perish! We saw, too, that in the Scriptures, humans are never spoken of as possessing immortality.

We also observed that ancient pagans such as Druids and philosophers like Plato came to the erroneous conclusion concerning humans and their immortal soul—thereby having inherited a lie—that humans have an inherent soul which is immortal. We also observed that an immortal soul definitely did not come from the Scriptures, but from passages cut off from their Creator by their vain imaginations—“Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:22; see vv. 18-25).

The Human Spirit in the New Testament

The New Testament mention man’s spirit? The Apostle Paul wrote, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God” (1 Cor. 2:11). Clearly, Paul distinguishes between the “Spirit of God” and the “spirit of the man?” This is more evidence that the human spirit is the facilitator of human intellect.

So, even though humans are never called spirits in either the Old or the New Testaments, nonetheless the Bible consistently teaches that there is a spirit in man which is not physical. It is that spirit which elevates man far above the animals and enables him to communicate, through prayer, directly with his Creator (cf. Ex. 31:2-6; Dan. 2:19-23).

Paul noted, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:16 KJV). Again, we see that “our spirit” is distinct from “the Spirit [of God].” And here is described the conception God had entered human life. Pregnancy begins with fertilization, not with implantation!” (Thep B. of America). Arthur V. DeMoss Foundation, 1986, p. 113). All of this should give pause to those who would consider abortion.

What is the human spirit? One of the most confusing questions you can ask is: “What happens to me after death? Will I be in any way conscious?”

Will I go to heaven? Or to hell?

The famous magician, Harry Houdini (1874-1926), planned to communicate, if at all possible, with his friends and relatives after his death. Though many tried to make contact with him, their efforts all proved to be in vain! Why were they unable to ever contact him? The Bible gives us the answer:

The King says, “For in death there is no remembrance of You [God]; in the grave who will give You thanks?” (Ps. 6:5)

Today, many fervently believe that spiritualists, called necromancers, can contact the dead. Though some mediums certainly claim to contact the dead, in actual fact they do not—and cannot! What really happens when they attempt to contact the dead? Most often, nothing at all—nothing but frauds! But when contact is made, the mediums are actually contacting wicked demonic spirits—and are deceived into thinking they are contacting the spirits of dead humans.

The Bible reveals that demons do somehow have the power to communicate with humans and often lead the gullible into believing they are communicating with spirits of the dead. God condemns such vain attempts to communicate with the dead (Deut. 18:10-12; 1 Sam. 28:3-25; Is. 8:19-20).

God’s Plan to Perfect Every Human Spirit

If the dead are totally unconscious, do humans forever cease to exist when they die? Not! The Scriptures clearly teach that, sooner or later, all will be resurrected. Christ said that “the hour is coming when all who are in their tombs will hear his voice...and come forth...[either to] the resurrection of life...[or to] the resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29 RSV).

In the resurrection of life at Christ’s Second Coming, the Great God will create a new, immortal spirit body for each Christian’s human spirit body (1 Cor. 15:22-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-17). The human spirit has no consciousness of self—definitely not! Therefore, there is no awareness between his death and resurrection. Not until his spirit is joined with a new body in the resurrection does consciousness return. Through a spiritual begettal in that very day his spirit is joined with a new body in the resurrection. Not until his spirit is joined with a new body in the resurrection does consciousness return. Through a spiritual begettal in... (continued on page 25)
I am now on your mailing list. I have been blessed out of my socks by the articles in the two magazines I have read. I am new on your mailing list. I have never in my life heard anyone preach about Christmas like this morning on the World Ahead television program. I am 81 years old. Not in all my life have I ever heard anything like your preaching. You are gifted by God to preach the immediate clarity of your brochure. Does this mean that we’re finally mature Christians?

Just halfway through your brochure, our hearts were singing. What a joy to read the expectations with words straight from the Bible. Can anyone hope to do better than using God’s own words? Thank you for such a beautiful, written and clear explanation and description of the subject.

Carl and Eva Schultz
St. Ocala, Florida

I saw the last part of your program which aired December 23. It was concerning the pagan aspects of Christmas and was being taught by Dr. Roderick Sted. I’ve known about our pagan traditions for some time, including Easter (Ishtar) in place of Passover and all the “other holidays” derived from pagan traditions.

I must commend you all. This was the first time I ever saw a program (presumably Christian) that dared to denote the “sacred” commercial day, I mean ‘holiday’ of Christmas. Thanks for trying to open the sheep’s eyes.

William Barron
Trenton, New Jersey

Today we received The God You Can Know. We finished this brochure in one sitting. It was impossible to put down! It wasn’t too long ago we were told that if we didn’t become Christians, we would be able to understand the Trinity foolishness. We were told to give it time—all would become clear! We went from Trinitarian ‘gobbledy-gook’ to the spiritual paradoxes of our time?

Many seeing the need for solutions have become “co-workers” with us, and with Christ, in this global Work of God. That is WHY this magazine has no subscription price. That is WHY there is no begging, nagging or pleading for money on the World Ahead television program.

Yes, this is a Work of faith. By faith in the Living Christ we are purchasing time on new, powerful television stations. We’re sending out additional thousands of World Ahead magazines, booklets and other literature to help our peoples understand the real purpose for their lives—and what truly lies ahead.

All of this obviously costs money! And it has all been made possible through the financial support of a comparatively few-thousand supporters and co-workers who have, of their own accord, decided they want to have a part in helping to preach and publish God’s warning message as a witness to all nations!

Notice this scripture: “We then, as WORKERS together with Christ in reaching the unconverted world with His message. And there certainly is a lot of work to do! Jesus said, “Freely you have received, FREELY GIVE” (Matt. 10:8). We cannot, therefore, put a price tag on the precious truth of God and the warning message, which must go to all the world, regardless of its reception. Today, as in apostolic times, God is raising up a growing family of co-workers—laborers together with Christ—who are helping our Church to grow and reach the unconverted world with His message. And there certainly is a lot of work to do! Jesus said, “Freely you have received, FREELY GIVE” (Matt. 10:8). We cannot, therefore, put a price tag on the precious truth of God and the warning message, which must go to all the world, regardless of its reception. Today, as in apostolic times, God is raising up a growing family of co-workers—laborers together with Christ—who are helping our Church to grow and reach the unconverted world with His message. And there certainly is a lot of work to do! Jesus said, “Freely you have received, FREELY GIVE” (Matt. 10:8). We cannot, therefore, put a price tag on the precious truth of God and the warning message, which must go to all the world, regardless of its reception.

After a person has voluntarily, of his own free will, expressed a desire to help us, I send a personal, monthly letter informing these individuals in our family of co-workers about the news and financial conditions of God’s Work. Some people don’t start volunteering themselves by oversight, “I want to be a co-worker.” They just add themselves to our co-worker list by voluntarily sending in tithes and offerings regularly to show they are fellow laborers in the Work of Christ. However one decides to help, it is ONLY this inner circle of members and co-workers who are ever told about the financial needs of this Work, the details of its growth or asked for money in any way.

In a time of so much bad news, the good news is that this CRUSADE FOR SANITY is not a work or idea of men. In due time, you will know—and you will know that you know—that this is the Work of the GREAT GOD who guides the lives and destinies of people and nations here below!
In our worship of God the Father and Jesus Christ, should Christians keep traditionally popular, accepted days like Lent, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, Whitsunday and Christmas? Or should we keep the days that the Bible talks about like the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles?

Does it really matter which days we keep or choose NOT to keep? Why would anyone suggest that Christians should get their religious Holy Days out of the Old Testament? Hasn't there been a total theological divorce between Old Testament and New Testament, law and grace, Judaism and Christianity? What is the Truth?

To investigate this controversial subject, Jeff Patton, managing editor of The World Ahead, interviewed Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi, professor of History and Theology at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Dr. Bacchiocchi, a native of Rome, Italy, was raised a devout Catholic until his parents were loaned a Bible from a man of the Waldensian faith. Their biblical study led them to embrace a Seventh-day Sabbath and eventually they joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In the wake of the Catholic Church’s Vatican II reforms in the 1960s, Samuele Bacchiocchi applied and was admitted to the prestigious Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome as its first non-Catholic student.

Earning his doctorate summa cum laude, Bacchiocchi personally received a gold medal from Pope Paul VI in recognition of his achievement. Already a published author of 12 books on biblical topics including From Sabbath to Sunday, The Sabbath in the New Testament and Divine Rest for Human Restlessness, Dr. Bacchiocchi has recently written a new book, God’s Festivals in Scripture and in History. It examines the question of the validity for Christians of the festivals revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures.

WA: Dr. Bacchiocchi, is there an interest in the religious community these days in the Old Testament festivals?

Dr. B: Dr. Patton, I was pleasantly surprised to discover a considerable interest on the part of Messianic Jews who are trying to recall their Jewish roots, and on the part of a number of Christian scholars—Lutherans and Presbyterians—who feel that tracing or examining these Old Testament festivals helps us to understand the heritage of the Christian faith. In fact, I found more studies, more books on the subject than I had anticipated. So, apparently, there is among Christians the desire to understand their spiritual heritage by studying the religious life of God’s people in the Old Testament, as exemplified in the observance of the Holy Days.

WA: For years, if I understand this correctly, you taught that the annual Sabbaths, these Old Testament festivals, had come to an end. Yet, now you’ve altered your position. It is most unusual for a published scholar, who is widely known in the academic community, to reverse his position on such a controversial subject. What made you decide to change your point of view?

Dr. B: To be honest with you, I had never examined this subject very thoroughly. As with most evangelical scholars, I had always assumed that the Old Testament festivals, because of their connection with the sacrificial system, would end. Yet, now you’ve altered your position. It is most unusual for a published scholar, who is widely known in the academic community, to reverse his position on such a controversial subject. What made you decide to change your point of view

Dr. B: The question you are posing is based on the faulty assumption that the cross represents a kind of “line of demarcation.” There are many Christians out there who sincerely believe that before the cross we have Judaism, we have the law and the Hebrew calendar. What’s the biblical evidence that you have found on this subject?

Dr. B: The life of the Apostolic Church—the original Church of God in Jerusalem—regulated by the Hebrew calendar? What’s the biblical evidence that you have found on this subject?

Dr. B: Let me say that my book has just come out a couple of weeks ago. It’s a very recent publication and I was able to submit the manuscript for review prior to the publication to about 15 top Seventh-day Adventist scholars and some church leaders. With very few exceptions, the response so far has been very positive. Because, basically, the focus of my research is to encourage not only my own Seventh-day Adventist Church, but Christians in general, to enrich their worship experience—whether it be private or public.

We can do this by commemorating and celebrating in the course of the year the redemptive accomplishment of the First Advent [First Coming] through the Spring festivals of Passover and Pentecost and then the redemptive accomplishment of the Second Advent through the fall festivals such as Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. I personally feel that any Christian who takes time to celebrate the great saving acts of God through the course of the year is bound to be enriched in his or her own spiritual life.

WA: The World Ahead images

The question you are posing is based on the faulty assumption that the cross represents a kind of “line of demarcation.” There are many Christians out there who sincerely believe that before the cross we have Judaism, we have the law and we have the Holy Days. After the first advent of Christ, the Jewish religious community was frustrated by the absence of the second advent.
cross we have Christianity, we have grace, we have new Christian Holy Days like Sunday, Easter and Christmas. But, you know what? The true historical reality is that Christianity began—not as a radical divorce, not as a radical separation or breakaway, but as the continuation of Judaism...[the conclusion of the true religion that God gave to Moses].

If you and I had asked those early converts to submit to seven of the Ten Commandments, they probably would have said, “I am a believing Jew!” The tension in the book of Acts, for example, is not between Jews and Christians, but between believing and unbelieving Jews. It’s interesting to notice that there was a very rewarding aspect of my research. As I was working there at the Vatican Archives for five years looking for early Christian testimonies relating to the religious life and to the observance of Holy Days, I found a number of documents. In fact, anyone who is interested in [studying] the relevant information in the fifth chapter of my doctoral dissertation [published as the book entitled From Sabbath to Sunday].

I remember one day... I was reading the Palestinian historian, Epiphanius. He lived in the middle of the fourth century, about 350 A.D. He gives the whole history of the Jerusalem Church... Do you know what it says? That the direct descendants of the Jerusalem Church insisted and persisted in the observance of the Sabbath, how can they be the pioneers of the abandonment of the Sabbath and the Holy Days and the adoption of pagan holidays when they were still observing the biblical days in the middle of the fourth century?

WA: Are there other scriptures or documents that would support the keeping of the Holy Days?

Dr. B: Exacdy. This was a very interesting paper that came out of our study. The biblical God is a God designed to help us remember, identity in history. And the biblical calendar is actually interested in time? That is the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days [annual Sabbaths] have their origin in the peace of God. And if we become forgetful we do not have a commandment of God? Don’t we also need to remember the Creator God, the Redeemer God? Don’t we also need to remember for pleasure—for profit—rather than for the presence in the peace of God.

WA: Are you saying that God is actually interested in time? That He’s intervening in time?

Dr. B: The biblical God is a God of history. He’s a God who active in history by creating, redeeming and restoring at the end. The biblical faith is rooted on God’s saving activity in history. And the biblical calendar is actually interested in time? That is the weekly Sabbath and the Holy Days [annual Sabbaths] have their origin in the peace of God. And if we become forgetful we do not have a commandment of God? Don’t we also need to remember the Creator God, the Redeemer God? Don’t we also need to remember for pleasure—for profit—rather than for the presence in the peace of God.

WA: Even so, many feel that these Old Testament Holy Days—the weekly Sabbath, the annual Sabbaths like Pentecost—all these things were replaced by the reality of Christ’s sacrifice. How do you answer this perspective?

Dr. B: The question we have to ask is this: Why would God ask His people in the Old Testament to remember Him? To remember His creative and redemptive activity—acts—weekly and annually.

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The reason so many people today doubt that there is a Creator God, they doubt that there is a Redeemer God...[is] because having forgotten those days—which were designed to maintain alive this awareness of God—they doubt that there is a Creator God, they doubt that there is a Creator God...

When we study the biblical feasts, they help us understand the unfolding of redemptive history. The spring festivals, for example the Passover and Pentecost, are designed to help us understand the accomplishment of Christ’s First Advent. But, they go on beyond that—like Passover. What did Jesus say? Luke 22:15-16: “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” In other words, Jesus Himself speaks of Passover—not as being completely fulfilled at the cross. Jesus, the Pascal Lamb, the Passover sacrifice, has not yet future ultimate fulfillment [of the Passover redemption will take place] in the Father’s Kingdom. And since He said that He’s not going to eat it again at that time, He specifies that when the partake of the Passover during His absence and FEEL that great future Pascal supper meal of the lamb.

And the same is true of all the other festivals, because the New Testament reminds us of the resurrection/ascension/beginning of Christ’s ministry, the beginning of the Christian Church. It reminds us of the fulfillment of the Passover and the First Advent that made available the enabling power of the Holy Spirit that launched the Christian mission. But, Pentecost is an experience to be repeated, as was the early rain of Pentecost. There’s going to be a lot more. And the Church also is going to be empowered to complete the mission that was begun there at Pentecost. By celebrating Pentecost, we not only celebrate that incredible outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which set the Christian movement in motion, but we are all now expressing our hope and faith that God will repeat the same miracle in our own life in the Church to complete the mission that God has given us to do.

We could go through and see exactly the same that there was initial fulfillment and an ultimate fulfillment in all the other festivals. Like the Fall festivals of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Tabernacles. All of them remind us of the scope, the goal, of the need to nourish and strengthen our faith so that we can internalize the consciousness of God working in history to accomplish His redemptive purpose.

WA: I get the point. Yet the Holy Days and the Sabbath are part of God’s law and most people have the perspective that the Apostle Paul was very anti-law. People say Paul really taught against the law. What did Paul teach?

Dr. B: I surely appreciate your asking this question. I want to assure you that I have spent many years of my life addressing this concern. In fact, in my book, The Sabbath in the New Testament, I have a whole section entitled “Paul and the Law.”

But in a nutshell, the fundamental problem is this: people read only those statements of Paul which negate the value of the law as the basis of salvation—such statements. (Rom. 3:28: I affirm that we are saved by grace through faith without the works of the law. And we have statements similar to that in Galatians.)

However, what many want [is] that while on one hand Paul will affirm that we are not saved by faith through grace without the works of the law—on the other hand, this same Paul says that the law is holy; the law is just; the law is pure; (Rom. 7:12). God could have used another form of sinful flesh so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us (Rom. 8:4). So the question is this: How can Paul negate the law on one hand and affirm it on the other hand?

WA: Is it contradictory?

Dr. B: It seems contradictory. How can you say it’s abolished and it’s established?... How do you reconcile it? If you study my analysis, you will find that the key to resolve this apparent contradiction is in the context of any particular test. When Paul speaks of the law as the basis of salvation, he says that the law cannot save us. Because we are not saved through rules and regulations. Salvation is a free gift. It’s not a human achievement. Do you follow me?

So, when Paul speaks of the law as the basis of salvation he clearly says, the law is of no avail. But, when Paul speaks of the law as the standard of salvation—the standard to which we are saved—he says that we are not saved to remain in sin. But, we are saved to become what God likes us to be. We are saved because God has the righteousness of God in our own life. And when Paul speaks of the law in terms of the standard of salvation, then he affirms it. WHY? Because the function of the law is to help us understand the will of God. God has given us the [box]spring support so that we can develop the character after His likeness.

(THIS INTERVIEW WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE MARCH ISSUE.)

If this interview has raised some questions in your mind or you would like further information about obtaining Dr. Bauchchich’s books, recent articles, or seeking advice on your questions: “Letters to the Editor,” P.O. Box 30113, San Diego, CA 92130-2131.

In Genesis 24:2-9 we read that Abraham made his servant swear to find a wife for his son Isaac from his own people. But Jesus said, “Do not swear at all.” This principle has been followed by Christians. When Christians are required to participate in legal matters that normally require sworn statements or testimony, they should simply affirm the truth of what is said, as opposed to swearing an oath.

Thus, a simple “yes” or “no” should suffice when Christians speak.

The Bible mentions “swearing in prison” in 1 Peter 3:19. The Apostle Peter explains what these spirits were, saying, “God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell... to be reserved for judgment (2 Peter 2:4). Thus, these “spirits were demons—angels who had sinned, being cast out of heaven, and punished for their rebellion. Why? Because “saying, ‘God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell... to be reserved for judgment’” (2 Peter 2:4). Thus, these “spirits were demons—angels who had sinned, being cast out of heaven, and punished for their rebellion.”

The term “cast down to hell” here means being confined to a state of restraint, being translated from the Greek word tartaroo. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words defines the verb tartaroo as confirming sinning angels to be reserved unto judgment (p. 300). Where are they reserved unto judgment? Satan, the ‘god of this world’ speaks on behalf of the demons. It is during the 120-year period preceding the ascension of the ark that God, in the Person of the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, went and preached to the spirits in prison.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20, the Apostle Paul says that when you are invited to dinner you should eat whatever is put before you and make no questions. Does this mean that the dietary laws of clean and unclean meats in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 are no longer in effect?

Yes, in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, the pagan worship required animal sacrifices. Routinely, there would be a surplus of ritually unclean meats that was not consumed in ritually unclean meats. This meat would be sold to local butchers who would then resell it to the public.

This posed a problem for the Corinthian Church members who practiced pagan worship—as Christians, they were to be free idolaters. (1 Cor. 10:14-21). The Corinthians didn't realize that meat sold at the market (the source of which was unknown) could be considered clean if eaten in the temple. What Paul was saying was that the meat itself was just meat—the real sin would be to participate in the false, idolatrous ceremony. Before you, asking no questions, when you are invited to dinner you should eat whatever is put before you and make no questions. Does this mean that the dietary laws of clean and unclean meats in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 are no longer in effect?

To properly answer this question, we must consider the distinctive Christian society of the time. The pagan worship required animal sacrifices. Routinely, there would be a surplus of ritually unclean meats that was not consumed in ritually unclean meats. This meat would be sold to local butchers who would then resell it to the public.

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Don’t Eat the Cleanup Crew!

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

W hy did God prohibit eating certain foods? Was the Creator being capricious? Why should He be concerned? Is there a rational, logical basis for the Scriptures dealing with which foods are fit for human consumption?

After dealing with edible land animals, the second major set of divine dietary instructions concerned aquatic creatures. In Leviticus we are instructed: “These you may eat: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat... Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales—that shall be an abomination to you” (11:9, 12).

The biblical guidelines were designed to point people to the safest kinds of fish to eat. However, care must be taken—even clean fish should be adequately cooked before eaten. Raw fish (such as sashimi or sashimi) or poorly cooked fish can transmit several kinds of parasitic tapeworms and flukes (Black, Microbiology, 1993).

A Different Purpose

Shellfish, lacking both fins and scales, are clearly excluded by the biblical dietary laws. But why would lobsters, crabs, crayfish and shrimp, which are considered delicacies in many parts of the world, be prohibited? The answer lies in understanding the role they were designed to play in nature.

Lobsters are “nocturnal” foragers (Encyclopedia Americana, 1993). They are “bottom walkers” and “predatory scavengers” (Encyclopedia of Aquatic Life) that “scavenge for dead animals” and other bottom-dwelling organisms and debris (Encyclopedia Britannica, 1995). They are usually caught in lobster pots “bailed with dead fish.” Lobsters have long antennae and tiny hair-like sensors all over their bodies “that can detect specific chemical molecules in the environment (released by decaying organisms), which can help the lobster identify and locate food”—even in the dark (New Standard Encyclopedia, 1993)! Lobsters have been observed to bury a dead fish and then dig it up later, at intervals, to eat a bit more of it (International Wildlife Encyclopedia).

Crabs are referred to as “professional garbage hunters” and as “scavengers” that eat almost anything. “The edible crab prefers dead fish, but will eat any carrion [dead, putrefying flesh]” (International Wildlife Encyclopedia). Common shrimp, a small, delicate relative of crabs and lobsters, live by day in the sandy bottoms of bays and estuaries all over the world. However, they become active at night and prey on microscopic organisms (silt, plant debris, bacteria, viruses) which they capture as they filter-feed on microscopic particles. Their role is to purify the water.

Danger on the Half Shell

There are also important and logical reasons why God created and then clearly labeled clams, oysters, mussels and scallops as unclean and inappropriate for human consumption. These creatures are found in lakes, streams and coastal areas around the world where they perform specialized roles. As stationary filter-feeding mollusks, they pump large amounts of water over their mucus-covered gills, trapping tiny pieces of food (silt, plant debris, bacteria, viruses) which they then eat (Encyclopedia Americana, “Mollusks”). As a result, “mussels and other animals feeding on microscopic particles are the ultimate scavengers of the sea” (International Wildlife Encyclopedia). Filter-feeding organisms are the “vacuum cleaners” for aquatic environments. Their role is to purify the water.

How serious is the threat of disease? The American Food and Drug Administration has stated that “raw oysters, clams and mussels—so savored by gourmets—account for a whopping 85 percent of the illnesses caused by eating seafood” (FDA Consumer, June 1991). Outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A, Norwalk virus, salmonella and paralytic shellfish poisoning are just some of the health problems frequently linked to the consumption of these mollusks (U.C. Berkeley Wellness Letter, Feb. 1994).
Birds to Bugs

The final groups of organisms covered by the biblical code are birds, insects, and reptiles. Essentially all the excluded fowl are either birds of prey or scavengers like vultures and seagulls (Lev. 11:13–19; Illustrated Bible Dictionary, vol. 1, 1980). Carnivorous birds are important in controlling populations of other animals. Their dietary habits of eating the flesh and blood of their prey—carrion—make these birds potential agents for transmitting disease. Predatory fish-eating birds tend to accumulate high levels of toxic chemicals in their bodies. Most of these birds are not important food sources for humans.

Reptiles are also among the animals listed as unclean for human food (Lev. 11:29–30, 42–43). Regarding insects, only those from the locust/grasshopper family are permitted for human consumption. These creatures are distinguished by having “strong hind legs for springing” (Expositor’s Bible Dictionary) and have been used, historically, as a food source in the Middle East.

Dietary Laws Abolished?

The biblical dietary laws are simple, rational, practical and profound. Long before human beings knew the details of disease-causing microorganisms, life cycles of parasites and profound. Long before human beings knew the details of disease-causing microorganisms, life cycles of parasites and。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。。
Globalism—Where Is It Leading?

Not since the days of the Tower of Babel have the efforts of all humanity been more intertwined and interconnected. We talk commonly about how the world has been transformed into a global village by jet planes, instant telecommunication and an integrated world economy.

From finance to manufacturing, multinational corporations and conglomerates dominate virtually every field. People all over the world are linked by the internet and satellite TV transmission. Yet the paradoxical present trend is for multiethnic, multireligious and multicultural nations to subdivide and fragment along the lines of whatever distinguishes one group from another.

Where is it all leading? Will the certainties of a bipolar world with the end of the Cold War, Why did the New World Order that we envisioned dissolve so quickly and abjectly in the New World Disorder? From finance to manufacturing, multinational corporations and conglomerates dominate virtually every field. People all over the world are linked by the internet and satellite TV transmission. Yet the paradoxical present trend is for multiethnic, multireligious and multicultural nations to subdivide and fragment along the lines of whatever distinguishes one group from another.

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future, should the U.S. dollar falter as the world's reserve currency due to declining confidence in American power, the rival euro will be ready to take its place.

Western capitalism lures the world to her bed by promising the twin pleasures of competition and material gain. However, it has become apparent to some that the West has confused freedom with material gain. These capitalists have fostered a sense of competition and material greed that has led to the neglect of the needs of others. The result is a world of self-centered individuals who are more concerned with their own interests than with the well-being of others.

For example, as corporations have become more competitive, they have sometimes put the interests of shareholders above the well-being of their workers. This has led to a decrease in the quality of life for many workers. In addition, the competition for profits has produced a society in which individuality over virtue and community is valued. This has led to a breakdown of traditional institutions such as the family and the church.

However, it has become apparent to those who believe in the truth of Christianity that a solution that would claim the loyalty of employees or even to a nation has not been sought. As corporations have become more competitive, they have sometimes put the interests of shareholders above the well-being of their workers. This has led to a decrease in the quality of life for many workers. In addition, the competition for profits has produced a society in which individuality over virtue and community is valued. This has led to a breakdown of traditional institutions such as the family and the church.

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CHRIST RETURN TONIGHT? (continued from page 7)
saints from around the world (Matt. 24:31). Those who are dead will be resurrected and those who are still living will be changed to spirit beings in the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:52-53). At that moment, all who are truly converted and walking with God will be glorified (Phil. 3:21). The faces of these glorified saints will SHINE LIKE THE SUN! (Rev. 1:16; 1 John 3:2).

A Job of Rulership
Soon afterward, the now Spirit-born saints of God will join Christ in the mop-up operations against any remaining leaders of the rebel governments of this world. For God’s saints are prophesied “to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishements on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute judgments on the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the potter’s vessel, as the governments of this world. For God’s remaining leaders of the rebel governments of this world shall be broken to pieces”—as I have also received from My Father” (Rev. 2:26-27).

In the book of Revelation, God reveals that in the endtime a powerful system He calls “Babylon the Great” will arise and dominate the entire earth. This system involves religion as well as having military, political and economic components. Revelation 18:9-18 and Ezekiel 27 reveal that a great global trading system will dominate the world’s economy just before the Second Coming of Christ. This political system represents, according to Bible prophecy, the final “resurrection” of the old Roman Empire system of government. God revealed through the pen of the Prophet Daniel the good news beyond the bad. “And in the days of these kings [the final ten who constitute the revived Holy Roman Empire] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Dan. 2:44).

According to the inspired word of God, Jesus Christ is going to return to this fragmenting world as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16). When He does, He will sweep away the false systems that have erected and replace them with the glorious Kingdom of God, a system that will be based upon the righteous laws of Almighty God.

In future articles we will show you how the Bible clearly reveals the identity of this endtime Babylonian system. With this understanding of Bible prophecy, you can clearly know what lies ahead for your nation and your world. You can also understand the ultimate purpose the Creator is working out beyond the events that lie immediately ahead of us.

FRACTIONATION (continued from page 28)
sanity and his throne. What he learned in a change from being the seemingly all-powerful King of Babylon to being a madman roaming the fields like a lambs’ animal was that “the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses” (Dan. 4:25).

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The stage is being set for the appearance of a powerful, charismatic religious leader who will be allied with a great economic, politico-military “savior.” There is to be a subsequent revival of intense religious fervor worldwide. Religion will be used as the glue to bind a fragmenting world and to promote unity and a common identity. It will not really solve the problem, however, because it will not be based upon the Truth of God. It will be a counterfeit palmed off by Satan the Devil.

This bad news about an unholy alliance of false religion with economic, politico-military interests is not the end of the story. God revealed through the pen of the Prophet Daniel the good news beyond the bad. “And in the days of these kings [the final ten who constitute the revived Holy Roman Empire] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Dan. 2:44).

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