

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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What the World Needs from **America**



Looking Ahead After the Election

On November 5, 2024, the United States decisively elected Donald J. Trump to be its president through both the Electoral College and the popular vote. Many of Mr. Trump's supporters see him as a messianic figure—a savior of the country. But, though polls showed that three-quarters of Americans feel that their country has been on the wrong track, many Trump voters were not necessarily happy with their own choice. Based on anecdotal evidence, quite a few figuratively “held their noses” when they selected him, voting for what they perceived as “the lesser of two evils.”

So, what might we expect over the next four years? Can the Trump administration solve America's problems? One problem no president can solve is America's moral decline, which is at the core of all its other problems. Covetousness and a lack of self-control are behind a staggering national debt. By the time you read this, the U.S. national debt will be more than \$36 trillion, a figure that continues climbing at a dizzying rate.

It is easy to blame politicians—and both parties are guilty—but it is the electorate that rewards politicians for bribing people with their own money. A nation that fights for the right to kill its babies (the difference between the two parties often comes down to *when* it is okay to do so) does not sit well with God. Nor does a nation hooked on pornography, adultery, lying, stealing, violence, and every other kind of sin.

The prophet Isaiah mostly addressed the house of Judah—the Jews of his day in the eighth century BC. But some of his prophecies applied to the northern house of Israel—non-Jews—and even Gentile peoples. His prophecies also had a dual aspect, with both a former fulfillment and a still-future, end-time fulfillment. Through understanding how those prophecies apply to us today, we draw lessons in understanding the mind of God.

God's Mind and Judgment

Though many claim that the U.S. is a Christian nation, consider how God through His prophet accurately

describes our world today: “These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men” (Isaiah 29:13). And does this not also describe the United Kingdom and the British-descended peoples of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa?

Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, that it may be for time to come, forever and ever:



that this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.

Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us” (Isaiah 30:8–11).

Isaiah then shows God's mind and judgment on such a people unless they change their way of thinking:

Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: “Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perversity, and rely on them, therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, a bulge in a high wall, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. And He shall break it like the break-

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ing of the potter's vessel, which is broken in pieces; He shall not spare" (Isaiah 30:12–14).

We all hope that the next four years will be better than the last four, and we hope that our nations will turn to God in sincerity and truth—but that remains to be seen. For now, it looks as though the U.S. will place its trust in a man rather than the Creator of the universe. This reminds us of the aftermath of 9/11, when Americans substituted patriotism for repentance. While that brought a temporary benefit, is our world safer today than it was in 2001? Many believe we are closer to World War III than ever. All it would take is one miscalculation for the nukes to fly.

Predictions You Can Trust

So, what can Americans and other citizens of our world expect for 2025 and the years immediately following? Where must we look for the answer?

Many prognosticators are predicting what's ahead in the near future. Some base their predictions on their understanding of geopolitics. There are those who, like Nostradamus, have made cryptic pronouncements and vague statements from which followers try to make something out of nothing. Others make wild interpretations of scriptures as they read their pet theories into the Bible. Yet it is to the Bible that we at *Tomorrow's World* know we must turn to understand the future of our world—and while we cannot know the exact timing of most Bible prophecies, we *can* know the general timeframe of what is ahead.

Some people erroneously conclude that we can have no idea when Christ will return—"He could come tonight or a thousand years from now." Even famous televangelists make such ignorant assertions. To promote their idea that He might return "tonight or a thousand years from now," many mistakenly quote Christ's statement that "of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). But taking this passage out of its context does great damage to the understanding of Jesus' words.

The statement is, of course, true—no one knows the *day* or the *hour*. However, we must look to the context in which He made that statement, giving us

detailed signs leading up to the end of the age and His return. Two questions at the beginning of this prophecy—often called the Olivet Prophecy because of the location where Christ gave it—set the stage for what follows: "Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, *when will these things be* [the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, v. 2]? And *what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*'" (Matthew 24:3).

Yes, there was a former fulfillment in AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the temple—and there will also be an end-time fulfillment. Some signs Christ gave applied to both. Since He did not return in AD 70, verses 32–33 must also apply to the time of His return. After giving numerous signs, Jesus gave this warning: "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors" (Matthew 24:32–33). This is the context of not knowing that "day and hour," and it hardly sounds like the proclamation of an open-ended timeframe for the end of the age.

We at *Tomorrow's World* take seriously this warning: "Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?" (Proverbs 24:11–12).

This is why *Tomorrow's World* turns to Bible prophecy and shares it with our subscribers. I hope you will read my article on page 16 of this magazine, discussing three biblical prophecies that will affect all of us in the coming years. And don't forget Wallace Smith's article about what the world needs from America, which you can find on page 5. You will see for yourself how Bible prophecies are not a total mystery to Jesus Christ's faithful followers—and how they will, in fact, greatly affect the lives of you and your loved ones in the years ahead.



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What the World Needs from America

By **Wallace G. Smith**

Come January 20, 2025, the most powerful country in the world will come under new leadership as Donald J. Trump is inaugurated into the presidency of the United States of America for the second time. Of course, that assumes nothing will happen between this article's publication and the inauguration—an uncertain assumption in this increasingly chaotic world, especially with a new president who experienced two assassination attempts while he was merely a *candidate*.

This new leadership bears with it the hopes and dreams of the millions who voted for it. Many have concluded that the numbers who turned out to vote for Mr. Trump amount to giving him a mandate, though the shape and details of that mandate are a bit of a question mark. To be sure, most want the country's economy in a healthier state: For all the talk of good economic indicators, Americans find that those "indicators" aren't filling their wallets or paying their growing bills. Many citizens want to see the U.S. border controlled more tightly, concerned about what they see as a tidal wave of illegal immigrants using up financial resources that could have been directed

toward their own needs. Others are concerned about the "woke" agendas they see in their schools—often happy to "live and let live," but not wanting ideologies forced onto them or, in particular, forced into their children's minds.

Perhaps the truest statement one could make about the November elections is that Americans decided they need something different. To be sure, the weeks and months to come will be interesting to watch.

And Americans won't be the only ones watching. America's change in government will do far more than affect the lives of its own citizens. Whether or not it should be, America is the world's leading nation. As we wrote in "The End of Pax Americana" in our June 2022 issue, the nation's unchallenged power and authority around the world was able to foster global peace and prosperity for decades after World War II at levels unheard of in human history—even if some of that peace was more pretense than reality.

Whether or not the U.S. truly is the indispensable nation it once was, it still holds a combination of power, wealth, and influence on world affairs that no other nation can match—if America catches a cold, the rest of the world sneezes. Changes in the U.S. mean changes for the rest of the world.

So, for all the desires Americans have for their new government, what are the desires of the world? What does the world want from the United States? More importantly, what does it *need*?

A Mixed Bag of Hopes—and Fears

The answer will vary depending on which leaders and which nations you ask. Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky surely longs for American money and military support to continue flowing into his war chests. Meanwhile, his opponent, Russian president Vladimir Putin, hopes to find a U.S. president more sympathetic to his interests and more desirous of a peaceful end that allows him to retain Ukrainian territory he's taken and to save face in his nation.

In the Middle East, many may be hanging their hopes on Mr. Trump's penchant for "big deals." While he angered many in the Arab world when he moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, the Abraham Accords signed during his administration—involving Israel, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates—were the most substantial peace agreement in the region since Israel's establishment in 1948. Some have even speculated that Saudi Arabia's potential support for such peace might have contributed to Hamas' decision to launch its abhorrent attack on October 7, 2023, hoping to bring chaos to the region and undermine those peaceful overtures. Still, many hope America under Mr. Trump will relaunch his administration's earlier efforts, perhaps even ending the Gaza conflict.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Keir Starmer has, in the past, expressed great disdain for Mr. Trump. While Mr. Starmer surely hopes to continue America and Britain's celebrated "special relationship," he no doubt hopes that the U.S. president will keep to himself, while he and his Labour colleagues seek to enact policies for the UK more akin to what a Harris administration might have brought to the United States.

Across Europe, leaders worried about Mr. Trump's "America First" declarations may be wondering whether long-standing American money, support, and protection will begin to dry up. If so, they may find they need to fill the void by looking eastward instead of westward for new alliances and partners.

Around the world, nations with nationalist or populist leaders are likely looking for the new administration to support their own efforts. Mr. Trump has called Argentina's libertarian, government-reducing president Javier Milei his "favorite president," and America's influence on the International Monetary Fund is likely to be of great interest to Mr. Milei as he seeks funding for his nation's growing needs.

President Xi Jinping of China, on the other hand, may be more wary. While Mr. Trump has boasted of his rapport with the leader of the second-most populous nation in the world, his promise of a return to punitive trade tariffs will keep Mr. Xi very invested in what America chooses to do over the next four years.

Why America?

Such are the world's hopes and fears as it waits for the U.S. to decide again just what sort of nation it really is. A policeman for the world? An economic juggernaut bringing prosperity for all? A nation focused inward, unconcerned about the fate of those beyond its borders? With all the change promised by the incoming administration, the world waits anxiously to see what sort of America will appear after the dust settles.

But *why America*? How has one nation come to have this influence in the world? Such questions were once asked of the United Kingdom but are now asked of her former colony. The answer to those questions—the real reason for the place of prominence the U.S. now holds—is entirely unknown to the world's top economists, historians, and politicians.

Yet that answer reveals what the world *truly* needs from America. It reveals what the nation truly can do to fundamentally improve the condition of the world, raise the living standards of peoples everywhere, bring peace where there is conflict, and provide profound hope to an increasingly hopeless humanity.

What the world's top experts do not know—but what God has revealed to true Christians, His faithful servants—is that the United States and other British-descended nations have received an abundance of God-given blessings they did not earn, beneficial circumstances they did not create, and successes for which they can take no credit. Why? Because *God has set them apart for a purpose*.

Those nations are inheritors of the blessings God promised to the ancient patriarch Abraham, connected to the ten “lost tribes” of Israel. Around 930 BC, the biblical nation of Israel split into two parts. The southern portion, consisting primarily of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, became the nation of Judah—the Jews—and its descendants are seen in the modern Jewish people and the modern nation of Israel. But the northern ten tribes became a separate nation, continuing under the name Israel—until it was eventually destroyed, cast into captivity, and scattered among the nations, because it had profaned God’s laws, routinely breaking His Sabbaths and embracing idol worship (see Ezekiel 20).

Israel profaned God’s laws, but the promises He had made to its patriarch Abraham and his descendants were unconditional (Genesis 22:16–18). Though the disobedience of Israel and Judah would cause Him to delay those blessings for a time, God *did* fulfill His promise to bestow those blessings, giving His people another opportunity to reveal their hearts to Him—either to show that they appreciate their God, will follow His ways, and will fulfill His desire for them, or to turn against Him again in rebellion and self-will.

To those of you who have not studied this in your own Bibles, this may be hard to believe. We sympathize! But it is the only explanation consistent with the historical rise of these nations and with the prophetic promises recorded in God’s infallible word. As always, we urge you *not* to take our word on the matter, but to research it for yourself in your own Bible. Please request our free resource *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. It will show you beyond a doubt that the *reason* the U.S. and the British people became the most powerful nations in human history is *not* what the academic and political classes will tell you. It is *not* due to America somehow being “better” than all other nations—as “American Exceptionalism” pundits will claim—nor is it due to heartless and oppressive colonizing and exploitation as “progressives” will claim. The truth is in your Bible, and you need to understand and prove it for yourself! When you do, it becomes crystal clear what the world *truly* needs from America—however much we may despair that America will truly fulfill that need.

God’s Own Desire for the United States

To understand better, let’s look to the ancient beginnings of the Israelite nation. God *does not change* (Malachi 3:6), and His calling and purposes for a people do not disappear—indeed, they are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). The Eternal says He will *ensure* that His plans come to fruition! As He declares through the pen of Isaiah, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

And what was God’s purpose for ancient Israel? His servant Moses explained:

Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”

For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? (Deuteronomy 4:5–8).

God desired that ancient Israel would be a beacon of hope to the nations of the world—not for its freedoms of speech or religion, its free-market capitalism, its multiculturalism, or its political philosophies.

Rather, the Eternal sought for a nation to be a shining example of the blessings that come from *fully embracing* the Creator of the universe and His laws, His guidance, and His way of life, and from the privilege of having Him live among them to make them His own special people.

Has the U.S. Ever Fulfilled That Purpose?

Some may believe that “Uncle Sam” has fulfilled that lofty purpose in the past—and needs only to embrace its old values to fulfill that purpose again. After all, America’s devotion to free-market capitalism has

raised its citizens' standard of living so greatly that desperate migrants from all around the world seek by the millions to cross the border into the U.S. by any means necessary—legal or illegal.

Nations around the world have sought to duplicate America's economic success with their own takes on capitalism and free markets. Yet, at the same time, American-style free-market capitalism has put tawdry consumer passion and greedy profit-seeking exploitation in the driver's seat of national culture. Practically anything that will make a buck—whether uplifting social enrichment or decadent cultural poison—turns the gears of industry, ready to feed consumers whatever their carnal hearts desire, with no concern for the effect on morals, values, physical and mental health, or the very character of the populace.

The founding principles of radical individual freedom at the heart of the "Land of Liberty" have inspired freedom-seekers around the globe, standing in stark contrast to the persecution and centralized control that have crushed billions living under oppressive regimes. Yet those same principles of "freedom" have allowed the rise of self-degrading lifestyles and the growth of perverted subcultures that are eating away at the morals and societal structure of peoples and nations around the globe.

America's vaunted free-speech rights enable the preaching of the Gospel by this magazine from our headquarters in North Carolina, a freedom we at *Tomorrow's World* appreciate and for which we thank God, knowing firsthand how difficult it can be to preach the true Gospel in many other nations. And it remains true that American institutions still distribute more Bibles to the world than those of any other nation—though the vast majority of those Bibles are now printed in China. But those same free-speech rights also help to make the U.S. the world's top producer of pornography, and the impact of those Bibles pales in comparison to the toxic and tragic impact of just 4 percent of the human population producing more than a quarter of the world's video filth and hosting 60 percent of all pornographic websites.

No, the United States of America has *not* fulfilled God's purpose. It *never* has. Rather than shine atop a hill as an example of God's laws and love in action, the nation has been an example of just another country eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and

Evil, all while enjoying the unearned blessings of its forefather Abraham. America hasn't exported God's way of life—it has exported the *American* way of life. And those who can't see the real differences between the two are profoundly confused.

What the World Truly Needs from America

So, at this moment of transition for the most powerful country in the world, what does the rest of the world truly *need* from it? What could the U.S. do that would not only provide the greatest benefit to other nations, but also serve itself in the greatest way possible?

Repent. Plain and simple.

Not a *façade* of repentance. Not a shallow, "We have to do better." Not a partial repentance, where certain biblical values are "rediscovered" and embraced while others are set aside as being inconsistent with American ideas of diversity and personal freedom. No—a coast-to-coast, border-to-border *turning to God* and *rejecting of sin*. National repentance on par with Jonah 3:5–10. The real deal.

The world needs the U.S. to rediscover its *real* roots—roots that go back far further than 1776, 1619, and even 1492. It needs to rediscover the real source of its blessings—the humble obedience of Abraham—and to fully embrace the only path to retaining those blessings without interruption: wholehearted and complete obedience to the God who has cared for it and uncompromising submission to His supreme rulership.

In the days of King Solomon, after the dedication of the temple, the Eternal God spoke to the king some powerful words that are often quoted but rarely embraced in full: "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people," God said, "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:13–14).

The difficulties, trials, and burdens facing the U.S. are not fundamentally from policies and politics, though such factors certainly play their role. Rather, they are due to its people's stubborn unwillingness to turn—completely and without reservation—to the God who created them and the Savior who died for

them. They are due to Americans' addiction to self-will—their willingness to attach the name “Christian” to a motley and chaotic range of beliefs and practices that bear little or no resemblance to what Jesus Christ Himself established when He founded His Church.

The greatest single change the American people could make, for the benefit of the nations of the world, would be to turn to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in utter and complete repentance, with a newfound passion for obedience and with hearts devoted to serving the cause of the Eternal in all things. The U.S. would then become not only the example God has always longed for it to be, but also a vehicle for blessings unbounded—not only for itself, but for all peoples in every nation of the world.

And those blessings would not be mere material blessings. America has been a source of material blessings for the world for many decades, yet the hollow nature of those physical blessings is starting to turn and rot. And they would not be blessings of “unbounded freedom”—the freedom of a railcar finally “freed” from its tracks, careening out of control before it crashes, rusts, and decays. Rather, those blessings would be the *genuine* blessings that flow from coming under the reign of the Savior of humanity, shedding the weight of sins that ensnare and corrupt, experiencing the gift of His Holy Spirit and the transformation it brings, and embracing the laws that uplift a people as they learn to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

What to Expect

What is the likelihood of such a turn? Will we see a national repentance? We cannot call such a change of national heart a *revival*—for, since its founding, the United States of America has *never* been in such a state of obedience as the world needs it to embrace.

But if there is no change of heart, we *do* know what awaits. Bible prophecy makes it clear: Our world will soon see the virtually unchallenged ascendancy of a counterfeit Christianity that will expand throughout the earth “conquering and to conquer” (Revelation 6:2). That deceitful, compromised

church—already the “Christian” norm in the world today—will be led by a miracle-working false prophet who will work alongside the prophesied “beast” of Revelation in the form of a revived Holy Roman Empire in Europe (Revelation 13:11–14).

Together, the economic, military, and political powerhouse they wield, imbued with religious fervor, will bring about the downfall of the U.S. and other British-descended nations of the world in a time of suffering known as the Great Tribulation. Many prophecies in the Old and New Testaments, including Jesus Christ's own words, describe this coming time as one of suffering “as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). In those years, persecution of *true* Christians—those who keep the Ten Commandments and follow the faith and actual teachings of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:17)—will be brutal as the false, counterfeit Christianity reigns triumphantly. The wicked of the world will be enriched. Those who compromise will enjoy safety. And the righteous will suffer.

Those years will continue until Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom—which will crush that false system and blow it away like dust in the wind (Daniel 2:34–35, 44).

The world needs *spiritual* leadership from America. The world needs the U.S. to repent of its national disobedience to God and needs its citizens to fully embrace their Creator and His desires for their nation, their families, and their individual lives. It might seem a tall order, but God doesn't limit His demands to those things that are likely to happen. And whether He achieves His purpose for America before Christ's return or afterward, He *will* achieve His purpose—for the U.S. and for the rest of the world.

In the meantime, each of us individually must choose whether to continue being part of the problem—those who pick and choose among the commands of God and teachings of Jesus, distorting them with our own plans, purposes, and sense of right and wrong—or to be part of Christ's solution and fully embrace all that He asks of us. The Father is looking now for those who will do just that (John 4:23–24). TW

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Little Things That Change the World



We tend to become very excited about great events or innovations, especially those involving complicated modern devices. We are amazed by new aircraft, submarines, and rockets that fly themselves back to the earth. We marvel at the increasing power of computers. Many of these truly are stunning developments for which accolades are rightly showered on their inventors and engineers. Yet most of these elaborate inventions do not directly affect our day-to-day lives.

Our lives are, however, enriched daily by a host of seemingly *simple* products, often so apparently mundane in their design that we usually fail to consider the genius behind them. Yet these unsophisticated tools, often considered “little things,” end up making a huge difference in our everyday routines.

On a Roll

Consider that, before 1940, painting the walls and ceilings of a house had to be done completely by brush. Such were the labor and skill involved that many people did not do the work themselves, preferring to hire professional painters. Many today are unaware that, around 1940, a Toronto resident made a big difference with a seemingly simple innovation. Though Norman Breakey died in obscurity, his work received attention later. Fabric salesman Tom Hamilton recalled a conversation he had with Breakey in 1939, as he was researching a new invention:

He [Breakey] was a white haired gent who was full of purpose. He wanted my opinion

on the best kind of fabric that offered a stiff bristly nap. I asked for what purpose, and he said “For rolling paint.” I scratched my head at that but he resolutely went on and described to me something with a handle shaped like a “7” that would hold a cardboard, fabric-covered cylinder. “If my theory is right this thing will revolutionize painting in Canada,” he said (“The Inventor From Pierson,” *Heritage Explorer*, VantagePoints.ca).

Breakey produced his new product on a small scale locally, but did not produce enough of these new “paint rollers” to protect his patent. As a result, other manufacturers got the idea and created their own versions—with Sherwin-Williams employee Richard Croxton Adams soon acquiring a U.S. patent. Though Breakey’s name is little known, his simple invention did indeed revolutionize the process of painting. A “little thing” contributed mightily to making people’s lives easier (“The Canadian invention that put painters on a roll,” *The Toronto Star*, June 28, 2022).

Zippering Forward

Consider another invention we use daily, probably never thinking about the work done to invent it or just what an enormous difference it makes in the lives of people all over the world. Consider the “zipper.”

A variety of fasteners are used in countless ways. They hold sheets of paper together, keep lids on things, keep machinery properly assembled, and are vital parts of our clothing. For centuries, people have looked for better ways to fasten things.

An American inventor named Elias Howe, who developed the first working model of a lockstitch sewing machine in the early 1800s, later worked on ways to make a fabric fastener that could be closed and opened quickly. In 1851 he developed what he called the “Automatic, Continuous Clothing Closure,” but he was never able to create a reliable working model. In 1893, Chicago inventor Whitcomb Judson elaborated

A comforting smile, a kind word or greeting, a polite reaction, or a helpful act—all these contribute to improving the quality of both someone else’s day and our own.

on this design when he invented a rather complicated zipper-like device he called a “Clasp Locker,” which was even displayed at the Chicago World’s Fair. But the device needed improvement, and one of Judson’s business associates established the Universal Fastener Company to improve the device and sell it under the name “Judson C-curity Fastener.”

This task proved to be complicated and challenging, so the company hired Gideon Sundback, a Swedish-born electrical engineer. After a great deal of work, Sundback solved the engineering problem and invented what we now know as the modern zipper, originally called the “Separable Fastener.” A patent was issued in 1917, and Sundback also invented a machine to manufacture his fastener. The name “zipper” was coined in 1924 by the B. F. Goodrich Company after it applied the fastener to its rubber galoshes (“Zipping Down History,” *FashionHistoryMuseum.com*, September 6, 2022).

Sundback sold the international rights for the invention to a British company, which founded a Canadian subsidiary named The Lightning Zipper Company. Sundback served as its president until his death in 1954. He established its factory at St. Catherines, Ontario, and frequently traveled there to supervise it (“Otto Frederick Gideon Sundback—Inventor of the First Modern Zipper,” *IngeniumCanada.org*, June 30, 2017).

Very few inventions in human history have had such an impact on day-to-day life as the humble zipper. It is used on all manner of garments, suitcases, and tents, and it boasts nearly limitless commercial and industrial applications.

Not So Small after All

Both of these inventions are easy to overlook or take for granted, as if zippers and paint rollers have always been part of life. Yet their creation required imagination, design, and perseverance through much trial and error. Resulting from that hard and creative work are two everyday devices that we now would miss immeasurably if they suddenly became unavailable—two seemingly “little things” that make almost everyone’s life simpler and better. They help to move our lives from the laborious and mundane to something easier, more pleasurable, and more satisfying.

The same can be said about the many little things that each of us can do to improve someone else’s day. A comforting smile, a kind word or greeting, a polite reaction, or a helpful act—all these contribute to improving the quality of both someone else’s day and our own. Such seemingly small actions as we interact with friends, colleagues, bosses, clients, strangers, and especially our families, contribute to peace and satisfaction for ourselves and others.

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful (Colossians 3:12-15).

Treating people politely, smiling, and showing kindness may seem like small gestures—and, in a sense, they are. But they are also powerfully impactful deeds that can make a transformative difference in a world where courtesies and gentleness are fast disappearing. In fact, they make a much greater difference than a paint roller or a zipper in bringing moments of happiness into a person’s life.

As Christians, we are called to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), so let us not neglect opportunities to provide even momentary uplifts in the lives of others. Little things do make a difference in making the world a bit better today—and a lot better tomorrow.

—Stuart Wachowicz

A SIGN OF GOD'S CREATION

Even the winter gives Him glory.

Cultures around the world have long viewed the shortest day of the year (December 21 or 22 in the Northern Hemisphere and June 20 or 21 in the Southern) as a day for special ceremony and celebration. As the Christmas season—filled with the trappings of modern materialism cloaking ancient paganism—recedes into our memories, it is easy to have a negative view of the “winter solstice season” now behind us.

From A to Z, the winter solstice has played a pivotal part in pagan religious practices throughout history—from the Amaterasu festival in medieval Japan (celebrating the reemergence of the sun goddess from her cave) to the Ziemassvētki festival in ancient Latvia (honoring the birth of Dievs, the supreme god of Latvian mythology).

Pagan worship of and on the winter solstice is condemned by Scripture (Jeremiah 10:1–4). However, if we view the wonders of God’s creation in the way He intends us to, we can consider what the Apostle Paul wrote and allow this time of the year to help us appreciate one of the many wonderful things the true God has done. Paul wrote that “since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead” (Romans 1:20).

The World Needs to Chill

The winter solstice itself has no Christian religious significance. It simply marks a key point in the wondrous procession of the seasons God has created. For those of us living in temperate climates where we have grown accustomed to the change of seasons, it would be difficult to imagine an autumn without the changing colors of the leaves or a spring without newly budding flowers.

But there is more. In the colder regions of the temperate zones, many of the plants God created need the cold winter temperatures. Many require the process of *vernalization*—in which plants or seeds, in order to blossom or germinate in the spring, must endure a prolonged period of cold, measured in what are called “chill hours.” Apples generally require the most “chill hours,” and apricots, peaches, nuts, and berries also require a certain number of “chill hours”

to produce their fruit. For these plants, the short, cold days of winter are necessary.

And how about that maple syrup you love to pour on your waffles in the morning? Without the winter cold, followed by the beginning of spring, that golden, sweet nectar would not flow. Where my family and I

The winter solstice itself has no Christian religious significance. It simply marks a key point in the wondrous procession of the seasons God has created.

used to live, we looked forward to the time when the nights were still below freezing, but the days warmed up to just a bit above that mark. When that happened, our maple trees were ready to be tapped. With just a little bit of work, the buckets of sap were full and ready to be boiled down to that delicious reward.

None of these gems of God’s creation would be possible without the change of seasons. And, yes, the winter solstice is part of it. How sad it is that so many deceived people have observed the

occasion with fear and superstition. Many of our ancestors were so afraid that their world would descend into darkness that they felt compelled to worship the sun—rather than the God who created it. With this in mind, God told the Israelites, “Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them.... But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King” (Jeremiah 10:1–4, 10).

From Amaterasu to Ziemassvētki, millions before us, blinded by Satan’s deception, “exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” (Romans 1:25). How sad it is that, in varied ways, much of this same deception continues today.

If you would like to know more about God’s true Holy Days, which honor Him and reveal His plan for humanity, read our booklet *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan*. It will open your eyes to the plan that the Creator of our universe has set in motion for all of mankind.

—Jonathan McNair

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The Health of the Nation

Established in 1948 by the post-war Labour government, the United Kingdom's National Health Service, universally known as "the NHS," has become one of the country's most prized assets—a "sacred cow" that politicians tamper with to their hurt. Longtime *Tomorrow's World* readers might recall our article in the May-June 2018 issue, "The NHS: Unfit for Service?," in which we addressed its history and the challenges it faces. That article was written before the COVID-19 pandemic, during which a top priority of politicians was to save the NHS.

The NHS still faces significant challenges. Many Britons lament long and increasing waiting times for emergency room treatment. Since 2018, the number of people waiting more than four hours for treatment has risen from just over 10 percent to roughly 24 percent. Waiting lists have gone from 3 million people to more than 7.5 million—including those awaiting treatment for cancer. The challenges we described in our 2018 article have only grown, and it is increasingly clear that the NHS cannot cope with the health needs of UK residents. Building programmes to renew or replace antiquated hospitals to cater to the needs of the twenty-first century, administrative upgrades to implement digital record keeping, staffing needs, and bloated management structures that fail to focus on patients' needs—all are challenges that desperately need to be met. Yet these challenges are dwarfed by the enormous difficulties caused by the poor health of British citizens.

Obesity is rampant among the young. State-funded schools have largely dropped sports and physical activities because education budgets cannot afford to fund

them. Physical education, essential to young bodies and minds, has become the preserve of fee-requiring schools that most Britons cannot afford. Today, 25 percent of England's population is considered obese, while more than half the population of Scotland is considered overweight.

More than ever, a proper understanding of healthy diet and a knowledge of what leads to good health are missing from British society. Britons on the whole resist the idea of learning good dietary habits. Many short-sightedly see government initiatives to limit sugar intake as an intrusion motivated by what they deride as a "nanny state" attitude. Moves to discourage ultra-processed foods—items that are ubiquitous in shops and supermarkets—go nowhere. Yet obesity heightens the incidence of Type 2 diabetes, which significantly adds to the strain on the NHS. Some estimates place the cost of obesity in the UK as high as £58 billion, or US\$73 billion ("Nine major challenges facing health and care in England," The Health Foundation, *Health.org.uk*, 3 November 2023). To put this one cost in perspective, it is about twice the capital investment shortfall of the NHS during the years 2010–2019.

Current estimates expect a 49 percent increase in UK diabetes cases between 2019 and 2040. Even today, estimates suggest that more than 5.6 million Britons are living with diabetes, according to British charity Diabetes UK. That means more than 8 percent of the population suffers from diabetes. Heart failure is the only health issue with a more significant increase expected in that period.

Adding to these woes faced by native Britons, the nation's growing immigrant communities face great challenges in trying to adapt to a new and often very

different food supply. An increase in weight and a growing incidence of diabetes amongst South Asian immigrants is attributed to these new immigrants' difficulties adjusting to foods available in the UK.

A Loss of Focus

The overwhelmed NHS need not be an all-consuming and ever-growing monster demanding an ever-greater share of the nation's limited resources. There is a far more straightforward solution to the problem. As noted by Henry Dimbleby, former government "food tsar" who resigned in 2023 in protest of Conservative Party health care policies, there are neglected public health strategies on which the government ought to focus. According to an article in *The Times* on 7 November 2024, Dimbleby noted that the current government approach to obesity is through medical intervention, including weight-loss injections—rather than convincing people to exercise and eat healthy foods. He called for bad diets to be treated like smoking is now treated on public transport and in other public places.

Is this a realistic goal? Yes, it is. Societies can change, as Dimbleby pointed out to a group of young people who were amazed that cigarette smoking was once common on the London Underground, which has been a smoke-free zone since 1985. Sadly, though, smoking hasn't disappeared and remains a prime cause of health issues. "Smoking, poor diet, physical inactivity and harmful alcohol use are the leading risk factors of preventable ill health and mortality in the UK" (*Health.org.uk*). While smoking has been outlawed in various locations across the UK, it is still practised, and vaping has become a significant addiction, especially for the young.

Mental health issues are another growing cost facing employers and the NHS. Little thought seems to be given to the nation's dramatic rise in mental health

issues. One obvious factor is loneliness, often related to the rising use of social media. COVID-19 lockdowns exacerbated this problem. But another underlying cause is the lack of standards and norms within society—these are increasingly unacceptable in a world where "anything goes." This moral drift adds stress not only in the confusion it brings, but in the demands it places on individuals to make decisions about their lives that they have not been trained to make—and while they lack a foundation on which to make them.

And while disease and neglect are causing too many to die too young, those who do live to ripe old ages—often as a result of greatly improved hygiene in recent years—face another issue that demands attention: care facilities for those suffering from age-related impairments, especially those with some form of dementia. The demand for caregivers for the elderly is increasing dramatically and putting strain on already-limited human resources.

The Missing Element

The prophet Hosea lamented that "people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Scripture provides vital information that can inform all areas of life, yet most in the UK are following in the footsteps of their Israelite ancestors by rejecting the God of Israel and the knowledge He has given. Today's UK is essentially a post-Christian society—God no longer has an active place in the minds of its leaders or its citizens. Like the Israelites in the time of Hosea, the people of the UK have forgotten their God.

In establishing Israel as a model nation when He brought the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity, the God of Israel gave His people instructions regarding health issues—vital principles that remain as valid today as they were when He gave them more than three millennia ago. Health and well-being of the community are central to the life God would have His people live. Principles of quarantine, cleanliness, proper diet, and proper use of sex are set out in the pages of Scripture. These are not primitive ideas of a nomadic people—rather, they are the means our Creator designed for His people to live full and happy lives. Details of these instructions are examined in our free booklet *Biblical Principles of Health*. Request your free copy today from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Peter G. Nathan







Three Prophecies That Will Change Your Life

By **Gerald E. Weston**

The United States today is divided between the jubilant and the despondent. “Make America Great Again” (MAGA) Republicans look to their hero to straighten out the mess in America—and the world—that they believe was created, or at least encouraged, by the former administration. Meanwhile, many who opposed Mr. Trump’s election were distraught at his victory, some seeking therapy. Several social media influencers counseled women to shave their heads and “cut off” their husbands and boyfriends. Emotional support animals were also in high demand.

In light of all this, what is ahead for America and the world? Will the next few years see peace break out in the Middle East, inflation subside, and America become great again, as many believe? Or will the country fall into a fascist dictatorship, as others fear? Other than by waiting and seeing, how can we know? *Tomorrow’s World* cannot answer every question about the future, but we can answer a few by looking to the pages of the Bible.

Sadly, as soon as some hear the words *Bible* or *God*, they immediately “check out.” After all, can’t you prove anything from the Bible? And, after Darwin, who believes in God?

But such attitudes are shortsighted and even dangerous. People who have never read the Bible, nor investigated it as it relates to history, have no idea how accurate its pronouncements are for the future. Not all biblical prophecy is easily understood, but what can be understood should never be discounted. In this article, I will explain three of the Bible’s easy-to-understand prophecies. Two are occurring right now, and the third is one to watch, as it will surely come to pass—almost certainly in the lifetime of most of our readers.

No Peace for the Middle East

As I write this article, the Middle East remains in turmoil. The late Richard Ames, who for decades served as this magazine’s Editorial Director and as a *Tomorrow’s World* television presenter, wrote,

“The Middle East has been in turmoil for decades, and many who follow world news wonder what will happen next. Yet very few realize that Bible prophecy explains *in advance* the earthshaking events that will lead to increased conflict and greater disasters in the region—ultimately to World War III and then the return of Christ” (*The Middle East in Prophecy*, p. 1). Yes, what happens in the Middle East *will* affect you and your loved ones.

The first Trump administration was able to do something no one thought possible: It actually looked like peace *would* break out in the Middle East with the signing of the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements to normalize relations among Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco—with the prospect

THE FIRST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WAS ABLE TO DO SOMETHING NO ONE THOUGHT POSSIBLE: IT ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKE PEACE WOULD BREAK OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE SIGNING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS.

that other Arab states would also sign on. This process continued into the Biden administration, and it looked as though Saudi Arabia and Israel were on the path toward normalizing relations. But then came the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists, plunging the Middle East into turmoil once again.

This second Trump administration will bring a significant change in direction regarding Israel and its enemies. Many are again hopeful that some level of peace can be achieved. However, the question remains: Can the new U.S. president bring lasting peace to that region? The answer is *no*—not according to Bible prophecy. God through His prophet Zechariah warns of the opposite of peace, foretelling the state of the region for our day. “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples,” He says, “when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces,

though all nations of the earth are gathered against it” (Zechariah 12:2–3).

There is a lot contained in these two verses. We learn that Judah—that is, the Jews—was prophesied to control Jerusalem. This prophecy would go unfulfilled for many hundreds of years. The Romans were fed up with the Jews and expelled them from Jerusalem in AD 135—and there was no Jewish state from that time until 1948. Even then, they did not control all of Jerusalem until the Six-Day War in 1967.

We also learn from these verses that Jerusalem would be “a cup of drunkenness” and “a very heavy stone for all peoples.” When Zechariah wrote those words, Judaism was the only religion that lay claim to Jerusalem. It would be another 500 years before

the advent of Christianity and another 600 years after that before Islam came on the scene—and it is this religious tension that makes the city a heavy stone. During the Middle Ages, Roman Catholic crusaders from Europe sought to free the city from Islamic control. More recently, Jews and Arabs have been at war over the city. Yes, it is a very heavy stone,

and all who attempt to heave it away end up being crushed by it.

Another amazing detail from those verses is that Jerusalem would be surrounded by enemies, and “all nations of the earth are gathered against it”—resenting the Jews’ control of the city. Today, anti-Semitism is, shockingly, on the rise throughout Europe, Russia, and the American and British-descended nations.

But Zechariah does not stop there. God through His prophet tells us another remarkable fact—that the Israeli state at the time of the end will wield a powerful military force. “In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:6).

Zechariah foretold this 2,500 years ago, but do you realize that there is even an older prophecy that predicts the same thing?

The patriarch Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, had twelve sons. At the end of his life, he foretold what would become of each son's descendants as they grew into tribes and nations—not in that era, but more than 3,700 years into the future, at the end of the age. “And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you *in the last days*” (Genesis 49:1). Were these prophecies the result of an aged and hallucinating madman? Or were they given under God's inspiration? You be the judge: Let's read what Jacob said about Judah, the father of the Jews, in the last days. “Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?” (Genesis 49:8–9).

Is this not exactly what we see? Time and again, the lion has been roused. When Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israel in October of 2023, they poked the lion in the eye—and they have paid a heavy price for it. Israel has effectively decapitated both Hamas and Hezbollah.

And here, from the book of Isaiah, is another prophecy about the Jews. It is addressed to “Ariel,” and while there is controversy over what that word means, virtually all scholars agree that it is a prophecy regarding the house of Judah and Jerusalem. Its early fulfillment was during the time of Assyrian king Sennacherib, but there is clearly an end-time fulfillment as well. Note how the Jews' enemies anticipate victory, only to wake up and realize it is no more than a dream, an illusion.

The multitude of all the nations who fight against Ariel, even all who fight against her and her fortress, and distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision. It shall even be as when a hungry man dreams, and look—he eats; but he awakes, and his soul is still empty; or as when a thirsty man dreams, and look—he drinks; but he awakes, and indeed he is faint, and his soul still craves: so the multitude of all the nations shall be, who fight against Mount Zion (Isaiah 29:7–8).

However, there will come a time when the Jewish state *will* be overthrown and the Messiah, known

as Jesus Christ, will need to return to save the Jews. Zechariah describes all nations gathering against tiny Israel:

For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city [indicating a divided city] shall go into captivity.... Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east (Zechariah 14:2–4).

No, there will be no peace in that part of the world, no matter who is the president of the United States. There may be brief exuberance over what appears to be peace, but it will not last. As the Apostle Paul warned, “When they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The context tells us that this refers to the time of the end.

Daily Sacrifices in Jerusalem

Yes, easy-to-understand prophecies regarding the Jews and Jerusalem, given 2,000 and even 3,700 years ago, are being fulfilled right now for anyone to see, though we cannot know the specific timing of most biblical prophecies. But let me explain one prophecy that is yet to occur as of the writing of this article. It is one that could begin at literally any time. We do not expect it to be far off, though we cannot set a date for it. But one part of this prophecy will begin a countdown to the time of Christ's return. We read of this in Daniel 12.

Daniel wanted to know when the end would come and was told that the visions given to him were sealed until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4). This would be “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation” (v. 1). It would be a time of mass transportation and a dramatic increase in knowledge (v. 4), and the context is clearly the time of God's intervention at the end of this age (vv. 1–4).

Though the prophet wanted to know when all these things would happen, God told him that the

prophecies he recorded would be sealed until the end of the age. Nevertheless, God revealed a sign to watch

return. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the

LOOK FOR JEWS TO BEGIN OFFERING DAILY SACRIFICES ONCE AGAIN. WE CAN KNOW THAT, WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE END CANNOT BE FAR OFF. THE STOPPING OF THOSE SACRIFICES WILL INITIATE A COUNTDOWN LEADING TO THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.

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).

Daily sacrifices have not been offered in Jerusalem for the better part of 2,000 years. The clear implication is that sacrifices must first begin. So, look for Jews to begin offering daily sacrifices once again. We can know that, when that happens,

for that would start a countdown to the end. “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days” (Daniel 12:11).

There was a former fulfillment of the abomination of desolation at the time of King Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC, when he offered swine’s blood on the altar of the Jerusalem temple. Another such abomination took place when armies under Roman emperor Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70. But there is also a final end-time abomination of desolation to come. Jesus spoke of this in what we call the Olivet Prophecy.

Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath (Matthew 24:15–20).

The next two verses give us the time setting of the prophecy—the end of the age leading to Christ’s

return. “For then there will be great 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).

Counterfeit Christianity

Let us now notice another prophecy being fulfilled right now—one that is obvious to those with eyes to see. John was the last of Christ’s original Apostles to die. He was enough of a problem to the authorities that, even at a very advanced age, he was banished to the island of Patmos—a penal colony in the south Aegean Sea. There, God gave him visions laying out a timeline of end-time events.

That timeline was revealed on a scroll with seven seals that only the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, could open (Revelation 5:3–9). When the Lamb opens the first four seals, we find the famous “four horsemen of the Apocalypse.” Many have heard of them, and many speak of them, but few can tell you what they represent, as the late Richard Ames would remind us.

As the seals are opened, we first see a white horse with a rider who carries a bow and goes “out conquering and to conquer” (Revelation 6:1–2). Then we see a second rider, on a red horse, with a “great sword” to “take peace from the earth” (vv. 3–4). When the third seal is opened, we see a man riding a black horse, who carries a set of scales weighing out wheat and barley (vv. 5–6). The fourth rider, on a pale horse, is followed by death. The rider of the red horse symbolizes war,

THREE PROPHECIES CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How can we know what God thinks about gambling?

Question: Gambling seems to be everywhere today—I almost can't turn on the radio without hearing advertisements for DraftKings or FanDuel. Is gambling biblically acceptable?

Answer: Scripture commands us, “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s” (Exodus 20:17).

It's easy to see how gambling cultivates covetousness. When one gambles, one is coveting his neighbor's money. He is not earning it or offering goods or services in exchange for it; he simply wants it while offering nothing in return. The Apostle Paul equates covetousness with idolatry: “For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God” (Ephesians 5:5).

Gambling undermines a godly love toward one's neighbor. The gambler profits from what others lose. This involves a different spirit than we find in a game or a race, in which the winner may receive a prize but nothing is taken away from those who did not win. In gambling, people lose money so others can win money.

Some might be tempted to think that this does not apply to playing a slot machine at a casino, placing a bet on a sports team, or other forms of gambling in which one “beats the house.” But, even in these cases, the winnings come from all those who have poured money into the system.

This is contrary to God's great commandment to love our neighbor. “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10). God wants us to feel empathy for others. “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15). The winning gambler is rejoicing when those who did not win feel like weeping. “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). God wants us to follow His example and live a life of giving to others. Gambling, by contrast, puts our focus on taking, not giving.

The love of money—and of what it can buy—tempts the gambler to value physical things over relationships. Paul explained that “those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:9). It can even cause us to lose the most valuable possession of all—eternal life. As Jesus Christ says in Mark 10:23, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!”

Gambling undermines a godly work ethic, as we see throughout the book of Proverbs. For instance,

The love of money—and of what it can buy—tempts the gambler to value physical things over relationships.

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty surely to poverty” (Proverbs 21:5). In other words, “Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty” (*New Living Translation*).

We also read, “A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 28:20). Or, “The trustworthy person will get a rich reward, but a person who wants quick riches will get into trouble” (*NLT*).

And again, we read, “A man with an evil eye hastens after riches and does not consider that poverty will come upon him” (Proverbs 28:22). “Greedy people try to get rich quick but don't realize they're headed for poverty” (*NLT*). Money gained quickly tends to disappear quickly.

The desire for financial success needs to be framed in a proper perspective: God's word teaches patience, diligence, and trust in Him as the provider of that success. “The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22). If we learn the lessons of a godly life and look to God to provide our resources, there will be no sorrow added to them. TM



No, You Are Not Stupid

By **Phil Sena**

Have you ever thought of yourself as being less intelligent than others? Did other kids at school call you “dumb”? How did this make you feel about your ability to learn and be considered a good student? And have those feelings followed you into adulthood?

I know someone who was “held back” in first grade and lived with the stigma of being academically “slow” for the rest of his school career. Yes, he had difficulty with classes that focused on reading and writing. But I assure you that he was *not* stupid. He had above-average artistic skills, and he remains one of the most creative people I know. He was also an excellent athlete who became a star running back in football and one of the school’s fastest runners in track.

Perhaps you know someone like this, or maybe this is similar to your story. Many people, simply because they do not excel in certain subjects at school, are labeled as “dumb” or “slow” and are considered inferior to other “better” students.

But are they really “dumber”? Are they, in fact, inferior?

Or is it just that most traditional educational systems focus on a particular approach to reading, writing, and arithmetic? What about those students whose natural abilities do not lend themselves to success in those areas? Who—and what—really is “stupid”? Scripture tells us that “the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6). But He may not have given it to each of us in the ways our schoolteachers expected.

A Broader View

Dr. Kathy Koch is an educator, author, and motivational speaker who believes that everyone is smart. She also teaches that a new understanding of “smart” is necessary. Here is something she wrote in a book entitled, *8 Great Smarts: Discover and Nurture Your Child’s Intelligences*: “When I taught second graders, it was painful for me to realize some children were already classifying themselves as either ‘smart’ or ‘not smart.’ Their parents were doing the classifying, too, which is probably where their children picked it up. I would have loved having the language of intelligences.... This would have framed relationships, academics, our year, and their future differently” (2016, pp. 16–17).

As Dr. Koch brings out, one tragedy of being labeled “stupid” is that people can believe the label and sell themselves short in important ways. Even as adults, many continue to feel inferior because they received the message in school that they did not measure up academically—despite the fact that this message was based on a system that tends to reward those who do well in a narrow set of criteria, primarily in language and mathematical skills.

While these aptitudes are important, they are only two of the eight areas of intelligence that Dr. Koch and many others believe all people have. Discovering and developing the other six can help people discover for themselves that they are not stupid, even if they have not done well in certain subjects.

Eight Kinds of Smart

Dr. Howard Gardner, a professor of education at Harvard University, is credited with developing the

theory of multiple intelligences. In 1983, he wrote the book *Multiple Intelligences*, describing the various intelligences and their meanings. Educator Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D., has since simplified the original labels to make them easier to understand. Here is each one with a brief description:

Word Smart: This is thinking in words and enjoying using them to read, write, tell stories, persuade, entertain, or instruct.

Logic Smart: This describes people who demonstrate the ability to reason, categorize, and understand cause-and-effect relationships. They have a natural inclination toward math, science, statistics, puzzles, and asking questions.

Picture Smart: People who think visually and enjoy creating art, designing, making crafts, photography, and building toys gravitate toward this intelligence.

Music Smart: Thinking in rhythms and melodies, with ability in music, singing, or having a musical ear, describes this type of smart.

Body Smart: This is being able to control body movements through physical activities such as sports or dancing, but also sewing or carpentry.

Nature Smart: If you are drawn to being outdoors and have a strong interest in animals, plants, rocks, stars, camping, hiking, and other facets of nature, you are likely to have this type of intelligence.

People Smart: Those who understand and are able to discern and respond to the moods, intentions, and desires of others are people smart. They enjoy working with and getting to know others, and they often make good leaders.

Self Smart: A person who likes to reflect and naturally has good self-understanding fits into this type of intelligence. These tend to be people who are comfortable being by themselves and tend to be independent, goal-oriented, and self-disciplined.

By broadening our understanding of what it means to be smart, it becomes easier to understand that it is not whether we are “smart” or “stupid”—the right question to ask becomes, “In what ways am I smart?”

Then, once we understand the ways in which we are smart, we can use those abilities to achieve success.

Developing Your “Smarts”

Looking around, you will see that the world is filled with successful people who excel in various aptitudes that are not rewarded in traditional classroom settings. Some significant contributors to society, such as Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein, struggled in particular areas of learning at school, but visibly flourished when they were able to fully develop other aspects of their intellect.

Gardner’s research established that everyone is born with the potential to develop all eight of these smarts, and that each will develop as a result of opportunities to use that particular kind of intelligence. So, how can you find your smarts and identify opportunities to develop them further? This is an invaluable step to take while you are a student in school, but it is never too late to find your smarts and enrich your life.

First, notice what you naturally like to do. Do you like to read? If so, you are probably “word smart.” But you might also be “logic smart” if your reading gravitates toward detective fiction or mystery stories. Do you like to ride a skateboard or to ski? Even if you are not the point guard on a basketball team, this might indicate that you are “body smart” and can develop toward success using that aptitude.

Next, look for opportunities to further enhance the skills you already have while stretching yourself to try activities that develop those abilities that are less natural to you. For instance, if you have very little in the way of music smarts, use your other smarts to expose yourself to ways to grow that intelligence, perhaps by studying music history or even learning to play an instrument. As you do so, not only will you develop new skills—you will also grow in the confidence to tackle other new challenges, unfettered by fears that you are “stupid” and unable to grow.

We all have God-given talents and abilities that we should develop as we have opportunities, as Jesus Christ explained in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). Even if you have not yet identified *which* smarts you have, you can be sure that they *are* there—waiting to be discovered. When you find them and make a point of developing them, you will experience for yourself the truth that you are *not* stupid. TW

Our planet needs a reset.

Do you ever feel entrapped by urban sprawl? Do you long for the peace and tranquility of a panoramic scene of natural beauty, without the rumble, roar, and clang of traffic noises? Think, perhaps, of a glacier-fed lake at the foot of snow-covered mountains, and cool, crisp, air filling your lungs. Would fresh trout on the banks of a flowing stream make a delicious supper as a day in the out-of-doors comes to a close? I think most of us would relish spending time in that environment. There is a gnawing emptiness in most people that can be filled, if only temporarily, by spending some time in a part of God's unspoiled creation.

More than two centuries ago, as settlers in the United States began their westward press in earnest, many could foresee that the beauty of nature in some of the most spectacular places on earth would soon be spoiled by settlement or commercial development. People of vision brought pressure to bear on states and the federal government to set aside some of these pristine areas for posterity. This pressure spurred the U.S. Congress and President Abraham Lincoln to put the Yosemite Valley area under the protection of California in 1864.

In the course of time, the U.S. National Park System was authorized to preserve these beautiful areas that are now national treasures. In 1872, Yellowstone was the first to be declared a national park. The National Park Service was created in 1916, with authority to guide the use and development of National Park System properties. Many breathtaking, scenic, and unique areas were added and have been a source of national pride and great enjoyment for generations of Americans and millions of international visitors.

Paradise, Past and Future

Mankind began its existence in an incredibly beautiful and prosperous place. It was a garden named Eden, planted by the Creator for the first human beings. You know the story: Under the influence of an evil being we know as Satan, Adam and Eve rejected God's plain instructions and were evicted from Eden. Since that time, mankind has again and again trashed

once-beautiful parts of the earth. Soil-degrading farming practices, deforestation, pollution of the environment, and overdevelopment have scarred the landscape and brought ruin to vast areas of the earth.

While Americans can be very thankful for the vision and fortitude of those who have preserved the beautiful National Park areas for their enjoyment and inspiration, much of mankind does not have access to them. But this will not always be the case. "Times of refreshing" are coming, bringing "the restoration of all things" (Act 3:19-21). The prophets of old spoke often of this wonderful transformation of desolate areas, which will begin with the return of the Messiah. Isaiah has much to say about it. We read that "waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes" (Isaiah 35:6-7).

Isaiah also foretells a great change of the environment in which mankind lives:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Even as we see vast areas of the earth devastated by war, misuse, and exploitation, we can have hope and look forward to the restoration of these Eden-like conditions described in Scripture. To find out more, you can read *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* on TomorrowsWorld.org or request your own free copy.

—J. Davy Crockett III

the rider of the black horse symbolizes famine, and the rider of the pale horse symbolizes pestilence—but what of the first rider, on a white horse?

Commentaries often identify this first horse and its rider as Christ or His followers spreading the Gospel. They make this mistake because we read in Revelation 19 of a white horse carrying the “King of kings, and Lord of lords”—a clear reference to Jesus Christ (vv. 11, 16). But a careful reading reveals important differences between these two riders. One carries a bow, while the other holds a sharp sword. This is significant, but what does it mean? As we saw from chapter 5, only Christ can open the seals—and when we look to Christ’s words spoken elsewhere, we find the answer.

On His last visit to Jerusalem, Jesus and His disciples visited the temple. As they left that magnificent complex, they marveled over its beauty and grandeur. It was then that Jesus shocked them, declaring its sobering future. “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2). The disciples understandably wanted to know when such a terrible event would happen—and they wanted to know when the end of the age would come. “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” (v. 3).


The very first sign Christ revealed ought to shock professing Christians. Sadly, most read over what He said, thinking it does not apply to them. “And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many’” (vv. 4–5). To come in Christ’s name means to come representing Him. When the sheriff comes knocking and says, “Open up in the name of the law,” he is saying that he represents and carries the authority of the law. Christ was saying that many would come in His name, claiming to *represent Him*—saying that Jesus is the Christ—and in doing so would deceive the many, not the few.

Jesus then gave signs revealing war, famine, and pestilence (vv. 6–7)—exactly what is described by the second, third, and fourth horsemen of Revelation. If we let Jesus open the seals, we see plainly that the first rider does not represent Him. It represents a *deceitful, counterfeit Christianity*.

Apostate Christianity is not new. Neither are wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes. This is why Jesus cautioned His disciples that “when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, *but the end will not come immediately*” (Luke 21:9). So, while Jesus explains the meaning and order of the four horsemen, the book of Revelation focuses on a far more severe occurrence of these scourges on mankind than has ever been experienced before.

The Bible warns of the coming of a great false prophet, who will soon appear and deceive the whole “Christian” world with signs, wonders, irrational enthusiasm, and emotion, as Satan will be working through him. Notice this passage from Revelation: “Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.... He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men” (13:11, 13).

We have seen, from biblical prophecy, that there will be no peace in the Middle East until Jesus Christ intervenes. We see prophecies made 2,500 and 3,700 years ago coming to pass at this very moment: The Jews have a Jewish state and possess Jerusalem, are surrounded by a hostile world, and wield a lion-like military power with their hand on the necks of their enemies. These prophecies, spelled out long ago, are taking place right now for anyone who has eyes to see. The source of these prophecies—the Bible—tells us that sacrifices will begin once again in Jerusalem before a foreign power cuts them off. And Jesus Himself warns us, more than once, against a deceptive, counterfeit Christianity.

These are prophecies you can count on. Presidents come and go, but the word of Almighty God stands forever! 

MAY WE SUGGEST?

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Soft Skills for Success

What values are we passing on to the next generation—especially to our own children? How are we preparing them to lead successful lives?

God values the next generation. He invests in them and wants us to invest in them as well. Teaching is one of the most important ways we can do that. God inspired Moses to write, “You shall teach [My words] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7). Solomon wrote, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). But what is “the way he should go”? What’s really important in life?

Modern culture doesn’t give us the answer—or at least a very good answer. Just look at the strife and anger on full display in the political arena, in the entertainment industry, and on social media. Too many people get caught up in vulgarity, self-focus, and even hatred. But this is not a surprise to those who read their Bible. God long ago explained that most people will just go along with a way of life influenced by Satan the Devil. The Apostle James wrote, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there” (James 3:14-16).

On the other hand, the Bible teaches a way of peace, cooperation, and harmony with neighbors. Notice, as James continues, that “the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to

yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (vv. 17-18). We might sum up those qualities as *ethical personal character*: the understanding of how to treat others properly and the will and self-control to do so.

And it turns out that these traits of ethical personal character—often called *soft skills*—are exactly what many employers are looking for. Soft skills can be defined as “personal attributes and abilities that enable individuals to interact effectively and harmoniously with others in the workplace and beyond. Unlike technical or hard skills, which are typically job-specific and measurable, soft skills are transferable and applicable across various roles and industries. Soft skills encompass a wide range of capabilities, including communication, teamwork, adaptability, problem-solving, emotional intelligence, leadership, time management, and conflict resolution” (“Soft skills,” *HiPeople.io*, February 14, 2024).

Soft skills include the ability to get along with others, handle conflict, and self-motivate to do a good job. They encompass the character attributes that mark a trustworthy, dependable worker—and a godly Christian!

According to the National Soft Skills Association, “Research conducted by Harvard University, the Carnegie Foundation and Stanford Research Center has all concluded that 85% of job success comes from having well-developed soft and people skills, and only 15% of job success comes from technical skills and knowledge (hard skills)” (“The Soft Skills Disconnect,” February 13, 2015). One of the prime factors for success in the

workplace is simply having the soft skills required to manage your own life well and get along with others.

Let's briefly consider three such skills that can prepare your children for success in life today and beyond.

Don't Shrink from Work

God makes clear in His word that successful people do not shy away from work. In fact, one of the Ten Com-

Parents need to teach children that while some jobs will be boring, they are still necessary.

mandments, the Sabbath command, tells us, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work" (Exodus 20:9). The Apostle Paul proclaimed, "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). We also read, "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor" (Proverbs 12:24), and

again, "The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway" (Proverbs 15:19). God wants us all to work attentively, as we are able.

This applies even when work is dull. Parents need to teach children that while some jobs will be boring, they are still necessary. As one blogger noted, "Teach your child to do monotonous work from early years as it is the foundation for future 'workability.' Folding laundry, tidying up toys, hanging clothes, unpacking groceries, setting the table, making lunch, unpacking their lunch box, making their bed" ("Why are our children so bored at school, cannot wait, get easily frustrated and have no real friends?," *YourOT.com*, May 16, 2016).

Employers today are practically begging for workers who will just turn up and put in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Teach a good work ethic and you'll be setting your children on solid economic footing—and you'll be preparing them for life in God's eternal Family.

Have a Positive Attitude

We are living in a culture of complaining. We complain about anything and everything. Is that reflected in your household as well? Or are you exhibiting—and teaching—a positive attitude in your home?

Part of training our children is teaching them how to face problems squarely—but recognizing life's challenges should not mean living under a cloud of gloom. The Apostle Paul gives us good advice when he tells us what we should focus our minds on. He explains,

"Whatever things are true... noble... just... pure... lovely... of good report... meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Research shows that continual complaining hardwires our brains to complain more. Consider: "Repeated complaining rewires your brain to make future complaining more likely. Over time, you find it's easier to be negative than to be positive, regardless of what's happening around you. Complaining becomes your default behavior, which changes how people perceive you" ("How Complaining Rewires Your Brain for Negativity," *Entrepreneur.com*, September 9, 2016). Do we want that to be our legacy to our children?

Helping young people develop a positive and resilient attitude even in the face of setbacks is setting them up to succeed, for in every life there will be disappointments. As Solomon wrote, "A broken spirit dries the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). God wants us to learn to be confident in Him and His way and to face life hopefully and buoyantly, no matter the obstacle.

Communicate Respectfully

Many today have forgotten—or never learned—to communicate in a civil and respectful way. Derisive insults and reckless, cutting remarks are everywhere. It's up to us to teach our children a different way.

God has a lot to say about communicating in a way that pleases Him and edifies others. He inspired Solomon to write, "A soft answer turns away wrath; but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). How many verbal—and sometimes even physical—assaults could be avoided if people made that their rule? And on social media today, a "rant" is regular fare—Solomon could have been describing today's online landscape when he wrote, "A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back" (Proverbs 29:11).

God wants us to consider how others will respond to our words. That's a crucial lesson to teach children as we work with them from day to day.

Teach your children to communicate constructively, teach them to work diligently, and teach them to maintain a positive attitude. These "soft skills" will put them in a strong position to succeed in life—both at home and in the workplace. And, much more importantly, these skills will prepare your children for eternal life in God's Kingdom!

—Rod McNair

AI Is Swallowing up Electricity

As world leaders push the Green Agenda, the growing elephant in the room is artificial intelligence (AI). Few realize that AI systems require gigantic computer warehouses that consume massive amounts of electricity. According to a recent report, AI demand could strain the United States' electrical grid in the coming decade (CNBC, August 28, 2024). Data centers in the U.S. alone could consume as much power by 2030 as some industrialized nations' entire economies. By the end of this decade, these computer warehouses could require up to 400 terawatt hours of electricity—more than the total electricity production of the United Kingdom in 2022. Oracle chairman and cofounder Larry Ellison recently said that he is planning a data center requiring more than a gigawatt of power (CNBC, September 10, 2024)—equivalent to the energy consumption of a medium-sized city. Ellison said he will power this data center by building three small modular nuclear reactors.

AI's potential to disrupt aging power grids increases vulnerability to risks such as terrorist attacks on computers and their energy sources. Meanwhile, the Bible warns Israelite-descended nations of coming large-scale punishments, including the destruction of their cities, for rejecting God and His laws (Leviticus 26:31–33). As the West becomes more dependent on sophisticated technology, cities

may grind to a halt if a rogue actor or adversarial nation succeeds in shutting off their power, leaving normally busy highways suddenly deserted (v. 22). The West appears to be increasingly vulnerable to the fulfillment of many end-time Bible prophecies.

Has Life Expectancy Peaked?

While life-expectancy rates have increased greatly in Western nations since the widespread availability of clean water supplies and sanitation facilities, such advances, along with the miracles of modern medicine, seem to be approaching a limit in their effectiveness at lengthening the human lifespan.

This is the finding of a recent study published in the highly respected journal *Nature Aging* (Associated Press, October 7, 2024). Researchers concluded, “We are reaching a plateau.” The locations studied were Australia, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Switzerland. In the last 30 years, the rate of life expectancy increase in these places has slowed from an additional 2.5 years per decade to 1.5 years per decade today. Researchers noted that although more people reach 100 years of age than we used to see, the percentage of the population reaching that age has remained the same. One researcher commented, “We’re squeezing less and less life out of these life-extending technologies. And the reason is, aging gets in the way.”

It appears that God has put a cap on aging that scientists cannot overcome. Living forever is not a gift God intended humanity to bestow on itself. However, the Bible reveals that God does intend to grant the gift of unending life to those who choose to follow His Son and live according to His way of life (John 3:16).

An Overlooked Factor in National Prosperity

U.S. News and World Report recently published this year's list ranking nations according to their citizens' quality of life (CNBC, September 26, 2024). Almost 17,000 people in 89 nations were surveyed from March to May, and researchers examined the following societal factors: affordable living, a good job market, economic stability, a family-friendly society, income equality, political stability, safety, a well-developed public education system, and a well-developed public health system.

When all factors were considered, Denmark earned the rank of the nation with the world's highest quality of life. The other nations in the top-ten list are Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, Finland, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, and New Zealand. When this list is examined, what do nearly all these nations have in common? The answer is that nine of the ten are nations that have descended from the ancient tribes of Israel.

The people of these nations are surely no better than those of other nations—but they do possess a unique factor in their favor. Long ago, God unconditionally promised the patriarch Abraham—the ancestor of the Israelite-descended nations—that He would bless his descendants because of his obedience to God (Genesis 22:15–18). Among those blessings has been exposure to a value system that includes many biblical principles. And 3,500 years later, many of those blessings are still evident. Yet, as these nations turn increasingly away from God, they should not expect their blessings to continue (Leviticus 26:14–45).

Dengue Fever in Europe and United States

Today, people are not the only creatures traveling northward and crossing borders—dangerous mosquitos are also coming. Mosquitos carrying diseases formerly seen only in tropical regions are now moving into Europe and the United States (*The Telegraph*, September 24, 2024). The mild form of dengue fever causes high fever, headache, body aches, nausea, and rash. However, the more severe form causes hemorrhagic fever, or severe internal bleeding—which, without treatment, is fatal in 50 percent of cases.

Last summer, public health officials identified a unique dengue fever outbreak in northern Italy, infecting 25 people. After that, a small outbreak occurred in Los

Angeles. One public official noted, “Local dengue cases in L.A. are the canary in the coalmine indicating that this has truly come.” Historically, dengue fever outbreaks in northern nations only occurred when infected people returned from high-risk tropical regions, bringing a dengue infection back with them. That is no longer the case. And not only can mosquitos carry dengue fever—they can also carry yellow fever, Zika, and Chikungunya. Dr. Danny Altmann, Professor of Immunology at Imperial College London, warned, “If dengue is being transmitted locally, there’s no reason why the others can’t be.”

Jesus warned that, before His return, pestilences and spreading disease epidemics, symbolized by an ominous rider on a pale horse, would ravage the world—and that “beasts of the earth” would contribute to widespread death at the end of the age (Revelation 6:8). While mosquitos are tiny, seemingly

innocuous “beasts,” they can carry a deadly payload.

Growing Power Vacuum in Europe

A reporter recently observed, “The European Union brought peace and prosperity to a troubled region in the decades following World War II. But it may lack energy and become impotent in the decades ahead” (*Reuters*, September 16, 2024). While nations across the EU struggle and stagnate financially, and the political climate becomes polarized, member nations feel like they are being “bullied” by Russia, China, and even the United States—leading one journalist to lament, “It’s a sad, bad future.”

While Europe’s working-age population is declining, as are those in the U.S. and China, the EU’s relatively stagnant economy since 2015 places it at a great disadvantage to the American and Chinese economies, which that have been growing during the same period. Mario Draghi,

former Italian Prime Minister and past president of the European Central Bank, recently produced an EU-commissioned report on the economic future of Europe in which he calls for massive reinvestment in the European economy and harmonization of military production across the EU. His recommendations could greatly impact Europe’s future—but will Europe’s leaders follow those recommendations?

Today, Europe appears to be in the doldrums politically and economically, yet Bible prophecies indicate that it will undergo drastic changes in the years ahead. The Bible speaks of the emergence of a powerful political figure called the “beast,” who will lead a group of European nations that will have a great impact on the world (Revelation 13:1–8). This political figure will be backed and influenced by a prominent religious figure (vv. 11–14). Watch for the rise of this force in the years ahead.

Britain’s Leaders Have Failed to Prepare

In several regions of the United Kingdom, the number of vacant desks in schools is growing (*Telegraph*, September 15, 2024). Although demographers have for decades warned about Britain’s plummeting birth rate, its leaders have chosen to focus on other issues. As birth rates drop, fewer young people seek education and enter the workforce to contribute to the tax base, all while older

people are living longer on national pensions. This puts stress on local and national budgets as elected officials struggle to keep pace with increasing social costs that have not been adequately planned for.

Simultaneously, the cost of energy and transportation has increased for decades in the UK. The cost of laying one mile of track for tram lines in Britain is four times that of Germany’s and twice the European average. Electricity costs in the UK are also much higher than those in the rest of Europe—a reality that was foreseen yet ignored. Britain has failed to prepare for future demands. As the *Telegraph* wrote, “Too often, the slowness of change and distance of danger is a convenient and irresistible excuse for inaction. A country needs leadership, and leadership requires the bravery to confront the inevitable.”

God warns in the book of Proverbs, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, *King James Version*). In many societies today, leaders lack vision. They prefer to focus on the joys and benefits of the present and ignore the inevitabilities of the future. However, the consequences of today’s trends and decisions will come whether we want them to or not. Jesus Christ warned that difficult times and His impending return will come at a “day and hour no one knows” (Matthew 24:36). That is why He warned us to watch and be ready (vv. 42–44). TW



LETTERS TO

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



I hope all is well with you all. I appreciate everything you do. I love the show and watch it every week. You make them exciting and so informative. Thank you also for the booklets and DVDs. They are spot on! Of course you know that. Keep up the good work! Stay safe and well. You are in my prayers always!

—Subscriber in Arizona

I'm so grateful for all the literature and being able to tune into the *Tomorrow's World* broadcast on Sunday. I feel like I'm learning and understanding so much more than I ever did.

—Subscriber in Indiana

Thank you so much for all my booklets, magazines, and literature I have been receiving through all the years! I just love when I go the mail box and there are things from *Tomorrow's World*!

—Subscriber in Pennsylvania

Dear *Tomorrow's World*, First I would like to thank you for sending the two magazines I had not received. I have been a Christian since the 90s. I have gone to many Bible studies, read many books, and was still confused on so many scriptures. It was always, "Well, this can be true, or others see it different." You have given me so much knowledge and understanding of God's word, made the Bible show me things I could never understand before. Thank you! Thank you also for sending everything for free. I believe you are truly doing God's Work.

—Subscriber in Rhode Island

Tomorrow's World People, I just wanted to say thank you all so very much for all the literature I receive from you. It has helped me so much with understanding the Bible. My family and I have studied God's word so much more and have had so much more discussions about God and have even had more open discussions with others thanks to the booklets we have been receiving.

—Subscriber in Mississippi

Your magazine is wonderful. It tells what's going on in the world. Keep up the good work.

—Subscriber in Michigan

Thank you for coming! I've followed you for many years, but this is the first time I've ever had the opportunity to go to one of your presentations for truth! So I am so grateful you came to the Houston area. May your ministry be blessed with God's love and divine guidance through the test of time.

—Subscriber in Texas, in response to a live
Tomorrow's World Presentation

Thanks so much for being out there. I so appreciate you. I am very sad to hear about Mr. Ames' passing. He won't be asleep long the way things are going. As he said on the program today, "Speed that day." We so need Christ's return. I got the privilege of hearing Mr. Ames speak and meeting him, different times and different places. Also the same with Dr. Meredith. Please keep my *Tomorrow's World* magazine coming. Thank you so much for caring and for the literature.

—Subscriber in Arkansas

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Nationwide Mai TV SU 5:00 p.m.

NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide TVNZ2 SU 5:00 a.m.
 Nationwide TVNZ2+1 SU 6:00 a.m.

SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide CTV/SA SU 11:30 a.m.
 Nationwide eTV (DSTV ch 194) SU 6:30 a.m.
 Nationwide Faith TV Africa (DSTV ch 341) SU 9:00 a.m.
 Nationwide Cape TV (DSTV ch 263) SU 11:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide CNC3-TV SU 8:00 a.m.

UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN) Sky TV 590 SU 11:00 a.m.
 Sky TV 590 SU 12:30 a.m.
 Sky TV 590 FR 12:00 a.m.



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)
 Vision SA 3:30 a.m.
 Faith TV SU 5:30 p.m.
 MO-FR 10:30 p.m.
 TU 5:00 p.m.
 CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.
 CTV (Maritimes) SU 7:30 a.m.
 CTV (Alberta) SU 1:30 p.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)
 Binge SU 9:00 a.m.
 Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.
 COMET SU 7:30 a.m.
 The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
 MO 2:00 a.m.
 Faith TV USA SU 8:00 a.m.
 getTV SU 7:00 a.m.
 Impact TV SU 8:30 a.m.
 SU 11:00 p.m.
 MO 10:30 p.m.
 SA 11:00 p.m.
 Positiv TV (POSI) SU 8:30 a.m.
 Rewind SU 9:00 a.m.
 The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.
 SU 7:30 p.m.
 FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

Impact Ch. 268 SU 11:00 p.m.
 MO 10:30 p.m.

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

Word Ch. 373 SU 6:00 a.m.
 SU 7:30 p.m.
 FR 7:00 p.m.

For the most up-to-date listings, please go to TomorrowsWorld.org/tune-in

AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.
 Anchorage KTBY SU 6:30 a.m.
 Fairbanks KATN SU 7:00 a.m.
 Juneau KJUD SU 6:00 a.m.
AL Dothan WTVY (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Huntsville WZDX SU 9:30 a.m.
 Montgomery WBMM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Opelika WLIZ SU 7:30 a.m.
AR El Dorado KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
 Fayetteville KHOG SU 7:00 a.m.
 Fort Smith KFTA SU 10:00 a.m.
 Fort Smith KHBS SU 7:30 a.m.
 Jonesboro KAIT SU 7:00 a.m.
 Little Rock KASN SU 10:30 a.m.
AZ Tucson KMSB SU 8:30 a.m.

Yuma KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
CA Bakersfield KGET (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Chico KHSL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 El Centro KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
 Eureka KECA-LD/KVIQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Monterey KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Palm Springs KCWQ (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Salinas KION (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 San Francisco BAVC (Public Access) WE 8:00 a.m.
 San Luis Obispo KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Santa Barbara KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Santa Maria KSBY (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
CO Colorado Springs KXTU (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Grand Junction KJCT (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
CT Hartford WWLP (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
DC Washington DC WDCA SU 7:30 a.m.
DE Harrington WMDT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
FL Ft. Lauderdale WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
 Gainesville WCJB SU 6:00 a.m.
 Gainesville WCJB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Jacksonville WCWJ SU 6:30 a.m.
 Miami WBFS SU 6:30 a.m.
 Panama City WEPF SU 7:30 a.m.
 Panama City WJHG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Tallahassee WTLF SU 8:00 a.m.
 Tampa Bay WTOG SU 8:00 a.m.
GA Albany WALB (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Albany WALB SU 11:00 a.m.
 Atlanta WATL SU 10:00 a.m.
 Augusta WAGT (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Columbus WLTX (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Macon WMAZ SU 8:00 a.m.
 Savannah WSAV SU 8:00 a.m.
 Thomasville WTLP (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
IA Davenport KGCW SU 7:30 a.m.
 Des Moines KDSM SU 9:30 a.m.
 Ottumwa KWOT SU 8:00 a.m.
ID Boise KBOI SU 7:00 a.m.
 Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.
 Twin Falls KMVT SU 7:00 a.m.
IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.
 Chicago WJYS SU 8:30 a.m.
 Chicago WJYS SU 7:00 a.m.
 Peoria WHOI SU 7:00 a.m.
 Quincy WGEM SU 7:00 a.m.
IN Evansville WTVW SU 7:30 a.m.
 Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:00 a.m.
 Fort Wayne WPTA SU 7:30 a.m.
 Lafayette WFLI SU 8:00 a.m.
KS Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
 Topeka KTKA SU 7:00 a.m.
 Topeka KTMJ SU 8:00 a.m.
KY Bowling Green WBKO SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lexington WTVQ SU 7:00 a.m.
 Louisville WBNW SU 9:30 a.m.
 Paducah WDKA SU 11:00 a.m.
LA Alexandria KALB SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lake Charles KPLC SU 7:00 a.m.
 Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.
 Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
 New Orleans WNOL SU 7:00 a.m.
 Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.
 West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.
MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WABI SU 8:00 a.m.
 Presque Isle WBQP SU 8:00 a.m.
MI Alpena WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.
 Lansing WLAI SU 8:00 a.m.
 Lansing WLAI SU 11:00 a.m.
 Calumet WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.
MN Cloquet KDHL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Duluth KQDS SU 7:00 a.m.
 Duluth KDHL SU 8:00 a.m.
 Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
 Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.
MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
 Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
 Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
 Springfield KRKB SU 9:00 a.m.
 St. Joseph KNPB SU 7:00 a.m.
 St. Louis KPLR SU 6:30 a.m.
MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
 Columbus WCBT SU 7:00 a.m.
 Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
 Hattiesburg WHLT/WXXX SU 7:00 a.m.
 Meridian WTOK SU 7:00 a.m.
MT Billings KVIS/NSVI (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Butte KCWB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
 Glendive KWZB SU 7:00 a.m.
 Great Falls KCWG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Helena KTVH SU 7:00 a.m.
 Missoula KCWM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
NC Asheville WGGG SU 9:30 a.m.
 Asheville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
 Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
 Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
 Charlotte WMYT SU 10:30 a.m.
 Greenville WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
 Hickory WHKY SU 7:00 a.m.
 Raleigh WFLF SU 8:00 a.m.
 Wilmington WWAY SU 8:00 a.m.
ND Bismarck KXMA (CW2) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Fargo KJXB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Williston KXMD SU 7:00 a.m.
NM Albuquerque KBWQ SU 8:00 a.m.
NV Reno KOLO SU 7:00 a.m.
NY Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
 Brooklyn BRIC SU 7:00 p.m.
 Brooklyn BRIC SU 12:30 a.m.
 Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
 Watertown WWTI SU 7:00 a.m.
 Utica KYWKTV SU 8:00 a.m.
OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.
 Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
 Columbus WOCB/WXC/WGCT/WOJZ SU 8:00 a.m.
 Toledo BBCA SU 7:30 p.m.
 Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.
OK Ada KTNB SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
 Tulsa KOCW SU 8:00 a.m.
OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
 Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
 Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.
PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
 Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.
 Pittsburgh WPCW SU 7:30 a.m.
SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.
 Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.

Florence WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
 Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.
 Greenville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
 Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
 Rock Hill WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
 Rock Hill WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
SD Rapid City KCLO (ION/CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Sioux Falls KFSY SU 7:00 a.m.
TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
 Knoxville WKNX SU 12:00 a.m.
 Knoxville WKNX SU 7:00 a.m.
 Knoxville WKNX SU 7:30 a.m.
 Knoxville WKNX SU 6:00 p.m.
 Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.
 Nashville HZTV (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.
TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
 Amarillo KVIH/KVII SU 7:00 a.m.
 Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.
 Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
 Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.
 Laredo KYLX SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
 Lubbock KLTW SU 6:00 a.m.
 McAllen KCVT/KNOV SU 7:00 a.m.
 Midland KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
 Odessa KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
 San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.
 San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.
 Sherman KTEK SU 7:00 a.m.
 Tyler KTYT SU 6:00 a.m.
 Tyler KTYT SU 7:00 a.m.
 Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
 Victoria KAVZ SU 7:00 a.m.
VA Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
 Chesterfield TH 6:30 p.m.
 Harrisonburg WSVW SU 8:00 a.m.
 Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.
 Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.
VT Burlington WFFF SU 6:00 a.m.
 Burlington WNNB SU 2:00 a.m.
 Burlington WNNB SU 8:00 a.m.
WA Everett KSTW SU 6:00 a.m.
 Kennewick KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
 Pasco KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
 Richland KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
 Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.
 Yakima KIMA SU 8:00 a.m.
WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 La Crosse WJOW/WEAU SU 7:00 a.m.
 Wausau WSAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Wittenberg WZAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
WV Bluefield WVVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Bluefield WVNS SU 8:30 a.m.
 Charleston WQCW SU 7:00 a.m.
 Charleston WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.
 Parkersburg WOVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
 Wheeling WBWO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
WY Casper KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Cheyenne KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
 Laramie KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

2025 in Bible Prophecy

As our world faces ongoing military, political, and social crises, what will the year ahead bring?
December 26–January 1

The Problem of Evil

Have you ever wondered why bad things seem to happen to good people?
January 2–8

The Conquering King Is Coming Soon

Christ's return is not a fable or far-off event. Your Bible has good news for Jesus' followers!
January 9–15

The Church Behind Tomorrow's World

Is God calling you to be a part of an effort to spread His teachings and warning?
January 16–22

Four Questions About Baptism

Does it matter how, when—and if—you are baptized? And what really happens after baptism?
January 23–29

The "Good News" Gospel!

The true Gospel of Jesus Christ may not be the message you were taught!
January 30–February 5

Schedule subject to change

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