

**Is Britain Broke?**

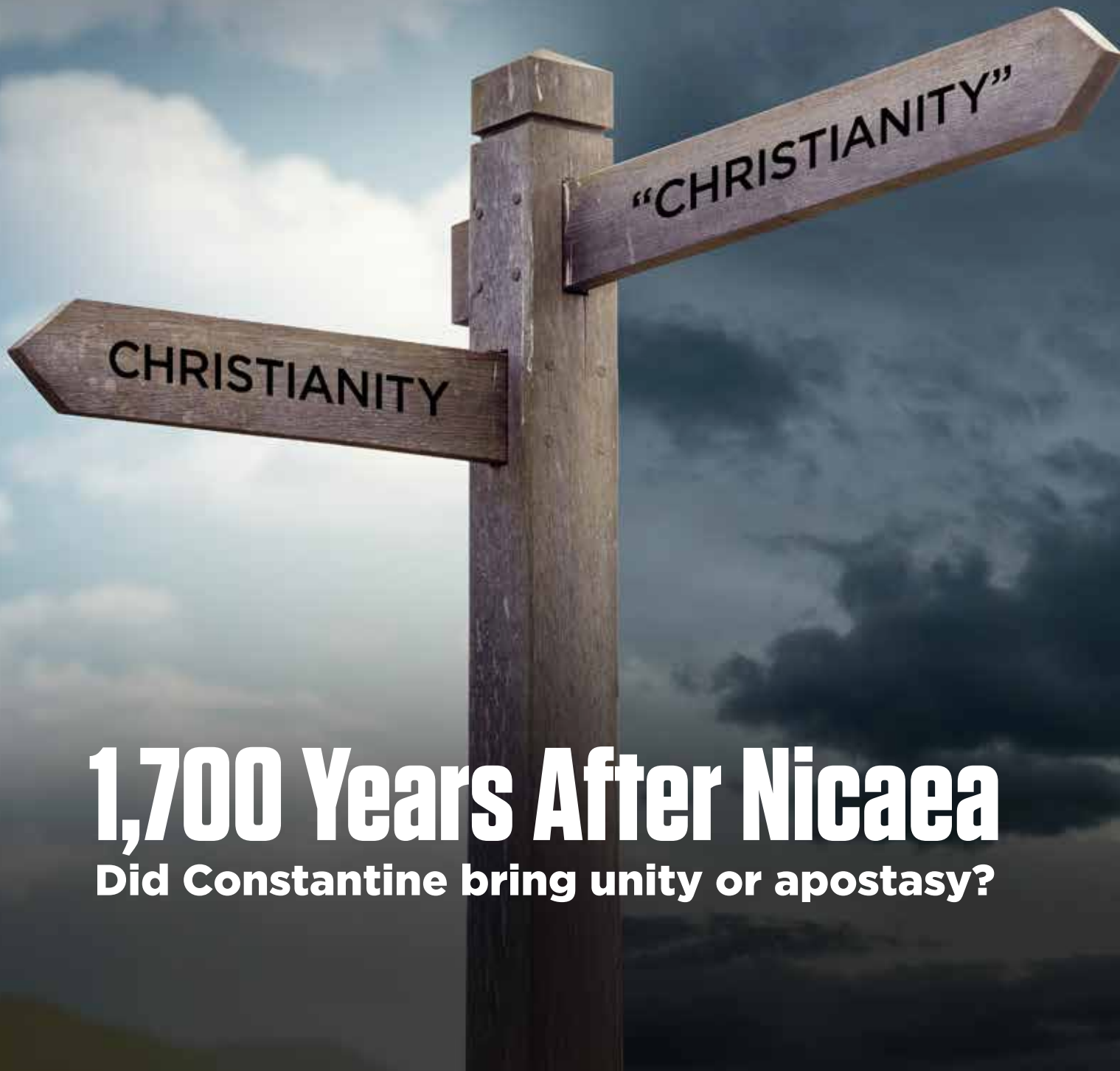
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**God's Church Today**

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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## 1,700 Years After Nicaea

**Did Constantine bring unity or apostasy?**

# The Road to Mainstream

Jesus Christ told His disciples that He would build His Church and the gates of death would not prevail against it. If we are to believe Him—and we at *Tomorrow's World* do—that Church must be in existence somewhere on earth today. But where? We can sympathize with people who throw up their hands in bewilderment, considering the multitude of denominations with contradicting doctrines and practices. How can they all come from the same source?

This issue of *Tomorrow's World* highlights two different roads that Christianity took in the early centuries following Jesus Christ's resurrection. Seventeen hundred years ago, the Council of Nicaea met to standardize certain doctrines and ended up defining the road deemed *mainstream*, though travelers on that road today are hardly in harmony. Those taking a different road are likewise divergent in beliefs and practices, but any failing to fall in line with the *mainstream* have been considered heretics and often suffered great persecution.

The Council of Nicaea, as explained in Wallace Smith's article (beginning on page 5), was a watershed event that took place in the city of Nicaea in northwestern Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). Six other significant "ecumenical councils" followed over the centuries to likewise identify which doctrines would define *mainstream*. My article in this issue, "The Church Behind *Tomorrow's World*" (beginning on page 16), describes one of the small, persecuted groups of believers that trod the less popular path—but any student of the Bible should know that the popular path is rarely, if ever, the one that ends well (Matthew 7:13–14, 21–23).

## The Rock of Salvation

The Church that Jesus built is not, as many have been taught to believe, built on the Apostle Peter—rather, it was founded upon Christ Himself. Note what Jesus said: "I also say to you that you are Peter [from the Greek *petros*, a piece of rock or a small rock], and on this rock [from *petra*, a massive rock, referring to Himself] I will build My church, and the gates of

Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus would build His Church "on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*" (Ephesians 2:20). Yes, Jesus—not Peter or Paul—is the Rock of our salvation (Psalm 95:1). He is the Stone the builders rejected (Matthew 21:42). And He is a Rock of offense to those who do not believe (1 Peter 2:8).

The Council of Nicaea was called by Roman emperor Constantine to resolve disputes that had arisen over the previous centuries.



Its goal was to standardize Christian practice—but its goal of bringing practices and doctrines into harmony failed miserably. *Unity* is hardly a term one could use to describe the Babylon of confusion found in professing Christianity. Nicaea and the councils that followed

came to define *mainstream*—but what exactly does that mean? And is that even the question we should be asking?

Should *mainstream*, without regard to clear biblical backing, be our guide? Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox believers look to tradition, extra-biblical writings, pagan philosophers, and church councils as guides to truth, while Protestant reformers claim *sola scriptura*. But have those protesters truly lived up to their claim that the *Bible alone* was to be their guide? The truth is that even Protestants continued to follow many non-biblical traditional doctrines and practices handed down as *mainstream* by bishops and popes they supposedly rejected.

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Family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and cultural traditions are powerful influencers. More often than not, they overwhelm fact and truth. It is remarkable how few Christians are willing to walk in the footsteps of their professed Master. They instead substitute non-biblical traditions handed down from generation to generation. This is nothing new. When the Pharisees confronted Jesus and His disciples for not washing their hands according to humanly devised traditions, you can feel the frustration in His response:

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition” (Mark 7:6–9).

Few people are willing to examine their upbringing and honestly question whether they are following truly biblical practices, or are, in fact, observing heathen customs. The human mind is more interested in pleasing others and pridefully defending the self than in seeking truth.

### The Footsteps of Jesus

The Council of Nicaea, as important as it was, did not create the fork in the road. The split came much earlier. Jesus warned that many would use His name, even admitting that He is the prophesied Messiah, but would take followers down a different path than the one He walked (Matthew 24:4–5). The Apostle Paul warned the elders at Ephesus that there would be vicious deceivers from inside, as well as from without. “I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for

three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:29–31).

Wallace Smith’s article on the Council of Nicaea and my article on the Church behind *Tomorrow’s World* both show how, in virtually all its forms, today’s Christianity is a radical departure from that of the first century. Paul summarized how easily the brethren at Corinth were deceived on three major points: “I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches *another Jesus* whom we have not preached, or if you receive a *different spirit* which you have not received, or a *different gospel* which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it” (2 Corinthians 11:3–4).

Jude, half-brother of Jesus, refutes the heretical idea that biblical truth and practice would evolve to a higher form over time. “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to *contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 1:3).

The drift from original Christianity continued after the death of the Apostles with the writings of those that are looked upon today as early “church fathers.” One who had a profound influence on the later Nicaean discussions was Origen. He looked to explain biblical doctrines from a background steeped in heathen philosophy. “Greek Christian theology continued to be concerned with the problem which Origen tackled—the relationship of philosophy and the Christian tradition” (*Eerdmans’ Handbook to the History of Christianity*, 1977, p. 104). Origen was a “Christian Platonist” whose ideas about spirits and the material world were formed through the lens of Plato and other human philosophers.

This year marks a milestone anniversary for one of the most important events in the history of *mainstream* Christianity. I hope you will check out Wallace Smith’s exposé on the Council of Nicaea, and I hope you will find my article on the Church behind *Tomorrow’s World* enlightening as well.





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# 1,700 Years After Nicaea

By **Wallace G. Smith**

**A**nniversaries 1,700 years in the making do not come along very often. But beginning in the late spring and early summer this year, Christendom will celebrate just such an event, focused on the small, lakeside Turkish town of Iznik, known anciently as *Nicaea*. The Council of Nicaea took place in May–July 325 and is widely considered the first “Christian” ecumenical council, meeting under the auspices of the Roman emperor Constantine to resolve disputes over doctrine and practice.

A number of celebratory events are planned. At the heart of them will be the most famous statement produced by the council 1,700 years ago: the *Nicene Creed*, considered one of the most significant doctrines of nominal Christianity. To deny the truth of the Nicene Creed is, to many, to label oneself a false Christian, tantamount to denying Jesus Christ Himself.

In the words of promotional materials for a celebration in Istanbul, the Nicene Creed “stands as the most widely confessed and majestic expression of the Christian faith, underpinning the essence of the gospel we confess.” Jane Williams, the McDonald Pro-

fessor in Christian Theology at St Mellitus College, notes, “There are not many 1,700-year-old documents that are read out loud every week and known by heart by millions of people across the world. The Nicene Creed is one of them.”

The Nicene Creed and other decisions made at the Council of Nicaea had a powerful effect on the faith that would bear Christ’s name in the 17 centuries that have followed. Today, many still see the conclusions of that first ecumenical council as fundamental to what it means to be Christian.

In truth, however, God’s word shows the Council of Nicaea and its creed to be something else entirely. For those seeking the Christianity established by Jesus Christ Himself, a brief examination of the Council of Nicaea in the light of Scripture and history can be fruitful.

## **Under the Emperor’s Eye**

As the tale is commonly told, the purpose of the Council of Nicaea was to help unify the faith by dealing with differing ideas about the nature of Jesus Christ, as well as to settle disputes about the keeping of Easter.

The council in AD 325 was not convened under the authority of a religious leader, as one might ex-

pect, but the Roman emperor Constantine. In fact, Constantine's fingerprints can be found all over it. It was Constantine who called the council together to begin with, ostensibly to repair the fragmented faith and bring stability to his empire. He also paid the enormous costs involved in bringing together hundreds of bishops and representatives from regions as diverse as Egypt, Greece, North Africa, and Persia.

The ancient historian Eusebius of Caesarea—an attendee at the Council of Nicaea and quite a fan of the emperor—notes that Constantine, no mere passive sponsor, held a position of honor over the conference and inaugurated it with a speech emphasizing peace and unity. And when the decisions were made, the conclusions settled, and the creed completed, it was Emperor Constantine who enforced the results. Bishops who would not profess the Nicene Creed were exiled and removed from their ecclesiastical positions. The works of those who disagreed were burned. It is not an accident that icons and other depictions of the Council of Nicaea show a defeated heretic lying on the ground at Constantine's feet.

That the Roman emperor would have such sway over the religion bearing Jesus' name should not come as a surprise—even today, the largest organization in the world claiming the banner of that religion is called the “Roman Catholic” church.

### **The Nicene Creed**

Among the issues the Council of Nicaea sought to address, two stand out. The first concerned Jesus Christ's nature and His relation to God the Father. There were many nuanced disagreements, but the main disagreement concerned whether Christ is a created being, not co-eternal with the Father, or fully divine and eternal, of the same essence as the Father.

On the “created Christ” side of the argument was Arius, a presbyter of Alexandria, and this position is often called “Arianism.” The discussions, passions, and personalities involved in this debate make for fascinating reading, but the key observation for our purposes is that the council concluded that the Son of God is *not* created—He and the Father are both eternal and of the same substance.

This conclusion was expressed in what came to be called the Nicene Creed. While there is a bit of dis-

pute about the original Nicene Creed as it was agreed upon in AD 325, most scholars agree that the following is an accurate representation:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things, visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is, from the substance of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things came into being, things in heaven and things on earth, Who because of us men and because of our salvation came down and became incarnate, becoming man, suffered and rose again on the third day, ascended into the heavens, and will come to judge the living and dead; and in the Holy Spirit.

Much could be said about this creed, but for now we should simply note that it is a rejection of the heretical idea that the Son of God is a created being. And we should note, too, for those who believe that the Trinity doctrine has been in place since the beginning of Christianity, that the creed says astonishingly little about the Holy Spirit. That, however, is a tale for another time!

### **Passover versus Easter**

The creed was not the only result of the council. In the three centuries since Jesus Christ founded His Church, disputes had arisen concerning key beliefs and practices, and in Nicaea they sought to settle one issue of critical importance.

Many congregations in the east continued to keep the Passover on the fourteenth day of Nisan, the first month of the Hebrew calendar. In doing so, they were following the example of Jesus Christ, the Twelve Apostles themselves, and the immediate, first-century disciples of the Twelve Apostles. But the tradition in Rome was different. Rather than observing a memorial of Christ's crucifixion, Roman congregations developed a tradition of observing His resurrection, and they did so on a fixed day of the week, Sunday—unlike the fourteenth of Nisan, which could occur on different days of the week.



This controversy has come to be called the Quartodeciman controversy—after the Latin *quartodecima*, meaning “fourteenth”—and history records significant conflict over it. Though scholars debate the details, the result of the Council’s ruling is clear: Not only would the Roman practice of keeping Easter on a Sunday become the rule of faith throughout the Empire, but its date would be set by a new Roman calendar calculation, discarding the Hebrew calendar previously used.

According to the aforementioned Eusebius of Caesarea, the last vestiges of what Constantine called “the detestable Jewish crowd” were finally cast aside by the bishops at Nicaea. All who sought to follow Christ’s example of keeping the Passover on Nisan 14 were declared *anathema*—that is, cursed and excommunicated.

### Unified—but Not Biblical

The result of Nicaea was a more unified church. A more orderly church. A more Roman church. But not a more *biblical* church.

To be sure, Arius was wrong—his position was unbiblical heresy. The plain sense of the majestic statement in John 1:1 is the true sense: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” All things were made through Him (v. 3), and He did not make Himself!

More could be said, but what is most important is not what Nicaea got right, but what it got *wrong*. For instance, many observers have noted that Scripture does not support the Nicene Creed’s implication that the Son is somehow *eternally begotten* from the Father, which denies that the Son is God in the same way that the Father is. Scripture describes Jesus’ begetting as an act that took place in a moment of time (e.g., Acts 13:33)—specifically, in the womb of Mary (Matthew 1:20).

In John 1, describing Jesus Christ’s pre-incarnate state, the Bible does not call Him “the Son” but rather “the Word”—in Greek, the *Logos*. He was the Divine Spokesman of the Godhead, serving as the God of the Old Testament—the “Rock” that followed Israel (1 Corinthians 10:4). He *became* the Son at His begetting in Mary’s womb, when also the other member of the Godhead became the Father. Scripture’s simplicity on this point contradicts the ideas leading up to Nicaea, which had become corrupted in the preceding centu-

ries by heathen philosophy that sought to reconcile the simple truths of God’s word with the abstract ideas and concepts of the Greeks.

### The Practice of Christ and the Apostles Declared a Curse

As for the council’s placing a curse on the practice of observing the Passover on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, history agrees with Scripture that this “cursed” practice was that of the Twelve Apostles themselves, not to mention their Savior. Scripture makes clear that Jesus Christ and His disciples kept the Passover (Luke 22:11) on Nisan 14, the day when Israel put away leavening for the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:5–6). This was “the same night in which He was betrayed” (1 Corinthians 11:23), before He died during the daylight portion of the Passover (Jews reckoned days from sunset to sunset, not midnight to midnight).

Jesus Christ *was* our Passover, sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7), and the timing of events makes the connection clear. Jesus and His disciples kept the old Passover, and Jesus then instituted new symbols of bread and wine as a memorial of His crucifixion (1 Corinthians 11:23–25). On this, there is no room for doubt.

History records that faithful disciples after the Twelve Apostles sought to continue this practice and example—but doing so brought them into conflict with corrupting Roman influences. Consider Polycarp of Smyrna, a disciple of the Apostle John who, according to his student Irenaeus, “always taught the things which he had learned from the apostles, and which the church has handed down.” By keeping the Christian Passover on Nisan 14, Polycarp came into conflict with Anicetus—the bishop of Rome, later designated “Pope Anicetus”—who sought to replace Jesus’ practice with a Sunday Easter observance, as favored by his Roman teachers.

Similarly, near the end of the second century, Polycrates of Ephesus confronted Roman bishop Victor—later “Pope Victor”—regarding Rome’s departure from Christ’s teachings. According to Eusebius, Polycrates wrote that “we scrupulously observe the exact day, neither adding nor taking away,” meaning, in his words, “the day when the people put away the leaven”—or the Passover kept on Nisan 14 (Leviticus 23:5–6). After naming several of the Twelve Apostles,

as well as Polycarp and other faithful elders of the early Church, Polycrates told Victor, “These all kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month, in accordance with the Gospel, without ever deviating from it, but keeping to the rule of faith.” He also told the Roman bishop that “those who are greater than I have said, ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”

As noted of Polycrates’ letter in Alexander Roberts and James Donaldson’s classic *The Ante-Nicene*

and the biblical writers! We see this in Acts 15. Some insisted that Gentile converts needed to become Jewish before they could truly become Christian. The Apostles and elders, including Paul, resolved that such a requirement was an unreasonable and unnecessary yoke.

Clearly, from the beginning, heresy plagued the Church. God’s word paints a picture of the struggle against false teaching and corrupted understand-

ing. The Apostle Paul warned the Corinthian brethren that they were too accepting of those preaching “another Jesus” and bringing a “different spirit” and a “different gospel” (2 Corinthians 11:4). Paul also opposed bringing gnostic heresies to the faith (1 Timothy 6:20), along with

practices from other philosophies (Colossians 2:8), such as non-biblical food customs and prohibition of marriage (1 Timothy 4:3). He called such teachings “doctrines of demons” (v. 1) and such ideas “commandments and doctrines of men” (Colossians 2:21–22). Paul saw that some were finding ways to embrace their old paganism (Galatians 4:8–9)—under different names and with new veneers of “Christianity,” but paganism nonetheless.

Even Jude, one of Jesus Christ’s own half-brothers, pressed his readers to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” as he saw it replaced by a false system of belief and practice that turned grace into license to ignore the laws of God (Jude 3–4).

Christ had warned His Apostles that, *within their lifetimes*, false teachers and false prophets would rise using His own name (Matthew 24:4–5). According to the inspired record of God’s word, by the end of the lives of Jesus’ first followers, the Church He had founded was beleaguered, beaten down, infiltrated, increasingly corrupted, and even in rebellion against the hand-picked teachers the Lord Himself had appointed and trained.

And in the writings of the last of the Twelve Apostles, we see the state of things at the end of the first century. The aged Apostle John wrote that, while a final antichrist was yet to come in the end-times,

## MEETING MORE THAN 200 YEARS AFTER THE LIVES OF CHRIST’S INITIAL FOLLOWERS, THE COUNCIL OF NICAEEA WAS **ALREADY FAR DOWN THE PATH OF APOSTASY AND COMPROMISE.**

*Fathers* (Vol. VIII), “It is surely noteworthy that nobody doubted that it [the Passover, versus Easter] was kept by a Christian and Apostolic ordinance.”

Yet this practice of following Christ’s and the Apostles’ example fell by the wayside at Nicaea, in favor of the Roman custom. After the Council of Nicaea, anyone who sought to keep the Passover as Christ and His first followers had kept it was declared cursed and thrown out of the congregation.

In making this choice, the Council of Nicaea threw out the calendar God handed down through His chosen people (Romans 3:1–2) in favor of a pagan Roman system intended to “change times and law” (Daniel 7:25).

### **Apostasy Began Early in the First Century**

How can this be? The Council of Nicaea took place barely two centuries after the death of John, the last of the Twelve Apostles. Is it really possible that “Christian” leaders in the Roman Empire were already so far into apostasy that the simple teachings of the Bible could be so corrupted—that the practices of both the Savior Himself and His earliest followers could be cast aside so completely in favor of Greek philosophy and Roman traditions?

Indeed, God’s word reveals that the corruption of the Church founded by Jesus Christ began *almost immediately*, during the lives of the Twelve Apostles



John's own day was already *filled* with antichrists (1 John 2:18). Even John himself was shunned by the false pastor Diotrephes, who also excommunicated those who aligned with John (3 John 9–10). Yet Christ, calling His Church a “little flock” (Luke 12:32), had assured its members that He would still be with them all the way to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). They would be protected by Him—not by the sponsorship of the world's greatest pagan empire as it co-opted the faith once delivered.

### A Dismantled Foundation

The church that met with Emperor Constantine in Nicaea in AD 325 was not the Church founded by Jesus Christ. The collection of leaders who met in Nicaea represented not the little flock to whom Christ had given His promises (Matthew 16:18), but rather an organization backed by the most powerful ruler in the world, inheritor of Rome itself. The elders and bishops at Nicaea did not represent a coming Kingdom that was “not of this world” (John 18:36), but rather an organization directed by the Emperor of Rome in an unholy union with the powers of this world—a union that would grow in worldly power as the centuries passed.

Meeting more than 200 years after the lives of Christ's initial followers, the Council of Nicaea was already far down the path of apostasy and compromise that had begun in the days of the Twelve Apostles. Not that they hadn't been warned.

The celebrations, ceremonies, and seminars held around the world noting this year's anniversary of the Council of Nicaea will no doubt claim that the council and its famous creed represent a foundational element of Christianity. They will be wrong. The council that met under the gaze of the Roman Emperor in AD 325 was simply one more attempt to dismantle the foundation Jesus Christ Himself had laid and to solidify the apostasy that had begun even during the lives of the Apostles, two centuries before.

The Council of Nicaea was, indeed, foundational in establishing the “Christianity” we see around us today. But it played *no role* in establishing the Christianity of *Christ*. In fact, it is likely that not even one


representative of the true Church that Christ personally founded was even in attendance!

### Yet the “Little Flock” Endures

But Christ's true Church *has survived*. That Church was not—and is not—the paganized counterfeit “Christianity” embraced by the Emperor of Rome. The true Church had already been pushed against, slandered, marginalized, and persecuted for more than two centuries preceding the Council of Nicaea. Yet the “little flock” upholding the true faith of Jesus Christ *still exists today*.

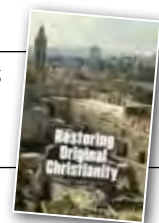
How do we know? Because the Son of God Himself promised that it would continue and endure—that the gates of death would never prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Though only a “little flock,” He would remain with it—working with it, upholding it, and nourishing it—until it would be ready for His Second Coming. That Church was commissioned to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the entire world before Christ's return (Matthew 24:14).

If you are interested in going *beyond* Nicaea—in discovering not the ancient, idolatrous, and apostate church that the council sought to solidify in AD 325, but rather the one true Church that Jesus Christ established long *before* that—please read “The Church Behind *Tomorrow's World*” beginning on page 16 of this issue. And, if you haven't already, please read our free study guides *Where Is God's True Church Today?*, *God's Church Through the Ages*, *Satan's Counterfeit Christianity*, and *Restoring Original Christianity*. All our materials are free for the asking—just as Jesus Christ commanded they should be (Matthew 10:8).

In the meantime, be mindful of what God the Father is looking for. His Son tells us in John 4:23 that “the hour is coming, and *now is*, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” Don't let prestige, power, and wealth impress you. Don't let mystery and ceremony cloud the clarity of God's word. And don't settle for “Church Fathers” over the plain teachings of the Bible. The Church founded by Jesus Christ can be found *before* the Council of Nicaea. And it can be found today. 

MAY WE  
SUGGEST?

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# Oh Canada!

## The “Devil’s Head” Bank Notes



**Yousuf Karsh, an Armenian-Canadian,** was one of the most notable portrait photographers of the twentieth century. In 1951, he had the opportunity to take the portrait of a beautiful young princess, an heir to the British throne. The official portrait of Princess Elizabeth was taken, just six months before the death of her father, King George VI, propelled her into the role of Queen of England—and, thereby, Queen of Canada. Little did Karsh know that when he took on this simple but prestigious task, he would find himself at the center of a wave of speculation and controversy.

Following the accession of Elizabeth II to the throne, the Bank of Canada began updating the nation’s currency. A stunningly beautiful series of Canadian landscapes was chosen for the back of the new bank notes, and Karsh’s portrait was selected for the front. However, there was a problem—the diamond tiara on the now-Queen’s head. Since Karsh’s portrait was already on the Canadian two-cent postage stamp, it was decided that the tiara should be removed and the image reversed to distinguish the bank notes from the stamps.

Bridgen’s Limited, a graphic arts firm in Toronto, retouched the original portrait’s photographic negative to remove the headpiece and reverse the Queen’s image. The Bank of Canada commissioned the British American Bank Note Company to engrave the front plate of the bank notes. Master engraver George Gundersen was tasked with reproducing the modified Karsh portrait onto steel printing dies. The Bank of Canada gave the final approval for the new bank note series, and two companies—the American Bank Note Company and the Canadian Bank Note Company—be-

gan producing the paper money in early 1954. In the fall of that year, the new bank notes were officially released to the Canadian public.

### The Devil in a Detail?

The new bills were not circulating very long before something perplexing was noticed. Within the curls of the Queen’s hair, around the area near her ear, was what some saw as the grinning face of a demon! This incredible discovery was reported in newspapers across Canada and even internationally.

In the 1950s, World War II was fresh in most people’s minds. It had ended less than a decade before and had been a time of terrible global turmoil and intrigue. Much of the world was hyper-attuned to anything construed as political subterfuge. And the media, as it does today, grasped at any story that could be sensationalized. Just as today, there was talk of conspiracies—which usually imply nefarious motives.

Conspiracy theories can be captivating as they attempt to provide a framework to make sense of ambiguous, confusing, and emotional situations in our world that seemingly defy normality. They purport to clarify what appears unclear by unveiling the “real” truth. The Internet and social media today make it easy to create and spread conspiracies. However, as the case of the “Devil’s head” banknotes reminds us, conspiracies are not new phenomena linked with our modern modes of communication.

But who would conspiracy theorists hold responsible for such a heinous assault against the British monarchy? Conspiracy theories abounded regarding the matter. Could it be anti-monarchists, satanists, or



foreign infiltrators—or all three? Were the conspirators working within the Canadian government, the Bank of Canada, Bridgen’s Limited, or the British American Bank Note Company to send a subtle—or perhaps overt—message? Was that message meant for the Canadian public or the British monarchy?

A comparison of Karsh’s original photograph and the Gundersen engraving shows a remarkable replication, attesting to Gunderson’s impressive skill. The touchup of the negative by Bridgen’s Limited did not extend to the controversial area of the Queen’s hair by her left ear. If it was a plot—a conspiracy—it would have had to involve the subject herself, or at least the person who styled her hair on the day the photograph was taken.

So, was the “Devil’s head” bank note a conspiracy? No! The uproar was all foolishness—an exaggerated and irrational response to a mere coincidence that could have erupted into a dangerous political situation. No conspiracy, no skullduggery.

The Bank of Canada initiated work to modify the engraving, and the offending highlights in the Queen’s hair were slightly adjusted and darkened, solving the problem. The printers began using modified plate dies to produce more acceptable bank notes (still bearing the year 1954). Today, unmodified 1954 bank notes are highly prized by collectors, with notes in uncirculated condition often valued at sale or auction far above their face value.

### The Solution to the Devil’s Deceptions

What can we learn from the “Devil’s head” controversy? Most importantly, we must use the lens of God’s word to inform our perception of all other information. Satan, not God, is the author of confusion, and he is a master of distraction! Where chaos and intrigue abound, we can be sure that Satan, with his trickery, will be in the mix—creating distractions, riling up emotions, and furthering division. If we don’t get all the facts and consider those facts from a perspective of biblical truth, we can quite easily be led to the wrong conclusion. God warned through the prophet Isaiah and inspired to be recorded as Scripture, “Do not say, ‘A conspiracy,’ concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled” (Isaiah 8:12).

Satan is very perceptive and extremely clever. He knows how to distract our attention and create confusion. He can make us “clearly” see what is clearly



not there. We need to be aware of Satan’s devices to avoid falling for foolishness. But there is more to do than just guard ourselves against Satan. To help us discern the truth from the lies, God’s message to Isaiah (and to us!) is to focus on Him: “The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread” (v. 13).

We must learn to revere God, obeying and honouring Him above all else. When we shift our focus from the ambiguous, confusing, and emotionally “triggering” distractions of this world and onto God, we will be rewarded with peace and assurance, such as described in Proverbs 14:26–27: “In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.”

There is a minefield of conspiracies and intrigues in this world. Most are merely tricks of the Devil designed to create confusion and distract us from where our focus needs to be. When we focus on God and His Kingdom (Matthew 6:33), His word will guide us to discern the truth from lies and error.

To learn more about how Satan deceives the vast majority of people in our world today, read our powerful Bible study guide *Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity*. Satan is indeed a counterfeiter, but he works on a scale that few today recognize. Read it for yourself online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org), or write to the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4 of this magazine) to receive your free printed copy.

—Gary Molnar

# IS A GOLDEN AGE AHEAD FOR AMERICA?

## Prophecy reveals a very different future for the United States.

**O**n January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump, the forty-fifth and now forty-seventh President of the United States, began his second term after a four-year hiatus. President Trump promised, from campaign trail to inauguration, to help lead the United States into a “golden age”—a time of greatness and prosperity unlike any other. After roughly 100 days of his second term, his supporters and opponents remain passionate. Some are terrified at the prospect of weakening the nation’s long-standing system of checks and balances between the three branches of government. Others are delighted to see quick movement toward their long-desired goals for the nation. But who is right? Is the nation on the precipice of disaster? Or is it being made “great again”?

Many rightly wonder if *any* government overseen by fallible human beings with limited time, capacities, and vision, can ever bring about such a time as President Trump has promised. Can *any* leader stop—or even slow—the growing snowball that has been hurtling down the nation’s economic and cultural mountainside for decades? Human weakness and the record of history make the answer clear: *No*. The Bible reveals tragedy and turmoil prophesied to come not only upon America, but upon all the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel in the latter days. And what, specifically, has the Eternal God foretold will befall these nations at what the Bible calls in Jeremiah 30:7 “the time of Jacob’s trouble”?

Scripture provides a litany of powerful warnings against—as well as describing severe consequences of—violating God’s laws. God plainly warned through Moses that He would break the pride of the Israelites’ power (Leviticus 26:19). Among President Trump’s rallying cries have been the calls to purchase Greenland and retake the Panama Canal. Threats of competition from China, saber-rattling from Russia, and endless negative press about the impact of President Trump’s actions only seem to strengthen his resolve.

A prophecy describes the blessings afforded to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: “And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: ‘Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates

of those who hate them’” (Genesis 24:60). Rebekah was to be the mother of countless descendants, who would “possess the gates” of their enemies. These gates, including sea gates like the Panama Canal, are vital for strategic control and economic benefit—and they, along with vast resources and the military and financial clout to hold and develop them, are truly the “pride” of America’s power, if anything ever was.

Yet these blessings have been eroded and taken away over time due to national rebellion against the Eternal God. This directly corresponds to national sins—transgression of God’s great spiritual law, the Ten Commandments—impacting the influence and power of the U.S., United Kingdom, and other modern-day descendants of ancient Israel. Their collective moral decline has resulted in the loss of strategic sea gates and the selling away of even their natural resources—just as God promised when He said He would “break the pride” of their power.

### The True Savior

Is any degree of “golden age” poised to materialize? No—or, rather, not in the manner sought by the American populace and the ever-watchful nations of the world. And while a “golden age” known as the Millennium will soon arrive, other prophetic trends still need to develop that will thrust all nations into a final great crisis before the true Savior returns.

As we witness the loss of blessings and the fulfillment of both God’s faithful warnings and the consequences for sin, let us draw ever closer to our God and prepare now for the millennial reign of Jesus Christ—when God’s government will bring lasting peace and prosperity to all nations.

To learn more about the biblical identity of America and Great Britain and the prophecies regarding their fates in the near future, read *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy*. To learn more about Jesus Christ’s coming “golden age,” read *The World Ahead: What Will It Be Like?* Both are available free of charge from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, and both can also be read online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org).

—Adam J. West



# DO YOU BELIEVE THE LIE?

## The Greatest Conspiracy of All Time

- What if most of today's "Christians" are sincere—but sincerely wrong?
- Why have most people accepted false traditions that deny Christ's true message?
- How can you be sure to avoid and reject Satan's deceptions?



Scan the QR code to request your *free* booklet! You can also order by calling or writing one of our Regional Offices (listed on page 4) or by visiting us online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

The image shows the cover of a booklet titled "Satan's Counterfeit Christianity". The cover features a dark background with several lit candles in the foreground, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere. The title is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font at the top of the cover.

**Satan's  
Counterfeit  
Christianity**



## Is Britain Broke?

**T**hough a relatively small island nation, Britain has wielded tremendous power and financial might over the centuries. London has long been a financial hub for the world! The pound sterling has been a global currency standard, and it continues to be one of the strongest world currencies. Additionally, the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100—a stock index of Britain’s top 100 companies—is respected worldwide. Britain’s standard of living also continues to be among the highest in the world.

Yet something is wrong with Britain’s money purse. Its apparent wealth and financial superiority are only a mirage. When the new Labour government took office in July 2024, *Reuters* published an article entitled “Britain is ‘broke and broken’, new government declares” (July 29, 2024). Although the new government intentionally used alarmist language to blame Britain’s current financial woes on their predecessors, the observation was correct, and in fact shed glaring light on a problem that has been brewing in the nation for decades.

### On the Brink of Crisis

As a commentary writer for the respected *Telegraph* bemoaned, “The lights are flashing red, but nobody in Britain’s beleaguered Government wants to know” (January 25, 2025). The sobering title of the commentary was “Britain is on the brink of a full-blown fiscal crisis.” The *Telegraph* author also noted that other nations see Britain as “a declining medium-sized economy on the fringes of Europe still struggling to make Brexit work to its economic advantage.” At the heart of

the matter is that Britain, a nation with little domestic savings, is borrowing heavily—it has become increasingly reliant on foreign money to make ends meet.

A look internally shows that, since 2020, eight UK city or town councils (local governments) have gone bankrupt (*Telegraph*, November 27, 2024), often due to bad investments that council members had hoped would aid their financial shortfalls. Increased housing costs and costs of care for the elderly, often borne by city councils, are nearly impossible to manage. As for the national government, expenses such as national insurance, public sector pensions, and student loan debt are crushing the economy. Several universities are expected to go bankrupt in the next few years, likely requiring government bailout. The National Audit Office (NAO), responsible for overseeing the expenditures of more than 10,000 public bodies, has reported a “severe backlog” in its audits of public accounts. This means the government is spending money without clear knowledge of available funds. As one financial writer put it, “The harsh reality is that the UK has been gradually running out of money for the last twenty years. We don’t know precisely how close to running out of money we are. But the NAO decision is a sign that the endgame may well be a lot closer than anyone realises right now.”

Economists forecast that higher government and household spending in 2025 will result in an improved UK economy that will outperform stagnating European economies (*Financial Times*, January 2, 2025). However, with stagnant wage growth and increasing unemployment, life for the average person will still decline. Mounting debt will likely result in a need to increase

taxes—further worsening conditions for the average wage-earner.

And Britain is not alone in its financial woes. Europe, as a whole, is struggling financially. Germany has not seen economic growth in five years, and its automobile manufacturing sector has been hit particularly hard (*The Independent*, February 17, 2025). Additionally, according to an International Monetary Fund former chief economist, “France is on the brink of an economic crisis” due to years of political inaction (*FirstPost*, January 18, 2025). The French government has relied on deficit spending since 1974—that is 50 years of spending more than it takes in (*Harvard International Review*, 5 November 2024). How long can this continue? Economists wonder how Europe will fare if France’s economy fails, given that France—along with Germany—is one of the two chief economic engines of the continent.

As *Telegraph* writer Matthew Lynn soberingly observed regarding Britain’s financial future, “Asked how he went broke, an Ernest Hemingway character explains. ‘Gradually. And then suddenly.’” For the UK, “the ‘gradually’ could turn to ‘suddenly’ any day now” (November 27, 2024).

### Causes and Consequences

Many nations around the globe are in dire financial straits. But why are the UK and other *once-great* Israelite-descended nations struggling? Through its prophecies, the Bible sheds light on today’s situation. God promised to bless and protect these nations *as long as* they would keep their focus on Him:



The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them (Deuteronomy 28:12-13).

God desires for these nations to prosper because of promises that He made to bless the descendants of Abraham through Isaac (Genesis 22:15-18). But He warned that, *if* the Israelite-descended nations rejected Him, dire curses would ensue—including financial ruin: “And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.... The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:37, 43-44).

The United Kingdom and the other Israelite-descended nations of the West have chosen to reject God. Sadly, this is leading to the removal of their blessings. It will also result in future suffering and humiliation. Yet God is merciful, and His anger is short-lived (Psalm 30:5). He has planned a future and a hope for the Israelite-descended nations like Britain—and for all of humanity, too (Jeremiah 29:11). He plans to welcome them back when, in the future, they truly turn to Him: “‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’” (Ezekiel 33:11).


The Bible is clear about the dark future of Britain’s godless plans—but its financial woes will not last forever. God is merciful and loving, and He will again bless the British people with abundance when they finally see the error of their ways. To learn more about the hope for the British and the British-descended peoples, be sure to read our fascinating booklet *The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy* at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org), or contact the Regional Office nearest you (listed on page 4) to receive your free printed copy.

—Scott D. Winnail



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# The Living Church of God follows the teachings of Jesus Christ and preaches the Gospel without compromise



Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Read on to discover many more scriptures that prove that Jesus Christ upheld the Ten Commandments, kept the seventh-day Sabbath and taught His followers to do the same.





# The Church Behind *Tomorrow's World*

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By **Gerald E. Weston**

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**M**any readers wonder: Who is behind this *Tomorrow's World* magazine? Who is behind the weekly episodes of the *Tomorrow's World* television program, as well as the free study guides we offer, including our 24-lesson *Bible Study Course*? Who is behind the live *Tomorrow's World* Presentations conducted for our subscribers?

The most obvious answer is found in what we say at the end of each episode of our television series: We are sponsored by the Living Church of God. But that brings up another question: *Who or what is the Living Church of God?*

In this article, we will give you a definitive answer to this question—explaining who we are, what our mission is, and what we believe.

## **True Christianity and the Living Church of God**

Simply put, we in the Living Church of God are a remnant of first-century Christianity. But what does this mean? Jesus said not only that He would build His Church, but also that the gates of the grave would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). Yet the record of your Bible's New Testament, along with that of secular history, shows that the mainstream "Christian" church veered off in a radically different direction than the Church founded by Jesus Christ, His Apostles, and first-century believers.

Jesus used end-time Bible prophecy to warn us about false Christianity. He clearly stated in the Olivet Prophecy that false Christianity is, in fact, the *first sign* to watch for regarding His second coming and the end

of the age. We must not take this warning lightly: "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?' And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name [claiming to represent Him], saying, 'I am [that is, Jesus is] the Christ,' and will deceive many'" (Matthew 24:3–5).

Yes, there would be many who would admit that Jesus is the Christ and claim His authority—but who would do this to deceive not just the few, but the many. Does history bear this out? It *absolutely does*.

Highly respected historian Jesse Lyman Hurlbut, in *The Story of the Christian Church*, showed how dramatically the church changed over a relatively short period of time.

We name the last generation of the first century, from 68 to 100 AD, "The Age of Shadows," partly because the gloom of persecution was over the church, but more especially because of all periods in the history, it is the one about which we know the least. We have no longer the clear light of the Book of Acts to guide us; and no author of that age has filled the blank in the history.... For fifty years after St. Paul's life a curtain hangs over the church, through which we strive vainly to look; and [Take note of this:] when at last it rises, about 120 AD with the writings of the earliest church fathers, we find a church in many aspects very different from that in the days of St. Peter and St. Paul (Hurlbut, *The Story of the Christian Church*, 1970, p. 33).

Note that Hurlbut mentions that these changes occurred following the death of the Apostle Paul. Paganism effectively choked out true worship! Is this not what Paul himself warned would happen? Scripture records this warning to the elders at Ephesus: “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:29–31).

Hurlbut chronicles some of the changes that crept into what became a church increasingly different from that of Christ and His Apostles. “The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and of worship. About 405 AD images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, at first as memorials, then in succession revered, adored and worshiped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana” (Hurlbut, p. 79).

Many historians agree that today’s mainstream “Christianity” bears little resemblance to the original Church of God founded by Jesus Christ. Prolific writer and highly respected historian Will Durant made this insightful comment for anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear:

Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it. The Greek mind, dying, came to a transmigrated life in the theology and liturgy of the Church; the Greek language, having reigned for centuries over philosophy, became the vehicle of Christian literature and ritual; the Greek mysteries passed down into the impressive mystery of the Mass. Other pagan cultures contributed to the syncretist result.... Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient pagan world... [and] became the last and greatest of the mystery religions (*The Story of Civilization*, vol. 3, 1944, pp. 595, 600).

History records two paths for those who have called themselves Christian. The first path has led to the popular and diverse forms of mainstream

“Christianity”—Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestant. And there is indeed great diversity among these. The second path, however, has led to something minuscule in comparison: the small, persecuted Church that would not die.

### **Worshipping in Spirit and Truth**

The Christianity of Christ and His Apostles is different from what most people think. Mainstream Christianity is rife with nonbiblical Greek philosophy and pagan doctrines. The Church that Jesus built is not, and it has been persecuted for rejecting nonbiblical doctrines and following what Christ truly taught rather than what people mistakenly think He taught. But the mainstream churches catered to the masses and absorbed popular pagan forms of worship.

From sun-worship came a rejection of the seventh-day Sabbath, which God established at creation. Sun-worshipping Roman Emperor Constantine, in AD 321, commanded a different day for rest, as shown in *Eerdmans’ Handbook to the History of Christianity*: “When in 321 Constantine made the first day of the week a holiday, he called it the ‘venerable day of the Sun’ (Sunday)” (1987, p. 131). Any who did not go along with this law and other non-biblical doctrines were stripped of privileges and persecuted. However, in Matthew 16:18, Jesus declared, “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

No, the Church that Christ built never died. We read about it in the writings of those who hated it and tried to stamp it out. That Church—which refused to compromise and introduce pagan doctrines as substitutes for the doctrines of Christ—was considered heretical. Nevertheless, we must understand what Jesus and His Apostles taught in order to discover who the *real* heretics are.

### **A Little Flock Doing a Big Work**

The modern roots of *Tomorrow’s World* and the Living Church of God are found in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), under the pastorship of the late Herbert W. Armstrong. His wife, Loma, came in contact with a member of the Church of God (Seventh Day)—which, by the way, is not associated with Seventh-day Adventists. That was in the mid-1920s.

She became convinced that the biblical Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday.

This did not please her husband, who at first viewed this as fanaticism. However, she would not budge unless he could show her *from the Bible* that she was in error. So, Mr. Armstrong began an in-depth search of Scripture to prove her wrong—which, at the time, he thought would be simple enough. After all, so many Sunday-keeping churches could not be wrong, could they? But the result of his study was that, as I personally heard him say, *It is a humbling thing to admit that your wife is right and you are wrong—especially when it is over the most important argument you ever had.*

In 1933, Mr. Armstrong was offered a time slot on the tiny 100-watt KORE radio station in Eugene, Oregon. His audience grew and he began publishing—if you could call it that—a mimeographed magazine called *The Plain Truth*. From that humble beginning, it grew to become a modern, full-color magazine with a monthly circulation of 8.4 million copies—reaching virtually every country on earth. And it was given away free of charge. Today, the Living Church of God continues to follow Christ's instruction to His disciples in Matthew 10:8: "Freely you have received, freely give."

In 1952, Mr. Armstrong ordained five men to the office of evangelist, and among them was a young man from Joplin, Missouri—Roderick C. Meredith. Dr. Meredith had been serving as an evangelist for nearly 35 years when Mr. Armstrong died in January 1986. Fewer than five years after Mr. Armstrong's death, Dr. Meredith could see that WCG's new leader was taking the Church in a radically unbiblical direction. By December 1992, it became abundantly clear that WCG had irreversibly changed or rejected all the major doctrines that Herbert W. Armstrong had restored under the leadership of Jesus Christ.

So, at age 62, Dr. Meredith had to make a choice: Either retire comfortably, or set out to revive the Work, restoring the biblical doctrines of original Christianity. He chose the latter, starting the Global Church of God and later the Living Church of God. Dr. Meredith immediately followed Christ's instruction: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). He began to preach the Gospel by going on weekly radio, writing booklets, and

starting a bimonthly magazine. The revived Church started with an informal meeting of just 19 members in his home in December 1992, but thousands of Church of God members soon joined with him in rejecting the apostasy and doing the Work.

Today, the Church has grown to encompass members all over the world, and a large percentage of these members are brand-new to the truths of original Christianity, having heard the true Gospel for the first time through *Tomorrow's World*.

The Work of Jesus Christ is *not* over. At our "About" page at *TomorrowsWorld.org*, we read the following: "*Tomorrow's World* is sponsored by the Living Church of God, with active congregations in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia." We currently have scores of ministers serving congregations in more than 55 countries around the world. At this moment, you are reading our flagship magazine, which is translated from English into French and Spanish, and we also translate our booklets for distribution in the German, Dutch, Afrikaans, Chinese, Hindi, Portuguese, and Urdu languages, as well as a few others.

Dr. Meredith set up a Council of Elders, made up of seasoned ministers, to advise him. And prior to his death in May 2017, after consultation with the Council, he appointed me as his successor to the office of Presiding Evangelist of the Living Church of God.

If this sounds as though we are a megachurch, that is hardly the case. Most of our congregations are small and close-knit. We are a little flock, as Jesus indicated: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

However, this is a Work far greater than our numbers would indicate. Many wonder how this is so. The answer is that God has called loyal, dedicated members, coworkers, and donors who make it possible. Also, we do not build church buildings as a general practice. Instead, we rent halls to hold our services—choosing rather to use our resources to spread the Gospel on television, over the Internet, and in print.

### **The Christian Doctrine and Way of Life**

Do you realize, dear friends, that it is possible to worship Jesus in vain? He tells us so: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These

people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:7–9). And He chided the people for calling Him Lord—meaning *master*—but disregarding what He said: “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Original Christianity—that of Christ and His Apostles—is what *Tomorrow’s World* and the Living Church of God are about. The Living Church of God believes that Jesus of Nazareth came as God in the flesh and that He gave His life in exchange for ours. We believe that He is our Lord—our Master—and our Savior, and that we are redeemed by faith in His shed blood and saved by His life. However, we do *not* turn God’s grace into license to disobey His law. Jude, one of the half-brothers of Jesus, warns us against that error in his brief epistle:

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 3–4).

This is why the Living Church of God observes the seventh-day Sabbath from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday—as did Jesus, His original Apostles, the Apostle Paul, and first-century Christians. We also observe the seven biblically ordained annual Holy Days, rather than pagan observances with the name of Christ blasphemously attached to them.

Dear reader, please think about this: Why are the days that Jesus and His Apostles kept rejected by mainstream Christianity? And why is the most sacred day of mainstream Christianity named after a fertility goddess and celebrated with fertility symbols such as eggs and rabbits? Does that really make any sense?

## The Church’s Mission

Our mission was given to us by Jesus Christ, and it’s spelled out on our “About” page at *TomorrowsWorld.org*: “*Tomorrow’s World* proclaims to the world the good news of Jesus Christ’s coming Kingdom (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15), and blows a bold ‘warning trumpet’ of God’s impending judgment, calling for repentance and spiritual change (Matthew 24:21; Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 33).”

You may wonder what is unusual about our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ’s coming Kingdom. You may think, *Don’t all churches do that?* Sadly, they do *not*.

The word “gospel” means “good news,” but do you realize that Paul warned the brethren at Corinth against putting up with teachers who taught a *different* gospel—and, yes, even a false Jesus? “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!” (2 Corinthians 11:4).

A few verses later, Paul refers to these false teachers as ministers of Satan: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his [that is, Satan’s] ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (vv. 13–15).

The Living Church of God teaches the very same message Jesus proclaimed during His three-and-a-half-year ministry—a coming kingdom, or government, will rule on this troubled planet. As you read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, take note of how many times Jesus referred to the Kingdom of God. You’ll notice that Matthew uses the term “Kingdom of Heaven,” while the other writers use “Kingdom of God.” Don’t be confused. Heaven is where God dwells, so the Kingdom of God is Heaven’s—that is, God’s—kingdom. It’s not a kingdom *in* God or *in* Heaven. “Of” indicates ownership, not location.

The Living Church of God does not neglect Bible prophecy. Jesus explained to His disciples that unless He returns to stop mankind’s madness, human

**BEHIND TOMORROW’S WORLD** CONTINUES ON PAGE 25



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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## What exactly is sin, anyway?

**Question:** I've heard over and over that Jesus Christ was crucified because of sin. But what exactly is sin?

**Answer:** It may not be a word that most people think much about, but God did indeed give His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer an excruciatingly painful death so that everyone in the world could be forgiven and cleansed of sin. Obviously, then, it is important to know what sin is.

Let's see what the Bible says—because even though the human mind has produced a lot of wild ideas about what sin is, the Bible gives a clear and simple definition. Once we know that definition, we can build on it with what Jesus Christ taught. The clearest biblical definition is found in 1 John 3:4, which says, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” The *King James Version* provides a little more clarity: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

In other words, sin is the violation—the breaking—of the law. But what law? This is clearly not referring to any civil laws outside of the Bible. Neither is it referring to the hundreds of additional laws prescribed by Jewish authorities over the years, which Jesus Himself condemned. So, what law is it talking about?

The Bible gives the answer. James, one of Jesus' half-brothers, makes it clear: “He who said, ‘*Do not commit adultery*,’ also said, ‘*Do not murder*.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law” (James 2:11). Clearly, “the law” that is referred to here means the Ten Commandments. Elsewhere in Scripture, the Apostle Paul said, “I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘*You shall not covet*’” (Romans 7:7). This, again, is directly from the Ten Commandments.

The Bible's primary definition of sin is *the breaking of the Ten Commandments*. Of course, the Bible also shows that sin includes showing partiality (James 2:9), not doing good (James 4:17), a proud heart (Proverbs 21:4), acting against faith (Romans

14:23), and various other offenses—but these New Testament applications flow from the Ten Commandments, which form the core of God's law, and all sin can ultimately be found to violate one or more of the Ten Commandments.

### Sin Begins in the Mind

Building on this idea, Jesus explained that sin is not *just* physically breaking one of the Ten Commandments—rather, there is an even deeper, spiritual component. He said, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery*.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27–28).

So, it isn't just the physical act of adultery that constitutes sin—sin occurs when lustful thoughts

**Sin is the violation—the breaking—of the law. But what law? This is clearly not referring to any civil laws outside of the Bible.**

enter the mind. This also applies to murder; Christ taught that even an attitude of hatred violates the spirit—the full intent—of the law, putting the sinner in danger of judgment (Matthew 5:21–22). Jesus taught that sin begins in the mind. We read that “when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is

full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:15).

Again, the primary biblical definition of sin is the breaking of the Ten Commandments. We sin whether we break the letter *or* the spirit of the law by our actions, words, thoughts, or even wrong motivations. And, at some point, *all* of us have broken one or more of the Ten Commandments, at least in the spirit of the law. This is why we read that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and this is why we need the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to cover our sins—because even though we are told to repent and turn away from sin, all the obedience in the world cannot make us right with God for our past sins. Only “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). TW



# THE Works OF HIS HANDS

## The Heavens Declare

By **William Bowmer**

**F**or thousands of years, human beings have looked into the night skies and marveled at the stars. In Scripture, we read of King David wondering at them, saying, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). The stars can inspire our awe—it seems that the more we discover about the heavens God created, the more we see how little we really know.

And we want to know more. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), launched in December 2021, is the most powerful space telescope ever deployed. But as remarkable as its technology may be, even more remarkable are the fascinating new images it is giving us, presenting new data that deepens—and even upends—some long-held assumptions about our universe.

For most of human history, mankind searched the stars with the naked eye. Only as recently as the early 1600s were the first telescopes made, thanks to the development of glass lenses and a growing understanding of optics, allowing Galileo to discover four of Jupiter’s moons and refute the theory that all heavenly objects orbit planet Earth. But Galileo had to observe through the obstruction of Earth’s atmosphere—nearly 400 more years would pass before the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), orbiting more than 330 miles above planet Earth, would deliver high-resolution images in the visible light spectrum, unobscured by Earth’s atmosphere. Sadly, soon after it was launched in 1990, astronomers discovered that the HST’s primary mirror had been ground unevenly—an aberration of just one-fiftieth the thickness of a human hair was enough

to blur and distort the images it collected. NASA had to launch several Space Shuttle missions between 1993 and 2009 to repair the mirror and to replace damaged and failing HST components. The HST performed mightily, but astronomers wanted something better.

### **A Groundbreaking Telescope**

Unlike the HST, the JWST orbits not the Earth, but rather a location called the L2 Lagrange point, about 930,000 miles away from Earth—where, by circling that point, it can orbit the Sun while remaining aligned with Earth. With a diameter of 21 feet, the JWST has a light-collecting area of roughly 270 square feet, about six times the size of the HST’s. It can detect objects 100 times fainter than the HST can detect. While the HST can see objects going back to around 400 million years after the beginning of the universe, the JWST can see back to around 220 million years earlier. Yet although the JWST is much larger, its weight is about half that of the HST.

The JWST’s design includes a sunshield that separates the craft into a Sun-facing warm side with systems that control its power, positioning, communication, and data processing, and a cold side containing its telescope, its cameras, and the electronics that support the craft. Thanks to its sunshield, the telescope gathers data at a temperature below -370°F (-223°C) while the solar panels on its Sun-facing side reach temperatures above 180°F (82°C). Its antenna is always pointing toward the Earth to send the data processed on board the telescope. Computer programmers may be amused to learn that this multi-billion-dollar craft runs on JavaScript software. The JWST computer has 68 gigabytes of solid-state-disk (SSD) memory for short-term storage of the images

and data collected by the telescope before it sends that data to Earth. Despite its distance, data can reach Earth in just 5 seconds, but because of their size the JWST's high-resolution images can take from several minutes to several hours to download, as the telescope transmits its data at no more than 28 megabytes per second—more slowly than many modern cellular phone connections. And there is no prospect of an upgrade—because of its distance from Earth, the JWST is not serviceable by astronauts and must instead rely on remote operation by Earth-bound scientists to perform calibrations and adjustments.

### Discoveries and Mysteries

The JWST's first image—known as *Webb's First Deep Field*—captured on July 11, 2022, was revolutionary,

**Apart from the age of the universe, other JWST measurements challenge long-standing theories that rely on hypothetical and invisible “dark matter” and “dark energy” to explain what we see in the heavens.**

providing more detail than astronomers had ever before seen and raising the first of many questions challenging long-held assumptions about the universe. Even that first image, gathered in less than 13 hours, provided a deeper and more detailed view of the universe than previous telescopes had been able to obtain in weeks of data collection. Astronomers saw galaxies more than 13 billion years old—immediately calling into question some key details of the “Big Bang” theory of the universe's formation. According to previous

understanding, galaxies should not have been able to form so soon after the Big Bang.


Astronomers continue to debate what the images mean. One distant star, HD140283 (informally known as the “Methuselah Star”) is now estimated to be 14.46 billion years old—making it older than the visible universe according to current understandings. Obviously, this poses a problem for current theories. To reconcile all the new data, some astronomers are now proposing that the universe is nearly twice as old as previously estimated—26.7 billion years, instead of the 13.7 billion years more commonly assumed.

We should remember that these dates of *billions* of years are connected to the original creation event described in Genesis 1:1, not to the rest of the chapter's description of God's *re-creation* of the universe in the wake of the Satanic rebellion that plunged the cosmos into *tohu* and *bohu*—confusion and emptiness. Scripture tells us that the re-creation, not God's original act of creation, is *thousands* of years old, not billions, as Executive Editor Wallace Smith explained in his article “Our Biblically Old Earth” in the March–April 2025 issue of this magazine.

Apart from the age of the universe, other JWST measurements challenge long-standing theories that rely on hypothetical and invisible “dark matter” and “dark energy” to explain what we see in the heavens. Whether scientists eventually resolve these questions by changing their understanding of the “redshift” phenomenon that detects the age of objects moving away from the observer, or by abandoning the idea of “dark matter”—or by adopting some entirely new and as-yet-undiscovered theory—remains to be seen. But key details of what astronomers have thought they knew cannot be supported by the JWST's astonishing new findings.

For decades, astronomers have been as confident in their theories about the formation of the universe as scientists once were about all heavenly objects orbiting Earth, before Galileo's telescope saw objects orbiting another planet. But with the vast new data provided by the JWST, scientists are again discovering just how much they do not know.

Yet such technical details are far beyond the scope of how most observers appreciate the JWST's mission. We look with awe and gratitude at the astonishing beauty of the images captured by the JWST—whether of the rings around Saturn, Jupiter, and Neptune, or the ancient stars, nebulae, and galaxies about which we know so little—and we marvel at what God has done.

The heavens also remind us of our destiny—and of our mission as Christians. What will be the reward of those who serve God faithfully? We read, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). The day will come when today's Christians, resurrected as members of God's divine Family, will inherit the universe (Romans 8:32; Hebrews 2:8) and will learn more—first-hand—about the stars of the firmament than even the finest man-made telescope can reveal. 

# THE SHIFTING SANDS OF MAINSTREAM CHRISTIANITY

**Many are caving to compromise, but Christ's true Church stands firm.**

**M**ajor denominations of “Christendom” are in the throes of controversy, some to the point of dissolution. They are being hammered with protests and litigation by proponents of vole, unbiblical lifestyles and conduct. Such religious organizations are aware of the Bible’s clear teachings against such sins, but they do not want to alienate the proponents who demand recognition and acceptance as members.

Sadly, we see that compromise, division, dissolution, and major schisms have occurred all the way back to the early centuries following Jesus Christ’s founding of His Church. But that Church was built on a rock (Matthew 16:18). Christ explained the perils of building one’s house on sand, pointing out that it would not withstand the storms that are bound to come (Matthew 7:26–27).

A study of the practices of the early Church of God—referred to by that name twelve times in the New Testament—reveals that within 200 years after the time of Jesus Christ, pagan practices had been adopted by many who professed to follow Christ but did not adhere to His teachings. Consider that the pagan belief of the “immortality of the soul” is without biblical foundation. Only God is immortal (1 Timothy 6:15–16; cf. Isaiah 57:15). Eternal life in Christ is the reward of the saved (Romans 6:23); those who reject salvation will die forever in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14–15).

The “Rapture” is another popular teaching; many claim that God will suddenly take some people away, leaving their neighbors astounded and wondering what happened. Yet Jesus said it is only *after* the Tribulation and the heavenly signs occur that “the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). His elect will *then* be gathered from the four winds. Paul gave more details in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18.

Early Christians followed Christ’s instructions to keep His commandments (John 14:15; 15:10). But, almost from the beginning, many turned away from Christ’s true teachings—see Wallace Smith’s article beginning on page 5 of this issue. Today, most churches

teach that the Ten Commandments were abolished or “nailed to the cross.” Most denominations completely ignore the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8–11).

Christ observed the Passover and told His disciples, “This do... in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:25). Yet most Christians today observe Easter instead, which is named for a pagan deity and cluttered with many fertility symbols, such as rabbits and dyed eggs. Christ and the Apostles kept the seven annual Holy Days picturing God’s plan of salvation for mankind (Leviticus 23), while mainstream Christianity observes Valentine’s Day, Halloween, and Christmas in addition to Easter—all of which have their origins in idolatry and paganism.

So, we should not be surprised when we see “Christian” denominations accept what is prohibited by biblical instruction. These developments are the inevitable result of claiming to follow Christ but building on the shifting sands of human reasoning.

## **The Rock of True Christianity**

Jesus anticipated this situation when He said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name...?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21–23).

The Church that Jesus Christ built on the Rock still exists today—and it is actively preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, feeding a flock of local congregations around the world, and giving the Ezekiel 33 warning of the end-time catastrophes yet to come.

If you want to know more about this Church, read Mr. Gerald Weston’s informative article in this issue, beginning on page 16. And to learn even more about real Christianity, you can read *Satan’s Counterfeit Christianity* and *Restoring Original Christianity*, available online at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org), or you can request your own free printed copies from the Regional Office nearest you, listed on page 4 of this magazine. All of this literature—and more—is available free of charge.

—J. Davy Crockett III



extinction will occur: "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" (Matthew 24:21–22).

God declares that He will hold us accountable if we neglect to warn our fellow man. Read it for yourself: "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).

### Dedicated to Feeding the Flock

The Living Church of God rejects paganized "Christianity" and follows the example our Savior set when He walked the earth. The mission of the Living Church of God is to proclaim the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and to warn the world of what will surely happen unless we change course. But another part of our mission is to feed the little flock that God is calling. To do so, we have hundreds of congregations around the world, ranging in attendance from fewer than 10 to more than 300. Many are moderate in size, between 50 and 125.

In addition to meeting every Sabbath—that is, Saturday—we meet on the annual Festivals as spelled out in both the Old and the New Testaments. We observe the Passover, as Jesus did with His disciples on the night in which He was betrayed. "Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer'" (Luke 22:15). During our Sabbath and Festival meetings, members bring their Bibles, and many take notes. Our services normally involve the singing of hymns, a short message followed by announcements, and then the main message.

To serve our youth, the Living Church of God holds summer camps in North and South America, Australasia, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Last year, a group of our teens, our young adults, and their chaperones enjoyed the opportunity to experience


an adventure of a lifetime on a week-long hike in the spectacular Eagle Cap Wilderness in Oregon. This year, we plan to hold a canoe expedition in Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota; preteen camps in Missouri, Texas, and West Virginia; a two-week teen camp in Texas; and a teen camp in Belgium, among others.

Other programs by which we "feed the flock" are weekend retreats for young adults, speech clubs for our men, and a nine-month onsite Living Education program for young-adult members who are interested in college-level training in biblical topics. A few young adults from Living Education are invited each year to work in Thailand for a summer, teaching English to Thai children, getting to know our members there, and touring parts of the country.

### Choosing to Live God's Way

Whether we are conducting Sabbath services, summer camps, weekend retreats, Living Education programs, live presentations for our subscribers, or international projects, our focus is always on restoring the way of life taught by Jesus Christ and His first-century followers.

We find that many people ask about our services—but we also find that many fail to follow through out of fear of the unknown. So, let me tell you emphatically: *Nothing* this world has to offer can compare to the joys of this way of life. Our members are friendly, and we are truly one great family. We are not isolated members who only know those in our own local congregations. We often combine congregations on Feast days, hold family-oriented weekend gatherings, and visit other Living Church of God congregations when traveling on business or vacation. Many members travel to other countries to observe the eight days of the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day each year.

If you would like to learn more about keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, God's annual Festivals, baptism, or attending services with a Living Church of God congregation, just let us know by calling or writing to us using the contact information on page 4 of this magazine, or by visiting us online at [www.LCG.org](http://www.LCG.org). We look forward to hearing from you! 

MAY WE  
SUGGEST?

**Where Is God's True Church Today?** The Church that Jesus Christ founded never died—and you don't have to wonder where it is. Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at [TomorrowsWorld.org](http://TomorrowsWorld.org). PDF and ePub are also available.





# Is “Defiance” Really a Diagnosis?

**A**s our children grow, each age brings different joys and challenges. Infants give their parents great joy as they learn to smile and can melt into their parents’ arms when they are rocked to sleep. On the other hand, infants cannot share the reasons they are crying or upset, and they are in need of constant care. Teenagers can articulate their problems (when they choose to) and can (usually) feed themselves. But they are far harder to rock to sleep! The joys and trials of parenting change from year to year and season to season. But generally, as children grow from childhood to young adulthood, the trials and joys of one age fade while others rise up to take their place.

One stage that can be particularly difficult, despite the joys it also brings, is often known as the “Terrible Twos.” Toddlers will start to test the boundaries of their surroundings as well as their parents’ rules. But with consistent discipline, loving correction, and increasing maturity, children will grow out of this phase—and usually, by about age four or five, no longer test their parents to the same degree. Or at least that is the traditional story.

## A Prescription for Problems

Now, a new path is being paved by parents who do not want to face the challenge of disciplining their “terrible” two-year-olds. The first misstep is to skate through the toddler age by using screens and technology to pacify their children. Two- and three-year-olds are now becoming accustomed to using smartphones, gaming systems, and other devices, even though a host of studies indicate that it is best for children their age to have very little—if

any—screen time. Nevertheless, an electronic game, television show, or movie is seen as a convenient way to keep children quiet and occupied.

But this approach does not help a child grow—and the tantrums often become worse when screens are taken away. Instead of relying on consistent discipline and clear boundaries to help their two-year-olds mature to the next phase of life, screen-reliant parents are stunting their children’s growth and teaching them that life is about entertainment and immediate gratification—and about throwing fits when that gratification is taken away.

This has led to an increase in children entering kindergarten with a medical diagnosis known as ODD—Oppositional Defiant Disorder. A child with ODD shows “a pattern of uncooperative, defiant, and hostile behavior toward peers, parents, teachers, and other authority figures” (“Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) in Children,” *HopkinsMedicine.org*, accessed February 11, 2025). Researchers note that many toddlers who display symptoms of ODD will often grow out of it with good parenting! Elementary-age children and teenagers diagnosed with ODD are often those who have not matured beyond a toddler’s way of dealing with the world. Johns Hopkins even recommends that one treatment for a *child’s* ODD is for *parents* to be taught “how to discipline their child.”

Too often, an ODD diagnosis serves to remove the responsibility for a child’s bad choices and for parents’ poor parenting. *Psychology Today* notes that “ODD lends itself to overdiagnosis” since some parents want to use this diagnosis to deal with any misbehavior (“2 Childhood Diagnoses You Should Think Twice About,” *Psychology Today*, January 16, 2022). And thankfully, for

parents who use the Bible to guide their lives, there is a helpful set of guidance.

### Disciplined Parenting

Scripture reminds parents to correct their children “while there is hope” (Proverbs 19:18). Parents must discipline their children, and they must do so while mindful of the future their children will have. Some of my children were far easier to discipline during their toddler years than the others, but they all needed *some* discipline. They had to learn that throwing fits did not get them what they wanted and that screens were a rare privilege—usually one involving the entire family, like a movie night.

Proverbs 19:18 concludes with the warning to “not set your heart on his [your child’s] destruction.” Regardless of their motivations, parents who fail to

**While the “Terrible Twos” might sound dreadful—and there are times when it feels like you and your spouse have a small terrorist in your house—it is also the age at which parents have the best opportunity to establish how their family will function.**

discipline their children consistently are setting their hearts on indirectly *destroying* those children. Some children sadly will reject their parents’ love, instruction, and discipline, following the path of the prodigal son (Luke 15), but parents can still protect their children from many pitfalls by not making excuses for poor behavior.

While the “Terrible Twos” might sound dreadful—and there are times when it feels like you and your spouse have a small terrorist in your house—it is also the age at which parents have the best opportunity to establish how their family will function. In many cases, this can be the time for parents to help children

understand common household dangers such as hot surfaces, sharp knives, or heights. When children discover these hazards for the first time, parents can often attempt to explain them and give verbal instructions to keep their children safe.

For some toddlers, this will indeed work. However, if verbal instructions solved everything at this age, it

would not be called the Terrible Twos! Parents must be prepared to use some negative reinforcement as their toddlers break rules or repeat offenses. Scripture instructs us, “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly” (Proverbs 13:24). While most parents do not use rods anymore, some form of appropriate physical discipline—never abuse—can correct a toddler who is too young for reasoned discussion.

With my own children, my wife and I used timeouts for minor issues and spankings for major offenses, along with loss of privileges as our children grew out of toddlerhood. We did not handle every situation perfectly, but we did stay focused on the goal of using negative consequences to improve our toddlers’ behaviors and help them grow. As most experts will also tell you, giving *positive* consequences is also a key to helping reinforce the *good* behaviors we want our children to grow in! This can be one of the most enjoyable aspects of parenting, if only we will make sure to slow down and compliment, hug, and play with our children.

### Prognosis: Growing Up Healthy

When toddlers learn that there are consequences to their actions, they can mature into children—and eventually adolescents—who are both happy and a pleasure to be around (cf. Proverbs 20:11). Parents can stunt this growth by giving their children screens instead of proper discipline. Sadly, our society is not looking to help undisciplined children grow—it is looking to distract, diagnose, and medicate, worsening behaviors that good parenting can frequently solve.

Although some children are given to being defiant, parents of such children must still do all they can to help them understand the very real consequences of defiance—so that, when they are grown, they will be able to successfully navigate the world themselves. Thankfully, most children will respond if parents do their part.

It is easy to think of the Apostle Paul as an old and mature man, but he was once young. He reflected that to become “a man, I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11). Parents can let their children be children in many ways, but they should help them “put away” childish tantrums when they are toddlers so they can mature into respectful children, teenagers, and adults.

—Mark Sandor

## Where Will Friedrich Merz Take Europe?

Even before February’s German election results were fully tallied, the nation’s new chancellor-in-waiting, Friedrich Merz, was already working to continue a “seismic shift” in transatlantic relations (*BBC*, February 24, 2025). In a debate after the election, Merz announced, “My absolute priority will be to strengthen Europe as quickly as possible so that, step by step, we can really achieve independence from the USA.” In fact, he seemed to consider matters so pressing that, according to the *BBC*, “he was not sure on whether the transatlantic alliance leaders gathering for a summit in June ‘would still be talking about Nato in its current form or whether we will have to establish an independent European defence capability much more quickly.’”

It seems Merz is far more assertive than his predecessor, with more ambitious aims to increase Germany’s leadership profile in Europe (*Politico*, February 21, 2025). Some analysts warn of potential clashes between Merz and EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, based upon their political histories. However, others believe the two will work together to catapult Germany forward as the leading nation of Europe. Merz has an accelerated timeline to disconnect from the United States and not only longs to create a strong, stand-alone European army

and nuclear deterrent, but also wants full and rapid support from other EU nations. This may work for some nations, but likely not for all. Thus, the term “two-speed Europe” is again being used (*European Council on Foreign Relations*, February 20, 2025)—but now, the concept makes even more sense.

Many EU nations now have the political will and the pressure of geopolitics to push at least some European nations to act together. Those who do not could be left behind. The days ahead will no doubt witness great changes in European focus and ambitions, and Germany has a powerful prophesied role to play in Europe.

## Fertilizers Tied to Decline in Bees Pollinating

In Hertfordshire, England, researchers have studied the impact of fertilizer on crop yields for almost 170 years. What began as a study solely of crop yields for hay production grew into studying the impact of fertilizers on other plant species growing in the hay fields. That research has drawn clear conclusions: “Using high levels of common fertilisers on grassland halves pollinator numbers and drastically reduces the number of flowers” (*The Guardian*, January 20, 2025).

A recent paper from the researchers reports that “increasing the amount of nitrogen, potassium and phos-

phorus doused on agricultural grassland reduced flower numbers fivefold and halved the number of pollinating insects.” Bees saw the largest impact. In croplands where no fertilizers were used, bees were found in numbers nine times greater than they were in those fields with maximum amounts of fertilizer. Researchers also learned that fertilizers cause fast-growing grasses to proliferate, crowding out other grasses and flowers and reducing pollinator numbers.

While pollinators may not be as important for grassland crops like wheat and barley, they are essential for fruits and vegetables. And when pollinator numbers plummet due to fertilizer use in grassland crops, their numbers in neighboring fruit and vegetable areas are also likely to suffer. Ironically, to keep pollinator numbers high requires accepting a reduction in crop yields. There is a trade-off in order to maintain a strong and healthy crop ecosystem—but that trade-off is unlikely to be accepted in an economically driven society.

But are “megafarms” really ideal? The Bible suggests that after Christ returns agriculture may return to a more personal, family-oriented environment (Micah 4:4). When maximum volume and maximum profits no longer drive food production, the creation will again function as God intended.

## The Waning British Army

In a speech to cadets at Sandhurst Military Academy, the former Chief of the General Staff in the United Kingdom, General Sir Patrick Sanders, warned that “British troops will be outmanned in any future war and enemy forces will also have better technology” (*The Telegraph*, December 16, 2024). He further noted that “modernisation would take time that was in ‘short supply’ as the Army seeks to become more lethal.” He did try to soften the ominous perspective, noting, “We have always fought with our backs to the wall. This is who we are.”

General Sanders has called for a “citizen army” to counter Russia’s growing threat, and he warned that Britain *will* fight in the future. Earlier last year, General Sanders’ replacement, Sir Roland Walker, warned “that Britain must be ready to fight a war in three years.” Last October, Britain’s defense secretary warned that the country is not ready to fight a war. In December, “Alistair Carns, the veterans minister, said the whole British Army would be wiped out within six months to a year of a war with Russia.”

The relative peace of the 1990s and early 2000s resulted in many nations, including the UK, drastically cutting defense spending, while many other nations continued to advance. The world is now much more

dangerous, and nations like Britain are woefully behind on troop and weapons development. For centuries, Britain's military was a source of power and pride—but God prophesied that, at the end of the age, “I will break the pride of your power” (Leviticus 26:19). He pronounced that curse due to people's continued rejection of their Creator, and this warning is not limited to the UK—it also affects other Israelite-descended nations, like the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many nations of Western Europe.

### A New Age of Infectious Diseases?

The H5N1 Bird Flu continues to make news. As reported by *The Guardian*, it has infected birds, cattle, sea lions, and humans. Scientists warn that this strain of bird flu is unique, acting as a “panzootic” disease that has the ability to cross lines between multiple species (January 15, 2025). As

a University of Nottingham professor observed, “Panzootic is almost a new thing, and we don't know what sort of threat it is.... We have some viruses that can infect multiple species, and we have some viruses that can cause massive outbreaks, but we haven't tended to have the combination—that's something of a new phenomenon.... That's where H5N1 is going, and it just makes it so unpredictable. [It's] unique and new in our lifetime and memory.”

H5N1 has now traveled to more than 48 different species of mammals and appears to be continuing. As scientist Ed Hutchinson from the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research warned, “It is really hard for infectious diseases to effectively stop being specialists and move over into a new species. So when that happens, it is striking and concerning.” This virus has led to the death of millions of sea birds and massive

declines in their populations, as well as the deaths of tens of thousands of sea lions and elephant seals. As *The Guardian* notes, “shrinking habitats, biodiversity loss and intensified farming create perfect incubators for infectious diseases to jump from one species to another.” And now that “three-quarters of emerging diseases can be passed between animals and humans,” some are sounding the alarm that “panzootics could become one of the era's defining threats to human health and security.” Thankfully, the bird flu is not yet spreading between humans, but the implications of such panzootic diseases are still sobering.

Jesus Christ revealed to the Apostle John that before His return mankind would experience the worst period of disease, pestilence, and death in human history—including death caused by animals (Revelation 6:7–8). This new phenomenon of panzootic disease is something to watch as we approach the end of the age.

### War Escalating in Africa

Fighting continues in the Congo over the control of resources. Recently, Rwanda-based M23 rebel forces captured Goma, Congo's largest regional hub and home to about two million people. The city “is a key location in the conflict-battered North Kivu province whose minerals are critical to much of the world's

technology. Rebel groups have long fought over control of eastern Congo's mineral wealth, and the conflict has often pitted ethnic groups against one another, with civilians forced to flee their homes and seek protection from armed groups” (*AP News*, January 27, 2025). M23 forces have continued taking further towns in the region (*AP News*, January 29, 2025).

The Congolese government has announced it is “in a war situation” with Rwanda's M23 rebels, and Rwanda has complaints of its own. The UN Security Council condemned the M23 attack and called for a withdrawal and the return of Congo's sovereignty. “Armed conflicts have internally displaced over 7 million people. Human rights organizations have reported widespread atrocities, including massacres, sexual violence and the recruitment of child soldiers” (*Deutsche Welle*, January 28, 2025).

Although many groups have fought the Congolese government for years, trying to cash in on Congo's riches, the current escalation of fighting is very troubling. Over 7 million Congolese are already displaced due to fighting across the country, and peace between the fighting groups seems unattainable. The Apostle James addressed this issue when he wrote that the cause of wars is related to human lust and greed (James 4:1–3). This world needs a Savior to bring real and lasting peace. TW





# LETTERS TO TW

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



What a blessing you are! I am 96 years old, and I depend on your [broadcasts] every Sunday from St. Louis to start my day! I cannot thank you enough for your programs I enjoy so much!

—Subscriber in Missouri

Hello wonderful friends. Since I did the 24-lesson Bible study course, God has blessed me. I thank you for all the tapes and all the booklets—they help me. Since I got to know you all it helps me to realize that God is the best. I was an alcoholic. But the word of God has got me to eight years sober. That has made my family very happy.

—Subscriber in New Jersey

I enjoyed seeing Richard Ames Sunday on TV. I still miss him. I would like to have the booklet on the rapture. People are being distracted, deceived, and outright lied to in these days!

—Subscriber in North Carolina

I was lost as I was raised a Catholic and did everything Catholic, thinking I was truly worshipping God, only to find out from *TomorrowsWorld.org* that, in fact, it was false gods. Thank you so much for the truth, and I thank God for leading me to you.

—Subscriber in Texas

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 to the mailbox and there are things from *Tomorrow's World*. I have a *Tomorrow's World* magazine section in my library. All my *Tomorrow's World* magazines of many years, all read

cover to cover, are in there, as are my Bible study course booklets I did with *Tomorrow's World*! And I loved that Bible study course!

—Subscriber in Pennsylvania

I really enjoy reading your *Tomorrow's World* magazine from cover to cover, I usually finish it the day after I receive it. I really enjoy it, as it's the only magazine I go through thoroughly.

—Subscriber in Ontario

I received my Bible study guide. But I'm kind of slow at completing it. I have colon cancer and have many doctor and testing appointments and I don't always get around to working on it. Some days I just lay in bed. I'm still working on it, slowly but surely. My brother gave me the booklet *Biblical Principles of Health* to read. It was a very informative and easy to read booklet. I had tried to explain to a few friends why I changed my diet and why certain foods are not healthy. I would like copies of the booklet to hand out to others. Maybe if they read the booklet they'll understand why and what it's all about. Maybe they'll also want to change their diets and become healthier. I know the booklets you send me are free but I'm sending a small amount of money. Thank you so much for your time.

—Subscriber in Indiana

*Editor's Note: We thank you for your kind words, and we are very glad that Biblical Principles of Health has been helpful to you. While donations are appreciated, they are never expected—we are determined to follow Jesus Christ's command to freely give the truth that we have freely received (Matthew 10:8).*

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Mail your letters to "Letters to the Editor" at one of the Regional Offices listed on page 4 of this magazine, or send email to [Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org](mailto:Letters@TomorrowsWorld.org). Letters may be edited for space and clarity.



# TOMORROW'S WORLD

## TELEVISION LOG



### AUSTRALIA

Nationwide 7TWO SU 7:00 a.m.  
Nationwide 9GEM SA 8:30 a.m.

### BARBADOS

St. Michael CBC 8 SU 2:00 p.m.

### FIJI

Nationwide Mai TV SU 5:00 p.m.

### GUYANA

Nationwide NCN 11 SU 6:30 a.m.

Georgetown

TLIGHT

SU 8:00 a.m.

### JAMAICA

Kingston

TVJ

SU 7:00 a.m.

### NEW ZEALAND

Nationwide

TVNZ2

SU 5:00 a.m.

Nationwide

TVNZ2 +1

SU 6:00 a.m.

### SOUTH AFRICA

Nationwide

CTV/SA

e.tv (DSTV ch 194)

SU 11:30 a.m.

SU 6:30 a.m.

Nationwide

Nationwide

SU 8:00 a.m.

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Nationwide

CNC3-TV

SU 8:00 a.m.

### UK & NW EUROPE

WORD (TWN)

Sky TV 590

Sky TV 590

Sky TV 590

SU 11:00 a.m.

SU 12:30 a.m.

FR 12:00 a.m.

Faith TV Africa (DSTV ch 341)

Cape TV (DSTV ch 263)

SU 9:00 a.m.

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### 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 WLTX 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 7:00 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 WTLF (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

IA Davenport KGCW SU 7:30 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 KMTV SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WJYS SU 8:00 a.m.

Chicago WJYS SU 8:30 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 WLFI 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 WBNA 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.

Lafayette KATC SU 7:00 a.m.

Lafayette KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.

New Orleans KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.

Shreveport KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor

Presque Isle

WBWP SU 8:00 a.m.

MI Alpena

WBAE SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAJ SU 8:00 a.m.

Lansing WLAJ SU 11:00 a.m.

Calumet WBKP SU 8:00 a.m.

MN Cloquet

KDLH (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

Duluth KDQS SU 7:00 a.m.

Duluth KDLS 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.

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.

# TOMORROW'S WORLD

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# TOMORROW'S WORLD

TomorrowsWorld.org

## UPCOMING TELECASTS

### God Still Heals Today!

Are you ailing? Are you losing hope? God's word explains how His people can be healed!

May 1-7

### Will You Obey the Fourth Commandment?

Of all the Ten Commandments, one is disobeyed or rejected far more than all the others. Why?

May 8-14

### Behold, a White Horse

Many misunderstand the identity of this figure depicted in your Bible. Will you be deceived?

May 15-21

### The Red Horse of Revelation

As regional wars around us threaten to burst into world war, are you ready for what is ahead?

May 22-28

### The Black and Pale Horses of Revelation

The last two of the Four Horsemen will devastate planet Earth with their deadly rides!

May 29-June 4

### Is Jesus God?

Some say Jesus Christ was an angel or an ordinary human being. What does Scripture say?

June 5-11

Schedule subject to change

## TOMORROW'S WORLD Bible Study Course

Learn exciting and inspiring truths from your Bible, **absolutely free!**



Order at **TWBibleCourse.org** or from the **Regional Office** nearest you!  
The *Tomorrow's World Bible Study Course* can be taken by mail or online.



## Watch us on The CW Plus

Nationwide

Sundays 8:00 a.m. E.T.

Mondays 2:00 a.m. E.T.

Find your local station on page 31  
of this magazine.

