

Confidence in Government

— P.10 —

The Christian Passover

— P.16 —

TOMORROW'S WORLD

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A glowing fetus in a womb, symbolizing life. The fetus is curled in a fetal position, with its hands near its face. The womb is depicted as a translucent, textured sphere with a bright yellow light emanating from within, creating a halo effect around the fetus. The background is dark and blue, with faint, out-of-focus images of other embryos or cells.

THE MEANING OF

LIFE

Is There a Beast in Your Future?

Preachers and prophecy buffs often try to shoehorn what they see on the world scene into Bible prophecy. Some have declared that Iran is the “king of the south” mentioned in Daniel 11—but, while the country certainly has been a leader of unrest in the Middle East, it hardly fits the biblical criteria. We at *Tomorrow’s World* continue to point out that Iran is *not* south of Jerusalem—the point from which the Bible determines direction and location.

Similarly, it is easy to see China as a rising superpower that will replace the United States, but Bible prophecy warns of a greater threat to the American and British-descended peoples. Media pundits, geopolitical think tanks, and the man on the street only see what is in current news, but Bible prophecy warns of coming trouble from Europe—specifically a federation of nations led by Germany.

Look to the Source

It all began with the ancient king Nebuchadnezzar, who had a vivid dream of a giant image of a man. The head of the image was of fine gold, its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were a mixture of iron and clay. The king was told that these represented four kingdoms that would arise. His kingdom—the Chaldean or Babylonian—was the head of gold. After his kingdom, three more would arise, and the fourth would be replaced by the rule of the Kingdom of God on earth (Daniel 2:31–45).

Daniel 7 describes the same four kingdoms as four wild beasts—and the fourth kingdom as continuing, in one form or another, until God’s intervention at the end of the age. After Nebuchadnezzar’s Chaldean empire would come the Medo-Persian, Greco-Macedonian, and Roman empires. As seen in Daniel 2 and 7, the fourth, Rome, was to last until the Kingdom of God is set up—but it is generally agreed that Imperial Rome began in 27 BC and lasted until AD 476. Has prophecy failed? Not at all!

By the time John recorded Revelation in the last decade of the first century AD, the first three of these prophesied four kingdoms had come and gone,

and the only one remaining was Rome—depicted as a seven-headed beast, a composite of the original four beasts of Daniel 7, in Revelation 13:1–5. We learn that one of this composite beast’s heads had a deadly wound that would be healed, and that it would continue for 42 months.

Note that Scripture commonly uses the “day for a year” principle (Isaiah 34:8; Ezekiel 4:6). Considering a biblical prophetic month of 30 days, 42 months brings us to 1,260 days or years. History confirms that

Justinian restored the Roman Empire (healing the deadly wound) in AD 554, and that over the centuries it was revived four more times. The fifth revival was by the emperor Napoleon, whose reign was overthrown in 1814—exactly 1,260 years from Justinian’s revival in AD 554, thus fulfilling the prophecy given to us in



Revelation 13:3–5!

Revelation 17 again picks up this subject, and we learn that, after Imperial Rome, there would be a total of seven revivals. Again, the first was under Justinian. However, these revivals would bear a marked difference from that of Imperial Rome; they would be “ridden”—controlled—by an immoral woman. “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters....’ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns” (Revelation 17:1, 3).

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In Scripture, a woman often symbolizes a church (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:31–33), but this one persecutes true Christians and gives birth to harlot daughter churches (Revelation 17:4–6). What are we to make of all this? And what does it have to do with your world?

Thankfully, the Bible gives the answer, which has everything to do with near-future geopolitical

A powerful economic and military powerhouse of temporarily unified nations in Europe, coupled with a dramatic rise in religious fervor, looks to be impossible in today's modern world—but it is not.

events. “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains [rulers or kingdoms] on which the woman [harlot church] sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time” (Revelation 17:9–10). Over a span of 1,260 years, the great harlot church would exert its influence over five revivals of the Roman Empire led by Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Charles V, and Napoleon. Then would come the rise of Mussolini and Hitler,

followed by a seventh revival that will emerge only at the end of this age.

While much of the Western world fears the rise of China, the final revival of this German-led Beast power, along with the harlot woman who rides the Beast, will catch the world by surprise. Bible prophecy reveals what cannot be seen in today's news. And Germany will not be alone as it takes on the role that Scripture indicates. “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast” (vv. 12–13).

Two events will bring about this economic and military juggernaut. The leader of this combine of nations, known as the Beast, will be accompanied by a religious figure that the Bible calls “the false prophet”—often thought of as the Antichrist. Religion appears to be on the decline in most of the world,

but that will change quickly when this charismatic, miracle-working deceiver shows up.

A powerful economic and military powerhouse of temporarily unified nations in Europe, coupled with a dramatic rise in religious fervor, looks to be impossible in today's modern world—but it is not. This last revival of the Roman Empire will take the world by storm. Many will be caught up in the fervor and will be so deceived that they will fight the true Jesus Christ upon His return, having been misled to believe He is the Antichrist. “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

God's Word Has the Answers

Make no mistake about this—we *are* living in the end-times. Many prophecies are being fulfilled, but only the righteous will understand them. When Daniel asked about the things he recorded, he was told, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and *none of the wicked shall understand*, but the wise shall understand” (Daniel 12:9–10).

Rather than take a few scriptural phrases out of context, reading into them what we think we see at the moment, we must be faithful with God's word, trusting that what He says *will* come to pass. As we often say, don't believe us just because we say something—prove it for yourself from the Bible. And we hope you value the resources we at *Tomorrow's World* offer to help you understand the Bible more clearly.

Two of those resources may be especially helpful in this time of rising world tensions. To learn more about what to expect in the Middle East in the times ahead, order our informative, free study guide *The Middle East in Prophecy* or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. And to learn more about the soon-to-rise European Beast power and the woman who rides it, order a free copy of *The Beast of Revelation* or read it online.



5 The Meaning of Life

Your existence has a far greater purpose than you may have ever imagined, as revealed through the pages of the Bible.

10 Confidence in Government

Canada's prime minister is the latest leader to step down. Who can we count on for perfect leadership?

16 The Truth About the Christian Passover

You need to know the profound meaning of the Passover and its vital connection to the lives of Christians today.

22 Our Biblically Old Earth

Despite what many assume, God's word does not teach that planet Earth is just a few thousand years old.

26 Different Tools for Different Times

As we raise children from infancy to adulthood, we should make sure we are doing so according to godly principles.

12 The Prayer Connection

14 Manna from the Skies

24 Why Easter Is Called Easter

21 Questions and Answers

28 NewsWatch

30 Letters to the Editor

31 Television Log

Circulation: 520,000

Passover's Profound Meaning

-16-

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The Meaning of Life

By **Gerald E. Weston**

What is the purpose of your life? Do you know? Do you even care? This last question—*Do you even care?*—should shock our senses. Why would anyone *not* care?

We come into this life knowing nothing. We involuntarily arrived one day, and today we find ourselves somewhere, at some age and stage of life, being who we are. But at some point, often in our teenage years or as we near the end of our time on earth, we wonder, *What's it all about?* What an enigma!

Do you ever ask yourself this question? If not, why not?

Sadly, too many don't seem to be very concerned. Based on how people respond to our publication offers, there are more people interested in where the *world* is headed than where *they* are headed. But can there be any more important questions than, *Who am I? Why was I born? What is the purpose of life? Does God exist—and, if so, what is His plan for me?*

The answers to these questions are found in the pages of the Bible—but they are *not* what most pro-

fessing Christians think. No, the purpose of life is *not* to float around for eternal retirement in Heaven. Dear friends, your purpose is infinitely greater than that!

For millennia, philosophers and theologians have mulled over and debated the meaning of life—yet the answer has been there from the beginning. We are *not* left to our own limited minds to come up with some novel idea that suits our personal fancy.

Evolutionists Have No Answer

Those who subscribe to an evolutionary origin of life—thus in their own minds doing away with the need for God—have no answer. What grand purpose can there be for a life confined to the here and now? Even if you live a thousand years and discover a cure for cancer, what good will that do you in the end? When you die, if there is no God, all hopes, dreams, memories, and temporal rewards will end in the blackness of darkness forever.

Professor Thaddeus Metz, summarizing philosophers' current theories on life's purpose, tells us, "Lately, however, an extreme form of naturalism has arisen, according to which our lives would probably, if not unavoidably, have less meaning in a world with God or a soul than in one without" ("The Meaning of

Life,” *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Fall 2023 Edition).

In other words, to them, God’s existence would *take away* from a meaningful existence! Professor Metz explains several theories put forward regarding how this absurd conclusion came about. The first postulates that God’s existence places us in a master/servant or parent/child relationship, thus “our independence or dignity as adult persons would be violated.”

Put another way, we could no longer be our own boss. We would have to answer to a higher power, and

came a day when “the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him” (Matthew 22:23). Brought before the religious leaders of his day, the Apostle Paul created a near riot between the Pharisees and Sadducees over this subject. “But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, ‘Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!’... For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both” (Acts 23:6, 8).

BEFORE WE SET OFF TO EAT, DRINK, AND DIE FOREVER, LET’S ASK OURSELVES THE CENTRAL QUESTION PAUL ADDRESSES HERE: IS THERE A RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD? EITHER THERE IS OR THERE ISN’T.

atheists chafe at such an idea. Professor Metz points to an additional *God, don’t tell me what to do* line of reasoning: “Another salient argument for thinking that God would detract from meaning in life appeals to the value of privacy.... God’s omniscience [knowing all] would unavoidably make it impossible for us to control... the most intimate details about ourselves, which, for some, amounts to a less meaningful life than one with such control.”

Then there are those who argue against the value of eternal life itself. As the professor explains, “First and foremost, there has been the argument that an immortal life could not avoid becoming boring... rendering life pointless according to many subjective and objective theories.” The philosophers’ musings are broad, technical at times—and, well, meaningless! Leave out God and His revelation to us, and there can be no purpose beyond our far-too-short temporary existence.

Some are surprised to learn that one major Jewish sect during Jesus Christ’s day believed there was no future beyond the grave. We read that, during Jesus’ three-and-a-half-year ministry on earth, there

Some among the Christians at Corinth were influenced by this erroneous idea. Paul’s first letter to those brethren discusses the resurrection—and reasons with perfect logic the futility of life if it is only for the here and now. “For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep [died] in

Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (1 Corinthians 15:16–19).

Regarding the futility of self-sacrifice in a world without God, Paul takes the idea to its ultimate conclusion: “If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!’” (1 Corinthians 15:32).

So, before we set off to eat, drink, and die forever, let’s ask ourselves the central question Paul addresses here: Is there a resurrection from the dead? Either there is or there isn’t. If there is no life after death, we are left with no lasting purpose, no hope beyond the here and now. The late Dr. Roderick C. Meredith asked:

Is there any transcendent reason for you to be alive? Can you have a remarkably interesting and fulfilling destiny ahead of you, regardless of your present situation? Can you be *100 percent sure* of a future rendezvous with happiness, joy, and peace? Or are you

living a fleeting, disappointing existence on planet Earth with no more purpose for your life than the birds, the bees, or, for that matter, the worms that crawl in the dirt? (*What Is the Meaning of Life?*, p. 1)

These are serious questions for serious-minded people. Are you satisfied going through this life without ever knowing *why*? Wouldn't you like to know the purpose for your existence? There is an answer, and it is revealed in the pages of your Bible—and what the Bible actually says, as opposed to what people *think* it says, is both shocking and exciting.

A King's Search for Meaning

Ancient king Solomon sought for purpose in life through wine, women, song, and many other physical pursuits, and he concluded that none of these brought lasting happiness. All was vanity and grasping for the wind. He explained:

So I said in my heart, "As it happens to the fool, it also happens to me, and why was I then more wise?" Then I said in my heart, "This also is vanity [worthlessness]." For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool! Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind (Ecclesiastes 2:15–17).

You and I can never match Solomon when it comes to wine, women, and song, nor in fame or fortune. Most who try find that what they thought would make them happy does not. Consider the lives of so many celebrities who outwardly "have it all." Some get strung out on drugs, others have one failed marriage after another. Time and again, people with good looks, fame, fortune, and everything else most people dream of, find that none of this provides the happiness they seek. This is not to say that every rich person has a failed marriage or that all celebrities are unhappy—only that happiness does not come from temporary pleasures, and that without a God who

promises a resurrection from death, anything we do in this life is temporary.

How can we be certain we can live again? While there are those who have been resuscitated and claim "out of body" experiences, only One was resurrected after three days and three nights in the grave—and that was nearly 2,000 years ago. But how can we know that a man named Jesus did indeed rise from the grave?

Paul answers that question in the same "resurrection chapter" we read from earlier—listing by name individuals who saw Jesus after His crucifixion, and then asserting, "After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep [died]" (1 Corinthians 15:6). This was written fewer than 25 years after the crucifixion, while most of those 500 people were still alive. What credibility would Paul, or his letter, have if this were not true?

And scholars recognize further evidence. According to John 7:5, Jesus' own half-brothers did not believe in Him prior to the crucifixion, but afterward they became disciples. James went on to become the leader of the Jerusalem congregation, and he wrote the letter of James in your Bible. His half-brother Jude also became a believer and wrote the letter bearing his name.

Many have died as martyrs for a cause they believed in, but how many would die for a cause they knew to be a lie? Jesus' apostles knew the resurrection was true. History records that, of the Twelve Apostles (including Matthias, who replaced Judas), only John did not die a martyr's death.

But the question remains: If God exists and there is life after death, what does that *mean*? What is God's purpose for you and me?

Are We Mere Animals?

Have you ever wondered why human beings have so much greater mental capacity than animals? Several animals have larger brains, but none come close to the human capacity to reason, to think, to innovate. None can go to the Moon and return. None can build a telescope, a television, or a computer. Yes, I know your dog is pretty amazing, but there is something fundamentally different between the two of you.

What makes that difference? How is it that mankind can build machines to go higher, faster, and further than any animal? And why, even with such superior intelligence, can we not get along with one another? Why is there divorce? Why are there wars between nations? Why do people scam, steal, and bludgeon each other?

We begin our search for the answer to the meaning of life in the first chapter of the Bible. Here we find that God made mankind very different from any other creature:

Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Genesis 1:26–27).

How many have read over this passage without considering what it means? In plain language, God made human beings not to take after any animal, but rather to take after *Him*. We are different because we are created in *God's* image and likeness. Read that for yourself, in your own Bible, and consider what it means.

God created us to be as He is, with amazing ability to think, to reason, and to do a multitude of marvelous things. So why don't we conduct ourselves in a godly manner? Scripture explains the missing element—that man is made a free agent with the ability to make moral choices.

“And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Genesis 2:9). Then we read that “the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’” (vv. 16–17).

Mankind was given the ability to choose between right and wrong, between good and evil. As spelled out on another occasion for the nation of Israel, “I call

heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days” (Deuteronomy 30:19–20).

More than 55 years after we sent men to the Moon and brought them back safely, we still cannot get along with one another. There are too many failed marriages; too many murders, rapes, and assaults; too many wars, cutting short the hopes and dreams of millions.

Why is there such suffering? People wonder why God, with all His power, does not stop the atrocities that occur here on earth. But which of these same people are willing to submit to God's will in everything? God made us to be free moral agents for a *reason*.

God's Purpose for Us

The idea that God is creating man in His own image is truly profound—and this theme is found throughout Scripture. David looked up at the night sky and wondered why God would even be interested in mankind, asking, “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:4). The book of Hebrews picks up on this question and explains:

“You [that is, God] have put all things in subjection under his [mankind's] feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, *in bringing many sons to glory*, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Hebrews 2:8–10).

The Bible reveals a plan and purpose being worked out that is far greater than retiring to Heaven to stare into the face of God for eternity. So,



why is it that people do not accept what the Bible plainly says? The Apostle Paul is not vague about our future. He explains that we will be sons of God and joint heirs with Christ. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Romans 8:14–15). Now, take note of and think about what he says next—that the Spirit of God “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (v. 16).

Did you catch that? We are to become children of God. As brought out in Genesis 1, mankind was made in the image and likeness not of any kind of animal, but of God Himself! Can you believe what the Bible clearly says? Paul continued by writing that “if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:17).

In previous generations, we all understood that the terms *man* and *mankind* represented both men and women in this context; but if anyone is offended by that “micro-aggression,” note that women are not left out: “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:18).


But how can we be “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ”? Consider again that Romans 8:16 men-

tions *two* spirits: God’s spirit and “our spirit.” In this we find the difference between God’s thinking and our thinking. Humanly speaking, we do not think as God thinks (Isaiah 55:7–9).

Without God’s indwelling Spirit, though intelligent in material matters, human beings lack true love and self-control. Without His Spirit, we exhibit all the traits of a fleshly nature influenced by Satan, the Devil. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like” (Galatians 5:19–21).

But does this mean we can *never* think as God thinks? Let Paul give us the answer: “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him.’ *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.* For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:9–10). Paul goes on to explain the difference between the animal brain and the human mind. “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God” (vv. 11–12).

The spirit in man empowers the human brain far above that of animals, but without the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we can no more understand the things of God than my dog Marcus could understand calculus. To be fully made in the image and likeness of God, to think as God thinks, these two spirits must unite. “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.... The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Romans 8:14–17).

Wow—we are “children of God... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” Now, *that* is a purpose worth living for! 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

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Oh Canada!

Confidence in Government



Canadian leaders who have served as prime minister

for extended periods of time rarely leave office on positive terms. Lacking the constraint of term limits, they typically don't leave until they have become unpopular. Jean Chrétien served for ten years before dissension

within his own Liberal Party caused him to resign rather than face an official challenge to his status as party leader. Stephen Harper, needing less than four more months to reach a full decade as prime minister, failed in his 2015 bid for reelection as his Conservative Party lost nearly 38 percent of the parliamentary seats it had previously held.

What causes once-popular leaders to lose the support of those they profess to serve?

On the morning of Monday, January 6, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau walked to a small lectern in front of his Rideau Cottage residence in Ottawa to deliver a speech confirming that he would be resigning from both the office of prime minister and the leadership of the Liberal Party as soon as a replacement could be determined.

Justin Trudeau's first term as prime minister began in 2015, when his Liberal Party won a majority in the House of Commons. Trudeau then led minority governments after the 2019 and 2021 elections. He was able to navigate the challenges of minority leadership—under which non-confidence motions often threaten the government with dissolution—by establishing deals with the New Democratic Party (NDP). Trudeau would support several NDP initiatives, and, in return, the NDP would support his government whenever it might face a non-confidence vote in Parliament.

Loss of Confidence

But it was not to last. As support for the Liberal government fell in the polls, his own party's Members of Parliament began openly questioning Trudeau's ability to lead both the party and the country. At a caucus meeting in October, following the loss of seats in both Montreal and Toronto, 24 MPs signed a letter asking Trudeau to resign.

Following the November 2024 election of Donald Trump in the United States, the prospect of increased tariffs brought the state of Canada's economy back to the foreground. The government's 2024 Federal Economic Statement promised to be a point of contention and intrigue. The projected deficit had been promised not to exceed \$40 billion. Just a few hours before the statement's December 16 release, Finance Minister—and Liberal MP—Chrystia Freeland resigned, publishing a letter detailing significant concerns with Trudeau's handling of spending and describing some expenditures as "gimmicks" meant to buy support from voters in preparation for another election.

Freeland's resignation, along with the revelation that the deficit had far surpassed the promised \$40-billion cap—reaching an eye-popping \$61.9 billion—resulted in renewed calls for resignation. Over the next several weeks, an increasing number of Liberal MPs publicly demanded that the prime minister resign. The Liberal caucuses from Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada formally called for Trudeau to step down. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, who had enabled Trudeau's minority government to survive three non-confidence votes, promised Canadians that he would now vote to trigger an election.

Like Jean Chrétien before him, lack of confidence from his own political party led to Trudeau's decision to resign rather than face a contested leadership race.

What Changed?

Is loss of confidence the inevitable fate of any leader who holds office for a significant period of time? Politicians often gain popularity and power by attacking whoever currently holds the seat of power they desire for themselves. In theory, the democratic process guarantees the election of a leader approved by the people—someone who holds *the confidence* of the people. Sometimes campaign promises are fulfilled, causing a leader's popularity to grow during his or her first few years in office. But opinions change over time, popularity is fleeting, and confidence is lost, leading the people to seek another to serve as leader.

Trudeau's case is fascinating in that the issue leading to his resignation was a budgetary concern. During his first election campaign as party leader, back in 2015, opponents attacked him as naïve regarding national budgets. Trudeau's opposition highlighted an offhand comment he had made, in which he said that "the budget will balance itself." Apparently, this philosophy was good enough for three elections over the course of ten years—a longevity that would make most world leaders envious. But this same philosophy now seems to be a decisive reason for Canadians' lack of confidence in their prime minister.

Challengers in any election cycle have an advantage in that they do not have a track record in the office

they seek, while the incumbent has a record that can be dissected and condemned. Many seeking to unseat current leaders have used some form of this argument: *Are you better off now than when they took office?* Far too many voters fall into the trap of believing that electing the right official will solve all of their problems. It is a natural tendency to look at our own situation and—rather than asking *What did I do to get myself here?*—ask, *If I elect you, how will you fix this?*

It appears that Canada is soon to have a general election, one in which the electorate will select a new leader to guide the nation. Polls now suggest that this leader won't come from the Liberal Party of Trudeau, but more likely from the opposition's Conservative Party. But how much of a difference will a new leader make? Will a new prime minister succeed in making positive, systematic change?

Everlasting Confidence

What Canada—like every other nation of the world—desperately needs from its leaders is a call, both personal and national, to turn to the commandments and principles outlined by God in the Bible, which lead to success, abundance, and stronger relationships. The continued rejection of these principles has caused us to falter, both as a collective society and—in many cases—as individuals.

The words recorded in the first chapter of Isaiah, written to a people who had forgotten their Creator, should serve as a strong admonition for Canada's populace, as well as those of many countries around the world: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:16–17).

The Bible prophesies of a time when right principles will be taught by an honest and fair government—after Jesus Christ returns to earth and brings the government with which He will rule humanity for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). That government will at first be met with skepticism by some (Zechariah 14:16–19), but confidence will grow as that perfect Leader will teach the people His perfect way of life—one not swayed by the fickle nature of public opinion. God speed that day.

—Michael Heykoop



The Canadian Parliament atop Parliament Hill in Ottawa

THE PRAYER CONNECTION

When it's done right, prayer brings benefits that go beyond the brain.

The field of neuroscience is a fascinating exploration of the human brain and nervous system. It examines how the brain is involved in everything we do—thinking, feeling, moving, learning, and remembering—as well as how it communicates with the body. Neuroscientists study brain development, adaptability, and what happens when things “go wrong” through aging, injury, or disease. The brain—the human body’s “control center”—shapes our physical experiences and actions. But is there more to existence than electrical and chemical stimuli? What deeper connections might define our humanity?

Neuroscience has revealed fascinating biological insights into how the deeply personal practice of prayer can influence mental activity. Though fundamentally a spiritual activity, prayer has measurable effects on neurological function. Studies utilizing functional magnetic resonance imaging show that prayer can reduce activity in the brain’s inferior parietal lobule—an area associated with distinguishing self from others. During prayer, heightened activity is observed in parts of the frontal lobe governing attention and focus, akin to what occurs during other concentration-intensive tasks (“Religion and the Brain,” *Psychology Today*, October 14, 2019).

While science can affirm the physical ways in which the brain benefits from practices like prayer in offering a certain sense of relief, enhancing focus, and creating a sense of connection, the true benefits of prayer to the *true God* transcend what can be scientifically measured. The act of Christian prayer is purposeful and beneficial—when performed with intention—aiding in establishing a connection to and relationship with the God of the universe. It serves as a means by which we embrace submission to the One who created all human beings in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26).

More than the physical human brain is exercised, calmed, and recalibrated during prayer; so is the spirit in man, the human spirit God gives to all made in His image (Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11). There are spiritual benefits that come from the profound connection prayer represents. While neuroscience

cannot detect the spirit in man, the Holy Bible—the divine and authoritative revelation of God to man—states its existence as fact. The spirit in man works in conjunction with the human brain to generate and empower the human *mind*—and, with that mind, we *can* communicate with our Maker. That communication takes place in prayer.

The Faith Factor

But how does one pray to receive *answers*? Such prayer requires faith, humility, and a clear understanding of God’s will. Jesus said to two blind men in Matthew 9:27–30, “According to your faith let it be to you.” Later, in Matthew 21:22, He reminds us, “Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” And Hebrews 11:6 teaches that God is pleased when we have faith—real, living faith that translates into action and heartfelt obedience (James 2:20). Such faith is crucial to receiving answers to our prayers.

Prayer must also reflect a submissive attitude, seeking God’s will and not simply dictating our desires. Many see no answers to their prayers because those prayers do not reflect God’s desires (James 4:2–3). Jesus modeled prayer for His followers, demonstrating the importance of glorifying God, seeking His guidance, confessing sins, and forgiving others—an unforgiving heart can hinder our prayers, as the forgiveness we extend to others is a condition for God to hear us (Matthew 6:5–15).

God delights in answering prayers, and His desire is to give good things to those who seek Him diligently (Luke 12:32). Prayer transforms us, renewing our inner selves daily (2 Corinthians 4:16). By praying faithfully, humbly, and in alignment with God’s will, we open ourselves to His guidance and blessings.

The Apostle Paul instructs us to walk in a mindset of gratitude and “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17–18). Prayerful thankfulness nurtures humility and deepens our connection with God. Begin today to experience the benefits of prayer—both physically and spiritually—by connecting with your Creator, seeking His guidance, and aligning your life with His will.

—Adam J. West

EASTER

THE UNTOLD STORY



The Untold Story of Easter and Its Origins

- Your Bible proves that Jesus was resurrected on the weekly Sabbath and was not crucified on “Good Friday.”
- Easter is a mishmash of pagan rites and misunderstandings of Scripture.
- Bunnies don’t lay eggs, but they do reveal Easter’s past as a pagan fertility festival.



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Manna from the Skies



As World War II drew to a close in Europe in April 1945, civilians in western Holland, still under German occupation, were facing an imminent humanitarian crisis. With food supplies running out and the risk of mass starvation looming, Allied bomber aircraft launched an operation to drop food from the skies, saving millions from a slow death. This operation, named “Manna” after the miraculous feeding of the Israelites described in the biblical book of Exodus, provided vital physical nourishment for the resilient Dutch people. A remarkable event in its time, what can Operation Manna teach us today?

The End of the “Hunger Winter”

In May 1940, the German military invaded the Netherlands, and for the remainder of the war the country was under Nazi occupation. The Dutch became accustomed to seeing Royal Air Force (RAF) and other Allied bombers flying high above, heading towards targets in Germany, while their own survival became increasingly difficult.

After the June 1944 D-Day invasion gave the Allies a foothold in France, German forces in the Netherlands sought to block Allied advances by intentionally flooding more than 2,000 square kilometres (780 square miles) of land in western Holland. Flooding this territory, home to major cities and canals, severely disrupted transportation and exacerbated food shortages for the 4.5 million living in the region.

The situation worsened in the winter of 1944 after German forces imposed an embargo on food shipments and severely limited fuel supplies. The harsh winter

froze canals and rivers, making transportation even more challenging. During this period, known as the *Hongerwinter* (“Hunger Winter”), an estimated 20,000 civilians—mostly the elderly—died from cold, malnutrition, and related diseases. Hundreds of thousands more suffered long-lasting health effects. Some Dutch citizens resorted to eating grass, tulip bulbs, sugar beets, and even pets to survive.

With the end of the war in Europe drawing near, the conditions in western Holland became increasingly dire, and Prince Bernhard and the exiled Dutch government appealed to Allied leaders Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt for help. Despite German resistance, the Allies began to prepare for a humanitarian mission. Moving provisions by sea was complicated by mines in the shipping lanes and damage to the ports—so, instead, the Allies decided to drop food supplies from the air.

On April 17, 1945, RAF Air Commodore Andrew Geddes was summoned to General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s headquarters, where he was tasked with organizing a food airlift using the combined resources of RAF Bomber Command and the U.S. Eighth Army Air Force. There was a logistical challenge, however—*no parachutes* were available for the airdrops. The aircrews—which also included Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, and Polish airmen—were experienced at dropping ordnance from 6,000 metres (20,000 feet), but for this mission they would need to fly at low altitudes, sometimes as low as 120 metres (390 feet), to be sure that the food would reach the ground safely.

With the help of Dutch officials, designated drop zones and flight corridors were established, and on

April 29, 1945, Operation Manna commenced. On that day, RAF Lancaster and Mosquito bombers

Though the operation lasted only ten days, it had a profound impact on the survival of millions of people. To this day, the Netherlands regularly honours the veterans involved.

dropped 535 tons of food. The operation scaled up the next day, with 1,021 tons of food dropped across five locations. Between April 29 and May 8, the RAF, and then American B-17 Flying Fortress bombers conducting Operation Chowhound, dropped more than 10,000 tons of provisions.

The supplies consisted of basic foodstuffs such as flour, egg powder, and canned goods. On the ground, these were distributed by barges and carts, with the aid of Dutch civilians and monitored by German soldiers. The success of the mission was evident in the re-

actions of Dutch civilians, many of whom waved flags and sheets by the drop zones to express their gratitude.

On May 5, 1945, German forces in the Netherlands capitulated. The airdrops ceased shortly afterward, and food was then able to be delivered by truck.

True Bread from Heaven

The name "Operation Manna" was not chosen randomly. It was a reference to the biblical account of the Israelites' miraculous sustenance during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. In the book of Exodus, we are told that God provided the Israelites "manna," which they described as tasting like wafers made with honey.

God told Moses, "I will rain bread from heaven for you" (Exodus 16:4). The manna was an essential provision sustaining the Israelites as they journeyed through the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula, allowing them to survive in an otherwise inhospitable environment.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ called to mind this miracle when He referred to Himself as the "bread of life." In the Gospel of John, after supernaturally feeding a crowd of thousands, Jesus used His miracle as an opportunity to teach about a deeper, spiritual nourishment, contrasting His eternal gifts with the temporary nature of physical food.

Jesus told the crowd, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you" (John 6:27). He then went on to say, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger" (John 6:35). Jesus explained that, just as the Israelites ate manna in the wilderness and survived, those who partake of Him—believing in His words and following His teachings—will receive the gift of eternal life.

Christ declared, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever" (John 6:51). His statement connects Him to the manna in the wilderness, but with an even greater promise in that feeding on Christ—the "bread which came down from heaven"—gives eternal life (John 6:57-58).

Jesus teaches us that feeding on the bread of life as spiritual sustenance is as essential as physical nourishment. Just as the Israelites had to rely on the manna to survive physically, Christians are called to "feed" on Christ, filling their minds with His words (Psalm 19:14) and seeking a deep, ongoing relationship with Him (Jeremiah 29:13).

As we approach the eightieth anniversary of Operation Manna, we have an opportunity to ponder the deeper spiritual lessons embedded in this story. Just as the Dutch people were saved by the "manna" dropped from the sky, we are reminded that our true nourishment must come from the God of Heaven. The "bread of life" that Jesus offers, which provides more than temporary relief, is the source of eternal life. And at every Passover, true Christians keep a memorial of the sacrifice Christ made to give His people access to that "bread of life." So, we should ask ourselves: Are we feeding on the "bread" that truly satisfies? Are we prioritizing our relationship with God, who offers us the gift of eternal life?

The story of Operation Manna serves as a powerful symbol of hope. Just as the Israelites relied on manna in the wilderness, we also must rely on the true bread from Heaven for spiritual nourishment. The true Gospel that Christ preached nearly 2,000 years ago has real meaning for your life, but you need to seek it out and feed on it. To discover how that Gospel can transform your life today, request our free booklet *Do You Believe the True Gospel?* or access it now at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Simon R. D. Roberts



The Truth About the Christian Passover

By **Rod McNair**

More than two billion people on our planet today identify themselves as Christians—and most of them observe the holidays commonly associated with Christianity, especially Christmas and Easter. When we speak of religious observances that occur in the springtime of the Northern Hemisphere, many immediately assume that while the Jews keep Passover as a remembrance of their sojourn and departure from Egypt, those who profess Christianity keep Easter to commemorate the resurrection of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Most people today think of the biblical Holy Days—especially the Passover—as “Jewish.” What do *you* think? Is it true that only Jews keep Passover, while Christians universally keep Easter? Is it possible for there to be a *Christian* Passover? Or is that a contradiction?

In fact, a growing number of people are discovering that the Bible has something unexpected to say about Christian days of worship. There *is* such a thing as a Christian Passover, and it is clearly revealed in the very pages of the Bible.

Let’s uncover the truth by exploring three questions about the Christian Passover—because the answers may not be what you think.

Did Jesus Keep and Teach the Christian Passover?

We’ll begin our discussion by touching on the *Old* Testament Passover. Actually, it wasn’t only the Jews who kept it—they were just one tribe in a nation of people

called the Israelites, the descendants of the patriarch Israel. God gave the Israelites these instructions:

Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: “On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb.... Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it” (Exodus 12:3, 5–8).

God told the Israelites to mark their doorposts with blood from the Passover lamb, and His angel “passed over” those marked households, saving them from harm when the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed on that night of the first Passover. From that time on, the Passover was kept as a memorial of God’s deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt.

Centuries later, we find that Jesus Christ, an Israelite from the tribe of Judah, observed the Passover during His lifetime. As our Savior, He not only came to earth to live the life of an obedient Jew—He also came to die for our sins and establish His Church. So, on the night before He died, He did something momentous with His disciples: He instituted the New Testament Passover, which we may also call the *Christian* Passover.

In the gospel of Luke, we read of that last Passover Christ observed with His disciples: “When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, ‘With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer’” (Luke 22:14–15).

Yes, Jesus kept the Passover, which involved a meal including roasted lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs, in keeping with the Old Testament statute. But He also did something new on that night

had tremendous meaning—and awesome significance for the future of every human being.

An Example to Follow

Before we go any further, we should note that the Passover bread did not mysteriously become Christ’s *literal* body, and the wine did not miraculously become His *literal* blood. Both were symbols, *representing* His broken body and shed blood—symbols with tremendous meaning.

Let’s also notice something else that Christ introduced that evening: “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured

SO, DID JESUS KEEP THE PASSOVER? YES. HE KEPT THE ANCIENT PASSOVER OBSERVED BY THE ISRAELITES. BUT, EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY FOR US, HE ALSO ESTABLISHED A NEW CHRISTIAN PASSOVER FOR HIS FOLLOWERS, WHOM HE TOLD TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND DO AS HE HAD DONE.

before His crucifixion—He instituted *new* Passover symbols:

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:26–28).

With these two elements, the bread and the wine, Jesus would forever change the observance of the Passover for His followers. As He explained to them, the unleavened bread represents His body, which was broken in the beating He suffered before His crucifixion. The wine represents His blood, which poured out from a spear wound while He hung dying on a stake. As the true Lamb of God—long ago foreshadowed by the literal lamb of the Old Testament Passover—He gave His life for the salvation of all mankind. The symbols He established for the Passover observance

water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded” (John 13:3–5).

Here, Jesus instituted another element of the Christian Passover: the washing of each other’s feet. Jesus was teaching His disciples to humble themselves and serve one another, as He had served them. And notice further:

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:12–15).

All three symbols—the bread, the wine, and the foot-washing—would constitute a new observance, which we now call the New Testament Passover or Christian Passover. Christians today observe the

Passover with the same symbols that our Savior instituted on the night before He died.

Christ had explained the importance of this new observance: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:53–54). Again, not ingesting His *literal* body and blood—but taking the *symbols* that represented His sacrifice for mankind.

So, did Jesus keep the Passover? *Yes*. He kept the ancient Passover observed by the Israelites. But, even more significantly for us, He also established a new Christian Passover for His followers, whom He told to follow His example and do as He had done.

After His death and resurrection, as Christianity spread, many Gentiles—people who were not descended from the ancient patriarch Israel—were called into the Church alongside the Jews. This brings us to our next question about the Christian Passover.

Were Gentiles Taught to Keep the Christian Passover?

Many believe that, as the Church grew, God “allowed the rules to change,” so to speak. It’s widely assumed that, somehow, the Gentiles coming into the Church didn’t need to follow the same rules and laws as Jewish Christians. People often try to use the Apostle Paul’s writings to demonstrate this supposed “rule change” or “Gentile exception.” But let’s continue our discussion by examining what Paul *actually* taught about the Christian Passover.

In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian brethren, we find quite an enlightening passage teaching them about the Christian Passover:

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:23–25).

Paul—the apostle to the Gentiles—is clearly describing observance of the Christian Passover to a Church congregation made up of *Gentile* members, the Corinthians.

Now, notice the next verse: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (v. 26). Some say this means we should take the symbols of the bread and wine multiple times a year—perhaps even every time we come together to worship God. But if we read carefully, we notice that this is *not* what Paul wrote. He simply explained that, when we take those symbols, we are proclaiming—or memorializing—the death of our Lord and Savior in anticipation of His return.

Admittedly, there’s a lot in there. For one thing, it’s a reminder that Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth. It’s not hard to see that we are approaching that time—as world conditions indicate, it’s getting very close. But we should also note that, as Paul explained, the Passover is a memorial of Christ’s death. In other words, it is an *anniversary* of Christ’s death. Now, why would you keep an anniversary on any old day you want? Why would you keep it on a day that is different from that of the memorialized event?

In the United States, we celebrate July 4 as Independence Day, going back to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. In France, Bastille Day is July 14, commemorating the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. In Mexico, September 16 is observed as Independence Day, the day on which Catholic priest and patriot Miguel Hidalgo delivered his famous summons to his parishioners to rise up in revolt against the Spanish Empire. Each of these is observed on the date when the memorialized event took place. Most other countries have their own specific calendar dates to honor special historical events.

On a smaller scale—but still very important—married couples often celebrate the anniversary of their wedding. When is that? On the date when they were married! Just about every husband knows that his wife would not be very happy if he forgot the day of their anniversary or suggested that they always celebrate it on some arbitrary other date.

So, why would we think God would be pleased by our trying to memorialize Christ’s Passover on some other day that doesn’t actually memorialize it? Timing is very important to God, and the timing of the Christian

Passover reminds us of the tremendously significant event that took place on that day—the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on a stake to save us from our sins.

Preparing for the Passover

Going further, Paul even described how we should prepare for taking that Passover: “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup” (1 Corinthians 11:27–28).

As Paul revealed, God cares about the way His people prepare to take the Christian Passover: He expects us to prepare for it through self-examination. We need to honestly evaluate how we are living our lives, in light of God’s laws and directions. As we examine ourselves, we must acknowledge our need for Christ’s sacrifice and God’s forgiveness in our lives.

Again, remember that Paul was writing all of this to the Corinthian brethren, who were *Greek*—not Jewish. This Passover observance was not just for the Jews or Israelites—it was for *all* Christians.

Notice Paul’s admonition: “Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7). When the ancient Israelites were keeping the Passover, they were foreshadowing the Lamb of God dying for the sins of mankind—though they did not know it at that time. Paul then wrote, “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (v. 8).

We’ve already seen that Jesus Christ’s first disciples were taught to keep the Christian Passover. Now we see that Paul, years after Jesus’ death, taught the Gentiles the symbolic significance of the Passover and explained how to prepare for it. How can anyone deny that the Passover was meant for *all* New Testament Christians to keep?

Even so, most who profess Christianity *don’t* keep the Christian Passover. That leads us to our final question.

Why Do So Many Keep Easter Instead?

We’ve seen that the Bible has a *lot* to say about the Christian Passover. By contrast, isn’t it remarkable

that there isn’t a single biblical instruction or command to keep an observance commemorating Christ’s resurrection?

Please don’t misunderstand—Jesus Christ’s resurrection is vital and essential. In fact, we base our hope of eternal life on it. We read that “if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Romans 8:11).

Indeed, the resurrection is *supremely* important. But even if you search the New Testament from beginning to end, you will find no instruction or command to memorialize Christ’s resurrection with an observance or Holy Day. So, why do so many people observe Easter?

Longtime readers of this magazine know that most of the holidays of today’s mainstream Christianity spring from blatantly pagan roots. Such is the case with Easter. Why does this matter? As our Editor in Chief, Gerald Weston, writes, “Ishtar was the ancient goddess of fertility and love, and was also known by the names Istra, Eostre, *Easter*, Astarte, Aphrodite, Artemis, and Inanna. In the Hebrew language, the plural form of Astarte was Ashtaroth—and we find many references to the worship of Ashtaroth in the Old Testament, but never in a positive context” (*Easter: The Untold Story*, p. 7, emphasis added). Easter is related not to Jewish or Christian practice, but to ancient fertility myths tied to pagan cultures and observances.

So, considering its connection to ancient pagan traditions, why do people keep Easter? History reveals that, after Christ founded His Church in the first century, profound changes were introduced by some after His death. In that way, the mainstream, visible church differed increasingly from the faithful flock that held to Christ’s example and teachings. As new generations arose, pressure to conform to the pagan practices around them grew immensely—practices that included festivals, customs, and traditions that had their roots in ancient fertility rites and paganism, if not direct worship of Ishtar and other pagan figures.

By contrast, faithful Christians held to the doctrines of Christ and His apostles, observing the Passover on Nisan 14—the fourteenth day of the first month of the Hebrew calendar—and they did so even

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can there really be love without law?

Question: The Apostle Paul states that “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10). Does his statement mean that we don’t need to keep the Ten Commandments if we have love?

Answer: The “love” of which Paul writes is not a sentimental feeling of human origin—he explains that it is the very *love of God* imparted to our minds by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22). This is the love that enables one to keep—or *fulfill*—the Ten Commandments. But how exactly does God’s love fulfill His commandments?

Jesus Christ set the example all Christians are to follow (1 Peter 2:21). He kept His Father’s commandments, and He taught others to keep them (John 14:15; 15:10; Matthew 19:16–19).

Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments as the expression of love to God and to our fellow man (Matthew 22:35–40). The first four commandments show us how to love God, and the last six commandments show us how to love our neighbors. Since the Apostle John tells us that the most fundamental characteristic of God’s nature and character is “love” (1 John 4:8, 16), the Ten Commandments are therefore expressions of the Supreme Lawgiver’s divine love, because they reflect His very character, which is summarized by love. This love is not a form of humanly devised affection, but is instead the true, divine love that comes directly from God through His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

As God is love, Jesus showed that the spiritual intent and purpose of God’s law is love. The divine love of God, imparted to true Christians by His Holy Spirit, is expressed within the mechanism of His law—the Ten Commandments. It is manifested in adoration and worship of God and in faithful obedience to Him, as well as in outgoing concern, compassion, kindness, and service to those around us. The love of God enables us to fulfill not just the physical intent but also the spiritual intent of His law.

“He who loves another has fulfilled the law,” Paul explains. “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment,

are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:8–10).

God reveals that we express His love *through* keeping His commandments. John plainly explained how God’s love is expressed, and he defined that love as follows: “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:2–3).

Law Defines Love

All of this having been stated, could there possibly be *any* truth whatsoever in the widespread belief that “love” fulfills the law of God in such a way that the keeping of the Ten Commandments is no longer necessary?

John emphatically wrote that the answer is *no*:

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked (1 John 2:3–6).

John certainly emphasized the necessity of God’s love, but *never* did he, nor any other writer of Scripture, teach that this love supersedes, puts away, or invalidates the law of God. John, who was one of Jesus’ disciples and His close friend, stated plainly that one who truly has the love of God will be keeping the *commandments* of God: “This is love, that we walk according to His commandments” (2 John 5–6).

The time is coming soon when the whole world, ruled by Jesus Christ, will understand and appreciate what an incredible blessing the law of God truly is. A glorious world of peace and harmony will result from the keeping of God’s law (Isaiah 2:2–3). TW



Our Biblically Old Earth

By **Wallace G. Smith**

In our modern world, science and the Bible seem constantly pitted against each other, and it is certainly true that there are outstanding questions to be resolved. But many “conflicts” between science and the Bible are illusions, arising either from misunderstanding the scientific data or from failing to understand the truth of God’s word.

One example is the *age of the earth*. Must Christians put themselves at odds with the theories of reputable geologists in order to accept the claims of the Bible? Just how old is the earth?

We can see very clearly in Scripture that the creation of today’s plants, animals, and humans—Adam and Eve—took place around 6,000 years ago. The Bible gives us enough information about the ages of the patriarchs and their descendants to make this conclusion hard to dispute. On the origins of mankind in the Garden of Eden—nearly six millennia ago—God’s word is clear.

Just as clearly, nearly all reputable geologists looking at evidence of our planet’s age conclude that the earth has been in existence for a *long time*. “Ask any geologist how old the Earth is,” writes American geologist G. Brent Dalrymple, “and the odds are very good that he or she will provide an answer very close to 4.54 [billion years]” (*The Age of the Earth*, p. 305). And, while future discoveries may overturn this conclusion, 4.5 billion years is *very consistent* with other evidence of the earth’s age, such as that taken from meteorites and lunar material.

An age of 6,000 years is certainly a far cry from 4,540,000,000!

Still, those who have put the Bible to the test in their lives have learned to trust it as the very word of God. So, what does the Bible *truly* say about the age of the earth? Surprisingly, it says both *much more* and *much less* than many understand.

Six Literal Days—But When?

It is wonderfully and *literally* true that “in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed” (Exodus 31:17) and that this “creation week” took place nearly 6,000 years ago, just as indicated in Scripture. But what many miss is that the planet Earth and the heavens around it *were already in existence* at the beginning of that week.

We read in the *very first* verse of the Bible, *before* the events of that week, that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). As we will see, that initial “beginning” of the earth and the heavens—*before* Adam and Eve and *before* the animals and plants with which we are familiar—may have occurred long, long ago!

Notice carefully the second verse of Genesis, which many read right over, missing its clear implications because of its usual translation: “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep” (Genesis 1:2). A simple statement—but it contains much more than meets the eye. The English words “without form, and void” are translated from the Hebrew words *tohu* and *bohu*. These two words, used together in Scripture just three times, indicate an uninhabitable wasteland—a condition of desolation or destruction. Significantly, the other two

passages where *tohu* and *bohu* are used together—Isaiah 34:11 and Jeremiah 4:23—indicate that such desolate states of ruin and devastation were *brought about by sin*.

Furthermore, scholars point out that the Hebrew *hayah*—translated “was” in Genesis 1:2—can also convey the idea of “became.” Later in Genesis, in the passage describing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we read that Lot’s wife “became [*hayah*] a pillar of salt” (Genesis 19:26). Obviously, Lot had not married a pillar of salt; she had not always been so. Similarly, Genesis 1:2 could more appropriately be translated literally that “the earth *became*” a desolate waste—the Hebrew does not imply that it was created in that condition!

Created in Beauty, Not Chaos

Putting these facts together, we can understand that God would surely have created the heavens and the

God surely then would have created the heavens and the earth with great order and beauty, but through some sinful circumstance they became desolate and devastated—ruined and uninhabitable—in need of renewal before the creation of mankind.

earth with great order and beauty, but through some sinful circumstance they became desolate and devastated—ruined and uninhabitable—in need of renewal before the creation of mankind (cf. Psalm 104:30). Indeed, Genesis 1:1–2 can accurately be translated, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became a desolation and a chaotic ruin, and darkness was on the face of the deep.”

So, does the Bible describe any sin or rebellion against God, *before* Adam’s creation, that could have brought such chaos and ruin? Yes, it does! Scripture tells us what the Devil

had done *before* he met Eve in the Garden of Eden, seeking to lure her into sinning against God (Genesis 3:1–5). God’s word makes it plain that angels were present *before* the earth existed and they shouted for joy when they saw its foundation laid (Job 38:6–7).

Lucifer—who became Satan, the Devil—existed at this time.


Scripture describes this corrupted, sinful creature leading a prideful angelic rebellion (Ezekiel 28:12–16; Isaiah 14:12–14)—a rebellion that Scripture suggests may have included a third of the angels (Revelation 12:4). Isaiah 14:14 describes this prideful being’s desire to “ascend above the heights of the clouds” to take God’s very throne for himself, which implies that his assigned responsibilities were below the clouds and therefore on the earth! Lucifer had the free will to either obey or disobey God, and by *refusing to carry out God’s will*, he became Satan—an adversary to God.

Satan’s rebellion brought destruction and ruin, as sin always does—in this case, devastating the earth that had been his charge to prepare for God’s purposes. It is this chaotic and ruinous devastation, *tohu* and *bohu*, that we see reflected in the words of Genesis 1:2, and it is the miraculous six-day restoration of this planet—to a state of beauty and wonder fit for God’s creation of mankind—that we see in the rest of Genesis’ first chapter!

So, as we can see, there is *ample* room in the words of Scripture to allow for a very ancient age of planet Earth. The Bible’s clear description of the creation of mankind, nearly 6,000 years ago, is not in conflict with its description of angelic activity occurring long before the Genesis 1:2 event—while the world had been entrusted to Lucifer and his angels for God’s purposes, before the creation of mankind.

But exactly how long ago did this occur? How long did Satan’s rebellion last? Did the dinosaurs exist at that time? Was it billions of years ago—close to scientists’ current estimate of a 4.5-billion-year-old Earth? Or was much later?

On these details, the Bible is silent. But there is no conflict between the words of Scripture and the general scientific observation of a very ancient planet Earth.

Truly, science reveals many mysteries yet to be solved. But we should never let the changing findings of science—which are sometimes overturned entirely with the next discovery—cause us to doubt what the unchanging God says in His word. The evidence of history and science, properly understood, will always agree with the word of God. As Jesus Christ declares, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17). 

WHY EASTER IS CALLED **EASTER**

What does the Lamb of God have to do with a rabbit?

When I was five or six years old, I asked my mother, “Why is Easter called Easter?” My mother struggled to provide an answer, even though she was religious. And she is not the only religious person to have struggled with the answer to this question.

It was a full ten years later when I finally understood the real reason why Easter is called Easter. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* admits that the word *Easter* “relates to Estre, a Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and spring” (“Easter,” *NewAdvent.org*). Well, finding that out was shocking! This “Christian” holiday is named after a *pagan* goddess?

The article continues, “Easter is the principal feast of the ecclesiastical year.... That the Apostolic Fathers do not mention it and that we first hear of it principally through the controversy of the Quartodecimans are purely accidental.” Another shocker—Easter wasn’t even mentioned by the Apostles? And unheard of until a controversy took place well after the Apostles died?

Yet, as the *Catholic Encyclopedia* continues, “the Roman Church claimed for this observance the authority of Sts. Peter and Paul.” Wait a minute! We just read that the Apostolic Fathers do not mention Easter, yet the Apostles Peter and Paul are claimed as the authority for its observance? Not only is Easter the name of a pagan goddess, but Jesus’ original Apostles never so much as mentioned it in all the years during which they led the Church after He ascended to Heaven.

The Quartodeciman Controversy did not occur until about AD 155—Polycarp, a bishop of Smyrna who was taught by the Apostle John, contended with Anicetus, a bishop of Rome, regarding the observance and date of the Passover, which some had discarded in favor of an observance of the resurrection. Decades later, Polycrates, bishop of Ephesus—taught by Polycarp—allegedly contended over the same matter with Victor, bishop of Rome. Later still, in AD 325, the Roman emperor Constantine (who ruled from AD 306 to 337) convened the First Council of Nicaea. After the council, he ordered a severe persecution of those who continued to observe the Christian Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

What Jesus Instructed

I remember how enamored my high school history teacher was with Emperor Constantine. She thought he was wonderful for “bringing all of the pagans into Christianity.” But, in truth, Constantine was a sun worshipper, “baptized” on his deathbed, who only “converted” pagans by putting Christian labels on their unbiblical customs and observances.

For instance, regarding Easter eggs, the *Catholic Encyclopedia* admits that “the custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter.” Of the Easter rabbit, it admits that “the rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility.” The rabbit was the symbol of the festival of Eostre, the pagan goddess of fertility. Christianity “adopted the observance into the Easter ceremonies,” which included many other pagan Eostre customs.

So, what should we observe?

Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7), before His crucifixion, shared a last meal with His disciples. This meal took place on the evening of Nisan 14, in the first month of the Hebrew calendar—the biblical date of the Passover (Leviticus 23:5; Luke 22:15). Jesus washed His disciples’ feet and taught them to “wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14), and He did *not* talk about observing pagan Easter customs.

Instead, He gave specific instructions about observing the Passover with new symbols of bread and wine (Matthew 26:26–27). The unleavened bread symbolizes Christ’s body, broken for us, and the wine symbolizes His blood, shed for the remission of our sins. Read “The Truth about the Christian Passover” on page 16 of this issue to learn more. Those who seek the Christianity of the Bible should consider Jesus’ own example and instruction—and then act accordingly.

To learn more about the Holy Day observances commanded by Almighty God—which were kept by Jesus Christ’s apostles and are kept by His true followers to this day—request free copies of *Easter: The Untold Story* and *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan* or read them online at TomorrowsWorld.org.

—Roger Meyer

after the Roman church in the second century AD had begun to keep an early version of Easter on a Sunday near the date of the Passover. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* recounts that “while Anicetus was Pope, St. Polycarp, then in extreme old age, came to confer with him (160–162) about the Paschal controversy; Polycarp and others in the East celebrating the feast on the fourteenth of the month of Nisan, no matter on what day of the week it fell; whereas in Rome it was always observed on Sunday” (“Pope St. Anicetus,” *NewAdvent.org*).

Polycarp was a direct disciple of the Apostle John. Anicetus and Polycarp did not come to an agreement on this subject, and, several decades later, another bishop in Rome, Victor, attempted to force all the churches of Asia Minor to abandon the observance of the Christian Passover on Nisan 14. But true Christians did not buckle to the pressure, as we learn from the historian Eusebius:

But the bishops of Asia, led by Polycrates, decided to hold to the old custom handed down to them. He himself, in a letter which he addressed to Victor and the church of Rome, set forth in the following words the tradition which had come down to him: We observe the exact day; neither adding, nor taking away. For in Asia also great lights have fallen asleep.... Among these are Philip, one of the twelve apostles... moreover, John, who was both a witness and a teacher, who reclined upon the bosom of the Lord.... All these observed the fourteenth day of the Passover according to the Gospel, deviating in no respect, but following the rule of faith.... Thereupon Victor, who presided over the church at Rome, immediately attempted to cut off from the common unity the parishes of all Asia, with the churches that agreed with them, as heterodox; and he wrote letters and declared all the brethren there wholly excommunicate” (“Church History (Book V),” *NewAdvent.org*).

Amazingly, it was not long before those keeping the Christian Passover were excommunicated from

the church at large, after the Council of Nicaea replaced the true biblical observance with the Easter festival favored by the Roman church. Only a relative few continued to follow the practice Jesus Christ had taught by His example.

No, Jesus didn’t abandon the Passover. On the contrary—He instituted the Christian Passover, and His disciples and others who followed Him continued to observe it. And a growing number of Christians keep that same biblical observance today.


The Next Steps

The answers to our questions reveal the *truth* about the Christian Passover: Jesus Christ taught it to His disciples, the Apostle Paul taught it to Gentile Christians, and faithful followers zealously held on to this teaching for centuries, despite intense persecution.

So, what about you? Maybe you’ve never considered the New Testament Christian Passover before. Maybe you’ve assumed that the Passover is only Jewish. Maybe you’ve always been taught that Christians should keep Easter.

You need to study this and prove it to yourself. After all, it concerns the very life and death of our Savior and our obedience in following His instructions. It even concerns our being forgiven of sins and our hope of eternal life.

Once you’ve thought all of this through, you might be interested in how to observe the Christian Passover yourself. Many thousands of people just like you have come to the same conclusion and have learned to faithfully keep this important observance each year. You can learn more by requesting a free copy of our study guide *The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan* from the Regional Office closest to you, listed on page 4 of this magazine, or by reading it online at *TomorrowsWorld.org*.

And if you have questions that you’d like to ask in person, representatives of the Living Church of God, which sponsors *Tomorrow’s World*, would be happy to talk with you and to answer any questions you might have about the Christian Passover. This fundamental practice of the faithful first-century Church is still kept by those who walk in Christ’s footsteps today. 

MAY WE
SUGGEST?

The Holy Days: God’s Master Plan The Christian Passover is meaningful and essential—but it’s only the beginning! Request this **free** printed booklet from the Regional Office nearest you, or order at ***TomorrowsWorld.org***. PDF, ePub, and Kindle are also available.





Different Tools for Different Times

Proverbs 22:6 is a profoundly hopeful passage. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

It sounds so simple.

But, in truth, the years of child-rearing are near the top of the “not-so-simple” list. One key to successful child-rearing is learning to apply different training strategies at different times in our children’s lives. Parents who do not change their approach as their children grow can end up aggravating and provoking their children instead of teaching and training. The Apostle Paul even warned against this in his epistle to the Ephesians: “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

While the infant stage (from birth to roughly 18 months) requires special care for a tiny new person who is completely helpless at first, the toddler stage (from roughly 18 months to age 3) brings entirely new challenges as the once-helpless newborn starts to find its place in the world, full of needs and demands that parents must channel toward healthy development. And then come the three stages leading toward successful adulthood. Let’s take a quick look at each.

Preschoolers (Ages 3–6)

During these formative years, children continue to explore their world. Wise parents will not only begin to introduce them to numbers and the alphabet—they will also weave godly principles into their coaching and teaching. For example, learning to share toys with other children isn’t just “nice.” It’s a small,

entry-level step into the godly value of giving. It’s learning to love one’s neighbor by acting unselfishly. And unless we teach and regularly perform the action of sharing with our children, they will not practice that action with others. Why would they? When a playdate comes and parents bring their children together, they will only practice what they’ve learned. Those who haven’t learned to share will not suddenly do so, no matter how sternly their mother or father speaks to them.

During this stage, wise parents will also continue to coach their children to gain control over their emotions. As they learn to play games and sports and try their hand at crafts and music, there will be ample opportunity for success and failure, for joy and frustration. It’s not just the child who struggles through these experiences—moms and dads do, too. Yet instructing and training children to manage their emotions gives them a head start on coping with life. The book of Proverbs, full of principles to teach our children, also makes this point: “Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls” (Proverbs 25:28). Preschoolers are not too young to learn to manage their emotions. As they do, their relationships will benefit, and their mental health will be in a better state. And it starts with parental training.

School-Age Children (Ages 6–12)

As children reach this stage, we begin to see them blossom. They continue to soak up knowledge like a sponge. They want to know *what* and *why* and *how*. They are still largely parent-oriented, wanting approval from Dad and Mom as they try new activities and build

new skills. How is this stage different from the previous stage? How should we adjust?

First, it is important to recognize that we *do* need to adjust. We do need to give our children opportunities to learn in a more organized and formal setting, whether through classroom schooling or a curriculum at home. It is also worthwhile to provide other learning experiences for them, like sports or music. This is a good age to help children learn to take care of pets or plants. Learning to work is just as important as learning to play, and children can learn responsibility

One of the biggest challenges of this stage is walking the fine line between overprotecting our children and ignoring the dangers that they face during these years. If we aren't careful, these years will see our children shift their focus from parental approval to peer approval.

and perseverance as they help with chores and jobs around the house as part of their education.

One of the biggest challenges of this stage is walking the fine line between overprotecting our children and ignoring the dangers that they face during these years. If we aren't careful, these years will see our children shift their focus from parental approval to peer approval. If they attend school with other children, they will spend more time with those children than with you, and their peers' way of thinking could easily become the most powerful and important to them. The same can be true for homeschooled children, especially those who spend

time on social media. So, is your child peer-oriented or parent-oriented? Whose words, ideas, and opinions are more important? As children learn to interact with their peers, it is vital that they also strengthen their relationships with their parents.

And what about their relationship with technology? Digital media offers valuable opportunities for learning, but it can easily expose children to graphic violence, foul language, and even pornography—corrupting their use of time and dangerously affecting their development. Parents who fail to carefully monitor and limit their children's screen time will find their parental

roles hijacked by peers and corporations that do not have their children's best interests at heart.

Children in this stage of life need oversight. They need godly guidance and teaching, and it is their parents' job to give it. What God told the Israelites still applies today: "You shall teach them [God's ways] to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 11:19).

Teenagers (Ages 13–18)

The teenage years have a reputation of being a time of rebellion and obstinacy. But if the right groundwork has been laid during earlier stages, the teen years can be fascinating and fulfilling for parents. Younger children soak up everything they are learning; teens compare what they've learned with the world they see around them. Without even realizing it, they begin to analyze the validity of what Dad and Mom have said, as opposed to the messages that they are hearing from society and its messengers, such as their peers.

There's a common myth that as soon as children become teenagers, they are somehow fated to become rebellious. Indeed, teens often wrestle with what they see and hear around them, because so much of what the world offers can appear very attractive. So, the challenge for us as parents is to continue to teach and train them through these years, even as we give them room to exercise an appropriate amount of independence. One of the greatest joys for us as parents is seeing the light of understanding in our teenagers' eyes as they experience the good fruit of godly principles.

As we have seen, each stage of a child's life is full of challenges and wonderful rewards for a parent. Solomon described it well when he wrote, "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3–5). To learn more, request our free Bible study guide *Successful Parenting: God's Way*, or read it online at TomorrowsWorld.org. It will help you guide your children through all the stages of their growth.

—Jonathan McNair



Abortion: Leading Cause of Death in 2024

The *Christian Post* reports that abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide in 2024, according to the online statistical aggregator Worldometer, with just over 45 million of these “procedures” performed—dwarfing the next leading cause of death (January 4, 2025). Worldometer’s figures suggest that abortion “surpassed deaths caused by cancer (8.2 million), smoking (5 million), HIV/AIDS (1.7 million), traffic fatalities (1.35 million) and suicide (1.1 million).” In fact, abortion caused more than 40 percent of all human deaths last year, and “in the United States, abortion accounts for roughly one-third of all annual deaths.”

Although Worldometer uses figures from the United Nations’ World Health Organization (WHO), the organization’s own reporting is even more sobering. According to the WHO, 60 percent of unintended pregnancies worldwide end in abortion, and a

mind-numbing 73 million abortions are performed worldwide every year (May 17, 2024). This is more than the population of Thailand, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Tanzania, or France. So, in a way, the world loses the population of a large nation to abortion with each passing year!

In 2 Timothy 3:1–5, the Apostle Paul warned that society at the end of the age would be full of brutal people who despise what is good. God condemned the ancient Israelites for offering up their children as human sacrifices to pagan gods (Ezekiel 16:20–21). Are today’s abortions any different, as parents sacrifice their unborn children to the gods of selfishness and hedonism? Thankfully, there is a time coming when the lives of children will be protected, and they will know great peace (Isaiah 54:13).

Children Need to Be Rescued

We live in a world where children are often abused and even treated as a commodity.

Many children grow up without a parent or without both parents, and too many know lives with little hope—but plenty of fear. As a new UNICEF report highlights, “Early exposure [to violence] can cause toxic stress, affecting brain development, and lead to aggression, substance abuse, and criminal behaviour. Children who experience violence are also more likely to be affected by cycles of trauma and violence as adults, impacting entire communities” (*UNICEF.org*, November 4, 2024).

According to the report, every four minutes a child is killed by violence somewhere in the world. Over 650 million women and girls were subject to sexual violence as children—that is one in six of all women alive! Between 410 and 530 million boys and men experienced sexual violence during childhood. On average, violence claims the lives of approximately 130,000 people under the age of 20 each year. And 90 million children alive today have experienced sexual violence—a number more than 30 percent greater than that of the United Kingdom’s entire population.

Children are vulnerable, weaker than adults, and seldom able to flee or fight back. Thankfully, the Bible reveals that a time of hope and safety for children is coming. The prophet Zechariah records a future vision of elderly people sitting in the streets of Jerusalem while children play around them (Zechariah 8:4–5). Isaiah

paints a picture of that coming time, as well, saying, “All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children” (Isaiah 54:13). The statistics we’ve read should move caring individuals to pray for God’s Kingdom to come!

Germany, Finland, and Sweden Prepare for War

“Germany is developing an app to help people locate the nearest bunker in the event of attack. Sweden is distributing a 32-page pamphlet titled *If Crisis or War Comes*. Half a million Finns have already downloaded an emergency preparedness guide” (*The Guardian*, November 29, 2024). The Swedish government views being prepared for war as a civic duty, though many Swedes do not believe the current situation is as dire as the government apparently does. Finland’s government produces a brochure and website aimed at helping its populace prepare for everything from power outages to military conflicts and war. Finland also shares an extensive border with Russia. In Germany, the government is actively working to make more underground shelters available in the event of a military attack, including underground train stations and parking structures. Germans have also “been urged to adapt their own cellars, garages or storerooms, or excavate old bunkers, while

housebuilders will be legally obliged to include safe shelters in new homes—as Poland has already done.”

For many across the world, the threat of war, let alone nuclear war, is far-fetched and far away. But for many in European nations that have experienced war on their own soil in the last 80 years, Russia’s actions in Ukraine have been a disturbing “wake-up call” and a motivation to act.

A Right-Wing European Union?

The European Union has viewed itself as progressive, liberal, and left-leaning. But as a recent analysis in *The Guardian* suggests, “For the first time in its history, we could be looking at a genuinely rightwing European Union” (November 18, 2024). The incoming parliament is the most right-wing in history and will be responsible for backing the conservative agenda of Ursula von der Leyen’s second term. More than half of the

members of both the EU Commission and the EU Council are right-wing. As the article notes, “This rightward shift in the balance of power is unprecedented and could mean the end of the centrist majority that has governed Europe since the EU’s creation.” The article also highlights that “the firewall against the far right that operates across Europe has already been breached in the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Sweden, where governing coalitions are made up of conservatives and far-right politicians.”

Why is this swing to the right worth watching? The Bible reveals that at the end of the age, a decisive, powerful leader will head a German-led European “beast” power. This leader will encourage a group of ten other leaders or nations to “give their power and authority” to this “beast” power for a short time (Revelation 17:12–13). This European political, economic, and military

powerhouse will dramatically intervene in the Holy Land and have a profound impact on the world stage. While the EU leaders have been unable to make progress and are constantly bogged down in disagreements, a strong leader is coming who will galvanize at least a portion of the EU to move forward with his agenda. The swing to the right we are seeing in European politics could help set the stage for this coming “beast.”

Syria’s Uncertain Future

Syria’s Bashar al-Assad recently resigned as the nation’s leader and fled the country, ending the brutal 54-year family reign. Opposition forces brought the country’s 13-year civil war to an end by finally capturing major strongholds and Damascus itself. Al-Assad’s governmental collapse appears to coincide with declining support from Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah. In his absence, rival factions now seek power in the country. This division among would-be leaders may prevent future stability in Syria.

With the departure of former president al-Assad, many prisons have been opened and political prisoners freed (A/

Jazeera, December 9, 2024). Many of these people had disappeared without a trace during al-Assad’s regime. Fighters and relief workers continue “to find prisoners left behind, open secret cells, and even find the locations of secret facilities.”

While European nations are cautiously optimistic about Syria’s future, several nations have also suspended Syrian asylum seekers’ applications as the situation settles (*France24*, December 9, 2024). Europe and the United States have turned their attention to preventing a leadership vacuum in the nation that might enable the return of the Islamic State to power and influence.

The reality of toppling a despotic regime in any region of the world is that tremendous work is required to prevent something even worse from rising to take its place—and there are no guarantees of success. This differs from the final replacement of world regimes that will occur with the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. He will return as King of kings and immediately set up the government of God, which will spread to cover the whole world and will never end. [TW]



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Aerial view of the fighting in Aleppo, Syria, on December 2, 2024

LETTERS TO TW

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



God bless you all at *Tomorrow's World*. I am requesting your three study booklets *Twelve Keys to Answered Prayer*, *Law or Grace: Which Is It?*, and *John 3:16*. I so much look forward to my books and magazines arriving. They bring me much joy and peace of mind about the future. I pray for you all for the wonderful work you do about the truth of God's word. Thank you. Take care.

—Subscriber in Queensland, Australia

I am really astounded that the *Bible Study Course* lessons are so well laid out. I have never had the Holy Bible explained so well. Keep up with God's Work.

—Subscriber in Virginia

Tomorrow's World, I enjoyed the booklet *The Truth About the Rapture*. My views have changed since reading your explanation.

—Subscriber in Louisiana

Growing up in the 50s and 60s in my grandma's house I would hear her radio as she got ready for work. Every weekday *The World Tomorrow* broadcast live from downtown Eugene. Years later, I read a *Plain Truth* magazine and decided to subscribe. A year later, after much checking my Bible, I found no lies, just glorious truth. It helped restore my faith in God and got me through many rough times over the years. Now, of course, I read your *Tomorrow's World*, and each issue brings joy and hope of Jesus' soon return.

—Subscriber in Oregon

Greetings to you in the mighty name of Jesus Christ! Thank you very much for sending me your TW booklet free of costs. Your kind generosity is appreciated.

I have received your booklet titled *The Holy Days: God's Master Plan*. Your booklets are awesome and make reading interesting based on biblical holy scriptures and contain the Truth—the word of God—and encourage people to know the true God and His commandments. As a sign of gratitude in return I send you Indian postage stamps worth ₹20 as postage charges paid by you for sending me the booklet. God bless you all.

—Subscriber in Kerala, India

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind words! All our materials are sent free of charge—no payment or donation is required. We are grateful for donations, but please don't send postage stamps; our mailing department generally cannot use them with our equipment!

Thank you for sending Mr. Gerald Weston recently to Phoenix, Arizona, to present *The Gathering Storm*. It was an informative presentation, and it was great to meet Mr. Weston after watching him on TV! Thank you for holding these presentations. I hope you continue to do so in the years ahead.

—Subscriber in Arizona

Please note that I have been so pleased and influenced by your magazine and presentations. I picked up my first magazine at a dentist's office way back in the 1960s. I believe it was called *The Plain Truth* back then. I still have every copy sent to me and occasionally look back at them. It is interesting to see how successfully some of your predictions came true. I have moved and no longer need to have your magazine delivered. I will view it online.

—Subscriber in British Columbia, Canada

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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. 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.

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 SU 11:30 a.m.
Nationwide e.tv (DSTV ch 194) SU 6:30 a.m.
Nationwide Faith TV Africa (DSTV ch 341) SU 9:00 a.m.
Nationwide Cape TV (DSTV ch 263) SU 11:30 a.m.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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

UK & NW EUROPE

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



CANADA

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Vision SA 3:30 a.m.

Faith TV SU 5:30 p.m.
MO-FR 10:30 p.m.
TU 5:00 p.m.

CHNU MO-FR 10:00 p.m.

CTV (Maritimes) SU 7:30 a.m.
CTV (Alberta) SU 1:30 p.m.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Networks (All times Eastern)

Binge SU 9:00 a.m.

Charge Network SU 7:30 a.m.

COMET SU 7:30 a.m.

The CW Plus SU 8:00 a.m.
MO 2:00 a.m.

Faith TV USA SU 8:00 a.m.

getTV SU 7:00 a.m.

Impact TV SU 8:30 a.m.
SU 11:00 p.m.
MO 10:30 p.m.
SA 11:00 p.m.

Positiv TV (POSI) SU 8:30 a.m.

Rewind SU 9:00 a.m.

The Word Network SU 6:00 a.m.
SU 7:30 p.m.
FR 7:00 p.m.

DISH Network* (All times Eastern)

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

DIRECTV* (All times Eastern)

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

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

AK Anchorage KYUR SU 6:00 a.m.
Anchorage KBY 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.

CA Yuma KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
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.
Palmdale 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 WPCP SU 7:30 a.m.
Panama City WHJG (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.
Des Moines KDSM SU 9:30 a.m.
Ottumwa KWOT SU 8:00 a.m.

ID Boise KBOI SU 7:00 a.m.
Idaho Falls KIFI SU 7:00 a.m.
Twin Falls KMYT SU 7:00 a.m.

IL Chicago WIJY SU 8:00 a.m.
Chicago WIJY SU 8:30 a.m.
Chicago 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.
Lake Charles KPLC SU 7:00 a.m.
Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.
Monroe KNOE SU 7:00 a.m.
New Orleans WNOL SU 7:00 a.m.
Shreveport KSHV SU 10:00 a.m.
West Monroe KMCT SU 6:00 a.m.

MA Springfield WWLP SU 7:00 a.m.

ME Bangor WBPQ SU 8:00 a.m.
Presque Isle WBPQ 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 KDHL (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 7:00 a.m.
Duluth KDHL SU 8:00 a.m.
Mankato KMNF/KEYC (CW) SU 9:00 a.m.
Rochester KTTC SU 7:00 a.m.

MO Columbia KOMU SU 7:00 a.m.
Joplin KFJX SU 8:30 a.m.
Kansas City KCWE SU 7:30 a.m.
Springfield KRKB SU 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph KNPB SU 7:00 a.m.
St. Louis KPLR SU 6:30 a.m.

MS Biloxi WXXV SU 7:00 a.m.
Columbus WCBT SU 7:00 a.m.
Greenwood WBWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Hattiesburg WHLT/WXXX SU 7:00 a.m.
Meridian WTKO SU 7:00 a.m.

MT Billings KVSI/NSVI (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KCWB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Butte KXLF SU 7:00 a.m.
Glendive WJHG SU 7:00 a.m.
Great Falls KCWG (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Helena KTVH SU 7:00 a.m.
Missoula KMVM (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

NC Asheville WGGG SU 9:30 a.m.
Asheville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
Charlotte WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Charlotte WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.
Charlotte WMYT SU 10:30 a.m.
Charlotte WNCN SU 8:00 a.m.
Greenville WHKY SU 7:00 a.m.
Hickory WFLF SU 8:00 a.m.
Raleigh WFLF SU 8:00 a.m.
Wilmington WWAY SU 8:00 a.m.

ND Bismarck KXMA (CW2) SU 7:00 a.m.
Fargo KJXB (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Williston KXMD SU 7:00 a.m.

NM Albuquerque KBWQ SU 8:00 a.m.

NV Reno KOLO SU 7:00 a.m.

NY Binghamton WBNG SU 8:00 a.m.
Brooklyn BRIC SU 7:00 p.m.
Brooklyn BRIC MO 12:30 a.m.
Elmira WENY SU 8:00 a.m.
Watertown WWTI SU 7:00 a.m.
Utica KYWKTV SU 8:00 a.m.

OH Cincinnati WSTR SU 9:00 a.m.
Cleveland WUAB SU 8:30 a.m.
Columbus WOXB/WXC/WGCT/WOIZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Toledo BBBC SU 7:30 p.m.
Zanesville WBZV SU 8:00 a.m.

OK Ada KLEN SU 7:00 a.m.
Lawton KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Tulsa KOCW SU 8:00 a.m.

OR Bend KTVZ SU 8:00 a.m.
Eugene KMTR SU 8:00 a.m.
Medford KTVL SU 8:00 a.m.

PA Erie WSEE SU 8:00 a.m.
Philadelphia WPSG SU 7:30 a.m.
Pittsburgh WPCW SU 7:30 a.m.

SC Charleston WCBD SU 8:00 a.m.
Columbia WOLO SU 11:00 a.m.

Florence WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
Greenville WYCW SU 9:30 a.m.
Greenville WGGG SU 11:30 a.m.
Myrtle Beach WWMB SU 8:00 a.m.
Rock Hill WAXN SU 9:00 a.m.
Rock Hill WMYT SU 8:30 a.m.

SD Rapid City KCLO (ION/CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Sioux Falls KFSY SU 7:00 a.m.

TN Jackson WBJK SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 12:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 7:00 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 7:30 a.m.
Knoxville WKNX SU 6:00 p.m.
Memphis WLMT SU 10:00 a.m.
Nashville HZTV (CW) SU 7:30 a.m.

TX Abilene KTXS SU 7:00 a.m.
Amarillo KVIH/KVII SU 7:00 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 6:30 a.m.
Beaumont KFDM SU 7:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT2 SU 7:00 a.m.
Laredo KXLX SU 7:00 a.m.
Lubbock KLCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Lufkin KLTU SU 6:00 a.m.
McAllen KCVT/KNOV SU 7:00 a.m.
Midland KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
Odessa KOSA/KCWO SU 7:00 a.m.
San Angelo KTXE SU 7:00 a.m.
San Antonio KABB SU 5:30 a.m.
Sherman KTEN SU 7:00 a.m.
Tyler KTLV SU 6:00 a.m.
Tyler KYTX SU 7:00 a.m.
Wichita Falls KAUZ SU 7:00 a.m.
Victoria KVCT SU 7:00 a.m.

VA Charlottesville WVIR SU 8:00 a.m.
Chesterfield Comcast TH 6:30 p.m.
Harrisonburg WSVW SU 2:00 a.m.
Norfolk WSKY SU 9:30 a.m.
Roanoke WWCW SU 8:30 a.m.

VT Burlington WFFF SU 6:00 a.m.
Burlington WNNW SU 2:00 a.m.
Burlington WNNW SU 8:00 a.m.

WA Everett KSTW SU 6:00 a.m.
Kennewick KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Pasco KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Richland KEPR SU 8:00 a.m.
Seattle KSTW SU 2:00 a.m.
Yakima KIMA SU 8:00 a.m.

WI Eagle River WYOW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Eau Claire WEAU (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
La Crosse WXOW/WEAU SU 7:00 a.m.
Wausau WSAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Wittenberg WZAW (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

WV Bluefield WVVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Bluefield WVNS SU 8:30 a.m.
Charleston WQCW SU 7:00 a.m.
Clarksburg WVFX SU 8:00 a.m.
Parkersburg WOVA (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.
Wheeling WBWO (CW) SU 8:00 a.m.

WY Casper KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Cheyenne KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.
Laramie KGWN (CW) SU 7:00 a.m.

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UPCOMING TELECASTS

Is What You Believe About God True?

Where did you get your ideas about God? How can you be sure you have the *right* ones?

February 27–March 5

Questions About the Christian Passover

You may be surprised to learn that Christ's final meal is vital for Christian lives today!

March 6–12

Who Will Win the Battle of Armageddon?

"Armageddon" is good news if you understand what the Bible teaches about Christ's return!

March 13–19

Finding True Christianity

Different "Christian" churches are all around us, but encountering the real thing isn't so easy!

March 20–26

Is the Bible Relevant Today?

It's not an obsolete tome by primitive people; it is meant for our modern lives!

March 27–April 2

Coming to a City Near You

Don't miss the opportunity to meet *Tomorrow's World* presenters visiting your community!

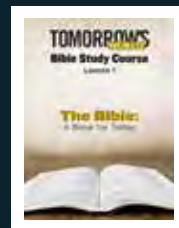
April 3–9

Schedule subject to change

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