

LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

Vol. XXXIV

January 2013 February

No. 1



The Woman
of Revelation 17



Observations by the Editor

Our Cover

This issue's cover illustration was provided by a wonderful Christian artist in Pennsylvania by the name of Pat Marvenko Smith.

In 1980 Pat was asked to teach a teen age class at her church about the book of Revelation. Being a visual artist, she started searching for visual aids, and could not find any. So, she started illustrating the book as she taught through it.

The result was more than 40 pictures that illustrate every aspect of the book, from beginning to end. They are the best illustrations of Revelation in existence today, and they are used by many ministries around the world.



The pictures can be purchased on a CD and can be used in a variety of ways, including PowerPoint presentations. They can also be purchased as prints. Recently, Pat published a full color book that contains both the text of Revelation and her illustrations. All of these materials can be purchased through her website located at www.revelationillustrated.com. She and her husband, Joel reside in North Huntingdon, PA.

Our ministry has produced a video about the book of Revelation that incorporates many of Pat's illustrations. It is titled *Revelation Revealed*. It runs 75 minutes in length and covers the entire book. It can be purchased for \$12 plus S&H by calling 972-736-3567.



Dr. David R. Reagan

We have also produced a television program that features an in-depth interview with Pat. You can view the program on our website at www.lamblion.com. On the home page, just click on "Multimedia" and then on "Television." Next, click on "Programs" in the right margin. This will take you to a page where all our TV programs are listed by category. Scroll down the page to "Revelation" and click on "Revelation 14." The actual title of the program is "Revelation in Art."

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT Magazine Renewal

If you are not a Prophecy Partner, and you are receiving this magazine by mail, this will be the last copy you will receive unless you renew your subscription. To renew, call us at 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Prophecy Partners receive the magazine free of charge.

Newest Publication

Do you have a copy of our newest publication? It is a 40 page booklet titled "A Prophetic Manifesto." We have thus far printed over 30,000 copies and have distributed 15,000 copies to pastors all across the nation.

It is a hard-hitting proclamation concerning the future of our nation and the imminent return of Jesus. Copies of the Manifesto are available for two dollars each, plus the cost of mailing. Twenty or more copies can be purchased for \$1.50 each, plus the cost of mailing. You can place your order by calling 972-736-3567. Or, you can order through our website at www.lamblion.com.

The Lamplighter

is published bi-monthly
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

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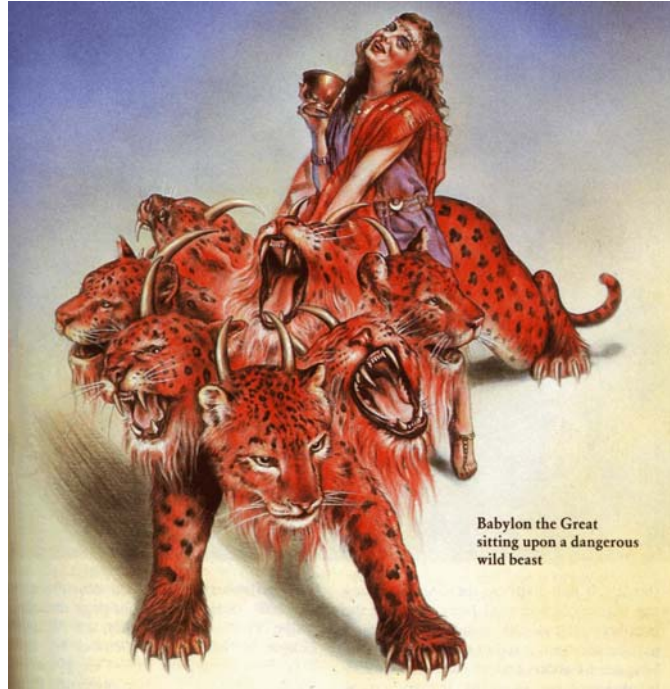
The Great Prostitute of Revelation 17

Nathan E. Jones

Revelation 17 lays out a wildly disturbing scene. A Bowl Judgment Angel approaches the Apostle John and says, “Come, I will show you . . . the Great Prostitute.”

For her physical appearance, the Great Prostitute is described as having emblazoned across her forehead a tattoo that says: “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.” The woman is dressed in purple and scarlet and glitters with gold, precious stones and pearls. She holds a golden cup in her hand filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

As for her actions, she commits adultery with the kings of the earth. She intoxicates the inhabitants of the earth with the wine of her adulteries. She rides upon a seven-headed, ten-horned, scarlet beast which is covered with blasphemous names and sits on many waters. She is found drunk on the blood of the saints who proclaim Jesus Christ.

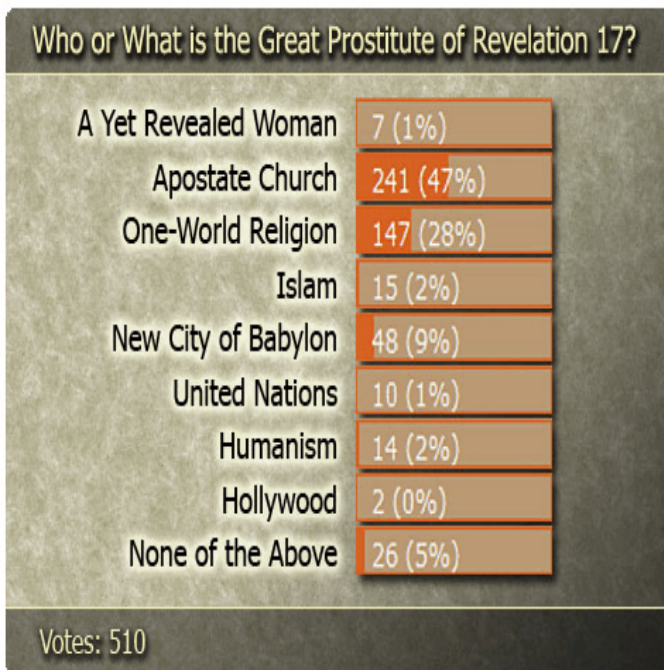


(www.tumblr.com — artist unknown)

Bible prophecy. In November 2008’s blog poll we asked, “Who or what is the Great Prostitute of Revelation 17?” The purpose of the question was to determine the views of people on who or what they thought the woman is who verse 5 calls a “Mystery.” The results are in the graph depicted below.

Fortunately for the readers of Revelation, the Bowl Angel goes on to explain to John what he is seeing. Unfortunately, though, the angel’s description of the Prostitute is almost as mysterious as the scene itself, giving credence to her name “Mystery.” And yet, the reader can look upon the larger structure of Bible prophecy within the Scriptures to discern who or what she is and is not.

A Blog Poll



Every month on The Christ in Prophecy Journal Blog at www.lamblion.us, we poll our readership on a topic related to

Who She Is Not

A Woman — The Great Prostitute is not a yet unrevealed woman. For one, no individual can sit upon many waters (verse 1). Secondly, she is called a “great city that rules over the kings of the earth.” Cities in the Bible are often used to represent people groups, empires, or systems. As much as some would like to point to the pop singer Lady Gaga or a particular female politician, neither they nor any other single woman fits the bill.

UN or EU — The Great Prostitute is not the United Nations or European Union. The Beast, we are told, is the future one-world leader who is handed over power to rule what ten future leaders of the earth will control (verses 12-13). While the Antichrist and ten kings will make war against Jesus and certainly kill many of Jesus’ followers (verse 14), they hate the Great Prostitute and by God’s prompting participate in her destruction (verse 16-17). Since these political systems will give rise to the ten kings, neither can they also be the Great Prostitute because they hate and kill her.

Hollywood — The Great Prostitute is not Hollywood. While Hollywood certainly spews its licentious garbage upon mankind who thirstily drink it down, it cannot be accused of the mass murder of believers in Christ (well, at least not physically).

Babylon — The Great Prostitute will not be a newly constructed city called Babylon. Babylon was certainly a great city like verse 18 states, but it is a city cursed, never to be rebuilt. Isaiah 13:20 makes it very clear that Babylon would cease to be inhabited forever. In accordance with this prophecy, Babylon was conquered by the Medes and then it began a long decline that ultimately resulted in its abandonment to the forces of nature. By the time of Christ, one eyewitness reported that the city was nothing but “mounds and stones and ruins.” Even Saddam Hussein was unable to rebuild it into more than a paltry

tourist spot. Why then is she also called “Babylon the Great?” Because Babylon has always been credited as the source of world cultic spiritual evil which will hold a dominant presence during the Tribulation.

Islam — The Great Prostitute is not Islam. Women are often used in the Scriptures to symbolize religious systems, and Islam is certainly a religious system. It has caused the bloody martyrdom of countless Christians in its 1,400 years. But, by the time of the Tribulation, Islam will be just another false religious system that will be wiped out. Islamic battles against Israel in Psalm 83 and Ezekiel 38-39 will bring about the demise of Islam as a power.

What She Could Be

Because women are used in the Scriptures to symbolize religious systems, the Great Prostitute is indeed a religious system. The three remaining religious systems on the survey are the Apostate Church, a One-World Religion, and Secular Humanism (which at its core is the worship of self).

Which religious system the Great Prostitute is can be interpreted by where she sits. The text says she sits in four places — on the beast (Antichrist), on seven hills, on seven kings, and across the nations and peoples of the world.

Apostate Church — The majority of voters (47%) voted for the Apostate Church. These voters could be correct based on the sitting reference in verse 9 to seven hills. Two major cities that rest upon seven hills are Rome and Istanbul (formerly Constantinople named after the Roman Emperor Constantine), and both were centers of government in the Roman Empire at different points in time. Istanbul can be discounted, though, for at the time of John’s writing Rome was the commanding city of the known world, and John would have recognized it as such. Also, Istanbul loses any future prominence due to the elimination of Islam as a world religious system, as mentioned earlier. John was clearly looking towards Rome as the city on seven hills. Rome is the heart of the revived Roman Empire, which the world today is seeing grow out of the European Union.

Rome also houses the Vatican, which is the seat of Roman Catholic papal authority. This authority reaches across the “peoples, multitudes, nations and languages” of the world as verse 15 states. In its history, the Roman Catholic Church has the blood of countless Protestant believers and the victims of crusaders and inquisitors on its hands.

Also, after the Rapture, the only “Church” left will be the apostate followers of Christ who, as 2 Timothy 3:5 states, “have a form of godliness but denying its power.” While many true believers will come out of the Catholic Church and be raptured as part of the Bride of Christ, the overall heretical structure will continue to exist during the first half of the Tribulation to give credence and support to the other apostate Christian denominations left in the world. The Vatican after the Rapture will be the universalistic banner to which all the Christians in name only will rally to.



“Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots”
Illustration by Philip Malpass

One-World Religion — The second largest voting bloc in the poll (28%) believe the Great Prostitute will be a one-world religion. These voters could be correct based on her sitting on the seven kings of verse 10. Five of the kings fell before John’s time, so they must have been pivotal to world rulership in relation to Israel. The sixth “one is” to John would have been Caesar. The seventh king who “has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while” is the Antichrist, called so in 1 John 2:18. “The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king” and “belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction” could only be Satan himself ruling through these seven human rulers throughout history, as there are no other kings after Jesus Christ once Jesus sets up His Millennial Kingdom. These kings extend over a time period much longer than the 2,000 years the Church has been around and cover all the world’s peoples.

Humanism — A small minority (only 2%) voted that Humanism in all its flavors such as Cultural, Modern, Religious, but particularly Secular, was the religion of the first half of the Tribulation. I myself voted in this group for this reason — all false religion stems from man’s belief in Satan’s lie from the Garden of Eden where Satan said “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5). All expressions of worship not towards God are flat out rebellion against the Creator. Even if we personally are not the object of our own worship, by setting ourselves up in our own religion we are worshiping self, so therefore it is Humanism.

The Old Testament is overwhelmingly filled with God’s stated hatred of spiritual harlotry. He chastised Israel again and again for running after foreign gods in rebellion. Be it an apostate form of what God truly wants, or a deviation from all norms that God has established for worship — man’s rebellion is about the worship of self.

By the midpoint of the Tribulation when Satan indwells the Antichrist, whatever flavor of humanistic self-worship the people adhere to, all will be made to cease to exist. The Antichrist, False Prophet, and the Ten Rulers will be sure to take the Great Prostitute of human-willed spiritual harlotry and the institution in which she is enshrouded and “bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire” (verse 16). Only one religion will be allowed to exist 3½ years into the Tribulation by the Antichrist’s demonic master, and that will be the worship of Satan through his Antichrist “messiah.”

Praise be to Jesus Christ who returns 3½ years later to doom that “beast” to eternal destruction and set up His kingdom of peace and righteousness! ✚

Editor’s note: Nathan Jones is Lamb & Lion’s Web Minister and Associate Evangelist. He is available to speak at churches and conferences.

Further Observations on the Woman of Revelation 17

Dr. David R. Reagan

I agree with Nathan that the evil woman pictured in Revelation 17 symbolizes the city of Rome and its corrupt spiritual system. And I believe that system will initially be an amalgamation of the world's pagan religions, including apostate Protestants, under the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church.

In that regard, I think it is significant that in 1989 the Archbishop of the Anglican Church, Robert Runcie, called for all Christians to accept the Pope as "a common leader presiding in love." Runcie made his appeal at an evening prayer service midway through his first official visit to the Vatican. "For the universal church, I renew the plea," he said. "Could not all Christians come to reconsider the kind of primacy the bishop of Rome exercised with the early church, 'a presiding in love' for the sake of the unity of the churches in the diversity of their mission?"¹

We have already been given a chilling preview of what is to come. It occurred in November 1986 in Assisi Italy when Pope John Paul II called a convocation of the leaders of twelve world religions to pray to their gods for peace. One of those who came was the Dalai Lama who is considered to be a god himself! The show was stolen by an American Indian chief who danced and whooped to his god.²

Why did the Pope feel it was necessary to bring together pagan religious leaders to pray to pagan gods? Does the Pope feel his own god is inadequate to the task? The most obvious answer is that the Pope believes all the leaders were praying to the same god.

This is one of the most popular ideas in Christendom today. It is the concept that God has revealed Himself in many different ways to different peoples. The conclusion, therefore, is that there are many roads to God. It is tolerance gone to seed. It also contradicts the Scriptures which say that God has revealed Himself in only one person, His Son, Jesus of Nazareth (Hebrews 1:1-2).

In December 2000, Pope John Paul muddied the waters further when he addressed 30,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. He told the multitude "that all who live a just life will be saved even if they do not believe in Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church."³ The Pope added, "The gospel teaches us that those who live in accordance with the Beatitudes . . . will enter God's kingdom." He concluded by observing that all that is needed for salvation is "a sincere heart."

In short, the Pope made a liar of Jesus Christ who proclaimed, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus is also recorded in John 17:3 as having said, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."



Incredibly, one of the primary symbols used by the European Union is the woman riding the beast, as illustrated above on the cover of the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*. It supposedly represents the hope that the European Union will tame the beast of nationalism.

The Church's Destruction

Notice that the harlot is portrayed as riding on the back of the Antichrist (Revelation 17:3). I believe this symbolism indicates that the church has become a nuisance. The Antichrist has used her to help consolidate his world kingdom, but now she has become enamored with power and is trying to dominate the Antichrist and his kingdom. So, the Antichrist turns on the church and destroys her (Revelation 17:16).

At this point I believe the Antichrist will replace the Catholic Church with his new one-world religion that is headed up by the False Prophet. And, as Nathan indicated, I believe this one-world religion will be Humanism carried to its ultimate conclusion — the worship of a man.

Humanism is the belief in Man. It is the foundation of all pagan religions, including pagan Christianity. The False Prophet will call on all humanity to put its trust in the Antichrist as its Lord and Savior. And since the Antichrist will be possessed by Satan (Revelation 13:2), the whole world will in reality be worshipping Satan himself.

Our Response

Considering the fact that the Catholic Church is most likely to be the cornerstone of the Apostate Church of the first half of the Tribulation, what should be our attitude toward Catholicism? Was the Reformation simply much ado about nothing? Has modern day Catholicism reformed itself sufficiently to justify our

overlooking doctrinal differences in the name of Christian love and unity?

The first point I would like to make is that Catholicism is not nearly as apostate as some forms of mainline Protestant Christianity. The Catholic Church strongly affirms the virgin birth, the deity of Jesus, and the reality of the Resurrection. All three of these cornerstone truths have been rejected by mainstream liberal Protestantism in its obsessive search for what it calls “the historical Jesus.” In short, apostasy is not a Protestant versus Catholic issue. There is apostasy on both sides of the fence.

If Catholicism affirms the deity and resurrection of Jesus, then where does it fall short of Biblical standards? Where is the apostasy?

Catholic Apostasy



The Vatican

The apostasy of the Catholic Church is manifested first and foremost in the Church's concept of salvation. The bottom line is that the Catholic Church has never accepted the great Biblical truth that was restored to Christendom by the Reformation — namely, that salvation is by grace through faith, and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Catholic leaders will deny this. They will affirm salvation by grace. But the fruit of their teaching and preaching testifies otherwise.⁴ There are millions of Catholics around the world who believe they are saved because:

- they were born a Catholic, or
- they received Catholic baptism as infants, or
- they attend Mass twice a year, or
- they go to confession regularly, or
- their name is on the roll of a local parish, or
- they live a good, clean moral life.

All these misguided concepts translate into one thing — belief in salvation by works. And the people who express them are spiritually lost because they have never been born again. They have no personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

I am not saying there are no saved Catholics. There certainly are Catholics who have discovered the Lord and have put their faith in Him. But they are the exception, and most have discovered the Lord through their own Bible study and not through the teaching of the Church.

Doctrinal Confusion

This raises the question of whether or not such true believers within Catholicism should remain there or leave. I think that question can best be answered with a series of questions:

- 1) Can a person grow spiritually in an atmosphere of idolatry where people are encouraged to bow before images of Mary and Saints and pray to them?
- 2) Can people reach their full spiritual potential in a church that denies the priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:9), requiring its people to approach God through special priests who are not ordained in God's Word?
- 3) Can people grow in the image of Jesus in a church that de-emphasizes the importance of Bible study and exalts the traditions of men over the Word of God?
- 4) Can people ever have any confidence of their salvation in a church that requires cleansing punishments for sin in the form of penance in this life and purgatory after death?
- 5) Can a person ever come to a true understanding and appreciation of the unique role and work of Christ when His mother is exalted as a co-redeemer and His sacrifice on the Cross is debased by a teaching that He must die repeatedly in the Mass?

I could go on and on, for the heresies of the Catholic Church are great in number and profound in their implications for the Christian faith.

The Veneration of Mary

Particularly appalling in modern history has been the increasing emphasis given to the worship of Mary. This gross idolatry was accentuated in 1978 by the selection of a Polish Pope, John Paul II. That's because the adoration of Mary has long been a central focus of Polish Catholicism.

Again, Catholics will deny that they worship Mary. They argue, instead, that they simply give her the honor that she deserves. But, again, their actions speak louder than their words, and in this case, official words are sufficient to establish the point. Consider, for example, the following statement taken from an official Catholic publication:

Mary is co-redemptrix of the human race . . . because with Christ she ransomed mankind from the power of Satan. Jesus redeemed us with the blood of His body, Mary with the agonies of her heart . . . The church and the saints greet her thus: “You, O Mary, together with Jesus Christ, redeemed us . . . God has ordained that no grace will be granted to us except through Mary . . . No one will be saved or obtain mercy except through you, O Heavenly Lady . . . No one will enter heaven without passing through Mary as one would pass through a door . . . O Mary, our salvation is in your hands.”⁴



www.catholicjournal.us/journal/tag/mary

This is blasphemy of the worst sort. It is the ancient Babylonian mystery religion parading in new clothes, worshiping Mary as the “Queen of Heaven.”

To Leave or Not to Leave?

So, what should believing Catholics do? I have found that most try to hang in at first, attempting to have some influence on their priest or parish, hoping especially to bring the good news of a personal relationship with Jesus to their fellow Catholics. But it usually does not take long for them to realize that their efforts are not appreciated.

They must then decide whether to remain or leave. If they remain, they compromise what they believe by keeping silent, and they jeopardize their own spiritual growth. If they decide to leave, it is always a painful choice, since to depart means leaving behind dear friends. It also usually results in condemnation by family members.

What then should they do? They should do exactly what any believer should do who is caught up in any apostate religious organization, whether it be a Catholic parish or a Protestant church. They should leave!

The Bible says, “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership . . . has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?” (2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

Catholic Doctrine

Catholics claim to accept the Gospel, but their doctrines deny the sufficiency of the sacrifice of Jesus and the salvation of God by grace through faith.

Catholic doctrine depreciates the significance of Jesus. For example, the tremendous importance of His incarnation is diminished by the doctrine of Mary’s immaculate conception (the concept that Mary was also born without a sin nature). The all-sufficiency of the Lord’s sacrifice on the Cross is dispelled by the doctrine of Transubstantiation, which holds that He is re-sacrificed daily in the Mass. His current unique role as our High Priest before the throne of God is diluted by the doctrine that Mary serves as our co-redeemer and interceder.

The Jesus of Catholicism is not the Jesus of the Bible. He is a pagan god who denies us access to God the Father unless we atone for our own sins by paying penance in this life and then suffering in purgatory.

The Mary of Catholicism is also not the Mary of the Bible. The Mary of the Bible was a woman of great faith and sterling character. But she was also a sinner who needed a Savior. She acknowledged this herself when, after the birth of Jesus, she sang, “My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” Yes Mary was a righteous young woman, but she needed a Savior. The Catholic Mary is just another pagan god.

Catholic Idolatry

Catholicism is steeped in idolatry. In their veneration of Mary and the Saints, Catholics commit the worst of all sins against God.



The Pope worshipping a statute of Mary.

There is a myth that prevails in Christianity which says that all sins are equal. That is not true. All sins are equal only in the sense that any sin condemns us before God. But all sin is not equal in the eyes of God. There are sins that God hates more than others (Proverbs 6:16-19). That is why there are going to be degrees of punishment for the unrighteous (Isaiah 59:16-19, Luke 20:45-47 and Revelation 20:11-15).

The Bible always portrays the worst possible sin as the sin of idolatry (Isaiah 40:18-26, Isaiah 44:9-20 and Ezekiel 6:1-7). That is why the first commandment says, “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3), and the second says “You shall not make for yourself an idol” (Exodus 20:4).

And that is precisely why the Catholic Church, in its presentation of the Ten Commandments, always deletes the second commandment and then makes up the difference by doubling the last commandment against coveting, making of it two commands: you shall not covet your neighbor’s house, and you shall not covet his wife.⁶ This is blatant scriptural manipulation designed to cover up the sinful idolatry of the Church.

But God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7). His Word says that idolaters will be excluded from Heaven. They will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

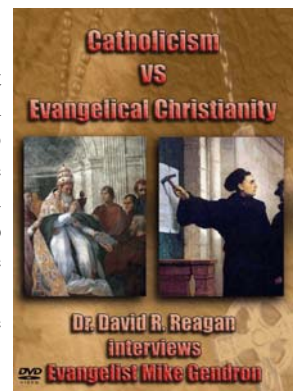
The message of the Holy Spirit to those caught up in the spiritual darkness of Catholicism is, “Come out of Babylon!” (Revelation 18:4). ❖

Notes:

- 1) *Sunday Advocate*, Baton Rouge, LA, October 1, 1989, page 3A.
- 2) *Time*, November 10, 1986, pages 78-79.
- 3) Vatican City (RNS), “Pope Says Unbelievers Will Be Saved If They Live A Just Life,” December 6, 2000.
- 4) An excellent resource on the issue of works salvation is a booklet by Albert James Dager entitled, *Six Roman Catholic Doctrines That Nullify Salvation by Grace* (Media Spotlight, 1988). For a copy write to Media Spotlight at P.O. Box 290, Redmond, WA 98073.
- 5) *CIB Bulletin*, February 1991, page 1.
- 6) *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (Thomas Nelson, 1987), page 124.

Video About Catholicism

We have produced a video about Catholicism that features an in-depth interview with Mike Gendron, who was a Catholic for 30 years until he accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He now has a ministry to Catholics called Proclaiming the Gospel. In this program he explains why he considers Catholicism to be a false representation of Christianity. 65 minute DVD. \$12 plus S&H. ❖



The Testimony of a Former Catholic

Richard Oliver

(Editor's note: Richard Oliver and his wife, Barbara, are Prophecy Partners of this ministry who live in Hawthorne, New Jersey. They are life-long Catholics who recently decided to leave the Catholic Church. Richard's wife is an executive with a national home health care company. Below are excerpts from a testimonial Richard gave recently at his new church, Grace Bible Church, in North Haledon, NJ, which is pastored by Donald Harris.)

Good evening. I'd like to say hello to my brothers and sisters in Christ!!! Praise Be to God!!! My name is Richard Oliver and my wife, Barbara, and I live in Hawthorne. We will be married 35 years on October 29th. We have a son, David, and his wife, Kara, has just given birth to our first grandchild, named Joshua David.



Rich & Barb Oliver with their grandson, Joshua David.

Barb and I have been members of the Roman Catholic Church all our lives. I was a lector, a Catechism teacher, and instructor of young couples preparing to marry. Our most precious ministry was the privilege and honor of serving Jesus in the distribution of communion to the congregation.

From Despair to Hope

In 1993, I became unemployed. I have never had a full time position since then. Over the next ten years I worked from time to time as a part-time consultant to my former company. Since 2002, I have never been employed again and I bring in no income at all.

One Saturday night, in the mid 1990's, I was clicking the remote trying to find something to watch on TV. It was Saturday night at 11:00pm, and nothing much was on. However, I came across a minister — a very vocal one — proclaiming the Word of God in his sermon. For some unknown reason, after a minute or two, I switched the channel. The next Saturday, I was doing surfing channels again, and I stopped on the same program. The minister turned out to be Pastor John Hagee of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, and he was preaching on the blessings of God.

Apparently, this was the sermon God wanted me to hear. Sitting in my chair, angry and with my self esteem taking a big hit because of being unemployed, Pastor Hagee said four things that changed my attitude and my spiritual life forever. He said, "If you have a roof over your head, food on your table, your health and all of your bills paid, you are highly blessed and favored by God."

I said to myself, "WOW!" Even unemployed, I have all those things and Barb and I can still be a blessing to others.

A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Barb and I became partners with John Hagee Ministries, and we visited the ministry in July, 1999 for a 3-day camp meeting. We saw a way of worshiping and praising God we had never been exposed to before. I liked the non-denominational aspect of the church and loved worshiping our Lord Jesus and the God of Israel. When I hear the word religion now, the word bondage is what comes to mind.

Next, God decided to show Barb and me what is going to happen in the future. The Prophetic Word of God became alive for us as it was taught to us by several prophecy ministers. God opened many doors to Godly preachers talking about end time prophecy. Dr. David Reagan, Jack Van Impe, Hal Lindsey and Perry Stone have greatly influenced and assisted our understanding of end time prophecy.

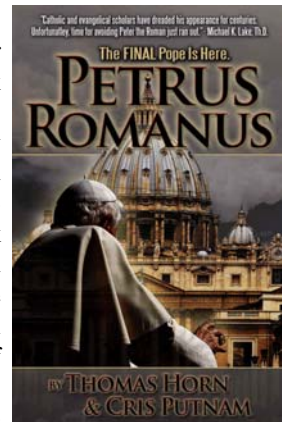
Since 1995 when we first heard about the Rapture, we have become students of Bible prophecy. This has been a gift of great magnitude for us. The Bible says that those who live looking for the coming of the Lord will receive a special "crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:8). I want that crown. I want every one of my brothers and sisters in Christ to have that crown.

A Difficult Decision

Meanwhile we were agonizing over whether or not to remain in the Roman Church. Ever since becoming born again in the Spirit some 17 years ago, we had been seeking an answer for a church that would fulfill our spiritual needs. The Roman Church was no longer fulfilling those spiritual needs, and we were still carrying a great deal of guilt from the past. Man-made rules that had no scriptural foundation in God's Word were suppressing our growth in the Lord.

As we got deeper into our study of the Bible, we began asking God about remaining in the Roman Church. We didn't want to run away without giving God an opportunity to use us to inform other members of our church about the soon coming of the Lord in the Rapture of the Church.

Earlier this year, God's answer came to us in the form of a book called *Petrus Romanus* which means "Peter the Roman." It opened my eyes to the unscriptural rules and regulations that keep Roman Catholics in chains. One line in this book said everything I needed to know and God told us it was time to leave. The book quoted the Council of Trent in the 1500's which declared that if anyone disagrees with the Church's doctrine, "let that person be anath-



ema.” It’s a big word and it means accursed. In other words the position of the Roman Church is that if you disagree with their doctrine, then you will lose your soul.

We had served faithfully in the Roman Church all our lives and, now we had discovered that it was the Church’s desire that we lose our souls if we disagreed with any of the Church’s doctrines!

A God-Incidence

It was at this point that I remembered having a conversation with a member of Grace Bible Church many years ago. I was at the eye doctor’s office one day and I got into a conversation with a lady who invited me to her church. She said, it was a non-denominational church that taught about the love of Jesus and the God of Israel.

I didn’t act on it at that time. God’s timing however is always perfect. I still needed time to learn more from the Bible. That time came in the form of being unemployed. I began to pray in a way I had never done before. I talked conversationally with the Lord. And I spoke boldly so that God would know that I trusted in His understanding and not my own. I know now that I can do all things through Christ the Lord who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). I prayed in the highest of spiritual warfare with Jesus and the Holy Spirit interceding for me. God was saying, “Talk to me!” For the first time in my life, I was experiencing personal intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I forgot repetitious prayers. I wanted God to hear what was on my mind.

It was in the midst of this fervent prayer that I remembered my encounter with the lady at the eye doctor’s office. That’s when I looked up the website for Grace Bible Church.

Finding a New Church Home

When I called the following day, Pastor Donald Harris answered. I introduced myself and began explaining to him about the spiritual journey Barbara and I had been on. The pastor invited us to worship with his church that Sunday, and at the end of the service, he introduced us to the congregation.

In the rest of my conversation with the pastor, I explained that my daughter-in-law was having trouble with her pregnancy. I asked the pastor if he would pray for her, and without hesitation, he start praying mightily for her healing. I was moved.

In the months Barb and I have been attending church here at Grace, I’ve learned that Pastor Harris is a man who prays mighty prayers. His love of praying is a great gift and a spiritual weapon in these end times.

The following week, my daughter-in-law gave birth to a healthy boy named Joshua David. I am a first born, my son David is a first born and now his son is a first born — each of us dedicated to God.

In closing, after having thought about everything that has transpired so quickly after such a long time of patience and prayer, Jesus gave me this verse of scripture to remember from Luke 9:62. It says, “No one, having put their hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Stay faithful my brothers and sisters. Our eternal destination is on its way. Jesus is coming soon! Praise be to God! ❖

The World: Playground or Battleground?

A. W. Tozer



(Editor’s note: Aiden Wilson Tozer [1897 – 1963] was an American Christian pastor, preacher, author, magazine editor, and spiritual mentor. He served 44 years as a pastor for churches affiliated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He authored more than 40 books, two of which are considered to be Christian classics: *The Pursuit of God* (1976) and *Knowledge of the Holy* (1979). For 13 years he edited a magazine called *Alliance Life*. Many of the editorials he published in that magazine were compiled and published as a book in 2009 titled *This World: Playground or Battleground?* Many of his essays about society read like they were written yesterday, and for that reason, he has often been touted as a modern day prophet. The editorial reproduced below is taken from the 2009 compilation of his editorials, and it was submitted by one of our Prophecy Partners, Gary Sims, who lives in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Keep in mind that this editorial was written in the 1950’s.)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

In the early days, when Christianity exercised a dominant influence over American thinking, men and women conceived the world to be a battleground. Our fathers believed in sin and the devil and hell as constituting one force, and they believed in God and righteousness and heaven as the other. By their very nature, these forces were opposed to each other forever in deep, grave, irreconcilable hostility. Humans, our fathers held, had to choose sides — they could not be neutral. For them it must be life or death, heaven or hell, and if they chose to come out on God’s side they could expect open war with God’s enemies. The fight would be real and deadly and would last as long as life continued here below. People looked forward to heaven as a return from the wars, a laying down of the sword to enjoy in peace the home prepared for them . . .

How different today. The fact remains the same, but the interpretation has changed completely. People think of the world, not as a battleground, but as a playground. We are not here to fight; we are here to frolic. We are not in a foreign land; we are at home. We are not getting ready to live, but we are already living, and the best we can do is rid ourselves of our inhibitions and our frustrations and live this life to the full.

Prayer: Lord, we’ve lost too much by becoming friendly with the enemy. Help me to be willing to take a stand for righteousness, to choose clearly to be on Your side against the enemy, to pay any price — and then to look forward to laying down my sword later in heaven. Amen. ❖

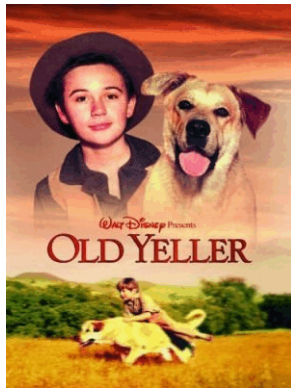
A Rabid Nation?

Al Gist



(Editor's note: Al Gist is the founder and director of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries, located in Longville, Louisiana. He conducts Bible prophecy conferences and takes pilgrimage groups to Israel. He also publishes an insightful newsletter which you can sign up to receive at www.maranathaevangelisticministries.com. This article is taken from one of his newsletters.)

When I was a boy, my Dad took me to the movie theater to see the 1957 classic "Old Yeller." Not only was it a great treat to go to the movies back then, but this was the only time I remember my father ever taking me to the movies. So, maybe that's why this particular movie made such an impact on my young mind and I still remember it to this day.



The plot of the story is about a young boy who is given the responsibility of caring for his mother, younger brother and their ranch in the 1860's while his father is away on a cattle drive. During that time, a yellow mongrel turns up at the ranch and eventually proves to be the boy's best friend and help, even saving his life on one occasion from a group of wild hogs. Unfortunately, the dog contracts rabies and the boy has the heart-breaking job of putting him down to protect himself and his family from the fatal disease. I can remember how I cried when Travis had to shoot "Old Yeller."

The Nature of Rabies

This was probably my first exposure to the disease of rabies. And even though it didn't involve me directly, it certainly made an emotional impact on me. How could something so good (Old Yeller) die from what at first appeared to be something so minor (a small bite)?

Rabies, if left untreated, is a horrible, 100% fatal disease. It is most often transmitted to its human victim via a bite from an infected, symptomatic animal (bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, dogs, etc.) where the animal's virus-carrying saliva is introduced into the person's bloodstream.

According to *Wikipedia Encyclopedia*: "After a typical human infection by bite, the virus enters the peripheral nervous system. It then travels along the nerves towards the central nervous system. During this phase, the virus cannot be easily detected within the host, and vaccination may still confer cell-mediated immunity to prevent symptomatic rabies. **Once the virus reaches the brain . . . there is no treatment.**" (emphasis mine) As the virus progresses to the brain, the symptoms may include "slight or partial paralysis, cerebral dysfunction, anxiety,

insomnia, confusion, agitation, abnormal behavior, paranoia, terror, hallucinations, progressing to delirium."¹

Most of us have probably seen pictures of rabid animals. In their state of "cerebral dysfunction," they stagger and have difficulty moving in a straight direction. They are confused and easily agitated. Their "abnormal behavior" produces "paranoia, terror" and "hallucinations," leading to "delirium."

A Mad Dog Nation?

From what I see in our country today, I wonder if our great nation has not contracted a type of "spiritual rabies" that has led to "cerebral dysfunction." Our leaders (political and religious) seem so confused, and it has gotten many people very agitated.

What started out innocent enough with a desire to NOT OFFEND anyone (seeker friendly churches, etc.), has now led to a behavior that is abnormal (political correctness). Paranoia has set in (global warming, pandemic diseases, etc.) and terrorized the people. It seems that our leadership can no longer see clearly and discern the difference between reality and fantasy (hallucinations). So now, we've reached a point of absolute delirium. Our political and spiritual foundations are crumbling and I find myself sometimes wondering if our nation has gone insane!

What has led to this dilemma? How did it all start? And have we gone too far to recover? Has the virus reached the brain yet?

Symptoms of Madness

In the early 1960s (about the same time I saw "Old Yeller"), our great nation contracted "spiritual rabies" . . . a potentially "fatal" disease if left untreated. It was at that time that the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Engel v. Vitale* decided "that government-directed prayer in public schools was an unconstitutional violation of the Establishment Clause."² This was followed by subsequent decisions to ban Bible reading as part of the school curriculum (*Abington Township School District v. Schempp* in 1963),³ and to ban student-led, student-initiated prayer at football games, graduations, and other school activities (*Santa Fe Independent School Dist. v. Doe*, 2000).⁴



U. S. Supreme Court

This chosen path of taking God out of our schools and other public institutions initiated the "spiritual rabies" viral infection almost five decades ago that has now traveled (or, is traveling) to the central nervous system (the federal and state governments). Like the physical disease, once it reaches the "brain," there will be no treatment.

Crucial Questions

My questions are: "Has our nation passed the point of no return in its moral decline? Have we forever abandoned the biblical standards, the Constitutional law, and the rules of free capitalism that this great country was built upon? Has this insidious disease of apostasy and socialism "reached the brain?"

Have we reached a point where spiritual fatality is unavoidable? Some would argue that a great national revival to holiness and biblical morality is still possible. And some even teach that it is prophesied! But actions like the hate crime legislation passed by our Congress make me wonder.

Dangerous Legislation



On October 28, 2009 President Obama signed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act that had been passed by his Democrat Congress.⁵ Among other things, the bill adds gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the list of protected categories under federal hate crimes law.³ This effectively places every homosexual, pedophile, transgendered, and other abominable sexual orientation in a special, federally-protected class under federal hate crimes law. And it opens the door for prosecution against any pastor or other clergyman who openly speaks out against such abhorrent behavior, even if he is just teaching what he believes is Scriptural doctrine.

This legislation could ultimately initiate a day of unheard-of persecution of Christians in this country. Pastors could be fined and jailed for preaching the truth of the Bible. Churches could be prosecuted on charges of discrimination for not hiring an openly homosexual applicant as a staff member. And eventually, no doubt, fundamental, conservative Christianity will be attacked for promoting “anti-social hate doctrine.”

This law is just another example of political correctness run amuck. This homophobic paranoia has led Congress to an act of delirium. They are confused and suffering from “cerebral dysfunction!”

Persecution

Do you think that expecting such persecution of those who teach the biblical one-man-and-one-woman definition of marriage is being paranoid? Then consider the backlash that came from Carrie Prejean’s answer when she was asked about her stance on same-sex marriage in the Miss USA contest in 2009. She responded, “I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that’s how I was raised.”



Carrie Prejean

How much simpler and more straightforward an answer could you expect? She was simply giving an honest answer to the question about her beliefs. She made no derogatory remark about homosexuals and even said that it was not her intention to offend anyone with her answer.

Yet, she was lambasted by a host of liberals in the media and by the homosexual activists. Some even called for her to be stripped of her Miss California title. And even though she stood by her answer, she said that she believed it cost her the Miss USA crown (she got first runner-up.)

Now, some would surely say that Miss Prejean’s ordeal is not very severe persecution. But the point is that she suffered endless ridicule and scorn simply because she dared to take a biblical position. And it certainly showed the sinful degradation of our society. So, I ask you: Has the virus reached the brain?

Conclusion

The list of political and religious departures in the last few years in our society from the sound, conservative, democratic and biblical principles upon which our nation was built, is too lengthy to discuss here. From our nation’s fiscal irresponsibility to its new Socialistic agenda to its suicidal foreign relations policy concerning Israel to its widespread religious apostasy — at every turn we hear about some new ill-conceived debacle that is eating away at the fabric of our democratic, capitalistic and Christian foundation. It’s enough to make one wonder if the United States has completely lost its way. And more importantly, can we recover, or has “the virus reached the brain?” ❖

Notes:

- 1) Wikipedia, “Rabies,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabies#Medical_aspects.
 - 2) Wikipedia, “Engel v. Vitale,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engel_v._Vitale.
 - 3) Wikipedia, “Abington School District v. Schempp,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abington_School_District_v._Schempp.
 - 4) Wikipedia, “Santa Fe Independent School Dist. v. Doe,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Fe_Independent_School_Dist._v._Doe.
 - 5) Wikipedia, “Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matthew_Shepard_and_James_Byrd,_Jr._Hate_Crimes_Prevention_Act.
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Persecution Intensifies

Throughout the United States today the persecution of Christians is intensifying. In 2004 Kelly Shackelford, the president of the Liberty Institute in Plano, Texas, testified before Congress about the growing religious hostility in America. Because the opposition insisted that he had presented isolated incidents of no importance, two Senators asked Shackelford to provide additional information. That request led to the preparation of the first “hostility document.” It revealed a shocking number of cases of hostility toward religion all across the country.

This year the report was updated. Entitled *Survey of Religious Hostility in America*, the report is a testament to the radical shift in our culture’s worldview — providing over 600 incidents of religious attacks and hostility during the past 10 years.

One horror story after another is revealed in the document. The worst example cited was when President Obama’s Justice Department argued before the Supreme Court that the federal government can tell churches and religious organizations who they can hire and fire!

For further details, you can access the 135 page document online at [www.http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12H29.pdf](http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12H29.pdf). ❖

A Plea for Grace

Dr. David R. Reagan

I have had some favorable things to say recently about Oral Roberts and his ministry — both in this magazine and on one of our television programs. Those statements have prompted a number of negative responses from people who questioned whether or not anything good should be said about the man. One lady denounced him as an “apostate” and said she wanted nothing more to do with me or this ministry.

So, I thought I would share some thoughts with you about evaluating ministries.

First, let’s keep in mind that there are no perfect ministries. All of them, including Lamb & Lion, are headed up by people and are composed of people, and people are flawed.

I would urge you, therefore, to look for the good — for that which lines up with the Scriptures — and either ignore or criticize responsibly what does not. Otherwise, you are going to miss some spiritual blessings.

Let me give you some examples from my personal perspective.

Examples of Ministries I Admire but Disagree With



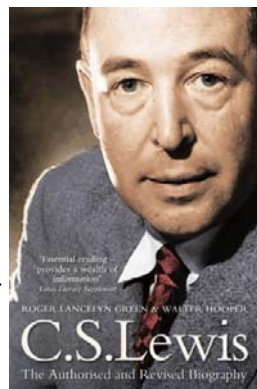
Martin Luther

I have always greatly admired the incredible courage that Martin Luther showed when he stood up to the Roman Catholic Church, the most powerful institution of the Middle Ages and one that did not hesitate to burn its critics alive at the stake. I am thankful that he pointed Christendom to God’s true plan of salvation of grace through faith in Jesus. And what a blessing it was for him to translate the Bible into the German language and to bless all of Christendom with his

marvelous hymns.

Yes, I am very grateful to Martin Luther, and I will always admire his courage, despite the fact that he turned out to be the worst anti-Semite in Church history. The pamphlet he wrote near the end of his life in which he denounced and condemned the Jews served as a blueprint for the Holocaust.

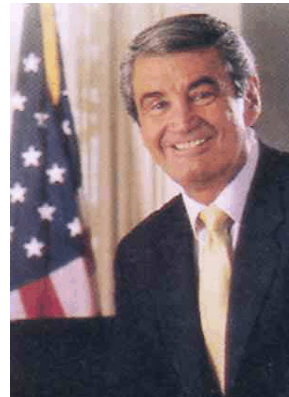
And then there is the example of C. S. Lewis. He was a brilliant Oxford professor of Mediaeval literature when he came to a belief in God and then later placed his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. His Christian writings soon established him as the greatest defender of the Christian faith in the 20th Century. Those writings, like *Mere Christianity* (1943) and *The Problem of Pain* (1940), greatly impacted my life by drawing me deeper into the Scriptures and closer to the Lord. I will be



forever grateful to him for his marvelous spiritual insights. He is going to be one of the first persons I will want to meet personally when I get to Heaven.

Yet, the incredible thing that most people do not know about C. S. Lewis is that near the end of his life he revealed in letters that he believed in Purgatory! To me, it is mind-boggling that a man with so many deep spiritual insights could have been spiritually blind concerning this doctrinal issue. Because he was so off-base on this point, should I throw out everything else he had to offer? I think not.

Bringing my examples more up to date, let’s consider two great modern-day ministries whose leaders have recently been called home to the Lord.



Dr. James Kennedy

The first is the ministry of Dr. James Kennedy who served for 47 years as the pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was a powerful spokesman in behalf of the Christian heritage of America, and he was a man who spoke out fearlessly against the secular drift of our nation. I admired him greatly. Yet, he was one of the foremost proponents of Replacement Theology, a theology I consider to be absolutely abominable.

In like manner I highly valued the ministry of Chuck Colson. His conversion story was inspirational, and the prison ministry he established was an outstanding one. I also appreciated his syndicated columns in which he expressed a biblical worldview regarding political, moral and social issues. I praise God for him and his ministry despite the fact that he was a terrible Catholic compromiser and he lacked respect for God’s Prophetic Word. Should I have just written him off and refused to pay attention to anything he had to say? I don’t think so.

Let’s take a look at some contemporary ministries that are alive and well today:

- I highly respect the preaching and teaching of Charles Stanley, and I have learned much from him, despite the fact that I abhor his hyper-Calvinism.
- I love the preaching of John MacArthur and his teaching of Bible prophecy. It would be hard to find a better expositor of God’s Word. But when he starts talking about the Holy Spirit, I have to tune him out. To me, he just seems to have a spiritual blind spot in that area.
- I have always had great respect for the Pentecostal Movement — for its zeal, enthusiasm and passion. The praise music it has produced has blessed my soul, and I have been thankful for the Movement’s appreciation and understanding of God’s Prophetic Word. I am also thankful for the way God worked through the Movement to resurrect the gifts of the Spirit from the dead. But I have never been able to accept their core teaching that the baptism of the Holy Spirit must be manifested in the gift of tongues.

- I have always respected the wonderful ministry of David Barton and the insights he has provided regarding the Christian heritage of our nation. I hold him in high esteem despite the fact that he is a Postmillennialist who denies that Jesus could return anytime soon.
- I greatly admire the fantastic Creation ministry of Ken Ham, and I praise God for it, despite the fact that he thinks that a person's end time viewpoint is irrelevant.

I suspect that after having read the list above, some of you are ready to say that I am also spiritually blind in some ways — and that could well be. If you feel that way, I hope you will pray for me to be enlightened and not just write me off as hopeless.

The Point

The point is that I have learned much from each of the men and ministries mentioned above despite the fact that there are areas where I disagree with them and, in some cases, disagree with them strongly.

And I am convinced that I would have lost many great spiritual insights if I would have written off their teachings because I disagreed with some part of what they had to say.

The Ministry of Oral Roberts



Oral Roberts

The same is true of the ministry of Oral Roberts. I greatly admired his faith. And I appreciate the fact that he revived belief in God's healing power, returning that belief to mainline Christianity. I also respected the fact that he always insisted that those seeking healing had to first hear the Gospel preached. He cared about the welfare of people's souls as well as the health of their physical bodies. Another thing I respected about the way he operated his ministry is that before he would start praying for healing, he would always empha-

size that if any healing occurred, it would come from God and not from him.

Oral Roberts was a great man of faith. He was a fabulous Gospel preacher. And he was anointed by God for healing.

I never agreed with his prosperity teachings. And I always felt like his dogged determination to build the City of Faith medical facility was based more on presumption than faith. I think its tragic fate proved that he had run out from under God's anointing on that particular project.

But he dramatically showed us the meaning of faith; he revived belief in healing; he established a great Christian university; and he pioneered Christian television. All of that should make us grateful to God for his life and ministry.

The Crucial Doctrines

So, where should we draw the line with regard to respect and support of a ministry? It has to do with the fundamentals of the faith. Those fundamentals are:

- 1) The Virgin Birth of Jesus
- 2) The Divinity of Jesus
- 3) The Atoning Death of Jesus
- 4) The Resurrection of Jesus
- 5) The Promise of Jesus to Return

When a Christian leader denies one or more of these fundamentals, his ministry should not be respected or supported, and it can be legitimately considered as apostate. Disagreements over other points of doctrine are important, but they should never serve to disrupt our fellowship in the Lord. Truth is important, but not all truth is equally important. So, for example, whatever the truth may be about the Millennium, it is nothing compared to THE TRUTH that Jesus is Lord.

Disagreeing Amicably



When we as Christians disagree with doctrine being taught by some Christian leader, we need to do so in a Christ-like manner. We should avoid pejorative labels like "apostate." And we should avoid judging motives. We should simply deal with the issue of whether or not the questionable doctrine is biblical.

With regard to motives, one of my pet peeves is the way people seem compelled to sum up a doctrinal disagreement with me by saying, "I know the only reason you take that position is because it sells books." I hear that accusation over and over again. I want to emphasize that is a sinful accusation.

First, it is sinful because it is based on an evaluation of my motives, and that simply is not possible. We can judge words and actions, but we can never judge motives because we cannot know with certainty what each other's motives may be.

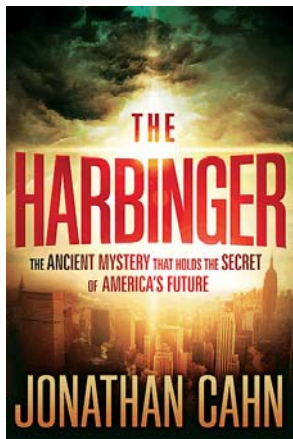
Second, the accusation is sinful because it attributes evil by asserting that I am guided only by monetary concerns. (I can assure you that money is not a motivator to me.)

I've never been able to understand why Christians must attribute evil motives to those they disagree with on a doctrinal point. It's as if they cannot conceive that people can honestly disagree about a biblical interpretation.

Increasing Shrillness

I have also become distressed in recent years by the increasingly strident tone of many Christian apologists. I'm sure this is due to the rapidly increasing apostasy in the Church and

their sense of frustration in dealing with it. But this is no excuse for the attack dog mentality that seems to prevail.



A good example is the recent response to the best-selling book, *The Harbinger*, written by a Messianic Jew named Jonathan Cahn. I personally did not care for the book. I thought his method of scriptural interpretation was highly subjective in nature, and I thought his examples of prophetic fulfillment which he drew from the 9/11 attacks were highly strained. But I thought his overall conclusion that our nation is in rebellion against God and is therefore begging for God's destruction was right on target. So, I was thankful for the book.

But the apologetic attack dogs had a field day picking the book apart and slinging names at the author. One even called him a "false prophet"! They just couldn't seem to say anything good, despite the fact that the book's overall message was a sound one and a needed one.

Another fault of the modern day apologetic attack dogs is their tendency to attribute guilt by association. It's a good thing they were not around when the Apostle Paul delivered his sermon at Athens. They surely would have overlooked his words, while frying him for having the audacity to associate with heathen.

Outstanding Christian spokesmen like Joel Rosenberg have been viciously attacked and defamed simply because they participated in a prayer rally that was called by Governor Rick Perry of Texas. Why? Because there were people present at the rally who were considered unacceptable.

Others have been roundly condemned because they had the audacity to quote from the Bible paraphrase known as *The Message*. I don't endorse that paraphrase, but I don't believe for a moment that quoting from it renders a person apostate. I recently quoted favorably some words of an ancient Muslim poet. The words were beautiful and biblical, but because they were from a Muslim, I was severely condemned!

I knew that the moment I said anything positive about Oral Roberts and his ministry that the attack dogs would come growling and even, in some cases, howling. But I refuse to be intimidated by them and their rabid negativism.

Constant Condemnations

I have had my Christianity questioned because I refused to condemn the Promise Keeper's Movement.

I have had my Christianity questioned because I do not despise Bible paraphrases like the *Living Bible* and the *New Testament in Modern English* by J. B. Phillips.

I have had my Christianity questioned because I do not dislike contemporary Christian music.

I have had my Christianity questioned because I refuse to denounce modern Bible translations like the *New King James Version* and *The New American Standard Version*.

I have had my Christianity questioned because I do not despise Billy Graham.

I have had my Christianity questioned because I do not hold Charismatics in disdain.

Tragically, I could extend this list indefinitely!

There are many very fine apologetic ministries existing today who are earnestly contending for the faith. We have interviewed many of their leaders on our television program. But the self-proclaimed "watchmen on the walls" who constantly spew forth hateful condemnations are really nothing more than spiritual pit bulls who are trying to build themselves up by tearing other people down.

I know the attacks will continue, but I want to make it clear that I am not going to allow my Christianity to be defined by what I hate rather than what I believe. And what I believe is that Jesus is Lord!

Conclusion

My conclusion? Let's look for what is biblical, let's embrace it, and let's thank God for it. Criticize what you consider to be unbiblical, but do it in love, with a desire to correct and not defame. Pray for the person you disagree with, and remember, if God can show you grace with all your warts and hang-ups, surely you can show some grace toward those you disagree with. ❖

Recommended Apologetic Ministries

Dr. David R. Reagan

The ministries listed below are staunch defenders of the Christian faith. That does not necessarily mean that they would endorse all my doctrinal stances. But they understand what are the real issues in Christianity today, and they are responsible in the criticisms they have to offer. I highly recommend them to you:

Take a Stand! Ministries — Headed up by Eric Barger. Located in Rowlett, Texas. (www.ericbarger.com)

Watchman Fellowship — Located in Arlington, Texas and led by James Walker. (www.watchman.org)

Olive Tree Ministries — Founded and directed by Jan Markell. Located in Maple Grove, Minnesota. (www.olivetreeviews.org)

Caryl Productions — A video production company located in Menifee, California and headed up by Caryl Matrisciana. (www.carylmatrisciana.com)

Reasoning from the Scriptures — Founded and directed by Dr. Ron Rhodes. Located in Frisco, Texas. (<http://ronrhodes.org>)

Christian Ministries International — Founded by Ron Carlson and now headed up by his sons, Jason and Jared. Located in Minnetonka, Minnesota. (www.christianministriesintl.org)

Got Questions? — Founded by S. Michael Houdmann and located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. (www.gotquestions.org)

The Election

Dr. David R. Reagan

At the death of King Solomon, the Kingdom of David split into two nations — Israel in the north, consisting of ten tribes, and Judah in the south, composed of two tribes.

The northern kingdom of Israel lasted 208 years. During that time it had a total of 19 kings, all of whom were judged by God to be evil.

The southern kingdom of Judah existed for 344 years. That kingdom had a total of 20 kings, and only 8 of them were considered good in the eyes of God.

Despite the fact that all the kings of Israel were judged to be evil in the eyes of God, the Scriptures declare that one in particular was the most evil of all — and that was King Ahab (1 Kings 16:29-30). In like manner, the Scriptures proclaim that the most evil king in the history of Judah was Manasseh who “seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel” (2 Chronicles 33:9).

The Quality of American Leaders

It would be interesting to know God’s judgment of the leaders of our nation. We have been blessed with some truly good and great leaders like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Ronald Reagan. But, like Israel and Judah, we have been cursed from time to time by some very poor leaders, particularly in modern times as our nation has drifted away from God and from the Judeo-Christian principles upon which the nation was established.

We have had womanizers like John F. Kennedy and schemers like Lyndon Johnson. We have had inept leaders like Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. And we have been afflicted with evil leaders like Richard Nixon, who was forced to resign before he was impeached, and Bill Clinton, who was actually impeached, but not convicted.

But I would contend that never in all our 236 years as a nation have we had a ruler as evil as Barack Obama.

The Evil of Barack Obama

Obama is an enthusiastic advocate of abortion — even to the point that while serving as state senator in Illinois, he voted against a law that would have prevented the killing of babies who survived abortions!

Obama is an earnest supporter of sexual perversion. During his first four years as President, he issued a proclamation each

June celebrating lesbians, homosexuals, bi-sexuals, and trans-genders. And, of course, he has endorsed the abomination of same-sex marriage.

Obama has committed the immoral act of plunging our nation into unprecedented debt that will imprison our descendants indefinitely.

Obama has launched an unthinkable attack on our religious traditions and freedoms. If he could get his way, and he may well do so, he will remove “under God” from our pledge of allegiance and replace our national motto, “In God We Trust,” with “E Pluribus Unum.” He no longer speaks of “freedom of religion.” It has been replaced with “freedom of worship.” And he is attempting to override religious freedom with hate crime laws and non-discrimination laws in an attempt to make it a criminal offence to condemn sexual perversion or to discriminate on the basis of sexual perversion. He has attempted to control hiring practices by religious organizations, and he is now trying to dictate that they must provide contraceptives and abortions for their employees.

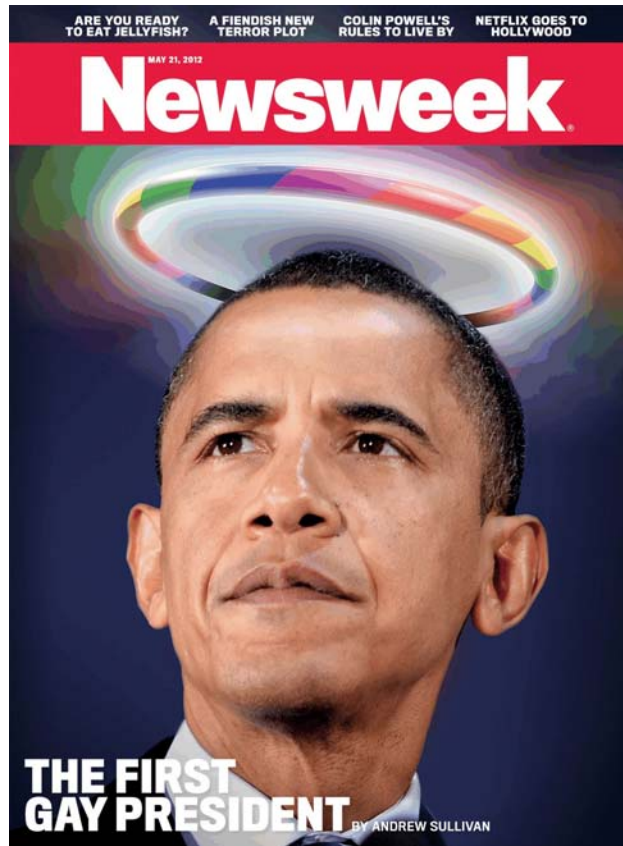
Obama has attacked our Constitution repeatedly as being “outdated.” He has circumvented it in every way possible, particularly through an avalanche of executive orders. And he will succeed in undermining it completely if he is able to make additional appointments to the Supreme Court during his second term.

Obama hates the Capitalist system which is a foundation stone of our liberties and which has produced the most prosperous economy the world has ever seen. He is determined to replace it with a Socialist system that will rob the responsible to award the irresponsible.

Obama despises our great history of pioneering liberty and justice for all citizens and fighting worldwide to provide or preserve freedom for other peoples. He has denounced our nation’s anthem as “militaristic,” and he has portrayed us to the world as a colonialist power, apologizing for the foreign policy that saved Europe from the Nazis and rebuilt the continent through the Marshall Plan.

Obama holds in contempt our closest ally, the nation of Israel. He has treated the Jewish Prime Minister with contempt, and he has encouraged the enemies of Israel who desire to annihilate the Jewish state.

One of Obama’s passions throughout his life has been education. He understands the power of this tool to re-shape a nation. Expect him in his second term to try to nationalize education so that he can dictate curriculum from the federal level. And expect him also to launch an all-out assault on home schooling.



America's Revolt Against God

In my book, *America the Beautiful? The United States in Bible Prophecy* (2003, 2006, 2009), I pointed out that when a nation begins to rebel against God, He will start afflicting that nation with remedial judgments, calling the nation to repentance. I showed from the Scriptures that those judgments can take many forms, and that one of those is to give the nation the kind of leaders it deserves.

Our headstrong revolt against God began in the 1960's with the sexual revolution that was laced with drugs. It has continued unabated since that time as we have kicked God out of our schools and our public life. In the process, Christianity has morphed into the image of our increasingly secular and pagan society, desiring to be accepted by society rather than standing against it by speaking out in behalf of godliness and righteousness.

And so, we are now reaping what we have sown. And we will continue to do so as long as we put selfish considerations ahead of moral ones — as, for example:

- When Black Christians vote on the basis of race regardless of the candidate's moral values.
- When Christian union members vote according to union directives rather than moral principles.
- When Jews vote solely according to liberal social values, with no consideration of a candidate's position regarding Israel.
- When Evangelicals vote on the basis of personality, charisma and oratorical ability rather than moral issues.
- When the populace in general puts income considerations ahead of moral values.

The Significance of Morality

Why am I emphasizing moral issues? The reason is simple. It's because they are the real issues. In this past election the real issues were not the economy and unemployment. The real issues were spiritual in nature. They were the celebration of sexual perversion, the trashing of the value of life, the elevation of greed over responsibility, and the abandonment of support for the nation of Israel. These were the true issues because our collective failure in these areas is the precise reason why we are experiencing the collapse of our economy and subsequent massive unemployment.

Our nation is under the judgment of God. In response, He has provided us the kind of leadership we deserve.

In my *Prophetic Manifesto*, issued before the election, I began it with these words: "America is finished. We as a nation have turned our back on God." I concluded the *Manifesto* with this observation:

Is there any hope for America? No! Our only hope is Jesus, and thus we have no hope, for we have rejected Him. We have turned our back on the very God who made us great and showered us with blessings. We have forgotten that God's Word teaches that "to those to whom much is given, much is expected." (Luke 12:47 - 48). ❖

Television Update

Prior to the beginning of this new year, we were broadcasting our weekly TV program, "Christ in Prophecy," on five national Christian networks: Daystar, Inspiration, NRB, GEB and The Church Channel.

The Inspiration Network

In November we were notified that the Inspiration Network was going secular, beginning the first of this year. Accordingly, they informed us that they had decided to limit their religious programming to Sunday mornings. They offered us a Sunday morning slot, but we turned it down because that is a time when Christians are at church and non-Christians are sleeping off hangovers from Saturday night. So, effective the first of January, we left the Inspiration Network.

We deeply regret having to make this decision. The Inspiration Network has been a blessing to us.

The TBN Network

We have been praying earnestly for some time now that the Lord would open up a slot for us on the TBN Network — the largest of all the Christian television networks. As this magazine was going to press, it appeared there was a real possibility we were going to receive such a slot. If so, it will double our broadcast costs overnight. But we are proceeding in faith, believing that the Lord will supply the necessary funds. We will keep you informed through our website and special mailings should the TBN slot open up for us.

New Programs

We recently aired a series of four new programs that were shot on location in Georgia at the Explorations in Antiquity Center. This is a unique place that demonstrates how people lived in Israel in the First Century at the time of Jesus. It was established by Jim Fleming, who is considered to be Christendom's foremost teacher of biblical archeology. If you missed the programs, you can find them on our website at www.lamblion.com. ❖



Dr. Reagan is shown above with volunteers who assisted with the video shooting at the Antiquity Center in La Grange, Georgia. From left to right, they are Pam Gibbs, Sylvia Dunn and Ray Dunn. Ray is one of the Ministry's 22 trustees. He and his wife live in Griffin, Georgia.

Put Yourself In This Picture



Our November 2012 pilgrimage group is pictured above sitting on the steps of the synagogue in the village of Korazin, located in Israel a short distance north of the Sea of Galilee. Korazin, together with Capernaum and Bethsaida, was one of the villages where Jesus focused His ministry.

The next Lamb & Lion pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for April 6-17. Dr. Reagan will be the host.

The group will spend the first two nights in Tel Aviv at a hotel on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. While in Tel Aviv, they will visit Independence Hall and the ancient port of Jaffa, among other places. Independence Hall is where Bible prophecy was fulfilled on May 14, 1948 when the modern state of Israel was established. Jaffa is the city from which Jonah began his ill-fated voyage.

The next two nights will be spent at a hotel on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in the city of Tiberius. En route to Tiberius, stops will be made at Caesarea Maritime, Mount Carmel, Haifa, and Akko. Caesarea Maritime was the Roman Capital of Israel in the time of Jesus. It's where the Roman soldier, Cornelius lived—the first Gentile convert to Christianity. It's also where Paul spent two years in prison before he was sent to Rome. Akko, located near the border of Israel with Lebanon, served as the Crusader capital. The site the group will visit on Mt. Carmel is the traditional one where the prophet Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal.

During the time in Tiberius, the group will take a cruise across the Sea of Galilee, visit the Jesus Boat Museum, and conduct devotionals on the Hill of the Beatitudes and at the villages of Korazin and Capernaum. The latter was the headquarters of Jesus' ministry. The time at the Sea of Galilee will

conclude with a baptismal ceremony conducted by Dr. Reagan. Those desiring to witness their faith in Jesus will be baptized in the Jordan River.

En route to Jerusalem, the group will visit Nazareth, Megiddo and Beit Shean while driving down the Jordan River Valley and through the Wilderness of Judea.

The group will settle down in Jerusalem where they will spend the next six nights. The first day in Jerusalem will be spent exploring the Mount of Olives and the old walled city, including walking the Via Dolorosa. The second day the group will visit the Dead Sea area and the sites of Masada and Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. The next day will be spent exploring new Jerusalem, with visits to Israel's national cemetery, the Holocaust Museum, and the Jerusalem Museum. That day will conclude with a visit to Bethlehem. The fourth day in Jerusalem will be a free day for each group member or couple to spend as they please doing things like shopping, walking the walls of the old city, visiting the Temple Mount and praying at the Western Wall. The final day in Jerusalem will begin with a communion service at the Garden Tomb.

To secure a detailed brochure, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. The registration deadline is February 1st. ❖



Announcing the 2013 Lamb & Lion Bible Conference

Theme: *Living on Borrowed Time: Signs of Jesus' Soon Return*

Dates: June 28-29, 2013 (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon)

Location: The Allen Performing Arts Center in Allen, Texas (Dallas suburb)

Speakers



Dave Reagan — A former professor of international law and politics. He is founder and director of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He will present an overview of the Signs of the Times that point to the Lord's soon return, focusing on "The Sign of the Exponential Curve."

Robert Jeffress — Pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. Known for his boldness and courage in speaking out in behalf of Christianity and absolute truth. Anointed speaker, writer and defender of the faith. He will focus his remarks on "America's Coming Implosion."



Musicians

Don McGee — A former Louisiana state trooper and pastor who founded a Bible Prophecy ministry called Crown and Sickie in 2002. He has a gift for in-depth analysis, and he is a powerful speaker. He is a frequent guest on Lamb & Lion's TV program. His topic will be "The Rebirth of Israel."



The conference will begin on Friday evening, June 28, with a concert by a Southern Gospel Quartet called X-Alt. Jack Hollingsworth will sing throughout the conference and will present a concert at the conference banquet on Saturday evening.



Jack Hollingsworth — Jack wandered the streets homeless for 20 years before his life was transformed by Jesus. For the past 17 years he and his wife, Sally, have traveled the nation speaking, teaching, and singing. He is the featured singer on the Lamb & Lion television program, "Christ in Prophecy."

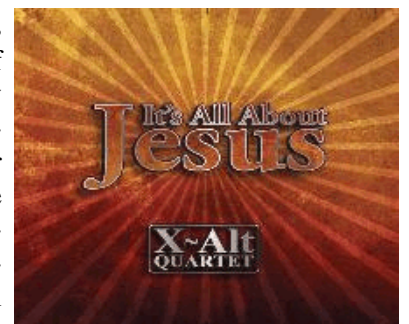


Nathan Jones — Web Minister and Evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries. Nathan has established himself as a leading expert on Bible prophecy. He is also a specialist in Christian apologetics. His electronic newsletter deals with Bible prophecy in the news. He will speak on "The Signs of Technology."

Ron Rhodes — A prolific author of more than 50 books. He serves as president of Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministries in Frisco, Texas. He is known for his ability to present complex ideas in simple, understandable terms. His topic: "The Epidemic of Apostasy."



X-Alt Quartet — This very gifted group of singers was selected by the Gospel Music Artists Association as their musical group of the year in 2012. They present unique arrangements of great Gospel songs while maintaining the core integrity of the songs.



The conference is free of charge, but seating is limited, so registration is required. To register, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

There will be a banquet on Saturday evening, and there will be a charge of \$35 per person for it. Dr. Reagan will be the featured speaker at the banquet. ✚



Alan Franklin — Political reporter and newspaper editor in London, England. Author of numerous books on a variety of spiritual subjects. Recognized expert on the European Union. A dynamic conference speaker. He will speak on "The Revival of the Roman Empire."

Ministry News

Schedule — In **January**, Nathan Jones will begin the month speaking at the Future Congress Conference which will be held at the Hyatt Regency DFW Hotel (4-6). Dr. Reagan will be speaking at the Oakwood Christian Church in Enid, OK (13) and Community Christian Chapel in Apache Junction, AZ (20). In **February**, Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak at the Mississippi Bible Prophecy Conference to be held at First Baptist Church in Sharon, MS (1-2). He will also be one of the speakers at the Preservation of American Ideals Conference at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX (11). He will conclude the month by holding a conference at Summit Christian Church in Summit, NV (16-17). In **March**, Dr. Reagan will conduct a conference at Summit Church in Wichita, KS (1-3). He will also be one of the speakers at the Sync-Up Prophecy Conference in Los Angeles, CA at a location yet to be determined (15-16).

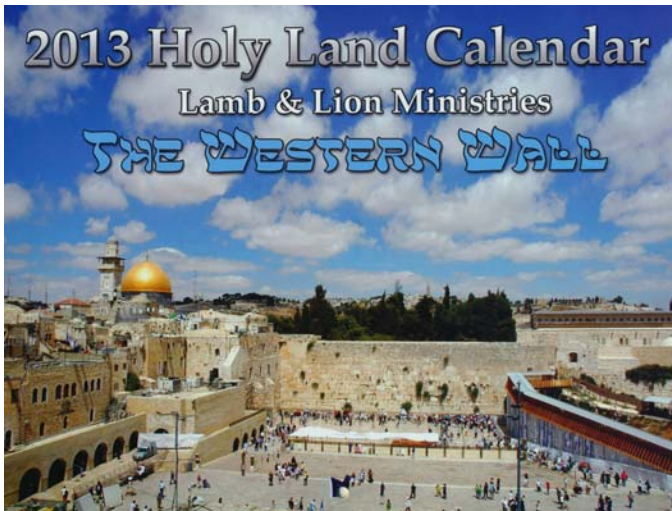


Prophecy Manifesto — We continue to distribute copies of our Manifesto to pastors all across our nation. We have thus far printed over 30,000 copies, and 15,000 of those have been mailed out to pastors. Tim LaHaye called and said he was so impressed with the booklet that he wanted to distribute copies of it to all those attending the annual Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas in early December of last year. This 40 page booklet sells for \$2 plus the cost of mailing. For orders of 20 or more, the price is \$1.50 plus the cost of mailing. You can order copies through our website at www.lamblion.com or by calling the ministry at 972-736-3567.

New App — After many months of hard work, our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, has completed the preparation of an App for our ministry. It is available for download free of charge to iPhone, iPod, iPad and Android.



2013 Calendar —



Our full-color calendar for 2013 features photographs taken at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The calendar sells for \$5 plus the cost of mailing. To order, call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

Volunteer — We are very blessed to be assisted by a number of volunteers who assist our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, with the Christ in Prophecy Facebook group. One of the moderators of that group is Gail Grace. Gail was born in Peoria, Illinois, but grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. She dreamed of living in the Pacific Northwest, and her dream came true when she joined the Navy and was stationed on Whidbey Island in Washington State, where she met her husband. She and her husband both became Christians in 1988. They have one grown and married son. They currently reside in Arlington, Washington. Gail loves nature photography, shooting, bowling, and is a self-described “baseball nut.”



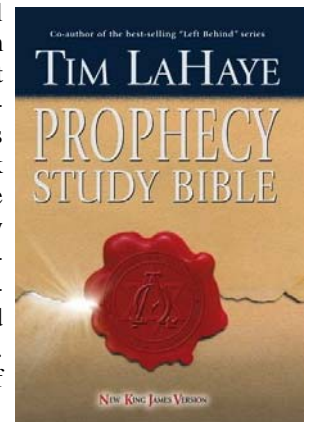
Gail Grace

Financial Responsibility — In November the ministry received notification that it had received a four star rating from Charity Navigator for the seventh year in a row! Charity Navigator is the primary evaluator of non-profit organizations in America, and the four star rating is their highest. It means that we are recognized as following the highest standards of financial responsibility. Only 2% of the charities (secular and religious) evaluated have ever received seven straight 4 star ratings. ❖

Important Announcement Magazine Renewal

If you are not a Prophecy Partner, and you are receiving this magazine by mail, this will be the last copy you will receive unless you renew your subscription. To renew, call us at 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Prophecy Partners receive the magazine free of charge.

Prophecy Study Bible — We still have copies available of the Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible. It comes in the New King James Version, is 6"x9" in size, contains 1,700 pages and is bound in dark burgundy genuine leather. There are 84 articles by 55 Bible prophecy experts, including two by Dr. Reagan. It features 15 pages of full-color prophecy charts, 74 black and white charts, and 8 pages of maps. The cost is \$75 plus the cost of mailing. ❖





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We need your support as a Prophecy Partner.



Program Requirements

The support base of Lamb & Lion Ministries consists of its Prophecy Partners. These are the people who pledge to pray for us regularly and who make a commitment to provide \$25 a month or more in financial support for one year.

We currently have over 2,500 Prophecy Partners. We need to increase that number to over 3,000 for 2013 if we are to continue expanding our media outreach with the message of the soon return of Jesus.

We ask our Prophecy Partners to aim at giving \$1 a day for a year — or \$30 per month. Many do this, and some give much more. The minimum contribution is \$25 per month.

The most important thing we expect of our Prophecy Partners is for them to pray daily for the ministry.

Program Benefits

There are many benefits and blessings associated with being a Prophecy Partner. First and foremost is the knowledge that your sacrificial support is going to a ministry whose purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ and to proclaim His soon return.

As a Prophecy Partner you will receive this magazine free of charge, and every other month you will receive a special gift together with a personal report from Dave Reagan highlighting major events and decisions affecting the ministry. Prophecy Partners are also eligible for a ten percent discount on all purchases of materials produced by the ministry.

To sign up as a Prophecy Partner, call our ministry at 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday. Thanks! ❖