

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Prophecy in
the Psalms



Observations by the Editor

Writing Books

With the publication of my 14th book, I thought I would take a moment to share with you some thoughts about writing books.

I love to write. I always have. But it's not easy. It takes a lot of patience and self-discipline.

My projects always begin with a lot of research. Next comes the organization of the research materials and my thoughts regarding them. Then, the writing begins. I always handwrite my first draft. The second draft occurs when I transfer my handwritten pages to the computer in the form of typed text.

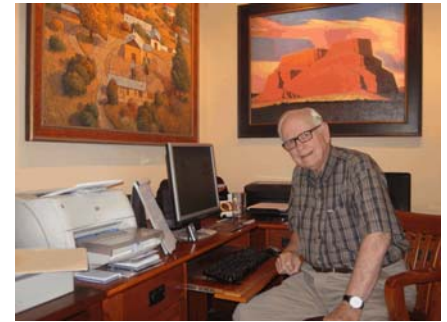
This is where I always pause and praise the Lord for computers. I can well remember the years between 1956, when I started to college, and 1980, when the first desktop computers came out. I had to hand type all my manuscripts on a mechanical typewriter. It was time consuming, exhausting and often very frustrating when it came to correcting errors. I must have used over a 100 gallons of liquid white-out over those years — a product I suspect that many of you have never heard of!

The first time I had to hire someone to type for me was in 1963 when it came time to submit my doctoral dissertation. It was 384 pages long, and one of the requirements was that there could be no erasures or corrections of any kind on any page!

What an unmitigated joy it is today to be able to just backspace the cursor on the computer and quickly erase or revise and then print the page without a flaw.

Except, of course, for typos. They drive me nuts, particularly since I seldom ever spot them. So, when I finish an article, a magazine or a book, the proof readers have to go to work. I have two who focus on the text and a third who checks the scripture references. Even so, errors always seem to sneak through.

The bottom line is that producing a book is a ton of hard work. And there is a lot of responsibility when it comes to writing about God's Word. And thus, when I write, I am constantly praying for insight and guidance.



Dr. David R. Reagan
Writing at his home office.

Books are incredibly important. I always think of my favorite Christian author, C. S. Lewis. He was a virtually unknown professor of medieval English at Oxford University when he was invited by the BBC in 1942 to broadcast a series of short commentaries about Christianity. The idea was to use the radio programs as a way to encourage the British people in the midst of the relentless aerial attacks by the Nazis.

Lewis presented the broadcasts, and they were probably heard by as many as a million people. If that was all that had happened, they would have been soon forgotten. But Lewis put the broadcast scripts together and published them in the form of a book called *Mere Christianity*. Needless to say, that book has impacted the lives of countless millions for Jesus all around the world, and it continues to do so today.

Books are changing their form today, becoming digital books that exist as electronic files. But the power of the written word has not changed. Just consider the Bible as an example!

Before the end of this year, I hope to complete another book, one that I am working on now. It will be titled, *Israel in Prophecy: Past, Present & Future*. I would appreciate your prayers as I work on it. ✚

Cover: Our cover features a painting titled, "King David Playing the Harp" by Gerard van Honthorst (1592 - 1656). He was a Dutch Golden Age painter who specialized in portraits. His painting of David with his harp was done in 1622.

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Prophecy in the Psalms



Stained glass window portraying King David playing the harp.
Image supplied by i-Stock Photos (www.istockphoto.com)

Dr. David R. Reagan

When teaching on the importance of Bible prophecy, one of the points I always mention is the quantity of prophecy that the Bible contains. I stress that anywhere from one-fourth to one-third of all the Scriptures are prophetic in nature, and that fact alone should be sufficient to compel our study of prophecy. I then remind my audience that we are told in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” And “all Scripture” certainly includes prophecy.

Most Christians are completely unaware of how much of the Bible is devoted to prophecy, just as most are unaware of the fact that the Bible is the only book in the world that contains fulfilled prophecies. There are, for example, no fulfilled prophecies in the Quran, the Hindu Vedras or the Book of Mormon. In contrast, the Bible contains hundreds of prophecies that have already been fulfilled — prophecies about people, towns, nations, empires and the Messiah.

Getting back to the quantity of prophecy, consider the fact that one out of every 25 verses in the New Testament have to do with the Second Coming of Jesus. And the Gospels are full of prophecies about Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection.

The New Testament contains entire books dedicated to prophecy — like 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Revelation. The Gospels contain lengthy passages devoted to prophecy. Consider, for example, Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21 and John 14-17. Other lengthy prophetic passages are scattered throughout the New Testament — Acts 1, Romans 9-11, 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 3-4, Titus 2, 1 Peter 1 & 4 and 2 Peter 3.

In the Old Testament, we immediately think of the Major and Minor Prophets — a total of 16 books. But these books are not the only ones in the Hebrew Scriptures that contain prophecy. Major prophetic passages can be found in the history books, a good example being Deuteronomy 28-30 where Moses prophecies that the Jewish people will one day be scattered worldwide and they will be persecuted wherever they go, but they will be preserved and regathered to their homeland.

The history books also contain Messianic prophecies. The virgin birth of the Messiah is prophesied in Genesis 3:15. In Deuteronomy 18:15-18 Moses prophesied that the Messiah would be a prophet. In Genesis 12:1-3 God promised Abraham that the Messiah would come through his lineage, and in Genesis 49:8 Jacob prophesied that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. The prophecy that the Messiah would come from the house of David within the tribe of Judah is stated in 2 Samuel 7:8-16.

The Neglected Prophecies

Perhaps the most overlooked area of the Old Testament with regard to prophecy is the book of Psalms. It's a major repository of Messianic prophecies concerning both the First and Second Advents of the Messiah. Some are direct and clear. Others are indirect and subtle.

Most scholars acknowledge that 16 of the Psalms are distinctly Messianic in nature. They are listed below in Figure 1.

All but three of these Psalms are directly quoted in the New Testament and applied to Jesus. The three not quoted are Psalm 24, Psalm 72, and Psalm 89. The most frequently quoted is Psalm 110. It is mentioned a total of fourteen times in the New Testament, more than any other Old Testament passage. Three other of these Messianic Psalms are mentioned frequently in the New Testament. They are Psalms 2 and 69, mentioned seven times each, and Psalm 118 which is cited a total of six times.

Together, these 16 Messianic Psalms present a panoramic survey of the First and Second Comings of Jesus. Figure 2 presents passages from these 16 psalms arranged in chronological order according to the events in the life of Jesus.

Other Messianic Psalms

The Messianic prophecies in the Psalms are by no means limited to the 16 which are referenced above. I would add the following 17 Psalms to the list as ones that are obviously Messianic in nature, relating to the Lord's Second Coming:

- 1) Psalms 18 and 21— Contain vivid and detailed descriptions of the Lord's return in wrath. (Psalm 18:7-19 and Psalm 21:8-13)
- 2) Psalm 46 — Pictures the exalted Lord in the midst of Jerusalem following His triumphant return.
- 3) Psalm 47 — A song of joy celebrating the Lord's reign as King of kings.
- 4) Psalm 48 —The beauty of millennial Jerusalem.
- 5) Psalm 76 — A description of the battle of Armageddon.
- 6) Psalms 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 — Songs of joy celebrating the Lord's reign over the nations.
- 7) Psalms 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150 — Praise songs celebrating the glory, majesty, and goodness of the Lord's reign.

Figure 1

Listing of Generally Recognized Messianic Psalms with Examples of Prophetic Passages

Psalm 2	— “You are My Son, today I have begotten You.” “I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance . . .”	— The Incarnation — The Reign of Jesus
Psalm 8	— “You have made him [the Son of Man] a little lower . . .”	— The Incarnation
Psalm 16	— “You will not abandon my soul to Sheol . . .”	— The Resurrection
Psalm 22	— “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” “All the families of the nations will worship before You.”	— The Crucifixion — The Millennium
Psalm 24	— “[Open] O gates . . . that the King of glory may come in.”	— The Second Coming
Psalm 40	— “Be pleased, O Lord to deliver me . . .”	— The Crucifixion
Psalm 41	— “Even my close friend, in whom I trusted . . .”	— The Betrayal
Psalm 45	— “She [the bride] will be led to the King . . .”	— The Rapture
Psalm 68	— “Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered . . .” “You have ascended on high . . .”	— The Second Coming — The Ascension
Psalm 69	— “They gave me gall for my food and for my thirst . . .” “For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah . . .”	— The Crucifixion — The Salvation of Israel
Psalm 72	— “Give the king Your judgments, O God . . .”	— The Reign of Jesus
Psalm 89	— “I shall make My first-born the highest of the kings . . .”	— The Reign of Jesus
Psalm 91	— “I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high . . .”	— The Resurrection
Psalm 102	— “Nations [and kings] will fear the name of the Lord . . .”	— The Reign of Jesus
Psalm 110	— “The Lord says to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand . . .’” “The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion.” “He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.”	— The Ascension — The Reign of Jesus — The Second Coming
Psalm 118	— “The stone which the builders rejected has become . . .” “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”	— The Resurrection — The Triumphal Entry

The addition of these 17 Psalms gives us a total of 33 Messianic Psalms. But even these 33 do not exhaust the rich treasure of prophetic material that is contained in the Psalms. In fact, the fundamental prophetic theme of the Psalms is not even reflected in any of the Messianic Psalms thus far identified.

Prophetic Themes

The basic prophetic focus of the Psalms is the suffering of the Jews during the Tribulation. From Psalm 3 through Psalm 144, there are 59 prayers for deliverance from tribulation. Twelve entire Psalms (80, 82, 88, 90, 120, 126, 129, 137, & 141-144) are devoted to earnest cries for deliverance from intense suffering.

Some might object to classifying these passages as prophetic in nature, arguing that they are simply the prayers of David and others who cried out to God in the midst of desperate situations. But some of the prayers are definitely national in nature (for example, Psalms 80 and 83). Some refer to specific wars in the end times, like Psalm 83. Others describe situations so horrible that they seem to point to the Great Tribulation for their fulfillment (see Psalms 14, 60, and 94).

As for the prayers that are definitely personal in nature, keep

in mind that such utterances can have profound prophetic significance. The classic example is Psalm 22 where David in a moment of desperation cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" This was a personal prayer of David's, yet it was prophetic of the incredible agony that Jesus would suffer on the Cross when the sins of Mankind were placed upon Him and His perfect communion with His Father was broken for the first time. David's words became the Lord's words as He suffered on the Cross.

Likewise, I have no doubt that the Jews will turn to the Psalms in the midst of the Great Tribulation and pray these very prayers to God for their deliverance from God's wrath and the wrath of the Antichrist. Imagine yourself as a Jew in the Tribulation, hated by the nations and hunted like an animal by the Antichrist and his forces, and then read Psalm 88.

Statements of Faith, Rejoicing and Thanksgiving

Many of these heart-wrenching prayers are interspersed with triumphant statements of faith in God, as if the one crying out so desperately is trying to reassure himself that God is listening and will answer. Psalm 68:19-20 is typical:

Figure 2

Prophetic Passages from the Messianic Psalms Arranged in Chronological Order

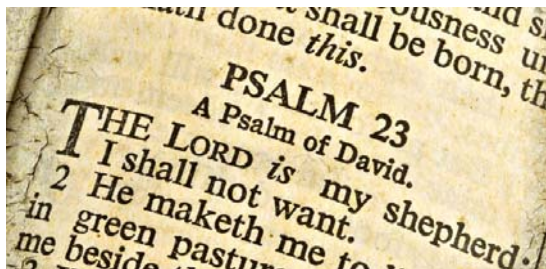
A. The First Coming

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------|
| 1) Psalm 8:4-5; 40:6-10 | — | The Incarnation |
| 2) Psalm 91:9-13 | — | The Temptation |
| 3) Psalm 8:2; 118:25-26 | — | The Triumphal Entry |
| 4) Psalm 69:1-19 | — | The Gethsemane Agony |
| 5) Psalm 41:9 | — | The Betrayal |
| 6) Psalm 22:1-21; 40:13-17; 69:20-21 | — | The Crucifixion |
| 7) Psalm 16:8-11; 22:19-24; 91:11-16; 118:22 | — | The Resurrection |
| 8) Psalm 68:18; 110:1 | — | The Ascension |
| 9) Psalm 118:22 | — | The Church |

B. The Second Coming

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) Psalm 45:1-17 | — | The Rapture and the Marriage Feast |
| 2) Psalm 24:7-10 | — | The Return of the King of Glory |
| 3) Psalm 68:1-3; 110:5 | — | The Pouring Out of God's Wrath |
| 4) Psalm 2:4-9; 72:1-4; 89:19-29; 102:15; 110:2 | — | The King Reigns from Mt. Zion |
| 5) Psalm 110:1-7 | — | The King is a Priest and Judge |
| 6) Psalm 2:8; 8:3-9; 22:27-29 | — | The Dominion of the King |
| 7) Psalm 69:35-36; 102:12-22 | — | The Salvation and Restoration of Israel |
| 8) Psalm 22:25-31; 72:1-19 | — | The Millennium |
| 9) Psalm 89:4,27-29,36-37 | — | The Eternal Nature of the Reign |

Blessed be the Lord,
 Who daily bears our burden,
 The God who is our salvation.
 God is to us a God of deliver-
 ances;
 And to GOD the Lord belong
 escapes from death.



There are 46 such affirmations of faith contained in the prayers for deliverance. I can imagine the hard pressed Jews reading, memorizing, and reciting these statements during the darkest days of the Tribulation. Keep in mind, the prophet Zechariah says that two-thirds of the Jews will be destroyed during those terrible years (Zechariah 13:8).

Another repetitive theme of the Psalms is rejoicing and thanksgiving for the Lord's deliverance. Take Psalm 66 for example. It is an emotional and uninhibited song of praise for the national deliverance of Israel. You can imagine the leaping and clapping and dancing of the Jewish Remnant as you read the opening lines: "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!"

Sometimes a single Psalm will contain all three of these prophetic themes: 1) A cry for deliverance; 2) A statement of faith; and 3) A song of praise for God's delivering response. Psalm 54 is a good example of the combination of these themes:

- 1) The Cry for Deliverance — "Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your power. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen against me, and violent men have sought my life; they have not set God before them" (vs. 1-3).
- 2) The Expression of Faith — "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul. He will recompense the evil to my foes; destroy them in Your faithfulness" (vs. 4-5).
- 3) Praise for Deliverance — "Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good. For He has delivered me from all trouble; and my eye has looked with satisfaction upon my enemies" (vs. 6-7).

Prophetic Units

A fascinating aspect of the Psalms is that they contain clusters of prophecies that relate to each other. The best known of these clusters is the prophetic trilogy of Psalms 22, 23, and 24.

Psalm 22 pictures Jesus in agony on the Cross. In Psalm 23 He is our resurrected High Priest, shepherding His flock through the power of His Spirit. In Psalm 24, He is the King of Glory who has returned to Jerusalem to reign over the nations. See Figure 3 below.

Other significant prophetic clusters in the Psalms are listed below:

- A. Psalms 45-48
 - 1) Psalm 45 — The Rapture
 - 2) Psalm 46 — The Second Coming
 - 3) Psalm 47 — Hallelujah! Jesus Reigns!
 - 4) Psalm 48 — The Glory of Millennial Jerusalem
- B. Psalms 52-54
 - 1) Psalm 52 — The Fate of the Antichrist
 - 2) Psalm 53 — The Fate of the Ungodly
 - 3) Psalm 54 — The Fate of the Godly
- C. Psalms 65-67
 - 1) Psalm 65 — Praise for the Millennial Bounty of Nature
 - 2) Psalm 66 — Praise for the Jew's Deliverance
 - 3) Psalm 67 — Praise for God's Equitable Judgment of the Nations
- D. Psalms 109-111
 - 1) Psalm 109 — Prayer for the Destruction of the Antichrist
 - 2) Psalm 110 — Jesus Triumphs and Reigns as King and Priest
 - 3) Psalm 111 — Praise to the Lord for His Faithfulness in Keeping His Covenant Promises
- E. Clusters of the Major Prophetic Themes
 - 1) Psalms 3-7 — Cries for Deliverance
 - 2) Psalms 103-105 — Expressions of Faith
 - 3) Psalms 141-144 — Praises for Deliverance

Figure 3

Psalm 22	Psalm 23	Psalm 24
1) Suffering Savior	1) Ministering High Priest	1) Reigning King of Glory
2) First Advent	2) Spirit Advent	2) Second Advent
3) Redeemer	3) High Priest & Anointer	3) King
4) Good Shepherd "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)	4) Great Shepherd "The God of peace . . . brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep . . . even Jesus our Lord." (Hebrews 13:20)	4) Chief Shepherd "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:4)

- 4) Psalms 95-99 — Celebrations of the Lord's Reign
- 5) Psalms 145-150 — Praises of the King of Kings

Psalms 45 to 48

Let's take a closer look at one of these clusters whose psalms focus on the return of Jesus:

- 1) The Rapture — "The King's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is interwoven with gold. She will be led to the King in embroidered work; The virgins, her companions who follow her, will be brought to You. They will be led forth with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter into the King's palace" (Psalm 45:13-15).
- 2) The Second Coming — "The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. 'Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold" (Psalm 46:6-11).
- 3) Hallelujah! Jesus Reigns! — "O clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with the voice of joy. For the LORD Most High is to be feared, a great King over all the earth. He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet . . . Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth . . . God reigns over the nations" (Psalm 47:1-8).
- 4) The Glory of Millennial Jerusalem — "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion in the far north, the city of the great King. God, in her palaces, has made Himself known as a stronghold . . . Let Mount Zion be glad, let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments. Walk about Zion and go around her; count her towers; consider her ramparts; go through her palaces, that you may tell it to the next generation" (Psalm 48:1-3, 11-13).

Chronological Aspects

A popular theory in the late 20th Century theorized that the Psalms contained a chronological code. This theory was spelled out in detail by J. R. Church in his book, *Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms* (1986). The thesis was that since the book of Psalms is the 19th book of the Old Testament, it represents the 1900s, and thus Psalm 1 is prophetic of 1901, Psalm 2 of 1902, and so on. Psalms 88-94 were viewed in this interpretation as a picture of the Tribulation Period, corresponding to the years 1988-1994.

The theory was very unconvincing to me. First, it suggested Kabbalism, a form of Jewish mysticism that claims the real message of Scripture is encoded below the surface words. But a greater problem is that it did not line up with historical events.

For example, there is nothing in Psalm 48 that is prophetic of the re-establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The Psalm

is all about the beauty of Jerusalem. After the dust settled in the 1948 War of Liberation, Jerusalem was not even a part of the newly established Jewish State! The Jews did not re-occupy the city of Jerusalem until the Six Day War of 1967, yet Psalm 67 does not even mention Jerusalem.

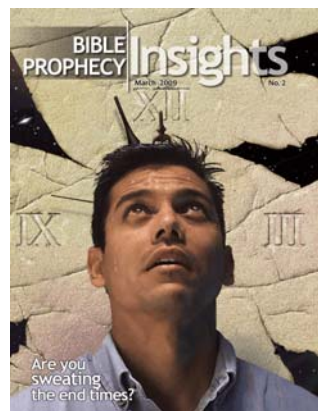
A further problem for this theory of interpretation was presented by the fact that the Rapture of the Church is clearly portrayed in Psalm 45 where the Bride is pictured as being led to the Bridegroom-King. Yet, the Rapture did not occur in 1945. Also, Psalm 93 portrays the reign of the Lord — *before* the Tribulation was supposed to end in 1994!

Of course, with the passage of time, this once popular chronological theory has been completely disproved. ✚

Two Expositions of Messianic Psalms

Our ministry has produced two detailed expositions of Messianic prophecies contained in the Psalms.

The first is a verse-by-verse explanation of Psalm 2, which Dr. Reagan considers to be one of the most important Second Coming prophecies in all the Bible. This is the sermon that Dr. Reagan has preached more than any other — almost 150 times. It is available in printed form as one of our "Bible Prophecy Insights" publications. It is also available in visual form as a DVD video. The Insights publication is titled, "Are You Sweating the End Times?" It sells for two dollars. The video runs 60 minutes in length and sells for \$12. We are offering both for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. Ask for the Psalm 2 Special.



The second verse-by-verse exposition of a psalm is one that Dr. Reagan has provided for Psalm 22. This is certainly one of the most remarkable Messianic prophecies in all the Bible. It was written by David 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus, and yet it prophesies that the Messiah will be executed by crucifixion! You can read the article on our website at www.lamblion.com. Just click on "Publications" and then on "Magazines," and then go to the issue for September-October 2004. ✚



Signs on Steroids!

Hal Lindsey

[Editor's note: This article first appeared on "The Hal Lindsey Report" on April 11, 2014. It is reprinted here by permission of Hal Lindsey. For other articles of his, see: www.hallindsey.com.]

As I write these words, I am amazed at the speed with which events are moving today. I receive constant updates from across the world so that I can bring you perspective each week on how those developments fit into the end times' prophetic scenario.

But sometimes it's almost too much.

The Bible tells us that in the last days, the "signs" of the times will appear with ever-increasing frequency and intensity. In our modern lingo, maybe we could describe this phenomena as "*the signs of the times on steroids!*"

But not everything that advances the prophetic scenario of the final days of this Age is an identifiable "event" like an earthquake or a war, etc. Much of what clues us in to the fact that these are the final days can be found in the rapid deterioration of our ideals, morals, and societal values.

Attempts to Stifle Dissent



I've been reading today about stunning recent revelations concerning the collusion between prominent Democrat lawmakers and the IRS to stifle dissenting opinion. Not only am I alarmed, I'm sickened by the dishonesty, duplicity, and deviousness of those who are desperately trying to subvert our nation and destroy the values and traditions that have made America the greatest nation on earth.

But this ramping up of the battle to silence Christians and those of conservative moral values is predicted for these days by the ancient prophets. I'm not surprised, but I'm still dismayed that many of our own government leaders are seeking to tear down what has been granted to us by the mercy and favor of God.

Attempts to Strong-Arm Israel



John Kerry

In the past few weeks, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry seems to have finally hit the wall. He's been chasing around frantically the last 14 months in a mad dash to resolve the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. He has seemed determined, to the point of obsession, to succeed where all others have failed. That is, to finally bring "peace" to the Middle East.

Nine months ago, Kerry pressured Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) into another round of negotiations in search of a settlement. As that period drew to a close, Mahmoud Abbas decided to break his promise to Kerry and begin signing on to several United Nations treaties and



Hal Lindsey, host of "The Hal Lindsey Report" TV program.

conventions. His plan is to join as many UN entities as possible and thereby imply "statehood status" for the Palestinian Authority even though it is not a state.

The move angered Kerry and he abruptly cancelled a scheduled final trip to Israel. Then he told the press that the U.S. could not continue to deal with this issue "indefinitely." At the time, he seemed to blame both parties for not wanting peace.

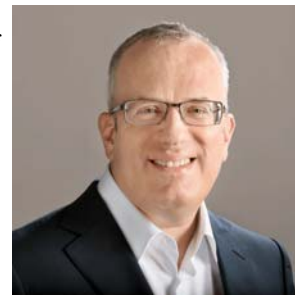
In the meantime, I suppose the powerful Muslim lobby in the White House flexed its muscle and when Secretary Kerry showed up at a Congressional hearing this week, he placed the blame for the breakdown squarely on Israel's shoulders. Of course, for this Administration, that's standard operating procedure. Nonetheless, the slam has infuriated Israel's leadership. And rightly so.

You know, Mr. Kerry could save himself a lot of grief if he took some time to study the Bible and take its warnings to heart. The prophet Zechariah warned that in the last days, Jerusalem will become "a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured . . ." (Zechariah 12:3). But I don't find any indication in the Bible that the world's leaders will take that warning seriously.

Attempts to Force Acceptance of Homosexuality

After watching the homosexual movement wreak its vengeance on all who disagree with it, much less oppose it (I'm thinking Chick-Fil-A, Elane Photography in New Mexico, Phil Robertson, even as far back as Anita Bryant), why am I surprised at the latest example of the fascist intolerance of the LGBT crowd?

Brendan Eich, the inventor of JavaScript and one of the co-founders of Mozilla (best known for its Firefox web browser), was recently named Chief Executive Officer at Mozilla. After only 10 days on the job, Eich was forced to resign because six years ago he donated \$1,000 to an organization supporting California Proposition 8.



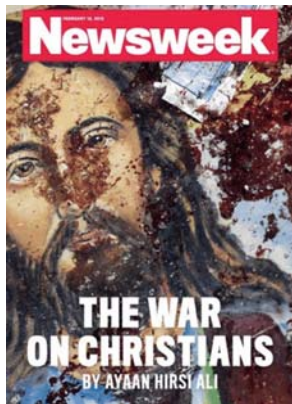
Brendan Eich

Prop 8 was an amendment passed by California voters in 2008 to overturn a judge's decision to allow same-sex marriage in California.

In a pathetic effort to placate the LGBT movement's anti-free-speech crusaders, the chairwoman of Mozilla's board issued a gratuitous, nauseating apology. Here are a few pertinent lines: "Mozilla prides itself on being held to a different standard and, this past week, we didn't live up to it . . . We're sorry. We must do better . . . Mozilla believes both in equality and freedom of speech. Equality is necessary for meaningful speech. And you need free speech to fight for equality."

I must apologize. If you heard the peal of disbelieving laughter in the background, that was me. Can you believe that Chairwoman Mitchell Baker actually had the audacity to use the need for free speech to defend the forced resignation of Mr. Eich for engaging in free speech? And she did it with a straight face. And she got away with it. Maybe after that bravura performance she's being considered to replace Kathleen Sebelius at HHS!

Attempts to Silence Christians



Many of you think I'm over the top when I warn you that persecution (and eventual prosecution) is just up the road for Christians right here in America. And the justification for it will have its roots in a brilliant satanic device called "political correctness." If a man who is a genuine "star" in the hi-tech software world can lose his job because he exercised his constitutional right to express his opinion six years ago, then mark my words, it can happen to you.

Of course, it will only happen to you if you stand for something like the Constitution of the United States or Jesus Christ. If you don't, then you have no worries. But if you exercise your rights to freedom of speech or freedom of religion or if you have the audacity to publicly declare the claims of Jesus Christ or Biblical values, then you're in for a rocky road.

And I can say this with authority because this is not simply a political or ideological conflict. This is a spiritual conflict. In fact, this boils down to Satan's war with the Word of God. Beginning in the Garden of Eden when Satan first planted doubt in Eve's mind about God's truthfulness and continuing to his direct contradiction of God's explicit word to Adam and Eve, his goal has been to destroy our confidence in and reliance on God's immutable Word.

And in today's increasingly "politically correct" atmosphere, *Satan's plan is to intimidate us into shutting up.* The first thing he wants to do is silence us because the last thing he wants is for us to boldly declare the truth of God's Word.



Never before has it been so important for us to realize the power of the Word of God. In the days to come, it will be the rock on which we will stand or by which we will be broken. ❖

Fraud is Driving Us Closer to the Mark of the Beast

Todd Strandberg



Todd Strandberg

[Editor's note: Todd Strandberg is the founder of the Rapture Ready website at www.raptureready.com. He writes regularly about financial issues that are related to end time Bible prophecy.]

As long as there has been money, people have used various forms of fraud to scam their way into wealth. This illicit activity has played out in a race between law enforcement and criminals. As technology has gotten better, crooks

have used more complex tools to produce money that looks like the real thing.

For hundreds of years, the battle with counterfeiters evolved at a very slow pace. When the Secret Service began tracking phony bills, most of them were drawn completely by hand because printing presses were a technology that only governments could access. As printing became more abundant, criminals had greater ability to mass produce forged bank notes.

The introduction of digital printing has made it very difficult for governments to stay ahead of counterfeiters. These machines are so skilled at producing fine print that the Treasury Department has had to add an increasing number of features to maintain the security of our currency. Every few years, the Treasury will come out with a new design.



The Need for a New Form of Money

Technology has advanced to a point where a new form of money is needed. Here are four reasons why I think a major change will occur:

Credit Card Fraud — I'm sure most of you have read about the 110 million credit cards that were stolen from Target. The increased usage of online payment and debit cards has made this form of money a key interest for criminals. Once crooks have your account and pin number, the cards are as good as cash. They use three main methods for stealing card number information: hacking into networks, buying data from insiders, or tricking people into giving up their personal information.

3D Printing — The demise of physical currency may be the result of three dimensional printing technology. Right now, 3D printing can only work with metals and plastics, but eventually these machines will be able to work with almost any material. Someday you will be able to put a \$100 bill on a scanner, and out will come a copy of the bill that is so exact, a powerful microscope would be needed to tell the difference.



Can the Rapture be Found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Crypto-currencies — The first crypto-currency to begin trading was Bitcoin in 2009. Since then over 75 other forms of digital money have been established. They all rely on cryptography to control their creation and transfer funds. What makes them popular is the fact they are anonymous and are not linked to any government. They all have a flaw that could someday make them worthless. If someone is able to get around or decipher the code that protects these crypto-currencies, they could steal them away from their rightful owners. Some types of spyware programs could be the tool for accomplishing the task. Eventually, all forms of encryption may become vulnerable as the government develops quantum computers that can instantly decipher even the toughest codes.

Gold and Silver — Precious metals would seem to be resistant to any form of counterfeiting. So far, scientists haven't figured out a way to turn lead into gold, but some people have figured out how to make less valuable metals look like gold and silver. When precious metals reached a high in 2011, a large number of fake coins and bars were produced in China. Because some of them were coated with a layer of gold and silver on the outside, with a mix of cheap metals on the inside, only a coin expert could spot the fakes.

If the government is able to trace all monetary transactions in the world, a thief would be unable to use force to steal someone else's money. Even if they tricked someone into handing over a \$1000, the victim could appeal to the justice system to have the transaction reversed.

The War on Terror has already placed cash in a very negative light. Recently, a 33 year old man named Conor Guckian, was arrested at the Nashville International Airport because he had \$153,000 cash in his briefcase. Officials arrested him because they assumed the money was connected to drugs. Even though Mr. Guckian looked very suspicious, charging him with drug money laundering makes criminals out of everyone who carries large amounts of cash. We've come a long way since the days when author, Hunter S. Thompson, could pay for his drugs with a two million dollar check that had "cocaine" written in the memo field without the bank contacting the feds.

When I first started studying prophecy, I wondered how the Antichrist would be able to get everyone to lineup and receive the mark of the beast. Back then, there were all types of civil rights watch groups, and anything that hinted of a "big brother" move by the government was automatically shot down. Today, the watchdogs are all gone and "big brother" is your friend. All the beast would need to do is get people to take the 666 mark as an offer for a safe platform for conducting financial transactions.

"He required everyone — great and small, rich and poor, slave and free — to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name" (Revelation 13:16-17 NLT). ❖

"Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction . . ." 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASB)

The Bible never precisely states when the Rapture of the Church will take place. That's why there is so much disagreement over when it will occur. All positions are based on inferences in the Scriptures.

Some believe the Rapture will occur in the middle of the Tribulation. Others place it near the end. And some combine it with the Second Coming. I happen to believe that the best inference of the Scriptures is that it will occur before the Tribulation begins.

I have many reasons for my belief, including scripture verses, prophetic symbolism, and logic. I have written about these reasons in detail in articles that are posted on our website (www.lamblion.com). I hope someday to put all my arguments together in a book devoted to the subject.

With regard to scripture verses, some of the more important ones that relate to the Rapture's timing are the following:

Luke 21:36 — ". . . keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Jesus spoke these words in His Olivet Discourse which He delivered to His disciples the week He was crucified. They concluded a long speech in which He outlined the major signs of the end times that would signal the season of His return. Notice that He says that believers should live anticipating the Lord's appearance at any time, and that they are to pray for their escape from all the horrors of the end times which He had been talking about. To me, this passage strongly infers a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 — ". . . you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come."

I consider this passage to be the most convincing one that points to a Pre-Trib Rapture. After all, the Bible clearly teaches in both the Old and New Testaments that the Tribulation will be a period of the pouring out of God's wrath (Isaiah 24 and Revelation 6-19). This verse promises that Jesus will deliver believers "from the wrath that is to come." A similar promise can be found in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 which states: "For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ . . ."

Revelation 3:10 — "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

These are some of the words that Jesus addressed to the church at Philadelphia. They constitute a promise that true believers will be kept from the testing that will one day encompass the entire world. We know from many other scriptures, including Revelation 6-19, that the “hour of testing” will be the Tribulation period of seven years when the wrath of God will be poured out on the earth (Revelation 11:18 and 15:1).

There are many other verses that refer to the Rapture besides these. I have isolated these three passages because they give us clues as to the timing of the Rapture — namely, that it will take place before the Tribulation begins.

Another Pre-Trib Passage?

There is another verse that is often cited as proof that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins. It is the one I quoted at the beginning of this article — 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

The reason it is often presented as evidence of a Pre-Trib Rapture is because it states that “the day of the Lord” (The Tribulation and Millennium) will not occur until “the apostasy comes first.” How does this relate to the timing of the Rapture? Because the word, “apostasy” can also mean “departure.” And thus, this verse could be saying that the departure of the Church must occur before “the man of lawlessness” (the Antichrist) is revealed and the Tribulation begins.

I personally have never thought much of this argument. I am always suspicious of biblical doctrines that are based on alternative translations. People who are straining to prove a doctrinal point, will often look in a Greek or Hebrew lexicon for the definition of a word and then will choose whichever one fits their pre-conceived doctrine. The problem with this approach is that the true meaning of words must always be determined by their context, not by the possible alternative definitions.

A New Insight



Tommy Ice

But recently, my thinking about 2 Thessalonians 2:3 has changed — all because of an outstanding presentation on the subject that I heard Tommy Ice make at a conference where the two of us were speaking.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Tommy Ice, he is a biblical scholar who graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary and who serves as the Director of the Pre-Trib Research Center (www.pre-trib.org).

Tommy pointed out that the Greek noun, *apostasia*, is used only twice in the New Testament. The other occurrence is in Acts 21:21 where it states that an accusation was made against Paul that he was “teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake [*apostasia*] Moses.”

The word is used in verb form a total of 15 times in the New Testament, and only three of these have anything to do with a departure from the faith (Luke 8:13, 1 Timothy 4:1, and Hebrews 3:12). In other settings, the word is used for departing from iniquity (2 Timothy 2:19), departing from ungodly men (1

Timothy 6:5), departing from the temple (Luke 2:27), departing from the body (2 Corinthians 12:8), and departing from persons (Acts 12:10 and Luke 4:13).

This insight about the use and meaning of the word was certainly compelling, but the argument Tommy presented that was most convicting to me was his revelation that the first seven English translations of the Bible rendered the noun, *apostasia*, as either “departure” or “departing.” They were as follows:¹

- 1) The Wycliffe Bible (1384)
- 2) The Tyndale Bible (1526)
- 3) The Coverdale Bible (1535)
- 4) The Cranmer Bible (1539)
- 5) The Great Bible (1540)
- 6) The Beeches Bible (1576)
- 7) The Geneva Bible (1608)

Tommy also noted that the Bible used by the Western world from 400 AD to the 1500s — Jerome’s Latin translation known as “The Vulgate” — rendered *apostasia* with the Latin word, *discessio*, which means “departure.”

The first translation of the word to mean apostasy in an English Bible did not occur until 1611 when the King James Version was issued. So, why did the King James translators introduce a completely new rendering of the word as “falling away”? The best guess is that they were taking a stab at the false teachings of Catholicism.

One other point Tommy Ice made that I thought was significant is that Paul used a definite article with the word *apostasia*. The significance of this is emphasized by Daniel Davey in a thesis he wrote for the Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary:²

Since the Greek language does not need an article to make the noun definite, it becomes clear that with the usage of the article, reference is being made to something in particular. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 the word *apostasia* is prefaced by the definite article which means that Paul is pointing to a particular type of departure clearly known to the Thessalonian church.

In light of this grammatical point, Tommy observed that “the use of the definite article would support the notion that Paul spoke of a clear, discernable notion.”³ And that notion he had already identified in verse 1 when he stated that he was writing about “our gathering together to Him [Jesus].”

This interpretation also corresponds to the point that Paul makes in verses 6 and 7 where he states that the man of lawlessness will not come until what “restrains” him “is taken out of the way.”

And what it is that restrains evil in the world today? The Holy Spirit working through the Church. ✚

Notes:

- 1) Tommy Ice, “Is the Rapture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3?” www.raptureready.com/featured/ice/TheRapturein2Thessalonians2_3.html, page 2.
- 2) Daniel K. Davey, “The ‘Apostasia’ of 2 Thessalonians 2:3,” Th.M. thesis, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, May 1982, p 47.
- 3) Tommy Ice, page 2.

8 Life-Changing Prophecies

Nathan E. Jones

Can your life be changed by Bible prophecy?

Well, did you know there's no religious book, not the Koran nor the Hindu Vedas nor any other holy book out there, that has real fulfilled prophecy? Like for instance, a Muslim will say, "Sura 81:6 says wild beasts will gather together, so therefore, oh, we have zoos today, therefore that's fulfilled prophecy." That's not fulfilled prophecy! That's just a generally vague statement that invites any convenient interpretation.



Nathan Jones aboard a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

No, I'm talking about explicit, highly detailed, fulfilled prophecies. The world has just one source for this caliber of prophecy — the genuine Word of God found in the Bible.

Now get this. Not counting prophecies in the Bible that have to do with Israel or the Church or nations, let's just focus on those First Coming prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Did you know there are 109 specific prophecies made about the Messiah's First Coming? Mathematician Peter Stoner calculated that just 8 of those 109 prophecies being fulfilled in the life of one man is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That's a 1 followed by 17 zeros! That number's impossible, unless there's an omniscient God involved.

Valid Prophecies?

Are you wondering if maybe those prophecies were written after the fact? You can read the prophecies from the Psalms, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets and other biblical books and be assured that they have been historically and archaeologically proven without a doubt to predate their fulfillment. Those books were written hundreds of years before Jesus came to this earth. There's no credible debate to this fact.

As to when Jesus was here, we have firsthand eye witness accounts in the Gospels. And we have extra-biblical support from contemporary historians such as Josephus and Tacitus who testified that Jesus was on this earth in the First Century.

The God of the universe knows everything from beginning to end. He knew what would happen to His Son before the earth was even created. With such divine foreknowledge, we can be assured of the fact that these prophecies were not written after their fulfillment.

Eight Messianic Prophecies

Not convinced? Let's then look at just eight of the events concerning the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled at His First Coming:

1) Nature of birth — Seven hundred years before Jesus was born it was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. The fulfillment of this prophecy can be found in Matthew 1, where we are told that Jesus was born of a woman who never had sexual relations with a man.

2) City of birth — About the same time as Isaiah, Micah prophesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, and not just any Bethlehem, but Bethlehem Ephrathah, located just south of Jerusalem (Micah 5:2). In Israel at the time there were two Bethlehems, kind of like we have a Springfield in almost every state today. Matthew 2 and Luke 2 confirm that Jesus was born in the specified Bethlehem.

3) Heralded by a messenger — Isaiah 40:3-5 prophesied that the Messiah would have a herald who would come before Him, and that role was fulfilled by John the Baptist.

4) Perform miracles — Isaiah 35:5-6 foretold that the Messiah would be able to perform miracles that no other human could do. Throughout the New Testament, Jesus healed the blind, fed the poor, and raised the dead.

5) Preach the Good News — Isaiah 61:1 prophesied that the Messiah would proclaim good news. Jesus taught that through faith in His sacrifice and resurrection you can be forgiven for your rebellion against God and restored to Him. Jesus saves people from their sin and its sentence of Hell when they repent and accept Him as Savior, making it possible for us to fellowship with God for all of eternity. Sounds like good news to me!

6) Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver — Zechariah 11:12-13 foretold that the Messiah would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver which would be used to buy a potter's field. That's the exact coinage Judas Iscariot was paid for betraying Jesus (Matthew 27:9-10).

7) Executed by crucifixion — Psalm 22:16 prophesied that the Messiah would die by having His hands and feet pierced. This psalm was written by David 1,000 years before Jesus was born. Capital punishment at the time the prophecy was written was by stoning.

8) Timing of the Messiah — Daniel 9:25-26 provides the exact number of days until the Messiah would come to die. From the decree by Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem to Matthew 21 when Jesus came riding triumphantly into the city was exactly 173,880 days, just as was prophesied by Daniel. Amazing!

I could go on and on, for there are 101 other prophecies that Jesus fulfilled concerning the First Coming of the Messiah.

So, if Jesus fulfilled 100% of the First Coming prophecies, then what percentage of the Second Coming prophecies do you think He will fulfill? Clearly, 100%! And keep in mind that there's a whopping 500 Old Testament verses about the Messiah's return, and one out of every 25 verses in the New Testament are about the Second Coming.

When you see all of these Bible prophecies being fulfilled in the life of one person — Jesus Christ — you can only conclude that Jesus truly is the Messiah, and that the Bible is the true Word of God and therefore trustworthy. You can then put your faith in Jesus and grab hold of His salvation and the promise of everlasting life. A foundation of trust is what Bible prophecy gives us, and that knowledge will change your life. ❖

The Suicide of the Episcopal Church —

The Episcopal Church in America is in the midst of a meltdown, and its national leaders don't seem to have a clue as to what is the problem.

At the beginning of our nation, in 1776, the Episcopal Church was the largest denomination in America. Today, its membership has dropped so drastically that there are now 20 times more Baptists than Episcopalians. Catholics out-number Episcopalians 33 to 1. Even the African Methodist Episcopal denomination has passed the Episcopalians.

The fact of the matter is that the Episcopal Church is literally hemorrhaging members. During the ten years from 1992 to 2002, the church's membership plunged from 3.4 million to 2.3 million, for a 32 percent loss — and those are the official statistics. The reality is undoubtedly much worse.

The denomination is currently trying to sell its national headquarters in New York City because it can no longer service the debt at the rate of \$8.5 million annually. Yet, last year they spent \$18 million suing their own local congregations! These were churches that wanted to leave the denomination and take their property and buildings with them. The national headquarters maintains that it owns all the property and facilities of its member congregations, and thus far the courts have upheld this position. So, some of the largest congregations in the United States have been forced to vacate their facilities and move elsewhere. The result is that the denomination is now the proud owner of scores of empty buildings nationwide which they are unable to maintain or sell.

Meanwhile, at its national convention in April, the House of Bishops approved a new blessing for gay unions, and the full General Convention voted in favor of acceptance of transgender clergy. It could have been worse. A few years ago the convention refused even to consider a resolution affirming that Jesus Christ is Lord!

During this year's convention, the Episcopal AIDS Coalition handed out free condoms. One delegate observed: "All the talk at the convention was about sex. There was absolutely no talk about sin."



Katharine Jefferts Schori

The church's ultra-liberal presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, openly mocks most of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, including the incarnation and the Trinity. She often refers to God as "The Big Man," and she recently referred to Jesus as "Mother Jesus." She has started urging that people "cross the boundaries and become God" so that "their hands become a sacrament of mission."

Six bishops are currently poised to take their large dioceses out of the American church and align them with conservative Anglican groups in Africa and South America. (Source: "The Meltdown of Liberal Christianity — Episcopal Church Near Collapse?" by Rob Kerby.)

TIMES and Seasons

Homosexuality and Christianity —

The highly respected Christian publishing company called Multnomah recently shocked the Evangelical world by announcing that it was going to publish a book that defends homosexuality and same sex marriage. The book is titled, *God and the Gay Christian*. It was written by Matthew Vines who is an openly gay Christian speaker and LGBT activist, known for the YouTube video, "The Gay Debate: The Bible and Homosexuality."

Messianic Jewish leader, Michael Brown, responded to the news by stating, "It is a sad and shameful day when a major Christian publisher releases such a book and claims that it is a solid evangelical publication. This is abhorrent, disgraceful, and terribly misleading. And it needs to be addressed and exposed."

Matt Barber, founder and editor-in-chief of BarbWire.com, added that Vines is "a homosexual activist and Bible revisionist known for manipulating Christian terminology to advance the counter-Christian homosexualist agenda."

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. responded to the book by characterizing it as "the first step in a larger effort to fundamentally recast long-held, universally acknowledged norms pertaining to sexual ethics."

Michael Brown had previously written a book on the subject that was titled, *Can You Be Gay and Christian?* He responded to Vines' book with a scathing essay titled "Let the Separation Come." Here are some of his comments:

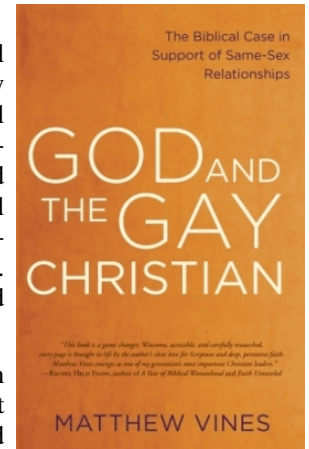


Michael Brown

"The question of 'gay Christianity' is not a minor issue. That's why I welcome the coming of a separation over this issue . . . Division for the sake of truth can be healthy. Now is one of those times . . . Without a doubt, this issue will become a great dividing line in the Church, and I for one welcome it, since it points to a much deeper divide in our approach to God, His Word, and the people He wants to redeem. Ultimately, it will separate those

who put God first and ask, 'How can I fulfill His desires?' from those who put themselves first and ask, 'How can He fulfill my desires?' . . . There is no ambiguity in what the Bible says about homosexual practice . . . there is not a single positive example of a homosexual relationship in the Word; and marriage, by its God-ordained definition from the beginning, is the union of one man and woman for life."

The National Religious Broadcasters responded to Vines' book by forcing Multnomah to resign from its organization. ❖



Pets in Heaven —

One of the most frequent questions we receive is whether or not we will have our pets in Heaven. We have published articles about this issue, including some observations by Dr. Reagan. You can find them on our website at www.lamblion.com. Just type in the word, pets.

The ministry has also produced a video album titled “Heaven: Its Nature and Meaning.” One segment of this video deals with the issue of whether or not we will be blessed with our pets in Heaven. You can order this 75-minute video by calling our ministry or accessing our website. It sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping.

Recently, Dr. Reagan ran across a remarkable poem about pets going to Heaven. It was written by the great English poet, Rudyard Kipling. He titled it, “A Dog For Jesus (Where dogs go when they die).” It reads as follows:

I wish someone had given Jesus a dog
As loyal and loving as mine
To sleep by His manger and gaze in His eyes
And adore Him for being divine.

As our Lord grew to manhood, His faithful dog
Would have followed Him all through the day
While He preached to the crowds and make the sick well
And knelt in the garden to pray.

It is sad to remember that Christ went away
To face death alone and apart
With no tender dog following close behind
To comfort its Master’s heart.

And when Jesus rose on that Easter morn,
How happy He would have been
As His dog kissed His hand and barked its delight
For the One who died for all men.

Well the Lord has a dog now, I just sent Him mine,
The old pal so dear to me.
And I smile through my tears on this first day alone
Knowing they’re in eternity.

Day after day, the whole day through,
Wherever my road inclined,
Four feet said, “Wait, I’m coming with you!”
And trotted along behind.

Graham on America —

“Some of the people working in the Obama Administration and in the White House are trying to completely secularize our military and are hostile to Christians to the point that they are anti-Christ in what they say and in what they do.”

“I do not believe this is simply a culture war . . . This is a full-scale assault against Christianity and the followers of Christ.”



Franklin Graham



Food for Thought

Our Culture of Vulgarity —

Albert Mohler, President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently wrote an essay about the swelling tide of vulgarity in our nation. Here is part of what he had to say:

“The collapse of the barrier between popular culture and decadence has released a toxic mudslide of vulgarity into the nation’s family rooms — and just about everywhere else. There is almost no remote corner of this culture that is not marked by the toleration of vulgarity, or the outright celebration of depravity . . . We have now reached the point that obscene language (or innuendo) is playing in department stores and public venues. The living room has become a locker room.

“Freud blamed the repression of sexual urges for a host of problems in society and in individual lives. At the same time, he admitted that a certain level of repression was necessary in order to sustain civilization . . . even Freud would be scandalized by our vulgar culture.

“A culture afraid to repress sexuality in any way is a culture headed for destruction . . .

“The culture of vulgarity is now driven by so many sectors of our society that it seems virtually impossible to reverse.”



Time magazine, May, 1990

Our movies and our radio and television programs are filled with vulgarities and blasphemies of God’s name. It is not a new problem. Even a secular magazine like *Time* featured the problem on its cover as far back as May of 1990.

In 1939, the release of the movie, “Gone With The Wind,” was delayed for several months by the Hollywood censors because it contained the word, “damn,” and the Motion Picture Production Code did not allow the use of profanity in films. Last year, the movie “The Wolf of Wall Street” contained the f-word 544 times in 180 minutes.

America’s Death Spiral —

Matt Barber is a professor of law at Liberty University and a social commentator. He recently attended CPAC 2014, the nation’s largest gathering of political conservatives. He was shocked when he witnessed a group of them running through the convention hotel shouting, “F*** Obama!”

In response, he wrote, “There is no political fix to America’s death spiral. We are drowning in a turgid river of postmodern relativism. This is a spiritual problem, not a political problem.” ❖



Matt Barber

Are We Living in America's Last Days?

This question will be the focus of our 2014 annual Bible Conference which is scheduled for July 11-12 at the Eise-mann Performing Arts Center in Richardson, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

Six speakers will focus on the theme of "America's Spiritual Crisis." Each speaker has an unusual background:

Dave Reagan — Former professor of International Law and Politics. Now a teacher of Bible prophecy.

Eric Barger — Former rock musician. Now the head of a spiritual discernment ministry.

Warren Smith — Former New Age practitioner and teacher. Now an expert on spiritual discernment.

Mike Gendron — Former devout Catholic and corporate executive. Now an authority on Christian doctrine.

Carl Gallups — Former law enforcement detective. Now a pastor, author and media spokesman.

Jan Markell — Former Jewish non-believer. Now a Christian commentator on national and international events, with a syndicated radio program on over 600 stations.



The Conference will begin on Friday evening, July 11, with a concert by Janet Paschal, winner of the Dove Award in 2011 for female vocalist of the year. Dave Reagan will follow her with the Conference's first presentation. All day Saturday, Jack Hollingsworth of Acts 29 Ministries will be singing before each speaker.

There will be 30 minute breaks between the speakers to provide time for fellowship and perusal of the many exhibits by the speakers and other ministries.

The Conference is free of charge, but you must register. You can do so by calling the Lamb & Lion office at 972-736-3567 or accessing the ministry's website at www.lamblion.com. ❖

A Valuable Bible Prophecy Resource

The lead article in this issue — "Prophecy in the Psalms" — was taken from one of the most popular Bible study resources we have ever produced, *The Christ in Prophecy Study Guide*. The Guide represents seven years of study by Dr. Reagan as he attempted to pull together in one publication all the Messianic prophecies in the Bible concerning the First and Second Advents of the Messiah.

The Guide is 8½ by 11" in size and runs 150 pages in length. It has a special binding that allows it to lay flat when it is opened.

The Guide was first published in 1987. The second edition was put out in 2001. The current third edition was issued in 2006.

The book is divided into four parts. The first section identifies 109 separate and distinct prophecies in the Old Testament and 65 in the New Testament concerning the Messiah's First Coming.

The second section presents all the Second Advent prophecies in the Old Testament in the order in which they will most likely be fulfilled. The third section does the same thing with regard to Second Advent prophecies in the New Testament.

The fourth section presents all the prophecies in topical and scriptural indexes.

The book sells for \$15 plus the cost of shipping. You can order it through our website or by calling 972-736-3567. ❖



Television Update

“Christ in Prophecy” Goes High Definition

Dr. David R. Reagan

More and more Christian television networks are switching to high definition broadcasting, so we have started shooting our programs in Hi-Def. Fortunately, this did not require any new cameras. We only had to purchase some behind-the-scenes instruments that are used in the control room.

Meanwhile, we continue to add new television outlets.

National Networks:

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, DISH 263, Cable, AT&T U-verse 563, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming (daystar.com).

TCC (The Church Channel) — Sat. 8:30pm CT, DirecTV 371, DISH 258, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming (churchchannel.tv).

NRB (National Religious Broadcasters) — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 & Web Streaming (<http://nrbnetwork.tv>).

GEB (Golden Eagle Broadcasting) — Tue. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 363 & Web Streaming (gebamerica.com).

TCT (Total Christian Television) — Sun. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 377, Cable, & Web Streaming (tct.tv).

WHT (LeSea World Harvest TV) — Sun. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 367, AT&T U-verse 578, Galaxy Satellite 15 & Web Streaming (leseacom/wht).

CTVN (Cornerstone TV Network) — Sun. 8:00pm CT, Flagship Station in Pittsburgh, PA, 113 Affiliated Stations, Glorystar Satellite, & Web Streaming (ctvn.org).

CTN (Christian TV Network) — Mon. 5:00pm CT, DirecTV 376, DISH 267, Glorystar and Thaicom 5 Satellites, & Web Streaming (ctnonline.com).

Regional Networks:

Family Vision Network — Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, Three Broadcast Stations and Cable throughout Southern Louisiana.

KSCE — Sun. 10:30am MT, Broadcast Station in El Paso, TX. DirecTV & DISH Local 38, Cable, AT&T U-verse 38, & Web Streaming (ksce.tv.com).

TLN (Total Living Network) — Sun. 6:30pm CT, Broadcast Station in Chicago, IL. **NEW!**

KTLN (Total Living Network) — Sun. 6:30pm PT, Broadcast Station in San Francisco, CA. (Channel 25) & Web Streaming (ktln.tv).

VTN (Victory TV) — Sat. 6:00pm CT, Three Broadcast Stations in Arkansas, Cable, DirecTV & DISH Local 25.

KVBA (Vision Broadcasting) — Thrs. 8:30pm MT, Broadcast

Station in Alamogordo, NM & Web Streaming (kvbatv.com).

I-Hope TV — Mon., Wed. & Fri. at 6:00pm, Broadcast Station in Knoxville, TN. Channel 241 on Comcast (i-hopetv.net). **NEW!**

Internet Networks:

HisChannel — Sun. 9:30pm CT, Sat. 8:00am, Wed. 9:30am, Live Broadcast Plus Archiving of Programs for On Demand Access (HisChannel.com).

LightSource — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (lightsource.com).

YouTube — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy).

Vimeo — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (vimeo.com).

GodTube — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (godtube.com).

GodTV — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (via LightSource.com).

DailyMotion — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand. European equivalent of YouTube (dailymotion.com/us).

Lamb & Lion Ministries — Anytime. Streaming of Programs on Demand (lamblion.com).



In a new TV program, shot recently, Nathan Jones was scheduled to interview Dr. Reagan about his new book. Dr. Reagan told Nathan to wear whatever would express his personality. Nathan showed up dressed as above. We all got a good laugh (and Dr. Reagan suggested that Nathan button up his shirt!).

As we continue to expand our outreach through television, we need to increase the number of our Prophecy Partners. We currently have a little over 2,500 Partners. We need to increase that number to 3,000 before the end of this year. To become a Prophecy Partner, you need to commit to praying for the ministry regularly and providing a donation of \$25 or more per month for one year. When you become a Partner, you will start receiving a letter from Dr. Reagan each month in which he will inform you about the ministry's activities and its needs. You will also receive a monthly gift. Six times each year this gift will be a copy of this magazine. In the alternate months, you will receive a DVD containing a teaching about Bible prophecy. You will also receive a copy of the ministry's yearly Holy Land calendar, and you will be eligible to receive discounts on purchases of materials produced by the ministry. Give us a call today! ✚

Revised Edition of Our Exponential Curve Video

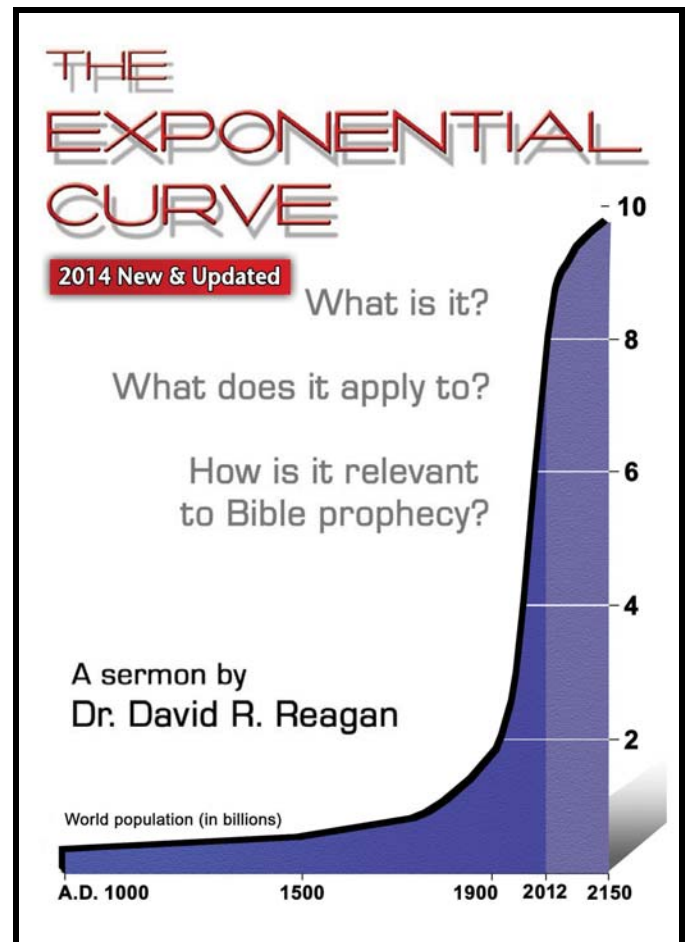
One of the most popular videos we have ever produced is now available in a completely updated version, expanded in scope and containing updated statistics.

The video contains Dr. Reagan's unique and fascinating presentation on "The Exponential Curve." In it he reveals how the Bible prophesies that all aspects of life will be increasing exponentially in the end times, and then he presents the evidence from every aspect of life, showing the fulfillment of the prophecies during the 20th Century — indicating, of course, that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

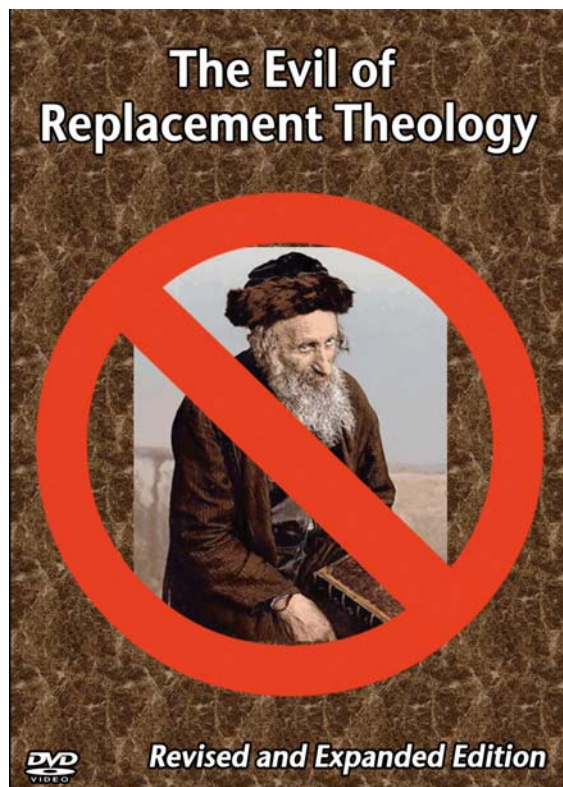
The presentation was made before a live audience and is heavily illustrated from beginning to end with charts, diagrams and photographs.

This is a fascinating study of the impact of technology on both common life and world events. Dr. Reagan covers the exponential increase in population, knowledge, communications, natural disasters, military power, and computer technology. He presents an overview of the exponential changes in world politics, and he surveys the evidence of the exponential decline in morality and the stability of society. But he ends on a positive tone by pointing out that the exponential curve also applies to worldwide evangelism.

He concludes by observing that the exponential curve is both ferocious and sudden, in fulfillment of what the Bible means when it says that in the end times people will be saying, "Peace and safety!" when "sudden destruction" will come upon them (1 Thessalonians 5:3).



The video sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 or access our website at lamblion.com. ❖



Revised Edition of Our Replacement Theology Video

This is a greatly expanded version of our original video production about this crucial topic. It is a presentation that was shot live as Dr. Reagan presented it to the Pre-Trib Research Center's Annual Convention. The presentation received a standing ovation, something unheard of at this conference of scholars.

Replacement Theology teaches that God has washed His hands of the Jewish People because they are "Christ killers," and that the Church has therefore replaced Israel, receiving all the blessings that had been promised to the Jews. Dr. Reagan shows in detail how this concept developed in the early history of the Church as it came to be dominated by Gentiles with a Greek philosophical viewpoint. He demonstrates that the concept had become entrenched in the Church's theology by the beginning of the Middle Ages and was the source of virulent anti-Semitism. All throughout the Middle Ages, the tide of anti-Semitism continued to build until it reached its climax with the writings of Martin Luther — diabolical writings that paved the way for the Holocaust.

Dr. Reagan concludes by showing that anti-Semitism in the Church is still strong today in the form of anti-Zionism. The video runs one hour in length and sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567 or access our website at lamblion.com. ❖

Tim Moore Promoted to Colonel



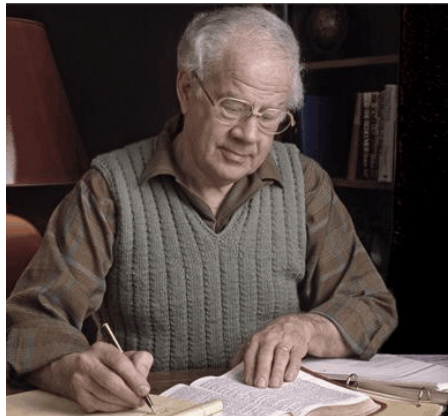
Tim and his wife Amy

Our new Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore, was recently promoted to Colonel in the Air Force. He serves in the Air Force Reserve while also serving as a pilot for UPS. His promotion ceremony was conducted at the Kentucky State Capitol building in Frankfort.

He and his family reside in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and he represents that area in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

Tim is available for weekend speaking engagements at churches. He can teach or preach on any aspect of Bible prophecy. You can contact him at tmoore@lamblion.com or by calling 270-723-5863. ❖

Dwight Pentecost Graduates to Heaven



Dwight Pentecost

Dr. Dwight Pentecost, distinguished professor emeritus of Bible Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary, was called home to his Lord in April. He was 99 years old and had taught for 58 years at Dallas Theological. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, of 62 years.

Before joining the DTS faculty in 1937, he pastored two churches in Pennsylvania and taught at the Philadelphia Bible Institute.

He is probably best known worldwide for his classic book about Bible prophecy that was titled, *Things to Come*. It was first published in 1958, and since that time it has gone through many printings. ❖

Reva Frye Joins the L&L Staff



Reva Frye

We feel very blessed to have Reva Frye as a new member of our staff.

She is a native Texan, born and raised in Dallas, but she says she is still “a country girl at heart.” Reva attended Lakeside Baptist Church in Dallas all her childhood years and gave her life to Jesus while attending there.

Reva attended the University of North Texas in Denton where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Information Systems. She returned to Dallas and went to work in the life insurance industry as a systems engineer. After working in this field for 8 years Reva joined two of her colleagues and started a software consulting firm based in Dallas. She continued in her company’s Dallas office, managing a team of 25 consultants in 7 states for almost 20 years.

After the birth of her son, Austin, and the sudden death of her husband of 17 years at the age of 41, she decided to seek a new way to use her many skills and talents.

Reva has been a lover of horses since childhood, and she and her son, who is now 16, live on a ranch where they breed and train working ranch horses. She describes their “Painted Sky Ranch” as a place where “the sky explodes with God’s awesome sunsets most every day.” Her favorite ride is her cutting horse, a tall palomino paint named Captain.

Reva and her son are members of First Baptist Church in Royse City. Her son, Austin, is in high school. Reva serves in the Lamb & Lion Finance Department. ❖

Dennis Pollock’s Ministry



Dennis Pollock aboard a boat
on the Sea of Galilee.

Dennis Pollock has always been one of Dr. Reagan’s favorite Bible teachers and preachers. As Dr. Reagan puts it, “Dennis teaches with great insight and preaches with equal passion.”

Dennis served for 11 years as Dr. Reagan’s Associate Evangelist, until he felt called of God to establish a ministry called “Spirit of Grace,” which focuses on proclaiming the Gospel in Africa. The ministry is based in McKinney, Texas.

Dennis has developed a phenomenal audio ministry. He regularly produces outstanding audio programs concerning a great variety of topics, but the genre that he seems to excel at is drawing spiritual insights from the lives of fascinating people — including the good, the bad and the ugly. He is a gifted story teller, and he will keep your rapt attention as he presents biographies of great Christian leaders and well-known politicians, movie stars, sports figures and villains of history.

To get acquainted with his ministry and his audio programs, visit his website at sogmin.org. ❖

Ministry News

Schedule — Dr. Reagan will begin the month of **July** speaking at First Christian Church in Custer City, OK (6). In the middle of the month (11-12) the entire Lamb & Lion staff will be involved hosting the ministry's annual Bible conference at the Eisemann Performing Arts Center in Richardson, TX. In **August** Dr. Reagan will travel to the Caribbean island of St. Maarten to speak at a prophecy conference being hosted by the Praise Tabernacle Church in Cole Bay (4-6). In **September** Dr. Reagan and some staff members will travel to Lake Charles, LA, where Dr. Reagan will be one of the speakers at the annual prophecy conference hosted by Al Gist's Maranatha Ministries. The conference will be held at Trinity Baptist Church in Lake Charles. Another of the featured speakers at this conference will be Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas.



Summer Travel — Many of you are going to be on the road this summer taking vacations and visiting friends and family. If you should get to the Dallas, Texas area, please plan to stop by our headquarters for a visit. We are always delighted to have visitors. Just give us a call when you get to the area, and we will tell you how to get to our location. Keep in mind that although our mailing address is McKinney, Texas, our headquarters building is actually located in Princeton, Texas, a small town about 7 miles east of McKinney.

Missions — **John Ishmael** in India reports that Christians are expecting a new wave of persecution due to the fact that the Nationalists won all the recent elections and the new Prime Minister is a fervent Hindu. Meanwhile, the killing of Christians in Nigeria continues unabated as the government sits on the sidelines and refuses to do anything to stop the carnage or to aid the victims. We continue to send funds for refugee relief to **Standfast Oyinna** whose life is threatened constantly. In Pakistan, **Nazir Gill** is recovering from a stroke. He too lives under constant threats to his life. Please put all three of these wonderful servants of Jesus on your prayer lists and pray for the Lord to protect them and their efforts to reach lost souls with the Gospel. I am pleased to report that the law and order situation in Juarez, Mexico has improved considerably, enabling members of the **Samaniego family** (Marco, Carmen & Leo) to make regular trips from El Paso to the headquarters of Hands of Luke Ministries located in downtown Juarez.

Israel Tours — Our next pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for November 8-19, and we are delighted to report that our air carrier will be Lufthansa. That means first class service, smooth flying, and an overnight stay in Frankfurt on the return journey home. All of our hotels have been confirmed. Our new evangelist, Tim Moore, and our senior staff member, George Collich, will co-host the tour. Call if you are interested, and we will put your name on a list to receive a copy of the brochure as soon as it is ready. Don't miss this opportunity to walk where Jesus walked and to see the sites you read about in the Bible. It is a life-changing experience!

Prophecy Partners — The greatest way in which you can help our ministry is to become a Prophecy Partner. The details of the program are outlined on page 16.



Pictured above with Dr. Reagan are Prophecy Partners Dan and Carol Belcher of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The photo was taken at the annual prophecy conference held in Tulsa by Phillip Goodman's ministry called "Bible Prophecy As Written."



Assistant for Nathan — We recently advertised for an assistant for Nathan Jones, and the Lord very quickly led us to an outstanding young man named Steven Stufflebean. He is already on the job, helping Nathan with his overwhelming responsibilities as our Web Minister.

New Building — Due to our rapid growth in recent months, we are in the process of adding a new office building that will supply space for four additional offices. Hopefully, we will be able to supply you with a photo of the new building in the next issue of this magazine. The best part of the new building is that it is paid for in full in advance, for which we thank all of you and we praise the Lord!

Church Needs Preacher — The Gallatin Church of Christ in Gallatin, Tennessee needs a pulpit minister who is Premillennial in his eschatology. Those interested should call 615-452-0271 or email info@GallatinChurchofChrist.com. Gallatin is located near Nashville. The church has four elders and about 100 active members. Applicants should be committed to biblical authority and grace, and they should strive to be Christ-like with a great desire and enjoyment of teaching and preaching God's Word. Resumes can also be submitted by mail to The Gallatin Church of Christ, 150 E. Main Street, Gallatin, TN 37066.



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Dr. Reagan's Newest Book!

It has arrived and is ready for distribution. The book focuses on the evil of Replacement Theology and the tragedy of Dual Covenant Theology. In the process, it deals with the following questions, among others:

- Have the Jews ceased to be God's Chosen People?
- Are they guilty of the unforgivable sin of "killing God."?
- Has God replaced them with the Church?
- Has God transferred their promises to the Church?
- Have they lost all hope as a nation?
- Are they devoid of any role in the end times?
- If God still loves them, how could He allow them to experience the Holocaust?
- Do they have their own way of salvation, separate and apart from Jesus?

Dr. Reagan demonstrates from the Scriptures that Replacement Theology is unbiblical, and he shows how it developed early in Church history, generating a virulent form of anti-Semitism that laid the foundation for the Holocaust. He also reveals that modern day anti-Semitism is expressed in the form of anti-Zionism.

With regard to Dual Covenant Theology, Dr. Reagan proves that it is completely unbiblical and is a tragedy because it constitutes loving the Jewish people right into Hell. In the process he reveals that one of America's best known Evangelical pastors is an advocate of this terribly mistaken theology.

Other topics covered in the book include the phenomenon of Messianic Judaism, the hope of Christian Zionism, the horror of the Holocaust, and the most



important prophetic development of the 20th Century. Dr. Reagan also takes a look at the Middle East crisis in biblical perspective.

The book runs 232 pages in length and sells for \$15 plus the cost of shipping.

You can order it via our website at www.lamblion.com. Or, you can call us at 972-736-3567 Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central Time. ✚