ISSUE # 9 - YOU.... IN PERSPECTIVE

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Category: The Main Issue

YOU LIVE ON PLANET EARTH

It is probable that the universe expands into infinity, having no boundaries, no end. Its size is certainly beyond human comprehension. If you were able to travel through the universe non-stop at the speed of light for a trillion years, you would not have made any significant gains. The universe you live in is s-o-o-o-o vast.

There are millions (perhaps billions) of 'clusters' (or 'groups') of galaxies out there. A galaxy is a maze of stars that either orbits around its own center in a systematic fashion, or a group of stars having no obvious order. One of these clusters of galaxies astronomers refer to as the Local Group. The Local Group is not particularly large compared to other clusters, consisting of about 1100 galaxies. One of these galaxies is called the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is immense. Shaped somewhat like a disk, the distance from one end to another is estimated to be about 100,000 light-years (a light-year being the distance light travels in a year). The Milky Way consists of many billions of stars orbiting its nucleus, and could be compared to a gigantic phonograph record that never stops spinning. The Milky Way, like all galaxies in the Local Group, is itself traveling at a very high speed. This is because the entire universe is expanding, stretching, reaching out, perhaps at the speed of light or even faster.

One of the billions of stars orbiting the nucleus of the Milky Way is the sun, located about halfway between the center of this galaxy and its outer edge. Though traveling at 12 miles per second, it takes the sun about 200,000,000 years to make a single orbit, so immense is the Milky Way galaxy. The sun is about 866,000 miles in diameter – not particularly large – almost perfectly round, self-illuminating, its surface heat about 6,000°C. The sun and the other cosmic bodies held by its gravitational pull is referred to as the solar system. The solar system consists of a number of comets, swarms of meteors and also nine planets complete with their own satellites. One of these planets is Earth on which you live.

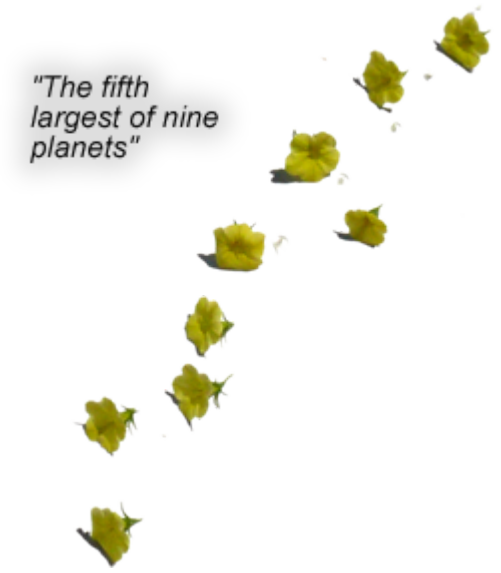
The earth is a globe of rock, not quite round, about 25,000 miles in circumference at its equator. The fifth largest of nine planets, it is about 93,000,000 miles from the sun, a distance exactly right to sustain life on earth, not too hot, not too cold. The earth has one satellite, the moon. 71 % of the surface of the earth is covered in water. It is water that makes this planet most rare in the Milky Way. The earth is blanketed by an atmospheric layer of mostly nitrogen and oxygen which traps the earth's heat and protects you from dangerous rays from the sun. The earth spins on its axis every 24 hours, causing rotating darkness and light, and orbits in an almost perfectly round path around the sun, producing varying seasons.

On the surface of the earth there is always motion. Surface water in the oceans are in continuous motion because of the pull of the moon. Rain and snow constantly fall from sky to earth. Atmospheric action causes violent storms. Clouds crisscross the sky. Rivers continuously carry water

to the seas. The movement of the earth's crust results in earthquakes, and internal pressures cause volcanoes to spew liquid lava to the surface.

As far as astronomers can tell, it is only planet Earth that sustains life. You share the earth with over 5 billion other humans, a myriad of animals, insects, reptiles, birds, and marine life. Life on earth is intertwined in such a way that it must be termed wondrous and miraculous. The earth produces an abundance of fruit and vegetables, so varying in color and taste. There is plenty of drinking water, a necessity for every plant and creature. Trees and foliage produce the oxygen you breathe and material to build shelters. Animals and birds and fish supply meat and clothing.

In perspective, you are a unique and tiny creature, a mere speck, spinning at about 500 miles per hour on a global rock we call Earth. Every year you travel 590,000,000 miles in orbit around the sun. In addition, you are traveling 12 miles per second in another orbit around the nucleus of the Milky Way. Also, because the universe is expanding, you are moving at probably an even faster speed away from other galaxies and other clusters of galaxies.



YOU ARE A CANADIAN

Around the year 1000 A.D., a Christian Norseman by the name of Leif Erikson was sent by King Olaf to bring the Christian message to the Norse settlement on Greenland (founded by Erikson's father, Eric the Red). Missing Greenland, Leif reached the eastern shores of either Baffin Island or Labrador.

He later established a small settlement in Newfoundland which endured only a short time.

History next records an Italian explorer, John Cabot, discovering the rich fishing banks of "New Found Land" in 1497, and European fishermen thereafter made many trips to this area.

French explorer Jacques Cartier, having been sent by the King of France to find a northwest route to China, sailed into the St. Lawrence River in 1535, reaching the Indian village of Stadacona where Quebec now stands. He later climbed a hill behind the Indian village of Hochelaga where he could observe the Ottawa River and the Lachine Rapids. He named the hill Mont Real (Mount Royal), the site of the city of Montreal. Cartier's explorations gave validity to France's claim to that vast northern stretch of land, and it became known as New France.

French merchants began to barter for fur with the coastal Indians, and trappers came to hunt the beaver. Beaver hats were the European fashion rage in the 1700's, and there was a good profit to be made. In time trappers and traders moved further inland, eventually reaching the Pacific. The beaver and other fur bearing animals were much responsible for the discovery and settlement of the northern half of the New World.

Samuel de Champlain, another French explorer, founded the village of Quebec in 1608, the first European settlement, and later established a trading post in Montreal. He made an alliance with the local Indians to fight the dreaded Iroquois in the area which is now New York. The Iroquois hated the French from that time, and over the years caused them much grief. Champlain's explorations reached as far west as Lake Ontario.

In order to populate New France, France gave monopoly rights of trade to a group of merchants on the condition they transport settlers free of charge. Tadoussac, a tiny village on the mouth of the Saguenay River, was founded that way, but did not survive even one harsh winter. Another, Port Royal in Nova Scotia, was abandoned after a short period. In 1615 an earnest effort by the Catholic church to proselytize the natives was begun. The Jesuit priests were very influential in every French community.

Because the English were also established in North America (along the eastern seaboard), the Thirty Years War between England and France spread to the new world. In 1629 Acadia and Quebec were captured by the English and returned to France at war's end. This was the beginning of a struggle between these two countries for domain over North America. The French reached far into the west and south, settling the Mississippi Valley, claiming this vast expanse of territory as theirs, thus halting the western expansion of the British colonies. Meanwhile England claimed Rupert's Land, a huge tract of land including all the Hudson Bay area, stretching to present day Alberta.

When war broke out at intermittent times, the Iroquois sided with the English against their hated French foe, and the Huron and other tribes fought with the French. A century of struggle between the two nations was decided in 1750 at a major battle at Quebec City between Louis Montcalm, leader of the French forces, and British general James Wolfe. Both were killed, Britain overtook the

Quebec fortress, and, except for the tiny islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, France lost her territory in the New World.

It was because of Britain's generosity to the French people of Quebec, allowing them to retain their language, culture and laws, that they did not join the Americans in their fight for independence against the British. The French colonists repulsed an invasion by the Americans, and after the revolution in 1783, as many as 50,000 Loyalists (Americans loyal to Britain) fled to Canada, settling in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and also land west of Montreal.

Meanwhile, in 1789 the explorer Alexander Mackenzie traveled up the great river now bearing his name, reaching the Arctic Ocean. A few years later he journeyed down the Peace River, and struck out overland to reach the Pacific Ocean. David Thompson soon after explored the Columbia River area and made quality maps of much of what is now British Columbia.

Soon the land of present-day south Ontario, mostly of British stock, became Upper Canada (and Quebec was called Lower Canada). Together they repulsed the American invasion in 1812-14. A boundary was defined, and there has been relative peace between the two countries ever since. Both countries traded with each other under the Reciprocal Treaty.

When the Reciprocal Treaty was terminated by the Americans, the northern colonies looked to each other, and soon Canada became a nation under the British North American Act of 1867. John A. MacDonald was Canada's first prime minister. When the young nation purchased Rupert's Land and the North West Territories which lay to the west, suddenly Canada was enlarged sixfold. Manitoba became a province in 1870 and because of a promise to stretch the railroad to the Pacific, British Columbia joined Canada in 1871. Prince Edward Island joined the confederation in 1873. In 1874 there were still only 4,000,000 Canadians to support the world's largest railroad. Immigrants from Europe began arriving in the rich wheat land of the prairies resulting in the establishment of two more provinces in 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Newfoundland was not to join until 1949.

Canada is the second largest country in the world. European nations find it difficult to imagine a country that takes five or six days to cross by car, spans six time zones and has an average of only seven people per square mile. Canada is a wealth of natural resources including rich fishing grounds on both of her coastal waters, dense forests and huge prairie farms. Canada is a tourist haven with a variety of climates and terrain. Canada holds about 30 per cent of the world's freshwater, and sells hydroelectricity to its power-hungry neighbor to the south.

In a global perspective, while most of the world is still sunk in illiteracy and extreme poverty, and suffers a high rate of death by disease, you are blessed to live in a prosperous nation whose poor are affluent by world standard. You are one of the minority privileged to vote for or against those who govern you. Your life expectancy is longer, your education more advanced, your opportunities more varied than ninety percent of those other five billion people who share planet Earth with you.

"YOU ARE CANADIAN"

Cartier's explorations gave great validity to France's claim"

"John A MacDonald was Canada's first prime minister."

YOU ARE A CREATION OF GOD

There are two possibilities:

1) You are a product of evolution, or

2) You are a creation of God.

The following are excerpts from Issue # 1, Evolution vs. Creation of The Main Issue:

.....Nothing out there in our universe is as complex and wondrous as you. Think about it. Do you know of any stars and planets that can see and hear and talk as you can? Or jump and walk and do sit-ups? Can't you understand you yourselves are living proof of the reality of God?

Why is it when you first laid eyes on a computer you knew immediately that someone made it, but when you look at yourself in a mirror you do not come to the same conclusion? Could a computer just happen? Yet you are much more complex than it. Can a computer taste or breathe or whistle? Or bend or yell or snore? Or hope? Or dream?

Can a computer believe? Or love or hate? Or forgive? Or enjoy? Or relax and appreciate and laugh?

Or regret? Or console? Or reminisce?

.....how could something so intricate as yourselves just happen to be? Look again at that wonderful machine that is you. You can think and imagine and observe and reason. You have the ability to create and teach and converse. You can remember, co-operate, recognize. You can choose and estimate, question and suggest, scold and pretend.

And more! You can hunt and argue and visit and play. You can plan and gamble and write and study. And purchase and inspect and memorize and spell.

You can sing a song. Have a baby. Come to a conclusion. Tell a joke. Eat corn flakes.Play charades. Drive a car. Read a book. Catch a ball. Fry an egg. Flip a coin.

Consider your fantastic earthsuit. When it gets cold something turns on a shiver machine to restore heat. When it's hot it somehow starts to sweat and its temperature drops. When a nasty germ strikes, an army of white blood cells retaliates. If it gets cut it patches itself without even leaving a scar. And when it gets tired you enter into an unconscious state called sleep and wake up refreshed. It has a pump that has pulsated about 10,000 times every day of your life - and it never had a tune-up, oil change or grease job. Your body has an efficient respiratory, digestive, circulatory, and urinary system, all controlled by a supercomputer brain. And it's all wrapped up in a miracle called skin to form an amazingly compact package.

A product of evolution? Chance happenings? Natural selection? Descendant of apes?

The theory of evolution requires hundreds of billions of years because, according to evolutionists, it takes this long for life as we know it to evolve. Therefore during those hundreds of billions of years the earth never moved out of its position of orbit, not even slightly, because if it moved further from the sun it would be too cold to sustain life, and if it moved closer it would be scorched. Do you believe it is possible for a planet to maintain, without outside assistance, a perfect orbit for hundreds of billions of years, not straying from its path even one-five thousandths of a degree? If you do not, you cannot accept the theory of evolution.

The theory of evolution, in its varied and changing forms, is a lie of desperate men intent on denying the reality of God and the validity of the Bible which states so clearly, “In the beginning God created...” You are a special and unique creation of God, the same One who created the universe and the planet and the country in which you live. You are loved by Him, special in His sight, never forgotten.

"YOU ARE A CREATION OF GOD"

"Consider your
fantastic earthsuit."

YOU ARE A PRODUCT

To a large degree, you are who you are because of influences. You can see that. Influences have molded you. If you were raised elsewhere – in a different time, family, society – you would be different. Maybe happier, maybe more sad. Richer, poorer. Nicer, grumpier.

The things you see and especially the words you hear and read are very much responsible for the product produced – the product being you. Words come from all directions – family, friends, teachers, business associates, pastor or priest. And the mass media.

On a few occasions in past editions of The Main Issue I used the example of a young man who was enticed into a cult, completely brainwashed and turned into a cult servant – all this taking very little time – by the use of a nonstop torrent of words from cult members. Their deluge of words nullified the effect of all accumulative words carving his values throughout childhood and teen years. The cult, being his only voice, became master. I used this example to demonstrate the power of words.

Few grasp the effect of words, not realizing their power to do good and harm. You hear and/or read thousands of words in a day, much more than people of past societies. Those words influence. They break down or fortify your opinions, make you mad or sad or glad, help determine your allies. Words program you.

No one likes to think of themselves as programmed. Few admit they are. The Jehovah's Witness is not a programmed person – he simply has the truth. So the Mormon and New Ager – they too have the truth. The young man I mentioned, the cult servant, is not programmed either; everyone else is in error. A Catholic man (understandably) took offense to a recent article in The Main Issue, Christianity vs. Catholicism, and wrote a twenty-three page typed letter to defend his Catholic faith. I tried, as gently as I could, to make the gentleman see that he was a victim of Catholic logic imposed upon him since childhood, a programmed Catholic vassal having a perspective expected from one of his upbringing. Did I convince him? No. To de-progam someone so deeply programmed is almost impossible.

People of other ages never heard the term mass media. Mass media is the use of radio, television, internet, newspapers and magazines to reach a great number of people all at once. The mass media has influenced societies to a degree that would surprise most. People think their persuasions are self-induced, when in fact most often they come from without, the media being a main contributory source. The media can (and often does) sway a nation.

Daily you are fed a diet of words by professionals paid to capture your attention, satisfy your hunger to be entertained, keep you informed. You possibly consume more words through this avenue than through the people you are in direct contact with. These words effect. That's why, for example, most eat themselves into sickness and disease. Words have contributed to the making of the product – you. Why do you have the opinions you have, think the thoughts you think, do the things you do,

dress that particular way, use those expressions?

To reiterate, the answer, in part, is because of words you hear and read. And who supplies your daily diet of words and opinions? Only you know for sure, but chances are most words you hear and read are fed to you by the mass media making inroads into your mind and heart through your ear-gate and eye-gate.

You should not carelessly allow others access into your life.

"Did I convince him? No."

SOMEONE DIED FOR YOU

I read a story of a young village girl, very timid and somewhat plain, and a young man who loved her since childhood. It was custom for the suitor to barter for the young lady of his choice with the girl's father. The going rate was two cows, three was considered high. The young man offered five cows (which the father eagerly accepted). When later asked why he bid so high, offering five cows instead

of two or three, the young man replied that he wanted his young wife to realize just how valuable she was. And indeed the young lady's self-esteem did strengthen. She soon shook off her timidity, her countenance changed, and life became richer for the both.

You are better than a two cow person, better than a three cow person, even better than a five cow person. Because the price paid for you was much higher than that.

Almost two thousand years ago someone, a very special Someone, accepted a crude nail in both hands and feet. He was paying a debt He did not owe for those owing a debt they could not pay.

Paul was an apostle called by God to preach the good news of Calvary to the gentile nations, and he responded to this call with enthusiasm. For he himself had been changed by the power of the cross. Paul once wrote (Galatians 2:20): "I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

Who loved ME. Who gave Himself for ME. Yes, Paul knew Christ died to make a propitiation (a payment) for the sins of all people. But he also realized Christ died for him personally. Paul's value was in the blood that flowed on his behalf, in the love demonstrated by the One hanging on the cross. Every man and woman and child can make the same statement, "Christ died for ME." You can say with confidence and certainty, "Christ died for ME."

The blood that flowed down Calvary's cross on your behalf was no ordinary blood. This blood was innocent blood. Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, YET WITHOUT SIN (Hebr. 4:15)." "For Christ also suffered for sins, THE JUST for the unjust, that he might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18)." There is only one man whose body contained innocent blood, the One the Bible calls "the Lamb of God." This blood, this innocent blood, this precious blood, was poured out on your behalf.
How valuable you are!

"SOMEONE DIED FOR YOU"

"accepted a crude
nail in both hands
and feet."

YOU AND THE MEDIA (PART ONE)

The mass media is first of all a business and, like the sellers of pop and software, the motive is profit. It is marketplace mentality motivating the media and bringing you a product – news, opinions, discussions, entertainment.

The expense of producing a television show, operating a radio station, or producing a newspaper or magazine is very high, but the cost per person reached is small. It is you who the media works diligently to attract and entertain. The bigger their audience, the higher the price merchants will pay for advertising.

It is difficult for a small producer to survive in this business. The “cost per thousand” (the cost per thousand people accessed), the merchant’s chief concern, is less with a large producer than a small one. This principle is true in television, radio, newspapers and magazines. The little guy gets squeezed out, the big guy gets bigger. One of the results of this free enterprise reality, a result of no small concern, is that the ones expressing opinions to the masses become fewer. And therefore more powerful.

The majority of radio stations are owned by a few. About 75 percent of Canada’s newspapers are controlled by only a few companies. The problem of a diminishing number of voices being heard is enlarged when enterprises involve themselves in a cross-section of media outlets.

If you backtracked the source of the many media words daily bathing your mind, the hunt would lead you south of the border as most media content is imported from America. These media words come to you either indirectly through Canadian media – news acquired from United Press, editorials purchased from American newspapers, etc. – or directly through American sitcoms, news reports, movies, soaps.

And just how potent is the effect of the media on society? Perhaps a few examples will make the point...

More than once I heard the story of William Hearst phoning an abrupt order to his syndicate of newspapers: "Puff Billy," Billy being Billy Graham, the renowned Christian evangelist. Early in Graham's career, Hearst attended one of his crusades, was impressed, and phoned in the curt order. The ensuing favorable press reports were responsible for lifting Graham's ministry to a place of prominence. As a result millions have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ over the subsequent decades and found the new life that Christ offers.

Another story. In May 1970 National Guardsmen opened fire upon demonstrating Kent State University students. It is possible the media was entirely responsible for the four deaths that resulted, as well as the destruction of campus property and other lives lost on campuses throughout America. The few radical revolutionaries who instigated the campus unrest were probably surprised by the attention the media gave them. They were actually given a national platform to pour out their venom to America, calling for the destruction of their own society. They were news – not important news because at first they were but a molecule in campus life – but interesting news which translates into dollars. Because of the coverage, the rebellion grew. Increased anarchy meant increased coverage (dollars) which resulted in more anarchy. Each fueled the other. They used the media to spread their revolt, often letting newsman know the time of the next riot, often conveniently prior to the six o'clock news.

The media has a powerful influence on society. They can make or break a politician, repress or inflame a cause, influence the course of society, lead us into or away from war (and even determine the outcome of a war), shape society's attitudes and appetites. The media has the capacity to do much good and much harm.

To the degree you have relied upon the media - for entertainment, comfort, understanding and information - you have been affected and molded. You live in a society that is what it is largely because of media influence.

"It is you who the media works diligently to attract and entertain."

"It is possible the media was entirely responsible for the four deaths that resulted"

"often conveniently prior to the six o'clock news."

YOU OUGHT TO READ THE BIBLE

Since words affect you, it would be wise to feed yourself with quality words. The adage "You are what you eat" can be applied spiritually. By far, the most wholesome words are found in the Bible. The Bible is in a class by itself because "All scripture is given by inspiration by God (2 Timothy 3:16)." There may be other books inspired by God to some degree, but the entire Bible ("ALL scripture") is divinely inspired.

Other books that may have the unction of God are those teaching or amplifying Biblical truths. Of course, not all such books are inspired; some are erroneous and therefore harmful. Only the Bible is sure. Professor M. Montiero-Williams spent forty-two years studying Eastern books and has this to say about the Bible:

"Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table; but place your own holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone – with a wide gap between them. For there is a wide gap between it and the so called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the others, hopelessly, and forever…a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thoughts."

Wilbur Smith has collected 25,000 volumes of writings and declares: "Whatever one may think of the authority of and the message presented in the book we call the Bible, there is world-wide agreement that in more ways than one it is the most remarkable volume that has ever been produced in the some five thousand years of writing on the part of the human race."

I pointed out in Issue #2, The Bible: just another book?, that there are numerical designs intertwined in both the Old and the New Testament that are beyond the ability of a modern computer to produce. I also listed a number of prophecies that were fulfilled in detail. I mentioned that though the Bible was written by some forty writers over a period of 1,500 years, the content is harmonious. What other book can make such claims? None. There is no book to compare. None comes close. None has changed so many lives – in every century, in every nation (not simply changed opinions, but changed people themselves, making them new). It can change your life too. You should read the Bible.

Jesus said (John 6:63), "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The words of Christ are Spirit-impacted words bringing life. Those words are recorded in the Bible. Because you want life, you ought to read the Bible.

Psalm 1:1: Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

Regarding spiritual matters, many (most?) of the words you hear come from "the counsel of the ungodly," people scornful of God's standards and His words. These words may spring from religious people propagating a counterfeit gospel (of which there are many), or from humanists and agnostics

who enter your home and ears through the media. Of these people Jesus might say (Matthew; chapter 23):"Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat; and swallow a camel Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Jesus did not usually speak so harshly. He was tender to the harlot and tolerant of thieves. But to those who led the masses astray with false teaching and hypocritical religiosity He was severe indeed.

Only you can determine the words that you hear and read. Jesus said, "the truth shall make you free." Truth does that – it leads into freedom. Error leads into bondage. The Bible is truth and you ought to read it.

Time is not truth (about spiritual matters). Reader's Digest and Oprah and Dr. Phil are not truth. You will never hear Raymond (Everyone Loves Raymond) say to his brother, "Bro, I want to tell you that I just accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Remember that emptiness I tried to explain to you – you know, you told me you often felt the same thing – how nothing seemed to really satisfy – how I just couldn't find anything that gave me peace? Well bro, I found what I had been searching for. I found Christ! It was one of the guys at the gym – I thought he was just a religious freak – he told me about Jesus. I feel different, bro…like clean all over. I feel really great."

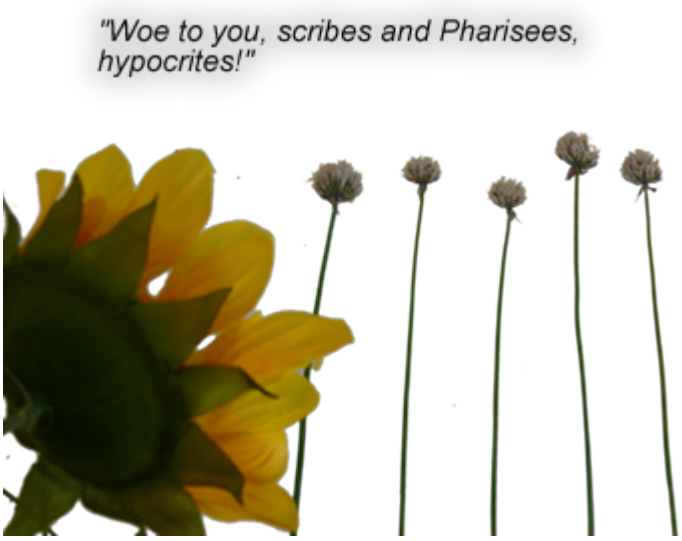
And you won't hear his wife say, "Look, Ray, why don't we just admit that nothing we have ever done or tried has brought us real joy. And none of our friends seem to have found it either. You know I've never been able to tell anyone this but I feel so…well, guilty for the compromising things I've done. I think we both need something more. I heard there is a really great speaker at a Christian businessman's banquet this Monday. He apparently is talking about a fulfillment he discovered through Jesus Christ. Maybe there's something to it. What do you say, hon? Do you think we could go?"

Jesus said (Matthew 15:14), "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Almost all words coming over the media come from the spiritually blind. If you limit yourself to the words of the sightless you, like them, will end up in the ditch. Shadowing, emulating or trusting in the damned will lead to damnation.

The media creates heroes but really, there are no heroes. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned EVERYONE to his own way (Isaiah 53:6)." There is one hero and His name is Jesus. It is His words that bring life. Other words will not save you but will bring you to a place you certainly do not want to go. You really should read the Bible.

The Bible gives a clear and definite warning (Proverbs 13:13), "Whoso despises the word shall be destroyed." You should not neglect the Bible. The Bible is the inspired word of God. If you consume a daily diet of God's word you "shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his

fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not whither (Psalm 1:3).” “The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth purified seven times (Psalm 12:6).” “Is not my word like as a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces (Jeremiah 23:29)?” The people who told you they found a new life in Christ were not lying. The gospel of the Bible is “the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes (Romans 1:16).” You ought to read and submit to the Bible.



"You will never hear Raymond say to his brother, Robert."

"I think we both need something more."

"There is one hero and His name is Jesus."

YOU LIVE IN "THE LAST DAYS" (PART ONE)

The Bible accurately prophesied the first coming of Christ as a babe born of a virgin. The Bible also prophesies the second coming of Christ when He will come as reigning King over all the nations of the earth. That time is very near. The accuracy of the first coming is reason to expect accuracy of the second.

You are living in a very dramatic decade of history, the time of the imminent appearance of Jesus Christ. Scripture declares He will come in bodily form, He will rule with authority from His beloved Jerusalem, He will bring true peace to the earth. It has all been foretold in the Bible.

God often tells His people of events before they happen. It gives us hope, and their fulfillment increases our faith. Many prophecies have happened, others will be accomplished in some future time. Many prophetic events are unfolding right now before our eyes, but unfortunately the media does not report them as fulfillment of words written thousands of years ago.

It is impossible to do this subject justice in this publication. Volumes have been written on Biblical prophecy, and what I present to you is but a synopsis of the opinions of certain scholars specializing

in the study of Bible prophecy – such men as David Breese, Nathan Meyer, J.R. Church, Grant Jeffrey, Charles Peck, Dick Saunders, Jack Van Impe, to name just a few. These men have written books and given many oral discourses on their conclusions – deductions which, in general, are in agreement with each other (and yes, there are also differences of marginal importance). That Christ is coming, and that He is coming very soon, is agreed by all. Christians worldwide anticipate the soon return of Jesus Christ.

First I will briefly mention some fulfilled prophecies regarding Christ's first coming as a babe. Hopefully your confidence in the Bible will be enlarged, and you will more readily accept the prophecies regarding His second coming.

It was accurately prophesied that Christ would be born of a virgin (by the prophet Isaiah) in the insignificant town of Bethlehem (by the prophet Micah). It was foretold that Jesus would be a descendent of Judah (by Moses), that kings from the east would come to visit the young child bringing gifts (by David). The foretelling of the slaughter of innocent children (by Jeremiah) was fulfilled when Herod ordered the death of males under two years of age in an attempt to kill the Christ-child. That Christ was to come out of Egypt (Hosea) was fulfilled when the family returned from Egypt after fleeing Herod's wrath.

It was further prophesied that Jesus would be rejected by His own people, He would suffer betrayal of a friend for the price of thirty pieces of silver, and a field would be purchased with the blood money. The buffeting, scourging and crucifixion were prophesied many years before those events, as was His resurrection. It was prophesied He would be crucified with criminals, He would pray for the people from the cross, men would cast lots for His garments, and He would be buried with the rich.

You should be impressed. And you should heed the prophecies regarding His second coming. How you respond is crucial. Jesus often said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." I pray you have ears to hear what has been foretold about this very hour of history many years ago.

Many Biblical prophecies center around, and are addressed to, the nation of Israel. The Israelite populace is the offspring of Abraham and Sarah who God called out land of Ur and into the land of Canaan some 4,000 years ago. To His chosen Israelites God has said, "For you are a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." Though they have many times disobeyed God's commandments, even intermittently turning to idolatry, and even though they rejected, and still do reject, His son sent to bring their redemption, the Israelites are still God's people. He has never divorced them.

Jesus is One of many who prophesied His return to planet earth, to reign over the nations. Of this event Jesus said (Matthew 24:27,30): "For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be…and then shall all the tribes of the earth

mourn, and they shall see the Son of man, coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

That this awesome event will soon occur is the conclusion of almost everyone having even a casual knowledge of Scripture. Events preceding the second coming of Christ have been dramatically unfolding since the year 1948. The gathering of the Jews to their own homeland in 1948 was prophesied by Christ and others. The Jews came from 100 different nations and spoke 85 languages. The fact Israel is the only nation that has been dispersed throughout the world and came back home to be a nation once more, should deepen one's confidence in His words and in the Bible. (They were scattered in the year 70 A.D. when the Roman, Titus, razed the city of Jerusalem and destroyed the temple, just as Jesus had foretold about 35 years previous).

Jesus stated that the generation observing the return of the Jews would not pass away until they witnessed His coming. Depending on your age, this could well include you. The Bible refers to the period prefacing the coming of the Lord as the "last days." From 1948 until the coming of Christ is what many scholars refer to as "the last days of the last days."

Jesus will come to earth in the middle of World War III. If not for His coming, almost all of earth's population would be wiped out in this short but brutal war. That there will be a third world war, a nuclear war, is certain, and even the location, some of the participating countries, and the outcome has been written thousands of years ago. There are a series of events, covered in part two, leading to this horrible war, and the country in the center of it all is the tiny country of Israel.
To see yourself in historical perspective, you are living in a most dramatic time when crucial events are and will be unfolding, a time only slightly previous to the promised return of Jesus Christ.

"The foretelling of the slaughter of innocent children"

"For as far as the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be"

YOU ARE ON THE WIDE ROAD

Since you are a spirit person, it is impossible to grasp an accurate perspective of yourself unless you can determine where you are at spiritually. I will say that again...

Since you are a spirit person, it is impossible to grasp an accurate perspective of yourself unless you can determine where you are at spiritually.

That you are indeed a spirit person is attested to by Scripture. And by common sense. First Scripture:

A certain young man, Stephen, was about to die after being stoned by Jews. He cried, “Lord Jesus, receive my SPIRIT (Acts 7:59).” When Jesus was about to die on the cross He cried out, “Father, into thy hands I commend my SPIRIT (Luke 23:46).” Paul declared that “to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord (2Cor. 5:8).” Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Today you shall be with me in paradise (Luke 24:43).” The thief died and was buried, but nonetheless he met Jesus in paradise that same day. And now common sense:

The tangible (material) cannot produce the intangible (nor can the intangible produce something material). You have very non-material hopes and ideas and disappointments and fears. What part of

you produces them? Certainly it is not the chemical content of your body – it is not your arms or legs or kidneys. Your brain, perhaps? Your brain consists of the same matter as your arms.

No, you are a non-material, intangible person living in a material, tangible body. When your body dies you will continue to live. In a million years you will still be around - somewhere. Adam and Eve and everyone of their offspring are alive today. Man is a spirit being and he never ceases to be.

All of mankind, those living in their bodies (on planet Earth) and those living outside their bodies (either in heaven or in hell – read Issue # 4, Heaven and Hell: the big controversy), are divided into two groups. Jesus explained it this way (Matthew 7:13,14, amplified): "Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and spacious and broad is the way that leads away to destruction, and many are those who are entering through it. But the gate is narrow and the way is straightened and compressed that leads away to life, and few are those who find it."

I consider these two verses the saddest verses in the Bible. They reveal two groups of people:

1) those on the "broad...way" (or the wide road) leading to eternal destruction, and

2) those on the narrow road leading to eternal life.

Sadly, it is the road leading to destruction that is crowded with humanity; the road leading to life has a comparative few.

The wide road or the narrow road. Spiritually speaking, you are on one or the other.

Jesus taught the same truth in different terms. Listen to Him: "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on me should not abide in darkness (John 12:46)." In darkness. There are those who live "in darkness" (outside of Christ) and those who live in "light" (those who live in Christ).

Jesus spoke often of God's kingdom – for example: "My kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36)." One group lives outside God's kingdom, the other within. Those living outside are those "in darkness," the majority of people traveling that terrible wide road. Those inside God's kingdom are they who live in the "light," the comparative few on the narrow road leading to eternal life.

You are on either one road or the other. Regarding Christ's kingdom, you are either in or out.

"you are a
spirit person"

"Father, into thy hands I commend my SPIRIT"

"you are a non-material, intangible person living in a material, tangible body."

YOU AND THE MEDIA (PART TWO)

Surveys seem to reveal that people have less confidence in the integrity of their politicians than the media that watchdogs them. It's like the public presumes that bad guys are ushered into the political arena and good guys become journalists and reporters.

While politicians must give an account to the public, the media – sometimes equally influential in the affairs of society, and often more so – gives account to no one. The politician is paid to service the community that elected him; the journalist and reporter are paid to service the corporation that employs him.

I see a comparison between the priest and the reporter. Both are at the bottom of a very large ladder. On top of one ladder is the pope, on the other is the president of a media corporation. The voice of pope/president works its way down the ecclesiastical/corporative ladders and the priest/reporter verbalize their dictates. If they refused they would be out of a job.The American media, left-wing and pro-liberal as it is, favors the left-wing and pro-liberal, and is biased against conservatives committed to traditional values.

Media people often can and do determine the outcome of an election. Imagery is their specialty. They can make a candidate appear honest or untrustworthy, competent or amateurish, a winner or loser - whatever their inclination.

Likewise they have the finesse to make themselves appear unbiased, professional, people of integrity. Ironically, people depend on the media to convey to them the quality of the media. The media reveals government corruption, but who exposes media corruption?

Media personnel are no worse than those of any other profession. Nor better. Media corporations are not less honest than other enterprises. Nor more so. The difference is their ability to appear better and more honest. (Again, imagery is their trade.)

I share the conviction of many that, generally speaking, both the American and Canadian media are in the hands of lefties and liberals. The bulk of North Americans, however, are not left-wing and they are not pro-liberal. The media's mentality toward, and coverage of, the abortion issue reveals the problem.

According to the Center for Media and Public Affairs, a Washington, D.C. based organization that scientifically monitors the American news media, a full 96% of the media elite are pro-choice. I said 96%! America's majority, however, is pro-life. It would be unreasonable to expect the coverage of the abortion issue to be unbiased. And it isn't.

The media has not presented the facts on this issue in an equitable manner, but rather has tried to sway the public to its pro-abortion convictions. To do this, while making a show of being fair and unbiased, is easy for media professionals. There are many tricks of the trade:

For example, if there is a huge gathering of, say, 10,000 pro-life demonstrators, the media could show a picture of a small portion of the crowd and neglect to mention any numbers (this makes the rally seem insignificant). If any pro-choice people show up, they could point the camera toward this smaller group in such a way that it looks like they are the majority. They could interview a demonstrator from the smaller group and give that person equal time to one from the larger group, or better yet, only interview pro-choice representatives. The media could interview a number of pro-life people and pick the one who says something stupid. They could place a favorable report to the pro-life cause in a small corner of a back page, or give it a cursory mention in the newscast. ("Well we reported it, didn't we?") The media could bring in one of their hand-picked "experts" to give his or her perspective. All these unethical ruses, and many more, have been used by the media to further the pro-choice cause. I quote Marlin Maddoux from his Free Speech or Propaganda: "If there were laws against slanting a story, a large number of journalists would go to jail for the way they cover the issue of abortion."

I used the abortion issue as an example to expose the determination of the media to steer the public toward its anti-Bible standards. The media, generally, champions many causes that do not have the support of the majority: the 'new' morality, humanistic mentality, gay rights, excessive feminism, etc. Politicians are supposed to leave their convictions at home, but the media never fails to take its convictions to work. And those convictions seem to be destructive, biased, anti-family, anti-decency, anti-Bible and anti-Christ, convictions likewise expressed in most magazines, sit-coms, soaps and

talk shows.

It would be so helpful if the public knew the people who were feeding them their daily dosage of media-words. Do they believe in the Bible? Are they committed to the family? Are they humanistic, liberal, socialist, atheist? How many Christians are on staff determining media content? (Is the number relative to the number of Christians they serve?) Knowing where they were coming from would help the reader/viewer/listener make mental adjustments.

As a rule, the North American media champions the anti-Biblical point of view, steering our nations away from God's blessings. God does not smile upon a nation that kills its unborn. To Him, homosexuality is a stench. And the family is His invention. It is self-destructive to anger the holy God of righteousness. The greatest tragedy, however, is not the leading of a nation from God's favor, but leading a nation away from God's salvation (Jesus Christ).

To the degree you trust in and rely upon the media, the media is drawing you from Christ. Be cautious. The media, generally, is blind to people's need for Jesus. Do not lean upon the media for truth regarding spiritual matters and moral issues.

"who exposes media corruption?"

"I said 96%!"

"Well we reported it, didn't we?"

"God does not smile upon a nation that kills its unborn."

YOU HAVE AN ENEMY

Issue # 6, - Two Kingdoms, – was written for the purpose of alerting people to the reality of the devil and his ill intent toward all people. An exerpt from page two:

If someone reported to you that you had an enemy, someone who hated you and was persistently planning to harm you, to destroy you, to take away all you have, it would be most important to determine if in fact the frightful report was true. If you learned the report was a hoax you could relax and carry on. But if you concluded the terrible story was accurate you would certainly make major adjustments in your life.

Occasional references were made in The Main Issue to an extremely perverse and dangerous person who hates you and is working through an army of equally perverse underlings to destroy your life and lead you to a place you do not want to go. This report of a diabolical enemy is not a strange invention; it is indeed an age-old warning declared by Christians to every generation of every century for two-thousand years.

But is the report true? Is satan real? If he is not real but merely, as some would suggest, a myth who has survived the centuries, an invention of Christians to draw people into their fold, a mere allegory to convey the dark side of human nature, then you can relax and carry on. But if the report is true, if the enemy is real, it would be wise to make some major adjustments.

If you have an adversary who intends to do you dirt it is best to know it; it doesn't make sense to pretend you don't have an enemy, or to ignore that enemy. That satan cannot be seen is no reason to believe he doesn't exist. Angels cannot be seen, nor the spirit person that leaves the body when it ceases to function, and for that matter God Himself cannot be seen, but they are all quite real. The Bible attests to their existence. For example:

Acts 10:38: God (who cannot be seen) anointed Jesus of Nazareth (who can no longer be seen) with the Holy Ghost (who cannot be seen) and with power (invisible): who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil (who cannot be seen).

This Bible verse is one of many attesting the reality of the devil, and the Bible reveals that the devil's name is satan. This despot is much responsible for the tons of heartache and calamities man suffers. If it were not for the devil earth would be a much better place.

satan was once called Lucifer. He was a very powerful, very magnificent archangel. It is thought that he once led the choirs of angels in praise and worship unto God. Unfortunately, pride was found in him. He wanted to sit in God's place and rule God's kingdom, and convinced a third of the angels to join him in an effort to overthrow God. As a result, he was cast out of heaven, he and the angels who sided with him. With his fall satan lost his beauty and was transformed into a perverse creature, yet mighty still.

satan, through Eve, tempted Adam to sin. Adam had been given authority by God to rule the earth, and it was this authority the devil hoped to acquire. If he couldn't rule heaven he could at least rule earth. When Adam fell the authority over the earth passed into his hand. For this reason the Bible refers to satan as "the god of this world."

God declared to "the god of this world" that one of Eve's descendants would "bruise thy head; and you shall bruise his heel." That promise was fulfilled at Calvary when the innocent blood of Christ was shed as payment for Adam's sin and all humanity's sin. All that was lost through Adam can now be recovered through Christ. That is the gospel (the good news) Christians have been preaching for two thousand years. That is the heart and purpose of satan and his army of despots will soon be thrown into prison, a prison of punishment too horrible to describe, to serve a sentence without end. It is their intent and earnest desire to bring as many people as possible with them.

The number one weapon the devil uses to further his cause is deception. Jesus said of him, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44)."

2 Corinthians 4:4: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see the light of the glory of the gospel of Christ." If you have not accepted the salvation of God – which is the Lord Jesus Christ – it is simply because "the god of this world" has blinded you so you "cannot see the light of the glory of the gospel of Christ." The gospel has been hid from you. You are perishing and don't realize it.

satan, through man's co-operation, has invented many counterfeit alternatives to Christ for the purpose of camouflaging God's true salvation. That is why there are so many religions and philosophies and cults. One of his latest inventions is what is termed the New Age Movement which is sweeping North America and the world, making inroads into almost every profession, public schools and the media. Chances are you are caught up in at least one of his fabrications.

To see yourself in spiritual perspective, you are (if you are not saved by Christ, washed clean from your sins by His redeeming blood) on the wide road "that leads to destruction." "Destruction" is not death by calamity, but rather an eternal prison, the same prison awaiting all fallen angels. Jesus paid the price for your sins and you have opportunity to escape the eternal devastation awaiting you. Fellowship with God is yours for the receiving. "The father of lies," through his army of demons, works hard at keeping you from the knowledge of God's salvation. You are a prize dearly coveted by both God and satan. You will spend your eternity with one or the other.

"If you learned the report was a hoax you could relax and carry on."

"who hates you"
"satan, through Eve,
tempted Adam to sin."

YOU MUST BE “BORN AGAIN”

It is imperative that you be “born again.” It was Jesus Himself who said so. “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3).” If you place any value whatsoever on the teachings of Christ, surely you will heed His words.

Most religions disagree with these words of Christ. Likewise the media would not concur. Nor would most teachers, politicians, book writers or intellectuals(?). Chances are many of your acquaintances place no particular importance on Christ's pronouncement.

But Jesus said you must be born again! And Jesus warns you to heed His words. Listen to Him (Matthew 7:24): "Whosoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Any carpenter will tell you that the foundation is the most important part of a house. He builds the footings wide and deep, and reinforces them with steel rods.

Jesus wasn't all that interested in houses; He was interested in people – He was speaking spiritually. The house He was talking about is a person's life. Jesus promises you that your life will not end in ruins if you simply heed His teachings.

Jesus went on to say (verse 7:25), "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." Already the storms of life have beat upon you, tearing at you, trying to break you down. These storms come in the way of sickness, disappointments, failure, betrayals, misunderstandings, losses, accidents, etc. You have lost so much.

There is one major storm you must survive. That storm is the spiritual battle for your eternal future. On one side of this battle is God who has been wooing you by His Holy Spirit into His kingdom. On the other side is satan and his army of weird and cruel demons. It is their intention to keep you from discovering the new life that Christ won for you on Calvary's cross, to keep you in bondage of sin, to blind you to the fact that a much richer life is yours for the receiving.

If your house is founded on rock – if your life is founded on the rock of Christ's words – you will survive this storm. You will be saved. The victory will be yours.

And Jesus continued to say, (7:26), "And everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand." A foolish builder is careless about the house foundation. Laying the foundation on sand will have horrible consequences. Sand is okay – until a bad storm comes, or there's a flood. Then the sand washes away and the house is ruined.

But again, Jesus is talking about people. He is saying that silly people are the ones who hear His words, His teachings, and ignore them, choosing to build instead on the advice and teachings of someone else.

7:27: "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell and great was the fall of it." If you do not build your life upon the words of Christ, your house will surely fall – your life will end in ruins – "and great was the fall of it."

And perhaps the most important words of Christ are these: "Except a man be born again, he cannot

see the kingdom of God." Born again? Let's look at it closely:

John 3:1,2: "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God for no man can do the miracles that you do except God be with him."

Probably the reason Nick came to Jesus at night was because he didn't want to be seen by other Pharisees who were jealous of the crowds that Jesus attracted. When they failed to discredit Him before the people, they plotted His murder. But Nick could not deny that Jesus was a teacher sent by God; the many miracles were proof of that.

John 3:3: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Undoubtedly Nick depended on his own good works to get him into the kingdom of God. (Religious people are the same today – they spend their lives trying to be good enough.) But Jesus told Nicodemus that one cannot see (partake of, belong to) God's kingdom unless he experiences a second birth ("born again").

John 3:4: "Nicodemus said unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb?" Nick, this master teacher of the Jews, did not have a clue what Jesus was talking about.

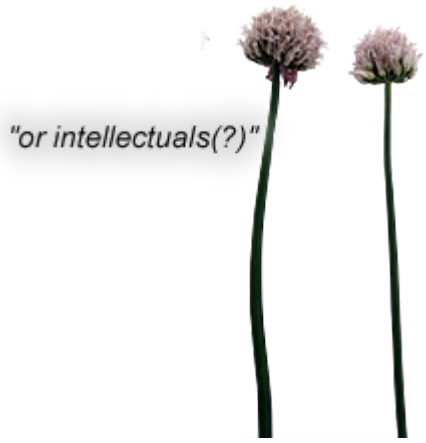
John 3:5,6: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Jesus is talking about a spiritual birth, not a physical birth. Nick was already "born of the flesh." Now he had to be "born of the Spirit."

Jesus goes on to say to Nicodemus (John 3:7,8 amplified), "Marvel not at my telling you, You must all be born anew (from above). The wind blows (breathes) where it wills; and though you hear its sound, yet you neither know where it comes from nor where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Thirty plus years ago I was "born again." Something happened that day in February 1972 – I was different somehow. Nobody was there to explain that I had just experienced a birth of the Holy Spirit; I just knew something happened, something very wonderful! As Jesus explained, it was like the wind. The wind is something you can't see, but you sure can feel it. You don't know where the wind comes from or where it's going, but you know when it's here.

After thirty years I still don't know how God did it. I just know that He did. He gave me a new life, a much better life. In this new life I have a relationship with the One who had that discourse with Nicodemus, and a Father-Son relationship with Jesus' Father. Millions of men, women and children worldwide make the same claim.

You must experience the second, spiritual birth. If you do not you will never belong to God's kingdom. Forever and ever you will be on the outside, never to partake of all that God has prepared for you. You don't have to understand how it (the spiritual birth) happens. Just come to Jesus Christ, humbly asking Him to wash away the stain of your sins from your life, and embrace Him – welcome Him – into your life. When you do, it will happen – God will impart His Spirit into you, birthing in you a new life in Jesus.



"There is one major storm
you must survive."

"There was a man of the
Pharisees named Nicodemus"

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"Something happened that day in February 1972."

YOU LIVE IN "THE LAST DAYS" (PART TWO)

As mentioned in part one of this article, Christians worldwide anticipate the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first time, Jesus arrived as a child under humble circumstances; the next time He will come as a mighty King to subdue the enemies of the gospel and bring a millennium of peace and harmony.

Before His coming, there are a number of momentous events that will unfold, events that have been prophesied many hundreds of years ago. There is only space for a very brief synopsis of these events, but hopefully enough to wet your appetite to research the matter further. The local Christian bookstore has much material on the subject of Christ's soon return. These prophecies may seem incredible, but no less so than the ones long ago fulfilled regarding Christ's first coming as a babe.

THE ANTICHRIST. The Bible tells us that a false Christ (antichrist) will arise soon after the time the Israelites return to their homeland (May, 1948). The Bible calls this man the "son of perdition" and "the lawless one." There is little doubt he is alive today, ready to step into the international political arena. He is deviant, ruthless and power hungry. And he hates Jesus Christ. He will be recognized, however, as a man of peace (perhaps he will put an end to terrorism) and will be responsible for the signing of a seven-year peace treaty between Israel and her Arab enemies.

THE RAPTURE. Just prior to the signing, a momentous event will take place, one that has been prophesied by various writers of the Bible: Jesus Christ will come to take His people, the Christians, home with Him to heaven. Christians refer to this as "the rapture." Of the rapture, the apostle Paul writes (1Thes. 4:16,17), "The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This will all happen at lightning speed, "in the twinkling of an eye."

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. Most students of Bible prophecy agree that the antichrist will rise to be the ruler of the European Community. This was foretold by Daniel about 2,500 years ago. Daniel saw a vision that (accurately) depicted five mighty empires. Four of these empires have come and gone: 1) Babylon, 2) the Medes and Persians led by Cyrus, 3) Greece under Alexander the Great, and 4) the Roman Empire. The fifth is yet to come and the Bible indicates it will consist of ten nations, all of which were a part of the fourth, the old Roman Empire. Everything points to the European Community as being that fifth world power.

THE ANTICHRIST AND THE E.C. There are now several nations banded together under the E.C. Soon, according to Bible prophecy, there will be thirteen. The antichrist will rise as dictator of these thirteen nations, and expel three nations, leaving ten. The expelled nations will be, it is thought, Germany, Ireland and Denmark, as these did not belong to the Roman Empire. The E.C. will sign trade agreements with other nations, eventually including all nations of the world. It is thought that the E.C. will give leadership to the New World Order. The leader of the E.C. will therefore become the leader of much of the world. That man will be the antichrist, "the lawless one."

JESUS AND THE E.C. Christ will come when the E.C. is ten nations strong, as prophesied by Daniel (Daniel 2:44 amplified), "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break and crush and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever."

THE FALSE PROPHET. This man will probably be the leader of the counterfeit church (the true Christians will have been raptured), a worldwide religion called "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth," and because the Bible tells us it is set on seven hills it could refer to the Roman Catholic Church (Rome is set on seven hills). Perhaps Catholicism will unite ecumenically with the World Council of Churches. Or perhaps all these religions will be swallowed up by the New Age movement. The false prophet will proclaim the antichrist as being divine, and one refusing to worship the antichrist will be executed.

THE SEVEN-YEAR REIGN. The antichrist will reign for exactly seven years, beginning at the signing of the mentioned seven-year peace treaty and ending at the coming of Christ. This seven-year period is called "the great tribulation," of which Christ said, "For then shall be great tribulation; such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." In order to do business everyone must have the antichrist's mark on either his/her right hand or forehead (this could be a tiny microchip placed under the skin). However any person accepting this "mark of the beast" comes under the wrath of God. God will commission angels to bring terrible miseries upon the earth and suffering will be unparalled.

THE JEWS AND THE ANTICHRIST. The Jews will accept this (supposed) man of peace as their Messiah until the time he enters the temple in Jerusalem (the temple will be rebuilt) and erects a statue of himself. Jesus called this happening "the abomination of desolation" and warned the Jews

to flee to the mountains when they saw it, as the antichrist will turn on them. This will happen exactly three and a half years into the seven-year tribulation.

ARMAGEDDON. A country from the north (Russia?) will turn on the antichrist and march toward Jerusalem where the antichrist rules. (The motive could be oil.) An army of 200,000,000(!) will come from the east (China?) to assist them (same motive?). They will converge at a place known as Armageddon, a valley not far from Jerusalem. The ensuing nuclear war will be much worse than all other wars combined. A third of the people of the world will perish.

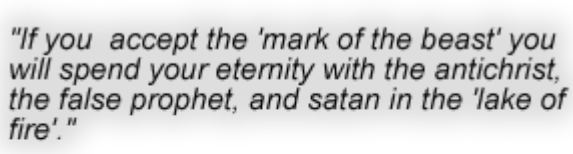
THE COMING OF CHRIST. Christ will come in all His glory to put a quick end to the war before the entire population is destroyed. From His beloved city of Jerusalem He will rule the entire world for a thousand years. The antichrist and the false prophet will be cast into Gehennah, the eternal lake of fire. Christ's thousand year reign will be a time of unprecedented joy and peace.

YOU AND THE COMING KING. Some of the details in this article may not be entirely accurate. It is a sport amongst many Christians to argue sequences of events, countries involved, etc. But everyone seems to agree that Christ the King is coming very soon. You will want to be ready. If you accept Christ now you will be raptured with all other Christians, and you will return to Christ to rule and reign with Him. If you do not, you will live, if you survive, through the most terrible time humanity has experienced. If you accept the “mark of the beast” you will spend your eternity with the antichrist, the false prophet, and satan in the “lake of fire.” The time to accept Christ is today. If you put it off, as you have until now, you may never make that quality decision for Christ the King.

"the lawless one."

"This man will probably be the leader of the counterfeit church"

"For then shall be great tribulation"



IT'S YOUR DECISION

If a friend invited you for a coffee you would have a decision to make. You would either accept or reject the invitation. A non-reply would be considered a refusal.

If Jesus had not invited you into His kingdom you would not have to decide. But He did and you do. A non-reply is considered a refusal.

In a preceding article I pointed out how blessed you are to live in North America. You enjoy one of the world's highest living standards whereby even the poor are rich. But in some ways it is a detriment to live in these countries where, generally, people reject the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation He freely gives, choosing instead to chase after false gods and compromising pleasures. If you lived in a country where life is hard you would more likely accept the invitation that Jesus offers. I am told when people of some poverty nations hear the gospel message as many as half or more respond, such is the hunger for truth and reality. Of all the countries in the world, Canada is one of the most hardened against the gospel. Perhaps we just have too much.

But regardless of what friends and family and acquaintances think or do, you should make a quality decision to follow Christ. In the past you have made wise decisions and poor. I pray you would make a wise decision to build your life on the words of Jesus.

"Whosoever despises the word shall be destroyed (Proverbs 13:13)." If you reject Christ you will die in your sins. The time of decision will soon pass. Your fate will be sealed. Forever. You will cry out to Christ to save you from that awful prison I have warned you about, but He will not hear you. You will be lost – eternally lost, hopelessly lost.

Jesus invites you into His kingdom. He offers a much better life than the one you have. He will gladly wash away your sins and make you white as fresh fallen snow. He will never leave you or forsake you. Your new life will be rich, very rich. If you accept Christ's invitation, if you humbly come to Him asking Him to forgive your sins and give you the new life He won for you on Calvary's cross, you will never – never, never – regret that decision.

Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both you and your seed may live."

"But He did"

"and you do."

I pray you will make a wise decision to build your life on the words of Jesus."

"and make you white as fresh fallen snow."